



Saint John's Spirit

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

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www.stjohnscville.org

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Rector's Article

THE TREASURES OF SAINT JOHN'S

When reflecting on the treasures of St. John's, or any congregation in our diocese, we should recall our diocesan mission statement - Deepening our faith; widening our embrace. The "treasures" listed below are taken from the daily lives and activities of one congregation in our diocese. Bishop Waynick, when reflecting on stewardship said, "It's all the stuff we give God all the time." Well here is a stewardship list of ministry from only one of 47 congregations in our diocese. Just think what your congregation's treasures look like. Consider multiplying this list by 47.

People in this church take an active role in politics; many are involved with the League of Women Voters. Some serve local or even in the state government and its offices, while judges, lawyers, legal secretaries serve God in the quest for justice. Medical professionals (active or retired) have worked to build a healthier community -doctors, dentists, nurses, optometrists, and medical staff, while others provide for the insurance needs of people met by the unexpected troubles of life. Meanwhile, creation is cared for by veterinarians, Friends of Sugar Creek, the Animal Welfare League and other organizations peopled by members from St. John's, while others serve God through the Garden Club, the Art League and other forms of the arts including: sewing, the Church Choir, especially our Organist/Choir Director. One member teaches dance, another yoga, several play instruments or sing in the community chorus, while others weave, carve, paint, decorate, and work at various crafts; some even serve as clowns - St. John's has many clowns. We have teachers, coaches, even an athletic director, and school or college staff abound, as do counselors, social workers, a special ed. teacher, three serve on the school board, nor should we forget those who farm, and those who feed people through restaurants and catering, who provide for people's needs as barbers, landscapers, caterers. One member works at the Indianapolis Children's Museum, others own or have run small businesses, contributing to the local economy; while some serve larger businesses as factory workers, as members of management, right up the ladder to corporate ownership. Electricians, Heating and Air Conditioning specialists, communications service personnel, carpenters, woodworkers, and flooring installers help make people's homes and lives more comfortable.

Yet in addition to their jobs and schooling, St. John's members work to improve their community and world through involvement in sororities, fraternities, Kiwanis, Rotary, The Fraternal Order of Eagles, and other organizations. One member is known for bringing fire fighting equipment to Mexico while another repairs sewing machines to send around the world to would-be micro-business women. She, like many at St. John's, possesses the gift of bargain buying and turns that skill into buying and giving to the needy.

Others give to the wider church through mission work, through taking part in diocesan convention or through participating with diocesan committees, through training congregations and priests or those seeking ordination, through attending to fund drives for The Episcopal Fund for Human Need, the United Thank Offering, and Episcopal Relief and Development. For our worship, these "treasures" bake our communion bread and decorate our building and grounds, they fill in when the secretary is ill, they light candles, pass out bulletins, and more. They read lessons, make coffee, bake foods for potlucks, organize Waycross Family Camp, and spend anonymous hours refitting pews, fixing cabinets, planting flowers, or changing bulletin boards. These treasures take Communion to shut-ins, provide for pastoral care, send greeting cards (some made by their own hands); not to mention how others teach Sunday School, develop programs, and create beautiful environments to help our children and youth grow in faith. Don't forget how lay people have formulated and driven our Adult forum and Wednesday Night Live sessions, or how they lead and take part in scouting, create and help Brownie Troops, and how this church offers itself as a place for these and many other community organizations to meet. Others guide our Outreach Ministries to FISH Food Pantry, to the Hub ministry for the poor, to provide for needs as diverse as Undies and Outies, here in Crawfordsville, to Well Water and Schools in

Sudan and Youth Ministry projects in Brazil. One member served 10 years in China as a missionary, while one of our college grads is spending a year there doing the same. People walk for CROP, build for Habitat for Humanity, organize and deliver Meals on Wheels, and quilt for special needs, while some have stretched the mind of the community in past years by developing the Montgomery County Leadership Academy.

We are a church with open minds, open hearts, and an open altar. **In 2010 Whitlock Hall will serve as a meeting place for those who want to seek God and spirituality from many different points of view in the Sugar Creek Sacred Circle.**

At the same time we reach out to college students at Wabash through a group called Real Presence.

Some serve as shepherds for groups of parishioners, and some serve as part of the Main Street Association; yet others touch people's hearts and minds through involvement in the theatre, while others have helped us believe in ourselves through the gift of event creation and fund raising. St. John's has partnered with the Youth Service Bureau and has provided more than space and money through its gifts of volunteers: mentors, CASAs, and Bowl-a-thon makers.

We have shared the fun of fellowship through golf outings with our sisters and brothers from Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church. Others meet regularly in interdenominational gatherings for book clubs, for Centering Prayer, for Bible Study, and other forms of on-going education.

St. John's can even celebrate the presence of authors of books, as well as articles in the local newspapers and in scholarly journals, even as we prepare to create our own devotional booklet based on Handle's Messiah.

