

Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church • Crawfordsville, Indiana

The Rev. Todd Kleffman, Rector (765) 362-2331

April 2011

Editor: Angie Daniels

www.stjohnscville.org

newsletter@stjohnscville.org

Rector's Article:

IN This Issue: God Jars? YSB Bowling, Holy Week Info, Baptisms, Easter Brunch, Special Visit and Congregational Meetings in May, Opportunities for the Creative, and More...

The Seals of St. John's

Once upon a time in a southern California town, the people built a special ocean swimming beach for their children. They made it very safe with a huge floating dock, and they fenced it off to keep out encroachment by developers and any dangerous influences. Imagine the town's surprise when, on opening day, the families and children arrived at the beach to find it filled to capacity – floating dock included – with seals.

At first the people were enraged and considered what to do about the seal problem.

Like any good town they researched the situation, because the seal population not only stayed large, but it kept growing. The town's researchers soon turned up the answer – development. As more development encroached on beaches where seals used to rest and rear THEIR young, the seals wandered around looking for safer beaches themselves, and alas, this town had provided the perfect haven for them. In an unusual turn of events the town decided that they could always create another beach for their children, but they knew that the seals could not. And so (this is a true story), the town left beach and floating dock to the seals. In fact, when other towns along the California coast got word of the seals' plight, more beaches and floating docks were built – for seals.

The question for any Christian and for any Church to ask is this: Who are the seals, the people seeking a safe haven who keep washing up on our personal and parish shores? What direction might God be giving us, when these seals arrive on our shores?

Below is a list of some of these “seals” generated in Adult Forum on March 27th, Everyone of us knows at least one person from at least one of these groups of people, and many of them may not have a Church Family to connect them to the kind of love God revealed in Jesus. Perhaps you could invite them to St. John's shores. It may take a little convincing, especially because these people may have been more harmed than helped by churches in the past, but remember, our primary baptismal call is to represent Christ and God's love in Christ; therefore when you reach out the hand of love to someone, the Spirit of Jesus will be helping you.

Here is the list:

- People seeking *acceptance not judgment*
- Looking for a church *where they can truly be themselves not phony, especially in how they dress and in who they are (from any walk of life)*
- Gays and Lesbians, couples or singles
- A church where they *can try on a way of growing in faith without feeling the pressure to necessarily join – **Spiritual Explorers***
- Singles, even if married or partnered – they come to church and church activities alone, because spouse or partner is not “into religious stuff”
- Couples seeking common religious ground; *each is from a different religious tradition and one is usually Roman Catholic, the other is often Protestant*
- *Divorced persons and Divorced people seeking a church in which to be re-married*
- Wabash Students, Faculty, and Staff
- Modern, rational thinkers born of this “scientific age”, *a place for FAITH & REASON*

The Seals of St. John's List (cont.)

- New residents of Montgomery/ or surrounding counties
- A church that accepts any other churches' form of Baptism - * ***The Episcopal Church does accept any other Churches' Baptism if it is done in the Trinitarian Formula or in “the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.***
- *Our Church has already begun to get a reputation for “seeking to understand others/newcomers” rather than seeking to have newcomers understand us.*
- **Religious Refugees** from churches where they have felt judged for having more open views, have asked hard questions about faith or expressed doubts about certain “religious views” or God, for being found to be in one of the categories above including and especially being pregnant out of wedlock, gay, divorced, etc.
- We welcome agnostics, atheists, non-theists, critics, questioners, basically: ***Wherever anyone comes from, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, they are welcome at St. John's, and for as long as they need us, even if we are only a temporary oasis until they discover where they really want to go.***
- People with end of life needs, medical challenges in life, care-giver support needs, and the elderly.
- Families looking for an open-minded church in which to raise their children.
- *People wanting to return to St. John's after a long absence due to any number of things, or an absence of any length due to concerns about the direction of the parish, the person and style of the rector, something in worship, anything -STILL WELCOME AND OUR DOORS WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR ALL!*

As Easter and its joyful Season approaches, **PARISHIONERS should consider inviting some of these Seals to Worship with us on Easter or to other parish activities or events, if worship is not the best way to begin introducing someone to St. John's.**

At this point it would be wise to view four things, two old and two new.

First the old:

1. *Painted on our Church signs out front is a quote from the Gospels when Jesus cleansed the Temple, “This is none other than an house of God”, but the verse continues in Luke “For all Peoples”.*
2. *Just inside the red doors is a small framed quote from past Presiding Bishiop Edmund Browning about the fact that in The Episcopal Church “There are no Outcasts here.”*

Now the new:

3. *The 2010 Vestry adopted a Mission Invitation/Statement that they believe sums up the heart of who St. John's is and what St. John's really all about:*

“Come as you are and transform the world by following Jesus with open hearts and open minds.”

