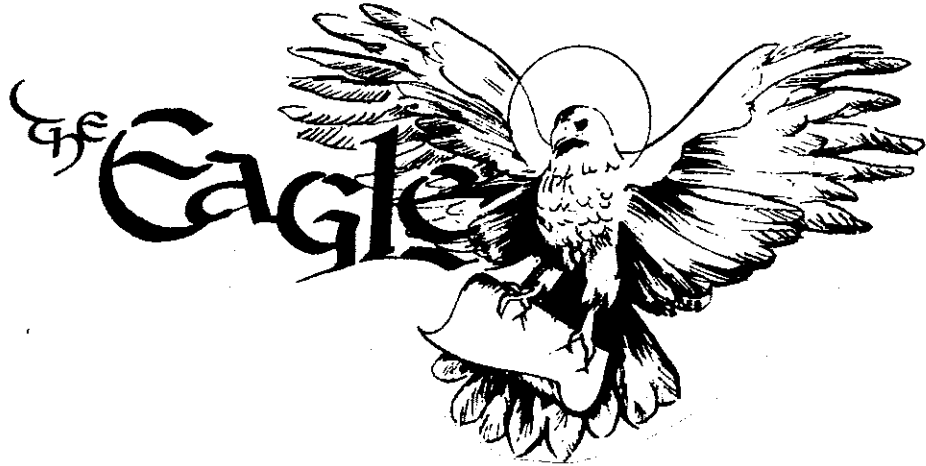


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

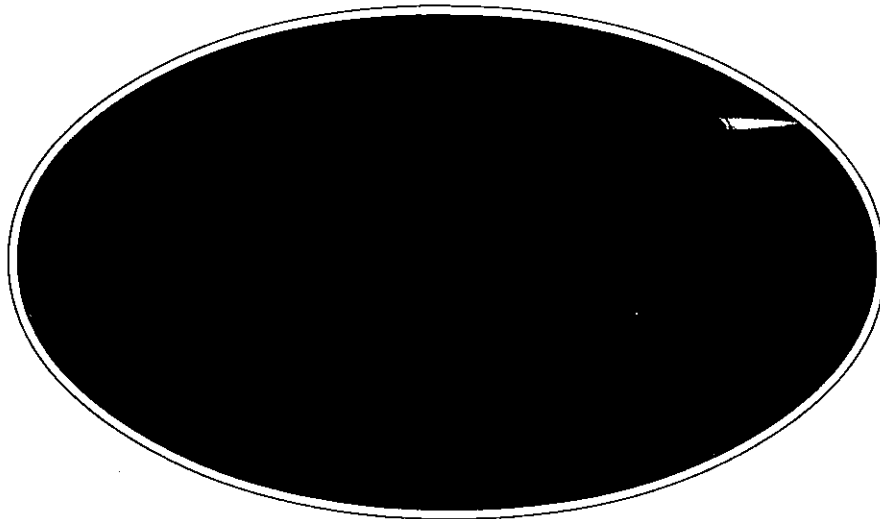


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Crystal Redding and Shane High on the Saturday after Easter, after their confirmation at St. George's in West Terre Haute. Persons from several deanery congregations gathered at St. George's for this important event, and a joyous time it was despite the weather! Not pictured is Greg Buzzard, who was received into the Episcopal Church from the Roman Catholic Church at this same service, having been prepared and presented by Good Shepherd. Still to be received from the Roman Catholic Church later in Easter-tide are Dave and Tammy Vorbeck, who were unable to attend on Easter Saturday.

A View from the Big Pew

Dear Friends,

May is “learning recognition time” and that is certainly true at St. John’s. On May 20 we will enjoy an opportunity to celebrate the work done by many leaders and learners within the parish community, not only in children’s formation but adult formation as well. My own particular role in all of this will be to present certificates of completion to several persons for four years of study in the Education for Ministry (EFM) program.

2007 marks the end of the 8th year that St. John’s has enjoyed EFM as a part of our adult education program, begun under the ministry of then Deacon Jan Rybka. Certificates of Completion will be presented to Linda Jeffries, Maggie McClure, Barbara Powell, Jo Roberts, Martin Stob and Pat Tourangeau (and me – I was a learner as well). We will join other members of the parish who have completed EFM in previous years: Ed Helgerman, Kristin Dell, Dick Barman and Dennis Sorge. All these folks have worked hard, learned much, been challenged and grown not a small amount. They have formed a healthy community of shared experience, companionship and support.

