



# Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church Crawfordsville, Indiana  
The Rev. Todd Kleffman, Rector (765) 362-2331  
January 2011

[www.stjohnscville.org](http://www.stjohnscville.org)

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## Rector's Article

### **"Let Your Light Shine" St. John's: At Annual Meeting, through 2011, and for another 175 Years into the Future**

The Feast of the Epiphany will be celebrated on January 9<sup>th</sup>, and the Christmas decorations will come down **(We hope you will stay after the 10:30 service to help.)**, and the **Annual Meeting following a single 9:30 a.m.** service will follow on January 16. As usual we invite members to bring a brunch dish to share. We hope that Committee and other reports will be turned into the office no later than Wednesday Jan. 12 (preferably by e-mail in Word format) with the exception of financial information. **And above all we hope that newer members and parents with young children will make an effort to come take part - and, yes, childcare will be provided.**

The very sound of "Annual Meeting" seems like a recipe for boredom, but this will hardly be the case. True, this meeting will deal with the Canonical requirements of budget, electing three new vestry members, and appointing delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention, but it will also involve all of us in something a bit more interesting! The other components of this gathering will prove educational, celebrative, and highly vocational as we begin to discover and own who we really are and what God is calling us to both be and do in 2011 and on into the future.

What may prove even more interesting will be how discovering and owning our corporate identity and mission in Montgomery County will positively affect the identity and activities of every individual member of St. John's. Hopefully, the meeting's discussion and exercises (don't worry just a couple) will provide some simple, concrete, answers that can be lived out, reviewed, and improved on in the years to come.

**The Benefits and Challenges of Letting OUR Light Shine:** The Episcopal Church occupies a unique niche among the various other churches of Montgomery County, and with that niche comes a responsibility and a call from God to be and live out our genuine identity, one rooted in the Traditions (capital T) of making decisions based on Scripture, Tradition, and Reason; an identity based primarily on

following the example of Christ in the Gospels; and a history of “open-mindedness” and “open-heartedness” towards those whom society would rather cast off.

However, such an identity does not come without cost. Jesus did not promise that following his loving way would guarantee popularity with the dominant culture. We may be viewed with suspicion, labeled “liberal”, even accused by fellow Christians of heresy, lack of faith, or lack of moral standards. Some of our sister and brother members may find living out our common ministry more challenging than others. If that turns out to be the case, it is my hope that we can all help each other work through any conflict in love as Christ would call us to do. Nevertheless, we must seek to be faithful to God’s call – not the call of humans – but of God. The benefits of such faithfulness will include an ever stronger sense of integrity, clarity of mission and goals and an increase in love for the outsider, which will stimulate even greater love for Christ and for our fellow members.

It is my fondest hope that people will attend this annual meeting with eyes and hearts and minds bent on discovering God’s call to St. John’s and to themselves as well. It is my most sincere belief that we can make the commitments necessary to grow healthier in our individual and corporate faith through setting aside time to gather in small groups for Study, Prayer, Action, and Reflection. I genuinely believe that this year will be seen as a historical turning point, and a good one, in the life of St. John’s and its people. As we begin to genuinely integrate hands-on mission with intellectual depth, as we synthesize Liturgy, Compassion, and Outreach; as we become better known for our loving attitudes, which embody the Spirit of the Living Christ in our midst: “The Church that Loves Everybody”.

**Father Todd+**

## **Announcements**

**Farewell Gina. Welcome Back,**

**Mary Barker.**

On the Monday before Christmas, Gina Tollini, our church secretary, gave her two weeks’ notice. Although she will be missed, the vestry was heartened to hear that when I contacted Mary Barker, she said that she would be willing to return to Saint John’s as its secretary. Mary brings a wealth of secretarial experience and fond feelings towards St. John’s. She will be working three, four-hour days, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The specific days will be announced on the Google Announcements, in the Sunday Bulletin, and at Worship. Mary will take a couple days

for training in use of The Rite Stuff, our new bulletin software. However, we will need people willing to volunteer as receptionists on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to Noon, and on Thursdays if possible. Volunteer labor will save us considerable money and keeps communication flowing.

**Father Todd+**

**What? A Volunteer Sexton!**

Yes. One of our members has volunteered to make her pledge by serving as the Church Sexton. She will be able to clean on most Fridays, except when the roads are bad in

winter. If anyone wishes to fill in on a volunteer basis on those few Fridays of bad weather during the winter months, please contact Jim Suren or Father Todd. The identity of this member will be made known once she has learned the ins and outs of sextoning from Jim. THANK YOU! This gift will be worth \$4,500 in savings to the church.

### **Pre-Schoolers' Discussions**

During the past several weeks, a number of parents with children in the pre-school through kindergarten age range have begun asking for a Sunday Pre-school Program. As the number of children regularly attending Sunday School steadily increases, it is becoming apparent that Christian Ed. Leaders may need to begin developing separate programs appropriate to younger, primary grade, and older children's needs. However, to do so will require the consistent attendance of these children during Sunday School to make the time spent preparing for lessons worthwhile to the volunteers we will also need.

Please, begin asking God for guidance and for the willingness of volunteers to step forward to work with the children whom we all agree are so important. Do you love working with kids of a certain age, but feel unequipped for such an important ministry? We will make sure that you are equipped. Love of the children is the most important gift needed. Everything else can be learned.

