



# Saint John's Spirit

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

January 2009

stjohnscville.org

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## From the Rector

### A Tale of Two Christmases

When we stop and think about the Christmas Holiday, we don't have to pause very long before we realize that our culture tells not one, but two kinds of Christmas Tales. One tale bombards us with a combination of Hollywood hype, Norman Rockwell stylized images, commercials, and activities, designed to make buying and saccharin warm fuzzies the ultimate goal of Christmas. In this Fantasy Land, buying a Subaru equals love, and everyone sits down to a sumptuous feast where the gifts are perfectly wrapped, the house is immaculate, and everyone gets along. Our success in this tale is measured by how much our lives conform to this 'impossible dream'. So often, though, things fail to go as planned. Our inability to achieve the fantasy Christmas may make Christmas a nightmare more than a dream, something to get to and get through as quickly as possible.

Compare the Current Cultural version with the "Original Christmas". Nothing seemed to go as planned there either. Christmas begins with an unplanned pregnancy; Mary did not plan it. The happy honeymoon in Nazareth, their home, felt the brunt of social upheaval as they were forced to move to Bethlehem for a census. Not even a third-rate inn for a woman already in labor, much as we would have to, Mary and Joseph were forced to make do with a stable. Can't you hear Mary, "And God, this is supposed to be your son? What a way to start his life." Yes, amidst the smells of straw, manure, wet wool, and dust; amidst the surprise of shepherds barging in on a mother still dripping sweat from the pains of labor, the son of God began the divine embrace of all the world by sharing in our disappointments and our difficulties. I wonder, which is the better tale of Christmas?

Personally, I prefer the Biblical Tale with God embracing us in our broken world; God's son born in broken circumstances, a sign of God's love to imperfect people in an imperfect world.

Merry Christmas,  
Father Todd+

### Christmas Service Schedule

#### Christmas Eve: Wed. December 24

- 5:30 p.m. Stable Service at Larry Baumgardner's barn – directions below
- 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"

Hannah has done a wonderful job for our Sunday School during Advent. She is a gift to our church family. I am back from Texas with my Mom-- and with Hannah's help we will start the New Year with our Epiphany Play on January 11 at the 10:30 service. The children will practice during School time.

There will be no Sunday School on December 28.  
Kathy

## Outreach

A huge thank you to all of you who participated in our Reindeer gift tree. We more than doubled the number of children we bought gifts for, and, in a year when so many of our pocketbooks have shrunk, we filled every wish. It is obvious that the hearts of St. John folk have grown even larger this year. The other good community news is that every child was taken from the Reindeer total list. We all should be proud of our community. Thank you to all who participated in supporting the program this year, either by purchasing gifts, coordinating the children's lists, or packing up the gifts for distribution. Thank you especially Judy Wynne and Mike Scime.

Please continue to bring items for the FISH pantry.

The Outreach Committee will meet at Elaine's Tea Room on Friday, January 2nd at noon.

## New Computers

MainSource Bank recently donated 7 relatively new Dell computer systems to our church. With this gift, we have been able to provide desk tops for Fr. Todd to use in his office and at his home. We have replaced the Secretary's desk top in the office and have added a desk top to the Offering Tally Desk for use by the Treasurer and future use by the tally teams. Jerilyn Yerkes now has a desk top in the Music Room to give her access to the hymn libraries on our "Rite Stuff" soft ware and to research other music on the internet. Kathy Gary w has one in the Church School office for research and preparation of Sunday School materials. Finally, one desk top has been set up in the Library/Conference room as an internet research tool and is available to any parishioner. Parishioners who may not have internet connections are invited to use the Library unit to surf the web or connect with their email account.

All the computers in the church are connected by a wireless network and share the printer in the office. Please thank Will Turner and our outside contractor, Chris Livesay, who have done a lot of work to get these systems up and running.

On a side note, we could use three surge protected power cords for these installations. If you have a spare to donate, please drop Sam Hildebrand a note == thanks. [vti@accelplus.net].

## Crop Walk Update

One final update on this year's CROP Walk. Not only did St. John's have a banner year, raising \$1,257, but the entire Montgomery County CROP Walk had its second-best year in its 28-year history! \$11,778 was raised... and that with the \*fewest\* walkers in that 28-year history. Thanks again to all those who supported hunger relief through CROP.

## New Entry Key System

The Whitlock Hall *ad hoc* Committee has recently instituted new procedures for both St. John's groups as well as other groups regarding the scheduling and use of the hall and/or Conference Room/Library. Improved key control in order to assure the security St. John's buildings and provide appropriate levels of access to various areas of was an important part of this procedure. Our old key system had limited controls and there were no records of who had entry keys or master keys to our buildings.

In order to improve the security of our buildings, the Vestry approved revising our lock sets to allow for five different security levels of access. As part of the procedures, all keys are numbered, recorded and signed for as they are issued. Parishioners involved in various ministries and committees will be given an appropriate key to help them in carrying out their responsibilities.

Level 1 \*\* Grand Master key to open the two doors to the Priest's office, plus all doors below, to allow the Priest and Rector's Warden 24/7 access.

