

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Passion Sunday



Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

A View from the Big Pew

Dear Friends,

Many of you will not know that the parish has a library. Well, a collection of books. They come from a variety of sources, reflect a variety of interests, and are currently located in the meeting room of the Rectory (parish office building). Some are 'classics' in their field, and others paperback volumes of fleeting interest. There are copies of parish and diocesan histories, minutes of diocesan conventions and an entire shelf of videotapes touching on this topic or that, from Anglican history to the Apocalypse. So actually, we have a collection of media in both print and electronic format.

We have volumes on church architecture or art history and several years' of a "new volume" subscription to an Episcopal monastic publishing house specializing in spiritual growth. I've always thought I'd like to see this library have a strong section on biblical studies. I expect that some of my own library will be donated over time to that purpose, as I practice "lightening the load." Books and videos used in the Inquirer's Seminar might well be of interest to persons outside of the seminar itself; right now they are not generally available. With a growing number of younger families I wonder if a few volumes on transmitting faith to our children might be well-received.

The present state, care and visibility of this collection does no justice to the growing interest in spiritual growth and faith formation, especially among adults, that we currently enjoy. It does not reflect it, nor does it reinforce it. Copies of the material we study in Thursday evenings studies or in Adult Forums ought to be generally available to those unable to participate first-hand in these opportunities. At the present time the only way to get that information is to dig through Heidi's library.

Nor does this collection reflect in any coordinated way the ministry and learning opportunity of the EFM seminar or the St. John's Book Club. Recently a worshipper and lover of Anglicanism offered several volumes of classical Anglican interest and import to the parish. When they learned of the condition of our library, they suggested they would leave the offer open to a time when we could be more certain the volumes would in fact be used and appreciated.

That particular offer is an opportunity for us to explore if a parish library is anything we would value, maintain and utilize.

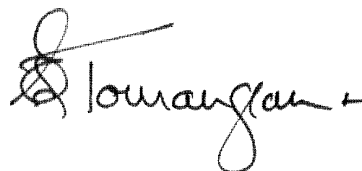
I wonder if there are persons among us who would explore a calling to
Parish Library Ministry?

This ministry would include – or at least begin with

- ◆ Organizing and inventorying the present collection.
- ◆ Working to advertise the collection and make it accessible (using a rolling cart in the parish hall for Sunday mornings?).
- ◆ Exploring if specialization would be of benefit and what area(s) of study our parish library might emphasize.
- ◆ Work with clergy and program staff to coordinate efforts and acquisitions.
- ◆ Survey parishioners for their interests and ways to invite and increase utilization.
- ◆ Explore ways to access and share information about electronic (web-based) resources.

Well, I'm not a librarian. I confess I do love books, maybe that makes me an antiquarian. I know we have some professional librarians within the congregation, and I think they might be willing to give some counsel to us. What we do not have,, and have never had in the past 18 years of my tenure here is someone to care for and advocate for this sort of parish resource.

Might you be that person? Please contact me if you think it possible. And thanks for considering.



2nd Wednesday Lunchtime Concert
12:10pm – March 12, 2008

The artist at our monthly lunchtime concert in March will be David Sinden. He is the Assistant Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral and a 2006 graduate of the Indiana University School of Music. David's program will comprise opposite extremes within the organ repertoire. He will be playing music by only two composers: J. S. Bach and Arvo Pärt. It goes without saying that Bach is widely recognized as the master composer/musician from the last 500 years. He is also often referred to as the "granddaddy of the organ." Arvo Pärt is a 20th century Estonian composer (b.1935), whose music is not surprisingly of Russian influence. Come enjoy a unique experience, as the music of Arvo Pärt is not often performed in Lafayette!

April in Sweden. Not quite as catchy as 'April in Paris,' yet Sweden is where the four of us (Hilary, Greg, Isaac and Ezra) will be spending the month of April. Greg has been invited to do research at the Institut Mittag-Leffler in Stockholm. Although Greg has never been to this institute, I spent 3 months there when I was 4 years old. I was there because my father took my family there during one of his sabbaticals. We'll be leaving April 1st and returning April 30th.

Our time in Sweden will be a mix of work and vacation for both of us. While the original intent of the trip was for Greg to do research, I've been in touch with the priest at the Anglican Church there, so I will also be doing some continuing education. I'll be spending some time learning about the Church of Sweden (Lutheran), which is in full communion with the Church of England, and studying some of the challenges they've faced in that relationship. Also, when the priest heard about our meditation group, he asked me to give a presentation about Christian Meditation while I'm there.

We're both excited and a bit nervous about the trip. We'd very much appreciate your prayers while we're gone and would be very grateful for any tips on traveling with two small children!

Hilary

Nursery News

EASTER EGG HUNT

Bring your baskets! The annual St. John's Easter egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, March 23rd. All children from ages 0 to 10 years are invited to participate. The egg hunt will be held immediately following the 9:15 am service. All should gather outside the Bishop's Parlor for the official photograph to start the event. Then the littlest ones will search for their eggs in the Bishop's Parlor while the older participants will search both the commons and the Memorial Garden. It should be fun for all. We hope to see you there!!

