



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Edward J. Tourangeau, Rector

Page Under Construction

The Vestry of St. John's for 2009

Vestry "elections" were held on Sunday, January 11th. Those present that day know they didn't actually "elect" anyone, because there were four positions open and only three candidates. Instead you "affirmed" by your signature three persons who had agreed to serve in three-year terms. Those persons are Heather Johnston Nicholson, Debra Murawski and Rachael Schexnaider. Brief biographies of these folks were available for review.

For the vestry to enjoy a full complement of twelve members, employing a little-known portion of the parish by-laws (Article III, section 4), George Moore agreed to continue to serve until "a successor shall be duly elected and qualified". Thanks to George are certainly in order!

Thanks are in order as well to those members who will complete their terms on the vestry at the Annual Meeting: Tom Brush, who had served as Finance Committee chair; Ted Paget who shared responsibility as vestry liaison for the Property Management, Maintenance and Memorial Garden Committees; and Andrea Rademacher (who had served one year of an unexpired vacancy and then a complete three-year term in her own right) with primary responsibility for parish properties. Andrea helped us solve long recurring sewer problems, encouraged us in the nave re-lighting project, helped paint and install shelving in the custodian's storage closet, see the end of the window restoration project and much more.

It is a matter of some concern that St. John's has an insufficient number of persons willing or able to fill normal vacancies on the vestry. It is certainly not because we lack persons with requisite skills and/or experience! The financial, structural and programmatic aspects of our parish life demand attention and oversight. The role of the vestry is to maintain the "50,000 foot" view over all aspects of our life. This is an essential role not always appreciated by those who may have one favorite program and are more or less uninformed about what else goes on here, but it is an opportunity into which many of us could grow. If you are given the opportunity to consider service on the vestry, please be open to that consideration and, more to the point, accept it. Your involvement in this way may be more important than you think ... *ejt*

Music Notes for February

February is always one of my favorite months. It has neither to do with Valentine's Day or the fact that it is the shortest month of the year. Rather, except for those rare cases when Easter is in late April, February is usually the month in which Lent begins. Lent is by far my favorite season of the year - much of the "appropriate" music speaks to me on a different level as compared to other liturgical seasons. Also, I have always tended to err on the side of formality, and Lent always seems the most formal of seasons, yet also simple in many ways.

March 1, the First Sunday in Lent at 5:00pm, is the next scheduled Evensong. Such services that occur this time of year are always simpler than those in the fall, however this day will be even less of an occasion. There will be no concert prior to the service - there simply is not the money. The organ will be more silent than usual; again, a cost savings, but also catering to the style of music in which is being sung. Much of the music will be unaccompanied - simple, yet beautiful. We maintain our pledge to support a local agency in need, and NAMI is the chosen designee for this service. And so for those who appreciate the formality and outreach that Evensong provides, I hope that your beginning of Lent will include worship that evening.

While I run the risk of negating any positive advertising by disregarding chronology, I'll also invite you to attend a special lunchtime concert on Wednesday February 11. Due to varying circumstances, I will be performing a second organ concert this season (this series really was not established as an outlet for my recital career...). Because I did not intend to perform this month, I decided I'd find a special theme or occasion to motivate me, rather than simply selecting my favorite music. It took me all of two minutes to settle on the organ music of Felix Mendelssohn. Very rarely can a year pass without the musical world being able to celebrate, commemorate or rejoice (in some circumstances) the birth or death of composers past. Mendelssohn wins this year (and month's) prize, as he was born February 3, 1809. Therefore I have decided to dust off some graduate school material and perform two of his six organ sonatas in their entireties, which conveniently consumes the twenty-minute period allotted for the concert. If I had one tidbit to say about Mendelssohn, it would be: without him, it's probable that the music of Bach (which laid silent for decades after his death in 1750) would have never been resurrected. And as far as accomplished organists go, we cannot even bear the idea of such loss.

M.L.D.

Blue Boxes and UTO materials are available in the Commons. Please help yourself.

Expand the circle of thankful people!



Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

St. John's Supports Family Promise in Greater Lafayette

Family Promise is an organization dedicated to supporting homeless families by providing shelter, food, and professional assistance to help people get back into homes of their own again. A special report in the Winter 2008-2009 issue of *Communique*, published by and for Episcopal Church Women, describes it this way, "On the front lines of Main Street for 20 years, Family Promise is a national nonprofit that organizes networks of interfaith congregations to serve homeless families with children." (p.7)

In response to an increased number of local families who are struggling with homelessness, Family Promise of Greater Lafayette has come into being. A group of churches and corporate and individual donors are working together in this effort.

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry, after reviewing our space utilization, our other community outreach efforts, and our deficit budget, voted that we affiliate with Family Promise of Greater Lafayette as a "Support Church." Maggie McClure and Dorothy Jones have attended Family Promise organizational meetings. Cresta Cates has agreed to be our Volunteer Coordinator. Trinity United Methodist Church, with whom we already coordinate our Community Lunch outreach, has agreed to be a Family Promise "Host Church." Their Family Promise Coordinator will keep Cresta up to date on their needs for any assistance from our congregation.

