



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Edward J. Tourangeau, Rector



Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

After Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Passion Gospel then shifts our focus to the events that occur during the Three Holy Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. On Palm Sunday, April 5, as a way to begin Holy Week 2009, the Choir and Choristers will provide a program of choral and organ music. The all French program will consist primarily of the often performed *Requiem of Gabriel Faure*, along with two selections by Charles Marie Widor (although his famous Toccata will be reserved for Easter Morning). The organ will be the primary accompanying instrument, with harp and violin employed as well. Clayton Lein, director of the Lafayette Chamber Singers, will be the guest conductor.

At 5:00pm, this hour-long offering will be yet another opportunity for spiritual renewal and remembrance during the holiest of days in the Christian year. As a Requiem is a Mass for the dead, we are all able to connect to such an experience in different personal ways. However, we all share the glory of Jesus' resurrection which was only possible after his suffering and death on Good Friday. We hope that you will come and share in this spiritual offering by the music ministry of our parish.

A View from the Big Pew

As we move through Lent and come to Holy Week and Easter, I am thankful every day for the Worship Committee's effort in giving to us the *Lenten Meditations 2009* booklet. I find myself not only learning things about the folks who are St. John's that I hadn't known (and I know a fair amount ...), but also being fed by the daily reflections on faith and living the Christian Life that folks have chosen to share.

These reflections bring home to me how diverse we really are. I hope especially that those of us who have been at St. John's since "the old days" can see the diversity and richness of the faith and the variety of backgrounds of those whom God has more recently added to our number. We are no longer all cut from the same cloth!

If Lent is a time of spiritual feeding, our observance of Holy Week and Easter involves feeding on a more gustatory level. So I ask for this space in this month's Eagle to remind parishioners of the opportunities we have to share refreshment with one another:

Maundy Thursday (6:00 pm on April 9th) involves a shared meal, the ceremony of the Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist. This year the Worship Committee will provide soup and beverage and we ask people who attend the meal portion of this service to bring a salad, bread or fresh fruit to share. Please bring enough for eight. Look for the Maundy Thursday Meal sign-up sheet in the parish hall and sign up if you will be coming to the meal. We will plan seating, soup and beverage based on the number who sign up. If you do not wish to share in the meal, you'd be safe coming at 7:00 pm for the Foot Washing and Eucharist.

The Liturgy of Remembering (4:00 pm on Good Friday) is designed for children. At the conclusion of this liturgy there is a snack for those present. The rector provides this snack of string cheese, pita and fruit.

The Great Vigil of Easter (8:00 pm on Saturday, April 11th), is the first celebration of the Resurrection. Bring a bell to ring and stay following the service to enjoy a pitch-in reception. All who come are asked to bring something to share: a favorite hors d'oeuvre, deviled eggs, fresh fruit, wine, cheese or non-alcoholic beverages, the choice is yours. Thanks to Mary Campbell and Joe Jackson for coordinating this event; if you'd like to help email Mary at marycampbell@verizon.net.

Easter Day Coffee Hours are occasions of irrepressible feasting at St. John's. Check out the coffee hour sign up sheets in the parish hall and offer to help on that day. At the later service again this year the Byrn family will coordinate the effort; if you'd like to help email Sally at sybyrn@wintek.com.

Community Lunch Call-Out

On Sunday, April 5th (Palm Sunday), St. John's is responsible for Community Lunch. Lunch is served in the basement of Trinity United Methodist Church (across 6th Street from St. John's). We are looking for volunteers who are willing to serve and clean-up on Sunday, the 5th. This will require approximately 2 hours of a volunteer's time, from about 11:15am until 1:15pm. This ministry is currently serving approximately 75 guests each Sunday and several pairs of hands are needed to make the entire process run smoothly. If this time period is not ideal for you but you would still like to contribute to this wonderful ministry, we are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the meal on Saturday, April 4th. This usually means spending about 1-2 hours of your time (depending on how much time you have to give) hanging out in the kitchen at St. John's swapping cooking fiasco stories, tips on making meal preparation smoother and otherwise just getting to know your fellow members of the church while the food is cooking.

