

THE
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

welcomes you



St. John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church - 212 S. Green St.,
PO Box 445, Crawfordsville IN 47933
765-362-2331

stjohnscville@gmail.com

www.stjohnscville.org

facebook: stjohnscville

July 2015



Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, was the scene of brutal murders on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. The thought of murder due to racial hatred is unfathomable and unbearably sad. Nine persons were studying the Word of God when they were gunned down. Talk of pastors needing to be armed in what ought to be places of peace and sanctuary makes me angry. Meeting violence with violence solves nothing.

“Mother Emmanuel” as this church is known sees another tragedy within its walls. It is a church that has been at the forefront of social justice movements. In the 1820s, the church was burned following fears about slave rebellion. In 1834, all Black churches were banned! They opened again and the building was subsequently destroyed by an earthquake and then rebuilt again. “Emmanuel” means “God with us.” God is truly with Mother Emmanuel and all of us whose lives have been changed, even in a little way, by this horrific act of murder and hatred. We mourn with the families and friends of those killed and sorrow for a young man who saw no path but violence and hatred. Where have we gone so wrong that for too many violence and killing is the answer? What role do we have to play in creating a society with such skewed values?

Despite the tragedy of this week, this is a church whose roots reach deeply into Charleston and into the South. The deaths will not be forgotten but rather celebrated as Mother Emmanuel survives and lives to tell of resurrection and the message of Jesus Christ once again. To know more about Mother Emmanuel: <http://www.emmanuelamechurch.org/index.php>

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(BCP 814 #3)



Your prayers are asked for all participating in General Convention as at least three major issues are before us:

- (a) Election of a Presiding Bishop.
- (b) Marriage. Not only questions around same-gender marriage but questions around whether the church should act as the agent of the state in signing marriage licenses. There are some who believe the church should not celebrate any marriage. And, as our culture changes, what is marriage and what should it be?
- (c) Re-imagining the church. The Task Force on Re-imagining the Church has much to offer and little of it will be without significant emotional as well as theological reaction.

Here is one article that you might find of interest as it relates to election of the Presiding Bishop (and other issues we face both at St. John's and in the world):

The Nominees Who Were Not By [The Herald](#) on [June 15, 2015](#)

It seems like just yesterday the collective church was unified in an anticipatory buzz as we awaited the slate of nominees for Presiding Bishop. Who will lead us into the future? Who has a vision that will call us back to our mission and energize us for the next triennium?

And then, the slate of candidates came out. We are blessed to have four, highly qualified candidates who have offered their service. They are prayerful servants of the Gospel who will continue to serve Christ's Church well. And yet the conversation throughout the church seems to be as much about who is *not* running, as it is about those who are. There are half a dozen names that people were shocked didn't make the cut. There has been great discussion as to whether or not there "should" have been a woman on the list. A comparison with elections past suggests that fewer bishops wanted to have their names placed in nomination this time around. There were seven candidates in 2006. In 1996 six were originally nominated.

Given these realities, it seems worth stopping to think about whether this job is sustainable, not just for the individual elected to serve, but for us, as the body of Christ. What about our common life as the church has made this position increasingly polarizing?

Part of the issue is endemic to the position itself. Because the Church's polity was constructed at the same time and in the same manner as the United States government, the temptation to equate the Presiding Bishop to the country's President is real. But we must remember that the Presiding Bishop serves as first among equals, serving alongside the bishops who elect her or him after much prayer and consideration of the ways in which the Holy Spirit is moving within the church. Presiding Bishops don't run a campaign that promise to make our lives easier and instantly better. They serve in a theological capacity and a qualitatively different role from that of one in a political office.

The polarization that marks both our politics and our church have not helped one bit. We as a society have come to expect division, and even tolerate unchristian and vicious attacks of character. The digital age has only magnified and accelerated this trend, replacing hastily written

words with face to face conversation. It takes great courage to agree to serve in an age and environment such as this.

At the core of the problem, though, is anxiety: anxiety about the future of the church, about declining numbers and budgets, about division over hot-button issues of the day. Too often the Presiding Bishop has become to focal point of our anxiety and projections. What if we rededicate ourselves to trusting the God who has called us into mission? As opposed to treating our Presiding Bishop as a scapegoat who will take all of our anxieties about life in the church into the wilderness and die with them, might we be so bold as to recommit ourselves to praying for the individual who is called to serve. This is our best assurance that creative, visionary bishops will continue to be willing to serve in this capacity.



From Jane Gallagher, chair of Outreach:
Thank you for all of the donations for the Strawberry Festival Booth. Thank you also to the wonderful volunteers who worked in the heat and under threatening skies. We will report the earnings, which are designated to Nourish, when we find out the results.

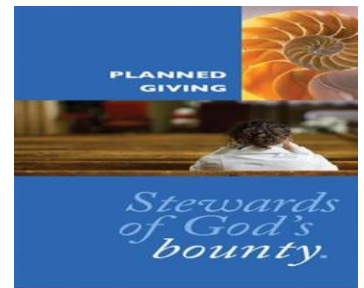
In July St. John's will be serving lunch for three days to children as a part of the annual Summer Lunch Program on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 15-17. Cindy Smith will be heading up this project on those dates, and will email needs and opportunities to serve. Jerilyn Yerkes will coordinate the Tri Kappa part of Summer Lunch, which will provide lunches on Monday and Tuesday, July 13-14.