For more information about Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, check out their websites www.info@fpglinc.org, call their office at 765-838-3651, or talk with Cresta, Maggie or Dorothy.

Many of you will remember Eliot and Pamela Smith and their children Miranda and Tom. The following notice from Miranda (now Miranda Hassett) came in the Christmas mail:

Dear Fr. Ed, & friends -

Belated Christmas & New Year's greetings! I'm writing to share with you the good news of my upcoming ordination to the priesthood — & to thank St. John's for helping set me on a solid path. My memories of St. John's are of a parish that welcomed me and took me seriously, as a child & a young woman, & allowed me to find my place in the community. This parish was an important place in my faith formation - thank you. I'm a transitional deacon now, serving in a mid size parish in central New Hampshire, & I love it.

All the best — Miranda Hassett

Included with the note was an invitation to Miranda's service of ordination to the priesthood. Miranda will become a priest, God willing, on Friday, February 6, 2009; the prayers of the people of St. John's are requested. *ejt*

QUILT TILL YOU WILT!

Starting January 13th, Betty Amy's sewing studio will be open from 10:00 AM till 10:00 PM until sometime in May. Work on your own project or on a group effort. Come, enjoy the fellowship and stay as long as you can.

Betty Amy, 357 Overlook Drive, West Lafayette, Indiana.

Lenten Global Outreach

For several months, our parish has offered prayers supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*. These goals focus our concern on the poorest of the poor throughout the global community. In the fall, our diocese joined with Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation as one among many church organizations who support these goals. At the last General Convention, the Episcopal Church nationally designated the last Sunday in Epiphany "Global Mission Sunday." The Diocese of Indianapolis, at its last Convention, designated the first Sunday in Lent "Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday."

In thanksgiving for our own relative abundance, the Vestry of St. John's calls all parishioners to consider making a special Lenten Global Outreach offering. There will be no special envelopes for this and no special Sunday will be designated. Some time during Lent, please write a check to St. John's Episcopal Church with "Lenten Global Outreach" in the memo line. After Easter, all Lenten Global Outreach offerings will be tallied. Half of the collected amount will go to Episcopal Relief and Development (formerly the Bishop's Fund for World Relief) and half will go to the Diocesan MDG/Global and National Mission Commission, supporting our companion dioceses of Bor (southern Sudan) and Brasilia (north central Brazil, S.A.)

For more information about Episcopal Relief and Development, go to <http://www.er-d.org/>, check out the copy of their Annual Report on the credenza in the church Commons, or speak to Dorothy Jones, Parish ERD Representative. For more about the church response to the Millennium Development Goals, go to the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation website: <http://www.e4gr.org>. For more about the Diocesan Global and National Mission Commission, go to the Diocese of Indianapolis website, <http://www.indydio.org/diocese> and select "Connect with a Program or Committee" then select "Local and Global Missions," or talk to Dorothy Jones or George Moore, who represent St. John's on the Commission.

* UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): 1. Eliminate 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 TB; 7. Ensure environmental sustainability; 8. Develop a global partnership for development.

2009 Baptismal Dates

The Prayer Book urges us to schedule Holy Baptism to certain days in the Church Calendar (BCP p. 312). Those days and their 2009 dates are: the Vigil of Easter (Saturday, April 11th, an evening service), the Day of Pentecost (May 31), the occasion of the Bishop's Visitation (October 25) and All Saints' Day (November 1st). In addition it is our local custom to offer a date in early August on either the Sunday before or after the Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6th).

Adults considering Holy Baptism should contact one of the clergy and arrange for instruction. Parents considering Holy Baptism for their children should also contact one of the clergy to arrange for instruction and to talk through other details such as the selection of godparents or sponsors. Expectant parents might want to consider that perhaps the easiest time for baptismal instruction is during pregnancy!

Please let the clergy know how they can help at this very important time in your personal or family life of faith. *ejt*

St. John's Book Club

**Lunchtime Concert –
12:10pm
Wednesday, February 11
Michael Bennett, organ**

**Choral Evensong
March 1, 5:00pm
Music of Tallis and Smith**

FYI

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Our next meeting is February 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commons. Please come for a discussion of "The Good Good Pig" by Sy Montgomery.

Frankly, I never would have read this book on my own – but because someone had suggested it, I thought I'd give it a try. To my surprise, I was deeply moved, enchanted and delighted! So yes, it's about a remarkable pig. It's also about dogs, chickens, families, people in general and how people and animals relate to each other.

Not everyone may be as enthusiastic about this book as I am, or for the same reasons. As discussion leader, I'm proposing that we follow the African Bible Study method. Tell us what you thought of the book, and maybe share a favorite (or not-so-favorite) passage. We will listen in respectful silence and then hear someone else's reaction. There is no "right" or "wrong" response! At the end, if people are OK with it, we can have a more general discussion.

I really would like to hear other reactions to this book, so please come!

Mary Campbell
743-8851

Adult Forum Schedule

During Epiphany...

February 8 and 15 the Adult Forum will continue with presentations of the clergy about the Book of Common Prayer. These individual presentations will constellate around a general celebration of the Book of Common Prayer, in 2009 celebrating its 560th anniversary since Archbishop Cranmer's original work, and the 30th anniversary of the latest "new" American book of 1979 (yes, the "new" Prayer Book is 30!).

