



Saint John's Spirit

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

November 2009

www.stjohnscville.org

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Rector's Article

Curing 21st Century Anemia, Saving Starfish, "A St. John's Home Companion", Stewardship Campaign, and Hallowing Halloween

H1N1 isn't the only, or even the most serious illness afflicting our community these days. Perhaps the most serious disease is 21st Century Anemia, or as Lincoln might have put it, "a serious case of the tireds and too busies". Life seems to be demanding too much of ourselves and of our families than we can spare, leaving us all too tired at the end of the week. But there is a cure, if we are willing to take it, and it is offered every year at approximately this time. That cure is like an annual medical exam, coupled with a series of injections – only this time the exam and the injections are spiritual. We call this "The Stewardship Campaign".

How will this cure anemia? If we take the stewardship campaign seriously, it offers us the chance to review how we are currently living and using our time, talents, and treasures. Most of us just go off and start taking on things, not really thinking seriously about priorities, God, and relationships. In the end we find ourselves and our families stuck with whatever is left over. God calls us to put spiritual things first – God, spiritual community (Church), and relationships – and use whatever else is left over for the other demands on our time. There is a spiritual law that I have found true again and again: Whatever we give God is exactly what we will get out of life. When we make a conscious decision and follow through on putting God first, it seems like we have more time, talents, treasures, and energy than when we started. It least that is how it works for me, but the decision and the effort must be based on a trust in God's abundance rather than on fears of scarcity. Only experience based on examination, decision, and action will give us the experiences to trust God's abundance – if we put spiritual things first. For example, if we attend worship for the spiritual injection of hope and community that it is intended to be – we find that God offers us a minimum of 52 injections of hope and support for life. Talk about a cure for anemia.

The Stewardship Campaign will officially conclude on Nov. 22nd after the 10:30am service with our first Stewardship Brunch. An R.S.V.P. potluck event (see your Pledge Card for details). Entertainment featuring a tongue-in-cheek look at St. John's in the Garrison Keillor fashion, "A St. John's Home Companion" will round out the evening.

And if you need help in this examination and decision making process, that is exactly what your rector is here for. I will make the time to meet with you and help. Why? Because that is one of my conscious spiritual priorities, and it's a talent I enjoy using.

Halloween/ St. JD Taylor Starfish Project

Come and invite others to discover the true meaning of Halloween. On Halloween, Church youth AND their families are invited to decorate the Church from 10 a.m. – Noon. We will be decorating for All Hallows' Eve and for the Feast of All Saints on November 1st. From 4:30p.m. – 8:00 p.m. youth and their families are invited to pass out treats, offer a tour of The 12 Disciples, How They Died, And How They Each Made a Difference in the World, and to accept donations for the St. J.D. Taylor Starfish Project of care packages for children with terminal illnesses and their families. Lists for specific donation items will appear in Google Mail from the Church, be available to take home from the Church Credenza, and will be published in both local newspapers this week.

***Don't Forget – Daylight Savings Time Ends November 1.
Sleep in an hour, then come to church!***

Adult Christian Education

Nov. 1 Guest Speaker, David Blix
The Impact of New Knowledge in the 19th
Century: Darwin, Freud, Marx

Nov. 8 Father Todd & Judy Wynne
Hoosier Messiah Project

Nov.15 Larry Bennett
Early 20th Century Anti-Romantic Music

Nov. 22 Father Todd
Social Gospel and Ideas of Progress

Nov. 29 Advent Wreaths

Hoosier Messiah Project

God asks of us our time, talents, and money, for in fact these things are God's and not really ours. Others will be talking about the stewardship of our financial resources, but we would like to tell you about an opportunity for us at St. John's to give of our time and talents.

We would like to publish a booklet of Lenten meditations based on the sentences of scripture in Handel's *Messiah*. Here's how it works. In November, we will distribute a list of the sentences to all who are interested. Each interested person picks a sentence and writes a short meditation, 200-225 words, based on that scripture. This isn't as scary as it sounds. To get started, you might ponder the following questions:

1. What does this sentence of scripture mean to you?
2. What experiences or images does it bring to mind?
3. What lesson does this scripture hold for you and others?

