



Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church + Rev. Jan Oller, Priest-in-Charge
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Some words to ponder from Br. Geoffrey Tristram of the Society of St. John the Evangelist:¹

“Twenty years ago Carl McCunn, a wildlife photographer, travelled into the remote heart of Alaska, intent on spending several months close to nature, hunting and fending for himself. But he miscalculated. He ran out of food, and the weather turned exceptionally bad. He became weaker and weaker, and recorded every day in his diary his growing despair and crippling frostbite.

But friends, who were wondering how he was managing, asked State Troopers to fly over his camp to see if he was OK. Carl ran out, full of excitement, when he heard the plane, and he wrote in his diary that he was so elated to see the plane that “I recall raising my hand, shoulder high, and shaking my fist – it was like a little cheer.” That was a big mistake – for that was the signal for “All OK – do not wait” – and the plane circled around, the pilot waved and flew off, thinking all was well. Carl had given the wrong signal. Three months later he was dead.

There is something haunting in this story. For me, it is a metaphor of life lived in isolation, where your signal of distress is either not noticed or misunderstood. A friend of mine who is a doctor said that isolation is probably the most common disease in America today. So many family units are fractured and more people live alone today than ever before in American history. The lack of interpersonal relationships causes severe loneliness to millions. Please look at me. Talk to me. ...

Gradually, day-by-day, in our brave new world, machines and technology offer us virtual connection, virtual communication, but there is no substitute for looking at another person in their eyes. Only connect with them, and you notice, you really begin to see that person.

Every day, it seems, there are fewer opportunities for the little chats and smiles which added together form a powerful glue bonding communities together, linking people together into livable units – opportunities to see the other, and to notice, to pick up the signals that we long to give to others. Look at me, notice me.

Jesus was walking one day through a great crowd of people. And right in the middle of the crowd was a little man called Zacchaeus – who was a tax collector. Now I am not very tall myself, and I know how he must have felt. I have often been in a crowd, and had to jump up and down for a quick glance over the tops of people's heads. But not only was Zacchaeus little in stature, he was also loathed by others because he was a tax collector. Socially ostracized, he must have felt isolated and lonely – and probably resentful and angry.

¹ <http://ssje.org/ssje/2011/11/15/not-waving-but-drowning-br-geoffrey-tristram/> (August 24, 2014).

But he was eager to see Jesus, so, small as he was, he climbed a sycamore tree so as to see Jesus as he passed by. And then this extraordinary thing happened. Amidst the huge crowd, Jesus suddenly stopped and looked up. He looked at Zacchaeus. He looked at him. That is what Jesus did time and time again. He looked deeply and lovingly at individuals. Numbers, statistics, did not interest him – but each precious and unique child of God did. Jesus looked deeply at Zacchaeus, and he picked up the signal. He saw the isolation, the pain, the profound need for healing and salvation. And Jesus said, “Come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

Jesus looked at him, loved him, and came to his home. It was to be a transforming encounter. Jesus looked at him and saw a beautiful, beloved child of God, not a greedy, dishonest outcast. And Zacchaeus changed under that loving gaze. He changed and started to become the beautiful person whom God made him to be. “For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”^(Lk 19:10)

... May we, as St. John’s Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville IN, always be willing to look up and say “come down and join us. Be with us and know that you are loved.” My prayer is that we become known as the church where we connect with one another and we push away the loneliness and isolation that is so often a part of contemporary life. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**



“Gratitude seems to be [the] shortest path to loving God with all our hearts and souls and to love one another as ourselves...” (Brother Anders)

This powerful message stands starkly simple against the bombardment of fear-inspiring news our airways are (especially recently) so over-laden with. As we go about our lives in this day and in this time, it is too easy to forget that question the Psalmist asks in Psalm 116:10 “How shall I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me?”

The Brothers of SSSJ recommend that we think of this longing in ourselves not just when we sit in formal worship, but daily and often. Try out this little guide as we continue this season of Ordinary Time, expectant at the start of a new school year and weighed by our concerns for the world.

