

THE  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
*welcomes you*



# St. John's Spirit

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**December 2015**



We enter one of the most important seasons of the church and our lives. Beginning November 29<sup>th</sup>, with Advent I, we began anticipating the arrival of the Christ Child. The Hope of the World. The Prince of Peace. The one who gives new definition and structure to how we live our lives.

During this time of relentless advertising and insisting that you “need” and “must have” this or that, stop a moment to consider how God has blessed you. At the very least, you are part of a Christian community that values your presence.

Recently, I asked a group to draw what they valued about St. John's. This was not about artistic talent, although we had a lot, but a way to put down on paper in drawing, what we sometimes keep locked up in our head. A move from head to heart by using different parts of our body, different senses. It should be no surprise to you that the people of St. John's were critically important. Our gathering- whether in a circle around the altar or at the altar rail- to receive communion (with real bread) was a focal point. We are the Body of Christ. We live out what was born into our midst on Christmas Day when we acknowledge each other as beloved Children of God, warts and all.

This December, turn off the TV and the phone and all the other gadgets that keep us isolated. Even if you can only turn them off for an hour, that's good. Disconnect from technology in order to reconnect with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Come and worship with us on Sundays, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and at other times as your schedule permits. We miss you when you are not with us!

*-Rev. Jan*

Monday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>** @ **7p** we will offer a “Longest Night” or “Blue Christmas” service. See later in this newsletter for details.

Join us on **Christmas Eve at 5:30p or 10:30p** for Holy Eucharist. At 5:30p we will gather at the barn of John Binder and Dan Booher for an informal worship service with Steve Charles and Dan Booher leading us in music. At 10:30p we will have a traditional candlelight service at St. John’s.

Christmas morning, **December 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will have one service of Holy Eucharist at **9a** at St. John’s. Quiet, contemplative worship celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

On Christmas One, Sunday, **December 27<sup>th</sup>** at **9a**, we will have one service of Lessons and Carols led by Marc and Helen Hudson. Join us for this celebration of Word and Song.



Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult.

The constant refrain on the radio and television, in shopping malls and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of the celebrating and spending. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; we need to know that we are not alone.

Our spirits sink, as the days grow shorter. We feel the darkness growing deeper around us. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us. For these reasons, we will offer a special “Longest Night” service on **Monday, December 21st at 7p**. (This service is sometimes called a “Blue Christmas” service.) Come and join with us in sharing and hearing prayers and scripture that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, for those who struggle - and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it) is welcome.



From [www.celebratewhatsright.com/blog](http://www.celebratewhatsright.com/blog): How natural and convenient it is, to assess and celebrate life by all that is easily quantified. Her twenty-first birthday, our ten-year anniversary, twenty years in the same good job, fifty thousand book sales, the team’s 100th win. All of those are worth celebration, too. It’s not false or shallow to marvel at our milestones according to such measures. After all, our draw to those specific numbers is mostly based on such natural phenomena as the trips of the earth around the sun, and the numbers of fingers on our marvelous hands.

Still, when I look at the happiness in my own life and in the lives of those around me, it’s not so much based upon whether the proverbial glass is half full



or half empty; but rather on how much we are grateful for whatever level of fullness there is. It's been well-established that one of the most direct pathways to happiness is gratitude for what we have—that's much more of a successful measure, and an attainable one, than it is to achieve or acquire what we don't have. And if we're not grateful for it when we achieve it, anyway, it won't enlighten whatever dark corners of emptiness we're carrying.

So it is that when I looked at this measuring cup drying on the kitchen counter, I didn't even care whether it was full or empty. I cared about the quality of the light passing through it; the intangible beauty of the colors playing through the glass, carrying with them the colors of the sun rays, the outside light, the reflection of the other glass objects on the window sill. The numbers on the glass, no matter how sharp and precise, were not made to measure these vital things. The numbers become just another abstract pattern; a brush stroke of beauty in the painting of the day.

