



Saint John's Spirit

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

March 2008

stjohnscville.org

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From the Rector

The Heart of the Matter: How is Your Soul?

"How is your soul?" This isn't the kind of question you expect to get asked on the street. "How is your soul?" My closest friends may come closer to asking this than anyone else, but I don't recall any of them calling the question so directly. "How is your soul?" Even priests shy away from this most of the time. A seminary professor at Seabury-Western suggested that we ask this question of ourselves and our parishioners from time to time. He said, "Asking 'How is your soul?' is the most appropriate question a priest can ask. It has a way of cutting to the heart of the matter."

As the time of Passion draws near, and the shadow of the cross begins to fall on our lives, I ask the question to each person in this parish family, "How is your soul?" As the light of Christ's new life quietly, mysteriously seeps its secret way into the cracks of our wounded and hardened hearts, I ask the question, "How is your soul, St. John's Church?"

As we seek to discern God's primary call to a common mission, and as we seek God's help in ministering to the souls of our children and youth, we need to get to the heart of the matter, so that we can focus on those things which are most important.

Perhaps this little exercise will prove helpful to your souls and to mine. When you ask, "Why did God's son become a human being?" Look in the mirror and say, "For the health of my soul." When you feel hatred or bitterness against someone for hurting you, think of Christ's suffering at our hands and pray, "For your enemy's soul." When you begin to make those mental comments about a stranger's looks or about the unfairness of the world, think of Jesus' words to a thief on the cross and pray "for the sake of this world's souls." And when you find yourself surprised by some unexpected good news, by a kind word, or some small miracle that renews your sense of hope, give thanks that Christ is risen to bring healing, hope and life, to our souls.

May the love of Christ keep shining in our souls.
Father Todd+

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday	Services at 8 and 10:30, reading of Passion according to Matthew. Sunday School classes shortened by 10 minutes. Gather in Whitlock Hall before both services.
Monday of Holy Week	7 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Church 9 P.M. Compline in the Church
Tuesday of Holy Week	7 p.m. Evening Prayer in the Church 9 p.m. Compline in the Church
Wednesday of Holy Week	6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist in the Church 7 p.m. Final practice for Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday	Symbolic Seder 6 p.m. in Whitlock Hall 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of Altar in Church 8 p.m. Maundy Thursday - Noon Good Friday: Prayer Vigil
Good Friday	12:15 p.m. Good Friday Service; Holy Eucharist - Reserved Sacrament 6 p.m. Youth Prepare for Good Friday Stations of the Cross 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist led by Youth
Holy Saturday	Decorate Church for Easter
Easter Sunday	7:30 a.m. Easter Vigil 9 a.m. Easter Brunch (No Sunday School) 10:30 Holy Eucharist with Baptism 11:45 Easter Brunch

Parish Care

Fortunately, the recent weeks have been quiet for our committee. I would like to use this lull to update our lists. Then, when we need to help, our calls won't be a surprise to either of us. The following are ways we can help:

- Providing a meal, or a casserole
- Visiting a shut-in or hospitalized parishioner
- Providing transportation to a doctor's appointment or medical procedure
- Providing a couple of hours respite for a caregiver

Let me know which lists you would like to be on. Keep in mind that your "giving" will be only occasional, and only as the need arises. Ann O'Dell, anno2@tds.net, 942-2339. Also, please contact me or Father Todd if you need any of these services.

Outreach

The Outreach Committee will be joining the St. John Children in their Lenten project, the last fruits campaign, this year. The children are distributing containers to our congregation so that we will have a place to put our loose coins throughout Lent. At the end of the collection, 10% of the total will be donated to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County, while the rest will go to support the church budget. The Outreach is sponsoring a collection of items that are needed by the animal shelter. A list of needed items follows.

We are also lifting up two other projects that you might be interested in supporting. One is the Episcopal Fund for Human Need. Donations to this fund revert back to agencies in Montgomery County. The other is support for the Diocesan Zion Project Church who has around \$2,000 left to meet their \$20,000 goal to provide fresh water to Sudan by digging a fresh-water well. Both of these projects are sponsored by our Diocese. It gives us an opportunity to choose to donate locally or globally.

Animal Shelter Needs

Dog collars
Cat feeding bowls
Cat litter pans
Receiving blankets for cats
Scratching posts
Catnip toys
Old blankets & towels for bedding & baths
Canned food for puppies and small dogs
(They have a supply of food from Science Diet)

The Outreach committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 4 at 4:30 P.M. Anyone who is interested in attending is welcome. If you have ideas for the committee, email Jane Gallagher ljgallagher@accelplus.net

Christian Education

Sunday School for pre-schoolers

If you are interested in your 2 to 4 year old being part of a Sunday School class, please call or e-mail Kathy Gary (361-1468 or jlgary2003@yahoo.com). The time would be the same as adult Sunday School and the dates would be March 16, April 20 and May 11. If we have an interest, the class will be full time this Fall.