1. Pray Your Gratitude: Start the day with gratitude. The best time to practice gratitude is first thing in the morning, even on Mondays. Alone, in quiet.
2. Keep Your Ears Open. People will want to thank you today. Listen for it.
3. Express Your Gratitude. Stop throughout the day and think about saying thanks to someone for something. You might be grateful for something that occurred years ago. That’s swell. Consider sending someone a surprise note about that.
4. Savor Your Life at the End of the Day. Take a moment to feel grateful for it.

This fall the Gratitude Team will be sharing some ways of saying thanks. Write to us and tell us some of your ways if you’d like to share. Thank you. *Helen Hudson Chair, Gratitude Team*



Big, huge, audacious goals – an update. Our meetings last spring led to three areas of focus:

(a) Outreach – what might we do that is a “signature” St. John’s event that might help draw in members of our community to see and participate in the love of God for each of us? We give thanks to Chris Short for asking if we might expand upon our Shrove Tuesday supper. The last couple of years we have had wonderful music as well as food and a project for a freewill offering. Intentional marketing efforts and perhaps some expansion of already existing structure may fit this goal. Next steps: the

Outreach and Parish Life groups will determine if this is feasible and who might be leaders to help this happen.

(b) Ministry to Wabash College – while recognizing that times have changed, there is still a real and deep desire to explore how we meet re-invigorate a ministry to the college. Thanks to Sam Vaught for several suggestions that are being explored. A Morning Prayer group is being formed that will meet on campus. St. John’s has provided Prayer Books and Bibles to help get this started. Professor Dan Rogers will be the faculty liaison for this worship service.

Bash-stock is the renamed and re-envisioned “Community Fair” to welcome freshmen to Wabash and for the wider student body to be reminded of how many wonderful opportunities there are for connection with Crawfordsville and each other. Larry Bennett will be coordinating the group of folks from St. John’s who will be present on August 30th when St. John’s makes its presence known through coasters with our name on it and water.

All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, offers a spectacular worship opportunity for the whole community. Some of the Wabash Glee Club members are anticipated to be part of our worship that day. Come and join with us for wonderful music and worship. A reception will follow- it’s a wonderful opportunity to invite your neighbors.

(c) Property – several people expressed a desire to re-envision our physical property and perhaps gain some ground that can become green space where we might meditate, pray, enjoy the beauty of nature. A initial exploration of some possibilities is underway with

Episcopal Retirement Homes, who is beginning to reach into Indiana with an eye for affordable housing. ERH will be opening their first Indiana property later this year in Anderson. That building used to be a YMCA that is being renovated into apartments for lower income seniors. This BHAG is in a very initial stage and we do not yet know what might come of this dream.

Your prayers are requested as we move to make each of our BHAGs a goal that is designed to help St. John's remain a vital, caring and fruitful Episcopal parish long into the future.

Upcoming Events



September 7th is the start of our next Christian Formation year for both children and adults. We will begin each Sunday at 9:15a., finishing at 10:15a.

For adults:

September 7: "Lives of Great Christians" – what makes a great Christian?

September 14: Lives of Great Christians, part 2

September 21: Lives of Great Christians, part 3

September 28: Music & Episcopal Worship, part 1

If you have questions about Adult Formation, please contact Will Turner.

Children are continuing to study the Old Testament this fall. They meet on Sundays downstairs in the Children's area. **Additional leaders are needed.** To comply with "Safeguarding God's Children" we need to have two adults at all times. *If you are interested in helping, please contact Abby Twarek.*



Invite your friends and neighbors to join us at St. John's on Sunday, September 21st which is the Back to Church Sunday.

People become part of a church for many reasons but one of the top reasons is because someone they knew asked them.

Who have you asked lately?



