



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

January 2012

Assisting Priest's Article

Dear People of God in St. John's,

Whenever I'm asked the question—and it's a question I'm frequently asked: "What exactly do you Episcopalians believe?", I almost always turn to the old Anglican standby: "The way we pray is the way we believe." (It's even fancier when you say it in Latin, but what matters is the honest invitation behind the statement: "If you want to know what we believe, come see what our worship is like.") Anglicanism can boast some pretty impressive speculative theologians (notice I didn't say "impressive *systematic* theologians"), but we don't go out of our way to formulate a lot of doctrinal statements. Our liturgy pretty much says it all.

The order we follow for Holy Baptism is a perfect example. Several times a year, whether there any candidates for baptism or not, it is customary for the members of the congregation to renew the vows that were made (most likely for them) at their baptism. After those who have assembled are asked to "reaffirm [their] renunciation of evil and renew [their] commitment to Jesus Christ", the presiding minister begins asking the questions. "Do you believe in God the Father?" is the first question, and the people respond, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." In a series of questions and answers, presiding minister and congregation together recite the Apostles' Creed, which was likely first used in Second Century Rome. The creed, rather than offering a list of propositions that we must subscribe to, describes a relationship of trust: "I believe *in* God, the Father almighty...I believe *in* Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord...I believe *in* the Holy Spirit." (You might well interpret the term "almighty" differently from the way I might, but what matters is the relationship with God we both claim to enjoy, the relationship with God we share together.)

What the presiding minister goes on to ask of those assembled summarizes what we consider important about our faith: that it's important to "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers", to "persevere in resisting evil, and whenever [we] fall into sin" (notice the assumption that we *will* fall into sin) "repent and return to the Lord" (notice too the assumption that we *can* repent and return to the Lord), to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ", to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving [our] neighbor as [ourselves]" (defining rather nicely our neighbor as *everybody*), to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (how much leeway does that last one allow with regard to the way we are supposed to treat our enemies, I wonder?).

The next time someone asks you, "So what do you Episcopalians believe?", show them the Prayer Book and have them take a look at the Baptismal Covenant. (Or you could invite them to church!)

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Fr. Bill Wieland

ANNUAL MEETING

St. John's Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29th. There will be one worship service at 9:30am followed by a potluck and the Annual Meeting. Your attendance is requested as we conduct important church business including the election of three new Vestry members. Candidates for Vestry are Larry Bennett, Dan Booher, Betty Culley, Mark Kusmaul, and Debbie Swanson.

Current Vestry members are asked to submit their reports to the church office (in electronic format if at all possible) **no later than Monday, January 16th**. Email reports to stjohnscville@gmail.com.

What's Next for St. John's?

The short answer is an interim priest! The Rev. Debra Kissinger, Canon for Transitions, will be at St. John's on **January 8th** to talk to the congregation about our interim priest and to outline steps going forward. Please join her in Whitlock Hall at 9:15am.

Church Communication

In an effort to be more eco-friendly and to save on postage, *Saint John's Spirit* is now available on the church's 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.

Church Office Hours

Monday 8am – noon
Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 8:30am – 3:30pm
(765) 362-2331

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.

Recycling is Good Stewardship

We are stewards of all God has given us. We can honor creation by reducing the number of things we use/buy, reusing what we can, and recycling the rest.

Instead of using plastic bags next time you go shopping, take along your large red St. John's Episcopal Church cloth bag. If you haven't yet received yours, see Helen Hudson. The Outreach Committee has purchased these bags for families in the church. If you would like additional bags, they are available for \$12.

Each week at St. John's volunteers take recyclable materials to Walden Transport & Recycle on E. Wabash Ave. Walden recycles just about anything – see list below - and consider taking your household recyclables there as well.

Around the church you may have noticed blue recycling bins. Please use these ONLY for paper and paper products such as cardboard, paperboard, newspaper and magazines. Trash should not be placed in these bins. The recycling bin in the kitchen is for plastic, glass, cans, etc. Please rinse out items before placing in the bin. Thank you for your assistance!

Items Accepted at Walden:

Cardboard/gaylords

Paperboard: cereal & food boxes, egg cartons, etc.

Newspapers including all inserts and ads

Paper: office paper, junk mail, envelopes, folders, etc.

Magazines/phone books/catalogues

Books: soft cover/hard cover

Plastic bottles: water/drink, shampoo, laundry soap, all plastic food containers (clean)

Glass: drink bottles, glass jars, window glass, food jars (clean)

Shrink/bubble wrap, plastic wrappers, packing plastic

Plastic banding/strapping (all colors)

Plastic bags (grocery/department store)

Aluminum: cans, foil, food containers (clean)

Steel cans: drink cans/food cans (clean)

Styrofoam: drink cups, egg cartons, etc. (but no Styrofoam packing material)

Additional Items Accepted at Walden*:

Skids/pallets of all sizes; appliances (refrigerators, washers, dryers, microwaves, stoves, etc.); computers & printers; metal desks & cabinets; any type of steel/metal; used motor oil; vinyl siding (no insulation or wood attached)

**If you need help unloading, call Walden first at 362-2182 to make sure someone is there to help you.*

Items that are NOT Accepted at Walden:

Trash, food products, carpet/vinyl flooring, clothes/blankets, paint cans with paint, tires, Styrofoam packing material, wood building material (2x4 boards, etc.), fiberglass

White Elephant Potluck & Gift Exchange

The adults of the church are invited to the White Elephant Potluck and Gag Gift Exchange on Friday, January 6th, starting at 6pm at the Yount's Mill Bed & Breakfast (home of Alan and Brookie White). Contact Susan Albrecht at 361-0036 or susiequsie23@sbcglobal.net or Elaine Pickering at 362-8163 or elainepickering@yahoo.com for details. Join us for an evening of fun, food and fellowship!

