



Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church • Crawfordsville, Indiana
The Rev. Todd Kleffman, Rector (765) 362-2331

November 12, 2007

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FROM THE RECTOR

Wonderful Ways to Worship during the Holidays: Touching Hearts through Thanksgiving, Song, Pledging, and Pageantry

Pledging? How can we touch hearts through pledging. The annual pledge drive, which will begin with sending out letters and pledge cards, provides each of us an opportunity to worship God by giving a percentage of our income for the ministry of the Church. Please, consider pledging prayerfully. This money is used for such inglorious things as heating the church, keeping the lights on, and paying salaries, but it is also used to support parish programs, which have the power to touch our hearts and the hearts of our neighbors.

St. John's offers a special witness to God in this community, a witness that ought to be cherished and supported. That witness of openness and grace which Episcopalians find in the stories of our faith should also be nurtured in our hearts and in the hearts of our children and youth in particular. However, in our church, as in many others, rising costs of building maintenance and administration often devour funds that would normally be set aside for programs like Christian Education, Child Care, and Youth Ministry. We can change this trend in the Episcopal Church, not by giving until it hurts, but by giving until it feels good, and when we do this, prayerfully, thankfully, and lovingly, our giving can truly touch hearts in our community, in our children, and even in ourselves.

Thanksgiving? It's more than turkey and indigestion you know. Thanksgiving will come to St. John's on November the 18th. The usual Sunday services will offer the lessons for Thanksgiving, and we will be given a special time to offer our written Thanksgivings which will be collected and displayed during the Holidays.

Song? Three special musical opportunities will arrive this December for Advent.

1. We will count down to Christmas by adding one Christmas carol on each of the Sundays in Advent. Hence, on the First Sunday of Advent we will sing one Christmas carol, on the Second Sunday of Advent we will sing two carols, and so on.
2. Mary Bargiel & Larry Bennett will lead Adult Sunday School during Advent which will feature the background and theology of several well-known Christmas carols. We will have opportunities to share our favorite Christmas carols and why we love them as well as time to discuss our least favorites and why they "fall on deaf ears".
3. On the third Sunday of Advent, **Dec 9**, members of the choir will lead any children & adults who wish to join us in **caroling for neighbors and friends**. We will gather at the Church at 5 p.m. and will carpool to various locations. The more the merrier, come one come all!

Pageantry? The Christmas Schedule is as follows:

Christmas Eve Stable Service at 5:30 p.m. at Dan Booher's barn. (Directions will be available on the credenza in December.)

Christmas Eve Candle Mass at 9:30 p.m. There will be no choir singing prior to the service; all music will be incorporated into the service and will be mostly congregational caroling.

Christmas Day Service at 9:30 a.m.

Pageantry!!! Did you think we forgot the Children and Youth's Christmas Pageant?

Come see **A Night at the Awful Waffle or Christmas at Alice's Restaurant on Sunday Jan. 6th** immediately following the 10:30 Service. The play is set in Crawfordsville. The time is the present. What would Christmas look like if Christ were born in Crawfordsville in 2007 or 2008? Rehearsals will begin in December during Sunday School time from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the youth room downstairs. Additional rehearsals with specific details will be announced in the next newsletter and by e-mail to parents and helpers. If you wish to participate as an adult helper, please, contact Father Todd at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com or by phone.

If you have forgotten to bring in your **UTO** envelope, please note that the ingathering will continue through the month of November.

VESTRY NEWS

The following is from Kathy Gary, who has been asked to share some of her thoughts on being a member of the vestry:

“Two years ago when Cindy Smith called me to consider a vestry nomination I was both surprised and tentative about the responsibility of her request. After her reassurance that I could in some way "Do the job", I began the journey . I suppose reflection and prayer entered in to my decision --but all I remember is that I wanted to be an active part of St John's and I was now asked to do just that - I said yes. I found later that the prayer and reflection became VERY important in this ministry. This vestry that I have gotten to worship and serve with is a blessing in my life. Prayerfully consider this ministry for your life with the St John's family.”