Do you need inspiration for your next holiday journey? Are you curious about what it's like to appear on a TV game show? Planning for those retirement

adventures? If you answered yes to at least one of those questions, consider attending the First Annual Travelogue event on **Sunday, 21 September 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Whitlock Hall.**

Our presenters will be:

- Christ Short talking about his 2011 appearances on Jeopardy
- Sam Vaught showing photos and discussing his trip to Ecuador in May 2010
- Char and Don Hester sharing their experiences in Bali and Singapore

Each presentation will be limited to ½ hour, including a Q&A period, so the event should be over by 9:00 at the latest. Bring your globes, iPads with Google Maps open or your world atlas and dream along with all of us! Refreshments will be served. Feel free to email Nancy Bennett if you have questions about this event.



We started a weekday Bible Study last year. Attendance has dropped off and so we took a break for August. If you are interested in re-starting this group, please let Rev. Jan know.

We met on Tuesdays at 10a and discussed the lessons for the upcoming Sunday.

And, if this is a ministry that no longer fits your needs or schedule, please let her know as well. Ministries have seasons, too!



"Saints" family camp at Waycross September 12-14, 2015. Please see the bulletin board in the hallway for more information. Scholarships are available for children if cost is an issue. This year, St. John's joins with St. Augustine's, Danville; St. Mark's, Plainfield; St. Matthew's, Indianapolis; and St. Timothy's, Indianapolis.

To register online: Go to <http://waycrosscenter.org/programs> and then click on the link on the top sentence that says: Register here for all Waycross events and partner events. The program is called "Saints" family camp. You will be given options for types of lodging and meals. You can also call: Toll Free: 800-786-2267 or the Office: 812-597-4241. *Kim Roberts can also assist with registration.*



Saturday, October 11th, at 7:30 pm, the new professional soccer team in Indianapolis - the Indy Eleven - will be playing a match against Minnesota FC. We are arranging for a group outing to this event, which is sure to be a wonderful time! If you're new to soccer, I promise you that you will be taken in by the intimacy and atmosphere of Carroll Stadium and the rowdy but upbeat fans in the Brickyard Battalion (which includes our own Christopher Short). A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. *See Susan Albrecht with questions.*



It is not too late to bring items for Undies and Outies. Especially needed are small size boys underwear and jeans or pants. Gently used items are fine.



Our September Outreach project is actually happening on August 30th. St. John's will be represented at "Bashstock", this year's title for the Wabash College Community Fair. Some St. John's folks, led by Larry Bennett, will be at the event to welcome Wabash students, and to let them know we would love to have them come be a part of our St. John's family. St. John's will be giving out water bottles and St. John's coasters.

Proceeds from Treasures and Trivia were Montgomery County Free Clinic and to Nourish weekend food for six more Montgomery County the total of children we have sponsored for this year to 8!). Thank you for your hard work, such good shoppers!



dispersed to the to sponsor a year's children (bringing upcoming academic donations, and being



Coming up in October is the Crop Walk. Helen Hudson will be our St. John's contact person for this event. A percentage of the money raised comes back to Montgomery County's FISH Pantry. Be watching for details.

St. John's is part of an ecumenical effort to celebrate diversity and to oppose bullying. We are joining with Wabash Ave. Presbyterian, St. Bernard's, First United Methodist, First Christian and Christ Lutheran Church for this special celebration. The event is scheduled for 4p on October 5th at Milligan Park. Ice cream and other treats will be available. *See Jim Suren or Mark Kussmaul with questions. More information will follow as the date gets closer.*

If you have questions about Outreach, ask Jane Gallagher



Bring those ink and toner cartridges!

Last month we raised \$26 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!

Sign Up! Our 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 host coffee hour one Sunday? *Talk to Mary Angela Cooley.*



Many of you pay your bills online through your bank's online bill payment system. I know I do and it makes my life easier in so many ways. One of my "bills" that I pay through an automatic bill payment is my tithe to St. John's.

Check and see if your bank offers you the option to set up St. John's as a vendor and have your pledge withdrawn automatically from your account. No stamp. No check to write. And best of all, St. John's receives your pledge timely whether you are physically present or not.

See Rev. Jan if you have questions.

Is this your gift? St. John's is looking for someone to coordinate and lead our efforts at communicating to the parish and to the community what we are doing and what we are about.