If you are interested in participating but have some worries about expectations, don't worry. There are several people involved who have participated in the past who will guide you through each step. Our only goal is to provide a hot meal in a friendly atmosphere to our deserving guests. Part of the fun is organizing ourselves to accomplish our goal, so please join us and see what you are missing! If interested, contact either Dan Hogan or Nolie Parnell at 497.9174 or hogan.parnell@comcast.net.

We are also trying to organize a list of names and contact information of any member who has an interest in participating in this ministry. Please be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the Commons. By signing this sheet you are not committing yourself to participate, you are only expressing interest in the opportunity to participate in this outreach ministry. We will use this list to generate an initial communication about the opportunity to participate in the next Community Lunch. There will still be announcements in the bulletin and Eagle and if you can always participate at any time even if you don't sign up. Creating a list lets us have a better understanding what our level of future commitment can realistically be. It also enhances communication between volunteers to hopefully create more transparency in the process.

To close, I would like to offer you the reflections of one of the children who participated in the February Community Lunch. Her name is Darby Anne Bigelow and she is in 2nd grade. **"I thought it was fun. I served brownies. Everyone was nice to me. People had kind manners. It was fun because I got to know lots of nice people."**

Nolie Parnell and Dan Hogan

What is Safeguarding Online???

The Diocese of Indianapolis is pleased to announce *Safeguarding Online™*. *Safeguarding Online™*, the only Internet-based training program of its kind, teaches our employees and volunteers how to keep children in our care safe from abuse. Developed by Praesidium, the national leader in abuse risk management and provided by the Church Pension Group, *Safeguarding Online™* combines science and technology to deliver the most up-to-date and useful information available.

Safeguarding Online™ is Internet-based so you can access it anytime, from anywhere. You just logon to a high-speed Internet connection and complete your courses. The step-by-step courses are fun to watch and easy to understand! Each course ends with a brief quiz to ensure that you understand all of this important information. You'll also have a chance to provide feedback on the course content and usability.

The following courses are required by our diocese:

- Meet Sam: Sam abuses children. In this course, he tells you how he gets away with it—in programs just like yours. You learn the types of sexual abusers and the methods they use to meet their own needs. You also learn how to spot interactions between adults and children that may indicate danger.
- It Happened to Me: Temper outbursts. Failing grades. Depression. Suicide. These are just a few of the effects of sexual abuse. In this course, you hear children and adults describe the devastating effects abuse has had on their lives. You learn about the prevalence of abuse and specific characteristics that may put some children at higher risk of abuse.
- Keeping Your Church Safe: Children come to us throughout the day, week after week, month after month, and year after year. They expect to learn about God, have fun, make friends, practice skills, and grow in faith. They expect to be safe. In this course, you will learn when and where abuse is most likely to occur in church programs, the steps you can take to keep children safe, and how you can protect yourself from false allegations of abuse.
- Diocese of Indianapolis Policies: This course outlines our policies relevant to the prevention of abuse. To complete the course, you must indicate that you have read, understand, and agree to comply with our policies. For ease of reading you can download them on our website at www.indydio.org - Documents – Policies - and read a hard copy instead of reading those online.

Safeguarding Online™ is available now. Heidi Kauffman is the administrator for our parish. If you are required, under diocesan policies, to take the training you will be hearing from Heidi. If you are not required but desire to take the training because you are a parent or grandparent and would like to be informed you may also take this training. Please contact Heidi if you are interested.

March 5, 2009

Dear Parishioner of St. John's:

This spring we are launching an Extraordinary Stewardship Effort (ESE) to address our deficit and prepare for St. John's future. The financial challenges we face and the actions taken by the Wardens and Vestry were outlined by our Rector prior to the annual meeting and in written communications to parishioners. As you know, this year's stewardship effort was \$50,000 shy of our projected Operating Budget.

The goal of this extraordinary effort is to raise \$250,000 for the following priorities:

1. ensure the complete funding of our Operating Budget at its present 2009 level;
2. cover the expense of a consultant to guide us through a period of self-study and discernment (\$10,000);
3. restore to pre-2009 levels items that have been trimmed from this year's budget (\$20,000/year = \$60,000 over three years) ; and
4. restore depleted cash reserves.

We plan to complete the ESE by mid-May in order to either guarantee staff positions in 2010 – 2012 or, if we must, reduce program staff salaries and parish programs beginning in 2010. By mid-May, then, our program staff will know what, if any, plans they must make for 2010.