Leon Mission

The Leon Mission Advisory Committee has decided that \$1,500 of the monies remaining from the fund raising for that mission trip will be sent in mid-November to the Casas Hogar in Leon, Mexico. A parish family will add another \$500 to that contribution. The Casas Hogar are four Leon orphanages entirely supported through the efforts of a dedicated group of Leon businessmen and their families, along with some help from churches in the United States.

Marc Hudson, Clerk of the Vestry

Communication Task Force Update

The Communication Task Force is pleased to announce that our St. John's website is officially “under construction”. Our website builder is Jennifer White, who built the website for the YSB. (Check out the YSB site to see her work.) In the next few weeks the task force will be gathering information to post on the site. If you are contacted to provide information for our new website, please provide this information as quickly as you can so we can get the site up and running. Our website address is “stjohnscville.org.” If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Kevin Osborn (Kevin.Osborn@alcoa.com) or Meribeth Kussmaul (meribethk@aol.com) by e-mail. AND, If anyone has digital photos that would look good on our new website, please, contact Father Todd at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation in making this website a reality.

OUTREACH

It's time for St. John's Giving Tree Project. This is the great way to do something for others for Christmas, and have tremendous fun shopping for things you might never buy otherwise. This year we will be changing some things. Our church will be joining the majority of other Reindeer givers in delivering our gifts unwrapped to the Wabash College field house. The parents then can see the presents their children will be getting, and wrap them themselves. The project chairman explained that this gives the parents a sense of being involved in their children's Christmas, rather than just being the recipients of charity. Of course you may include gift wrap and ribbons with your gifts. Each unwrapped gift should still be labeled with the child's name and family number (mailing labels work best for this, as they stick and stay on) and brought to the Whitlock Hall closet before Dec. 10th. Also, we are asked to put a line through the UPC code on the box, as this alerts the store not to return the gift for money. The Giving Tree will be up in Whitlock Hall shortly, so fire up your shopping skills and generosity, and have fun!

Members of St. John's enjoyed preparing and serving lunch to about forty people at the Friendship Kitchen. The kitchen, organized by Friendship Bethel Church is an ecumenical outreach, set up to provide a free lunch on Saturdays for anyone who needs food or friendship. Our group had a wonderful time serving and being in fellowship with our new friends and each other.

Those who participated in the CROP Walk for hunger relief enjoyed a gorgeous fall day for the event. Jane Gallagher, Helen Hudson, Carole Meyer, Mike Scime, Trey Rogers and the Albrecht family walked. Proceeds from the walk are split 75% for worldwide hunger relief/25% to FISH. With several walkers' packets still to gather, donations have already exceeded \$400. Thanks to all who helped in any way!

LITURGICAL

There will be training session for **Altar Guild members** at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17. The session for Acolytes, LEMs and Lay Eucharistic Visitors that was to be held on Nov. 17 has been cancelled until further notice.

PEOPLE OF ST JOHN'S

Congratulations to Mark & Meribeth Kussmaul, who have a new grandson, born to son Luke & Chris Zannoni on October 27th and named Jacob Ryne Zannoni.

Congratulations also to Caity Charles & Patrick Garrett on the birth of their son Myca Francis Charles Garrett on November 7th.

Another reminder about the adult **Christmas Potluck Dinner on Saturday Dec 1**, at the home of Chris & Sharon Redmaster at 6:00 P.M. Bring a dish to share, the beverage of your choice, and a wrapped White Elephant gift. Please call the Redmasters at 362-8260 if you plan to attend.

Diocesan Convention Report by Jim & Susie Smith, Lay Delegates

Report to St. John's Parish Crawfordsville on the 170th Convention of the Diocese of Indianapolis held in Columbus, IN October 26-28, 2007.

In order to reduce expense and encourage greater attendance, a new Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon format was scheduled this year. With the multitude of issues to consider and act upon for the operation of the Diocese and the relationship with the Anglican Community, the weekend was divided into 3 very intense sessions totaling 25 hours. We were impressed with the skill and leadership of the Bishop and her staff in the way they allowed for plenty of fellowship and dialogue and yet moved along to reach a consensus at the end of the day.

