



The Eagle

Do We Cancel Sunday Services When It Snows?

By Ed Tourangeau

In a word, “No.” One of the realities of today’s lifestyle is the amount of information we can receive regarding winter storms. Many times this is a blessing; sometimes it is a source of confusion.

It is not our custom to cancel Sunday services due to weather. Certainly, many can remember this time or that time when services were cancelled due to extreme weather, and there is always the possibility it will happen again this year. But by and large the scrolling list of church cancellations that we sometimes see on the Saturday evening news does not include St. John’s name. And that won’t be different this winter.

Individual parishioners will make their own judgment about whether or not they venture out on a snowy or icy Sunday morning. And you should. But the labors of many contribute to each Sunday service: musicians, altar guild team members, Christian educators, office staff, even clergy, may have been preparing for a week or longer for Sunday’s worship. Many of us – despite weather warnings – are able to get to worship and some even want to! And all of that speaks not only to the gathering of a community of faith that prides itself because of its “friendliness,” but to that community’s primary corporate activity which is the offering of corporate praise to Almighty God. And so we will make every effort to do that on every Lord’s Day. However many we may be on any given Sunday morning, on behalf of all we will gather to do what we do.

This does not apply to individual meetings or classes that meet during weekdays, often in the evening. We leave that judgment up to the leaders and membership of the individual groups. This announcement is about Sundays, and Sundays we don’t plan to cancel.

Fall Work Day Thank You

By Tony Bailey

The Fall Work Day was held on Saturday, October 31, 2009. A special thank you to all participants: John Lindenlaub, Tracey Gage, Joe Vanable, Ray Polstra, Bob Slagel, Heather Johnston-Nichols and Kelley, Thomas and Sarah Bailey. Accomplishments included winterization projects (turned off outside water, snow shovels and salt put out), cleaning/disinfecting of many door handles and light switches, changed light bulbs and more. Your time and talents are appreciated.

Annual Parish Meeting By Ed Tourangeau

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the congregation of St. John’s on Sunday, February 7, 2010.

Our Annual Meeting format is a combined worship service at 9 am, a pitch-in brunch following the service, and the business meeting following that.

A booklet of written reports will be available for study and review on Sunday January 31, and the deadline for all parish organizations and program groups to submit reports to the parish office is Monday, January 25.

In addition to written reports, please watch for the sign-up sheet for food for the brunch and other ways you can help with meeting preparations, and plan now to attend the Annual Meeting on February 7, 2010.

HELP WANTED: Someone to represent St. John’s at Family Promise network meetings. Fourth Thursday of the month. Bring back information to the coordinators. Interested? Contact Maggie McClure mmcclure03@comcast.net or 567-2512, or Cresta Cates crestafiesta@yahoo.com or 471-2821

Adult Inquirers Seminar Call-Out

By Ed Tourangeau

Interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church, why we are the way we are and how we got here? Want to explore how to live as a Christian more honestly or faithfully in today's society? Been thinking about "joining" St. John's or becoming a card-carrying Episcopalian or transferring your membership to St. John's from another faith tradition? Looking for a way to do some of that Lenten study they're always talking about? Trying to decide if you should be baptized or confirmed and, if so, how to prepare for that? Have you identified questions you'd like to explore because the answers the church gave you in Sunday School don't quite do the job any longer?

The Adult Inquirer's Seminar might be of some help. It will begin meeting on Monday, January 11 and run through April 19. Sessions will begin at 7 pm in the Library of the Rectory (the house where the parish offices are). The rector facilitates the sessions.

The Seminar is a small group experience of journeying together to address the issues raised above. No two of these seminars are the same. There will be some reading in the Bible, a few books recommended that you might want to purchase and have in your libraries, and it is expected of those who participate that they will commit to every session possible – both to be accountable to the group and also to your own self.

Sometime during Easter season (April to mid-May) Bishop Waynick will hold regional confirmation services in our deanery, and if you are an adult desirous of being confirmed regular participation in the seminar is required. Speak to Ed if you have questions or to register for the seminar.

Godly Play Needs You!

By Heidi Kauffman

Sadly, we are losing two members of the Godly Play Study Group. Heidi Osburn and her family and Debbie Walsh and her family are both moving away from the area. We are sorry to see them go and wish them many blessings.

