

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.

## ***A View from the BIG Pew***

Dear Friends,

You may or may not know that St. John's has been developing a web page for a number of years. Many parish volunteers have been a part of this effort. Those efforts have all been aimed at giving St. John's and our programs an on-line presence.

I write to report that as calendar 2006 drew to a close we made major strides toward that end. Thanks to our diocesan apportionment we paid a very favorable rate for using the services provided by the contract IT guy from the diocesan office in Indianapolis. Not all of what we would like to see is in place yet but probably 93% of it is. We have the resources at hand to make a few more improvements, thanks to a year-end gift. Our 2007 operating budget includes some money to help maintain the site (a first for our operating budget).

I encourage you to visit our web site at <[www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org)>. Do that with the understanding that what you'll see as you work through the pages aims to give a fair and accurate view of who we are and what in Jesus' name we're doing for anyone who wants to look. Even as we venture more actively into the cyber world we are considering ways the page may be more useful to those of us already at St. John's - for the sharing of news, announcements of parish-wide interest and things like that. But more of that as we go forward, one step at a time.

For now, take the time to explore the web page. As a teaser I offer the text of the "Welcome" page. I wrote this piece, as anyone can tell if they take the time to count the words. I wonder, though, if this is merely *my* view of St. John's, or if it is accurate from *your* point of view as well. I'd be interested in your thoughts. OK, here's the Welcome:



Do you remember the first part of that childhood verse, "Here's the church and here's the steeple"? This picture of our church and steeple gives a clue or two about St. John's.

We're a "downtown" church. At the least that means: a) we have no parking lot (and at current land values probably never will), and b) we have no expanse of lawn by which to think we are "suburban," even though most of us live in the suburbs. If those things are important to your experience of Christian community in honesty you won't find them here (but there are many fine churches in greater Lafayette where you will). If these limitations are OK, read on.

We've been on this corner since 1837. We've built, remodeled or added a building about every 50 years. Our last effort wrapped up in 1996, and we are debt free with no capital campaign on the horizon. We have great stained glass windows representing over 150 years of artistic style, the

original walnut pews, a “traditional” nave and sanctuary with a modified Wicks pipe organ and a sound system with recording capability and an infra-red loop for the hearing impaired. We have a fully functional elevator, modern and well-lit restrooms, a Sunday morning nursery staffed by two paid adults per week, and air conditioning and gas forced air heat throughout. In Jesus’ name we have dedicated an entire floor at street level to feeding and recovery work, and we enjoy a serene Memorial Garden that is a quiet place to sit a spell, walk a small labyrinth, administer holy baptism in good weather, and bury human ashes in any weather. Our Chapel of the Resurrection is in the Garden and is open for private and corporate prayer daily.

We’re committed to staying downtown. By God’s grace that decision saves us from wasting energy deciding which side of the river we would relocate to if we moved. We use that energy instead to grow in ways we might serve others and expand our welcome to all.



The second half of that childhood verse is “Open the doors and see all the people!” So here’s a picture of a recent parish picnic. We share this picnic with the [Chapel of the Good Shepherd](#), the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Purdue. About the people who are St. John’s you may want to know this:

We average 170 people at worship in two services, and are getting younger. Our total active baptized membership is about 350. Some are life-long Episcopalians and some are not Episcopalians in any formal sense. We join together regularly to worship God, and to share our time, talent, and treasure in ways that help us serve God. Some of us find we connect better through the music or outreach than through the creeds. Some even appreciate the sermons!

We maintain the basic staff necessary for a congregation this size: a full-time Rector, a full-time Parish Administrator, a half-time Director of Music, a part-time cleaning service and a quarter-time Education Coordinator. We share the ministry of a young priest and mother with the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and she helps with Youth and Young Adult ministry in both congregations. Everything else necessary to make St. John’s work is done by laypersons as a part of their individual ministries and stewardship of time and talent.

We’re proud of a healthy and increasing dialectic between the “old” and the “new” in the life of the parish. Younger folks and the way they see and do things help us to face hard questions about how and why we do things, and how we might more effectively worship or form Christians for ministry and witness today. On the other hand the older folk have been around the block, and from that accumulated experience they can share

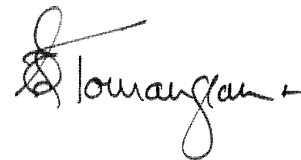
“how they handled” this issue or that when it comes to our younger members for the first time.

