



Saint John's Spirit

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

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stjohnscville.org

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From the Rector

Get a "Handel" on Your Locust Problem: Open a Window During the Holidays

Getting a handle on the current 'locust problem' may seem an odd title for the newsletter that arrives during the Advent-Christmas Season, but in fact, nothing could be more pertinent to our times than the subject of locusts and how to deal with them, especially as the Holidays draw near. Locusts were a terrifying scourge of the ancient world, and so they continue to this day. People in the developing world shudder at the din of billions of tiny mouths crunching as locusts devour crops and bring inevitable starvation. If locusts present such a problem in modern times with up to date pesticides, how much worse in Biblical days when no such high-tech interventions existed?

We face a different kind of locust problems in the U.S. Scores of demands for time and money gnaw away at our peace of mind, our family life, our faith, our desire for economic security, and our desire to acquire those things that are supposed to make life worth living, at least according to the torrent of marketing campaigns that creep into every nook and cranny of our lives. These represent forms of the American Locust, and the sound of them feeding on our souls only grows louder when added to a gloomy economic situation. Inevitably, if no solution is found, they can create a famine of heart.

Malachi, the last official book of the Old Testament describes a situation, both ancient and modern. People have gotten confused about their priorities, especially where faith, finance, and time are concerned. Rather than put God first, Malachi's audience is focusing on their desires and needs first; they are bringing blemished and sickly animals to the Temple for offerings to God, and rather than offer God their "first-fruits (trusting God to supply their needs), the people are giving God the left-overs, with the result that in the rest of their lives, the harder they try, the further behind they get. They complain to Malachi who in turn complains to God. Locusts are feasting on their fields, their flocks are weak, and they are certainly not prospering. God's response is simple and to the point: "Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! You say, 'How are we robbing you?' In your tithes and offerings! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house, and thus, put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you so that it will not destroy... Then all nations will count you happy for you will be a land of delight."

I firmly believe that this lesson from Malachi offers excellent guidance to us in regard not only to money - but to our time and our priorities in life and where God ranks among them. In the *Hallelujah Chorus* of Handel's *Messiah*, the chorus proclaims, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ." We can sing this song and all the beautiful carols of Advent and Christmas, and we can allow God into our hearts to reshape our priorities and drive away the locusts that plague us, because the coming of Christ at Christmas will lead through the cross of fear to the faith of new life in resurrection. Indeed, without Easter there would be no Christmas!

We all (rector included) need to live a reflective and prayerful Advent so that the kingdoms of our hearts can "become the kingdom of our God and of his Christ." And who knows? Perhaps, if we are faithful in reordering our priorities to put God first in time, talent, treasure, and in all aspects of our lives, perhaps God will open the windows of heaven and bless us with that "unreasonable peace of Christ" which casts out fear, replacing it with love.

Have a blessed Advent and a merry Christmas!
Father Todd+

Christmas Service Schedule (see back page of newsletter for complete schedule)

11/30 Advent 1 Advent Wreath making and devotions: an intergenerational activity from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Whitlock Hall.

12/21 Advent 4 Hanging of the Greens following the 10:30 service. We hope to spend time after enjoying a simple lunch and caroling.

Christmas Eve: Wed. December 24

- 5:30 p.m. Stable Service at Larry Baumgardner's barn - directions below
- 9:00 p.m. Special music and Carols, St. John's
- 9:30 p.m. Candle Mass for The Feast of the Nativity, ending with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight and candlelight blessing, St. John's [Child care available]

Christmas Day: Thurs. December 25

- 9:00 a.m. Quiet Eucharist, St. John's

12/28 Christmas 1: Worship at 8 and 10:30 a.m. with childcare for the 10:30 service. No Sunday School

Directions to Larry Baumgardner's Barn for Stable Service

Take US 136 east out of Crawfordsville. Go through Mace. The house is three miles east of Mace on the left hand side of road. It is a red brick which sits close to the road. The number on the mail box is 8092. Park any where in lawn barn lot. Barn will be some what warm. Coffee and cookies provided. (If I remember correctly, there will be cows - ed.)

Christian Education

Sunday School "Who News"

Remember we will all make Advent weaths with our families on November 30-- at the Sunday School hour. Please bring greenery and your favorite snack to share.

The Sunday School will help with the reindeer project and learn what Advent means in our church. Our theme is WHO WILL WAIT ?

There will be no Sunday School on December 28.

This year there will be an Epiphany Play on Jan 4.

Kathy and Hannah

Adult Education

November 30th will be an advent program (see above)

December 7th, Elizabeth Morton, B.K. Trippet Assistant. Professor of Art History at Wabash College will present a program on the Art of the Reformation.

