



Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church + 212 S. Green St. + Crawfordsville, IN 47933
(765) 362-2331 + www.stjohnscville.org + stjohnscville@gmail.com

December 2011

Assisting Priest's Article – Advent 2011

Dear People of God in St. John's,

(The) Christmas (Machine) Unplugged! Almost thirty years ago *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love & Joy Back into the Season* by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli appeared in bookstores and began its slow and steady, some would say, subversive campaign of trying to dismantle or at least rearrange the way Christmas has come to be "done" in this country. It is commendable that the authors hastened to allow as how, at least in the preface of the revised edition (1992), a certain delicacy needed to be employed when performing this kind of surgery because firmly enmeshed in the workings of the machine in question were sincere, industrious, friendly people, who were not only bent on making a good living, but also whole-heartedly committed to offering their customers the best possible merchandise and service imaginable, however much they too might secretly yearn for a less hectic and simpler Christmas. (Someone has to work long and hard to get all that stuff up and blinking as soon as Hallowe'en is over!) Nor did the authors kid themselves that confronted on every side by a booming economy their modest crusade would be anything but an uphill struggle.

Curiously enough, given the precarious state of things in our present economy, unplugging the Christmas machine may well not be the chore that Robinson and Staeheli assumed it would be. For good or ill, we just may feel less under the gun to acquire stuff at all costs because somehow we sense that there may be other things that are more important in life. (Something made our grandkids' mom email us once again to suggest that we scale down our purchases to one or two items and emphasize handmade gifts this year.) Call it a healthier perspective, the realization that the gift of being together as family and friends is worth more than any gift we could possibly hope to buy, costly or not. Love doesn't always have to impress to be expressed.

So Advent is probably as good a time as any to feel a little uncertain about what's going to happen next—to make us stop and think long enough for God to break through to us, to help us remember in whom we put our trust and from whence comes our help, not to mention a reason to hope. John the Baptist was faced with a pretty tough crust to chip away at, when he found that he had inherited the prophet's mantle, but he was able to loosen things up enough so that someone as improbable as an itinerant teacher from Galilee could break through at the right time and reveal himself as God. Maybe our present circumstances, however unwelcome, will loosen us up enough so that someone as improbable as a helpless little baby can break through and reveal himself to us as God in a way we never even dreamed of. Who knows? This Advent may just be worth the wait.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Bill Wieland

Confirmation: What is it? Who needs it?

In the Episcopal Church, Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. This means that if you have been baptized, you are a member of the Episcopal Church. If you are baptized at an early age, your parents took the baptismal vows on your behalf. As an adult, you have the opportunity to make public affirmation of your faith and to re-affirm the baptismal vows your parents took for you. This public affirmation of faith and re-affirmation of your baptismal vows is what we call confirmation.

In preparation for confirmation, Fr. Bill will be offering a series of confirmation classes beginning in February 2012. The classes will explore the Bible; consider the nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; practice different forms of prayer; consider a variety of spiritual practices; and discuss whatever topics are of interest to participants. The classes are open to everyone, not just those wishing to be confirmed.

If you are thinking about being confirmed or just want to be part of the group, please let Fr. Bill know before the first of the year.

Church Communication

In an effort to be more eco-friendly and to save on postage, *Saint John's Spirit* is now available on-line through the church website at www.stjohnscville.org. A limited number of copies will be printed and available on the credenza near Whitlock Hall. Contact the office if you would like a hard copy mailed to you. Also, church-wide communications are often sent via the St. John's Google Group. If you have not already signed up or your email address has changed please go to the following site: groups.google.com/group/stjohnscville.

Schedule of Holiday Services

Sunday, December 18th at 10:30am – Christmas play presented by the children of the church; decorating the church for Christmas Eve following the 10:30am service.

Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24

5:00pm Stable service (*see next page for details*)

9:30pm Festival Holy Eucharist (*join us for carols starting at 9:10pm*)

Christmas Day and New Years' Day – one service only at 10:30 am (*no Adult Forum or Sunday School*)

News from Father Bill Wieland, Assisting Priest, about his role at St. John's

Lucy and I have had the pleasure and privilege of sharing in the life and ministry of this parish, officially, for over a month now (and "unofficially" for some time longer). The hearty "Welcome back!" we have received has been gracious and invigorating after our physical absence of more than thirty years. We are most grateful.

A word or two about my role in the ministry of St. John's—what you might reasonably expect from my presence here: Officially (there's that word again) your Vestry, with the approval of the Bishop, has signed me on as a long term supply priest, engaging me to be with you on Sundays and Wednesdays to preside at the Eucharist and help provide pastoral care, as well as be available to assist in the event of an emergency, to sit-in on Vestry and parish committee meetings, and to take part in special parish activities when appropriate, during your rector's leave of absence. (When you add time for sermon preparation, handling emails and phone calls, preparing candidates for baptism, etc., and time on the road—I'm considered a commuter from G-castle to C-ville, so mileage is not reimbursed separately—it works out to a half-time position.)

