

Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church + Rev. Jan Oller, Priest-in-Charge
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I love this image and understanding of what we are as the church! The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) tells us that we are to “go and make disciples of all nations.” We are not to sit in our wonderful church building and wait for people to come to us. As disciples, it is our responsibility – and our joy - to spread the good news of God, come to earth in Jesus the Christ.

This is not a solitary endeavor but one of community. We need each other to be most fully what God envisions for us. We support each other

– together we build a community that can share the love of Christ both within and outside these walls.

This is not to deny that our time within the walls is valuable and even necessary. It is here, I hope, that on Sundays and every other day you are here you can find peace and strength for the journey. Life is not always easy and the holidays can be particularly difficult for those who have lost loved ones or who are dealing with life's seeming unfairness and callousness. To counter the “slings and arrows of outrageous fortune” (thank you William Shakespeare in “Hamlet”) your presence at St. John's can mean you find a way forward for yourself or for the person sitting next to you in the pew or at Bible Study or EfM or Wednesday midweek service, at choir practice or any of the many events that happen in this place.

There is much in our daily life that we cannot control. We can, however, seek refuge, peace, grace and renewal of life through participation in worship at St. John's. The Eucharist is a time when we gather around the table to share in the life-giving sacrifice of Christ. The bread and wine are outward and visible symbols of God's love for us. We are the church together.

As we begin 2014, we have a chance to recommit ourselves to being part of St. John's and of caring for each other within and outside of these walls. Pray and discern where your gifts and talents may be used by God to help our world become a better place. Reach out a hand across the aisle to someone new to us. Say hello to someone you haven't spoken to recently at coffee hour. The church is truly one place where we are more together than we are separately. God calls you – yes, you – to be a shining beacon to all that is possible when we accept the love of God for each of us. –*Rev. Jan*

Congregational Meeting



Our annual meeting is set for **January 26th** in Whitlock Hall. We will have one service at **9 a.m.** that day, followed by a pitch-in and the Annual Meeting.

We will **elect new Vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Convention** (held in October 2014 in Muncie). The 2014 budget, as adopted by the Vestry, will be presented together with reports from the various ministry teams. Please join us!

January 7 & 8 at 7 p.m. in Whitlock the proposed 2014 Budget. This budget John's in 2014. While we are not yet at a budget, which is one of our visions, we in 2013. We will be requesting a Mission Diocese to help us meet our dreams in self- sustaining in 2015.



Hall. Come and discuss reflects our vision for St. completely balanced are closer than we were Strategy Grant from the 2014. We hope to be

The income presented in the 2014 budget represents your pledges and past experience with plate and investment income. *(Thank you to all who pledged as your commitments give us hope for the future!)* The expenses reflect requests from chairs of the various Ministry Teams as well as past experience and some hopes and dreams. During 2013 we were able to reduce expenses in a variety of ways and believe those reductions can carry forward into 2014. At the same time, we know that the roof on the church itself is going to need to be replaced in the next several years so we are committing to fund a building reserve that hopefully will enable us to pay that cost, when it occurs, from our reserve rather than needing a capital campaign. Copies of the draft budget are on the bulletin board. Join us on January 7 or January 8 to review the 2014 budget and ensure that the Vestry has your comments when they will vote to adopt the budget on January 15, 2014. We hope to see you there!



Lovers of tea! Join us on Sunday, **January 5 at 4 p.m.** in Whitlock Hall for a tea celebrating Epiphany. The hosts for 2014 are The Athenas. Wear your festive clothes- hats are most welcome!

During January and February at Adult Forum, we will be watching and discussing the PBS series

GOD IN AMERICA. Religious liberty is one of the hallmarks of American society. And yet, too many of us don't know the religious history and events that have shaped America as "One Nation under God" and what lies behind the "In God we Trust" that appears on our currency. Watch and discuss with us during Adult Forum, **beginning at 9:15 a.m. in Whitlock Hall on January 5, 2014.**

We Need Some Crazy Christians!

We need some crazy Christians. Sane, sanitized Christianity is killing us.
That may have worked once upon a time, but it won't carry the Gospel anymore.
We need some crazy Christians like Mary Magdalene and Harriet Beecher Stowe.
Christians crazy enough to believe that God is real and that Jesus lives.
Crazy enough to follow the radical way of the Gospel.
Crazy enough to believe that the love of God is greater than all the powers of evil and death.
Crazy enough to believe, as Dr. King often said, that though
"the moral arc of the universe is long, it bends toward justice."
We need some Christians crazy enough to believe that children don't have to go to bed hungry;
that the world doesn't have to be the way it often seems to be;
that there is a way to lay down our swords and shields, down by the riverside;
that as the slaves used to sing, "There's plenty good room in my Father's kingdom,"
because every human being has been created in the image of God,
and we are all equally children of God and meant to be treated as such.

