



The Eagle

Ubuntu: I in You and You in Me By Hilary Cooke

It was with mixed emotions that I arrived in Anaheim on July 5th; I felt incredibly sad to leave my family for two weeks, but also very honored to have been asked to serve the National Church in my fourth General Convention and excited to see so many friends from all over the country.

For those of you who don't know, I work behind the scenes at Convention. For the last four conventions I have served in the House of Bishops Secretariat as the Assistant Legislative Secretary. Almost every resolution that comes before convention must be ratified by both houses in order to be adopted. Each resolution is assigned a "house of initial action" and a committee. The committee meets to discuss the proposed resolutions they have received and then makes a recommendation. The committee then brings the resolution with their recommendation to the secretariat for their house. In the House of Bishops, they bring the resolution to me. I take the resolution and enter it into the computer and add it to the legislative calendar so that it can go to the floor for consideration. Once the house has acted, a message is sent to the other house, at which point their committee looks at the resolution and makes a recommendation. If the second house makes an amendment, the resolution must return to the first house for reconsideration, and the process begins again. Sometimes resolutions will go back and forth 5 or 6 times before being adopted!

As I mentioned in my sermon on July 26th, this year Convention had a very different feel to it. The theme of convention was "Ubuntu: I in you and you in me" and I believe this theme was what changed the atmosphere. Desmond Tutu describes Ubuntu this way, "Ubuntu [is] the essence of being human. Ubuntu speaks particularly about the fact that you can't exist as a human being in isolation. It speaks about our interconnectedness. You can't be human all by yourself, and when you have this quality - Ubuntu - you are known for your generosity."

I noticed at this Convention that a spirit of respect and of listening surrounded everything. The theme of Ubuntu encouraged people to look for the places where our lives intersect, to listen to the experiences of others so that we might find greater understanding and enter into deeper relationship. In the past I have listened to very heated debates on the floor of the House of Bishops. This year there were certainly arguments and disagreements, but they were handled quite differently. The House of Bishops even began each session with "table time:" a time for conversation and listening free from the media. The spirit of Ubuntu created a safe space that allowed deputies and bishops to be honest in dialogue.

The Episcopal Church is not all of one mind on many of the resolutions that were discussed at Convention, and yet

the Convention still managed to make some bold statements:

We passed a resolution on the Charter for Lifelong Formation reminding us that God invites, inspires and transforms us for ministry through our worship, study and actions.

We accepted new liturgies for trial use and added people to our liturgical calendar—including former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

We passed a denominational health plan and a pension plan for our Lay Employees.

We voted to conduct a feasibility study to look at revising the Hymnal 1982.

We committed ourselves to a domestic poverty initiative with a special emphasis on responding to some of the worst poverty statistics in the Americas: Native American reservations and indigenous communities.

We continue to pray for peace in the Middle East and an end to the war and the beginning of healing in Iraq.

I left Anaheim feeling incredibly proud of The Episcopal Church. We worked hard, took some time to play and truly lived into the meaning of Ubuntu. I look forward to our diocese hosting the Convention in Indianapolis in 2012!

Stealing Buddha's Dinner By Amy Paget

On September 23, 2009 at 7 pm the St. John's Book Group will discuss *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*. Selected as Purdue University's 1st *Common Reading Program* selection, *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen is a memoir that shares Nguyen's story about growing up a Vietnamese immigrant in the Midwest in the 1980s and how she tried to be "more American" by consuming snack food, pop culture and music. Nguyen's family left Vietnam in April 1975 when she was 8 months old. The family relocated to Grand Rapids, Mich., where Nguyen grew up surrounded by images of the idealized blonde-haired American girl. Bich Minh Nguyen is an English professor at Purdue.

Stealing Buddha's Dinner received the PEN/Jerard Award in 2005 for the memoir's manuscript-in-progress. It also has been named a Chicago Tribune Best Book of 2007, a Kiriayama Prize Notable Book and a Book Sense book.

One Book One College reading programs are generally designed to model intellectual engagement, to develop a sense of community, to encourage reading, to provide students an opportunity to understand diverse perspectives, to stir discussion and to raise questions of meaning and value. Let's be part of this community conversation with our own program and by venturing out and joining the Purdue community in its discussions. A calendar featuring Common Reading Program events may be found at <http://www.purdue.edu/sats/commonreading/calendar.htm>.

Mark your calendars for next month on October 28 when the Book Group will discuss *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heligman.

