



Saint John's Spirit

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

April 2008

stjohnscville.org

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From the Rector

From Fear to Faith

A stalled housing market, local businesses shutting down, soaring fuel prices, climate change, a Middle Eastern quagmire, and infectious diseases, which are resistant to antibiotics, at least one of these probably ranks among your fears or concerns as you read this article. If youth and children are important to you, you can add any of a number of concerns related to the health and safety of children, of youth, or family life. As members of a small parish with limited resources, we may have concerns about the financial stability of our parish in uncertain times or about finding willing and able volunteers with the time and energy to take part in our mission and ministries as we fully enter the Post-Christian Age. Yes, "Post-Christian." We can no longer expect society to help make being Christian easy. More and more, the times will call for Christians to make hard choices about where and how we spend our time, our energies, and our money. We already seem to struggle to find people with the time or interest to attend or teach Christian Education opportunities. We have also struggled to meet our budget for the last couple of years, even when that budget is pretty bare bones.

I am not complaining. This is nothing new for any church, but these are fairly solid examples of things we could choose to be fearful about - IF WE WERE NOT ALSO A POST-EASTER PEOPLE, SERVING A GOD WHO RAISES THE DEAD AND MULTIPLIES LOAVES AND FISHES!

"And a little child shall lead them..."

This quote from Isaiah describes the Messianic Age when faith in God triumphs over fear and evil. I suppose that I should have written "and a member of the youth group shall lead them." That's right. In a time when people are watching their accounts closely, our youth began a "Last Fruits Campaign" to teach us about trusting God's abundance. In a little less than two months they collected \$393.35 in change which people saved and turned over. 10% of this will go to the Animal Welfare League, and the rest is going into the "Holy Ghost Fund" for the St. John's budget. Wow!

Members of our youth group also led us into faith through a very moving liturgy on the Stations of the Cross. They gave up time that could have been spent on fun, and instead offered that time to God and to us. As a result, four completely new families came to visit our church. One of these youth now wants to call the other youth together for a monthly evening of games and activities for younger kids so that parents can have an evening out.

The Lectionary, a Good Place to Start

For the rest of us who still struggle with trusting God amidst fearful circumstances, I offer to you the readings from First Peter and Acts, which will appear in our lectionary this month. First Peter is written to a group of Christians who struggle not only with persecution, but also with making difficult choices. Both Acts and First Peter demonstrate how the power of a risen Christ and a small community can change the world for the better.

In prayer and hope,
Father Todd+



Scenes from the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Photos courtesy of Bill Patterson

Outreach

Thanks to all who donated items for the Animal Shelter. Our plan is to deliver them over spring break and take some of the pound puppies for a walk. Thanks you also for buying water to support the Sudan fresh water project. How easy it is for us to always have water at our fingertips, which makes it hard to fathom not having the most basic of all human needs when we need it.

Our next project will be Christmas in April. This past Christmas we did not have the opportunity to support the Montgomery County Mental Health Association in their Christmas gift drive. We are getting a jump start on 2008. Beverly Turner assured us that gifts collected now will definitely help the program. She reminded us that this is a good time to find sweatshirts and sweatpants on sale. Bring any of the following and put them in our collection boxes.

Toothpaste Hairbrushes Sweatshirts
Shampoo soaps deodorant
body wash after shave lotions
any other toiletry that you might think of

As part of our ongoing support of the Youth Service Bureau this year, we would like to encourage the St. John's folks to support the annual Bowl-a-thon that will be held April 26th. Be watching for organization of our own church team. Sign up to bowl and collect sponsors for this yearly fund raiser for the kids in our county.

The Outreach committee will be meeting Tuesday, April 1st at 4:30 in Whitlock Hall. This is an open meeting for any interested person.



From the Youth Service Bureau's JUMP program swimming party on February 23rd.

Christian Education

Jewish, Muslim, Christian Panel: April 27

Joe O'Rourke has arranged for a panel discussion and presentation on issues relating to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, on Sunday April 27 from 9am to 10:15am. Warren Rosenberg will present for Judaism, David Blix for Islam, and Pastor Lowell Anderson will present for Christianity. One of the chief topics will be how each faith views issues related to the environment..