4. *A theme verse from John 15:5a for St. John's: "I am the vine, you are the branches, abide in me and I in you, and you will bear much fruit." Let's go bear some fruit by following the example of Jesus' love!*

Rector's Article:

From Cross to Crown, From resentments to reconciliation, From Death to Life in God's Kingdom!

Canon Bruce Gray to Bring Church Conflict Presentation and Discussion in May

If Lent (lit. to tear) is for tearing hearts open to receive the new life God offers through Christ, and the "Living Water" of the Holy Spirit, then St. John's is certainly taking the Lent/Easter period seriously.

Intentionally or unintentionally, hearts have been torn open by illness, by family crises, by financial set backs and unexpected expenses, by people moving in or out of St. John's and Crawfordsville, by seeing so much turmoil in the world. Some in our parish are experiencing **a different kind of tearing**, as parish and rector, together learn that "deepening our faith and widening our embrace" in a **more Christ-like way** may at first seem to tear us more than stretch us, especially if we begin to reach out to those whom our community may consider 'outcasts and sinners'. **Hearts are also torn when people "trespass against us"** depending on how each of us expects other parishioners or rector to act, based on what we value most – especially about relationships, faith, and church. When values differ, when people feel hurt because "We have done what we ought not to have done," or because "We have failed to do what we should have done," conflicts can develop. These conflicts can fester into deep resentments if not dealt with properly. Such conflicting values and resentments only worsen when coupled with the any of the heart-rending items first mentioned in this paragraph.

Like most people I tend to recoil from conflict, and I have failed to understand the dynamics that minimize and best manage conflicts as had the vestry until we attended this year's **vestry college at Waycross**. Canon Gray's presentation on "Church Conflict" and the discussion that followed gave our vestry hope that St. John's itself can experience healing, a measure of reconciliation, and can even grow stronger by bringing this two-part presentation/discussion to our parish in May. On the Wednesdays of May 11 and May 18, starting at 6:45 pm each Wed., Canon Gray will offer this powerful gift to our church. We want as many people as possible to attend!

In the meantime, we ought not lose sight of how all these various 'heart-rendings' exemplify the very heart of Lent-Cross-Reconciliation-Resurrection! The very pains of less-than-perfect-world AND the sins that have broken open every heart and have kept us alienated from God, from ourselves, from each other, and from God's creation reached their apex when both **our hurts and our sins lifted Jesus up on that cross of pain to the point where he cried, "My God! My God! Why have you abandoned me?"** And yet, at the very moment when he would have been most tempted to leave us to an often well-deserved

alienation from God, he broke the cycle of conflict by praying with a genuine heart, **“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”** Christ's ultimate descent into the very pit of our pain, broke the back of death, and ultimate alienation forever. Like a white cell, **Jesus absorbed our pain, moved through the grave of resentment and rose to life as sign and seal of God's power to reconcile ALL things back into even stronger, deeper, more widely embracing, healed relationships with God, all people, and all creation through Christ-like love! That is the message of The Passion, and the Good News that can heal and fill our torn-open hearts!**

What Is a God Jar?

This fall at a Parents' Night Out some of the older youth got together talking about wanting to help our church. Children have excellent hearing and some had overheard conversations about the Church and our financial challenges. One of the kids said wisely,

“Well I have a piggy bank for that kind of stuff. Why doesn't our church have piggy banks?”

Another youth added that jars or cans are good enough if some of 'em can't afford piggy banks.

I just listened and let the conversation unfold. After several minutes the kids had talked about the feeding of the 5,000 and what Jesus did with five loaves of bread and two fish. “If Jesus can do that with such a little tiny bit, imagine what he could do if we collected people's change in jars for God!” At that point I stepped in and informed the kids that they would have to collect the money, and take it with their parents to the bank, have it counted, get deposit slips, and return the slips back to the church. They all agreed.

Two weeks ago the first collection from God Jars went into a designated fund for the benefit of the Church -NOT THE YOUTH- but collected BY the Youth. The amount totaled \$597.67. If you want, get a jar, ay jar, put it in a prominent place, and at the end of the day put your pocket change in it with a prayer for God to show us all how he can multiply little things.

There is only one rule. **Once money goes in the God Jar, it doesn't come out until it's placed in one of the orange God Jar Buckets at t. John's.** The vestry determined that the youth will be asked to name this special fund designed to help St. John's.

Special Opportunity for Artsy/Crafty People

Birds and Butterflies will be made for our youth and children by hand this Easter. They will replace the traditional pansies, and materials are already being gathered. On Saturday April 9th anyone with a desire to help beautify the church for Easter and the many baptisms now scheduled is encouraged to join us at from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm for fellowship and fun, while making truly stunning, yet easily made creatures. Bring scissors, hot glue guns and glue sticks for them, plain white, brown. Black, white, and gold material. Tissue paper of various colors, stuffing, and anything you think might add color or a touch of light to these creations. We have patterns, and stencils, along with pretty much everything else.

Speaking of Celebrations: Are there Baptisms this Easter?