Michael Martin Prints On Sale By Linda Jeffries

The art prints by Michael Martin are now officially on sale. There is a display in the Commons so you can see the prints. If you wish to purchase a print (or several!) you may contact either Teresa in the church office (742-4079) or call Linda Jeffries (477-1574). Please make out your check for the total amount due to St. John's and put "Martin print" in the memo line. You will receive your print when we receive your check. The print of the girl is \$55.00 and the print of the boy is \$65.00. We will fill out an order form for each print ordered, so please, don't take an order form unless you plan to purchase a print; the forms are numbered so we can keep track of the amount sold (since we have a limited number). If you have any questions please call Linda at the above number. Think Christmas!



Our New Operational Subsidy Fund By Bill Kealey

We have a new option for putting donations to work. With Vestry approval, the Endowment Committee has set up a mutual fund account whose quarterly earnings will flow directly into St. John's operating budget.

This new account holds a substantial gift left by Charlotte Tomes. Anyone can donate to the account at any time. Each gift buys additional mutual fund shares. The shares pay a quarterly dividend which goes entirely to our church's current expenses. Contributions to this fund are "gifts that keep on giving" for St. John's immediate needs.

This new "Operational Subsidy Fund" is completely separate from our endowment accounts. No endowment funds have been put into the new fund. The new account is owned by St. John's and overseen by the Endowment Committee. The Operational Subsidy Fund holds shares of the Vanguard Wellesley Income Fund, which is made up of two-thirds bonds and one-third dividend-paying stocks.

Please keep this new option in mind for your charitable planning. Anyone with questions is welcome to contact Sue Bracey or Bill Kealey.

Fall Work Day By Tony Bailey

The Fall Work Day will be held on Saturday October 31 (costumes optional - ha, ha) starting at 9 am and ending at noon. We will be doing cleaning, fix-it and winterization projects. More details on the type of projects will follow in the October *Eagle*. We'll have donuts and drinks and probably lunch. Please contact Tony Bailey at 463-7263 or tktbaily@earthlink.net if you want to volunteer and / or know of projects that need attention. Hope to see you there!

The Episcopal Church Welcomes You

By Leah Moss

It was during a particularly busy week of my last semester at Purdue that I had volunteered to memorize and present The Parable of the Leaven for my Godly Play class. Not only was I preparing final exams, I was scrambling to complete my final experiment as a research assistant while simultaneously applying to and fielding rejections from several graduate schools.

With great reluctance I rehearsed the Parable of the Leaven on top of my already impressive collection of stressors. To be honest I found the story rather boring and declared – out loud, to anyone who would listen – the fruitlessness of presenting it to the kids. I didn't get it, so how could they? "The kingdom of heaven is like a woman who took three measures of flour, mixed them together, added yeast, and the bread got all big and puffy like bread you get from the store." That's not a miracle; I kept telling myself, that's science. Plus, when compared to our other presentations involving a big wooden fish swallowing a tiny figure of Jonah and the clang of a heavy chain landing in our desert box illustrating the Exile, surely they would be just as bored as I was by a few flat, wooden figures of a woman, a loaf of bread, and a quarter-inch triangle representing leaven.

So when "Leaven Day" arrived and the kids bounded into the room filled with excitement, I issued each a silent apology for the relative simplicity of the story that was to come. I put on a brave face, though, mustering as much enthusiasm as I could for this brief and befuddling presentation.



After a few sweeps of felt and a shuffle or two of dough, leaven, and bread the story was over. I sat back on my heels and surveyed several pairs of bright, inquisitive eyes – it was time to let the kids take a stab at deciphering this one. "I wonder what the leaven could be," I asked. One child suggested that the leaven represented water, another thought the tiny triangle resembled a Doritos chip (it really did), and a few other observant students shared their ideas of what this tiny figure could

represent. Just as I was about to dismiss the circle for response time, I noticed one last hand creeping into the air. I called on this student and quietly she said "**Maybe the leaven is what the bread needs.**"

In Godly Play we assure kids that they shouldn't worry if the parable "doesn't open up" for them, that a lot of grownups have problems understanding parables too. However, after enjoying the heaping helping of humble pie this young lady served up, I find such a disclaimer almost unnecessary. I learned that day to remind myself that being older and having more life experience than my students doesn't necessarily mean I am any wiser. I admire these tiny little people seemingly composed of 100% kinetic energy for their patience and wisdom that I, moving at half their speed, didn't have when I needed to. I don't have children yet but I consider the opportunity to teach Godly Play, to develop my own relationship with God through their insights, a blessing pre-empting that day.