Teachers still needed!

Please sign up in the Narthex outside Whitlock Hall.

Newcomers/Hospitality

Just a reminder that "Bring a Friend to Church" Sunday is April 13th. On March 2, we will ask you to think of people who you know are either looking for a church or perhaps are not being spiritually fulfilled at their current place of worship. These names will be placed in the offering plates and 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.

March 9 Discernment Meetings

A special mailing on parish discernment has been sent to the members of our St. John's Family. Completion of the enclosed inventories (all of which are quite short) will improve the life and vitality of our parish and will aid the Parish Task Force Teams in their work concerning our common mission and youth ministry/Christian Education. Please have all members of your family, middle school age and up, complete these forms. We hope to discover our favorite gifts, ways to improve our spiritual lives and how to improve our attitudes and avoid burnout.

Getting to Know...

Larry and Sandy Baumgardner, who have been married 44 years and are the parents of two children. Their son Tyler and his wife Peggy have three sons: Dregan (14), Steele (4), and Josh (26). Daughter Dwanae Benge and her husband Greg have four children: David (18), Taylor (14), Deryk (12) and Abbi (7). They are blessed that their children and grandchildren live in the area, allowing them to join in on many family activities.

Larry and Sandy live on a farm in the New Ross area where they raise corn, soybeans and dairy heifers. Larry is from a long dairy farming background, having been raised on his parent's dairy farm near Jamestown in Boone County. He was also employed for 13 years with Indiana Farm Bureau Coop as a purchasing agent and another 5 years as a feed salesman for the County Farm Bureau Coop. Larry served as Vice President on the Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc. Board for a number of years, as well as many years on the Montgomery County Pork Producers Board (6 years as President). As a matter of fact, if you have eaten a pork chop at the Montgomery County 4-H Fair, it was probably cooked or served to you by Larry and Sandy! Sandy is employed by Random House Distribution Center for Children's Books in Crawfordsville. They both enjoy camping outings with family and friends.

As a new member on St. John's Vestry, Larry is looking forward to fulfilling his duties.

Youth Events

Environmental Lock-In

There is an environmental lock-in proposed for the high schoolers and middle schoolers in April. The focus will be on caring for nature and animals.

Daytrip Adventure

A daytrip for students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades is coming up in April. This may possibly be a trip to the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Drivers will be needed.

In Other News...

Maundy Thursday Seder

Please join us for a light supper of bread and stew (meat and vegetarian) and a symbolic Seder on Thursday, March 20 at 6:00 p.m. This event will meld Jewish and Christian traditions in a fun and meaningful way. Supper will conclude with a Maundy Thursday foot-washing and procession into the church for Eucharist and the Stripping of the Altar. After Eucharist, probably around 8:30 or so, you are also invited to spend a some time in prayer in the church as part of an overnight prayer vigil meant to symbolize Jesus' praying through the night in the Garden of Gethsemane. Sign up for the Seder/supper and the prayer vigil on the sheets outside Whitlock Hall. If you are interested in helping with the seder, please contact Mike Scime (364-0229 or scimemike@yahoo.com).

Youth for Stations of the Cross

Youth, ages 7 - High School are eligible to help lead The Stations of the Cross, provided that they attend most of the rehearsals and can arrive at the Church on Good Friday by 6 p.m.

Good Friday Rehearsal Schedule (all rehearsals are at the Church):

March 2	4-5:30 p.m.
March 9	4-5:30 p.m.
March 16	4-5:30 p.m.
March 19	7-8 p.m.

Foundations of the Episcopal Way (Confirmation/Baptism Preparation)

Baptism will take place at the 10:30 a.m. Service on Easter (March 23). Confirmations will take place at St. Andrew's, Greencastle Saturday, April 5 at 11 a.m. Course sessions continue to meet from 11:45 - 1:15 in the library. The Foundations Group will take part in the discernment session on March 9 and resume in the

library afterwards. We will not meet on Easter Sunday, but will meet on April 6 and April 13.