In addition, because the “M” in EFM stands for Ministry, one year this particular seminar group (at whatever “year” they were in their study) brought regular contributions to the Food Pantry every Monday. Another year they took a turn hosting the occasional Sunday Community Lunches on behalf of us all. Last year they conceived of and created the St. John’s Stained Glass Window note card project and forwarded all profits to Episcopal Relief and Development. They even wrote a letter or two to the editor of the *J&C!* They ministered to and walked with one another through the joys and sorrows of personal surgery, family illness and emergency, raising children or grandchildren, parental health and transitions and “stuff” at work.

Need I say I wonder, now that they won’t have to do all that reading, what greater things can we expect from these graduates?!

Just because this bunch is moving on doesn’t mean that EFM is going extinct.

I want you all to know that EFM is ready and waiting to assist other adults in the work of understanding of and growth in living our faith. Heidi Kauffman, Caryl Matthews, Gayle Ennis, Amy Paget and Julie Wallin are also members of the EFM learning community and hopefully all of them will be able to continue not only their study and fellowship but also their theological reflection and ministry when the program year resumes in the fall.

At that time the EFM seminar will be facilitated by Maggie McClure and Heidi Kauffman, both of whom have received training from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN, and have received certification as mentors. I will continue my interest in, relationship with and support for EFM as a resource to Heidi and Maggie, who have already begun to share in leadership of the seminar this spring.

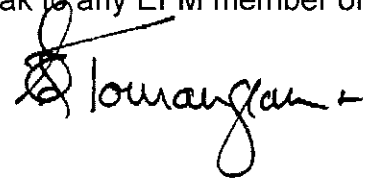
The full course of EFM study addresses Holy Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments (first and second year), Church History (third year) and Theological Choices

(fourth year), which considers the contemporary church and developments since 1800. Participants commit to only one year at a time, and if you take one or more years and find you must drop out for whatever reason you can "reenlist" right where you left off. The heaviest reading is in the first year (Old Testament). The hardest reading is in the fourth year (Philosophy). My personal favorite is year three (Church History). When we thought the readings were boring we would agree on and read together supplemental texts (e.g., If Grace Is True, by Philip Gulley).

The cost of EFM is \$340/year for all materials and administrative costs (this is a reduced amount because of prior diocesan investment in the program). The diocese also has additional funds available (up to \$170) for supplemental financial assistance. No interested parishioner should be financially excluded from this program. Feel free to speak with Heidi or Maggie if further assistance is needed; the parish has some dedicated funds for adult education.

I hope many of you will consider EFM for your own benefit next year. It's not "bible study" but is a wonderful opportunity for growth in knowledge, faith, and the practice of faith. None of us is so well-educated in scripture or theology that we have no need of what EFM offers. Let me say also that EFM would benefit wonderfully from some ecumenical breadth. So if you would like to consider EFM, and would like to ask your best friend who worships in a different Christian tradition to enroll with you, do it!

I've asked our editor to scatter throughout this issue of *The Eagle* comments made by the seminar members. Please consider them recommendations and invitations to you to enter into this study. If you have any questions feel free to speak to any EFM member or to Maggie, Heidi or me.



I have learned more about the bible, of the value of discussion and the pleasure of accepting other's opinions and having my own values listened to without anger or judgment. I have learned the value of making and treasuring friends with whom I can differ and not change the quality of friendship, and I have also learned the wonderfulness of being able to think on my own and decide for myself about what I believe.

- Gayle Ennis

Before enrolling in EFM I was concerned that an intensive study of our faith ... would somehow negatively impact where I stood in my life of faith. To my great pleasure it has not only not been turned upside down, it has been clarified and strengthened in the most positive way possible for me. I have gained a tremendous knowledge of how I came to be (where I am at this point) in my faith walk.

-Linda Jeffries

Spotlight on Outreach Opportunities

"Give and it will be given to you...for with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Luke 6:38

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Its mission is to provide simple, affordable housing in partnership with people in need. St. John's entered into a contractual agreement with Habitat for Humanity. Our pledge? That we would build a house for a family in need in Tippecanoe County. Additional aspects of our commitment include providing a lunch the day of the house raising, as well as spiritual and financial support. The house raising will occur in the fall of 2007, but it is time to get organized. The original list of volunteers was destroyed in an unexpected plumbing disaster so we need to start anew. If you would like to volunteer to participate on any level (building, preparing a lunch, financial, or spiritual), please contact any one of the Vestry ministry liaisons: Nolie Parnell, Randy Brist, John Behrndt, or Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt. We will also have an easel in the commons where you can sign up. Once we have a group identified we will hold an organizational meeting. This is an exciting opportunity for St. John's and I hope everyone is able to find a way to participate!