After your meditation, please include a simple question for reflection. For example, in writing about the verse from Isaiah that says, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light," you might pose the question, "What is *your* light?" Then conclude with a one-sentence prayer.

We are also interested in artwork inspired by the scriptures. It might be an original drawing or painting or a digital photo. You might design the art to accompany your written meditation, or you might simply submit a piece of art alone. We welcome pictures by children as well as by adults. Please indicate which scripture your artwork goes with.

We should remember to begin our work with prayer — and then let our imagination and God-given talents do the rest! Together we can create a special St. John's *Hoosier Messiah*.

Specifications: The length should be 200-225 words. Please use 12-point type. If possible, submit the text as a Word document (.doc) to Gina at stjohnscville@gmail.com. Artwork may be in color or black and white. Keep in mind that the finished size will be 5 ½ x 8 ½. It would be helpful if you could submit the text and art electronically as an e-mail attachment. If that is not convenient, please give it to Gina in the church office.

Please indicate whether or not we should include your name in the booklet along with your meditation or artwork.

The deadline for submission of meditations and artwork is **December 1**.

Father Todd
Adam Brasich
Barbara Penney
Judy Wynne

Lobsters, Yummy Lobsters!

The Lobster Sale has been set for the 7th of November. Tickets can be picked up by contacting Chas Cooksey at 765-721-7513. Volunteers are still needed for the morning and evening cooking crews. Pick up of lobsters is from 8 AM to 11 AM. Volunteers will need to arrive by 7:30. Lobsters will be \$13.00 a piece. There will also be a special Great Crate Rate of \$264.00 for 24 lobsters (\$11.00 per lobster).

Lobster Dinner

For those of you who want to eat your lobsters with a community of friends (or because you can't bear to boil them yourselves), we are having a potluck supper in Whitlock Hall at 6:00 pm on Saturday, Nov. 7th! Bring a dish to share, your lobster tools to crack, cut or saw, your favorite beverage -- and we will provide table service. This dinner is open to the public ... so as you are selling your lobsters, feel free to offer dinner with us! (Mark on your ticket if you will be eating with us -- we will hold the lobsters, and you will not need to pick them up Sat. a.m.) Any questions, please feel free to contact Kitty Haffner, 866-1640.

Outreach

November is the traditional month to show our thanks for our blessings. We have several ways to share those blessings with others. The World Thank Offering boxes will be collected the first Sunday of November. Support the youth as they are working diligently on the J.D. Starfish project to provide care boxes to critically ill children and their parents. We are also having an ingathering of items to donate to the Montgomery County Mental Health Association for their Christmas gifts. Items are as follows:

- Sweat pants and shirts in large and extra-large sizes (Ben Hur would like 52 sets)
- Toiletries
- Combs and brushes
- Stationery

Finally, you may continue to bring food items for FISH any time as that need is ongoing.

Project Reindeer

Be watching for information on Operation Reindeer at the end of November.

Habitat for Humanity

An excerpt from a letter to Fr. Todd from Habitat for Humanity

Dear Todd:

Thank you for your parish's support of our Christian home building ministry.

Your gift will be used to purchase building materials for our volunteers to help Amanda and Tom Coffey and their children build their home on Liberty Street in Crawfordsville. Also as an affiliate of Habitat International, we tithe 10% of any gifts we receive for home building overseas - we have designated as our international partners Habitat Para La Humanidad Mexico.

As you know, Habitat is able to build affordable quality housing for working families whose limited income prevents them from being homeowners. This is possible because of donations from churches and individuals, the volunteers who work side-by-side with our families in constructing these homes, and the homeowners of our completed houses whose interest free mortgage payments go toward our next home.