We seek financial contributions and commitments, over and above regular pledge amounts, that will be paid to St. John's within a three-year period beginning in 2010. Please consider this letter your first invitation to participate in this campaign. Further communication, with a pledge card and suggested offerings, will be forthcoming. Weekly updates of our progress will be communicated in the service bulletin, displays in the parish hall, the web page and in the *Eagle*. If you would like a personal visit to discuss a gift, please contact the church office or Linda Jeffries (477-1574).

This effort is not meant to "solve" our deficit forever. Rather, it will provide the parish with the ability to use the next three years to develop a future vision for St. John's that brings our programming and budget into balance.

We want to thank those parishioners who have increased their 2009 pledges since the Annual Meeting. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute to this Extraordinary Stewardship Effort. We invite you to prepare for a time of discernment as we consider who God is calling us to be as a parish in 2010 and beyond.

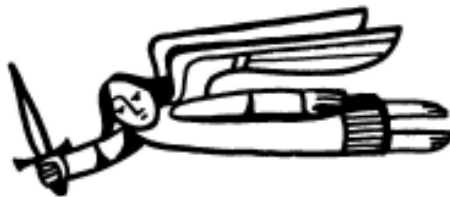
With every confidence in our ability to accomplish what we must, and every confidence that God is with us and will bless and prosper our efforts, we are,

The Wardens and Vestry of St. John's

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The two greatest expenses in the kitchen are coffee and paper cups. In an effort to help with these expenses, we would like to help reduce the cup cost. In the cabinet to the left of the range is a pull-out tray. This tray will have mugs on it. If you are willing to use a mug, you will need to wash it after use and replace it on the tray yourself. (Just like at home!) That will mean at least one less paper cup used. You may also donate unused mugs from your home, so that our collection will increase. If you wish, write your name on your mug with the permanent marker and put it to the side of the tray. That way, you'll have your own mug to use each week. Let's see if we can reduce the expense of purchasing paper cups that have only a one-time use. Thanks for all your help.

E. Linda Jeffries



*When the Lord sees the blood
on the door, he will pass over
your home.*

Thank You

I send sincere thank yous to friends at St. Johns' for their kindness during my recent broken bone experience. The prayers, encouraging words, cards, food and offers of food were appreciated.

I thank you,
Mary Ann Burns

You know you're an Episcopalian..

. . . if you don't think Agnus Dei is a woman.

God takes such good care of me.

I've often wondered what it was I could do for him. Where's the heavenly illuminated page dropping down from the ceiling this morning when I awake? Silly me and God have mercy, I need look no further than the people around me, all the good neighbors God puts here in front of me. Unfortunately for my poor beat up body blustering about spirit, it often takes hard knocks before the nickel drops. In this case the lesson is about my place in the human society.

Not so many years ago I lived as a determined recluse (and desperado, no doubt) shunning contact with others, finding no good place for it. Self sufficient and safe – how much easier it is to be “good” when one has no interaction with others. These past few years have seen me more “accepting” of others (what I had thought of as “butting” their noses into my affairs) and it's very confusing. On one hand the interaction feels good. I can't seem to deny that methinks God likes it. Those “warm-fuzzies”, while at first rather embarrassing to me, I find well worth it. On the other hand though, according to the way I had thought. Is all this friendly social behavior necessary? Don't people just do it because it's the acceptable way, PC and all that? It struck me, well gee; I don't say things I don't mean (well I try not to) why should others be any different. Still all that sincerity was fact. I'll just go along trying to be the best I can be myself 'til it figures itself out. Oh, I love God; He is so wise in His ways of teaching the ignorant.

I can joke around this Lent, saying I've given up my car (totaled), given up driving (no little Gracie, the auto) given up running around (the proverbial headless chicken)-busy, busy, busy. But the truth is that I've received so much more than I've “given up.” Mayhap, Lent is more about what we are given, through Grace, than what we give up.

Most of you know that I slid on some ice February 22 (yes, on the way to Kirk), jumped a curb, crashed through a sign like a circus clown in a funny car through a flaming hoop and got up-close and personal with a cement loading dock. Oh, my poor little automobile! But my most wondrous God had me live to learn to be His. Bunches of little broken bones and at least 400 broken ribs (I exaggerate a little) being as close to being incapacitated and forlorn as I've ever been and God has made it all worthwhile by exposing me to a great truth. WOW!! I have friends; people care about me – maybe even like me!

