

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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A View from the BIG Pew

Dear Friends,

As we begin the new calendar year, here are a few business matters:

1. Notice is given of the Annual Meeting of the congregation of St. John's, to be held on Sunday, February 4th, 2007.

Our annual meeting follows a single combined worship service at 9:00 am. The first part of the meeting will be given over to a pitch-in brunch. The business portion of the meeting will follow. Look for the sign-up sheets and decide what you can bring to share for the brunch. Nursery care and a planned activity for Church School children will be provided for the brunch and meeting.

It is our custom to prepare a booklet of year-end reports for this meeting. Programmatic and financial reports are included. This report will be available on Sunday, January 28th, for those who wish to study it in advance. The business of the annual meeting is to elect delegates to diocesan convention which meets in October, sustain the Rector's nomination of persons to the Endowment Committee which oversees parish invested funds, receive the Treasurer's Report for calendar 2006 and accept a budget for calendar 2007. Time is also given over for the discussion of matters of general interest or concern within parish life, and for recognition of those who help the parish work during the year.

All program group year-end reports for the Annual Meeting Booklet are due to the parish office no later than Friday, January 19th. Please have your reports in a typed or electronic (Word) format.

2. Welcome to Sandy Arterberry, Randy Brist, Kristine Holtvedt and Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt who will begin three-year terms as members of the Vestry following the Annual Meeting.

Information about each of these parishioners was circulated in the last newsletter. For Sandy and Kristine this is a first time experience. For Randy and Kay, who have served before, this may well be a different experience (meetings now end by 9:00 pm and include 25 minutes or more of bible study!). We are happy to have these folks on board, and look forward to commissioning them as members of the vestry during the service on February 4th.

We welcome these folks and the gifts and perspectives they will bring. We acknowledge and give thanks for the service of those who are stepping down from vestry service over the past years: Tim Jones, Gwen Kerlin, and Barbara Sayward will have served a full term. Mary Scarlett found it necessary to step down earlier in 2006.

In addition to vestry members, we recognize Mary Campbell for several years' service as Clerk of the Vestry, and thank her for that gift. Mary's replacement will be named by the

new vestry.

There is a transition in place as well in the office of parish Treasurer. Helen Slagel has been our treasurer for several years. Ginny Hull is in line to assume those responsibilities. Ginny also will be sustained in this position by the Vestry. Thanks to Helen and to Ginny!

Please take the time personally to thank all these folks for the many hours they have given to St. John's in these important ministries.

3. In early November the staff developed the following set of *Guidelines for Sunday Announcements at the Later Service*. We have been trying these since that time. The few comments on these guidelines that have reached me are positive, even appreciative. I enclose them below so they may reach a larger circulation than just the Sunday morning crowd, for your information and response. Read on:

Guidelines for Sunday Announcements at the Later Service
St. John's Episcopal Church
November 2006

We see the development of these guidelines as a healthy necessity in the life of an increasingly busy parish community. We do not mean to be mean-spirited or curmudgeonly as we put them forward. We offer them so as to keep our Sunday liturgy focused and coherent. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation with them.

For written announcements in the bulletin:

Announcements should be written in full and submitted to the parish office by the end of Wednesday of the week before they are to be included in the bulletin. They may be delivered by email, USPS, delivered by hand during office hours or deposited in the Parish Administrator mailbox on the office porch after hours. Please do not phone announcements in or ask the staff to write them for you.

Announcements should be short and to the point.

Announcements will be carried in the bulletin for a maximum of two weeks prior to the subject event or activity. Please submit your announcement the week before it is to run. Do not ask the office to hold announcements for several weeks in advance. Understand that every written announcement is subject to editing to fit space available.

For verbal announcements at the time of Sunday service (applies to later service only):

Announcements will be made by either the Rector or Associate Priest at 10:15, before the service begins (birthday and anniversary blessings will continue in their customary place, after the Exchange of Peace).

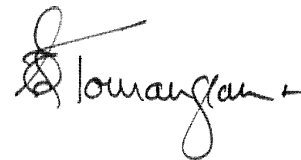
Announcements will be made by clergy only.

Announcements not included in the bulletin must be written out as above and given to one of the named clergy prior to 10:15. The clergy will not create an announcement for you.

Exceptions:

Generally, we envision no exceptions to these guidelines. In special circumstances of total parish involvement (e.g. the parish stewardship efforts) they may be relaxed.

