

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



600 Ferry Street
Lafayette, IN 47901-1142
765-742-4079

Edward J. Tourangeau, Rector

www.stjohns-laf.org

[e-mail:eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org)



A View from the BIG Pew

Dear Friends,

I write this on November 14th before leaving, early tomorrow, for a conference at St. Stephen's Church in Richmond, VA entitled "Going Forward Together: Third Millennium Christianity." The "draws" of this event are, for me, four-fold.

First, attending a conference in Richmond, VA, gives me a chance to have B&B en route at Annie's, and that's worth the drive in and of itself.

There is the schedule of Plenary Sessions featuring speakers whose backgrounds range from leaders in the 'emerging' or post-modern church phenomenon to persons who provide leadership in the engagement of the church with cultures in widely differing parts of our world. They seek reconciliation and cooperation between very different points of view. These include two Americans; the Bishop of Peshwar; the founder of the IKON community in Northern Ireland; a Maori woman Principal of the College of St. John the Evangelist in Auckland, NZ and more.

There are also workshops, and I've enrolled in three: on the Millennium Development Goals (which will figure increasingly in the focus and mission of our Episcopal Church under the leadership of our new Presiding Bishop.) Another has the dangerous title of "Worship for the WHOLE congregation" which, I hope, will give me insight and ideas to further advance initiatives we have begun at St. John's, while not requiring me to learn power point. My third choice is on "Nurturing Healthy Faith Communities." This will give me the opportunity to hear someone whose writing and reflection I have long admired. Some of you may be familiar with Tom Ehrich, an Episcopal priest/columnist, whose work is featured in the Indianapolis Star. Tom left active priestly ministry, for reasons I do not altogether understand but can guess at. His ministry now is to write and teach that Christian faith communities must learn how to incarnate kindness and reconciliation in the world, and stop succumbing to the temptation to fight with one another until one side is proved right and the other is beaten down (my words, not his).

Finally, I am taking some time for myself, to be alone. By driving to Richmond and booking a single room I will have just that. Some good time to think, to sort out what has happened in my life this past few weeks, to feed my imagination and prepare to welcome Advent.

When I get back, we will have only one Sunday remaining before Advent begins on December 3rd.

All of this is a long way 'round to urge your to prepare for Advent – The Season of Preparation – as well. Where is your Advent Wreath? If you don't have one, get yourself four candles, some blue ribbon and some evergreen. Light one candle on December 3rd, two on December 10th, three on December 17th and four on December 24th. Pray the Collect for the Day from our bulletin, read the Hebrew Scripture and Gospel reading as well. Then, in the candlelight, list what those readings and prayers have to teach you about waiting and preparing. For what. And for Whom.

On a totally crass and economic level, get any Christmas shopping you choose to do done now. Don't wait! Leave the parking lots behind before it gets really crazy out there – it's like waiting out a storm. Parents might plan to say "No" to their children about some activity or other in favor of time for one another, for quiet, for doing things together.

Be on the alert for those for this "happy" season is a virtual hell. Everyone pretends to be happy and many are not. Society barely allows us to admit that. When you see those people,

give them some spiritual space. Space where it is OK to be broken so that God may begin their healing. Realize that you might be an agent of that.

This parish helps mightily with Jubilee Christmas. If you haven't done this before, you should consider giving it a try. It's hectic, but for most of us it's over in a few hours! But beyond Jubilee, remember that on the First Sunday after Christmas Day, December 31, we will take our last turn of the year to host the Community Lunch at Tr8inity United Methodist Church. Poverty and hunger know no season – the numbers being fed Sunday lunch have increased and now average about 125 or more. We need the help, they need the care. I hope this ministry might be a part of your Christmas celebration this year.

We'll send a letter with times of service for Christmas Eve, Day and Season. This year the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day (liturgists get cranky these years!). Some things may be a bit compressed this year. Not to worry!

For now, prepare.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Tourangeau". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pictorial Directory Update

Thanks to the 122 families who had their photos taken for St. John's pictorial directory and for those who have submitted photos. We hope to have directories by the end of February. I also want to thank all of those who helped with the project. The directory committee:

Kelley Bailey, appointment coordinator;
Carol L'Homme, publicity coordinator;
Kristine Kealey, layout coordinator; and
Adrienne Hanson, our contact for the 8 o'clock service;

The phone callers: Sue Bracey, Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt, and Nancy Tobias who made sure everyone had made an appointment and then called to remind parishioners of their appointments.