As a result we need more people to join the Godly Play study Group. We meet monthly to study and train in the Godly Play teaching method. In June and July we meet weekly until all our work is done planning and setting up for the next year. That is the time commitment in addition to Sunday mornings. The quality of the Godly Play program depends upon training - plus it's fun to get together and hear each others' experiences in the classroom.

Talk with our Godly Play teachers and substitutes. They will tell you that doing this has deepened their own faith. Godly Play is not just for little kids. Godly Play teachers all over the world do it because it is so personally enriching. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. We really need you! If you want to learn more join us once and we can tell you more or talk with Heidi Kauffman, Leah Moss, Nate Mosier, Cresta Cates, Gayle Ennis, Heidi Osburn, or Debbie Walsh.

2010 Quiet Days

By Amy Paget

The next two Quiet Days are scheduled for February 13 and May 1, 2010. We will explore music as a meditative aid in February and reprise World Labyrinth Day on May 1 with some new activities.

Questions? Contact Amy Paget at pagets@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity Outreach Project

By Ken Paar

November 11 was a bright, cool day and 4 of St. John's parishioners were ready to begin framing the Habitat Veteran Build house intended for Jeremy and Julie Cain. Unfortunately, Habitat wasn't ready for us at 8:30 am. The crew deferred until the main effort on November 14.

By Saturday, the mid-week Habitat crews had completed the framing, added the exterior wall sheathing, and roof trusses. Nine of St. John's parishioners worked primarily on blue insulation and fascia boards. Members of Community Reformed Church and Purdue's ROTC units were more adventurous than we and worked on roof decking and tar paper. With the large combined crews, the scheduled work was completed early in the day and we adjourned at noon.

November 11 volunteers were, Tracy Gage, George Moore, Ken Paar, and Dennis Sorge.

Volunteers on November 14 were Tony Bailey, Gayle Ennis, Jim Marciniak, George Moore, Ken Paar, Patrick Schexnailder, Bob Slagel, Dennis Sorge, and Amy Van Epps.

At press time, the house dedication has not been scheduled as the Cains have yet to complete the sweat equity hours to be fully qualified.

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

By George Moore

I have not been a life-long Episcopalian. I was raised in the Baptist tradition, attending Sunday school and church from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm most Sundays with my parents, three brothers and two sisters. During my early childhood, the most important time for me was the break between Sunday school and church when I could play with the other children. I joined the church at an early age (8 or 10 years of age); I suppose because that's what kids my age did. I do remember that I thought the minister was cool, a real person. He and his family would come to our home, often for Sunday dinner, and we could talk about everything from sports to school to what was happening in the world. I really liked the fact that I was not bombarded with Jesus and God all the time. I remained with the neighborhood church until I completed my undergraduate degree and entered military service.

The idea of the Christian faith as instruction for living has been fundamental to my journey. I joined St. Thomas Episcopal Church after the birth of my son. I had attended Episcopal services for some time and appreciated the fact that this approach to worship did not insult my intelligence. In addition to that, no one bothered me about joining the church. I spend almost a year in confirmation class. I guess the priest wanted to be sure that I intended to serve. I've always felt since joining, that the Episcopal Church may well be one of the best kept secrets of the faith communities. I have found that this church encourages me to examine and question the ethos of our faith. It does not present some all consuming dogma of Christianity, and it struggles openly and publicly with what it means to be inclusive. Following the birth of my son, it was important for me to re-affirm my baptismal vows and strive to live more fully, into my commitments. I thought this would also be a way for my wife and me to worship as a family. That never happened. It was, however, important to me that my children have a meaningful religious experience, one where they too could question. So my son and daughter were both baptized and confirmed in the

Episcopal Church. While I served as treasurer, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and Christian educator; they actively participated in the Christian education programs, served as acolytes and youth leaders until they went off to college. I remind them even today of their faith commitment. Hopefully the seeds have been set and they too will feel the need to re-affirm their baptismal vows in time.