July 28th we will return to Wingate for a Food Finders distribution. Information and sign-ups will be posted on the bulletin board closer to time. See Helen Hudson for more information about participating.

Stewards of God's Bounty

The Planned Giving Team recently completed drafting *St. John's Endowment Fund Policies and Guidelines*. We started with a document format supplied by the Episcopal Church Foundation and tailored it to our Parish's specific needs. The final document has been reviewed by the requisite officers of the Diocese of Indianapolis who gave it their hearty approval. The document was then distributed to all vestry members for their review. On June 17, the vestry met and unanimously approved the *Enabling Resolution and the Endowment Committee Policies*. This is a legal document that directs the Vestry as to how both restricted and unrestricted gifts to the Fund are to be invested and managed and to what purposes the income is to be used. There is also guidance for individuals and/or estate planners to consider when developing a bequest to St. John's. The entire document runs to 12 pages and 4,670 words and will soon be posted on our web site. There will also be additional information about how our endowment income will be used to further St. John's mission in our community.



This is a milestone for St. John's because many small parishes have no specific guidance for their vestries and parishioners about making and managing bequests to the parish. St. John's has modest endowment funds that have accumulated over the years and are currently entrusted to the Diocese for management. We are now in a position to receive and properly manage any size and type of gift and can assure those making bequests that their wishes will be carried out in perpetuity. *Please ask any member of the Planned Giving team if you have questions: Sam Hildebrand, Ed Fain, Rees Olander, Harry Siamas, John Culley and Rev. Jan Oller*

“John Hoffmeyer reminds us that while we most often think of the Greek word *charis* as “grace” – and, indeed, it is the word the Apostle Paul uses when he talks about being justified by grace (Rom. 3:24, for instance) – it is just as often more appropriately translated as “thanksgiving,” as when Paul exclaims his thanks for the victory over death God has achieved for us in Jesus (1 Cor. 15:57).



What a fantastic connection – between gratitude and grace. Indeed, perhaps grace is the peculiar gift of being able to see, accept, and be grateful for the manifold gifts conferred through our life of faith, and perhaps gratitude is nothing more than recognizing the grace bestowed upon us in any single moment, whether in the fidelity of one's spouse, the delight one takes in one's children, friendships that provide support and sustenance, work that offers meaning and income, or – and on this day in particular – colleagues who hold both their students and their vocations so close to their hearts. *–from Dave Lose, President of Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia on the annual review of all students attending the seminary, something that happens at Episcopal seminaries as well.*

Don't forget to bring your used ink cartridges or any shape or style of size to St. John's. We receive \$2 per cartridge recycled. That credit helps significantly with office costs. Please put your cartridges in the white bowl on the credenza. Rev. Jan takes them to Staples for our credit. Your support is appreciated!

	Lector	LEM	Crucifer	Acolyte	Greeters	Altar Guild	Counters	Flowers	LEVs	Coffee Host
July 5										
8a	R. Pickering	R. Pickering		K. Haffner						
10:30a	J. Hartnett	A Ashbaugh & D. Booher	J. Culley	C. Cooksey	J. Binder & M. Reidy	C. Meyer & J. Tussey	E. Fain & J. Roberts	Whites	S. Fain & J. Oller	
July 12										
8a	J. Suren	J. Suren		S. Charles						
10:30a	B. Easterling	B. Culley & J. Culley	W. Turner	B. Turner	Blacks	B. Culley & M. Reidy	A White & T Twarek	Titus	S. Fain & J. Oller	
July 19										
8a	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul		Cyndy Fields						
10:30a	J. Wynne	M. Hudson & K. Roberts	Sam Hildebrand	P. Lohorn	S. Evans & C. Lingen	S. Evans & J. Gallagher	N. Bennett & W. Olander	Haffners	D. Booher & H. Hudson	
July 26										
8a	A Ashbaugh	A Ashbaugh		S Vaught						
10:30a	Mark Kussmaul	R. Pickering & Meribeth Kussmaul	S. Charles	CJ Charles	Snooks	J. Yerkes & T. Lawrence	A White & J Gary	Hudsons	D. Booher & H. Hudson	

Meals on Wheels: July 2: Carole Meyer & Betty Culley; July 9: Cindy & Jerry Smith; July 16: Susie & Sam Hildebrand; July 23: Chris Short & Tom Twarek; July 30: Susie & Sam Hildebrand

*If you are not able to serve as noted, please arrange for a substitute **and** let the office know ASAP. Thank you!*

~ July 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30a Centering Prayer Oller: General Convention	2 Oller: General Convention	3 Oller: General Convention	4 Oller: General Convention
5 8a & 10:30a HE	6	7	8 7:30a Centering Prayer	9 Oller Day Off	10 Oller: Day Off	11
12 8a & 10:30a HE	13 Summer Lunch Prog	14 Summer Lunch Prog 6:30p-Oller/Whitlock	15 7:30a Centering Prayer Summer Lunch Program 7p-Vestry	16 Summer Lunch Program Oller: Day Off	17 Summer Lunch Program Oller: Day Off	18 8:30a Divorce Recovery Workshop Library
19 8a & 10:30a HE 9a-Gratitude Team Mtg	20	21	22 7:30a Centering Prayer	23 Oller: Day Off 6-9pHitch event (WH)	24 Oller: Day Off	25
26 8a & 10:30a HE	27	28 4p-Food Finders/Wingate	29 7:30a Centering Prayer	30 Oller: Day Off	31 Oller: Day Off	Notes: Please check calendar on office door for most current schedule.