Nolie Parnell
Jr. Warden

I was looking for a structure to encourage me to study scripture, pray, and work in community. EFM does that for me - and so much more. It is helping me to prepare for the rest/best of my life!

- Amy Paget

What is valuable to me is the time I get to spend on a weekly basis reading parts of the Old Testament I wouldn't normally read or hear sermons on. Then I get to read commentary and reflect with the group on Monday nights about what meaning this may have for us.

-Heidi Kauffman



STRAWBERRY MADNESS



It's time again to plan for our annual "Strawberry" party. The St. John's family has a long tradition of joining together to provide strawberry shortcakes with all the trimmings to the Lafayette community at the Courthouse Fair on the last Saturday of May (26). It is a lot of fun and provides an opportunity for getting to know each other and the rest of the community.

There are many tasks that ensure a complete success; the more people involved, the easier the task. Such tasks include baking the shortcakes, cutting the strawberries, setting up at the courthouse and serving at the booth and cleaning up afterwards.

As always, the proceeds will benefit needs at church. Half of the monies will provide Waycross scholarships for students at St. John's and the other half will be used to enhance the Music program. There will be volunteer sign-up sheets at the church starting May 6. Please put your name down in the place where you will have the most fun and give the most help.

Michael Bennett and Marylin Howland Ross,
for the Music Committee

Thank You!

Dear St. John's Community,

Thank you, once again, for the opportunity to present the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters during the Choral Evensong in March. The capacity to achieve our vision to provide a caring "Big" for every child who wants and needs one hinges on finding volunteer mentors as well as investors to support our programs. We are grateful to St. John's Episcopal Church for hearing our call for help!

We have received the generous contributions totaling \$504.00 from the collection taken to support the mentoring programs of Big brothers Big Sisters. Thank you for enabling the work we do, and for believing in Bug Brothers Big Sisters!

A government study found that for every dollar invested in a mentoring program like Big Brothers Big Sisters, taxpayers and crime victims save over two dollars. Your gift does make an impact!

Sincerely,
Pam Brettnacher
Director of Marketing and Development

Acknowledgements

In the first quarter of 2007 we acknowledge, with thanks, these gifts to St. John's, given beyond pledges to the operating budget

A monthly gift as a thank offering to the ***Building Fund***;

Gifts from ten individuals or parish families and cash offerings to support the ***Diocese of Jerusalem***;

Gifts from four individuals or parish families and cash offerings to support ***Episcopal Relief and Development, including Darfur***;

Evensong offering to benefit ***Big Brothers and Big Sisters***;

Gifts in memory of ***Duvall Jones and Michael Matthews***;

Gifts from two parishioners to the ***Rector's Discretionary Fund***;

Gifts from nine individuals or parish families to benefit the ***St. John's / LUM Food Pantry***;

Gifts from two parish families to underwrite expenses and many cash offerings to support ***U2Charist***.

UTO

Stop! Say that again?!

Every penny in UTO Ingatherings is distributed in UTO grants!?

How can that be?

Since 1989 UTO trust funds have provided income for all expenses of the UTO Committee. Many supplies such as placards, grant lists, UTO Posters, etc. are available at NO COST to parishes in support United Thank offering. Interest from these trusts and funds makes it possible for Every Penny collected thru UTO Ingatherings each year to be given to support world wide grants to help others.

Check the 2006 Grant list with the Mission Board on the tables in the Commons. Take a copy if you like. Blue boxes are always available. Also other materials about UTO to take home. Our St. John's Spring UTO Ingathering will be in both services, Sunday May 6, 2007.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

*It has been wonderful to study the Testaments and the history of the Church.
It has also been a blessing to explore new ideas in an environment of acceptance
and love.*

-Jo Roberts



*EFM has given me the opportunity to explore my spiri-
tual growth and learn that others have many of the
same questions I have.*

-Caryl Matthews

*The study of the Old Testament helped me to have a lot
better idea of what was going on in our Sunday read-
ings.*

- Pat Tourangeau

E.F.H.N SPELLS OUTREACH

Diocesan outreach depends on your participation! From Shelters to day care, from prison ministries to day camps for the elderly, from community emergencies to parish crises, the Episcopal Fund for Human Need is the diocesan source of funding.