For most of my adult life, I saw no need to re-examine in great depth what it means to follow Christ. It wasn't until I was immersed in the tumultuous struggle within the Diocese of New Jersey during the 1990's that I had to face what was for me a transformational experience. Like most Episcopalians, I accepted and trusted the parish and diocesan leadership within the church. I certainly didn't agree with every interpretation of what others thought it meant to be a Christian; nor did I consider the priests to be the ultimate interpreters of God's word; however, I did believe that those who had chosen the priesthood as their profession were for the most part like me, struggling to live into their baptismal vows. In fact, like most parishioners, I revered and trusted them for my spiritual leadership. It was therefore extremely difficult to accept an episcopacy that declared itself the moral authority of the diocese while acting in ways to marginalize priests and lay who questioned autocratic leadership. I did not believe nor could I accept this as the Christian ethos by which I should live. It was for me an issue of justice. I raise my voice with that of others to proclaim the inclusiveness of God and re-affirmed that the vows we had taken as Episcopalians did not include such

condemnation. This was a difficult and emotional time for me and it remains so even now. It brought the priests and lay involved into direct confrontation with diocesan and national church leadership. I would spend hours in quiet meditation before these encounters. I would often speak to church authority armed with facts and our calling as Christians. It was during this time that it became more important for me to know and interpret what it means to live as a Christian for myself. Through this experience I've come to see more fully God's hands at work in my own life, in the church and our world. I left the Diocese of New Jersey having helped to elect a new bishop and after creating a diocesan anti-racism commission that remains a vibrant entity of their diocesan life. I also left with the renewed belief that the struggle for justice is not the work of any single individual rather it is truly God's work; we each however, have a part to play, and must choose to respond when called.

I arrived in West Lafayette in the summer of 2004, assured that my place was in the Episcopal Church; however, unsure of the work to which I'd been called. Choosing St. John's was easy. I wanted a place of worship that was a change from the academic setting. What I've found is an altar to which I can bring my issues; a place to which I can come for strength to deal with the day to day struggles of life; homilies that challenge me to examine my own life and works as I strive to become the Christian that I've been called to be; music that moves me as I internalize the words and their meaning; a rapport with other parishioners whose words are sometime inspirational, numerous charitable programs to which I can participate, and an opportunity to serve. I remain unsure of my calling within this parish and diocese. I believe it goes beyond charity to working for justice. I hope that as I continue in my own discernment process that the tasks to which I am called will become clearer. I ask for your continued support and prayers as my church family.

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.

<http://anglicansonline.org/> **Anglicans Online** is one of our faith expression's veteran online voices. Father Ed reminded me of its value. It's been on the web since 1994! And bills itself as independent with more than 30,000 links and 250,000 weekly readers. An unpaid group not affiliated officially with any church body staffs **Anglicans Online**. "We write and publish AO every week", they say, "because of our belief that global communications can help foster global unity in our faith. The issues that unite us are so much stronger and larger than the issues that might sometimes divide us". The editorial board and contributors are from the U.S.A., the U.K, Canada, and New Zealand. It's worth reading for its weekly thought piece alone.

<http://www.thehighcalling.org> **The High Calling of our Daily Work** provides material to promote Christian leadership and faith in the workplace. I find its resources on servant leadership, work and family, professional ethics and other topics to be useful as I attempt to live out my faith in all aspects of my life.

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

Property Committee Project Wish List By Tony Bailey

Stained Glass Window Removal and Cleaning – St. John's has many stained glass windows. Some in the Nave have been cleaned and others need it done.

Bell Tower Restoration Coordinator - anyone who enters the Bell Tower has likely noticed the walls, crumbling plaster, and dust. What to do, what to do??? Someone is needed to patiently coordinate repairs and restoration.

Winter Gutter Heater Monitor – St. John's has a gutter heater that periodically needs turned on and off throughout the winter. Do you work downtown or are you at church a lot for events?

If you have questions about any of these projects or would like to know more about the Property Committee, please contact Tony Bailey at 462-7263 or tktblailey@earthlink.net.

Pageant Thank You By Becky Yuill, Linda Jeffries and Arliss Jeffries

A great big "thank you" to all the children who participated in our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 13. The children were fabulous and each one played their part to perfection! Those who took part were: Ariel Murawski, Jessica Murawski, CJ Murawski, Anthony Yuill, Eric Yuill, Teddy Sovinski, Jane Sovinski, Andrew Bigelow, Darby Bigelow, Elyse Romanovich, Emily Romanovich, Olivia Romanovich, Cyrus Hulen, Stuart Kurtz, Sarah Kurtz, Lydia Shook, Harry Shook, and Frances Shook.

