

Saint John's Spirit

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

January 14, 2008

stjohnscville.org

Editor: Cindy Turner
csturner@sbcglobal.net

From the Rector

A Parish Vision Quest

It hardly seems possible that Lent could arrive as soon as February 6th, but, in fact, it will. Lent has always been a season for self-reflection and for growth in faith. Lent provides time for individuals to seek direction and renewal in following Christ. Through fasting and prayer, we seek to draw closer to God by clearing away the clutter which gets in the way of our relationship with God in order that we might be more able to hear the call of Christ. Lent is very much like the vision quests of Native Americans, who would withdraw into the wilderness to fast and pray for visions. When the vision came, a Native Americans had a clearer sense of identity and purpose.

Perhaps the time has come for St. John's to seek a vision of our common calling as a parish. A great deal of that work was done in the search for a rector. Now that the rector is present and has had sufficient time to get his feet wet, and now that we have several new members, parish, rector and new members need to revisit that work together with a spirit of prayer and fasting in order to discover: A) Our common dreams, B) where we are healthy and where we need improvement, C) our parish norms and values, D) our gifts and assets, and E) the vision of a common mission and identity (God's call for St. John's), which will draw us together and give each of us a common focus for the use of our gifts. The Leon Mission serves as an excellent example of what our parish can do with a common vision of God's call and gifts.

Annual Meeting

Our parish vision quest will begin **January 27th with one service of worship at 9 a.m., followed by a baked potato bar and annual meeting.** The primary purpose of this annual meeting will be to gather parishioners' dreams and visions for Saint John's. **Parishioners will be asked to discuss, list and evaluate answers to the question, "What are your dreams for Saint John's?"** We will outline a Strategic Planning process and introduce the Strategic Planning Task Force, who will help us work through this process in the next six months. The rest of the agenda for adults includes brief written reports by rector and committees, election of Vestry members and delegates to diocesan convention, and presentation of 2008 budget.

Childcare will be provided. **Mary Bargiel will lead Children and Youth in their own version of an annual meeting,** which will be followed by games. Children and youth will **brainstorm ideas for what they would like to see St. John's do in the area of youth ministry.**

NOTE - Reports from *active* committees are due to Mary Barker (stjohnscville@sbcglobal.net) by January 18.

Lent

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 6th with services for the imposition of ashes at 12:15 p.m. and at 7 p.m. This means that Shrove Tuesday and Café St. John's will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to cook pancakes or share a talent, sign up on the easel in the Narthex. The Narthex is the entryway adjacent to Whitlock Hall.

Lenten services after Ash Wednesday will begin with Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. followed by parish discernment discussions from 7-8:30 p.m. Child Care will be provided. Parishioners who attend are asked to bring finger foods to share.

Vestry News

From Marc Hudson, Clerk for the Vestry

In early January, the vestry met to discuss the empowering of a strategic planning task force. This task force would take the pulse of our community and suggest goals and directions we might take as a parish. Christian education and youth ministry will be at the top of its agenda. The motion to empower the formation of this task force was approved. The vestry also wrestled with a significant projected shortfall of funds for 2008, and discussed fundraising possibilities, of which you will no doubt hear more.

Vestry Retreat

The vestry retreat will take place on Friday, Feb. 1st, 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 2nd from 9a.m. – 3 p.m. Location is yet to be announced. The Strategic Planning Task Force will meet with the vestry from 9a.m. – noon on Saturday.

Outreach

Our community is fortunate to have a haven for family members where they can escape abuse and have some time to get their lives back together. Our "Big Red Bag" project for January is collecting items for the Family Crisis Center. Items that are always needed are:

- Paper goods (paper towel, bath tissue, Kleenex)
- Over the counter medications
- Personal Hygiene products
- Laundry detergent, fabric softener
- Dish soap
- Dish rags and towels
- Bath Towels

Keep Saturday, February 23 in mind. We will be hosting a gathering for the Youth Service Bureau mentoring program. IT will be at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatic Center from 2:00-4:00. We will have a room where refreshments will be served. More information will be coming.

Newcomers/Hospitality

Over the next couple weeks, you will be hearing about the "Bring A Friend to Church" Sunday that we would like to host in the Easter season. Beginning in Lent, we are going to ask you to think about someone you may like to invite to St. John's for a visit. This can be someone that currently doesn't have a parish or maybe someone you know that isn't happy at their current place of worship. We will have you write their names on a 3x5 card (not to be used for any other purpose) and place in the offering dish on a designated Sunday. Then for 4-5 weeks we will pray for these individuals as well as praying for an opportunity to invite our "persons" to join us on said Sunday. This is not a forced invitation but one led by God. And then on this "Bring A Friend to Church" Sunday, you can bring your guest for worship and coffee hour. More information will be forthcoming ... we just want you to start thinking now!

Christian Education

Adult

Movies and Messages is the adult theme from now through Lent. Several different films will be used as the basis for reflections. In most cases we will not be able to show entire films, but we can make exceptions. Please note, films do not need to be explicitly religious in order to have content worthy of consideration. If you have suggestions for a film you would like to discuss, please contact Father Todd at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com.

Youth

We are interested in starting a pre-school class. Look for more info to come!

Help is needed! We are seeking new Sunday School teachers. If interested, please sign up in the Narthex. We also need help planning crafts and activities for Sunday School. If interested, contact Kathy Gary.

If you have a question about youth Christian Education, contact Mary Bargiel at 721-3037 or bargielmary@yahoo.com

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Getting to Know...