"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matt. 18:3-5

United Thank Offering

By Mary Louise Davis

We have many reasons to be grateful for so many things, people, life commitments, challenges, opportunities to grow and choose priorities. It is stimulating to be alive. It is also heart rending to hear of troubles and calamities of neighbors near and far, but uplifting to help others as we can with time, talent and money. Certainly we need to support each other as we can and are willing! There are many needs that require our support in prayers and coins of thanksgiving.

You and your family are encouraged to join other Episcopalians in prayers of thanksgiving and gifts of coins to help those less fortunate than ourselves. UTO grants are carefully chosen each year to touch lives all over the world.

Our next UTO Ingathering at St. John's will be November 8, 2009 at both services. Do you need a Blue Box? Let Mary Louise know.

Mom's Morning Out

By Angela Mosier

The next Mom's Morning Out will be Friday, September 11 from 9 am until noon. Please contact Angela Mosier at ajmosier@comcast.net or 765-463-4391 if you can attend to ensure adequate childcare.

Mom's Morning Out will be every second Friday of the month until December.

e-spirituality By Amy Paget

e-spirituality launches with this Eagle issue. It 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. I'll begin by sharing some good starting points and then ask that parishioners email me with other ideas that may be shared in upcoming issues. It is good to start close to home so here are the websites for our own parish and for the Chapel of the God Shepherd at Purdue, our diocese, our national church, and the Anglican Communion.

www.stjohns-laf.org *St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette, Indiana*. Here WE are on-line! What do we look like to on-line visitors? Find out for yourself so that you can direct guests to our on-line presence. You can enter through our Red door and find a wonderfully informal guide to the basics of our worship. There's also a direct link to Father Ed's blog, *The View from the Big Pew*. Can't find your Eagle or your paper calendar of events?...it's all here to help you. For many newcomers, this is their door to our Parish.

<http://www.goodshep.org/> *The Chapel of the Good Shepherd, The Episcopal Church at Purdue University*. Did you know that Good Shepherd serves KitchenArt Coffee and Mary Lou Donuts after service? That Senior High School students meet there weekly to eat fast food, talk about God and plan good deeds? That a book club meets twice monthly and a meditation group meets weekly? Now you do!

<http://www.indydio.org/> *The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis*. In addition to a wealth of general information and events listing, lectors can find the readings here; you can visit a section titled The Recession Connection, or see the Bishop's visitation schedule. Want info that's short and sweet? Follow DioceseofIndy on Twitter!

<http://ecusa.anglican.org/> *The Episcopal Church*. This is a very well developed site that cannot be described in a few short sentences. It is well worth exploring and its search function works very well. If you are pondering things Episcopalian, start here! [I've been known to get lost for hours...and learn so much!]

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/> *The Anglican Communion*. This is the official website of the world-wide Anglican Communion, comprising over 80 million members in 44 regional and national member churches around the globe in over 160 countries. The site has a clean look and its new service postings will keep you up to date on breaking news of interest to Anglicans around the world. There is MUCH MORE here than reports on the latest controversies in our communion. Well worth your time.

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.

Reminder

September 6 there will be no Education for All in observance of Labor Day. Classes will resume September 13.

Ladies' Movie Night By Leah Moss

Harold Crick isn't ready to go. Period.

Please join us in the Bishop's Parlor on Thursday, September 24 for a viewing of *Stranger Than Fiction* starring Will Ferrell and Emma Thompson. Harold Crick (Ferrell) is an IRS auditor who suddenly finds his life (and impending death) the subject of a narration only he can hear in this 2006 comedy.

The show starts at 6:30 pm in the Bishop's Parlor. Bring a pillow and blanket to get comfy! Snacks will be served. Questions? Contact Leah Moss, Heidi Kauffman, or Hilary Cooke. If you wish to be included on the LMN mailing list, please send an email with your request to leahcmoss@gmail.com.

Evening Adult Bible Study By Randy Brist

The evening Adult Bible Study group will begin the fall session on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. We use the Good Ground Bible study series. Booklets typically cover 6 weeks of study and cost \$7.00-payable to St. John's with *Adult Bible Study* on the memo line. We will be starting with *Enter the Kingdom: Studies in Luke and Acts*. Our study sessions are informal, full of great conversation, and lots of fun. Can't make every meeting? That's OK! Meetings will continue throughout the coming year (with a few breaks) on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in reading and discussing the Bible and how it applies to your life today, this is the group for you! Feel free to speak with Jim Marciniak, Dorothy Jones, Russ and Charlene Watson, or Greg McClure, some of the several folks who are regulars with the group. For more information or to order a booklet see Randy Brist, 474-2835. Email at rjbrist@me.com

Meeting God in Nature- A Quiet Day Opportunity

By Amy Paget

Join us Saturday, September 12, 2009 from 10 am - 2 pm and enjoy a morning of reflection and respite held at the Lilly Nature Center, Celery Bog on Lindbergh Road, West Lafayette, Indiana. You are welcome to join us for the full time period or any portion thereof. This self-paced morning will include both a guided walking tour of the bog and independent exploration.