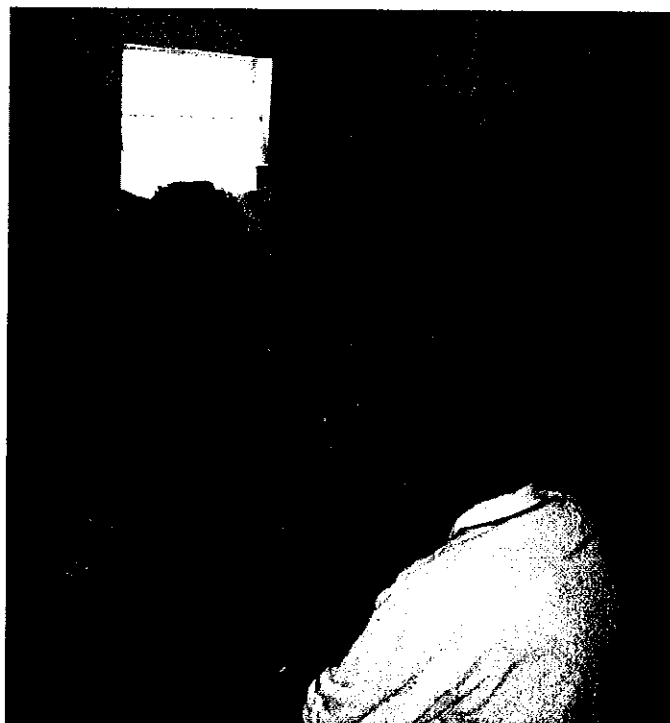
Outreach programs by both Episcopal Churches and ecumenical agencies are faced with increasing demands on your gifts to meet the many works of love and caring needed that provide for a wide range of human needs.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS OUTREACH,
PLEASE SUPPORT E.F.H.N
on PENTECOST SUNDAY

One important experience of EFM for me was building community with a small group of people I had not known well. We shared our thoughts in an environment that was non-judgmental and our confidences stayed with group members. I particularly enjoyed our explorations of the Old Testament. Gaining a better understanding of the historical aspects of the bible helps me better understand the stories we explore.

-Barbara Powell

Youth Group Prepares for Easter



On Happiness

Years ago while spending a year in New Zealand a close colleague kept asking, "Are you Happy?" Perhaps he was thinking of the stereotype American who invariably appears to be happy. Most of the time I would answer "No, but I'm satisfied." I now realize that happiness, for old and young alike, is a matter of temperament, not circumstance. Where does the pursuit of happiness lead us? A recipe for misery? I believe happiness is a state of mind and geezers are as happy as they want to be. Growing up, there was a radio/stage show personality called Ted Lewis. He started every program with a question to his audience, "Is everybody happy?" With that kind of straight forward question, just about everyone, but a psycho, would answer to the affirmative. I really try to have a good day every day. So am I happy? Yes .. Why not?

Another installment of Jack Albright's "Memoirs of a Geezer." Keep them coming, Jack. Your thoughtful contributions are appreciated. JHH



The Visitation

The first year was by far the best (because we were all reading the same material) ... however EFM provides an excellent vehicle for an informed understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

-Martin Stob

I have learned to examine our tradition and use the results of that examination in dealing with daily life.

- Maggie McClure

Nursery News

Boy, the nursery sure has been busy lately! There has been a lot of activity in the past month. Mom's Morning Out continues to be held on a monthly basis and seems to be well used. The next MMO will be Monday, May 21st followed by a break for the summer. Susan Chandler will continue to provide childcare for MMO.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday. By everyone's account it was a huge success! There were over 30 children who hunted everywhere from the Bishop's Parlor to the Memorial Garden for the hidden eggs. No one had a stop watch but we believe the final egg was found in under five minutes! We were blessed this year with a multitude of offerings to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. We would like to send a special thank-you to the Youth Group for all their help stuffing the eggs and preparing the gift bags. The Youth Group was a tremendous help. We are also very appreciative to all of those who helped the day of the Easter Egg Hunt: Tony Bailey, Ashley Bigelow, Susan Chandler, Paul Deignan, and Rachel Shook. These individuals were essential components to ensure there was laughter and smiles for all the children.

Parent's Night Out was held Saturday, April 14th. Seven families braved the rain, wind, and snow, and took advantage of this wonderful opportunity. While the parents enjoyed several hours of uninterrupted adult conversation, the children ate pizza, watched movies, and participated in arts-n-crafts. Many parents heard the protest, "We don't want to go home!" when they arrived back at St. John's to take their children home. The next Parent's Night Out will be during the fall semester.

As usual, if you have any questions or concerns regarding the nursery, please let us know. We are always open to ways we can make your children's time in the nursery the perfect experience.

Nolie Parnell and Kelley Bailey

