



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

Episcopal Traditions: Ever-changing, while Solidly the Same

I am well aware that the St. John's Family has been asked some pretty hard questions in the last few years. I am more keenly aware that some of our parents have had to deal with hard questions from their children, from neighbors, friends, and from family members who attend other churches, in regard to some of the beliefs and practices of The Episcopal Church. Some reactions to our beliefs and practices have been quite hard to take, especially when those reactions include the refusal of some parents from different churches to allow their children to attend church activities at St. John's with our youth. "Church" is no longer considered an appropriate topic of conversation among some because of the potential for embarrassment, heated arguments or unpleasant comments.

Concerns about St. John's standing in the community may rise when we consider the fact that many of our parishioners have long played significant roles in the community via key occupations or through voluntary service in civic organizations and their boards. St. John's and its members have a long tradition as a respectable, established institution in our community, playing a leadership role far in excess of our numerical percentage in the population of Montgomery County. The Episcopal Church has often struggled with its tradition as an "establishment church" – as one of the institutions that plays a key role in determining and maintaining cultural values and standards. Being an "establishment church" is one of our foundational Traditions, and we should wear this identity with pride, but not without an understanding of the God-given responsibility, which such a role entails.

High points of our role in "the establishment", include a legacy of noble guidance and action in the American Revolution, in the development of our government and Constitution and in its respect for the separation of Church and state to name a few. However, as part of "the establishment", The Episcopal Church also bears a legacy of reticence to act in the abolition of slavery, in the civil rights movement, and in the recognition of the equality of the sexes and the ordination of women (1979 – some time later than other Mainline Denominations). Perhaps, the very awareness of our influence and responsibility in society has forced us to be more cautious and deliberate, but it may also be true that part of our caution and reticence to act on or face certain key issues as a church/congregation arises from the deep social and personal ties many Episcopalians have in our country and community.

Nevertheless, standing outside the comfortable margins of culture to "respect the dignity of every human being" by speaking and acting prophetically and daring to face hard questions, potential ridicule, even rejection, remains another key Tradition among Episcopalians. The Episcopal Church began life in the United States as an 'outsider' organization. Ambrose Whitlock and "four leading families" of Crawfordsville founded St. John's only 51 years after the Revolution and just 20 years after The War of 1812, also known as The Second War for Independence. Episcopalians were still called "Tories" and distrusted as pro-British. Our Book of Common Prayer was already seen as suspicious because Episcopalians didn't "use the Bible". Our higher-than-average percentage of well-educated members and our insistence on well-educated clergy led to charges of being "uppity", "the church for snobs", and some other names that are inappropriate to mention. The Episcopal Church scandalized much of white society in 1804 by ordaining Absalom Jones as one of the first African-American clergymen in the United States. Closer to home, St. John's witnessed one of the very first female ordinations in the Anglican Communion (Tanya Vonnegut), and during Rob Lamborn's tenure, we again

incurred the wrath of many neighbors by taking a strong stand for the separation of church and state by refusing to take part in a campaign to set up the Ten Commandments at the county courthouse.

This Tradition of daring to care for justice and dignity for non-Christians, for women, the poor, for Hispanic members of the community, etc. has taken on forms from Emmy Peebles' work on creating The Women's Crisis Shelter and the Youth Service Bureau, to our members' involvement in creating a county human rights commission, and to the calling of an open, partnered gay rector. Most Episcopalians have chosen to study the Bible historically (taking into account cultural changes, as well as improvements in human understanding and science) resulting in the unfounded 150-year-old charge that Episcopalians are not "Bible-based" or Bible-reading.

Such 'Traditions' come with costs. Some costs will hit closer to home than others, but the main point to remember is this: We have been in this same type of situation many times before, and we have always bounced back into a position of well-deserved respect and leadership in Montgomery County and in our nation.