Bring your own spiritual exercises or select from among those provided. The morning begins with group worship, followed by a tour of the Celery Bog with Lilly Nature Center volunteer and St. John's Parishioner, Dorothy Jones. Bring your own brown bag lunch and join us in fellowship. Should you wish, you might extend your sojourn until the center closes at 5 pm.

Include future Quiet days on your calendar - all are Saturdays: December 5, February 13, 2010, May 1, 2010.

A Farewell Gift from the Lafayette Mennonite Fellowship

After serving God's kingdom for nearly 30 years, the Lafayette Mennonite Fellowship decided to disband in April 2009 owing to a decreased number of members. Over the years, the Mennonite Fellowship appreciated the work that the St. John's Food Pantry has done for our community. In disposing of the group's assets, it was decided to give a portion of the remaining funds to the work of the Food Pantry.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the October *Eagle* will be Monday, September 21. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

Foyer Dinner Groups

By Lloyd Brewer

It is nearly time to switch Foyer Dinner Groups. Hopefully you have enjoyed the year with your current group and are looking forward to another round. Haven't been in Foyer? Give it a try! This program began in England and is now popular in a number of congregations in the U.S. It is a great way to become better acquainted with fellow parishioners. Once a year participants are assigned to mixed groups of 8-9 adults, all ages, couples or singles. During the course of the following year the group meets once at each person's home for a family meal. Singles often choose to "partner-up" to share their turn at hosting the group. That means you meet about four times during the year at the convenience of the people in your group. You host one and are a guest at the others.

Usually the group meets for dinner or brunch, but it is also fine for you to make arrangements for a dutch treat (i.e. each pays their own way) meal at a restaurant if you do not have space for the group. Some people have hosted a picnic in a park or had a meal of chili and ice cream sundaes sitting around on the floor in an apartment. A rental movie with a meal of soup and sandwiches has been well received. The point is to get together and enjoy one another's company, so it is OK to be creative about how you take your turn.

Those of you currently in a Foyer Group will be automatically reassigned to a new group unless you specify otherwise. Contact Lloyd if you wish to drop out. Some singles have "Foyer partners" they would like to keep - please remind her of that. Also, you may request that someone be placed in your Foyer Group if you would like to get to know them better. If possible, please put these requests in writing to help Lloyd remember. She will do her best to accommodate your special requests when possible.

One person/couple will be assigned to be a "convenor" to see that the group gets started - if you are willing to do this, let me know. You do not have to host the first gathering, just see that it happens.

Foyer Kick-Off Wine and Cheese Party - Sunday, September 27 at 5:00 pm at St. John's. Nibbles you bring to share are welcomed but not required. Let Lloyd know if you would like to help with this party (food, set-up, clean-up). Lists of new groups will be available there and will be left on the credenza for pick-up later by anyone who cannot make the kick-off. This party is an all-parish invitation for anyone interested in the Foyer program. Please come even if you are "opting out" for this round or just considering it for another time.

Questions? Contact Lloyd Brewer 497-3669 or 491-3579 or lloydbb@comcast.net



Extraordinary Stewardship Effort Final Report

All parishioners were contacted: by individual visit in some cases and by letter in all other cases. The invitation to all was to consider making a pledge over a period of all or a portion of the three year period from 2010 to 2012. Pledges to ESE are considered over and above the normal annual pledge to the parish Operating Budget. Written comments are being shared with the rector and parish leadership and many individual questions and queries have been answered by the Extraordinary Stewardship Effort Committee members, E. Linda Jeffries, Barbara Powell, Maggie McClure, and Heather Johnston Nicholson.

We received 42 pledges for a total of \$229,480 plus five one-time gifts of \$4,620, making a grand total of \$234,100 over the three years. In addition to the above, several parishioners chose to increase their current pledge to the Operating Budget and, in a few other cases, individuals said they would have to wait for their personal finances to stabilize before they could make a commitment. In addition there was one in-kind gift of numbered art prints which, if all are sold at the suggested price, will generate an additional \$12,000. This would make the grand total of the ESE \$246,100 (not including increased pledges to current Operating Budget). This grand total must be measured against our goal of \$250,000; again, the people of St. John's have shown they can respond to an extraordinary need in an extraordinary time.