Hosts for the photo sessions: Pat Annis, Priscilla Bain, Lloyd Brewer, Gayle Ennis, Carol L'Homme, Linda Jeffries, Caryl Matthews, Giff Scarlett, Helen and Bob Slagel, and Nancy Tobias.

Our in-house photographers were Randy Brist and Angie Kauffmann.

Teresa Lohrman, our parish administrator, who helped with all aspects of the project, from creating mailing labels to making appointments and creating the directory of parishioners.

And, Fr. Ed Tourangeau for his guidance throughout the process.

The participation and assistance of so many made this a successful project — thank you!

Barbara Powell
Pictorial Directory Coordinator

Adult Forum Schedule

African Bible Study will meet in the Bishop's Parlor led by the preacher of the day.

December 3, 2006 - February 25, 2007

New for all adults! Starting December 3rd there will be an Adult Education offering **specifically for parents and caregivers** of the children in our church school but all adults are welcome. The *Gather'Round* curriculum, used by the church school, offers *Connect*, a book for adults that studies the same Bible stories as the children. The adult curriculum is designed in order to nurture a genuine partnership between congregations and families for the faith formation of our children. Our families - not our church schools - are the primary setting for faith formation and this class is intended to strengthen and support families by giving training to parents and caregivers using the same stories the children study but discussed at an adult level. The goal is to "minister *with* families, not *for* them or *to* them(*Gather'Round Handbook*)." This class is open to all adults and will be facilitated by Maggie McClure. Meet in Classroom 3 upstairs. **Now your children can drop you off for Church School!**

December 10 2006

Report on Diocesan Convention with Convention Delegates, Nancy Bowker, Kristine Kealey, Priscilla Bain, and Patty Tourangeau in the Outreach Room downstairs by the Food Pantry.

December 24 and 31, 2006 -
No Church School
No Adult Forum
No African Bible Study

January 7, 14, and 21, 2007

Adrienne Hanson will lead a discussion on essays from Kathleen Norris's book, *Cloister Walk*. Adrienne will look at Norris's thoughts on metaphor, the feminine, and the sacred. The essays will be available in class. You do not need to buy the book in order to participate. Class will meet in the Outreach Room downstairs by the Food Pantry.

February 4, 2007

Combined worship service at 9:00 followed by Annual Meeting. No Adult Education.

January 28, February 11, 18, 25

Tai Chi as Mediation led by Mary Campbell. Class will meet in the Conference Room in the Rectory upstairs. *Class is limited to 7 participants. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the chapel.*

STAINED GLASS NOTECARDS AVAILABLE FROM THE EFM CLASS

The Education for Ministry class took digital photos of several stained glass windows at St. John's. With the help of our Parish Administrator, Teresa, we have had these images printed as notecards. The price is \$10 for a package of eight cards (eight different windows). The inside of the card is blank, and a brief history of the window is noted on the back. Several folks are using them as Christmas cards, and many are giving them as gifts. All proceeds from the sale are being sent to the Episcopal Relief Fund, designated for Darfur. Sales have been brisk and we have already collected over \$250. A second printing has been made, and is available for sale in the Commons. Thanks for your support.

If you have any questions, you may speak with Caryl Matthews, Jo Roberts, or any member of the EFM class.



What is that blessing?

“Live without fear. Your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God’s blessing be with you always.”

Some of you have been asking me about where the blessing I use at the end of the later service comes from. The blessing can be found in *Enriching our Worship*, a book of supplemental liturgies. The Episcopal Church website describes *Enriching Our Worship* this way, “the canticles and prayers in *Enriching our Worship* represent the recovery of ancient biblical and patristic images including the identification of Christ with wisdom and language for God that does not use familiar masculine terms. The liturgical texts reflect the influence of the prayer experience of women, and a desire to honor that experience while remaining faithful to the norms of liturgical prayer as received by The Episcopal Church.” The blessing I use is a text attributed to St. Clare of Assisi. Clare was a contemporary of St. Francis, who left her life as a noblewoman to take a vow of poverty and devote her life to the church. She founded the order that bears her name. Over the years I have found that using images of God and the trinity other than the typical “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” has deepened my own relationship with God. Clare’s blessing inspires me to move boldly into the world as a Christian as I remember her words “live without fear.”

