



# The Eagle

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## All the Body of Christ Responds to God By The Very Rev. Robert A. L'Homme

Recently the Roman Catholic Church announced new policies for integrating Anglican priests into that church.

Allowing married Anglican priests to be (re)ordained into that church is not a new policy, but it is aimed at making it easier than before and to receive whole groups, for example a parish or diocese.

This offer may be welcomed by some who are unhappy with the Anglican Church or who discover they really would rather be Roman Catholic priests. Married bishops still are not allowed. Converting bishops could be re-ordained as priests.

Much of the theology, worship and practices of the Roman and Anglican churches are similar, making the transition from one of those churches to the other easier than to or from most other churches.

There is one large difference that will cause most Anglicans not to “swim the Tiber.” We are a conciliar church, which includes the participation of all orders of ministry—laity, deacons, priests and bishops.

For Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches, councils mean gatherings of bishops only. And in the Roman Church, conciliar decisions must be approved by the pope who is the supreme authority in all matters of doctrine, discipline and governance. The limited participation in the Roman and Orthodox Churches has far-

reaching results. Required celibacy for all Roman priests and bishops and all bishops and some Orthodox priests has deep impact for those churches. The exclusion of women from all clerical offices is another. Other matters like birth control and required belief in some doctrines like the Immaculate Conception are others.

For Episcopalians especially the councils of the church include all members of the church. When prayerfully gathered in faith, the Holy Spirit speaks through the gathered church. It happens every three years in the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, every year in the convention (or in some dioceses, council, convocation or synod) of the diocese and in the parish in its annual meeting.

From time to time, I hear laity or clergy

scoff at the idea that God is working through these instruments. I have been to many General Conventions, Diocesan Conventions and chaired some 38 parish annual meetings. I agreed with many decisions and disagreed with others, but I have never questioned that God can and does act and speak through and in the prayerful gatherings of His saints. I certainly do not feel that only bishops or a supreme leader can be the holy ones of God who hear his voice and respond.

Our system is not perfect and the councils of the church can and do make mistakes, not hearing clearly what the Spirit says to the church. I believe history shows gatherings of a hierarchy call likewise from time to time. It is in the gathering of all the church, not just a supposedly privileged few that the church can be and act as it really is—the Body of Christ.

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## Christmas Eve “Midnight” Service By Ed Tourangeau

“Midnight” is in quotations because at St. John’s midnight on Christmas Eve comes at 9:00 pm! For those who don’t know, there is a reception following that service which does last until midnight or even beyond. Everyone who comes to the service is invited to stay for the refreshments and community of the reception.

Know that the reception is entirely ad-hoc. Volunteers bring snacks and beverages to share (please, continue to bring equal amounts of both wine and non-alcoholic beverages). Volunteers set the food and drink offerings out before the service and clean up afterward and, because the staff goes home to bed so they can return on Christmas morning, volunteers take responsibility for securing the building when the reception ends.

We hope all who come to the “midnight” service will stay for the reception afterward. We ask all who do to share in every aspect of making the reception successful. Thanks!

**e-spirituality**  
**By Amy Paget**

e-spirituality is designed to be an item in each Eagle where St. John’s parishioners share the online resources that they have discovered that aid in their understanding of their faith. This month, I am listing some seasonal resources to help you fully engage with Advent and Christmas.

The church year begins with Advent and I have found several good resources to help you learn more about the church year and keep that ‘counter time’ in mind.

[http://www.crivoice.org/chyear\\_resources.html](http://www.crivoice.org/chyear_resources.html) The Voice is the Internet web site of CRI/Voice, Institute. Dennis R. Bratcher, who comes from the United Methodist perspective, maintains it. The site’s motto “a world parish and a catholic spirit” nicely captures its inclusivity of approach.

<http://www.churchyear.net> Ancient-Future.Net and ChurchYear.Net exist to help individuals of all denominations and perspectives better understand Catholic Teaching, Practice, Spirituality, and Morality.

<http://www.spirithome.com/churyear.html> Spirithome.com ‘where you can discover some things about Spirituality and the Holy Spirit who makes it possible’ provides both an introduction to the Church year and devotional resources.

