



# Saint John's Spirit

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

February 4, 2008

Editor: Cindy Turner  
csturner@sbcglobal.net

stjohnscville.org

---

---

## From the Rector

### **Lent: A Time for Open Hands, Open Ears, and Open Hearts**

The Lenten call summons us all to rend our hearts and not our garments, to open our hands and let go of the idols we so desperately cling to, that the LORD may place his nail-scarred hands in ours, and lead us back to the only true source of life and joy - GOD. Letting go is the only way to open our ears, our minds, our hearts, and our lives to hear the direction and guidance of God. Nowhere is this more important than in a community of faith.

Before the annual meeting, our vestry called us to a time of fasting and discernment in order to seek God's primary call for our congregation. What mission is at the heart of all we do at St. John's? What mission is God's reason for having St. John's exist? What mission will consistently provide a unifying, energizing heartbeat for St. John's? We could be compared to musical instruments in search of that one piece of music, which would blend all our different voices into one beautiful harmony.

To discern that call, we must enter into fasting and prayer. Fasting has little to do with food but much to do with prayer. When we fast, we give up something, anything, and replace that something with prayer. Whenever we feel the hunger pangs of missed meal or feel the loss of our favorite TV show, these feelings should be like the tolling of a church bell, calling us back to prayer, in our case prayer specifically for the mission of St. John's and for guidance from God in how best to provide meaningful Christian Education and support for our children and youth.

On Sunday March 2nd, we invite the whole parish into a day of discernment and discussion with regard to our parish mission. We will meet from Noon to 3pm. No meal will be served but juices and water will be available. Not only will such an experience prove valuable for our parish, but may also prove quite enriching to all that participate. Invitations will be sent to every family with more specific details and explanations regarding the Strategic Planning Task Force Teams.

Have a Holy Lent,  
Father Todd+

## Lent

### **Lenten Worship and Programs**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Ash Wednesday                | -Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist - Noon and 7pm   |
| First Sunday of Lent         | - The Great Litany and Holy Eucharist - 8 and 10:30am  |
| All other Wednesdays in Lent | -Holy Eucharist Rite I at 12:15pm<br>-30 Minute Eucharist Rite II at 6:30pm<br>- 7pm Film Series <i>From Jesus to Christ</i> |
| Sundays in Lent              | - Confirmation and Baptism Preparation after 10:30 Liturgy<br>(Participants should bring a sack lunch and beverage.)         |

Holy Week Schedule and activities will be printed in a special mailing and in the March newsletter.

### **Maundy Thursday Seder**

Mike Scime' requests that individuals interested in helping prepare foods or other items for the Maundy Thursday Seder should call him at 364-0229 or e-mail him at scimemike@yahoo.com. Those interested in attending should RSVP Mike as well.

### **Good Friday Mimes**

Father Todd is calling for youth to help serve as mimes for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening. Please e-mail him at revtoddkleff@yahoo.com for more information. This service should prove very enriching for the mimes as well as for those who attend.

# Vestry News

## From Marc Hudson, Clerk for the Vestry

At the Annual Parish Meeting (1/27), our community discussed our vision for St. John's: what we value about our church, our concerns, new directions, and improvements we might make. This discussion will be of great use as we begin our Strategic Planning Discernment Process. The community approved the vestry candidates for 2008: Larry Baumgardner, Sam Hildebrand, Chris Johnson, and Sara Lawrence. Helen and Marc Hudson were appointed as delegates to the Diocesan Convention with Jim and Susie Smith as alternates. At the vestry meeting directly following the parish meeting, Adrienne Ashbaugh agreed to continue to serve as Rector's Warden and Kathy Gary was appointed by acclamation as our new People's Warden. Kent Meyer was reappointed as treasurer by acclamation. We continued the discussion on fund raising (begun during the parish meeting). At the vestry's annual retreat (2/1-2/2), the members of the vestry discerned their gifts and assets as individuals. We discussed our insights gleaned from the community's vision of St. John's expressed during the previous week's discussion (at the annual meeting). We formulated three goals for St. John's for 2008: Strengthen our ministry for youth and young families; improve communication at all levels of the church; and provide a deeper and more varied Christian education program. Vestry liaisons for parish committees were appointed.