The most recent incident involving 'hard questions' arose when a member of the group known as "The Sacred Circle" aroused local attention. Although the Sacred Circle met in Whitlock Hall, the sanctuary was never used, and worship was never practiced. The form of meetings was and is still under evolution. The group's main purpose has been to provide a safe environment for people to come together for spiritual enrichment and growth through discussing how different forms of spirituality affect our lives. I am encouraging the group to change the name and meeting location, because such gatherings may offer support and guidance to Spiritual Seekers who are looking for some form of spiritual life and meaning, but who have grown distrustful of "organized religion". Meeting on 'neutral' (non-church) ground will offer a more accessible place to Seekers and members of other Spiritual Traditions without the 'baggage' of any particular religion. A 'non-church' location will also avoid any misunderstanding among Christians, that St. John's officially supports the various individual beliefs and practices of those in attendance. Those members of St. John's who have seen the need for such a group and have taken part in its development believe that our involvement is part of living out the Baptismal Covenant by "Sharing the Good News of Christ by word and example," by "Respecting the dignity of every human being", and by "striving for justice and peace" by seeking to understand and support persons who may have been persecuted or misunderstood because of particular beliefs.

The popularity of faithfulness to our Baptismal Covenant AND our standing in the community may be subject to shifts in the values of the dominant culture around us, but our commitment to "Love the Lord our God with all that we are and to love our neighbors as ourselves" remains solidly the same.

Father Todd+

Calendar Planning

On Sunday August 15th, the last day of 9a.m. Summer Services, the vestry, committee chairs, and other interested parties, who have an investment in our parish calendar will meet from 10:30-1:30 in Whitlock Hall. Canon Bruce Gray will facilitate the process. Anyone who knows of outside or non-church groups who meet at St. John's should get meeting times to Gina Tollini, our Parish Secretary for help in developing the calendar. Our focus will be September through January inclusive. Food and ice will be provided. Please bring a beverage.

Strategic Planning Team Being Formed

Father Todd is forming a Strategic Planning Team to assist the vestry in developing a five-year-plan for parish growth and renewal. The Team will meet from the first Wednesday of every month September through May from 6:30-8 p.m. Team members are strongly encouraged to attend the 6 p.m. Wednesday Evening Eucharist as part of the preparation for meeting. Light snacks and beverages will always be served. Team members will be asked to read two small books, reflect on Eight Questions asked by the Bishop, and work with the vestry to help the church develop a concrete plan for ministry, mission, education, and spiritual transformation.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Father Todd, Larry Baumgardner (Rector's Warden) or Jane Gallagher (People's Warden). Our first meeting is Wed. September 1st at 6:30 p.m.

Don't Forget - We Return to 8 and 10:30 a.m. Services Sunday August 22nd, 2010.

Outreach

Outreach Project for August - Undies and Outies

The Red Bag outreach project for August is our annual collection for the Crawfordsville elementary children that we fondly call Undies and Outies. The items we collect will be distributed among the three schools. We are collecting items that the school counselors and nurses often need to provide for children in need or in an emergency situation. Please check the sales and fill your bag with any of the following:

- Socks for girls or boys, sizes 1-5, small men's or women's
- Gym shoes, same sizes as above. May be gently used.
- New underwear for girls or boys, sizes 6-8 through 14-16, men's small, women's size 5-7
- Sweat pants, sweat shirts in neutral colors, sizes 6-8 through 14-16, and small men's and women's. May be gently used.
- T shirts in neutral colors, sizes 6-8 through 14-16 and small men's and women's. May be gently used.
- Winter hats gloves, mittens

Please place the items in the bins according to size or grade appropriateness: Grades K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5

Treasures & Trivia

Here is the schedule for Treasures & Trivia week!

Fri. Aug.6th - Pick up clothing racks in Greencastle between 10am.and 11am. (we still need one person to ride along and help load and unload)

Sat.Aug.7th - set up tables and clothing racks in Whitlock Hall

Sun.Aug.8th - Bring stuff up from basement and place it under the tables in Whitlock Hall.

Sun.Aug 8th thru Wed.Aug11th -Set-Up

Thurs.Aug 12th and 13th - Sale will open at 8am. and close at 4pm.

Sat. Aug.14th the sale will open at 8am. and close at 11am.