<http://www.textweek.com> At The Text This Week, you will find conveniently organized links to a treasure of resources for study, reflection and liturgy pertaining to each week’s lectionary texts. It’s also possible to subscribe to a weekly e-mail which summarizes some of the most interesting resources the webmaster’s found within each week’s list of study resources. Jenee Woodward is an amateur scholar of Church History and Biblical Studies, a 1984 graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology (United Methodist) in Kansas City.

<http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org/jubilee.html> LUM Jubilee Christmas, of which St. John’s is a part, is our community’s largest Christmas assistance program. Read about it online and also look at the other Lafayette Urban Ministry Programs.

<http://www.stnicholascenter.org> St. Nicholas Center is a virtual center, a website, where people can learn about St. Nicholas; it provides resources for families, churches, and schools.

Have you found an online site that’s contributed to your journey in faith? Email Amy at [pagets@gmail.com](mailto:pagets@gmail.com) and watch for it to appear here in the upcoming months.

**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Veteran Build**  
**By Ken Paar**

Several members of St. John’s took part in the Habitat for Humanity Veteran Build outreach project on Saturday, November 14. The work was happening too close to press time for this month’s *Eagle*, but watch the January issue for more details (and perhaps a picture or two) from the build.

**Next Eagle Deadline**

To accomodate the Christmas holiday, the deadline for submissions for the January *Eagle* will be Monday, December 14.

Email to [eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

**Memorial Garden**  
**Improvements**

**By Ed Tourangeau**

The recent fabrication and placement of the Celtic cross in the Memorial Garden brings to conclusion current plans to improve that space. In the past year we have: replaced rotted timbers and re-roofed the lych gate, stained all timbers of the gate and cloister walkway, fabricated and installed a cross that serves as a focal point in the Garden and also in the chapel, and installed an additional bronze plaque to receive nameplates when ashes are interred in the Garden.

The cross is in memory of Betty Stephens whose estate gift to the parish made providing the cross and the expense of its installation possible; it was designed by Rob Sovinski and fabricated by Cives Steel Company. The bronze plaque takes its place on the cloister wall and is a gift in memory of Charlotte Tomes by her family and friends. The work on the gate was done last summer using funds given in memory of Marjorie Walker.

In the spring when the dogwoods flower we will get some pictures and create a new brochure advertising the Garden within the parish. Until then, know that it is a place for all: we use it for baptisms when weather permits, children use it for their Easter egg hunt and walk the labyrinth on many Sunday mornings, we bury ashes of members and friends of the parish as the occasion arises, passers-by from time to time take a break from the street and enjoy the quiet of the Garden space, and the occasional photographer will find the timbers of the gate an interesting study.

Look for the brochure when it comes. Until then think of the Garden as today’s version of a church-yard cemetery, and consider it as a place you might use when the time for end-of-life planning comes to you. Thanks to all who have given to ensure we have this Garden, to Larry Hicks who oversees the Garden’s long-term seasonal care, and to the “Garden Club,” parishioners who see to regular garden maintenance through the growing season.

## The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

By Ed Cates

I am not a very religious person.

When my Editor-in-Chief asked me if I wanted to share my thoughts about attending St. John's for this month's *Eagle*, that was the first thing that popped into my mind. After it was once again explained to me that this column is a space for the people that make up St. John's to tell why they are members of the Episcopal Church in general, or St. John's in particular, I briefly entertained the notion of writing the shortest column ever:

I'm here because this is where Cresta decided she was happy.

That initially seems to neatly sum things up, but it is more of a lazy copout than real truth.

My religious ambivalence started when I was very young, and doing *anything* else on a Sunday morning seemed preferable to being stuffed into "proper attire" and crammed into a grown-up world where I was expected to be barely seen and not at all heard. The ambivalence only grew as I did, with disappointments in various congregation leaders showing what I thought were decidedly un-Christian traits. I believe I stopped going to church on my own in high school, shortly after the church I was attending sent out a fundraising letter in January reminding everyone that if we back-dated our checks we could deduct our donations from last year's taxes.

Since then, the seemingly regular examples of people claiming to follow Christ using their positions of authority to spread division and fear among people left me jaded, and perhaps more than a bit cynical. So when Cresta announced that she felt a need to find a church to her liking here in town, I offered up my reserved support, and offered to watch the kids.