Thus, in wishing to deepen my gratitude for this life, and in a wish to share and give the gift of that gratitude to the others around me, I find I need to look at the world in the same way as I looked at this measuring cup. Where is the light coming through it? Where is the unexpected beauty in the patterns? What can I appreciate and celebrate that can't be counted? ... actions. And so it is that there is nothing more important to do at this very moment than to stop, to take a deep breath, and to look at the light streaming through this day and all who dwell in it. I am grateful to be here. I'm grateful for all others who also are. —Eric Allen 11/9/15

**December 26<sup>th</sup>** is "Boxing Day" and a holiday in much of the world. Traditionally it was the day when tradespeople and staff received a "Christmas Box" from their employers.

This year we're going to celebrate Boxing Day at **2p** at the home of Rees and Wayne Olander (7825 TC Steele Vista, Waveland - - 317-258-8034). Bring a dish to share and a "Christmas Box" (Limit of \$15 and it might be a "White Elephant" gift). Join us for food, fellowship- and lots of laughs!



November is the time of year when we begin discerning who might be called to serve on Vestry. Vestry members are elected at the Annual Meeting of the Parish (the last Sunday of January) and serve for a three-year term. To help you discern whether you are called to this leadership position at St. John's, set forth below are the expectations of Vestry members and time commitments.

If you believe you are called to serve as a member of the Vestry, please speak to the Nominating Committee (Meegan Reidy, Kim Roberts and Cindy

Turner; they are the retiring members of the Vestry) or Rev. Jan.

**Here are the expectations of Vestry members:**

- I have responded to the call of my baptism to be a servant of Christ.

- I rarely miss weekly worship.
- I pledge and give of my financial resources to St. John's.
- I believe that prayer helps me to discern God's will for my life and for St. John's, including my role as a member of the Vestry.
- I am welcoming to those who are new and to those who have been at St. John's. This includes those with whom I hold differing positions.
- I work with the clergy, staff and other leaders to form an environment of trust and loyalty.
- I am willing to take a position on issues and to listen to the position of others who may hold differing positions, without name-calling or disparaging remarks.
- I understand that as a member of the Vestry, my ministry includes assisting others in the parish.
- I am on the look-out for others who might become leaders and to help others find ways to express their ministry as children of God.
- I realize that once my term as a member of the Vestry is concluded, I am called to continue to be present and to be a leader, although in a different role.
- I agree to be a liaison to a ministry group and report to Vestry regularly

Time commitments:

Monthly – Vestry meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. One hour approximately. Vestry may choose, depending upon the health of the parish and matters to come before the Vestry, not to meet 1-2 times during the year (so rather than 12 meetings, it may be 10-11 meetings). If necessary, meetings may go longer but this has not been the norm.

Budget Hearings – it is important for Vestry members to attend at least one Budget Hearing meeting, typically held the week prior to the Annual Meeting. This enables Vestry members to make informed decisions when the vote is taken on the Budget at the January Vestry Meeting. Estimated time: 1 hour.

Vestry Retreat or Vestry College – Generally the Vestry has alternated between a Vestry Retreat of one day in or near Crawfordsville and the Vestry College, held at Waycross beginning on Friday night and ending Saturday afternoon. This enables the Vestry to review high-level goals & to get to know other members of the Vestry better.

Annual Meeting – it is very important for members of the Vestry to be present at the Parish Annual Meeting. Past practice has been to have one worship service at 9a followed by a pitch-in and the meeting. This is generally the last Sunday of January.

Liaison relationship – the amount of time depends upon which ministry group you liaise with and the depth of your involvement with that ministry group. At this time, most ministry groups meet at most quarterly and some annually and some on an as-needed basis.

Care for our entrances – it has become the practice for members of the Vestry to select one of our 7 entrances and to ensure that it remains clear of leaves and debris (so we don't get plugged up drains and water inside the building). Time depends upon the entrance selected and how much traffic and leaves are adjacent to that entrance.