The Right Reverend Michael B. Curry, XI Bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

From **January 27 through February 3**, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, will teach The Big Class, a program of ChurchNext. The course will expand on Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus published by Church Publishing Inc. The book is based on "We Need Some Crazy Christians," a widely acclaimed sermon the bishop preached at the Episcopal Church's General Convention in 2012. Bishop Curry will moderate the course and answer online questions during the week of The Big Class. Participants can take the course anytime during the week at www.churchnext.tv. **No special software is required.**

The Big Class is a worldwide online course for all who want to go further in their walk with Christ, and is free to everyone, everywhere.

In his book, Bishop Curry writes, "We need some crazy Christians. Sane, sanitized Christianity is killing us. That may have worked once upon a time, but it won't carry the Gospel anymore. We need some crazy Christians like Mary Magdalene and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Christians crazy enough to believe that God is real and that Jesus lives. Crazy enough to follow the radical way of the Gospel. Crazy enough to believe that the love of God is greater than all the powers of evil and death."

"It's exciting to see all the new ways technology is being leveraged to help folks go into a deeper awareness of and relationship with the living God," said Bishop Curry. "Online education is an excellent example of it. It allows folks to learn, to interact, exchange ideas and, ultimately, to share what they learn with others. The process is exactly what we as Christians are called to do; an online classroom just gives us one more way to do it." To learn more about The Big Class visit churchnextblog.wordpress.com/the-big-class/.

PATHWAYS TO PARISH VITALITY



Last September, Rev. Jan, Jim Suren, and Chas Cooksey attended a retreat/workshop at Waycross where they learned about a new Diocesan initiative called "Pathways to Vitality". This initiative challenges us to come up with and implement an idea that will help St. John's become more vital in one form or another. The many ideas that were submitted were reviewed by the Vestry, who chose the idea of giving thanks to our first responders in Crawfordsville through a lunch and the opportunity for discussion.

Beginning **Saturday, January 18, 2014**, those who work for the Police Department and the Dispatch Office will be offered a meal in Whitlock Hall as a way of saying thank you to them for all of the work they do for our community.

Subsequent meals in February, March, and April will be provided for the Sheriff's Department, the Crawfordsville Firefighters, and the Corrections Officers. Parishioners will be asked to contribute food to these events, as well as be invited to attend (information will be posted on the bulletin board early in January). If you have questions or concerns and most of all if you would like to be part of this special program, contact Rev. Jan, Jim Suren, Chas Cooksey, or Meegan Reidy.



Jesus said "Whatsoever you do for the least .." **and St John's did.** **Thank you** all so much for the children's gifts and the help delivering them to the fieldhouse. 60 Montgomery county kids had a happier Christmas because of your generosity. The Outreach committee thanks each of you for participation in all the projects this year, and is planning a lot of fun working together for 2014. – *Ellen Ball*



Bring those ink and toner cartridges!

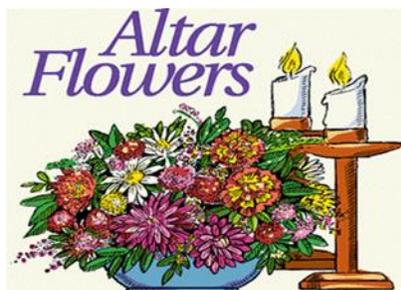
Last month we raised \$16 to help with the purchase of office and janitorial supplies as a result of your donations of used cartridges! Any size or type of used ink and toner cartridges, including 3-in-1s, are welcome. Place your used cartridges in the white bowl on the credenza. Thank you!



Human needs assistance

- such as help with rent, utilities and medical bills - is a growing need. Rector's Discretionary Funds are one way to help meet these needs. After conversation with the Vestry, we decided to deliver most of those funds to The HUB- an

ecumenical ministry located at New Bethel Fellowship on Mill Street. They have trained personnel who help the person in need evaluate all of the various options for assistance, such as may be available through Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Township Trustee, and a variety of other social service agencies and their own resources. Because The HUB has trained intake personnel, they are better able to evaluate true needs and to garner assistance from a wider number of resources. If you receive a request for assistance, please refer the person to The HUB, knowing that our funds are given to The HUB so that they can be used appropriately and wisely.



Sign Up! Our Altar Flower and Coffee Hour sign ups are looking pretty bleak. The sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Won't you help by signing up to provide flowers or to host coffee hour one Sunday? Talk to Betty Culley -Altar Flowers or Mary Angela Cooley - Coffee Hour Hosting.