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sunday School for ages 3 through 5th grade meets on Sunday mornings from 9:15am-10:15am and child care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers is available from 9am-11:30am. There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 1st, New Year's Day, but the children will celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 8th during the Sunday School hour. Parents, if you have a child who is not involved in Sunday School and want information, please contact Jane Gallagher at 362-2085 or ljgallagher@accelplus.net. If your child is above fifth grade and you would like to see a class started for him/her, please let us know.

ADULT FORUM

Spiritual autobiographical writing continues from January 15th through February 19th during the Adult Forum hour, 9:15-10:15am on Sunday mornings. During Lent (starting February 26th), Mary Angela Cooley will facilitate a discussion of Philip Gulley's latest work entitled *The Evolution of Faith: How God Is Creating a Better Christianity*. In this book Gulley proposes a fresh direction for Christianity and articulates a Christianity that, while faithful to the priorities of Jesus, can help its adherents live happily, peacefully, and productively in our complex world. Gulley is a Quaker pastor and author from Danville, IN. Contact Helen Hudson at 362-3603 or hhudson@cville.k12.in.us for details.

Looking for a way to serve God? St. John's is looking for VOLUNTEERS!

➤The **Property Committee** is seeking volunteers to assist with the upkeep of the church building and grounds. Please contact Jim Suren at (765) 918-2716.

➤**Newsletter editor:** Do you have computer skills and enjoy writing/editing? We're looking for an editor (or editors) for the newsletter. Putting the newsletter together is a great creative outlet! Please contact the church office if you are interested.

➤**Coffee hour hosts:** Choose your level of involvement – once or twice a year, quarterly, monthly, or whatever suits your schedule. Sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board.

➤**Altar flowers:** There are still a number of dates available in 2012 including in January. Sign up on the calendar on the bulletin board near the credenza outside of Whitlock Hall.

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

LOOKING AHEAD....

*Planning for the **77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church** in the US, meeting in Indianapolis at Victory Field **July 2-12, 2012**, is gearing up. An average of **300 volunteers** will be needed each day and the tasks are many and varied. A solid core group of volunteers who can work each day is particularly needed. Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to serve. For more information, go to www.generalconvention.org. Under 'Attendee Resources' click on 'Volunteer Information' and then click on 'Volunteer website' under 'To Sign Up.' Here you can access the Convention schedule and register as a volunteer. If you do register, you will receive an email by March with details about volunteer shifts. Kim Smith is the contact at the Diocese and she may be reached at smith@indyio.org or 800-669-5786 or 317-926-5454. Randy and Elaine Pickering are St. John's delegates to the convention and Sue and Ed Fain are alternates.*

SUNDAY SERVERS: January 2012

Date/Service Time	Lector	Lay Eucharistic Minister(s)	Crucifer/Acolyte(s)	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally	Altar Flowers
Jan. 1st 10:30am	Barbara Penney	Jim Suren & Marc Hudson	Randy Pickering/Cyndy Fields & Ben Green		Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	Barb Easterling & Tom Twarek	
Jan. 8th 8:00am	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Teresa Anderson		CJ Charles & Cyndy Fields	Susan Albrecht & Ellen Ball	
Jan. 8th 10:30am	Susan Albrecht	Randy & Elaine Pickering	Steve Charles/ Kristin Albrecht & CJ Charles	CJ Charles & Kitty Haffner			
Jan. 15 8:00am	Judy Wynne	Vern Easterling	Peter Swanson		Carole Meyer & Jo Tussey	Vern Easterling & Cindy Smith	
Jan. 15 10:30am	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul & Dan Booher	Mike Lohorn/ Logan Long & Ben Green	Sharon & Chris Redmaster			
Jan. 22 8:00am	Dylan Thomas	Barbara Penney	Cyndy Fields		Betty Culley & Meegan Reidy	Nancy Bennett & Ed Fain	Nancy & Larry Bennett
Jan. 22 10:30am	Nancy Bennett	Adrienne Ashbaugh & Elaine Pickering	Randy Pickering/ Joe Green & Paul Moehling	Susan & Brian Albrecht			
Jan. 29 9:30am	Helen Hudson	Barbara Penney and Marc Hudson	Paul Moehling/ Mike & Peggy Lohorn	Alex & Ann Lebedeff	Sheila Evans & Jane Gallagher	John Culley & Barb Easterling	

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!

JANUARY 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am Eucharist ONLY NO Adult Forum or Sunday School	2 <u>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</u>	3 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm Fr. Bill returns from vacation	4 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 12:15pm Eucharist	5 7am Men’s Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	6 Epiphany 6pm WHITE ELEPHANT POTLUCK at Yount’s Mill Bed & Breakfast Contact Susan Albrecht (361-0036) or Elaine Pickering (362-8163)	7
8 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Rev. Canon Debra Kissinger speaks to parishioners in Whitlock Hall	9 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon 5:30pm Exec. Committee	10 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	11 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 12:15pm Eucharist	12 7am Men’s Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon <u>Reports for Annual Mtg due to church office</u> 7pm Vestry	17 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	18 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 12:15pm Eucharist	19 7am Men’s Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	20 <u>February newsletter articles due to church office</u>	21
22 8am & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School	23 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon	24 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm	25 7:30am Centering Prayer <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 12:15pm Eucharist	26 7am Men’s Bible Study <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm 7pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 ANNUAL MEETING 9:30am Eucharist Potluck & Annual Mtg. following worship	30 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8am-noon	31 <i>CHURCH OFFICE OPEN</i> 8:30am – 3:30pm				

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