Caryl Matthews played the piano for us so we could celebrate with Christmas hymns. Many thanks, Caryl. You are always there for us! We'd also like to thank the parents who entrusted their children to our direction and care. There is no way we could have done any of this without your caring, support, and help. God bless you all.

Overheard at Communion By Cresta Cates

As we knelt at the Communion rail one Sunday morning this fall, my youngest son held his bread out to his dad and exclaimed "I have Christ!" A few weeks later his brother, upon returning to the pew after Communion, announced to us that he drank salvation.

These two statements have caused me to re-examine my thoughts about the Eucharist. Sure, the boys were only repeating the words that they've heard week after week. But how often do we think about those words? What does it mean for us to eat Christ? How about drinking salvation? So often I'm caught up in the mechanics of getting everyone safely to the rail without anyone making a break for it or tripping up the stairs or dropping their bread that I do not really pay attention to what it is that we are doing.

I invite you to slow down with me, as much as we are able, and pay attention to the words we say in worship and especially the words said at the Eucharist. Our children are listening. Do we hear what they hear?

Vocation By Frederick Buechner

Neither
the hair shirt
nor the
soft berth
will do.

The place
God calls you
to is the place
where
your deep
gladness
and
the world's
deep hunger
meet.

Sunday Forum January 10 through March 21 By Heidi Kauffman

Several years ago, Diana Butler Bass, a church historian, set out to find out what vital mainline congregations looked like. The media had been writing the story about the decline of mainline congregations for several decades to the exclusivity of those that were flourishing. Butler Bass received a grant from Lilly to study these flourishing congregations of the so-called declining mainline.

Butler Bass and her research team studied 50 congregations that were not in decline – in fact they were growing more vital spiritually and often numerically as well. The goal was to find what it was special about these congregations that showed such vitality. They were doing it without following the model of the evangelical mega-church.

What she and her research team found is that vital mainline congregations are “practicing congregations.” In a nutshell, these are congregations that have found centuries old traditional Christian practices and embraced these practices in an intentional way. This has in turn transformed their congregations spiritually and in turn these congregations are reaching out to transform their communities and the world. These traditional Christian practices such as hospitality, discernment, healing, contemplation, testimony, diversity, justice, worship, reflection, and beauty were re-envisioned for each congregation in its time and place. Not every congregation intentionally practiced every thing named above but most practiced several on the list. Often, the congregations found practices out of studying their own congregational history and then remade the practice so that it was relevant for the present.

Our Sunday Forums will study the book *Practicing our Faith* which has chapters on Honoring the body, Hospitality, Household economics, Saying yes and saying no, Keeping Sabbath, Testimony, Discernment, Shaping communities, Forgiveness, Healing, Dying well, and Singing our lives. The back cover reads:

Many Christians are looking for ways to deepen their relationship with God by practicing their faith in everyday life... Many thoughtful, educated Christians search for spiritual guidance in Eastern religious traditions, unaware of the great riches within their own heritage.

To all these seekers, *Practicing Our Faith* offers help that is rooted in Christian faith and tradition. Refusing to leave our beliefs in the realm of theory, this book explores twelve central Christian practices – shared activities that address fundamental human needs and that, woven together, form a way of life.

Come join us! There is a sign-up sheet in the Commons for you to order your book.

Prints Still Available

A few of the art prints by Michael Martin are still available and make lovely gifts for someone you love or for yourself. See the display in the Commons for samples and contact Linda Jeffries 477-1574 or Teresa in the church office 742-4079 to purchase a print.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the February *Eagle* will be Monday, January 18. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

Jubilee Christmas By Maggie McClure

Once again, Jubilee Christmas was a wonderful event because of the work done by both St. John’s and Good Shepherd. With a hundred or so volunteers helping from December 8 through December 12, we served 38 families and will bring smiles to 106 kids on Christmas Day. Not to mention, the numbers that were served at the After Jubilee Event held Dec. 14. Thanks to all who volunteered their time, made donations, and remembered Jubilee Christmas in their prayers. We are truly blessed.



Mom’s Morning Out By Angela Mosier

The next Mom’s Morning Out will be January 8, 2010 from 9 am to noon. Please contact Angela Mosier at ajmosier@comcast.net to reserve your space.

