



Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church + Rev. Jan Oller, Priest-in-Charge
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Many of us start the New Year with some "New Year's Resolutions." And, many of us don't do very well at keeping those resolutions for long. Why is it we human beings have such a difficult time changing our behavior, even when we know we should? Some experts say it takes at least 30 days for a habit to change. It's easy for 30 days to go by and not have changed our actions and therefore our habits are not changed. We shrug our shoulders and move on.

One habit we might want to consider changing as it benefits both us and our relationships with others is our lack of forgiveness. It's easy to stay mad at someone. It's less easy to forgive. And, we tend to conflate forgiveness and forgetting, which are two very different things.

Rob Voyle, an Episcopal priest who now spends most of his time teaching and coaching, suggests that one factor that makes forgiveness hard is that we don't know how to do it. Yes, I and others preach and exhort that we need to forgive- but we too often don't help people with **how** to forgive.¹

If we don't know how to forgive, then it becomes easy to simply move on with our anger and bitterness too often festering and relationships foundering or ending. That's sad and it is something we can do differently if we will it to be different. Rob noted that after attending a conference on forgiveness where nothing was said about how to forgive that "the end result was that this noted pastoral theologian made us feel better about not being able to forgive rather than how to find freedom by forgiving."

To learn how to forgive, Rob suggests these steps:

1. Think about someone you resent. Resentment is at the heart of un-forgiveness. How does your body feel when you think of that person you resent? Maybe tight shoulders or jaw? What emotions do you feel when you think about the person you resent. Anger?
2. Now, think about someone you used to resent but no longer do. What happened to move you from resenting that person to not resenting them? What are you doing differently with respect to that person?

Rob believes that resentment occurs when we demand today that yesterday they would have acted differently. When we think of the person that we no longer resent, we have given up

¹ See Rob Voyle's article in "The Appreciative Way" December 14, 2014.

demanding that yesterday's action be different. To forgive, we turn the demand for different action yesterday into a preference for different action in the future. He believes that turning a demand into a preference also allows us to maintain our values. Most often we resent someone because what they have done violated some value we hold. Our values are important and to say "it doesn't matter" is disingenuous and does not lead to forgiveness.

When we can identify the value that was violated, and find ways to protect those values going forward, we can reach a point to wish the person well. This is not about defining what "well" is. It is turning that person and the situation over to God, with trust and faith that God has the best interests of ourselves and the other in hand. Rob urges us to keep in mind that "forgiveness is independent of the person who hurt us. Forgiveness is purely about how I personally resolve what happened to me in the past."

Try it. See if this process helps you let loose of resentment, anger, frustration and disappointment. Remember that Jesus told us to forgive seven times seventy. We may never be best friends with the one who hurt us. We can, however, let go of what chains us to the past and look forward into the New Year with peace and grace. **Amen.**

Congregational Meeting



Our annual meeting is set for **January 25th** 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.** The 2015 budget, as adopted by the Vestry, will be presented together with reports from the various ministry teams. Please join us!

Vestry & Diocesan Delegate

»»»»»»»»»»»» NOMINATIONS ««««««««««««««««

Are you called to serve?



2015 Vestry Nominees are..... (We will elect 3 persons to serve 3 year terms)

Kitty Haffner -I began attending St. John's in 1978 upon the invitation from Meegan Reidy, and am currently co-chairing the Shepherding Committee with Meegan. In the past 36 years, I have served on various committees, chaired Parish Life, taught Children's Sunday School and Children's Worship, served on the Vestry as well as two search committees. I was even the Director of Calico Cat Nursery School (a real blast from the past) when we transitioned from a regular nursery to a Montessori influenced pre-school. Moving here from Fort Wayne, St. John's welcomed us and quickly became our "immediate" family, especially when Jim and Abbie arrived. Herm and I have worked together for the past 20 years, and about 3 years ago, I also started working with Seniors as they decide to either "age in place" or downsize to something more manageable and suitable for their needs.