To the St. John's Family:

We are discovering that some of you are going above and beyond duty and your stated pledge by putting extra cash in the offering. It is clear that you have heeded the call for extra resources from your usual deeply appreciated

generosity. At the end of a year that has seen so many reverses for the financial well being of the entire country, it is heart-warming to acknowledge the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of you who sacrifice for our Church. Because cash contributions cannot be tracked for a personal thank you, we want to recognize this goodness in a public way. We are so grateful that you are helping to close the gap in our finances. May God bless you throughout the coming year, and we wish you continued happiness and love in all you do.

Fr. Todd Kleffman

Larry Baumgardner, Senior Warden

**Children's Sunday School will not meet on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup>.**

We all want to thank Don Black for the special custom-made Cross he gave to us on the final Sunday of Advent. We will use it to display the crafts we make as part of our lessons each Sunday. A large cross plays an important role in our curriculum. Again, Thank You, Mr. Black!

Hello, I am Mark Kusssmaul. I have been a member of St. John's since Meribeth and I were married here. Throughout the past 26 plus years, I have enjoyed being a member of the congregation, Vestry, Campus Ministry, Christian Education and Strategic Planning and Visioning Committees. Additionally, I enjoy being a Lector and "Sunday School" (a.k.a. *Children's Christian Formation*) teacher. I am also looking forward to serving on the Diocesan Personnel Policy and Compensation Committee. I believe in our community of St. John's and the Larger Church, the spirituality we share, the positive work we have done, are doing and will do.

**Attention all women of St. John's and their guests. SAVE THE DATE!!!**

When: 5 March 2011, 11:30 am

Where: Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis

What: ECW Luncheon; cost - \$10.00; childcare available

Speakers: Hilary Cooke and Susanne McConville

Topic: West Meets East: Spirituality, Yoga, Centering Prayer

Brochures with registration forms will be available January 2011. More questions? Contact Lisa Matucheski (317-293-9324, [jmatuche@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmatuche@sbcglobal.net)) or Charlene Watson (765-474-9101, [cel.watson@comcast.net](mailto:cel.watson@comcast.net)). Also check the Indianapolis Diocese website for more information - [www.indydio.org](http://www.indydio.org) - and look under the Episcopal Church Women's icon. Remember - SAVE THE DATE!!



**The Liturgical Committee meets Tuesday, January 11th at 5:30**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 service will be held at 9:30 am, followed by a potluck brunch. Childcare will be provided. Annual meeting will follow after brunch.**

**Men's Epiphany Coffee**

January 5th in Whitlock Hall, more info to follow. For information, phone Elaine Pickering

**Ladies' Epiphany Tea**

January 6th in Whitlock Hall, more information to follow. Ring Elaine at 362-8163 for info and recipes.

**Celebration of Life !!**

**Celebration of Life for Professor Robert Cooley will be held at 1:00 pm Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup> at St. John's with reception to follow in Parish Hall.**

**O** God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



<b>Service</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>LEM</b>	<b>Crucifer/Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Offering Tally</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>
<b>Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:00 am</b>	<b>Mike Scime</b>	<b>Mike Scime</b>	<b>Cyndi Fields</b>				
<b>Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 am</b>	<b>Ed Fain</b>	<b>Barbara Penney/ Vern Easterling</b>	<b>Randy Pickering/ Paul Moehling/ Chris Redmaster</b>	<b>Ed &amp; Sue Fain</b>	<b>Betty &amp; Meegan</b>	<b>Ellen Ball &amp; Nancy Bennett</b>	
<b>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am</b>	<b>Jim Suren</b>	<b>Jim Suren</b>	<b>Ben Green</b>				
<b>Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am</b>	<b>Sue Fain</b>	<b>Larry Baumgardner/ Marc Hudson</b>	<b>Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn/ Steve Charles</b>	<b>John &amp; Betty Culley</b>	<b>Sheila &amp; Jane</b>	<b>Cindy Smith &amp; Jim Smith</b>	
<b>Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am</b>	<b>Nancy Bennett</b>	<b>John &amp; Betty Culley</b>	<b>Bill Patterson/ Matthew Patterson/ Joe Green</b>	<b>Susan &amp; Brian Albrecht</b>	<b>Terry Lawrence &amp; Jerilyn Yerkes</b>		
<b>Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 am</b>	<b>Barbara Penney</b>	<b>Barbara Penney</b>	<b>Teresa Anderson</b>				
<b>Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am</b>	<b>Susan Albrecht</b>	<b>Randy &amp; Elaine Pickering</b>	<b>Chas Cooksey/ Kristen Albrecht/ Ashton Warren</b>	<b>Vern &amp; Barb Easterling</b>	<b>CJ Charles &amp; Cyndi Fields</b>	<b>Tom Twarek &amp; Vern Easterling</b>	
<b>Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00 am</b>	<b>Meribeth Kussmaul</b>	<b>Meribeth Kussmaul</b>	<b>Joe Green</b>				
<b>Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am</b>	<b>Alex Lebedeff</b>	<b>Sara Lawrence/ Jane Gallager</b>	<b>Chris/Erin Redmaster/ Robbie Little</b>	<b>Tom Twarek &amp; Ellen Ball</b>	<b>Chas Cooksey &amp; Carole Meyer</b>	<b>Barb Easterling &amp; Ed Fain</b>	

# Calendar

## *Ongoing Events*

Wednesday 30-Minute Eucharist from 6pm-6:30pm  
Thursday Choir Practice 7pm

The next Newsletter submissions are due by Wednesday evening, 6:00 p.m. January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**212 South Green Street**  
**P. O. Box 445**  
**Crawfordsville, IN 47933**

### **Return Service Requested**

Dated Material — please deliver by—January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011