About half of us are associated with Purdue University in one way or another, and most of us are not retired. We belong to both political parties, and some of us are actively involved in community political life. We are not all of one mind about questions of human sexuality as they are being lived out in the life of the Episcopal Church, but we also recognize that Holy Scripture talks a lot more about the poor and needy than it does about sexual behavior. We pray for our servicemen and women serving in Iraq and elsewhere because they and their families are our friends and neighbors, for persons who are facing execution as well as for their victims and executioners because such human brokenness should be laid before the throne of God, and for our enemies and those who wish us harm because that’s what Jesus did.

And, because how we spend our money says much about our values, in calendar 2005 we gave \$75,134 to work beyond the parish.

Jesus’ Summary of the Law: to love God and love neighbor, to live a life of worship and service, is good counsel and we find that St. John’s helps us do that. If you’d like to know more, please work your way through this site, email us at [stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org) or call 765-742-4079.

Thanks for visiting, and may God bless your journey as you respond to God’s call to you.

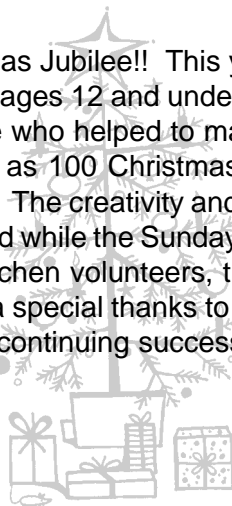


## **Christmas Jubilee**

Another successful Christmas Jubilee!! This year we hosted 35 families. This number included 92 children – 15 teens and 77 ages 12 and under. Fun and good cheer was had by all.

We want to thank everyone who helped to make this event such a success. We were able to distribute 100 blankets as well as 100 Christmas stockings. The Knit Wits always do a wonderful job with the hats and mittens. The creativity and love evident in these projects is amazing and inspiring. The Youth Group shopped while the Sunday School children decorated bells. Thanks also go to all who brought food, the kitchen volunteers, the wrappers and the set up and cleanup crews. Last, but by no means, least – a special thanks to Maggie McClure. The outpouring of love and compassion is responsible for the continuing success of this most joyous event.

Patti Mellor



January 12, 2007  
Aelred of Rievaulx

Dear Friends,

I write to wish each and all of you Epiphany blessings - those which can only come to us as we recognize God's presence among us - and to thank you for your prayers and your many very kind messages.

As most of you know by now, I had a mild heart attack last Sunday - by far a more exciting visitation with St. John's, Crawfordsville, than anticipated!

The only symptoms I experienced were a sense of fatigue in the weeks leading up to the attack and pain in my right shoulder and arm during it. I share this detail with you only to urge that you become more aware that symptoms of heart disease in men and women can be very different - I draw the line at referring to men's symptoms as the "typical" ones! J

At any rate, I had wonderful care from Todd Kleffman and members of St. John's and the staffs of the hospitals in Crawfordsville and Indianapolis (Methodist). I know that many of you are also praying for Larry and me, and I am more grateful than I can say for your kindness,


I will be able to return to work slowly, and may have to miss some of the gatherings which have been scheduled around the diocese by various committees over the next month or so. I will be looking at the full range of commitments on my calendar and discerning which activities God would have me continue and which to forego for a time.

Please know that you are all in my own prayers, and as always I thank God for the many ways in which our diocese seeks and serves Christ. I look forward to seeing you very soon, and to sharing in faithful ministries with you.

Again, thank you all for your prayers and expressions of concern and encouragement. They are clear signs to me of God's presence and love, and mean more to me than I can say.

Blessings in Christ,

+Cate Waynick



St. John's Book club will not meet in February, but that gives you more time to enjoy our selection for the month of March: Thunderstruck by Erik Larson. Printed book reviews will be available in the commons area.

## ***Lenten Series 2007***

The Lenten series will meet on the five Thursday evenings in March. Our focus will be on the Millennium Development Goals. “The Millennium Development goals,” former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold remarked, “embody the response God calls us to give to our suffering world. The MDGs reflect God’s passionate desire for justice and mercy, and the work of re-ordering and rebuilding what we have been given.”