There will be a small wooden box for questions to the rector in the area outside of Whitlock Hall. Questions regarding Islam, Judaism or Christianity may be placed in this box and will be answered or discussed during the panel discussion. Fr. Todd asks that all submissions be signed, but names will be kept confidential.

Teachers still needed!

Please sign up in the Narthex outside Whitlock Hall.

Sunday School for pre-schoolers

The class for 2 to 4 year olds will meet again on April 20 and May 11. Contact Kathy Gary with any questions (361-1468 or jlgary2003@yahoo.com).



Kathy Gary instructs Luke Long (top) and Beth Turner (bottom) in the first preschool class on March 16th.

Vestry News

At the last Vestry meeting (March 24), the Vestry decided to apply the monies received from the sale of the Avery jewelry to this year's operating expenses, thus greatly diminishing the projected shortfall in our budget. The Vestry is still exploring other means of raising funds for the Church. The Vestry also approved the proposal that for the summer (June 8th until September 14th), St. John's will have a single service, at 9 a.m. The Waycross Retreat Week-end this year will be September 5th-7th. Mark your calendars!

Newcomers/Hospitality

On April 6th after the 10:30 a.m. service, we will have a reception in Whitlock Hall for our new confirmands. Confirmation is on Saturday, April 5, at 11am at St. Andrew's in Greencastle.

The Newcomers Hospitality Committee has designated Sunday, April 13th as "Invite a Friend to Church Day". You may recall that at the beginning of Lent, we were asked to think of and then beginning praying for someone in our lives that might find St. John's a helpful place to continue their journey with God. We will have a special coffee hour after both services that Sunday and, since there will be many visitors that day (at least we hope so) no one will feel singled out or uncomfortable. This is probably the easiest Church activity you've ever been asked to participated in... Just ask someone who you already care about to share in something you already appreciate in your own life. You might just plant the seed that helps them grow into a closer walk with God. If you should have any questions, feel free to contact Mike Scime, Kathy Gary or Kitty Haffner.

Getting to Know...

Meegan Reidy

Meegan first came to Crawfordsville in 1970 when she was assigned here to student teach. She taught second grade at Mills School the following year and has been teaching first, second or fourth grade since. She soon met Mike and started looking for a church when they decided to marry. She chose St. John's because she thought it was the prettiest church in town - perfect for their June 1978 wedding.

Meegan and Mike are the proud parents of Jonathan, 28, who is in law school at the University of Texas in Austin, and Emma, 22, who will graduate from Kenyan College in May. Their dogs, Finn and Bridget, help fill their empty nest. Mike has worked on the Admissions staff at Wabash for 29 years. Meegan is currently teaching fourth grade at Hoover School. When they are not working, they enjoy traveling to Ohio to watch Emma run. They are both avid readers and Meegan enjoys antiquing and quilting, as well as spending every minute she possibly can with her children. Mike and Meegan celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary last summer with a second honeymoon, which included a cross-country train trip, a week in Portland and Seattle and a cruise to Alaska.

Meegan has served on the Altar Guild almost since she began attending St. John's. She has also served on the Vestry, was the Director of Christian Education for 10 years, and has been a member of many, many committees. She is an alto in the choir as well as one of the bread bakers. She loves St. John's and all of the people who have come and gone, and remained through the years both my family and friends. Praise God for this wonderful place!

In Other News...

Bowling Tournament - The Lavabo Bowl

"The word has gone forth. The torch has been passed." And the gauntlet has been dropped. Members of our parish life team have sent challenges out to Christ Lutheran, First Christian, and Wabash Ave. Presbyterian Churches, to meet us in The Lavabo Bowl, a bowling tournament and fundraiser for the Youth Service Bureau. The date is April 26. Time is 10 to Noon. We hope to have a fellowship lunch at St. John's after. Watch your bulletin and announcements for more details. (The Lavabo Bowl is the bowl the priest washes his/her hands in prior to Communion.)

Welcome to the Newly Baptized

Henry Hartnett and Colton Roche entered into Holy Baptism on Easter morning. Welcome!