Attention!! Attention!!

The next Eagle deadline is December 11, 2006!!

Please be prompt!!

Lunch-Time in Advent

As we all know, Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year. This year it is also the beginning of something new offered by the music program – midday music concerts. On the **THREE WEDNESDAYS** of this season, there will be concerts and lunch at St. John's over the noon hour.

A 20 minute concert will begin at 12:10pm and will be followed by a sandwich and salad bar with dessert and beverages. There is a \$5 suggested donation for the meal. All are welcome for the concert and/or lunch. Be sure to invite your co-workers and friends for a relaxing lunch hour.

- December 6** Daniel Carr, piano
student of Mary Heller and state winner of the 2006 Indiana Music Teacher's Assoc. Competition
- December 13** Karen Goff, soprano
Tippecanoe Music Educator and staff of the Bach Chorale Singers, vocal music for Advent and Christmas, classical to spiritual
- December 20** Michael Bennett, organ
familiar carols for Advent and Christmas on the Wicks organ

Christmas Jubilee

It is REALLY that time of the year now. I am sure you all have seen the signs of Jubilee Christmas appearing everywhere. I hope everyone has noticed something new. Along with the stockings, we have BELLS with age and gender of each child.

We are serving 35 families and a total of 92 children and teens. As you will notice 70% are above the age of 6 years old. This list will also be posted in the Commons.

0-2 yrs - 5 boys, 6 girls
3-5 yrs - 9 boys, 8 girls
6-8 yrs - 12 boys, 8 girls
9-12 yrs - 12 boys 17 girls
Teens - 5 boys, 10 girls

We hope that everyone will sign up to volunteer for this wonderful event on Saturday, December 16th. I know that I am looking forward to it. The event leaves such a warm and wonderful feeling and that should last the rest of the winter.

Patti Mellor
Jubilee Christmas Committee



Tai Chi as Meditation

Tai Chi has sometimes been called “Meditation in Movement.” In this four-week class you will be introduced to some fundamental concepts and movements of Tai Chi and Chi Gung. Come, try it out. Does a Taoist-based discipline translate into Christian meditation?

The class will meet in the upstairs conference room in the Old Rectory. It will be most helpful if you can commit to all four Sundays – January 28, and February 11, 18, and 25. (February 4 is the Annual Meeting and no adult education.) Class size will be limited to about seven participants. You can sign up on the bulletin board outside the chapel.

This is a calming and quiet kind of exercise. You do not need to wear any special clothing, though women might be more comfortable in slacks. Flat shoes, bare feet, or stocking feet are best. Although there are ways to modify Tai Chi for people who cannot stand, I don’t know how to do that – so please be prepared to stand for 10 to 15 minutes at a time.

Questions?

Call me at 743-8851 or email at marycampbell@verizon.net.

Mary Campbell



St. John’s Book Club

The St. John’s Book Club will not be meeting in December, but we have a great book picked out to help beat the winter blues in January! Carl Hiaason’s latest book, *Nature Girl*, is called “another hilarious Florida romp” with an “engaging and diverse screwball cast of characters.” *Nature Girl* promises to be an enjoyable book for both long-time fans of Carl Hiaason and for newcomers as well. So, please pick up a copy and join us in January when we bring some “fun in the sun” to the book club!

Kristine Kealey

Nursery News

Boy! Are we full of news and announcements this month.

We continue to offer Mom's Morning Out (MMO) every month during the semester. Currently the second Tuesday morning of each month from 9:00am until 11:30am is dedicated to MMO. Susan Chandler, one of our regular sitters, has done a fantastic job working during this time. The next MMO is Tuesday, December 12th. A perfect time to get some of your holiday shopping done!

In November the second Parent's Night Out occurred and well-received. While several families took advantage of this opportunity, we inadvertently chose a very busy weekend which prevented a few families from being able to participate. The children and their parents who did participate had a fantastic time. While the children ate hot dogs, mac 'n cheese, and muffins, the parents ate at various local restaurants. While the children played games and watched a movie, the parents had laughter-filled, uninterrupted conversations. If you wanted to participate but could not, don't worry—the next Parent' Night Out will be in the spring.