4. See you at the Annual Meeting, if not before.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS,

The year of 2006 is fast coming to an end. Each day my wife, Barb, and I talk about how fast things are going. This is my 4th year to work with Jackie Paar as co-coordinators. We both wish everyone Greetings and the best of Health during 2007.

We have served 20,963 individuals through November 2006. This is 244 fewer than in 2005. However, we served 6,868 clients this year - 69 more than 2005.

To all of the Volunteers at the pantry THANK YOU for the hard work. Without your support we could not operate. It is a pleasure to know such nice people. To the people of St. John's it is indeed a pleasure to have such wonderful people who support the food pantry with donations of money and food items. Thanks to the youth of St. John's who collect food items through the year.



Sincerely,
Jackie Paar and Jim Hess
Coordinators
December 2006

“SOUNDS DIVINE”

Concert by the Indianapolis Women's Chorus
Sunday, January 21, 2007, 3:30 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church, host church
A 2007 Religious Arts Festival Event

St. John's will be the host for "Sounds Divine," a concert by the Indianapolis Women's Chorus, to be presented on Sunday, January 21, 2007 at 3:30 p.m. as part of the 2007 Religious Arts Festival calendar of events.

"Sounds Divine" will be an engaging and inspiring concert celebrating the universal search for the sacred and promoting inter-faith understanding. The concert will include selections from diverse cultures and faith traditions, as well as music that illuminates the personal dimensions of spirituality.

This is the first time the Indianapolis Women's Chorus (IWC) has performed a full concert in the Lafayette area. The IWC is a member of GALA Choruses (the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) and its mission is to build bridges of understanding through song. The 90-minute concert will be followed by a reception in the Commons which will offer the audience an opportunity to meet the chorus members.

This concert is being sponsored by the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Pride Lafayette, Lafayette Area Multifaith Advocates, and the Unitarian Universalist Church. Tickets in advance are \$10.00 for adults (\$5.00 for children 12 and under) and are available at:

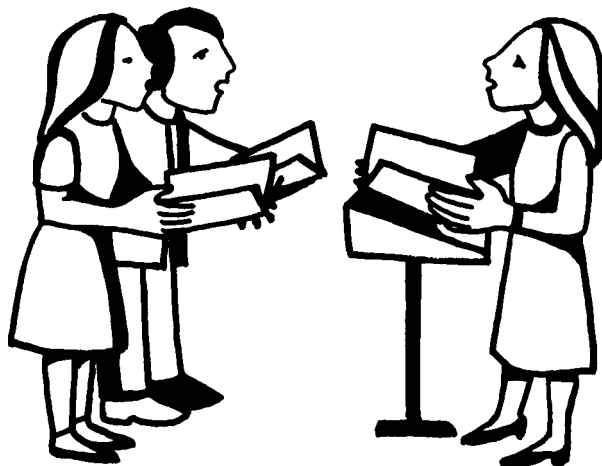
Online: www.soundsdivine.eventbrite.com

In person: Tippecanoe Arts Federation - 638 North St., Laf.

By mail: Sounds Divine, IRCRC, P. O. Box 723, Laf., 47902

Admission at the door will be \$15.00 adult, \$10.00 children.

For more information, please call 1-877-441-5797.



The Global Mission of the Diocese of Indianapolis – A Call to Serve

By

Dr. George E. Moore

For more than a year now, I have been a participant in the work of our Global Missions. This diocesan commission has responsible for all mission related activities. It exercises particular oversight of our companion diocese relationships. Our works include: educating parishioners within our dioceses of the growing need to support the mission work both locally and within our companion dioceses; the cultivation, oversight, management and dispensation of resources entrusted to us for mission work; the ongoing advocacy and assessment of program needs within our diocese and the companion dioceses of Bor in the Sudan and Brasilia in South America.

I became involved in this work after meeting with the Bishop of Brasilia during his visit to St. John's in 2005. It was at this meeting that I became aware of their desire for a broad cross-section of support including computer and computing technology. My experiences at St. Johns made me aware of the local community that we serve; however, I also believe that we are call to serve the large community, the beloved community of Christ.

Brazil is a country in South America with a population in excess of 186 million. It has vast open ranch land (desert), the Amazon rain forest, and very densely populated cities. It is regularly plagued by droughts and floods that devastate the country's regions.

Nearly 5 million children (18 percent of compulsory school age) are not enrolled in school. Approximate 10 percent of Brazil's adult population cannot read or write. In fact the educational standards are said to barely exceed those of the poorest countries in the hemisphere.