A few of the highlights of the event were:

- Considerable effort is being spent to improve governance of the Diocese. The Church Canons were revised to divide the present Standing Committee into two bodies. The new Standing Committee will carry out canonical duties specified in the Constitution and provide advice to the Bishop. The new Executive Committee will be responsible for the financial budget and provide oversight of the program and budget between conventions.
- The Saturday morning session continued the work of improving governance with a "World Café" format led by a professional consultant to identify and determine priorities for mission and Ministry.
- Election and commissioning of delegates to the next General Convention in Anaheim, CA in July 2009.
- Commissioning of a new Executive Director for Waycross, Van Beers, recognition of others involved with various Ministries, and presentations from groups and individuals involved with mission work in this country and globally.
- Some of the other resolutions that were passed in convention concerned:
 - Paying church staff and contractors a living wage.
 - Issuing a statement from the diocese discouraging the proposed Anglican Covenant.
 - Encouraging all diocesan churches to take an energy audit and to stop using Styrofoam products.

For further details, please visit the Diocesan web site at www.indydio.org. We found the Bishop's address to the Convention especially interesting and informative.

Look for an updated more user friendly Diocesan web site later in the month.

Tidings

The November issue of the Diocesan newsletter, "*Tidings*" will only be available on the internet and can be found on the Diocesan web site at . <http://www.indydio.org/>. The link is right on the front page. This newsletter covers diocesan as well as national news of the Episcopal Church. If you have not been receiving "*Tidings*" and wish to do so in the future, please email Fr. Todd at : revtoddkleff@yahoo.com, or call the church office to have your name put on the list.

SUNDAY SERVERS

Nov 18, 8:00 am.

Acolyte: Diane Ault

LEM/Lector: Adrienne Ashbaugh, Lector; Vern Easterling, LEM

Coffee Hour: Tom Sheets

Nov 18, 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Merry Worley/Lisa Taylor

Acolytes: Mike Lohorn, Crucifer; Kristen Albrecht & Derek Long, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Betty Culley, Lector; John & Betty Culley, LEMs

Altar Guild: Kim Roberts & CJ Charles

Coffee Hour: Kathy & Jim Gary

Offering Talley: Ellen Ball & Vern Easterling

Nov 25, 8:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Teresa Anderson

LEM/Lector: Judy Wynne, Lector; Adrienne Ashbaugh LEM

Coffee Hour: Bud Arnold

Nov 25, 10:30 a.m.

Greeters: Jim & Susie Smith

Acolytes: Sam Hildebrand, Crucifer; Peggy & Kerry Lohorn, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Mike Scime, Lector; Jim Suren & Mike Scime, LEMs

Altar Guild: Meegan Reidy & Betty Culley

Coffee Hour: Jim & Judy Spencer

Offering Talley: Cindy Smith & Tom Twarek

Dec 2, 8:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Hannah Anderson

LEM/Lector: Mark Kussmaul, Lector; Meribeth Kussmaul, LEM

Coffee Hour: Judy Wynne

Dec. 2, 10:30 am.

Greeters: Chris & Sharon Redmaster

Acolytes: Chris Redmaster, Crucifer; Erin & Anna Redmaster, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Alex Lebedeff, Lector, Dan Rogers & Jane Gallagher, LEMs

Altar Guild: Pru Phillips & Ann Odell

Coffee Hour: Sara & Arthur Lawrence

Offering Talley: Jim Smith & Ellen Ball

Dec 9, 8:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Diane Ault

LEM/Lector: Diane Ault, Lector; Adrienne Ashbaugh, LEM

Coffee Hour: Teresa Anderson

Greeters: Harry & Suzanne Siamas

Dec 9, 10:30 a.m.

Acolytes: Steve Charles, Crucifer; Samantha & Jennifer Hankins, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Kent Meyer, Lector; Bob Cooley & Steve Gillan, LEMs

Altar Guild: Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence

Coffee Hour: Ruth & Don Black

Offering Talley: John Roberts & Nancy Bennett

PLEASE NOTE: The next Newsletter submission, preferably typed, is due by **Friday, 6:00 p.m.**

December 7, 2007. This will be a **ONE MONTH** Newsletter.

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #253
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Dated Material – please deliver by – Date November 16, 2007