There will be Baptisms at the 10:30 Easter Service and another on the Sunday following Easter. Sophia Grace, daughter of Abbie Haffner and her father, Cory, William Matthew Kendricks, Heaven Jones, Kevin Tucker, will all enter the family of Christ through Holy Baptism. James Campbell and his mother Bonnie Chamberlain will become members through remembering their Baptisms, and Silas Hartnett will join our church family on the following Sunday. Don Blair, a resident of Ben Hur Nursing Home

will also be received in a special bedside service during the Easter Season, thanks to the on-going witness of Lay Eucharistic visitors like Alex Lebedeff and Vern Easterling. In May Anna Redmaster will be confirmed, date and location are yet to be announced. Please, keep these special people in your prayers.

Prepare for Pentecost Now

Pentecost Pork and Ethnic Picnic by the Creek at Larry Baumgardner's farm. Time will be around 11:00 am, followed by outdoor fun and fellowship. Pork Barbecue and Barbecued Chicken will be provided. You bring a side/desert representing your ethnic heritage. June 12th.

Announcements:

Bowling for YSB

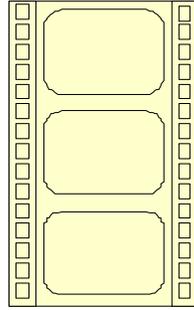


St. John's has challenged the other five downtown churches to raise funds for the Youth Service Bureau Bowling for Kids campaign. Bowling Day will be on April 16th, and Father Todd has reserved two lanes for the time from 10 AM – Noon. We will need 8 bowlers of all ages. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board if you would like to be on our team. Teens are included. The church that builds up the most points through donations and scores will win a trophy. St. John's won the challenge with Wabash Ave. Presbyterian last year, so even though the challenge is greater, we want to make it two in a row! There will be opportunities for you to donate to the Bowl-a-thon from now until the day the money is turned in on the 16th.

Property Committee Looking for Help

The property committee is looking for someone to help make some signs for around the building in reference to saving energy and helping us comply with the fire martial and the use of recycling etc...(I suspect this would be a word document with proper type face & size etc... printed on colored heavy paper stock.... beyond my current computer skills)... we would also like to know if someone has a laminating machine that would allow for the signs to be laminated so when they are placed in service the signs do not wear out or can be wipgned clean if they get dirty...

Youth Group Movie Night



I promise, this is NOT a joke. We are having a Youth Group Movie Night with cartoons, a film, popcorn, candy and soda. We will start at 7pm and everyone should be ready to come home at 10pm. There will be plenty of supervision, so your child can invite a friend to join us. Everyone should bring their favorite movie watching gear--pillow and blanket or reading pillow to stretch out on the floor of Whitlock Hall and enjoy the big screen. See you there!

“Keeping the Dream Alive” - Community Prayer Service

On Monday, April 4, 2011 beginning at 7 p.m. , a community prayer service celebrating the life and message of Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Lafayette, IN. The church is located downtown at the corner of Ferry and 6th Streets. A reception will follow the service.

Entitled “Keeping the Dream Alive”, this prayer service has been designed as a service project by those currently participating in the Education for Ministry Program (EFM) held at St. John’s Lafayette. Three parishioners from St. John’s Crawfordsville (Barbara Penney, Jim Suren and Meribeth Kussmaul) are currently members of that EFM group and wholeheartedly invite you to attend!

Sunday Servers

Service	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/ Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally	Altar Flowers
3/6 8am	Jim Suren	Jim Suren	Joe Green				
4/3 10:30	Mary Angela Cooley	Marc Hudson & Jane Gallagher	Chris Red master / Erin Red master & Ashtyn Warren	John & Betty Culley	CJ Charles & Cyndy Fields	Tom Twarek & Vern Easterling	LENT
4/10 8 am	Randy Pickering	Randy Pickering	Steve Charles				LENT
4/10 10:30	Ed Fain	Steve Gillan & Adrienne Ashbaugh	Bill Patterson / Matthew Patterson & Austin Warren	Vern & Barb Easterling	Chas Cooksey & Carole Meyer	Barb Easter ling & Ed Fain	LENT
4/17 8 am	Judy Wynne	Mike Scime	Cyndy Fields				LENT
4/17 10:30	Joe O'Rourke	Randy & Elaine Pickering	Steve Charles / Andrew P. & Kristin Albrecht	Tom Twarek & Ellen ball	Betty Culley & Meegan Reidy	Ellen Ball & Nancy Bennett	LENT
4/24 8 am	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul	Ben Green				
4/24 10:30	John Culley	John & Betty Culley	Mike Lohorn / Peggy Lohorn & Paul Moehling	Larry & Nancy Bennett	Sheila Evans & Jane Gallagher	Cindy Smith & Jim Smith	

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 March 23rd

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

**Return Service Requested
Dated Material — please deliver by—March 23rd**