Perhaps the greatest gift St. John's can celebrate is the ministry of care given BY family and friends TO family and friends. Many in this church have been called by chance and necessity to minister to the physical and emotional needs of elderly parents, of ailing spouses, of family and friends broken by the waves of illness, corporate downsizing, and aging, while others simply go about the day to day business of living as family and friends. These persons spend untold hours driving children to and from a myriad of activities; they spend quiet hours sitting in waiting rooms and nursing homes, aiding in physical and emotional therapy; they pray volumes of prayers for healing and hope; and they do so without the needed acknowledgement that **ALL THIS IS MINISTRY**, a ministry that taxes every nerve, that challenges the limits of time, talents, and treasure. God bless us everyone in this giving.

Like light in the darkness, like spice in a stew, St. John's has peppered the world around it with a very wide embrace. We need to answer only one question: "Does the depth of St. John's faith sustain the wideness of its embrace?" Will we be able to replenish all the passion and energy of body and soul spent in such a wide embrace? Will we take the time to deepen our faith to support the wideness of our embrace? If we all answer "YES", then we can be sure that whether times are good or bad, St. John's will always be around to touch Crawfordsville and the world with Christ's love.

It appears to me that we should spend more time deepening our faith and finding ways to help our congregations discover how they are already doing ministry, embracing the world in a wide variety of settings; and then, we should find ways to help our members renew their passion and energy through deepening their relationships to God and one another.

Dates to Remember, Thinking Ahead:

Jan. 10 - Children's Epiphany Pageant (10:30 Service)

Jan. 17 - Annual Meeting - One service at 9 a.m. followed by brunch with meeting.

Jan. 24 - Bishop Cate's Visit - One service at 9 a.m. followed by finger-food reception and Presentation by Bishop Cate on "Where the Church is Headed in the 21st Century".

Feb. 5-6,7 - Vestry Retreat with Committee Chairs present from Noon -4 p.m. on Sat. the 6th, Commissioning of Vestry and Committee Chairs on Sunday the 7th at both Services, depending on which service those persons normally attend.

Youth Event!

For those of you who were planning on attending the lock-in that was planned for Saturday January 9, please note that due to several circumstances, the event is now a pizza party/future activity planning session from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Saturday January 9. Please contact Lorinda Hanebuth if you have any questions.

Christian Education

Children

Welcome to a new year of Sunday School!

We will start our spring journey to Easter on January 31. There will be no Sunday School on January 17th (Annual Meeting) or on January 24 (Bishop Cate's visit). We would love to have children at the 9am service for the Bishop's visit to show her our special space. On January 31 we will begin visiting the Old Testament and learning its stories.

Peace, Kathy and Hannah

Adult Forum

This is the upcoming schedule for Adult Ed.

- 1/10 Christianity in a Post Holocaust World, *Gary Phillips*
- 1/17 Annual Meeting
- 1/24 Whence the Church? *Bishop Cate* (following one 9am service)

Outreach

A big "thank you" to everyone who made this year's Reindeer project such a success. And a special cheer to everyone involved in our gift-wrapping, from idea, to the mountain of donated paper, to our talented wrappers. There is a thank you letter from the Youth Service Bureau on the News bulletin board in the hallway. St. John's should be proud of itself!

This month The Outreach Committee will be focusing our efforts to support CNS/Well Baby Clinic. After speaking with Michelle Thompson, the public health nurse affiliated with the clinic, about their current needs, she responded that their ongoing needs are primarily disposable diapers, wet wipes, and baby formula. The preferred formula is Enfamil Lipil, which comes in a gold can. This is the formula given out by W.I.C. (Women, Infants & Children), but clients report that they never get enough. Please help us fill those boxes with these items, or if you prefer you may give cash to a committee member who will purchase items for you.

Another Opportunity to serve:

In 2010 we will be encouraging action and service to our community. We are hoping that each member of St. John's will volunteer for an activity sometime within the next year.

The first opportunity for action comes with the simple project of serving lunch for about 15 Habitat for Humanity builders on January 23rd at noon. We need two servers and food prepared. Following is a request for what is needed:

Pot of soup of choice- Already donated
Ham Salad or chicken salad for sandwiches
Bread for sandwiches
Sheet cake- Already donated
Crackers
Apples/bananas-Already donated
Drinks (tea or pop)
Server 1-Adrienne Ashbaugh
Server 2-Still needed

The operation is pretty simple. There is a kitchen on Jennison street where food can be dropped off. Paper products are on site. Lunch is served at noon, servers just set out food and clean up.

Thanks for your help. Call Jane Gallagher 362-2085 or email ljgallagher@accelplus.net to volunteer.

Hoosier Messiah Project

Yes, there is still time for you to participate in our Messiah devotional booklet! The new deadline is January 10, 2010.

