

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

August 2015



The end of summer is fast approaching. It may be the last time for that catnap or downtime for awhile! Our fall is rapidly filling with many wonderful things.

Now that I have been installed as Rector, it is a good time for us to take a bit of a breather and reflect on the past three years. We have done such good work together in re-stabilizing and in starting some new programs and new Outreach offerings. We now can build on our “Big, Hairy, Audacious Goals” – increase and deepen our relationship with Wabash, increase and deepen our Outreach efforts and consider the needs and uses of our physical plant and neighboring properties for the long term. We have been very blessed financially to become self-supporting once again which puts us in a terrific place to move forward.

Now that we are on a stable footing, it is a good time to reflect our where God is calling us into our community. The blog post below might be a good starting point- not only around children's ministries (thank you to all who provide wonderful and enriching Sunday School for our children!) but also around adult ministries and our witness of Christ's love to the world.

News reports suggest that more of us want ways to deepen our relationship with God and our faith. This fall we will begin offering an opportunity to do that through the “Basics” courses (Basic Anglicanism, Basic Bible, Basic Christianity, Basic Discipleship). These courses, which are free, will be held during the day and an evening, so hopefully one time will fit with your schedule.

Let me know what St. John's can do for you to help make St. John's even more of a place and a community where all are welcome and where God's love is known.

—Rev. Jan

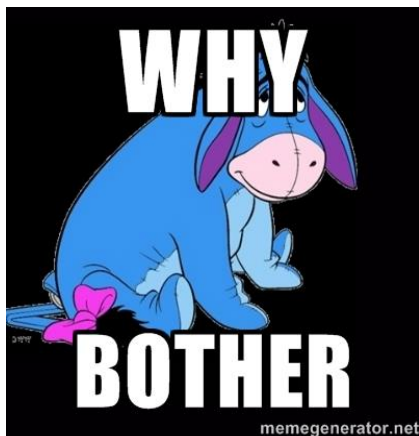
Visit with Abby - Join St. John's on Wednesday, **August 5th** beginning at 6:30p in Whitlock Hall to hear from Abby Twarek about the first 90 days of her work in China. Light refreshments will be served. *Contact Ellen Ball with questions.*



Breakfast @ The Shore @ The Olanders (7825 TC Steele Vista, Waveland IN). Sunday, August 30th @9a- one service followed by pitch in. Details will be posted on the bulletin board.



Waycross "Saints" camp is set for **September 11-12-13**. We're planning a time of rest, relaxation as well as fun and fellowship. Come for one or all the days- whatever your schedule permits, it would be terrific if you could join us. If you're interested and for more information, please speak to John Roberts.



Why BotHR?

By Debie Thomas. Posted 21 June 2015

In January, I began serving as Director of Children's Ministries at the Episcopal church my family and I attend in Palo Alto. Part of my work in the position is administrative — I organize events for kids and families, recruit volunteers to teach Sunday School, plan curriculum, order supplies, and correspond with parents.

But the other part of the job is more "big picture" and involves asking questions: What's working well? What isn't? How might we better serve the needs of children and families in our parish? This week, as my supervising priest and I met to discuss curriculum for the upcoming school year, we raised a more thorny question: Why botHR?

Why bother with the religious life, with church, with Sunday School — at all? Why commit ourselves to spiritual things in a secular community where such commitments are viewed as quaint, obsolete, and even regressive? As we dream of welcoming more children and families into our church, what case can we make for the Christian life? Why should kids nowadays hang onto a belief in God when the majority of their peers do not? *Why bother?*

When I was growing up, I never heard anyone ask such questions. The community that raised me was so tightly Christian, so uniform in its beliefs, so self-reinforcing, there was no need to ask why we did what we did. The answers were obvious — obvious and therefore invisible. Like the oxygen we take into our lungs.

When I was a kid, we went to church on Sunday mornings because *that's what Sunday mornings were for*. We professed faith in God because God was self-evidently real, and he both demanded and cherished our faith. We pursued spiritual things because the very health of our souls was at stake in the pursuit. Religion was no joke; we had eternal destinies to secure. Heaven or hell? God or Satan? Salvation or doom? *Of course* we bothered with the religious life.