At 11am we will begin breakdown. If we have enough trucks, we will form 2 lines one in the South alley and one in the East alley. The South alley will load from the double glass doors and the East alley will load from the entrance next to the bathrooms in Whitlock hall. All donations will be taken to Trinity Mission outlet store.

The volunteers working the sale will have lunch provided on the 12th, 13th, and 14th. Contact Chas Cooksey with questions.

Family Camp at Waycross

Coming more quickly than you think! A restful family camp at Waycross is happening September 10,11,&12 for the St. John's Family. An added bonus is that the Youth Group (grades 4-12) will be having an experience all their own which includes the ropes course, campfire and treats, Bible Study & lots of fun. Please read the board in Whitlock Hall and sign up as appropriate. (All Youth from Birth through College are paid for by the church. If you are under 18 and coming without your parent(s) please get appropriate permission slips from Elaine, especially for the ropes course) Looking forward to a great weekend. Contact Elaine Pickering for more information

Parish Life

Save the Date!

The annual St. John's vs. Wabash Ave. Presbyterian golf outing will take place on Sunday, September 19, beginning at 2:00 pm. It will be St. John's turn to host the post-scrabble cookout, as well. For questions or to sign up, contact Sheila Evans.

Shepherding Guidelines

Here are revised guidelines for shepherds, as of August, 2010

Contact by mail: Shepherds are asked to contact each member of their flock with a minimum of two greeting cards - a note of introduction and a birthday card. A card at Easter is desirable, also.

Contacting flock by means other than cards is optional. (Since not everyone is computer connected, a list of those names will be made available to the shepherds.)

If you wish to volunteer to be a shepherd or wish to be removed from the current list of shepherds, please contact Judy Spencer (jspencer@link2000.net).

Parishioners: if you don't know who your shepherd is or you have not been contacted by a shepherd, please let Judy know. 435-2408

Thanks!

A Big Thank You to everyone who brought treats and drinks and themselves to our annual July Porch Party. Our youngest attendee was fifteen months and our oldest was... well, we better not say. What a great time! Thanks from Mike and Father Todd+.

Congratulations!

To Bob & Peggy Millbern who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on July 26th.

¹If I speak in the tongues^a of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^b but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13, NLV)

Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally	Altar Flowers
8/1 9am	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul & Barbara Penney	Steve Charles/ Joe Green & Ben Green	Jane Gallagher & Shelia Evans	Terry Lawrence & Jerilyn Yerkes	John Culley & Ed Fain	Judy Wynne
8/8 9am	Diane Ault	Paul Ludwig & Larry Baumgardner	Chris Redmaster/ Anna Redmaster & Erin Redmaster	Carole Meyer & Meegan Reidy	Bethany & Cindy Fields	John Roberts & Susan Albrecht	John & Kim Roberts
8/15 9am	Barbara Easterling	Vern Easterling & Adrienne Ashbaugh	Paul Mohling/ Kristin Albrecht & Chas Cooksey	Char & Don Hester	Chas Cooksey & Carole Meyer	Tom Twarek & Barb Easterling	Ed & Sue Fain
8/22 8am							
8/22 10:30				Alex & Ann Lebedeff	CJ Charles & Kim Roberts	Vern Easterling & Ellen Ball	Jane Gallagher
8/29 8am							
8/29 10:30	Judy Wynne	John Culley & Betty Culley	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn & Diane Ault	Vern & Barb Easterling	Betty Culley & Meegan Reidy	Ed Fain & Nancy Bennett	Bill & Adrienne Ashbaugh

Calendar

August 11	Executive Committee Meeting All committee reports due prior to meeting
August 12 - 14	Treasures and Trivia (see article for details)
August 15	Calendar Planning Meeting following church Vestry members & committee chairs attend, as well as others with calendar input
August 22	Regular worship schedule resumes
September 20	Outreach Meeting 4:00 PM Whitlock Hall Anyone interested in being a part of the committee is invited to attend.
October 30	Lobster Sale

Ongoing Events

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

The next Newsletter submissions are due by Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. August .25

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Return Service Requested

Dated Material — please deliver by—August 2