December 14th Dr. Larry Bennett, will present Christmas music of the Reformation in Britain.

December 21st to be announced.

Stewardship Sunday

Sunday, December 7 is the date for the pledge card ingathering. You will receive information and a pledge card to fill out around December 1. Please return the pledge card even if you don't plan to pledge so the committee will know that they have gotten to everyone. Contact Bob Cooley for more information.

Outreach

The Reindeer Project is in full swing, names are availbale on the Angel Tree in Whitlock Hall. Directions for delivery of the gifts will be there, too. If there are no names available and you would like to provide gifts for a child in need, please let us know and we will make sure that you have the opportunity to sponsor a child. Contact Judy Wynne, Mike Scime or any other member of the Outreach committee.

Please continue to bring food and paper items for the FISH Pantry. There is a collection box in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Whitlock Hall. Thank you for all of your help.

Newcomers / Hospitality

On Saturday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m., Chris and Sharon Redmaster are hosting our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner and White Elephant! Bring a covered dish to share, your beverage of choice, table service and that very "special" gift for the exchange. Please RSVP to the Redmasters at redmaster1@earthlink.net if you haven't signed up on the sheet in Whitlock Hall. Their address is 314 Old Mill Trace. To get there, enter Northridge, off of 231 North. Follow the entrance/street; stay right, to the back of the addition. Turn right at the 1st street; they are the 3rd house on the left.

Parish Life

There was a nice St. John's turnout for our informal "Little Mexico Night" on November 11. At least 28 were sighted by 7:00 pm -- enough for Irma Bravo to notice. :)

The next Parish Life event is one especially well-suited for families, we hope. On Sunday afternoon, December 7, there will be a group caravan down to the WAGONER CHRISTMAS TREE FARM, which is just northwest of Greencastle. It is nestled amongst lovely woods & hills about 2-3 miles of winding roads off of US 231. For those who enjoy cutting down their own tree (or think they might), saws are available for doing so. For those who'd prefer to just pick one out & let another cut down, that option is available, too. Often the Wagoner family has a Belgian horse-drawn wagon available as well, either to haul you with your cut tree or just for taking a ride.

Anyone interested in participating should meet at St. John's around 1:00. There will be hot chocolate, cider & doughnuts to warm and fortify us before we head out at 1:30. Contact Susan Albrecht for more information.

New Procedures for Renting Whitlock Hall

Due to increased maintenance costs for Whitlock Hall, St. John's Vestry has established new policies and procedures for use of the Hall. There will be a charge of \$20.00 for using the kitchen to serve food. There will be no charge for merely using the Hall and the coffee pots. However, clear Rules for Use of the Hall will cut wear and tear on the facility. These new rules are posted in the kitchen and are in effect now.

In order to reserve the Hall, you must phone or enquire in person to see if your required dates are available. Then you must visit the Parish office to fill out a Reservation Form, obtain a copy of the Rules for Use of the Hall, and obtain a key to the Hall. Completion of the Reservation Form assures you that the Hall will be available on the dates and times specified. The Rules for the Use of the Hall help you know where things are and how to use them. Obtaining the key is important as the locks to the Hall have been changed.

All persons or organizations using the Hall are expected to follow the Rules for Use of the Hall. Any group or individual failing to comply with the rules will be denied future use of the Hall. A \$25.00 check deposit is required to obtain a key. The key will be given to you in an envelope addressed to St. John's Parish Office. Your deposit will be returned to you by mail when you return the key.

Directory Updates

Steve Charles	376-5650
CJ Charles	376-5947
Caity Charles	376-1819



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ[a] the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)



Ordination Process Update from Mike Scime

A BIT ABOUT DEACONS

Since the flier about identifying potential deacons went up on the bulletin board, several of you have asked me about deacons and deacon formation in our diocese. I also know that many of you have been on the deacon formation journey with me through your prayers, encouragement, and mutual discernment. I am grateful and thought that I might share some news about how that journey is unfolding for me. In this installment, I'll summarize some of the experiences I've had since this summer.

In July and August, I had an opportunity to shadow Deacon Donna Olson in our ministry to those incarcerated at the Plainfield men's prison. Notice I didn't say "her" ministry. Nor did I use the word "our" to refer to just the two of us. A primary role of a Deacon is to identify the needs and concerns of the world and encourage all of the ministers of the church (all of the baptized) to respond to those needs. Donna's work in Plainfield brings lay and ordained together with those in prison in joint ministry for discussion and worship. I think a deacon demonstrates that none of what anyone does is "their" ministry but it is actually "our" ministry. When we respond to the Good News of the Gospel by acting to help others, we are acting in ministry as part of the Body of Christ and we represent God's Church.