Carole Meyer -For those of you who don't know me, I'm a retired RN, widow, mother of two grown daughters and grandmother of five. Kent and I moved to Crawfordsville in 1977 and were welcomed into the church two weeks later. Over the years I have been involved in the life of the church in various ways, serving on most committees at one time or another, as well as twice on the vestry. For the last several years I believe Rev. Jan and the vestry have worked diligently and successfully to strengthen our parish and begin to turn our efforts outward into the community. I would feel honored to become a part of that continuing movement.

Peter Swanson -I have been a member of St. John's since 1999. I serve as a L.E.M and Lector at the 08:00 service. I am retired from both the Military and my civilian positions.

2015 Diocesan Convention Delegate Nominees are....

(we will elect two persons to serve for the 2015 Diocesan Convention)

Jim Suren- I appreciated having the opportunity to serve at the 2014 Annual Indianapolis Diocesan Convention. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve again as a delegate. Our thriving Church & Parish Family are widely known & appreciated throughout Montgomery County. I would appreciate the opportunity to help us move forward in our Episcopal tradition. I make it part of my vision & mission to visit as many other church families as my schedule allows.

If you are interested in being nominated as a Delegate, please see Rev. Jan.

Reminder: At our 2014 Annual Meeting, we voted to amend our Bylaws to expressly permit absentee balloting. We also clarified and required that nominations for Vestry and Delegates & Alternates to Diocesan Convention must be published to the Parish at least 15 days before the meeting. Those names are included in this Newsletter, satisfying this requirement. This will enable anyone who wishes to use an Absentee Ballot to know the slate as it exists then and prior to submitting their Absentee Ballot.



Nominations from the floor, if any, will still be accepted according to normal rules of order. **Please** make sure that if you nominate someone from the floor that the nominee consents to being nominated before you nominate them **and** also that the nominee agrees to fulfill the requirements and expectations of being a Vestry member (see the November Newsletter for those requirements and expectations). If possible, please notify Rev. Jan in advance so she has a chance to discuss being a Vestry member with the person you plan to nominate from the floor. This helps to avoid embarrassing situations at the Annual Meeting!

See Rev. Jan if you need an Absentee Ballot

GOD AND ME



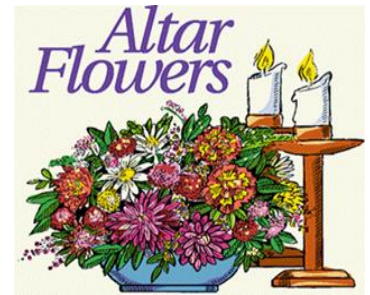
Beginning on January 25th, we are offering our 1st-3rd graders the opportunity to be part of the "God and Me" program. Meeting times are Sundays from 1:30-2:30p on January 25th, Feb. 8th, March 1st, March 22nd and April 19th.

Will Turner and Rev. Jan will be leading the class and parents or grandparents are also welcome to participate. Please see the

Thank You!

To all the many thoughtful St. John's people who sent Christmas cards to Vern, we want to thank you ever so much. It means a lot." Barb Easterling

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.*



Reminder - Human needs assistance

- such as help with rent, utilities and medical bills - is a growing need in our community. The Rector's Discretionary Funds are one way to help meet these needs. In 2013, we began delivering most of those funds, on a quarterly basis, 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.




First United Methodist Church is offering Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University" with a class preview on January 8 at 6p. The class begins on January 22nd and Thursdays thereafter at 6p. Child care is available. The cost is \$93 and scholarships or payment plans are available. If you are interested, you can register online at info@cvfumc.org or by calling 765-362-4817.



In December, we raised \$40 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. Rev. Jan delivers them to Staples monthly. Thank you!

Sign Up! Our Coffee Hour signup sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Won't you help by signing up to host coffee hour one Sunday? *Talk to Meegan Reidy.*



Reminder! Our Policies, Vestry Minutes, Customaries (that is, policies and procedures) and other important information can be found on our website: www.stjohnscville.org or on our bulletin boards 

Rev. Jan is available by cell phone (765-225-8554) or email (janet.oller@gmail.com). Office hours are by appointment. Days off are generally Thursdays and Fridays but please call if you have a pastoral emergency regardless of what day of the week it is! Check the calendar posted on the office door for the most current schedule.