Respectfully,

Larry Frye for the Habitat Board of Directors

United Thank Offering

United Thank Offering (UTO) ingathering is **Sunday, November 8**. We hope you have been using your blue boxes for offering your daily thanks, but please **don't** put the box in the offering plate. You will be supplied with UTO envelopes in which you can either place a check or currency, not the entire contents of your boxes. The people who do the weekly tally count of offerings would very much appreciate it if they didn't have to count all those coins too. Thank you once again for your generosity.

In Other News...

Shepherding

The Shepherds met for their first evaluation meeting on October 22nd. They discussed their experiences so far and will continue to evaluate their role at St. John's to make it a helpful experience for all!

Kitchen Happenings

The kitchen is getting a fresh coat of paint and undergoing other improvements. Stop by and check it out!

Name Tags

We will soon have nametags for everyone. They will be located at the three entrances: the main (red door) entrance, the narthex outside Whitlock hall, and the kitchen.

Thanksgiving for the Harvest

From the Book of Common Prayer

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We yield thee hearty thanks and praise for the return of seed time and harvest for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of its fruits, and for all other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies, such as may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost be all glory and honor, world without end. *Amen.*

Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally
11/1 8am	Diane Ault	Elaine Pickering	Kitty Haffner			
11/1 10:30	Shelia Evans	Mark Kussmaul & Sara Lawrence	Steve Charles / Libby Pinkerton & Alex Pearson	Vern & Barb Easterling	CJ Charles & Kim Roberts	Cindy Smith & Jim Smith
11/8 8am	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul	Hannah Anderson			
11/8 10:30	Susan Albrecht	John Culley & Betty Culley	Adam Brasich/ Jon & Lorinda Hanebuth	Frank & Carole Escamilla	Betty Culley, Larry Baumgardner & Meegan Reidy	Tom Twarek & Nancy Bennett
11/15 8am	Jim Suren	Larry Baumgardner	Diane Ault			
11/15 10:30	Mary Angela Cooley	Vern Easterling & Paul Ludwig	Chris Redmaster / Anna Redmaster & Kristen Albrecht	Claude & Linda Johnson	Ann O'Dell, Shelia Evans & Jane Gallagher	Barb Easterling & Ellen Ball
11/22 8am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Joe & Ben Green			
11/22 10:30	Helen Hudson	Marc Hudson & Jane Gallagher	Bill Patterson/ Andrew Patterson & Chas Cooksey	Nancy & Larry Bennett	Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	Susie Hildebrand & Susan Albrecht
11/29 8am	Kitty Haffner	Meribeth Kussmaul	Teresa Anderson			
11/29 10:30	Alex Lebedeff	Steve Gillan & Kim Roberts	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn & Andrew Patterson	John & Betty Culley	Adrienne Ashbaugh, Bethany Fields & Cyndy Fields	Tom Twarek & John Roberts



Those persons volunteering to give flowers for the next month are

November 1 John and Betty Culley
 November 8 Chris, Raquel and Sophia Johnson
 November 15 Sheila Evans
 November 22 Jerry and Cindy Smith
 November 29 is the beginning of Advent
 (There are no altar flowers during Advent.)



Calendar

October 31	All Hallow's Eve
November 7	Lobster Sale pickup and pitch in dinner
November 8	UTO Ingathering
November 22	Pledge Ingathering & Stewardship Brunch after 10:30am service
December 24	Christmas Eve 5:30pm Stable Service at Larry Baumgardner's barn 9:30 candlelight mass at St. John's
December 25	Christmas Day

Ongoing Events

Sunday - 8 & 10:30am Worship Services

Sunday - 9:15am Christian Education

Wednesday 30-Minute Eucharist from 6pm-6:30pm

Wednesday Night Live - Wednesdays 7 - 8:30pm

Choir Rehearsal - Thursday nights 7 - 8pm

The next Newsletter submissions are due by Monday evening, 6:00 p.m. November 23.

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Return Service Requested

Dated Material — please deliver by—October 29