Youth Task Force

If anyone has comments on Youth or Children's Christian Ed. for the Youth/Christian Ed. Task Force, please, e-mail Susan Albrecht. Her e-mail is in the parish directory.

The Heart of Christianity Group

Anyone is welcome to join in our Wednesday Evening discussion and study on "A Course in Miracles". We meet at 7 p.m.

Special Thanks

Thank you, everyone, for your encouragement and gifts of eyeglasses, clothing, and shoes for the recent mission of "I Care International" to Mexico!

The volunteers of this team, including three optometrists, several retired nurses, a farmer, teachers, a graphics designer, and a hydraulics engineer, among others, examined and distributed glasses to almost 3,000 people of all ages in a period of four days. (About 300 of the patients were found to have cataracts. Glasses will not help them much, but our daughter Carrie will return in May with an ophthalmologist to do surgery for at least some of those identified.)

After hours, we delivered the donated clothing to mountain peasants who had been driven from their homes by January mudslides. They were temporarily living in six camps of the most primitive kind, while the men and children older than seven worked in nearby fields. Most spoke no Spanish, but their smiles told us how grateful they were for the baby blankets, jackets, and all the other garments that St. John's and others had gathered for them.

This was an amazing experience for me, watching regular people, from all walks of life, seeing great needs and meeting them without fanfare. You were right there, too, St. John's.

Judy Spencer

WANTED - DVDs for Soldiers

For the past year I've been sending "Movie Night" boxes to a friend who's serving in Afghanistan. Happily, he's now on his way home, but has "willed me" his successor. Every month I usually send a couple of DVDs with popcorn and candy - and have been buying the movies. However, if anyone has any movies they want to part with that would be appropriate, I would be happy to pass them on. Thanks, Ann O'Dell

Indiana Day Weekend at Washington National Cathedral

(From the diocesan website)
National Cathedral, Washington DC
June 14-15, 2008

What is it?

A once-every-three-year, unforgettable opportunity to celebrate and recognize the state of Indiana with liturgy, musical performance, spiritual pilgrimage, and festive celebration at our national cathedral in Washington D.C. This very special weekend will include a Sunday liturgy with our own Bishop Waynick as concelebrant, music from the Vigo County School Corporation Choir in Terre Haute and our Christ Church Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys, a reception honoring Indiana, and special tour and program opportunities at the cathedral.

For more information and details of a bus trip from our dioceses, refer to www.indydio.org.

Calendar

April 2 Heart of Christianity Group - "Course in Miracle Study" 7:00pm
 April 5 Confirmation 11am, St. Andrew's, Greencastle
 April 13 Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
 April 20 Preschool Sunday School Class meets

September 5-7 St. John's Family week at Waycross.

Ongoing Activities
 EFM - Tuesdays 7-9pm

Sunday Servers

Service	LEM	Lector	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Coffee Hour	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Talley
4/6 8am	Vern Easterling	Vern Easterling	Diane Ault	Tom Sheets			
4/13 10:30	John & Betty Culley	John Culley	Sam Hildebrand/ Libby Pinkerton & Alex Pearson	The Garys	Jim & Susie Smith	Pru Phillips & Ann O'Dell	Tom Twarek & Jim Smith
4/13 8am	Meribeth Kussmaul	Mark Kussmaul	Kitty Haffner	Bud Arnold			
4/13 10:30	Sally Lawrence & Steve Gillan	Sally Lawrence	Chris Redmaster/ Anna & Erin Redmaster	The Spencers	The Easterling Family	Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	Nancy Bennett & Ellen Ball
4/20 8am	Mike Scime	Mike Scime	Teresa Anderson	Judy Wynne			
4/20 10:30	Adrienne Ashbaugh & Vern Easterling	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy & Kerry Lohorn	Sally Lawrence	The Siamas Family	Carole Meyer & Jane Gallagher	Vern Easterling & John Roberts
4/27 8am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Hannah Anderson	Teresa Anderson			
4/27 10:30	Meribeth Kussmaul & Mike Scime	Mike Scime	Steve Charles/ Kristen Albrecht & Darek Long	The Smiths	Ellen Ball & Tom Twarek	Cyndy Fields & Bethany Fields	John Culley & Cindy Smith

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. April 25

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