These days, regardless of how we might quibble (or not) with the theological assumptions that undergird traditional Christianity, the fact is that what used to be obvious to a majority of people in the Western world is no longer obvious. Or compelling. Or even tolerable.

In his exhaustive historical study, *A Secular Age*, philosopher Charles Taylor argues that in contemporary Western culture, we no longer have available to us the "bulwarks" which made faith easier in previous eras. We no longer view the natural world as testimony; we view it through the lens of science. That is to say, the phrase "acts of God" is now a dead metaphor.

We no longer live in societies where God is deeply implicated in civic life — where religious ritual and worship underlies our social, political, educational, and economic activities. For good reasons, we've erected walls of separation between religion and state.

We no longer live in an "enchanted" world — a world in which spirits, demons, and moral forces are believed to play active roles in human destinies. Though we indulge our children in these fantastical beliefs when they're young, we fully expect them to shed their fantasies before adulthood.

We no longer live in a world where "fullness" — that numinous sense of "more," of wonder, of awe, of profound meaning and significance — is believed to exist in religious commitment alone. Fullness is available in many forms, along many paths; Christianity can make no exclusive claim.

Of course, none of these cultural shifts have been intentional or self-conscious. I don't have kids coming up to me on Sunday mornings to discuss disenchantment, or the loss of the numinous. I have kids coming up to me and asking things like this: "None of my friends have to go to church. Why do I?" "If your parents hadn't raised you to be Christian, would you still be one?" "Why should I pray to God when I have no proof of him?" "If Jesus is so important, why doesn't anyone talk about him outside of church?"

Some years ago, my daughter asked, "What's God *for*?" when a fervent prayer of hers went unanswered for over a year. And my son, coming straight from a social studies lesson about World War II, asked why the God of history is nonexistent in his middle-school history class.

It was last Wednesday morning that my supervisor and I met and wrestled with some of these questions. Only hours later, the massacre at Emanuel A.M.E Church in Charleston, South Carolina (in which nine African-African people gathered for Bible study were brutally gunned down by a white supremacist), flooded the headlines.

I have to admit that what I felt — and still feel, to a large extent — is despair. Devoted worshippers, brutally murdered in their own church. While gathered around sacred Scripture. While welcoming — in love and pure trust — a man who sat down with them before God's Word, made a pretense of devotion, and then killed them in cold blood.

I have to ask: is nothing sacred? Does this faith we profess make any difference in real life? Where is God in our alarmingly disenchanted world? *Why bother?* ... What is it about Christianity that calls forth such fortitude? Such courage? Such faith?

My priest and I didn't solve any grand puzzles last Wednesday; the "why bother?" question is far too difficult to answer in haste. But as we sat with it honestly, the question reframed itself this way: "If we could offer a child (or her parents) a few reasons to stay, a few reasons to bother, a few reasons to pursue God and put up with his admittedly imperfect Church, what would those reasons be?" We named two:

First: there is eternity here. In all things. In every action you take and every thought you think, the tiny seeds of eternity are present and growing. Nothing is superfluous, nothing is wasted, nothing is in vain. What you do here on earth — how you live, what you give yourself over to, what you profess, what you worship — matters. There are stakes. It's easy to forget this, but it's true. And the Church, if nothing else, will help you remember.

And second: there is Love here. When you need it (and you will), there is a Love here that nothing else on earth will ever explain, diminish, or destroy. It's a Love that overcomes every barrier of suspicion and hatred we humans construct. It's a Love that cleanses, blesses, challenges, and fortifies us. It's an eternal Love, the Love of the broken, resurrected Christ. It's a Love worth dying for. In the end, God bothers. He bothers with us. That's why we must bother, too.

http://journeywithjesus.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=featured&Itemid=195 (6/22/15)



A special thank you goes to those who donated food and time during this year's summer lunch project. On July 15-17 we fed 70 children. Twenty parishioners were involved with this project. The Outreach Committee appreciates your support. -Cindy Smith



Dearly Beloved: a study and discussion about marriage

Adult Forum will hold three consecutive sessions beginning in September to discuss marriage. The overall themes for the three weeks are: (a) What is Christian marriage; (b) What does the Bible say about marriage; and (c) What does our culture say about marriage. All three sessions cover theology, history, scripture, current trends, and more. The curriculum is both large and small group discussion with specific questions suggested.