You may have noticed that I said "sit-in on" Vestry meetings. That's because as a "long term supply priest" I am not a member of the Vestry, but am available to your Wardens and Vestry in an advisory capacity; I do not have what is called "ecclesiastical authority"; that authority resides with the Vestry, and the Bishop, of course. (On the other hand, when you need a priest, I'm your man!)

By now the word has pretty much gotten around that St. John's is actually my home parish. Jack Potter presented me to Bishop John Craine for confirmation in 1972, Lucy and I were married here on June 15, 1975 (Sunday morning!), the people of St. John's helped to put me through seminary (as did Lucy, with help from the Diocese), and I was ordained a deacon from here in June of 1981. There's a special place in

my heart for the ministry of St. John's choir, since I sang in it from 1971 to 1978; I also served a term on the Vestry. Lucy directed the Calico Cat, a pre-school program that used to meet downstairs off the undercroft, as well as taught in the Crawfordsville public schools, until we left for seminary.

Lucy and I are both retired—Lucy, from the Old National Trail Special Education Cooperative of Putnam County as their coordinator of services for students on the autistic spectrum and I, from full-time ordained ministry, first, on the staff of St. Paul's in Indianapolis, then, as rector of St. Andrew's in Greencastle (twenty-three and a half years). Lucy keeps busy as an independent consultant for students, their parents, and their teachers who live with autism and for the teaching of reading; I'm keeping busy

helping out here and co-chairing the board that is trying to get the homeless shelter in Greencastle back up and running. Lucy knits, and I write music, when we have time; we also enjoy going to plays and concerts, as often as we can. Our older daughter, Leah, who grew up in St. John's, and her children, Sage and Artemis, live in Penngrove, California, a bit north of San Francisco, where Elaine, our younger daughter lives.

Well, now you've learned a little more about us. I look forward to learning more about you during the time we will be spending together in the coming months.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Bill Wieland

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Christmas Eve Stable Service for the Whole Family

Join us at Larry Baumgardner's farm at 5:00pm on Saturday, December 24 for a special stable service in the barn complete with live animals and your favorite Christmas carols. Directions:

Take US 136 east out of Crawfordsville and go through Mace. You will pass Walnut School on the right in about 2 miles. The house is about ¼ mile further on the left hand side of the road. It is a red brick which sits close to the road. The number on the mailbox is 8092. Park near the barn.

Join us for refreshments after the service.

Regular Office Hours

Monday 8am – noon
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30am – 3:30pm

Father Bill is available on Wednesdays from 9:30am until 1:00pm and by appointment, as well as on Sundays. Contact him at home at (765) 653-3548 to schedule an appointment.

Holiday Office Hours

Monday, Dec 19 8am – noon
Tuesday, Dec 20 8:30am – 3:30pm
Wednesday, Dec 21 OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, Dec 22 8:30am – 3:30pm
Friday, December 23 8:30am – 3:30pm

Monday, Dec 26 OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec 27 8:30am – 3:30pm
Wednesday, Dec 28 OFFICE CLOSED
Thursday, Dec 29 8:30am – 3:30pm
Friday, December 23 8:30am – 3:30pm

Fr. Bill will be on vacation from December 26 through January 3. Pastoral care concerns during this time should be directed to Paul Moehling, Senior Warden, at 366-1726.

DEADLINE for submission of Newsletter articles for January 2012 is Tuesday, December 20. Please email articles to stjohnscville@gmail.com or contact the church office at 362-2331.

Words of encouragement are appreciated for:

Bonnie Chamberlain who was in a car accident recently and is recuperating at Kindred Care in Indianapolis. Cards can be sent to Bonnie at: Kindred Transitional Care and Rehabilitation, 5226 East 82nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Chas Cooksey who has been ill and unable to attend church. Cards can be sent to Chas at: 6582 N. County Road 490 W., Greencastle, IN 46135. Chas can be reached by phone at (765) 721-7513.

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Are you looking for a way to serve at St. John's? **St. Martha's and Andrew's Guild** is looking for men and women to organize volunteers and provide refreshments for Coffee Hour as well as for funerals and other parish functions. Contact Susie Smith at 362-7012 to learn more about the guild and service opportunities.

Volunteers needed for the Montgomery County Women's Lenten Breakfast. St. John's has been asked to host this event on Saturday, March 25th. If you are interested in helping with set up, cooking, serving, or clean up, please contact Susie Smith at 362-7012 as soon as possible so we can determine if we have adequate volunteer coverage. We need at least 10 volunteers to make this event possible.

Thanks from Adrienne Ashbaugh...