Green Drinks By Heidi Kauffman

The next Green Drinks meeting will take place Tuesday, January 5 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Puccini’s on the Levee. The guest speaker for January is Jodi Perras, Green Congregations Activist.

Jodi chairs the Indianapolis Green Congregations group and the Green Team at Epworth United Methodist church in Indianapolis. She will explain Green Congregation — what they are, how you can start one, and why your church should “go green.”

Education for All Dates to Remember
By Heidi Kauffman

Following is a schedule of the Sundays when there will be no Godly Play or Sunday Forums:

December 27 - no Godly Play or Sunday Forum. Only one Eucharist at 9:00am

January 3 - no Godly Play or Sunday Forum. Eucharist will be at the usual times

February 7 - no Godly Play or Sunday Forum. Combined Eucharist at 9:00am followed by brunch and annual meeting. Childcare will be available during the meeting.

April 4 - no Godly Play and no Sunday Forum - Easter

May 23 - Last day of Godly Play and Sunday Forum - Pentecost

Nursery Thank You
By Angela Mosier

Thank you to all the parents that have helped to supply snacks for the nursery. The children really enjoy it.

United Thank Offering
By Mary Louise Davis

Wishing you a new year of challenge, love and sharing.

UTO is a wonderful way to give thanks for all of the help and direction God provides in our lives.

Daily prayers and offerings are encouraged by every child, teen and adult as individuals and families of St. John's.

As promised, the total from our UTO Fall Ingathering at St. John's was \$615.63. Every penny that is donated will be given in grants.

January Lunchtime Concert
By Michael Bennett

Come fight off the bone chilling cold of January by listening to the sweet sounds of the cello. The lunchtime concert on January 13 will be performed by our own Margot Marlatt. The romantic sounds of Robert Schumann will comprise the majority of the program, alongside Bach's famous Gamba Sonata. What better way to spend an hour at lunchtime!



November Financial Report
By Linda Jeffries

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES
MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 31, 2009

A. RECEIPTS	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Total Year</u>
2009		
1. Pledge Income	26,289.00	270,615.00
2. Non-Pledge Income	1,963.00	33,723.00
3. Transfer/Reserve Funds	-0-	-0-
4. Transfer/Stephens Fund	-0-	-0-
TOTAL INCOME	28,252.00	304,338.00
B. EXPENSES		
1. Outreach	4,112.00	44,126.00
2. Program	1,751.00	12,003.00
3. Personnel	18,015.00	201,269.00
4. Office	1,217.00	19,391.00
5. Property	6,377.00	55,441.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	31,472.00	332,230.00
C. EXCESS OF RECEIPTS/EXPENSES		
	-3,220.00	-23,020.00

A Few Notes:

- For 2009, the budget assumes a shortfall 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).
- 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.
- As of December 10, 2009, we have received 121 pledging units resulting in \$306,308.00 in pledged income. The difference between this income and our budget is \$58,788.00 (\$35,000 to be covered by ESE income).
- For comparison – 2007 – 117 units (\$254,315)
 2008 – 123 units (\$298,416)
 2009 – 131 units (\$306,702)

St. John's Book Discussion By Karl Brandt



What is it about our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln, that so attracts us to his story? Born in Kentucky, with his youth spent in Indiana, and elected to the presidency from Illinois, he was certainly from the western reaches of the U.S. in 1860. But that doesn't explain the hundreds (Thousands? I quit counting!) of books on Lincoln that pop up when you search "Lincoln" on amazon.com. Could it be because there is so much to say (Carl Sandburg wrote a four-volume biography)? Could it be because, as Phillip Kunhardt wrote, Lincoln "wrote like a poet, laughed like a hyena, and cried real tears." Almost certainly it has much to do with the tumultuous times over which he presided. And surely, too, it is in part because he was the first American president assassinated in office.

Take some time over the holidays to read (or re-read) your favorite book on Lincoln and come to St. John's Book Discussion on Wednesday, January 27, at 7:00 pm in St. John's Commons to discuss your book and this iconic figure in American history. Four suggested books are: *Lincoln's Virtues* by William Miller; *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin; *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural* by Ronald C. White, Jr.; and *Lincoln at Gettysburg* by Garry Wills.

Lorraine Albright is serving Abe's favorite cake (Yum!). Karl Brandt will lead the discussion. Join us for an evening with sustenance for the mind and for the body.



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

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