St. John's is compiling a booklet of short meditations and artwork based on the sentences of scripture in Handel's Messiah. Take a look at the three large posters in Whitlock Hall to see which sentences are left. Choose one that has meaning for you. Sign your name. And then write 200-225 words. We're not looking for theological dissertations--just your personal reaction to the scripture. What does it mean to you? How does it make you feel? What do you think of when you read it? Include a one-sentence prayer, and if you wish, a question for reflection and you're finished.

Please deliver or e-mail your meditation or art to Gina in the church office: stjohnscville@gmail.com. Questions? Call Father Todd, Barbara Penney (361-1763) or Judy Wynne (362-9179).

Celebration of Emmy Peebles

On Saturday, January 16 there will be a celebration of Emmy Peebles' life. Visitation with the family is from 11:00 - 12:45 in Whitlock Hall. The church will provide finger foods and drinks for this event. A service celebrating her life will follow at 1pm.

Parish Life

On Saturday, February 13, 2010, there will be a Winter Bonfire at the home of Chris & Sharon Redmaster. Plan to BUNDLE UP and enjoy a beautiful time out of doors before warming refreshments & drinks inside. Be watching the Sunday bulletins and your email for further details.

Many Thanks

Dear Friends at St. John's,
We would like to thank you for the prayers and cards of condolence that you sent our way following the passing of our mother, Margery. We would also like to thank the visiting Eucharistic ministers, Mary Angela, Vern, Paul, and Alex, for their many visits to our mother over the years. Thanks also to the St. Andrew and St. Martha guild for arranging the lovely meal following the memorial service, and thanks to the many cooks who provided food. Thank you Father Todd for your care for our mom and for the loving eulogy at her memorial. Thank you also, to Jerilyn for the beautiful music, Sam and Susie for greeting, and John and Betty for serving. We feel blessed to be a part of the St. John's family.

Cindy Smith and Jane Gallagher

Wednesday Night Live

"Caring for Caregivers" will resume Wednesday January 13 from 7-8:30pm. Discussion will involve taking care of your mind, body, spirit, relationships and emotions. Dates are January 13, 20 & 27 and February 3 & 24.

Merry Christmas from Abby Twarek in Beijing!

It is a little late, but better late than never! Christmas in Beijing has definitely been different from what I am used to, but it has been nothing short of amazing! Today was our last day with our students, so we were able to celebrate Christmas with them all day yesterday! It began with an amazing caroling in the student dorms on Christmas Eve and festivities all day on Christmas! Tonight we celebrated Christmas Eve with our team with Christmas cookies (I couldn't have Christmas without making cookies :)), fellowship, and Christmas movies. Tomorrow we will celebrate Christmas together with a big potluck dinner, secret Santa and all that fun stuff!

Last night my China family and I decided to have a family photo shoot. We had a blast posing for all kinds of pictures and enjoying many laughs together! So, on behalf of Kyle, Syrena, Geoff and I, we hope we have a very Merry Christmas!!!! May God bless you this year as you remember the reason for the season and enjoy the time with family and friends! I miss and love you all and thank you so much for supporting me every step of the way and for all of your thoughts and prayers while I am here in China!



Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally
1/10 8am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Joe & Ben Green			
1/10 10:30	Barbara Penney	Larry Baumgardner & Steve Gillan	Chris Redmaster/ Anna Redmaster & Kristen Albrecht	Tom Twarek & Ellen Ball	Adrienne Ashbaugh, Cindy Fields, Bethany Fields	Cindy Smith & Jim Smith
1/17 9am	Bev O'Rourke	Sara Lawrence & Kim Roberts	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn & Chas Cooksey	Sam & Susie Hildebrand	Chas Cooksey & Carole Meyer	Susan Albrecht & John Roberts
1/24 9am	Kristen Albrecht	John & Betty Culley	Sam Hildebrand/ Joe & Ben Green	Kitty Haffner & Jo Tussey	CJ Charles & Kim Roberts	John Culley & Vern Easterling
1/31 8am	Jim Suren	Meribeth Kussmaul	Teresa Anderson			
1/31 10:30	Joe O'Rourke	Larry Baumgardner & Marc Hudson	Steve Charles/ Jon & Lorinda Hanebuth	Brian & Susan Albrecht	Betty Culley, Larry Baumgardner & Meegan Reidy	Nancy Bennett & Ellen Ball

Calendar

January 12	Liturgy Committee Meeting, 5:30, Library
January 10	Children's Epiphany Pageant (10:30 Service)
January 17	Annual Meeting - One service at 9 a.m. followed by brunch with meeting.
January 20	Newsletter submissions due for February Newsletter
January 24	Bishop Cate's Visit - One service at 9 a.m. followed by finger-food reception and Presentation by Bishop Cate on "Where the Church is Headed in the 21 st Century".
February 5-6,7	Vestry Retreat with Committee Chairs present from Noon -4 p.m. on Sat. the 6 th , Commissioning of Vestry and Committee Chairs on Sunday the 7 th at both Services, depending on which service those persons normally attend.
February 17	Ash Wednesday

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 Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. January 20.

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Return Service Requested

Dated Material — please deliver by—January 9, 2010