We've all heard that "it takes a village to raise a child." Sometimes it takes a village to walk with a person as he ends his earthly journey and that is what we experienced over the past two years. There are no words to say how thankful I am for all the prayers, all the assistance, all the hours of sitting with Bill that you have done.

When we first began attending St. John's over forty years ago, it was the sense of community that attracted and held us. We were not from Indiana and our families lived in other parts of the country. St. John's became our extended family and in the last two years we were more aware of this than ever. That sense of family and hospitality is God's gift to St. John's and is what sustains us through all things.

So, from Joe, Louise and Marc and me, we say thank you for your loving care.

Donations Needed for FISH Food Pantry

The food pantry, located next door at First United Methodist Church, provides food to families in the community who are in need. FISH is happy to receive donations of non-perishable food items so when you are at the grocery store, consider picking up a few extra items. In addition, FISH is in need of plastic drink bottles to distribute laundry detergent and shampoo. Donations may be placed in the bins in the hallway into the sanctuary.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The children have been rehearsing for a Christmas play depicting the birth of Jesus, to be presented at the 10:30am service on December 18. The children are learning traditional carols and have enjoyed choosing costumes for their roles. Rehearsals take place during Sunday School, so we would love to see all of 'St. John's Kids' as often as possible over the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your help. For more information about children's programs, contact Dylan Thomas at theoakdoor@live.com or 918-5101 or Jane Gallagher at 362-2085 or ljgallagher@accelplus.net.

The **REINdear (Reaching Everyone in Need)** program provides gifts to children who would otherwise go without presents during the Christmas season. St. John's has committed to providing gifts to 40 children and there are still several children in need of gifts. If you are interested, select a bag from Whitlock Hall, sign your name on the cutout tag, and tack the tag to the Christmas tree. Completed bags should be returned **by December 11**. Contact Ellen Ball at 362-1357 or balltwar@sbcglobal.net with questions.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for January 29th. Vestry members, now is the time to start gathering together the information you need for your committee reports...

SUNDAY SERVERS: December 2011

Date/Service Time	Lector	Lay Eucharistic Minister(s)	Crucifer/Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally	Altar Flowers
Dec. 4th 8:00am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Teresa Anderson		CJ Charles & Cyndy Fields	Barb Easterling and Susan Albrecht	No regular altar flowers during Advent and Christmas
Dec. 4th 10:30am	Larry Ashbaugh	Larry Ashbaugh Vern Easterling	Steve Charles/ Kristen Albrecht & CJ Charles				
Dec. 11 8:00am	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul	Logan Long		Carole Meyer and Chas Cooksey	Tom Twarek & Vern Easterling	
Dec. 11 10:30am	Betty Cully	John and Betty Cully	Mike Lohorn/ Peggy Lohorn & Paul Moehling				
Dec. 18 8:00am	Barbara Penney	Barbara Penney	Cyndy Fields		Betty Culley and Meegan Reidy	Cindy and Jim Smith	
Dec. 18 10:30am	Steven Gillan	Steven Gillan Mark Hudson	Randy Pickering/ Elaine Pickering & Ben Green				
Dec. 24 5:00pm	Dan Booher	Larry Baumgardner & Meribeth Kussmaul	Ben and Joe Green		Sheila Evans and Jane Gallagher		
Dec. 24 9:30pm	Elaine Pickering	Randy & Elaine Pickering	Paul Moehling/ Mike & Peggy Lohorn				
Dec. 25 10:30am	Barbara Penney	Barbara Penney	Steve and CJ Charles			Ellen Ball and Nancy Bennett	

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a substitute and contact the church office as soon as possible so we can keep the schedule up-to-date. Thank you!

DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7am Men's Bible Study CHURCH OFFICE OPEN 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	2	3
4 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School	5 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon	6 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	7 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm Fr. Bill out of office today 12:15pm Noonday Prayer	8 7am Men's Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	9	10
11 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School <u>REINdear gift bags due</u>	12 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon 5:30pm Executive Committee	13 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	14 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 12:15pm Eucharist	15 7am Men's Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	16	17
18 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School 10:30am Children's Play Decorating the church following 10:30am service	19 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon 7pm Vestry	20 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm <u>January 2012 newsletter</u> <u>articles due to church ofc.</u>	21 7:30am Centering Prayer <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u> 12:15pm Eucharist	22 7am Men's Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	23 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm Stable Service 9:10pm Christmas carols 9:30pm Festival Holy Eucharist
Dec 25 & Jan 1 CHRISTMAS DAY and NEW YEARS DAY 10:30am Eucharist ONLY NO Adult Forum or Sunday School	26 <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u> <u>Fr. Bill on vacation all</u> <u>week</u>	27 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	28 7:30am Centering Prayer <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u> NO Eucharist	29 7am Men's Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	30 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	31

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