I was pleasantly surprised when she returned from her foray into Greater

Lafayette churchdom *very* excited, telling me about the church in Lafayette that had a female priest, ran a food pantry, prayed for death row inmates, their victims, and their respective families, and let not only other groups use their facilities for meetings, but also other religious denominations! It was



impressive, and seemed to indicate a level of tolerance, service, and inclusion that had been sorely missing in my personal religious history.

Since that initial introduction to St. John's, my reserved support has grown to consenting to getting the kids baptized, supporting Cresta as she becomes more and more active in the church, and going from sporadic to regular attendance myself. The initial positive impression only gets reinforced with every friendly greeting during fellowship, every call to care for our fellow man, every reminder that we can and should strive to be better than who we are.

I am now at the point where I am looking for ways to more actively give something back to St. John's. Perhaps even more amazing is something that happened recently; something that hasn't happened in about 22 years. I, the self-proclaimed Not Very Religious Person, willingly attended church services on my own.

Why? Because St. John's welcomes me.

## United Thank Offering

By Mary Louise Davis

The St. John's Fall Ingathering of our UTO gift offerings of coins and bills to help others was held in early November. Watch the January *Eagle* for our gift totals. The following prayer comes from the UTO Home Devotional Guide:

### A Discipline

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.  
 Fast from fear of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.  
 Fast from words that pollute; Feast on speech that purifies.  
     Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.  
     Fast from anger; Feast on patience.  
     Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.  
     Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.  
     Fast from bitterness; Feast on compassion.  
     Fast from self-concern; Feast on charity.  
     Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.  
     Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.  
     Fast from problems that overwhelm;  
         Feast on prayer that sustains.  
     Fast from worry; Feast in faith.

## All Saints Day Festival By Heidi Kauffman

Thank you to all who participated in the St. John's All Saints Day Festival. Our celebration was a great success! We listened to a Godly Play story telling us about a saint for each month of the year. Our work for the day was to put together one HIV/AIDS care kit and 12 school kits. (To see a picture of two happy recipients of the school kits go to <http://mcc.org/kits/school>.) Another part of our work was to remember the saints in our lives by designing a shield for them which we attached to the banner that we carried in the procession. Our feast was punch, deviled eggs, and angel food cake! Some people dressed up as saints. We had Saint Agnus, Saint Brigid, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Francis, Florence Nightingale, Teilhard de Chardin, St. Olaf, Dorothy Day, and St. Florian – the patron saint of firefighters.



## Advent Quiet Day of Prayer By Amy Paget

Combat the holiday season freneticism by entering into Advent with a day focused on prayer Saturday, December 5, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. You are welcome to join us for the full time period or any portion thereof. This day will be held at St. John's.

St. John's Advent Quiet Day will focus on prayer practices. Watch video presentations by Father Matthew from Christ's Church, Rye NY on Anglican Prayer, Centering Prayer, and Lectio Divina and have exploration time to try these practices.

The Rev. Matthew J. Moretz is the creator of the "Father Matthew Presents" series of video blogs. The light-hearted pieces focus on issues of faith and ministry from the perspective of an Episcopal priest; a close-up view of the Episcopal Church in the 21st century.

Add to our Commons Prayer Wall, pray with Icons or rosaries...or scribble a prayer! Examine seasonal devotional resources.

Bring your own spiritual exercises or select from among those provided. We'll begin and end with worship and enjoy a soup luncheon at 12:30 pm.

Include future Quiet days on your calendar ...all are Saturdays: Feb 13, 2010, May 1 2010.

Questions? Contact Amy Paget [pagets@gmail.com](mailto:pagets@gmail.com).

## For St. Anthony of Padua By Dorothy Jones

You're friend in my misguided moments,  
Known best when frustrations pile high.  
St. Anthony, help 'midst distractions,  
Thanks mostly for just standing by.  
Latent and non-mystic spirit,  
Your name, alone, called into mind,  
Makes room in dark thickets of wondering,  
Spread space where sweet silence comes nigh.  
Then sometimes, yes, often, I'll notice  
Right there in the moment of peace,  
A brief knowing when, where (or almost)  
I last had my list, stamps, or keys.  
St. Anthony, friend through a lifetime,  
One day, when the thicket's too dense  
When struggling with thorns, briars, and branches  
No longer makes any more sense,  
I hope, then, to know that you're near me,  
That soon I will come to a place  
Where lost friends and dearest companions  
Find peace, there, together, in grace.