NURSERY CLEANING A SUCCESS

Thanks to all who helped us shine up the nursery! A special thank-you to Kelly Bailey, Debbie Walsh, Hillary Cooke and Nolie Parnell who spent the morning in the nursery working to keep it clean and healthy for our kids and sitters.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT COMING SOON

Leave your little ones with trusted sitters while you and your partner enjoy a night out on April 19th from 5 until 8 PM. If you are planning to attend please notify Annie Schreiber (annieschreiber81@yahoo.com) or Angela Mosier (ajmosier@insightbb.com) so that the appropriate number of sitters is assured.

Treasures

The parish has accepted the gift of an oak bookcase for the Commons. You can see it between the windows along the east wall. The gift is from a member of the parish who wishes to remain anonymous. The bookcase was carefully planned to fit the space it occupies and to serve two purposes. It has two sections: one of open shelves for the use primarily of the EFM seminar in which to store their reference volumes, as well as for copies of the prayer book and bibles for more general use. The second is a glass-fronted and locked section for the display of two parish treasures.

The first (and smallest) treasure – and the oldest – is a copy of the *Holy Bible* printed in 1847. The Rev. Samuel R. Johnson presented it to Cyrus Gordon Ball in 1849. Samuel R. Johnson was the first rector of St. John's Church. Cyrus Gordon Ball was one of the founding members of the parish, in 1837. The small bible was a gift to St. John's from Evelyn Ball, the last surviving member of the Ball family to be actively involved in the life of this parish. It was restored using gifts given in her memory.

The second treasure (and the most striking) is also a bible. This particular bible, the *Oxford Lectern Bible*, was designed and produced in 1935 by Bruce Rogers under commission from Oxford University Press. Rogers was an alumnus of Purdue University and generally considered one of the most notable book designers of the 20th century. 200 copies of this folio bible were produced using the typeface *Centaur* that he had designed earlier and printing on handmade paper. A special edition, printed on specially developed fiber paper from Japan, was given to the Library of Congress. When presented the book was recognized as the "most outstanding practical printing of the Bible since John Baskerville's folio Bible of 1763." Our copy was given to St. John's in 1935 by Valley Virginia Boyer in memory of her family members: Forrest Belle, Prairie Vinnedge, S.H.P., and Amanda C. Boyer.

We still use *The Oxford Lectern Bible* on occasion, when the King James' translation seems right. We last read from it at the funeral of Helen Watts, in October 2007.

Habitat for Humanity's 2008 Cover Indiana Bike Tour

Get out your bikes and start training for the "2008 Cover Indiana Bike Tour." Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette invites you to join them as they 'Cover Indiana' during the week of May 4 to May 17. The goal is not only to help raise many walls but to also raise awareness of Habitat's mission of ensuring that every man, woman and child has a decent place to sleep at night. For additional information about 'Cover Indiana' please contact Hailey Dady at 765-447-8401 x2404 or visit www.habitatindiana.org/biketour. See Teresa for entry forms.

Widening our Embrace, Part 1: ERD Relief Efforts

The first Sunday in Lent, February 10, 2008, was Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Sunday, as designated by The Presiding Bishop. Copies of the ERD publication, "Seeking to Serve: A Lenten Exploration of the Millennium Development Goals" are available at the church. Page 3 of this booklet says that ERD "...seeks to serve Christ in all persons, love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every human being."

Working with other nongovernmental organizations the relief arm of ERD responds to natural disasters in the United States and globally. In December 2007 ERD partnered with the Diocese of South Dakota to provide temporary shelter, emergency repairs and other emergency-related services to families still struggling in the aftermath of disastrous flooding. ERD also provided emergency assistance to communities in the Pacific Northwest battered by powerful winter storms that devastated the region when high winds and heavy rains damaged homes and agriculture in large areas of the region.

In January of this year ERD provided emergency assistance to communities in Indonesia affected by landslides and floods. Heavy rains that began in mid December inundated the main island of Java causing mudslides and rivers to overflow in Central and East Java. ERD's partner in Indonesia Action by Churches Together (ACT) International has been responding to the most severely affected areas since December 26, 2007. ACT is providing bedding, clothing, water and baby kits. A mobile clinic was also organized to attend to the wounded and others needing medical care.

ERD provided emergency assistance to Ahli Arab Hospital in the Gaza Strip. The closing of Gaza's borders on January 17 created fuel shortages throughout the territory, resulting in the closing of Gaza's main power plant. The blockade was eased to allow for emergency fuel shipments. Suhaila Tarazi, the Ahli Hospital Director, sent a message stating the severity of the crisis. "Life in Gaza has become terrible and people suffer from fear, humiliation, and poverty." ERD provided critical support to help the hospital procure fuel to operate its generator and steam boiler. With ERD's help, the hospital secured enough fuel to remain open and continue to serve the community.

