



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

Christmas, 2016

Dear St. John the Baptist Family:

It's the eve of Christmas Eve and I have just completed something that was most meaningful. I opened our congregational directory and looked at your names, one by one, and offered a prayer for each of you. For you who are active members my prayer was gratitude, thankful for your investment and involvement in the life of St. John the Baptist and its ministries and programs.

Those of you who have become less involved, I prayed you might consider coming home. You are still on our roster, we still count you as part of our family, and we would love to welcome you back to your church! Christmas is a time, like no other, for home and family, so maybe the Worship Services Christmas Eve, 7 and 11 PM, and Christmas Day, 10 AM, might be the perfect time for you to reconnect. How happy your fellow members and I would be!

And for you who are visitors, you're listed too!, my prayer was praise that you have come to be with us, that, hopefully, you are being spiritually fed, and, that as you get to know us and, as you get involved, you will discover what I have learned since becoming Rector: the Church of St. John the Baptist is a wonderfully special community of Christ! Praise to God you are part of it!

After completing the list, I prayed for all of you, the St. John the Baptist Family, that your Christmas will beam with the joyous Light beaming from the manger in a Bethlehem barn and that as we welcome Jesus again and again and again, countless times, into our hearts and lives in 2017 the coming year will be filled with Christ's blessings!

In Emmanuel's Love,

Father Tom