In September, I began auditing a class at Wabash College studying the Old Testament as part of my continuing education. I also joined the other postulants and candidates for the diaconate for the monthly deacon formation sessions at Waycross. We have time for prayer, group reflection, and discussion of books we are reading on various topics such as asset mapping, the Listening Hearts discernment process, and the history of the diaconate. In the coming month, I have an opportunity to expand my understanding of how the role of deacons has evolved by interviewing a deacon in our diocese and comparing her work to the work of a deacon of the 3rd Century.

Getting to Know...

Charles Cooksey and Robbie Little, who are fairly new to St. John's, but have been jumping in and getting involved.

Charles was born and raised in Crawfordsville, studied nursing and worked as a nurse for about eight years, and then went to culinary school in Fort Wayne and specialized in institutional cooking. He has cooked in hospitals, as well as the prison system in Plainfield where he was a food service supervisor. Chuck is now disabled, but enjoys doing volunteer work whenever he can. His hobbies include floral designing and numerous kinds of crafts. He also enjoys music of all kinds.

Robbie came to Indiana from Metropolis, Illinois, where he had lived for some time working in a casino. He met Charles in 2003 and they now live in Greencastle where he runs a gas station/convenience store. Robbie is the proud father of an eight year old daughter, Ariel Dawn, who spends time in the summer, as well as most holidays with them. He has always been an animal lover, as well as an advocate for animal rights. At one time Robbie ran a small animal rescue from his home. They now have two dogs and five cats! Robbie also loves music, especially singing, and the choir is happy to have him in their ranks!

Crop Walk Update

Many thanks to all who helped in any way with the CROP Walk -- whether walking or pledging financial support to the walkers. St. John's had 18 humans and 3 dogs making the trip, and so far (with, I believe, one walker's pledges still out), our walkers have raised \$1,257 for hunger relief! A good \$300 of that will stay in Montgomery County for local efforts. Walkers were: the Lincourt family, members of the Long/Kussmaul family, Jane Gallagher, Kim & Lauren Roberts, Kitty Haffner, Bethany Fields & Nathan Line, and the Albrecht family.

A Day in the Life of a Social Worker in Thailand

This submission is from Judy & George Spencer's daughter Nancy, who is a social worker in Thailand.

I wake up around 7am, make breakfast (usually eggs or yoghurt), mix up some instant coffee, and sit in my back area while I study Burmese. Some mornings I make a shopping trip to a nearby morning food market (all outdoor fresh food markets close in the afternoon before I get off work) to get fresh veggies, fruit, eggs for the week. The sellers are all Thai, so my Burmese does little good there unfortunately. Usually at least 1 person laughs heartily at something I do or say during the shopping, and she generally informs the other sellers around her of my determination to use Burmese or my poor attempts at speaking Thai. Around 8:45 I get on my bicycle and head to MTC - either through downtown (which seems to be faster but more chaotic) or along the highway (which is a nice smooth ride on cloudy days). The ride is about 15 minutes and I have yet to make that trip without being hot and sweaty at the end - and this is the cold season!! My work week is Monday through Saturday, 9am-4pm. My daily activity at MTC varies daily, but includes, co-leading individual and group counseling sessions with patients at the clinic, making home visits to co-counsel or consult with patients who are unable to get to or safely get to the clinic, providing supervision, training, and case consultation to the MTC counselors, organizing clinical materials to make them more user-friendly for the counselors, developing training materials, curriculum, etc., writing reports, develop clinical materials, outreaching by phone and in person to staff at other programs and agencies in Mae Sot along the Thai-Burma border, visiting other MTC departments to get a better sense of the experience of an MTC patient, doing needs assessments to inform my work at MTC, and getting to know the counselors. I eat lunch most days at a restaurant just outside the MTC grounds. The Thai cook has learned to understand my Thai and the other staff now understand my Burmese, so I am no longer eating the same dish of rice and vegetables, which I had for the first 2 weeks since I didn't know the name of any other dishes. Now I switch it up - noodles/rice, with/without egg, spicy/sweet - but actually the ingredients and flavors are pretty much the same for every dish! I ate at the Burmese food stalls behind the clinic for a while, but realized one day that the one dish the cook said was vegetarian, had dried prawns and the "vegetarian" soup had chicken, so sadly I no longer get the \$0.15 lunches there. I splurge for the \$0.60 Thai lunch! Before I head home, I often stop at the shop at the clinic and buy a head-size pamelo or freshly cut pineapple displayed in the bed of a pick-up truck. Around 4pm I leave MTC and head to the home of a counselor and his wife, to learn Burmese. Monday-Thursday I receive Burmese tutoring from them and on Saturdays I provide English tutoring. I get home around 6 or 7, prepare dinner, do errands, often explore the streets and stores of Mae Sot and usually do some work or reading. Sundays are my precious days off. On Sundays I go to the weekly market at the bus station near my house and get food and flowers. I am hoping to get in the habit of also getting a massage every Sunday, but this ritual hasn't started yet. There is a weekly bazaar on Friday and Saturday nights on the highway, so I usually go there to get dinner (noodle dishes in little bags for \$0.30, a tin of boiled peanuts, sweets) and to look at the used clothing stands.