I never experienced the outflow of such sincere care and love from those people who know me. The very first day in the hospital I received so many calls, cards, visits and flowers that I was awestruck. They just kept coming. This was no mere courtesy call, no duty motivated chore. God has opened my eyes to the wealth of good neighbors; he has graced me to embrace. Church folk aren't just Sunday folk, this was 24/7. Linda, I want to be a “church lady” like you when I grow up. Heidi, Kaye and even the Bible Study Group I've been no more than a ghost to, Father Ed, Janet, Teresa and more. I was overwhelmed by God's love shining through all of you. My theater troupes were out in strong attendance. My artists even wanted to come draw me at the nursing home and the home visit, so comforting. The good neighbors know just what a hurt person needs to raise those endorphin levels, clear away the blues and promote healing. I feel as if I've had all your hands lay healing upon me. God has given me this greatest gift knowing, believing and having faith we people are real in our care for one another – honestly being there for one another.

Oh thank you all so very, very much. God has made us all so very precious to one another... He takes such good care of us by the people He puts on our path. Thank you, thank you! Praise God! Praise all of us for our hopeful emulation of Him and our willingness to be part of His plan, His world and His gracious love.

Most appreciatively with love,

Kathleen



UTO Values

Thanksgiving: for joy, blessings or challenges

Generosity: UTO offerings are over and above

Mission: to expand the church

Ministry: to meet compelling human need

The concept of the UTO is at the heart of the stewardship of baptism: united in one faith, thankful for God's presence in our lives, we are offering ourselves. Our acts of gratitude for God's blessings in our lives provide the means to spread God's blessings to others in the form of UTO grants, expanding the action of grace throughout the world. UTO's value is so much more than the actual coin put in our little Blue Boxes!

Midge Munds, Diocesan UTO Coordinator

Nursery News

Greetings all nursery parents! Spring is making its way into Indiana and this makes us think of spring cleaning (right?). We could really use help from parents to thoroughly clean the nursery. The next nursery cleaning day will be Saturday March 28th. See the bulletin for the time. If you plan to attend or have questions about the time etc. please email AnnieSchreiber (annieschreiber81@yahoo.com) or Angela Mosier (ajmosier@comcast.net).

Thank you to all parents who have brought a snack to share in the nursery. Your generosity is appreciated!

Easter is just weeks away and as mentioned there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children following the 10:15 AM service on April 12. Please remind your kids to bring their baskets. After the service children aged 3 and under should gather by the Bishop's Parlor to begin their hunt. Older children will conduct their searches in the garden (weather permitting). There will be no candy or other treats inside the individual eggs. Instead, kids can turn in the collected eggs for prize bags at the conclusion of the hunt.



Stockings For Jubilee Christmas

I am pleased to inform you that we will be able to make stockings for Jubilee Christmas this year. As you may have noted in the Annual Report for Jubilee Christmas, I reported that there were no funds available to purchase fabric to make stockings. A parishioner, who chooses to remain anonymous, has offered to purchase fabric for this endeavor. In addition, an anonymous donation of fabric was delivered to the church office on March 11.

In any case, volunteers will be needed to cutout and sew stockings. I can provide fabric and stock patterns to cutout stockings so you can do this at home. When we have these cutout, then kits will be available. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please let me know (mmcclure03@comcast.net or 567-2512).

Jubilee Christmas will occur on December 12. It isn't too early to start planning!! Thanks for all of your participation in, support of, and encouragement of this event.

Maggie McClure



WHAT CHURCH HAVE YOU VISITED LATELY

The Worship Committee is interested in all the church pew leaflets that appear on the bulletin board every so often. To help us in our discussions concerning the worship services at St. John's, we would like to hear from those who travel and attend church in other parts of the world. How about coming to one of our meetings and sharing you experience with us? If you would like to assist us in our mission, just let us know and we will put you on our agenda. Just contact any of the members: Jay Mermoud, Linda Jeffries, Marylin Howland Ross, Heidi Kauffman or Fr. Ed.

Calling All Gardeners

Spring Clean Up Day at St. John's will be Saturday, April 25.

Check your calendars