## How many Episcopalians...

... does it take to change a light bulb? Six. An they are Tony Bailey, Bob Slagel, Sven Schreiber, Joe Vanable, Paul Lawson and John Lindenlaub. These monkeys put up the scaffold, climbed up and down it and moved it throughout the nave; they removed all the incandescent bulbs (excepting the floods) in the lanterns and replaced them with mini flourescents, then they put everything away. Thanks also to helpers Thomas Bailey, Christopher and Josh Byrn, and Patrick Schexnailder who helped get the sacffolding out of the undercroft after Sunday services.



And how many light bubs did they change? At least 70 (seven per lantern). Now those of us who appreciate the new light know who to thank. And thank them we do!

## Praying Through Exhaustion

Oh Lord, I am so tired. It seems like the lists of to-dos get longer each day, the frenzy in my home each night gets wilder. It seems like the holidays have barely started and already I am behind.

Help me, dear Jesus. Let me feel your loving arms wrap me tightly in the warm embrace of your endless love. Teach me to make choices about my time, to remember what is important this season and to say "NO" whenever my Yes would take me away from your peace. Fill me with patience, love and a sense of humor. Remind me of your deep love for me and let the fire of that love be something I can share with everyone around me.

## St. John's Book Group By Amy Paget

An ever-changing group of St. John's parishioners and guests meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Commons to discuss a book. Some have read the book...and others just want to learn more!

We left two slots 'open' in January and February and we welcome your input on a reading choice.

Which biography of Abraham Lincoln should we tackle January 28?

How should we celebrate Mark Twain's Centennial February 25? It's the commemoration of the centennial of his death (and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth)!

Let Amy Paget know your ideas before the January *Eagle* deadline, December 14, and watch this spot, next month for more exciting news!

On March 25 we'll discuss *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. [Discussion Led by Jack Albright]

Questions? Comments? To Amy Paget at [pagets@gmail.com](mailto:pagets@gmail.com)



## Food, Fellowship, and Song

The first Sunday in October found a group of St. John's parishioners and their pets at Tippecanoe Battlefield Park for the annual Parish Campfire and, because it fell on the Feast of St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals. The hotdogs and s'mores were in ample supply. Our parish musicians invited all who wished to sing along and others tapped their toes and enjoyed a pleasant evening around the campfire. Many thanks to Nancy Bowker and everyone else who made the Parish Campfire a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon with family and friends.



## A Message about Stewardship By Linda Jeffries

So, a chicken and a pig go to have breakfast together. The only things on the menu are bacon and eggs. The chicken agrees to ordering it; the pig hesitates. When the chicken asks why, the pig says, "Well, to you, this breakfast is a donation, but to me it's a commitment." And then, there's the one about the child who, after observing her father leave a 15% tip for the waitress asks him, "Why is it that the waitress gets 15% but God only gets 10%?" My very favorite comedienne, Carol Burnett, once observed that all comedy finds its basis in truth. I agree wholeheartedly. However, where stewardship is concerned, the jokes fall thin after a while; it's our life. It is our sacred responsibility given to us by God for His world and we are called to honor it in every aspect and moment of our living. Do we respond with a donation or a commitment?

Your church family is most grateful for your commitments throughout this past, very difficult, year. We must, however, look forward to provide for the coming year and our needs which will need to be met. We anticipate having a budget for 2010 which does not increase significantly. This means that we need YOU to maintain, or increase, your pledge from last year. You have received your 2010 blue pledge card. We need you to fill it out and return it to the church as soon as possible so that we will have a more accurate knowledge of what our income will be. The ESE funds only serve to supplement, not replace, our operating budget. Those funds will help, but are limited to only a portion per next three years and are intended only to keep us stable. It is vital that we have the support of every member of this church family. We are about two-thirds of the way to our goal; won't you please help us by returning your card?

If you have misplaced yours, you may pick one up at either the back of the church or on the table in the Commons, then return it to the basket on the table

in the Commons, place it in the offering plate during the worship service, or fill one out at our website.