ERD provided emergency assistance to people in Kenya impacted by ongoing election-related civil unrest. Violent protests between supporters of President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga erupted across the country since the outcome of the contested presidential election was announced on December 27, 2007. ERD responded to this emergency. "Our partner, IDCCS, the development arm of four Anglican dioceses in the Nyanza province of Western Kenya, is reaching out to those who have been left with nothing - regardless of ethnic background," said Janette O'Neill, ERD Senior Director for Africa Programs. "They offer food for the hungry and shelter and blankets for the homeless, but even more critically they offer a hand stretched out in reconciliation and friendship."

Overseas, early in February, Episcopal Relief and Development provided emergency assistance to communities in Malawi and Zambia affected by devastating flooding when torrential rains in southern Africa raised the Zambezi River to well above the flood limit, washing away entire villages and thousands of acres of crops. Through ERD the Episcopal Church in the United States responds effectively and efficiently to calls for help in times of crisis. Keep tuned for more about ERD's role in long-term development projects.

Meanwhile, please remember ERD in your Lenten prayers.

Dorothy A. Jones, ERD Parish Representative

Easter Sunday



Property Committee Information and Quiz

The St. John's Property Committee meets the first Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. in the Commons. A monthly update meeting is followed by working on various projects as needed. The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Top 5 Work Projects List

- #5 - repair upstairs hallway ceiling near west stairway
- #4 - caulk and paint around new upstairs windows
- #3 - scratch and dent removal on pews
- #2 - re-glue baseboard trim (all over)
- #1 - New Property Committee Members (we like the ones we have but we want more!)

If you're interested in assisting with one of these projects or any others, please contact Tony Bailey at: tktbaily@earthlink.net or 463-7263 for information and supplies.

So, you think you know St. John's?? How many stained glass windows are in St. John's?? (hint - I count 7 behind the altar)

- A. 15
- B. 19
- C. 27
- D. 31
- E. 50+

We'll give the answer next month.

February's Question and Answer

How many exterior entrances/exits (ground level) does St. John's have?

- A. 5
- B. 8
- C. 10
- D. 12

The answer is C.10 How many have you used?



Spring Church Work Day April 26, 2008 **-Help Maintain Our Church Home**

The Property and Garden Committees would like to invite you to a Spring Work Day at St. John's on Saturday April 26, 2008 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Spring projects range from mulching and other gardening to cleaning windows and other sprucing up inside and out. We would greatly appreciate any time you can spare and you do not have to stay the whole time.

There will be a variety of projects for all skill levels and ages. Childcare and lunch are planned but not finalized. If you would like to volunteer with the Garden Committee, please contact Barbara Powell at powellbl@purdue.edu or 474-6313. If you have work projects for the list or other questions about the day, please contact Tony Bailey at tkbailey@earthlink.net or 463-7263. Watch for sign-up sheets in April.

UTO

“UTO will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love.”

This is the UTO vision statement of October 2007. The vision builds upon UTO's core values of thanksgiving, generosity, mission and ministry and upon UTO's mission to expand the circle of thankful people.

Do you need a “Blue Box” for yourself or your family? They are in the top drawer of the dresser outside the kitchen. Please help yourself to one and any other UTO materials there.

Note: The posting of *The Daily Thanks on the bulletin board in the Commons*

A current Grant List is posted as well.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis



St. John's Book Club

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of selected months at 7pm in the Commons. Everyone welcome. Questions? Contact Amy Paget, pagets@gmail.com. We're revisiting the eclectic works of Alexander McCall Smith at our **March 19th** meeting.

Alexander McCall Smith is the author of the bestselling series, the **#1 Ladies Detective Agency**. The series, set in Botswana features Precious Ramotswe – Botswana's leading, and only, female private detective. If you've read these titles and want to try something new, we'll also be discussing McCall Smith's other series. The **44 Scotland Street** series is set in contemporary Edinburgh and includes three novels featuring the activities of various residents in a townhouse. The **Sunday Philosophy Club** series features Isabel Dalhousie, philosopher, editor of the Review of Applied Ethics and host to the club. She is also an amateur sleuth who uses her training to discover the truth behind curious occurrences in Edinburgh.

Smith spoofs the academic world in his Professor Dr. Von Igelfeld series. In Professor Doctor Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld, Alexander McCall Smith introduces us to a memorable character whose insouciance is a sublime blend of the cultivated pomposity of Frasier Crane and the hapless gaucherie of Inspector Clouseau. Von Igelfeld inhabits the rarefied world of the Institute of Romance Philology at Regensburg, a world he shares with his ridiculous colleagues, Professors Florianus Prinzel and Detlev Amadeus Unterholzer.

For many years Alexander McCall Smith was Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh and served on national and international bioethics bodies. You may learn more about him at his web site located at <http://www.alexandermccallsmith.co.uk>

April 16th - **Inspirational Poetry** to Celebrate Poetry Month [Leader: A.Paget]

May 21 - **Mountains beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World** by Tracy Kidder. [Leader: Karl Brandt]

June 18th - **Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson. "Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world." -Tom Brokaw. [Leader: Hope Gulker.]



March 2008