There are several announcements as well. As in the years past, we would like to thank our faithful sitters with a holiday gift and a small recognition breakfast in the nursery. Susan and Lara have been excellent child care providers. The children love them and their presence in the nursery every Sunday gives everyone, the children and their parents, peace and security. We would like to say thank you to Susan and Lara on Sunday, December 17th. We would welcome any monetary contribution toward their gifts.

SAVE THE DATE! While the nursery is cleaned every week, twice a year we schedule a Saturday morning to give the room a deep cleaning and inspection. The next nursery cleaning is scheduled for Saturday, January 13th. We need volunteers for this cleaning, so put this on your calendar and come help keep the nursery clean and safe. More details will follow closer to the actual date.

We wish for you and your family a blessed holiday season!

Merry Christmas!

Nolie Parnell and Kelley Bailey

Church Deficit as of September 30, 2006

The Financial Affairs Committee and the Vestry think it is useful for the congregation to be made aware of the current deficit at St. John's

At the end of September, our reported deficit for three quarters of the Fiscal Year was reported at \$42,042. Fortunately, much of this deficit was due to what, we believe, is a temporary shortfall from pledged income. If that were exactly at the pledge level for three quarters of the year, the deficit would be \$22,901. As one would expect with this deficit for the year, our cash operating reserves have been dropping throughout the year. They now stand at around \$22,000 but \$7,000 to \$8,000 are pre-committed accounts such as Flowers and are not available for general operating expenses.

Sincerely,

Tom Brush
Chair of Financial Affairs

UTO

These two prayers are found in the new UTO Volume II Book of Prayers. You will find these books in the Commons, if you wish one for yourself and /or your family.

O God of All, we thank you for the many good and gracious gifts that flow from your hand, and for uniting us in a spirit of thanksgiving and mission. As we offer ourselves to serve the world you have made, help us to do so with gladness of heart and generosity in giving, that our efforts may be grounded in a holy gratitude that faithfully reflects the love of Christ through which we are bountifully blessed and for which we are increasingly thankful. Amen.

*I count my blessings each day
With prayers of joy and sometimes sorrow.
But what really counts is
The joy of putting coins in the box
To care and provide for the needs of others. Amen*

As of Nov. 20, our UTO Fall Ingathering has not been tallied. Every penny will be used to support grants to help others here in the USA and abroad. Our next Ingathering will be in May 2007. Daily prayers of thanksgiving and gifts of coins in our UTO boxes help others to know God and the caring of His followers.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis



We wish you a merry Christmas

Youth Group News

In September the Youth Group raised \$1300 for the Lafayette Urban Ministries Hunger Hike thanks to a matching donation from Bison Financial Group. Among the youth groups, our group raised the third highest amount.

In October the Youth Group assisted with the Halloween party and the parish campfire. At the Halloween party many children greatly enjoyed making and eating Allyn McInerney's famous spider cookies. Thanks also to Logan Burke, Brendan McInerney and Andrew Wallin for their assistance with games.

In November the Youth Group helped to winterize parishioner homes.

Upcoming events:

December 10th: Bowling and shopping for Jubilee Christmas

HELP WANTED **We Need YOU!!**

In January 2007 I will have been the nursery coordinator for three years and Kelley Bailey for 2.5 years. While we have thoroughly enjoyed our time in this position, it is time that we step down. We are looking for our replacement(s). Could that person be you? Do you enjoy young children? Do you enjoy organizing, planning and a little bit of shopping? If so, this job is for you!! Responsibilities include scheduling sitters for Sundays as well as the occasional special event/program and purchasing supplies. The coordinator also schedules Mom's Morning Out and Parent's Night Out. Historically the nursery coordinator has been either a single individual or shared between two people. Kelley and I also want to overlap with the new coordinator(s) to help minimize any worries during the transition period. Interested? If so, contact either Nolie Parnell (497.9174) or Kelley Bailey (463.7263).

Nolie Parnell



The U2charist is coming!

Save the date of Sunday, February 18th at 7p.m. for the Greater Lafayette area U2charist. This worship service which uses the music of U2 and raises money toward the Millennium Development Goals promises to be an exciting time. Look for more information in the next issue of the Eagle. If you're so excited about this important event that you can't wait for the next Eagle, or if you would like to help in some way, speak with Heidi Kauffman or Hilary Cooke.