The result of this effort is that if our normal operating pledge picture remains constant we can budget confidently and fully through 2012 and address the four needs enumerated at the outset: 1) funding the shortfall between income and expense, 2) funding the cost of a consultant to guide us in the necessary work of re-visioning that lies before us, 3) restoring previously cut items to the

budget and, 4) as possible, replenishing our operating reserves. The Extraordinary Stewardship Effort was successful and the response of our members gratifying.

In addition, this response encourages and requires of us that we address the important work that lies before us over the next few years. The rector spoke to that work at the Annual Meeting, but it is also summed up by one parishioner comment which accompanied a three-year pledge: *"As a past Vestry member I was always concerned how few actual minutes the Vestry spent on budgetary issues, especially the annual budget. No hard choices or discussions were ever initiated. Now the budget is in trouble in a year when...people are losing their jobs, watching their retirement disappear, or not getting a raise...I urge the Vestry to use this campaign wisely and make the hard choices."*



As summer changes to fall, you are invited to acknowledge those St. John's parishioners who have worked faithfully throughout the summer to keep our gardens looking their best. This year's Garden Club included: Pat Annis, Georgia Brist, Nancy and George Dandrow, Tracey Gage, Kristine Holtvedt, Marilyn Howland-Ross, Dorothy Jones, Shirley Marciniak, Gaye Matthews, Doug Powell, Jo Roberts, and Bob Slagel.



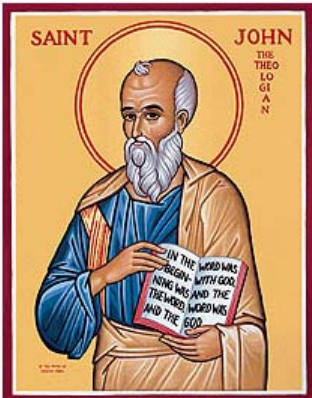
August Financial Report By Linda Jeffries

Income for June/July 2009, was as follows:

<u>Operating Income (budgeted)</u> (non-pledge income, donations for building use, unidentified offerings, altar/sanctuary, parish life, interest income, misc. expenses)	\$3,621.00
<u>Pledge Income</u> (budgeted)	\$42,113.00
TOTAL INCOME FOR JUNE/JULY, 2009	\$45,734.00
EXPENSES FOR JUNE/JULY, 2009	\$56,592.00
SURPLUS OF DISBURSEMENTS	\$-8,858.00
OVER INCOME FOR JUNE/JULY, 2009	
EXCESS OF DISBURSEMENTS OVER INCOME FOR 2009	\$-11,853.00

Please keep in mind that there are "pass-through" accounts – accounts which have dollars "in and out," i.e. flowers, discretionary fund, food pantry, reimbursements, lunchtime concerts, etc. These dollars are not part of the operating budget but are reflected in the financial transactions of the parish.

If anyone has questions regarding the posted budget (or any other financial concerns), please do not hesitate to contact Linda Jeffries or anyone on the Finance Committee or the Vestry.



Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints By Heidi Kauffman

We will have an intergenerational All Saints Day Festival on Sunday, November first. All ages will gather in the commons to feast, hear a story and tackle a service project together. Plan to dress up like your favorite saint and come learn, serve and celebrate with us!

The Godly Play classrooms will incorporate the stories of several saints into their schedules this year including a story about St. John, for whom our parish is named, which will be written by Nate Mosier. When they heard about the All Saints Festival, the newly formed Adult Education and Formation Advisory Committee suggested we have some Sunday Forums about saints which will take place in September. The Episcopal Church celebrates the life of Dame Julian of Norwich and during October several Sunday Forums will study her work, *Revelations of Divine Love*.



There are many resources available to find out more about the saints. At General Convention in July, a revised version of *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* was approved. This book contains the people celebrated as saints by the Episcopal Church. The revision titled *Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints* includes more people than ever before. The internet is full of images and stories about different saints. Morehouse Publishing published *Folk Like Me: The Read-Aloud Book of Saints* by K.M. Lucches, and the Tippecanoe County Library has many books about the lives of saints. Some of the best sources are in children's books, so do not forget to explore the juvenile section. Have fun finding out about the saints, then join us for education and celebration!



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Religious Education Coordinator
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Heather Johnston Nicholson

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light; that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