February 8 will examine the great debate over the potency of certain words every time the book is revised, such as the heated discussions about the word break vs. broke for the Eucharistic Prayer.

February 15 is titled, **Prayer Book or Power Point?: What does the future hold?**

During Lent...

March 1 through April 5 Adult Forum will study and discuss Joan Chittister's book, *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*. You should order your own copy. There are many used copies available from Amazon as well as new ones.

Here are some excerpts from the introduction:

"Benedictine spirituality offers exactly what our times are lacking. [It] seeks to fill up the emptiness and heal the brokenness in which most of us live in ways that are sensible, humane, whole, and accessible to an overworked, over stimulated, overscheduled human race... Most of all, Benedictine spirituality is good news for hard times. It teaches people to see the world as good, their needs as legitimate, and human support as necessary. Benedictine spirituality doesn't call for either great works or great denial. It simply calls for connectedness. It shows us how to connect with God, with others, and with our inmost selves.... All in all, the Rule of Benedict is designed for ordinary people who live ordinary lives. The spirituality that emerges from the Rule of Benedict is a spirituality charged with living the ordinary life extraordinarily well...

That's why the Rule of Benedict is meant for hard-working, busy people whose family lives and bills and civic duties and hard work consume them in this world today...

It was not written for priests or mystics, or hermits or ascetics; it was written by a layman for laypeople. It was written to provide a model of spiritual development for the average person who intends to live life beyond the superficial or the uncaring.

During Easter...

April 19 to May 17 Adult Forum will study and discuss C.S. Lewis' work, *The Great Divorce*. You should order your own copy. The description on the back cover reads:

"C. S. Lewis takes us on a profound journey through both heaven and hell in this engaging allegorical tale. Using his extraordinary descriptive powers, Lewis introduces us to supernatural beings who will change the way we think about good and evil. In *The Great Divorce* C. S. Lewis again employs his formidable talent for fable and allegory. The writer, in a dream, finds himself in a bus which travels between Hell and Heaven. This is the starting point for an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil which takes issue with William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. In Lewis's own words, "If we insist on keeping Hell (or even earth) we shall not see Heaven: if we accept Heaven then we shall not be able to retain even the smallest and most intimate souvenirs of Hell."

Please note you can always check the topics for Adult Forum online at www.stjohns-laf.org and click on the calendar and then click on adult forum for the date you are curious about.

2009 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

The "official" Stewardship Campaign for 2009 has concluded. The committee sincerely hopes that we have encouraged you to broaden your approach and consideration of the relationships we have both within and outside of our church doors. Relationship – being together in worship and fellowship, Covenant – making commitments to one another, Partnership – working together in ministry to those in any human need, and Stewardship – sharing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure are integral parts of every human life. We live in concert with others. The joy that comes from developing relationships, covenants, partnerships, and sharing feeds our bodies and souls and allows us the freedom to feed others in the same way. Truly, **Stewardship is what we do with what we've got, all the time.** Now, let's see what we really can do with all the blessings God has given us.

Here are the results as of January 2009:

- 193 letters mailed
- 45 reminder letters mailed
- 133 responses received
- 3 pledge cards received with comments but no pledged amount
- \$300,669.00 pledged from 130 responses

The median pledge amount is \$1,440.00. The average pledge amount is \$2,326.89.

The following shows how the pledging was broken down:

\$50.00 - \$499.00	23 pledges totaling \$ 5,891.00	average \$253.00
\$500.00-\$999.00	23 pledges totaling \$14,620.00	average \$635.65
\$1,000.00-\$1,499.00	19 pledges totaling \$22,250.00	average \$1171.05
\$1,500.00-\$1,999.00	14 pledges totaling \$23,438.00	average \$1674.14
\$2,000.00-\$2,999.00	20 pledges totaling \$45,040.00	average \$2252.00
\$3,000.00-\$3,999.00	17 pledges totaling \$56,130.00	average \$3301.76
\$4,000.00-\$4,999.00	6 pledges totaling \$27,300.00	average \$4550.00
\$5,000.00-\$5,999.00	2 pledges totaling \$10,500.00	average \$5250.00
\$6,000.00-\$6,999.00	2 pledges totaling \$12,200.00	average \$6100.00
\$7,000.00 and above	3 pledges totaling \$ 82,800.00	average \$27,600.00
	TOTAL	
	130 units	\$300,669.00

The budget for 2009 is planned at \$363,843.00. Obviously, we still have work to do to make this budget work for our needs this year. That work will continue since stewardship is an on going, all year mission of this church family.

The committee thanks you – each one of you – who have so generously helped us make this a positive campaign. If you missed the opportunity to submit a pledge card, there are extras at church. You can also access a card via the website. And, as always, should your circumstances change during the year and you must alter your pledge amount, just give the office a call and let us know. We understand that circumstances change. Your generosity will allow us to go forward to the continued glory of God.

The Stewardship Committee
Tom Brush, George Moore and E. Linda Jeffries