The Language of God - Book Discussion

Pr. Lowell Anderson will lead a discussion of a recent book, *The Language of God*, in which the author, Francis Collins, traces his faith journey from agnosticism to atheism to faithful Christian. It so happens that Collins is the most famous scientist in the world today, being first person to map out all 3 billion pieces in the human genome. The book also discusses his perspectives on evolution, the creation of the universe, creationism, Intelligent Design, the ethical issues raised by having mapped the genome, and hosts of other topics. If you are interested, call Mary Angela Cooley to indicate your interest and to indicate which day-time schedule would work for you. The group is now large enough that a day-time session at St. John's, plus an evening discussion at Christ are wise. If you want an evening session, it will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, beginning Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. Please order your own book, since the original order has already been received. (You can order on-line, or call Judy Wynn at the Wabash Bookstore.)

Altar Flowers

Would you be willing to give altar flowers some Sunday? There is a sign up sheet in Whitlock Hall. We will need flowers starting in April. The procedure is simple. I will send you a reminder and ask for your instructions. You can either call a florist yourself or have me do it. The florist will deliver the flowers to the church. Your family can go it alone, or join with another one. If you have any questions, e-mail Pru Phillips at dappkp@sbcglobal.net.

Old Sewing Machines Needed

You may have read that Rotary groups have purchased and refurbished fire trucks for rural communities in Mexico. Sewing Machines traveled with some of those fire trucks. Later visits revealed that women were using the sewing machines for "cottage business" and they were very appreciated. The Rotary would be interested in transporting more used sewing machines. They prefer simple machines, rather than electronic or computer models. This is the chance to add another life to the old machine in your closet that you just can't discard, but will actually never use. If you have, or know of anyone that has such a machine, contact Ellen Ball (balltwar@sbcglobal.net or 362-1357), she'll even pick it up and deliver to Claude Johnson!

Calendar

March 2	Good Friday Rehearsal 4-5:30pm
March 4	Outreach Committee Meeting 4:30pm
March 9	Day of Discernment & Discussion 9:15 - 10:15 and 11:45 - 12:45 (please note date change)
	Good Friday Rehearsal 4-5:30pm
March 16*	Palm Sunday
	Pre-School Sunday School Classes Begin
	Good Friday Rehearsal 4-5:30pm
March 20*	Maundy Thursday Seder
March 23*	Easter Sunday
April 13	Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

* Holy Week Details are on page 1 of this newsletter

Ongoing Activities

EFM - Tuesdays 7-9pm

Holy Eucharist - Wednesdays 12:15pm (Rite I) and 6:30pm (Rite II) through Lent

Film Series *From Jesus to Christ* - Wednesdays 7pm through Lent

Confirmation and Baptism preparation - Sundays after 10:30 Liturgy through Lent

Sunday Servers

Service	LEM	Lector	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Talley
3/2 8:00	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Diane Ault	Diane Ault	Jim Suren			
3/2 10:30	Mark Hudson & Jane Gallagher	Helen Hudson	Erin Redmaster/ Libby Pinkerton & Alex Pearson	The Lohorns	The Hildebrands	Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	Nancy Bennett & John Culley
3/9 8am	Vern Easterling	Kitty Haffner	Kitty Haffner	Teresa Anderson			
3/9 10:30	Adrienne Ashbaugh & Mike Scime	Susan Albrecht	Sam Hildebrand/ Kristen Albrecht & Darek Long	The Redmaster Family	The Redmaster Family	Carole Meyer & Jane Gallagher	Jim Smith & Vern Easterling
3/16 8am	Meribeth Kussmaul	Mark Kussmaul	Teresa Anderson				
3/16 10:30	Kim Roberts & Bob Cooley	Kristen Albrecht	Chris Redmaster/ Anna & Erin Redmaster		Mary Angela Cooley	Cyndy Fields & Bethany Fields	Barb Easterling & John Roberts
3/23 7:30	Mike Scime	Mike Scime	Hannah Anderson	Easter Brunch			
3/23 10:30	Meribeth Kussmaul & Vern Easterling	Meribeth Kussmaul	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy & Kerry Lohorn	Easter Brunch		CJ Charles & Kim Roberts	Cindy Smith & Merry Worley
3/30 8am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Sam Hildebrand	The Kussmauls			
3/30 10:30	Jim Suren & Mike Scime	Jim Suren	Steve Charles/ Kristen Albrecht & Darek Long	The Bennetts	The Gilooly Family	Meegan Reidy & Betty Culley	John Culley & Ellen Ball

The church office is open from 9am - noon, Monday through Friday.

Father Todd's office hours are from 10am - noon, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment. Wednesday is his administrative day.

The next Newsletter submission, preferably typed, is due by Friday evening, 6:00 p.m. March 28

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