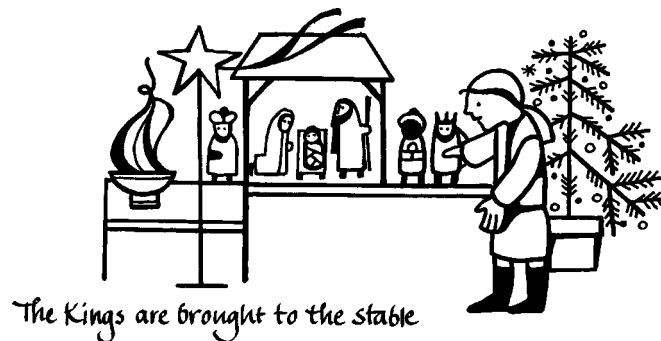
What are the MDGs? They were developed by the leaders of the world’s nations in cooperation with the United Nations. They are attainable with the resources we have. Briefly they are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental stability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

Our Lenten study will focus more on the theological context for why we might choose to embrace and work towards the MDGs rather than on the problems outlined and their possible solutions. In other words, we will not attempt to solve the world’s problems in five evenings. Rather we will begin to explore theologically why we would even want to work on these issues. Rev. Mike Kinman, Executive Director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation, writes: “I think it is part of our own works righteousness as well as our cultural proclivity to “fix things” that makes us more likely to talk about the technicalities and practicalities of the MDGs and less about the theological context. More about “how to get the job done” and less about why we’re doing it. I believe we must always lead with the theological context — and also continually stress the importance of establishing a foundation of prayer for this mission of global reconciliation — lest we fall into the traps of works righteousness (among others!)”

A good way to begin Lent and your engagement with the Millennium Development Goals would be to come to the U2charist at the Purdue Memorial Union on February 18. (See related article in this Eagle or in the January Tidings.) I hope to see you at both!

Heidi M. Kauffman



## ***February U2charist Offered at Purdue University***

By Katherine Graham, Good Shepherd, West Lafayette

The Gospel according to Bono has yet to be written, but the Irish front man and his rock band U2 are taking the Episcopal Church by storm in the form of a new kind of church service — a U2charist. Episcopalians in our diocese will have the opportunity to experience a U2charist on Sunday, February 18, 7 p.m. on the Purdue University campus in the Purdue Memorial Union, North Ballroom. The project represents a partnership effort involving St. John's, Good Shepherd and other campus ministries.

U2charists are like any other service, with traditional readings, prayers and a Eucharist, with only a slight difference — the music used in the service is pulled directly from the U2 catalogue. Sermons and lessons are given as usual, lyrics are commonly displayed via a PowerPoint presentation and music is played from a CD.

This unique worship service was conceived by the Rev. Paige Blair of St. George's in York Harbor, Maine, who found through discussions with her parishioners that U2's music had played a large part in much of their spiritual journeys. In a recent article in Rolling Stone magazine, Blair said, "[U2's] music served as a spiritual resource for me at a time when the church wasn't a particularly large part of my life." A committee was soon put together to work out the logistics of holding a Eucharist based on U2's music. The first St. George's U2charist was held on July 31 in 2005. According to Rolling Stone, U2charists have now been celebrated in 260 congregations in seven countries. Most recently, a U2charist was hosted at General Convention in Columbus, Ohio Blair says "We have people from a wide spectrum of liberal to conservative theology in our church. They see this as a really different way to experience church and God."

Churches are allowed to use U2's lyrics and music during the U2charist as long as the entirety of the service's collection is given to an organization working toward helping the Millennium Development Goals to eradicate extreme poverty and global AIDS. U2 has always been at the forefront in the battle against extreme poverty, helping to raise awareness and support through the Live Aid and Live Eight concerts of 1985 and 2005 and the ongoing ONE Campaign.

In a press release for the U2charist movement, Blair points out, "This is the first time in human history when we have the opportunity, and therefore the obligation, to make extreme poverty history. 30,000 die every day due to extreme poverty, and 8,000 people die of HIV/AIDS... We as people of faith are called by our Creator to embrace this call to do what we can to make poverty history." U2 has always been a Christian band and their songs demonstrate it. For example, the song lyrics, "She moves in mysterious ways" refer not to a woman, but to the Holy Spirit. Another song cries for peace on earth and asks "Jesus can you take the time to throw a drowning man a line?" The song "40" is based on Psalm 40. Earlier in the year, a challenge was given via the Internet for fans to come up with a U2 song that did not have a religious theme. The challenge was never met; no one could produce a song that didn't include a spiritual message.

More information about this event check out [www.u2charistpurdue.blogspot.com](http://www.u2charistpurdue.blogspot.com). Or contact Hilary Cooke at [hilary@goodshep.org](mailto:hilary@goodshep.org).

## *Rewarding Opportunity for Motivated Individual or Individuals*

Do you delight in the beautiful Sunday floral arrangements and decorations for special occasions at St. John's?

Do you believe the work is done by church elves or appears by simply watering the wood-work?

Now is your chance to learn the truth behind our stunning visual art at St. John's!