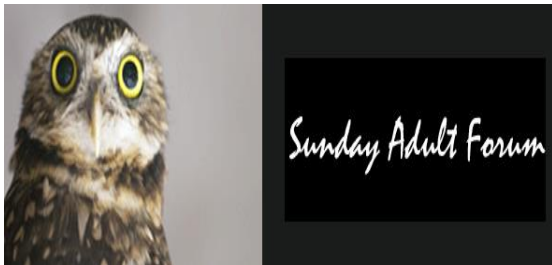
Safeguarding God's People – all Vestry members are required to be current in their "Safeguarding God's People" curriculum. The required modules are all available online

and can be taken at your convenience. They can be taken one after the other in one sitting or one at a time, as best fits your schedule. Meribeth Kussmaul is the Parish Safeguarding Administrator. Once you complete a module, you do not have to re-take it for 3 years. Each module takes about 15-20 minutes to complete.

Periodic events – from time to time, there may be Diocesan or other Parish events at which Vestry members are strongly encouraged to attend. E.g. there may be events relating to the selection of the next Bishop at which Vestry members would be strongly encouraged to attend.

*If you are a Warden:*

Pre-Convention Deanery Meeting – this meeting, which occurs once a year in late September or early October includes the Wardens and the Diocesan Convention Delegates. At the meeting, the proposed resolutions and budget are discussed. There may also be some Deanery elections (does not occur each year). Recently, the meetings have been held at St. Andrew's, Greencastle. In 2015, the meeting lasted about 2 hours (not including travel to/from Greencastle).



We continue Adult Forum with Josh Thomas on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Josh is the organizer and maintainer of "Daily Office" a ministry of this Diocese. On December 13 and 20, we continue with to The Gospel According to Luke with Rev. Jan. Please join us in Whitlock Hall beginning at 9:15a.m. (There will be no Adult Forum on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>). The Last Session of Basic

Christianity will be *Tuesday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>*.



Thank you to all who have been part of St. John's reaching out into the world during 2015. Opportunities for serving during December:

- **Food Finders** will be at the 4-H Building at 11a on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. St. John's is one of the sponsors for this event. Please see the bulletin board for sign-ups. See Helen Hudson for more information.
- **FISH** needs are for: Peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, canned meat, cereal and vegetables. Please place the items in the red wagons in the hallway. Bud Arnold has joined the Board and continues his work with those seeking financial assistance. Thank you, Bud!
- Our **Nourish** volunteers for December are Suzie Siamas and Christopher Short.
- **REINdear** Project. St Johns has agreed to provide Christmas gifts to 41 Montgomery County children in need, again this year, through the outreach committee. Each child, screened by the YSB, will be receiving a bag with 2 wanted items, usually toys, and 2

needed items, usually clothing. Contact Ellen Ball for more information:  
[765.362.1357](tel:765.362.1357) [balltwar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:balltwar@sbcglobal.net)



Sign up and earn money for St. John's! Register your KrogerPlus card and shop at our local Krogers. A percentage of the amount you spend then comes back to St. John's on a quarterly basis. **Our number is number 11405.** The website is: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy during the registration process.



**Lay Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be on **December 12** from 2-4p at Church of the Nativity, Indianapolis. If you have ever considered joining the group who visits parishioners who are no longer able to attend services at St. John's, now is the time! Contact Rev. Jan if you would like to participate in this special and meaningful ministry.



**Name the Love: Remember St. John's as a beneficiary in your Will or in a Life Insurance Policy or Retirement Account.**

Are you looking for a way to support St. John's in the future and in perpetuity? Make a Planned Gift. There are a number of ways you can make such a gift, including naming St. John's as a beneficiary in your Will or in a Life Insurance Policy or a Retirement Account. Talk to a member of the Planned Giving Committee if you have questions: Sam Hildebrand, Ed Fain, John Culley and Rees Olander or to Rev. Jan.