Level 2 \*\*All doors below plus storerooms and mechanical rooms to allow Vestry members, Property Committee members, Secretary and the Sexton 24/7 access.

Level 3 \*\*All doors below plus Sacristy door, Choir Room door and Choir Loft gate to allow Altar Guild members, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Acolyte Trainer, Choir Director and Florist 24/7 access.

Level 4 \*\*All doors below plus the church office door to allow Committee Heads and Teachers 24/7 access.

Level 5 \*\*All exterior doors only. This key will be loaned to User Groups authorized through the Whitlock Hall Reservation Procedure to allow them access to Whitlock Hall for their program[s].

The Level 5 key is also available to members of St. John's who wish to always have 24/7 access to the Nave or Library for prayer or quiet reflection and study. Please contact the Church Secretary if you wish to acquire a Level 5 key at a cost of \$5.00.

## E-Communication

If you are a frequent emailer, please make sure the church has your email address (check the directory to see if it appears there). Also, if you are not a part of the google group, please join! Just go to <http://groups.google.com/group/stjohnscville> and click on "Apply for Group Membership". You can also contact our webmaster, Will Turner, at [webmaster@stjohnscville.org](mailto:webmaster@stjohnscville.org) for membership.

## Electronic Newsletter?

As a cost savings, we are looking into the possibility of providing the newsletter electronically to those who wish to have it in that format. You will see surveys about this in the next month or two. Don't worry! If you still want a hard copy, those will still be available to those not wanting an electronic version.

## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be one 9:00 am service followed by the annual meeting and a potluck brunch.

## Vestry Nominations

Four people have agreed to run for four slots on the vestry. They are Hannah Anderson, C.J. Charles, Barb Easterling and Carole Meyer. Below, they have responded to two questions. 1. From your point of view, what are some ways in which vestry members share in the spiritual leadership of St. John's? 2. What are some of your gifts and personality traits that might be helpful in this regard?

If you would like to nominate someone from the floor during the annual meeting, we encourage you to do so. Please be sure you have checked with whomever you are nominating, to be certain they are interested and willing.

### Hannah Anderson

The vestry acts as a voice for the church, because of my age I would most likely be the voice of the youth.

I consider myself personable, easy to talk to and generally helpful

### C J Charles

The vestry members care for the people of the church as individuals and as a distinct group. By that caring - in physical and/or emotional work, planning programs and prayer - they share in the spiritual leadership by embodying the love of God.

### Barb Easterling

I believe that spirituality at St. John's is dependent on our sense of community, our sense of family. As simple as that sounds, it requires that we have a building and programs to nurture that sense of community, and that means leadership. The vestry's job is to provide the necessary leadership to insure a smoothly functioning church. It may not be "spiritual leadership" in our usual sense of the term, but I believe that it is a valid way of defining it.

### Carole Meyer

1. Vestry members need to make a concerted effort to be present at all meetings, and to be active participants in the work of the vestry. They need to be open to new ideas and willing to take on new responsibilities as the needs arise. Making an effort to work well together, considering each member's personality, gifts and talents, would be most helpful in establishing a cohesive group that is successful in their leadership of the church.

2. I feel that I'm an organized person, one who takes my responsibilities seriously and follows through. I make an effort to see both sides of any issue, but am not afraid to ask questions and voice my own opinion.

## A Letter From God

*Fr. Todd read this during the sermon on December 21. It seemed like a good thing to share.*

Good Morning!

I am GOD. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it yourself. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (Something For Jesus To Do) box.

It will be addressed in MY time, not yours. Once the matter is placed in the box, do not hold on to it or remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution to your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in PRAYER to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

Because I do not sleep, nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a PRAYER away. Never be afraid to try something new.

Remember, AMATEURS built the ARK. Professionals build the Titanic.

LOVE GOD!

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)*

# Calendar

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December 28 **Christmas 1:** Worship at 8 & 10:30 with childcare at the 10:30 service. No Sunday School

January 11 Epiphany pageant at the 10:30am service  
 January 14 Wednesday Night Live resumes  
 January 25 One 9am service followed by Annual Meeting

February 6&7 Vestry Retreat at St. John's

*Ongoing Events*  
 EFM - Tuesday nights, 7pm  
 Confirmation Class- Third Sunday, after the 10:30am service

## Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally
1/4 8am			Kitty Haffner			
1/4 10:30			Paul Moehling/ Derek Long & Andrew Patterson		Cyndy Fields & Bethany Fields	Nancy Bennett & Ellen Ball
1/11 8am			Hanna Anderson			
1/11 10:30			Chris Redmaster/ Erin & Anna Redmaster		CJ Charles & Kim Roberts	Barb Easterling & Jim Smith
1/18 8am			Diane Ault			
1/18 10:30			Adam Brasich/Kristen Albrecht & Derek Long		Meegan Reidy & Betty Culley	Susan Albrecht & John Roberts
1/25 9:00am			Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn & Charles Cooksey		Pru Phillips & Ann O'Dell	John Culley & Vern Easterling

Several schedules were unavailable at the time of publication.

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 submissions are due by Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. January 21.

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