



# Saint John's Spirit

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

February 2011

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

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## Rector's Article:

### “Opening Our Hearts and Minds to Follow the Lead of God’s Love”

We did a fantastic job of “celebrating St. John’s” during our annual meeting. We celebrated the ministries of departing vestry members, of our retiring Treasurer, Will Turner, and our retired newsletter editor, Cindy Turner, along with a variety of people and ministries so rich that we had to set the “Celebrate St. John’s Bowl” down and wait for later opportunities to read from it the names of people or groups, or activities of this parish that we can be proud of. (In a short aside, the amount of paper in the bowl has continued to grow since annual meeting.) I guess people keep finding things to celebrate!

I would like to celebrate the St. Martha’s Guild and everyone who submitted themselves for nomination, who cooked and cleaned, and helped in a myriad of ways. I would like to celebrate our new volunteer sexton, Angie Daniels, our new Treasurer, Dalene Soladine, and our returning secretary, who is willing to work shorter hours for less pay – Mary Barker.

We voted in the Vestry Class of 2013: Ed Fain, Jim Suren, and Randy Pickering. We thanked Mark and Meribeth Kussmaul for serving as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and we received by acclamation, Elaine and Randy Pickering to serve as this year’s delegates, while Sue and Ed Fain were heartily accepted as our Convention alternates for this coming October.

Amidst the noise of twizzlers and tambourines, applause and other noise makers, came a strange time of quiet and conversation. The 70 or so in attendance were voting – voting from among Ten Sign posts of Renewal that we had been learning about by reading Diana Butler Bass’ book Christianity for the Rest of Us, a description of how local churches like ours have renewed their vitality amidst changing communities around them and changing types of people that are drawn to them. The people were to select by majority vote which **Two Key Signposts St. John’s already possesses as clear strengths – strengths on which our church will found its future mission and ministry, strengths which we will seek to improve even more and use to minister to the people around us.** Quiet! The Holy Spirit was genuinely at work in the people of St. John’s. Then, the people chose a growing edge to build on. A Signpost of Renewal that we seem to be weak in or lacking. We asked God to guide us and we voted to work very hard to improve and develop this form of ministry for the benefit of our community and of our church members as well. People were also busy selecting specific projects of interest to them. Ministries that might enhance the three key building blocks of God’s call to us as we move into the future.

The results were clear. Of the Ten Signposts 2 were voted runaway winners as the sturdy **foundation blocks for future ministry: Worship and Hospitality.** Then, up from behind emerged the dark horse, **the growing edge that we would work on developing as part of our call, of our mission, and of our identity in the**

## future: Healing!

By "healing" the Bible means restoration to any form of health or wholeness or right relationship with God, self, others, body, mind, spirit, emotions, and creation.

Jesus' entire ministry and the ministry of the Church is defined in our Catechism as "restoring all people to unity with God and each other through Jesus Christ". This restoration is what I and Diana Butler Bass mean by healing.

What we, as individuals, vestry, committees, and congregation do to provide, build on, and improve healing to each other and to those groups in our community, whom we chose to focus on helping will determine the Specifics. However, employing the key congregational strengths of "worship" and "hospitality" will surely play a part.

I will throw out some examples to make the concept more concrete, but this in no way means that we will or won't do any of these projects.

- 1) Providing a special community worship service to honor, pray for, and bless those who make our community clean and safe, but often work unseen and unappreciated: garbage workers, city/county highway, Power Co. service workers, etc. Something similar for soldiers could be held on Veterans' Day or Memorial Day, for police, fire fighters, and ambulance workers. A service for the "healers of our community" doctors, nurses, techs, therapists, etc. could be held on the Feast Day for Albert Schweitzer.
- 2) Finding ways to support the elderly (esp. those who live alone, who go unvisited in nursing homes) or to support unmarried persons in our church and those who come to church alone but are married.
- 3) The Healing Bible Study
- 4) Creating a Taize' Service, which consists of candle light, special acoustical music and simple but profound hymns and chants, prayers, and readings from Bible or other sources. This is a "non-traditional" service, but it is an alternative service that is in full keeping with the character and style of St. John's.
- 5) Educating people about poverty and simply setting a night to invite people from the community, who struggle financially, to come to a meal and a "listening" where they will simply share their stories of how they survive, how they feel, describe their lives and needs. We ask questions, and after listening, offer to pray for them, and later on decide if some of their needs call out to us in ways that draw us to respond.
- 4) To call local artists of various kinds to submit works for viewing in Whitlock Hall that speak to various needs and how the artists envision ways in which we, the community, might be of support.
- 5) Music, meditation, and lunch at noon could offer genuine respite to those who have had a hard day at work so far and need some peace and support.

Certainly, these are things that we will build gradually over time. We will not rush into them, except the Healing Bible Study, which provides a much needed grounding for the work ahead. **Rarely have I seen such a clear movement of the Holy Spirit in discerning Big Concepts as foundations that blend so elegantly with smaller specific activities. God clearly was and is leading us into a wonderful, purpose-filled future.** Perhaps there is no better way to demonstrate, the sense of renewal and of common call blessed with various individual specialties into a larger, more holy purpose than our new symbol and new mission statement...

**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 @ no cost

**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!!**

## **Announcements:**

### **Youth of St. John's**

Starting on the 23rd January the youth of St. John's (grades 6 to 12) have been offered an opportunity for Christian Education. We start promptly at 9:15 with intergenerational Chapel, then move to our own space for discussion, projects, and planning. We are attempting to do at least one service project monthly for the members of St. John's, so keep your eyes and ears open to see what a small yet dedicated group can do.

### **Elevator Use**

If you need to use the elevator in Whitlock hall and are unsure of how to use the elevator please see me.... It is recommended that you use the elevator with someone else in the building (not using the elevator) or travel in the elevator with a working cell phone... Jim Suren

### **Parish Life:**

The annual SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER will take place on March 8, 2011. Details will be announced via the March newsletter, the Google group and Sunday morning announcements, but we wanted to make sure you set the date aside on your calendars. If you are willing to help with cooking, serving or setup/cleanup, please let Nancy Bennett know at 361-2988 or [njbennett@purdue.edu](mailto:njbennett@purdue.edu)

### **Vestry Retreat**

February 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Both services will continue as planned. Mike Scime will Preach. This is not morning prayer, we will be doing Service of the Word. Let us pray for the Vestry that they may follow the Holy Spirit.

### **Bowling for YSB**

Save the date!!! April 16<sup>th</sup> the Saturday before Palm Sunday. We had a great time last year, and we are looking forward to great time again.



# 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 February 23<sup>rd</sup>

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**St. John's Episcopal Church**

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**Return Service Requested**

Dated Material — please deliver by—February 23<sup>rd</sup>