~ January 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed Meals on Wheels	2 Oller Day Off	3
4 8 & 10:30a- Holy Eucharist- Bishop's Visit 9:15 Christian Formation Noon-Vestry Meets with Bishop 3p-EFM	5	6 Oller-Clergy Lunch	7 7:30a- Centering Prayer 12:15-Midday Service	8 11:30 Bonzel Hall/Hospital Meeting-Healthy Issues (RSVP 765-364-3105) Meals on Wheels 7p-Choir Oller Day Off	9 Oller Day Off	10
11 8 & 10:30a- Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Formation 3p-EFM	12 6:30p Oller Meeting	13	14 7:30a- Centering Prayer 12:15-Midday Service 7p-Budget Hearing	15 Meals on Wheels 7p-Choir Oller Day Off	16 Oller Day Off	17 Black's Family Gathering (Whitlock) Planned Giving Team Meeting in Bloomington
18 8 & 10:30a- Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Formation 3p-EFM	19 MLK Holiday Office Closed	20 9:25a-Tuttle Chapel	21 7:30a- Centering Prayer 12:15-Midday Service 7p-Vestry	22 Meals on Wheels 7p-Choir Oller Day Off	23 Oller Day Off	24 Oller-Ordinations @ Christ Church Cathedral (all day) Divorce Recovery Workshop- Kussmauls (Library) 8:30-12
25 9a Holy Eucharist 10:15 Brunch & Annual Meeting 1:30p-"God & Me" 3p-EFM	26	27 9:25a-Tuttle Chapel	28 7:30a- Centering Prayer 12:15-Midday Service	29 Meals on Wheels 7p-Choir Oller Day Off	30 Oller Day Off	31

Rev. Jan is available by appointment. Call cell: 765-225-8554 or email: janet.oller@gmail.com. Please see the calendar posted on the office door for updates after this Newsletter is published.

	Lector	LEM	Crucifer	Acolyte	Greeters	Altar Guild	Counters	Flowers	LEVs	Coffee Host
Jan. 4										
<i>8a</i>	<i>Adrienne Ashbaugh</i>	<i>Adrienne Ashbaugh</i>		<i>Cyndy Fields</i>		<i>CJ Charles & Cyndy Fields</i>				
<i>10:30a</i>	<i>Rees Olander</i>	<i>Dan Booher & Betty Culley</i>	<i>Sam Vaught</i>	<i>CJ Charles</i>	<i>Hudsons</i>		<i>Nancy Bennett & Tom Twarek</i>		<i>Sue Fain & Jan Oller</i>	<i>St. Martha's</i>
Jan. 11										
<i>8a</i>	<i>Peter Swanson</i>	<i>Peter Swanson</i>		<i>Kitty Haffner</i>						
<i>10:30a</i>	<i>Sue Fain</i>	<i>Adrienne Ashbaugh & Kim Roberts</i>	<i>Sam Hildebrand</i>	<i>Peggy Lohorn</i>	<i>Olanders</i>	<i>Carole Meyer & Jo Tussey</i>	<i>Susan Albrecht & Wayne Olander</i>		<i>Sue Fain & Jan Oller</i>	
Jan. 18										
<i>8a</i>	<i>Mark Kussmaul</i>	<i>Meribeth Kussmaul</i>		<i>Jim Suren</i>						
<i>10:30a</i>	<i>Susan Albrecht</i>	<i>Marc Hudson & Randy Pickering</i>	<i>Will Turner</i>	<i>Beth Turner</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Betty Culley & Meegan Reidy</i>	<i>Ed Fain & Jim Gary</i>		<i>Pickerings</i>	
Jan. 25										
<i>9a</i>	<i>Judy Wynne</i>	<i>Meribeth Kussmaul & Dan Booher</i>	<i>Randy Pickering</i>		<i>Turners</i>	<i>Sheila Evans & Jane Gallagher</i>	<i>Alan White & Ed Fain</i>	<i>Oller</i>	<i>Pickering</i>	

Meals on Wheels: Jan. 1- Susie & Sam Hildebrand; Jan. 8- Cindy & Jerry Smith; Jan. 15- Carole Meyer & Betty Culley; Jan. 22- Chris Short & Tom Twarek; Jan. 29- Susie & Sam Hildebrand