## Outreach

Thanks to all who brought in items for the Family Crisis Center and FISH. In February we are reaching out once again to support the JUMP mentoring program at the Youth Service Bureau. On Saturday, February 23, we will be hosting a swimming party at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatics Center. The Swimming is from 2:00-4:00 P.M. with pizza being served from 4:00- 5:00. Please come and join us. It will be a good time for kids and adults alike. Youth leaders feel free to bring your group. If you would like to help in some way, we hope you will help by making a donation to help cover the pizzas, or providing two liter bottles of soda and cups. If you wish to donate items, put them on the counter in the kitchen. Money can be given to anyone on the Outreach Committee or designated and given with offering. See you at the pool!

## Newcomers/Hospitality

On Sunday, April 13th - the Hospitality Committee and St. John's will be hosting a "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday. On March 2, we will ask you to place the name(s) of a person who you know is either looking for a church or is maybe not being spiritually fulfilled at their current place of worship. These names will be brought forward at the offering time as we spend the next 6 weeks praying for them as well as praying for an opportunity to present itself to invite this friend to join us on this particular Sunday (we promise good treats at coffee hour and that we won't make them stand up and introduce themselves!) You will hear more about this later in February, but we would like you to start thinking about someone you would be comfortable asking and who would want to join us. Also, we invite our children/teens to think about their friends and if they would have someone in mind to ask! If you should have any questions, feel free to contact Mike Scime, Kathy Gary or Kitty Haffner.

## Christian Education

### Sunday Adult Forum Films

On Feb. 10 we will conclude *Pay It Forward*. The next film will be *Stolen Summer*, a thought-provoking film about a Jewish boy and a Christian boy, their friendship, their families, and their faith.

### Youth

Volunteers are still needed to sign up for Godly Play. We also need children to pass out the last fruits jars during the 8am and 10:30am services on Feb. 10.

### *A Prayer attributed to St. Francis*

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

## Getting to Know...

### **Barb & Vern Easterling**

Vern & Barb met while high school students in Wyandotte, Michigan. They graduated in 1952 and were married 4 years later, at which point Vern began to pursue a Ph.D. in Physics at Wayne State University, and Barb stayed home to care for the ever-growing family. The move to Crawfordsville came in 1962 when Vern accepted a position in the Physics Dept. of Wabash College. The children at that time were ages 6 (Doug), 5 (Mark), 2 ½ (Ken) and 6 months (Susan). Three or four years later, the Easterlings found their way to St. John's. There were several families with quite large numbers of children at that time so St. John's activities became central in the life of the Easterling family. Not only was there Sunday School and acolyting, but a large children's choir, and then in 1972 a mission trip to New Mexico. Vern & Barb have both remained active in the life of St. John's, each having served on Vestry several times, many different committees, and at the diocesan level.

Barb retired from Wabash College in 1995, where she had been bookstore manager and then acquisitions manager at Lilly Library. This was just in time to help take care of her granddaughter, Kristen Albrecht, who was born in 1996. Two years later, Jackson appeared and added to the fun. When Vern retired from Wabash in 2000, he too finally had enough time to spend in enjoying the grandchildren. In addition to Kristen & Jackson, they have a grown-up grandson, Jason, who has two children of his own (that makes Vern & Barb great grandparents, much to their amazement). Church and family remain central to their lives.

## In Other News...

### **LEVAS II**

That stands for Lift Every Voice and Sing II, an Episcopal Hymnal filled with many familiar Protestant Hymns and many African American spirituals as well. Soon to be appearing in your St. John's pews.

### **Vestry and Strategic Planning Task Force Teams**

There will be a meeting following the 10:30 Liturgy on February 10. We will define goals of vestry and task force teams. Length: 1 hour.

### **Committee Jump Starts**

Father Todd and Adrienne Ashbaugh will be contacting all committee chairs to schedule meetings with our committees to see what is happening and to provide support when needed.

### **Acolyte and LEM Training**

Training will be held on Saturday, February 16, from 10am to noon for both acolytes and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Please let Father Todd know if you plan to attend.