Hurry and learn from St. John's own visual artist Sue Bracey, before Easter!

Apprentice and work with Sueto learn a new and exciting skill while enhancing the worship experience at St. John's.

Enjoy the full support of the Worship Committee.

Questions can be directed to Fr. Ed or Sue Bracey  
Interested persons speak with Fr. Ed.

### **Who Provides the Flowers at the Altar?**

**You can!!** If you wish to contribute to the provisions of flowers for the altar on Sundays there are many opportunities available throughout 2007. Arrangements have been made with three local florists for each Sunday. You will only need to identify the date or dates you would like to contribute to these flowers in memory of a loved one or as a thank offering. This year we suggest an offering amount of \$45.00 for each Sunday, but please understand the suggested amount is not intended to be in any way prohibitive. Any amount, lesser or greater, will help to provide the Sunday flowers. Please contact the parish office at 742-4079 or [stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org) for further instructions.

### **Sanctuary Candle Chart**

The new Sanctuary Candle chart for 2007 can be found at the back of the Church. Please sign the chart on the Sunday(s) you wish to provide the candle and be sure to take an information sheet to be completed and returned to Sylvia Miessler.



## Community Luncheon: 12/31/2006

St. John's sponsored the Community Luncheon on December 31 at Trinity United Methodist Church. It went very smoothly. We fed about 80-90 people. Since we planned for about 150, there was plenty of food for seconds. Many to-go boxes went home for other family members, snacks for later and supper. Nancy Bogen gave the sermon and blessing. Hal and Nadya Crecelius, from Trinity, were present overseeing the operation to get us going. Dorothy Jones, from St. John's, showed up early on to give us a tip for wrapping food utensils in napkins so we could keep a head count easily. Thanks, Dorothy! I would like to thank my incredible hard-working volunteers for making things go smoothly and making our kitchen work merry! Many thanks to Zach Brooks for running to Marsh for the sheet cake and large can of pudding at the last minute. Present from St. John's were George



Moore, Doug Powell, Zach Brooks, Karen Attalah, Hilary and Rosemarie Goonewardene, Dan Hogan and his 6-year old son, Riley, Dennis and Kristen Dell, my sons, Ted (home visiting) and Nate. Each time I have served as a volunteer in this capacity, I have learned something new about what to do next time. I know it is much, much nicer to have plenty of food for seconds or even leftovers rather than run out.

I am very thankful for the blessings and bounty of my plentiful existence and for the fine people from St. John's who helped out in this act of giving back to the community.

Blessings for Happy and Fortunate New Year!

Gail Wiley

*Feed the hungry*

In a world where days can begin with schedules already full, it's so thoughtful and kind of you to volunteer your time and talent to the Community Meal. Thank you so much for caring - it means more than words can say

Nadya Crecelius

## Nursery News

The nursery continues to be an active place. In December we held a small celebration for Susan and Lara to show our appreciation for their dedication and service. Both are rarely absent on a Sunday morning and this has created a tremendous amount of comfort to both the parents and children. Breakfast items and orange juice was brought in and the celebration continued the entire morning. Susan and Lara also received a small gift of thanks as well. Kelley and I would like to say thanks to all who contributed to the celebration. It is so important that Susan and Lara see that their efforts are recognized by many.

On Saturday, January 13th, the nursery received a tremendous cleaning. Windows, counter tops, and toys...nothing was missed. At the end of the morning you could really see the difference the cleaning made. It was wonderful to see all the activity and we are extremely grateful to those who joined us on a rainy Saturday morning. Many thanks to Deb Murawski and Angela Mosier for their time and energy. We would like to extend a special thank you to Mary Bache for helping us clean. Mary was quite an inspiration since she did not let the rain, a dead car battery, or the fact that she personally does not use the nursery keep her from participating. Kudos to her!

Mom's Morning Out (MMO) continues to be used heavily by several families. We are extremely happy that this ministry is being utilized. In an attempt to accommodate the needs of the families, the day of the week that MMO is being held is moving. The next two MMO will be held on a Monday instead of Tuesday. The actual dates are February 19<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup>. The time has not changed and will remain 9:00am until 11:30am. As always please let us or Susan Chandler know if you would like to take advantage of MMO.

We are still actively seeking any interested person (or people) who is interested in becoming the new nursery coordinator(s). If you are interested please contact one of us and we will be happy to discuss the responsibilities with you. And the offer still stands....a transition period with us involved to help during the learning curve. Please consider this wonderful ministry!

Nolie Parnell and Kelley Bailey



*Now, Master, you can  
dismiss your servant in peace*