The people of Brazil are of Portuguese, African, native Indian, German and French heritages. They spread from coast to coast – from the Amazon to the shores of Rio. There are some three hundred different religions which can be found in the capital, Brasilia, home to our companion diocese.

Economically, an enormous disparity in wealth exists; not just in rural areas, but also in cities, where those living in the most abject poverty can be found living in plastic tarps attached to buildings.

It is within this context that a priest from the Diocese of Brasilia founded S.A.M.E, the project in which I am presently involved. S.A.M.E is a project of service and support to minor children. It is a Portuguese acronym that roughly translates to School Assistance for Needy Families. The project provides tutoring and after school educational assistance to school-aged children. It is being expanded to support introductory level instruction in computer and computing technology to middle and intermediate level children. I have the responsibility of assessing the needs of this particular project and proposing way to facilitate expanded support of this project, as the need arises.

Our diocese has committed itself to supporting the Diocese of Brasilia, and in particular the S.A.M.E. project. I encourage each of our parishioners to support this important work It is my hope that through my service to our companion diocese and its people, that we can begin a more broadly based discussion and understanding of what it means to be the "Body of Christ".

UTO

In 2006 there were 196 requests for UTO grants. UTO was able to fund 112 grants; 87 received partial funding; 25 received full funding. Episcopal dioceses of the United States were granted 59.4 percent. Over seas and regional grants received 40.6 percent. Geographically, grants included 5 to Africa, 10 to Asia/Pacific, 4 to the Caribbean, 2 to Central America, 1 to Mexico, 3 to South America, 1 to Jerusalem/Middle East, 84 to the United States and 2 regional grants. A 2006 UTO Grants list is on the Bulletin Board in the Commons.

November 30 I received a letter from Midge Munds, our Diocesan UTO Coordinator, stating that she had received our St. John's UTO check dated 11/29/06 for \$575.43. Remember every penny is used for the grants.

There are UTO boxes and books of prayers in the Commons. Please help yourselves. Remember, your coins do count!

Thank God daily for your blessings.



Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

Chorister Happenings

Three choristers have achieved outstanding success throughout the fall semester. Sophie Hulen completed the first (light blue) level of the Royal School of Church Music curriculum *Voice for Life*. You will notice Sophie wearing a light blue ribbon and medal with her Sunday vestments, marking the completion of the first level. Note that all current choristers will complete the first level by May, at the latest. Singers move at varying paces within the program. Throughout the Spring, more and more light blue ribbons will be appearing!

Also in the spotlight are Katrine Burke and Stuart Kurtz – both of whom had perfect rehearsal attendance this fall. They are to be commended indeed for their level of commitment.

All of the choristers are making excellent progress in their music making and their journey together as part of a community. Please show them your support and encouragement.

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!**

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 no church school.

Please Welcome

Wayne Parsons and his daughter, Kelsy, have recently transferred their records to St. John's from St. John's in Quincy, Illinois

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.*



Call Out – Adult Inquirer’s Seminar

The Adult Inquirer’s Seminar will begin meeting on Tuesday, January 30th, at 7 pm in the Rectory library. Each session will be approximately 90 minutes in length and the series will run for approximately 14 weeks, ending in early May.

The Seminar is designed for

- Those interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church,
- Those who desire to deepen their understanding of their own spiritual journey and life of faith,
- Those who are wish to “become” Episcopalians or join the Episcopal Church,
- Those seeing a way to respond to the Lenten discipline of study and reflection (Lent runs from Feb 21 through April 8),
- Spouses/partners of anyone fitting into a category above.

The seminar is a small group experience of journeying together into some aspects of our faith and practice as inquiring persons and no two seminars years are the same, so you can even repeat if it’s been a few years. This year, something new: required reading of Marcus Borg’s The Heart of Christianity (cost: \$14.95 – but don’t let that keep you away!).

If you have questions, or to express your interest in attending, contact the office or the rector.

St. John's Youth Group

Raking Leaves at the Albrights
Nov. 18, 2006



(Front Row - L to R) Ariel Murawski & Kristen Vorbeck
(Back Row - L to R) Stuart Kurtz, Alicia Burke(parent), Logan Burke, Tony Bailey(parent), Deb Murawski(parent)

Jack and Lorraine want to express their thanks to the Youth Group and parents who helped out when they were both under the weather."

Isn't it great to see some young people doing "good stuff?" We don't always hear about the good things the Youth Group do. Maybe they should let us hear from them more often



the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them