Merry Worley

Merry is originally from the South and moved to Crawfordsville almost 20 years ago thinking she would live here briefly before moving back to Atlanta. Over the course of time, C'ville and St. John's have truly become home to her. Currently Merry teaches business courses at Kaplan College in Indianapolis, enjoying a four-day work week and the three-day weekends that allow her to travel. Her other hobbies include spending time with her children, Katie, Ryan and Collin, as well as Katie's new husband, her granddog Bo, her own dog Maggie, and other family and friends. She loves to sew and has made quilts for each of her children and her mother. She even made Katie's wedding dress last summer. Now that really takes a special skill! Walking, cooking, reading, and going to movies are other activities she enjoys.

While at St. John's, Merry has served on various committees, which include the vestry, outreach committee, parish life, Christian Ed, and offering tally. When counting her many blessings, her St. John's family is certainly among them.

In Other News...

Office Hours

Father Todd's new office hours are 10:00 - 12:00, Monday - Thursday. He is starting a new exercise regimen.

Fellowship and Bowling

Our new fellowship committee is planning a bowling challenge for the Presbyterians this winter. Check your bulletins and listen for updates. I am certain that Fellowship would like ideas for fun events. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please, send them to Father Todd at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com, and he will forward them to Matt and Ashley Lohorn and to Kelly and Bryce Barton.

Episcopal Inquiry Group

Parents preparing children for Baptism, adults interested in joining the Episcopal Church, youth preparing for confirmation, and those wishing to renew their faith or wishing to learn more about the Episcopal Church and St. John's, in particular, are asked to register for the Episcopal Inquiry Group, which will be led by Father Todd. The course will begin Sunday, February 3rd and continue through Sunday April 20th. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Each session will approximately last one and a half hours. To register, e-mail Father Todd at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com, or call the church at 362-2331 by January 27th.

Seeking Donations

We are seeking donations of plastic jars for a super-secret project. Jars should be 1 quart or larger in size and placed in the "Mission Possible" box in the Narthex.

Website

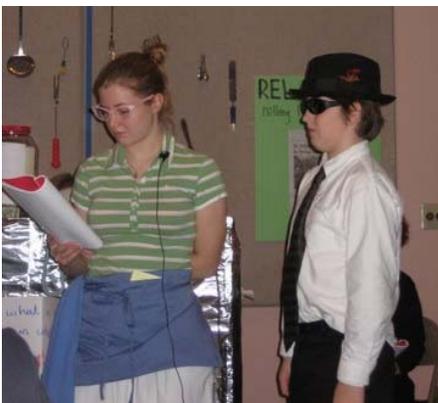
Just a reminder that the new website is at stjohnscville.org (no www needed).

Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter (content, format, color of paper, etc...) please contact Cindy Turner (csturner@sbcglobal.net).

Pageant Update

Thanks and congratulations to all those who took part in the Epiphany Pageant as actors, make-up artist, camera and sound people, cooks, set design or prop people, and assistant directors. 125 people attended, and \$294.00 was collected for our sisters and brothers in Leon. Who says religion can't be fun?



Photos Courtesy of Bob Royalty

Sunday Servers

January 20, 8:00am

Acolyte: Hanna Anderson

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

Coffee Hour: N/A

January 20, 10:30am

Greeters: Jim & Kathy Gary

Acolytes: Mike Lohorn, Crucifer; Peggy & Kerry Lohorn, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Judy Wynne, Lector; Steve Gillan & Mike Scime', LEMs

Altar Guild: Jerilyn Yerkes, Terry Lawrence

Coffee Hour: N/A

Offering Tally: Tom Twarek, John Roberts

January 27, 9:00am

Greeters: The Lohorn Family

Acolytes: Steve Charles, Crucifer; Kristen Albrecht & Darek Long, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Mary A. Cooley, Lector; Bob Cooley & Sally Lawrence, LEMs

Altar Guild: Carole Meyer, Jane Gallagher

Coffee Hour: N/A

Offering Tally: Jim Smith, Vern Easterling

February 3, 8:00am

Acolyte: Diane Ault

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

Coffee Hour: Bud Arnold

February 3, 10:30am

Greeters: Merry Worley, Lisa Taylor

Acolytes: Anna Redmaster, Crucifer; Libby Pinkerton & Alex Pearson, Acolytes

LEM/Lector: Sam Hildebrand, Lector; Vern Easterling & Meribeth Kussmaul, LEMs

Altar Guild: Cyndy Fields, Bethany Fields

Coffee Hour: Sally Lawrence

Offering Tally: Cindy Smith, Tom Twarek

Calendar

January 15 Liturgy Meeting 5:30pm

January 18 *Active* committee reports for the Annual Meeting due to Mary Barker
(stjohnncville@sbcglobal.net)

January 27 Annual Meeting

January 27 Inquiry Class registration deadline

February 1 Newsletter submissions due 6pm to Cindy Turner

February 1&2 Vestry Retreat (6-9pm Friday, 9am - 3pm Saturday)

February 3 Inquiry Classes begin

Ongoing Activities

Heart of Christianity - Wednesdays through January 7 - 8:30pm

EFM - Tuesdays 7-9pm

The next Newsletter submission, preferably typed, is due by Friday evening, 6:00 p.m. February 1

St. John's Episcopal Church
212 South Green Street
P. O. Box 445
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #253
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Dated Material — please deliver by—January 18