Scott Oller's "Won an Award" Chili Recipe

- 1-1/3 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 large onion
- 1 16 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 16 oz. can tomato puree
- 1 16 oz. can light red kidney beans (drain and rinse beans)
- 1 16 oz. jar Pace brand medium spice chunky salsa
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 cup water



Dice onion. Brown ground beef in skillet with half of onion and black pepper. While onion and meat are browning, heat all other ingredients in sauce pan. When meat and onion are finished browning, lift out to drain and mix in with other ingredients in sauce pan. Simmer at low heat for 30 minutes. Stir occasionally to keep from sticking. Add more water if needed for consistency.

Additional serving suggestion: Prepare thin or angel hair spaghetti. Serve chili over spaghetti. Top with grated cheddar cheese and diced onion. Have oyster crackers on the side.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Meals on Wheels 7 p.m. Choir	3	4 <i>(Oller: First Christian Elders Retreat)</i>
5 8 & 10:30 a. HE 9:15 a.: Christian Education 3 p. EfM (Library) 4 p. Epiphany Tea (Whitlock)	6 <i>(Oller: Day Off)</i>	7 10 a. –Bible Study 7 p. – Budget Hearing (Whitlock)	8 7:30 a. Centering Prayer (Whitlock) 12:15 p. Midweek Service (Whitlock) 7 p.- Budget Hearing (Whitlock)	9 Meals on Wheels 7 p.m. Choir	10	11 <i>(Black: Private Party – Whitlock)</i>
12 8 & 10:30 a. HE 9:15 a.: Christian Education 3 p. EfM (Whitlock)	13 <i>(Oller: Day Off)</i>	14 10 a. –Bible Study	15 7:30 a. Centering Prayer (Whitlock) 12:15 p. Midweek Service (Whitlock) 7 p - Vestry	16 Meals on Wheels 7 p.m. Choir	17	18 Pathways to Vitality Luncheon (Whitlock)
19 8 & 10:30 a. HE 9:15 a.: Christian Education 3 p. EfM (Whitlock)	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday-Office Closed	21 9:25 a. Wabash Chapel 10 a. –Bible Study	22 7:30 a. Centering Prayer (Whitlock) 12:15 p. Midweek Service (Whitlock)	23 Meals on Wheels 7 p.m. Choir	24	25 <i>(9a.-12p. – Kussmaul/Divorce Recovery Workshop- Library)</i>
26 9 a. –HE 10:15 Brunch & Annual Meeting 3 p. EfM (Whitlock)	27 <i>(Oller: Day Off)</i>	28 9:25 a. Wabash Chapel 10 a. –Bible Study	29 7:30 a. Centering Prayer (Whitlock) 12:15 p. Midweek Service (Whitlock)	30 Meals on Wheels 7 p.m. Choir	31	

Date & Time	Lector	LEM	Crucifer/Acolyte	Greeters	Altar Guild	Offering Tally	Altar Flowers	Coffee Hour Host	LEVs
Jan 5 – 8 a.m.	A. Ashbaugh	A. Ashbaugh	P. Swanson		S. Evans & J. Gallagher		Christmas	OPEN	DBooher & H. Hudson
10:30 a.m.	N. Bennett	D. Booher & B. Culley	S. Charles & CJ Charles	J&K Gary		N. Bennett & S. Albrecht			
Jan. 12 – 8 a.m.	R. Pickering	R. Pickering	C. Fields		C. Meyer & J. Tussey		Open	Open	
10:30 a.m.	MA Colley	M. Hudson & M. Kussmaul	S. Hildebrand	B. Culley & K. Haffner		T. Twarek & A. White			
Jan. 19 – 8 a.m.	J. Suren	J. Suren	K. Haffner		CJ Charles & C. Fields		Reidy	Open	R & E Pickering
10:30 a.m.	S. Evans	K. Roberts & A. Ashbaugh	R. Pickering & C. Cooksey	S & S Hildebrand		E. Fain & J. Roberts			
Jan. 26 9 a.m. ONE SERVICE	E. Fain	L. Baumgardner & R. Pickering	S. Charles & P. Lohorn	M & H Hudson	J. Yerkes & T. Lawrence	J. Gary & B. Easterling	Oller	NONE-Annual Meeting	

Meals on Wheels:

- Jan. 2 – Terry Lawrence and Carole Meyer
- Jan. 9 – Jerry and Cindy Smith
- Jan. 16 – Sam and Susie Hildebrand
- Jan. 23 – Jerry and Cindy Smith
- Jan. 30 – Susie Hildebrand and Jan Oller

Worship Leaders: If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a substitute and let the church office know as soon as possible. Adrienne Ashbaugh creates the schedule for greeters, lectors, LEMs, acolytes, and crucifers. If you have scheduling questions, please contact her at (765) 362-6845.