We enter this conversation - as we always do when discerning our way forward - by considering those three sources of Anglican authority on the subject: scripture, tradition (including theology, liturgy, canon law, and history), and reason (including our human experience).

The curriculum we will use is from The Episcopal Church. Our hope is that many will take advantage of this moment in our history to be a part of discerning our way forward. In our day, what is God calling us to understand, to say, and perhaps to do in regards to marriage?

Bishop Cate has made it clear that before a parish may celebrate a same-gender marriage, the parish must engage – collectively- with the topic and reach consensus that celebrating a same-gender marriage is the will of the parish. **Note that consensus does not mean unanimity.** It does mean, however, that we engage in this conversation respecting diverse opinions. It is critical, therefore, that as we engage in these conversations that we treat each other with compassion and respect. **Behavior other than that will not be tolerated. These conversations are not about changing anyone’s mind-** rather, conversation that will help us understand our own culture and history and theology.

Bishop Cate has also made it clear that same-gender couples seeking to be married in a parish must abide by the same requirements as a hetero-sexual couple. This includes participating in pre-marital counseling (regardless of the number of years a couple has been together), one of the two (at least) being a member of the parish, and the two people signing and agreeing to abide by the Declaration as required by our Canons.

The Declaration, as stated in Canon I.18.3(e)-(g) reads: “We, AB and CD desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. We believe the union of husband and wife, in heart, body and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God’s help thereto.” Please join us as we engage in conversation about marriage.



Girl and Boy Scouts can be an important part of a youngster’s development. Beginning this fall, Girl Scouts will be meeting in Whitlock Hall from 6-7:15p on Thursdays. St. John’s Vestry unanimously supported the request for meeting space. *If you have questions, please see Cindy or Will Turner or Rev. Jan.*



Back to Basics: Join us beginning in September as we return to basics around Anglicanism, the Bible, Christianity and Discipleship (catchy, huh? “A, B, C, D”). These courses will be offered on Tuesdays, **beginning September 15th at noon and then again at 6p.** The discussions will last an hour. These discussions are part of “The Restoration Project” which was the subject of the Spring 2015 Clergy Conference. Each course is 4 or 5 sessions long and they are independent of each other (you can take one and not others). We will start with “Basic Bible: Readings, Studying and Praying the Scriptures.” Depending upon interest, we will continue with “Basic Christianity” starting in November and then “Basic Anglicanism” and “Basic

Discipleship” in the spring. Feel free to bring your lunch or dinner – just join us!

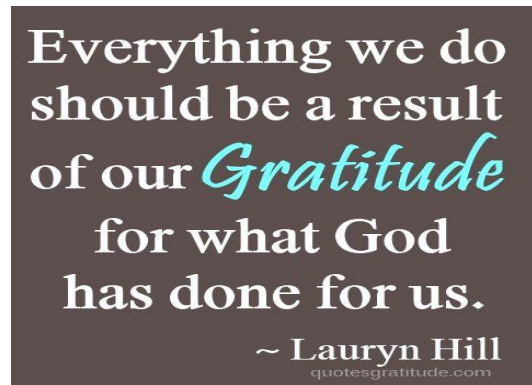
Tuesday, Sept. 15th – Session I: “The Big Overview: When YHWH Met Sally”

Tuesday, Sept. 22nd – Session II: “The Hebrew Scriptures – Learning Lectio Divina or the Bible Says: Gnaw on this!”