I don't have a closing joke; I take stewardship very seriously and ask for your help as we go into a new year that will, hopefully, be more financially secure for all of us. God will continue to bless us, no matter what, and we will continue to minister in this place, honoring His gifts to all of us. We sincerely thank all those who have been so prompt in returning their cards; your commitment is very appreciated. Thank you.

## Lunchtime Concert By Michael Bennett

Come hear the Lafayette Jefferson High School *Varsity Singers* perform at St. John's December 9 Lunchtime Concert. The 48 member group will sing music of varying styles including gospel, classical and 20<sup>th</sup> century selections for a cappella choir. The concert begins at 12:10 pm and lunch follows.

## Mom's Morning Out By Angela Mosier

The next Mom's Morning Out is December 11 from 9:00 am to noon. Please contact Angela Mosier at 765-463-4391 or [ajmosier@comcast.net](mailto:ajmosier@comcast.net) if you are interested in using this ministry.

## October Financial Report By Linda Jeffries

A. RECEIPTS	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Total year</u>
<u>2009</u>		
1. Pledge Income	23,014.00	244,326.00
2. Non-Pledge Income	2,533.00	31,763.00
3. Transfer/Stephens Fund	15,000.00	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>40,547.00</b>	<b>276,089.00</b>
B. EXPENSES		
1. Outreach	3,827.00	40,014.00
2. Program	1,050.00	10,252.00
3. Personnel	20,927.00	183,254.00
4. Office	4,991.00	18,174.00
5. Property	3,454.00	49,064.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>34,249.00</b>	<b>300,758.00</b>
C. EXCESS OF RECEIPTS/EXPENSES	+6,298.00	-19,800.00

A few notes:

There is a surplus shown this month due to the transfer of \$15,000 from the Stephens Fund.

For 2009, the budget assumes a shortfall total of up to \$35,000. In 2010, 2011, and 2012, any shortfall (up to \$35,000/year) will be met by income from the Extraordinary Stewardship Effort (ESE).

ESE funds received for use in 2010 are not included in the above figures.

This is a summary report of operating income and expenses. Details are available for review from any member of the Finance Committee or the parish office. Parish funds such as endowment/investment funds, or pass-through receipts not directed toward regular parish operations are not included in the above report. They are available for review through the parish office or any member of the Endowment Committee.

## Jubilee Christmas

By Maggie McClure



The numbers are in. On December 12 from 9:30 am - 12:00 noon, St. Johns will be hosting 38 families with a total of 106 kids. This is a record for us and we are up for it.

What is needed?

Donations: \$1756 for LUM (hams and gift cards). Extra monies are used for more goodies for the families, gifts, and Jubilee supplies.

New toys: 3 per child.

Your time: See Volunteer Sign-up for tasks and times.

Bells are up in the Commons for gift needs. Please use these when purchasing gifts and return attached to your purchases. There are more girls than boys. Please focus your purchases on the older girls.

Use envelopes found in the back of the nave for cash donations. Make checks out to St. John's writing Jubilee Christmas in the memo line.

Our help is needed more than ever and anything that we can do to help these families will go a long way.



### St. John's Episcopal Church

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*Rector*  
The Reverend Ed Tourangeau

*Youth and Young Adult Ministries*  
The Reverend Hilary Cooke

*Sunday Associate*  
The Very Reverend Robert L'Homme

*Parish Administrator*  
Teresa Lohrman

*Director of Music*  
Michael Bennett

*Religious Education Coordinator*  
Heidi Kauffman

*Parish Health Ministries*  
Pequita Behrndt

*Building Use Coordinator*  
Caryl Matthews

*Eagle Editor*  
Cresta Cates

*Vestry*  
Randy Brist, *Sr. Warden*  
Nate Mosier, *Jr. Warden*  
Ann Schreiber, *Clerk*  
Bob Slagel, *Treasurer*  
Ginny Hull, *Asst. Treasurer*  
Sandy Arterberry, Kristine Holtvedt, Kaye  
Kleine-Ahlbrandt, Linda Jeffries, Dorothy  
Jones, Maggie McClure, George Moore,  
Debra Murawski, Rachael Schexnaider,  
Heather Johnston Nicholson

### Nursery Thank You By Angela Mosier

The nursery sends out a big thank you to Hilary Cooke, Ed Cates, and Debbie Walsh for helping with the fall cleaning. Thank you for helping to keep the nursery clean and our children healthy.