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

bulletin boards <http://www.stjohnscville.org>

*Rev. Jan is available by cell phone (765-225-8554) or email ([janet.oller@gmail.com](mailto: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
<b>Dec. 6</b>										
8a	P. Swanson	P. Swanson		C Fields						
10:30a	S Fain	R Pickering & A Ashbaugh	W Turner	B Turner	C Meyer & J Binder	S Evans & J Gallagher	E Fain & T Twarek	Advent	Pickerings	
<b>Dec. 13</b>										
8a	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul		K Haffner						
10:30a	W Turner	J & B Culley	S Charles	CJ Charles	Snooks	J Yerkes & T Lawrence	S Albrecht & J Roberts	Advent	Pickerings	
<b>Dec. 20</b>										
8a	J Suren	J Suren		T Titus						
10:30a	B Easterling	K Roberts & A Ashbaugh	S Charles	CJ Charles	Blacks	CJ Charles & C Fields	A White & J Gary	Advent	Booher/Hudson	
<b>Dec. 24</b>										
5:30p	Mark Kussmaul	Meribeth Kussmaul & D Booher								
10:30p	E Fain	J&B Culley	R Pickering		Albrechts	CJ Charles & C Fields		Christmas	Booher/Hudson	None
Dec. 25										
9a	J Wynne	J Oller	None	None		CJ Charles & C Fields		Christmas		None
<b>Dec. 27</b>	Lessons &	Carols								
9a	Helen & Marc Hudson	None	None	None	Siamas	J Yerkes & T Lawrence	E Fain & W Olander	Christmas	Fain/Oller	None

**Meals on Wheels: Not in December** Nourish: Suzie Siamas & Christopher Short *If you are not able to serve as noted, please arrange for a substitute and let the office know ASAP. Thank you!*

**~ December 2015 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel 9:25 Chapel/Tuttle 12p-Basic Christianity/WH 1:15p-Oller & Fain LEV Visits 7p-Comm. Chorus/WH Organ Tuning	<b>2</b> 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel 11:30a- Garden Club/WH	<b>3</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel Noon-Oller @ All Saints for Higher Ed Comm mtg 6p-Girl Scouts 7pChoir	<b>4</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel  Oller Day Off	<b>5</b>  Oller Day Off
<b>6</b> 8a & 10:30a HE 9:15a-Christian Formation No EFM  Oller Vacation	<b>7</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel  Oller Transferred Day Off (12/10)	<b>8</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel 9:25 Chapel/Tuttle 7p-Comm. Chorus/WH Oller Transferred Day Off (12/11)	<b>9</b> 7:30a-Centering Prayer 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel  Oller Vacation	<b>10</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel 6p-Girl Scouts 7p-Choir Oller Ember Day @ Interfaith Center	<b>11</b> 8a-Morning Prayer @ Tuttle Chapel	<b>12</b> 8:30a-Divorce Recovery Workshop/Library
<b>13</b> 8a & 10:30a HE 9:15a-Christian Formation 11:45a-Planned Giving Comm. (Library) 3p- EFM 3p-Comm Chorus Concert @ Trinity Methodist	<b>14</b> 11a-Food Finders @ 4-H Bldg 11:30a-League of Women Voters/WH 12:30p-Oller Outside Meeting	<b>15</b> 7p-Comm. Chorus/WH 1:30p-Oller CPG Webinar	<b>16</b> 7:30a-Centering Prayer 7p-Vestry	<b>17</b> 7p-Choir  Oller Day Off	<b>18</b> Oller Day Off	<b>19</b> 2p-Pickering Party (WH)
<b>20</b> 8a & 10:30a HE 9:15a-Christian Formation 3p- EFM	<b>21</b> 7p-Longest Night/Blue Christmas Worship Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30a-Centering Prayer	<b>24</b> 5:30p HE @ Stable 10:30p-HE @ St. John's	<b>25</b> 9a-HE	<b>26</b> 1p-D. Yerkes Inurement 2p-Boxing Day & Parish Pitch-In @ Olanders
<b>27</b> 9a-Lessons & Carols No Formation or EFM	<b>28</b> Oller Transferred Day off (12/24)	<b>29</b> Oller Transferred Day Off (12/25)	<b>30</b> 7:30a-Centering Prayer  Oller Vacation	<b>31</b> Oller Day Off	<b>Notes: Rev. Jan is available by cell phone: 765-225-8554 or email: janet.oller@gmail.com</b>	