Tuesday, Sept. 29th – Session III: “The Hebrew Scriptures – Set your GPS for Zion”

Tuesday, Oct. 5th - Session IV: “The Gospels – The Incarnation: It’s a floor wax and a dessert topping”

Tuesday, Oct. 13th –Session V: “Acts and Epistles – Revelation”



Jesus came not only to give us life, but to give us life abundantly. There is a world of difference in simply living and being grateful every day in every way for all that God has blessed us with.

Abundance is defined as “overflowing fullness.” Psalm 23 is only one of the verses that reminds us that “my cup is running over.”

As we wind down from summer, think back on when and where and how God caused your cup to overflow with love, laughter, friendship, food, new life and ...



Thanks to your generosity in brining cartridges and we continue to participate in a recycling program to help **office and janitorial supplies.** *Any size or type of used cartridges, including 3-in-1s, are welcome.* Place your the white bowl on the credenza. Rev. Jan delivers them you!



toner to St. John’s, with the purchase of *ink and toner* used cartridges in to Staples. Thank

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.

	Lector	LEM	Crucifer	Acolyte	Greeters	Altar Guild	Counters	Flowers	LEVs	Coffee Host
Aug 2										
8a	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul		K Haffner					Pickerings	
10:30a	J Lamberton	Culleys	W Turner	B Turner	C Meyer & S Evans	C Meyer & J Tussey	E Fain & J Roberts	Fain		
Aug 9										
8a	R Pickering	R Pickering		S Vaught						
10:30a	J Gary	D Booher & A Ashbaugh	Sam Hildebrand		Fains	CJ Charles & C Fields	A White & T Twarek	Wynne	Pickerings	
Aug 16										
8a	J Suren	J Suren		S Charles						
10:30a	N Bennett	A Ashbaugh & S Vaught	J Culley	P Lohorn	Blacks	B Culley & M Reidy	N Bennett & W Olander	Ball	D Booher & H Hudson	
Aug 23										
8a	A Ashbaugh	A Ashbaugh		C Fields						
10:30a	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul & K Roberts	S Charles	CJ Charles	D Swanson & J Wynne	S Evans & J Gallagher	S Albrecht & J Gary	Roberts	D Booher & H Hudson	
Aug 30										
9a	S Vaught	S Vaught & J Suren				C Meyer & J Tussey	E Fain & J Roberts		S Fain & J Oller	Breakfast at the Shore

Meals on Wheels: Not in August

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

~ August 2015 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Oller: St. Paul's Jeffersonville/Ordination of Nancy Woodworth-Hill
2 8a & 10:30a – HE 1:30p-Indians Game	3 Oller Vacation	4 Oller Vacation	5 Oller Vacation 7:30a-Centering Prayer 11a- Garden Club (WH) 6:30p- Abby Twarek (WH)	6 Oller Day Off 6p-YSB/Inspire (WH)	7 Oller Day Off	8
9 8a & 10:30a- HE	10	11 7:15a-YSB (WH) 2p-Oller & Vaught meeting w/Canon B. Gray 6:30p-Oller Event (WH)	12 7:30a- Centering Prayer	13 Oller: All Saints Indy, Higher Ed Comm meeting	14 Oller Day Off	15 Oller Day Off
16 8a & 10:30a- HE 1:30-Utterbach (WH)	17 Oller Day Off- Transferred from 8/20	18	19 7:30a-Centering Prayer Tentative: Vestry cancelled	20 4p-Oller Webinar re Safeguarding 6p- YSB/Inspire (WH)	21 Oller Day Off	22 Oller: Trinity Bloomington Seminar Divorce Recovery Workshop/Library Crawfordsville Taste!
23 8a & 10:30a-HE	24	25 Oller @ All Saints, Indy	26 7:30a- Centering Prayer Oller @ All Saints, Indy	27 Oller @ All Saints, Indy	28 Oller Day Off	29 Oller Day Off
30 9a-Breakfast @ The Shore (Olanders)	31	Notes: Rev Jan can be reached by cell phone (765-225-8554) or email janet.oller@gmail.com . Office hours are by appointment.				