### **St. Martha's and St. Andrew's Guild**

St. Martha's and St. Andrew's Guild is the group who takes care of our kitchen and Whitlock Hall. If you are interested in participating please contact Susie Smith.

### **Clothing Needed for Manzanilla**

Judy Spencer is travelling to Manzanilla, Mexico with her daughter, Carrie Sypherd. Carrie is an optometrist who is going on a medical mission to diagnose eye diseases and distribute eyeglasses donated through the Lions Club International. These volunteers have been asked to collect clothing to give to villagers whose houses were destroyed in recent mudslides. Donations of clothing items including lightweight sweaters and jackets, shoes and sandals, especially in children's sizes, are greatly appreciated. You may place items in the box in the hallway labeled Manzanilla.

### **Cafe St. John's Takes a Break**

Due to a very busy January with two large parish events, it seemed prudent to the senior Warden, the rector, and the vestry, that we take a break from Cafe St. John's for a year. This is especially true when Lent begins the first week in February.

### **Episcopal Facts: Easy on the "A" Word**

In Lent we drop the word "Alleluia" from our Liturgy. Why? Alleluia is the Latin translation of a Hebrew word for "Praise the Lord!" This was a shout of victory and praise, a happy word. During Lent we focus on the suffering and passion of Christ. We drop this happy word to remind ourselves that God's love for us came at a very heavy price, the death of Jesus. Let your children know why we don't say Alleluia.

## Sunday Servers

### February 10, 8:00am

Acolyte: Teresa Anderson  
LEM/Lector: Elaine Pickering, Lector;  
Vern Easterling, LEM  
Coffee Hour: Mike Scime'

### February 10, 10:30am

Greeters: Nancy Yount  
Acolytes: Sam Hildebrand, Crucifer; Kristen Albrecht &  
Darek Long, Acolytes  
LEM/Lector: Joe O'Rourke, Lector; Adrienne Ashbaugh,  
Mark Kussmaul, LEMs  
Altar Guild: CJ Charles, Kim Roberts  
Coffee Hour: The Albrecht Family  
Offering Tally: Barb Easterling, Jim Smith

### February 17, 8:00am

Acolyte: Hanna Anderson  
LEM/Lector: Mark Kussmaul, Lector;  
Meribeth Kussmaul, LEM  
Coffee Hour: Tom Sheets

### February 17, 10:30am

Greeters: The Royalty Family  
Acolytes: Mike Lohorn, Crucifer; Peggy Lohorn & Kerry  
Lohorn, Acolytes  
LEM/Lector: Barb Easterling, Lector; John Culley & Betty  
Culley, LEMs  
Altar Guild: Meegan Reidy, Betty Culley  
Coffee Hour: The Royalty Family  
Offering Tally: John Roberts, Nancy Bennett

### February 24, 8:00am

Acolyte: Sam Hildebrand  
LEM/Lector: Mike Scime'  
Coffee Hour: Judy Wynne

### February 24, 10:30am

Greeters: The Gillooly Family  
Acolytes: Steve Charles, Crucifer; Kristen Albrecht & Darek  
Long, Acolytes  
LEM/Lector: Jim Gary, Lector; Sally Lawrence & Steve  
Gillan, LEMs  
Altar Guild: Pru Phillips, Ann O'Dell  
Coffee Hour: The Smith Family  
Offering Tally: Merry Worley, Ellen Ball

## Calendar

- February 6 Ash Wednesday Services Noon and 7pm  
February 10 Vestry and Strategic Planning Task Force Team Meeting after 10:30 Liturgy  
February 16 Acolyte and LEM training 10am - noon  
February 23 Swimming Party to support JUMP mentoring program  
March 2 Day of Discernment & Discussion Noon - 3pm  
March 20 Maundy Thursday Seder  
April 13 Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

### Ongoing Activities

EFM - Tuesdays 7-9pm  
Holy Eucharist - Wednesdays 12:15pm (Rite I) and 6:30pm (RiteII) through Lent  
Film Series *From Jesus to Christ* - Wednesdays 7pm through Lent  
Confirmation and Baptism preparation - Sundays after 10:30 Liturgy through Lent

The next Newsletter submission, preferably typed, is due by Friday **evening, 6:00 p.m. February 22**

---

**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—February 7