This is a volunteer position that would help Rev. Jan by making sure upcoming events get into the local newspapers, with helping Cindy Turner keep our Facebook and helping Will Turner with making sure our web pages are up-to-date, with asking photographers to be present at parish events so we have current snapshots to utilize in our marketing efforts and helping put the newsletter together. *If this ministry is calling your name, please see Rev. Jan.*

Reminder! Our Policies, Vestry Minutes, Financials and other important information can be found on our website: www.stjohnscville.org and on our bulletin boards. Stay informed!



Rev. Jan is available by cell phone (765-225-8554) or email (janet.oller@gmail.com). Office hours are by appointment.

September 2014 (as of 8/25/2014)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day – Office Closed	2 9:25 Wabash Chapel	3 7:30 Centering Prayer 12:15 Midday Service	4 Oller Day Off 7p- Choir	5 Oller Day Off	6 Oller- Ordination @ St. Peter's, Lebanon
7 8& 10:30 a – HE 9:15 Christian Formation 4-EFM	8 Oller-All Day @ Diocesan Office/Ember Day	9 9:25 Wabash Chapel	10 7:30 Centering Prayer 12:15 Midday Service 2p –Cigna Webinar	11 Oller Day Off 7p- Choir 6p-YSB Whitlock	12 Family Camp	13 Family Camp
14 8& 10:30 a – HE 9:15 Christian Formation 2p-St. Andrew's for Deanery Meeting 4-EFM Family Camp	15	16 9:25 Wabash Chapel	17 7:30 Centering Prayer 12:15 Midday Service 7-Vestry	18 Oller Day Off 7p- Choir	19 Oller Day Off	20
21 8& 10:30 a – HE 9:15 Christian Formation 11:30 Gratitude Team 4-EFM	22	23 9:25 Wabash Chapel	24 7:30 Centering Prayer 12:15 Midday Service	25 Oller Day Off 7p-Choir	26 Oller Day Off Episcopal Women Retreat	27 Oller @ Diocesan Office re 2015 General Convention mtg. Episcopal Women Retreat
28 8 & 10:30 a. – HE 9:15- Christian Formation 11:30 Liturgy Mtg 4-EFM EW Retreat	29	30 9:25 Wabash Chapel				9/27 cont'd: Divorce Recovery WorkshOp

September 2014 Worship Leaders

Sept 7	Lector	LEM	Crucifer	Acolyte	Greeters	Altar Guild	Counters	Flowers	LEVs
8a	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul	Cyndy Fields			S Evans & Jane Gallagher	Alan White & Jim Gary	Jane Gallagher	MA Cooley & Sue Fain
10:30a	Helen Hudson	Marc Hudson & Larry Baumgardner	Will Turner	Beth Turner	Albrechts				
Sept 14									
8a	Jim Suren	Jim Suren	Peter Swanson			Jerilyn Yerkes & Terry Lawrence	Nancy Bennett & Ed Fain	Ellen Ball & Tom Twarek	
10:30a	Rees Olander	John & Betty Culley	Steve Charles	CJ Charles	Ball/Twarek				
Sept 21									
8a	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Adrienne Ashbaugh	Cyndy Fields			CJ Charles & Cyndy Fields	Susan Albrecht & Tom Twarek		Randy & Elaine Pickering
10:30a	Judy Wynne	Kim Roberts & Dan Booher	Sam Hildebrand	Peggy Lohorn	Bennetts				
Sept 28									
8a	Randy Pickering	Randy Pickering	Kitty Haffner			Carole Meyer & Jo Tussey	John Roberts & Rees Olander		
10:30a	Sam Vaught	Adrienne Ashbaugh & Randy Pickering	Sam Vaught	Larry Baumgardner	MA Cooley & B Culley				

Meals on Wheels: Sept. 4- Cindy & Jerry Smith; Sept. 11: Susie & Sam Hildebrand; Sept. 18: Chris Short & Tom Twarek; Sept. 25: Cindy & Jerry Smith