Updated Office Hours

Barbara Penney Monday, Wednesday 9-12
Lois Pickett Tuesday 1-6
 Wednesday - Friday 3-6
Father Todd Monday - Thursday 9-12
 Or by appointment

Thanks to...

Don Black for his hard work on the aisle torches. They will be used on Christmas Eve.

Jerilyn Yerkes, Carole Meyer and the choir for the beautiful choral benediction after the 10:30 services.

Kathy Gary for all of the fantastic work she has done in the basement of the church. If you've not seen it, take a trip downstairs. It is fantastic!

Kathy Gary, Hannah Anderson and the Sunday School children for the fun sermon on November 16. They showed ways to give of your time, talent and treasure.



St. John's Youth Go Duckpin Bowling

Nine young people and four adults headed off to Indy's Fountain Square area to go Duckpin Bowling this past Sunday. We all found out Duckpin Bowling is harder than regular bowling, even though you get *three* balls per frame! And there weren't any bumpers, either. :)

For the next youth activity, see Parish Life and the Family Christmas Tree Outing on December 7!



Calendar

- November 30 **Advent 1** Wreath making & devotions: an intergenerational activity 9:15-10:15 in Whitlock Hall
- December 6 White Elephant Christmas Potluck, 6pm at the Redmaster's home
- December 7 **Advent 2** Pledge Ingathering Sunday - Both Services
- December 14 **Advent 3** Confirmation Inquirers' Seminar for those interested in joining the Episcopal Church or simply wanting to learn more about it.
- December 17 January Newsletter Deadline (Please note the change from Friday to Wednesday)
- December 21 **Advent 4** Hanging of the Greens following the 10:30 service. We hope to spend time after enjoying a simple lunch and caroling.
- Christmas Eve: Wed. December 24
 5:30 p.m. Stable Service at Larry Baumgardner's barn
 9:00 p.m. Special music and Carols, St. John's
 9:30 p.m. Candle Mass for The Feast of the Nativity, ending with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight and candlelight blessing, St. John's [**Child care available**]
- Christmas Day: Thurs. December 25
 - 9:00 a.m. Quiet Eucharist, St. John's
- December 28 **Christmas 1:** Worship at 8 & 10:30 with childcare at the 10:30 service. No Sunday School
- Ongoing Events*
 EFM - Tuesday nights, 7pm
 Confirmation - Third Sunday, after the 10:30am service

Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally
12/7 8am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Teresa Anderson			
12/7 10:30	Alex Lebedeff	Merebeth Kussmaul & Marc Hudson	Adam Brasich/ Derek Long & Andrew Patterson	Bill & Kim Green	Meghan Reidy & Betty Culley	Jim Smith & Ellen Ball
12/14 8am	Mike Scime	Mike Scime	Kitty Haffner			
12/14 10:30	Jim Gary	Jane Gallagher & Vern Easterling	Paul Moehling / Libby Pinkerton & Alex Pearson	Chris & Raquel Johnson	Pru Phillips & Ann O'Dell	John Roberts & Susan Albrecht
12/21 8am	Marc Kussmaul	Merebeth Kussmaul	Hanna Anderson			
12/21 10:30	Mary-Angela Cooley	Kim Roberts & Jim Suren	Steve Charles / Jackson Albrecht & Kristen Albrecht	Sam & Susie Hildebrand	Meghan Reidy & Betty Culley	Barb Easterling & Tom Twarek
12/24 9:30pm			Sam Hildebrand / Derek Long & Charles Cooksey			
12/28 8am	Diane Ault	Larry Baumgardner	Teresa Anderson			
12/28 10:30	Judy Wynne	Elaine Pickering & Mike Scime	Adam Brasich / Joe Green & Ben Green	Brandon & Laura Long	Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	John Culley & Merry Worley

Father Todd's office hours are Monday - Thursday 9-12 or by appointment

Other hours are: Barbara Penney - Monday, Wednesday 9-12

Lois Pickett - Tuesday 1-6 and Wednesday - Friday 3-6

The next Newsletter submission is due by Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. December 17.

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