

# THE *Eagle* NEWSLETTER

St. Johns' Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Indiana | April 2023



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LAFAYETTE



## ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

600 Ferry Street · Lafayette, IN 47901-1142

765.742.4079 · [www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org)

[stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org) · [@stjohnslaf](https://twitter.com/stjohnslaf)

### Parish Staff & Leadership

**Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows**, Bishop

**Bradley Pace**, Rector

**Jason Fortner**, Curate

**Teresa Lohrman**, Parish Administrator

**Michael Bennett**, Director of Music

**Becky Dick**, Senior Warden

**Bruce Johnson**, Junior Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

### From the Rector

In his account of the Resurrection, John wants us to understand that something incredible has happened. It isn't just that God has raised some random person from the dead. Instead, John tells us in ways that are both subtle and obvious that in the Resurrection of Jesus, God has overcome sin and death. John tells us that in the Resurrection of Jesus, God has remade the world. A new creation is bursting in on the old.

This may take us some time to understand and fully appreciate. The disciples were no different. When Jesus first appeared to them, they were hiding in a locked room afraid for their lives. But Jesus appeared to them, offered them his peace, and breathed new life into their moribund bodies. And they began to catch a glimpse of what was possible, what God had made possible. And then they took the world by storm. As Barbara Brown Taylor puts it:

*They stop hiding and start seeking. They stop making excuses and start moving mountains. They sell all of their stuff and put the proceeds in a common pot so that no one is in need. They lay their hands on the sick. They defy the authorities. They never tire of telling people what it was*

*that gave them the courage to do such things, and they become known for their glad and generous hearts. In this way, their way of life became contagious.*

As she describes it, this new creation gave the disciples and the early Church new tasks and opened new possibilities.

For you and me, these same tasks and these new possibilities are open as well. In the Resurrection of Jesus, the world is remade, and we are reborn. The new creation is taking shape in our lives, in our community, in the world. Now we too can stop hiding in fear and start seeking God's Kingdom. Now we too can stop making excuses and start moving mountains. We can start giving so that no one is in need — living out God's abundance and working for justice where there is none. We can lay our hands on the sick — offering healing and reconciliation to those who are weary and sin-sick. We can defy the cynical emperors and kings of this world that know only power and not truth. And we can tell the world who it is that gives us the courage to do such things. Perhaps we too can become known for our glad and generous hearts and maybe, just maybe, our way of life will also become contagious.

The clergy and staff of St. John's invite you to join us in observing this coming Holy Week. We begin on **Palm Sunday** by recalling Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We remember his commandment of love on **Maundy Thursday**. That day, we will have a special **prayer service via Zoom at 12 noon**, and we will have **dinner and worship in St. John's Commons (including foot-washing and Holy Eucharist) beginning at 6 p.m.** We "behold the wood of the cross on which hung the world's salvation" on **Good Friday at 12 noon** and at **7 p.m. (via Zoom)**.



On Saturday, we will observe **the liturgy for Holy Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Chapel of the Resurrection**. This brief prayer service marks the time between Jesus' death on the cross and his resurrection in which human history hangs in the balance. At **the Easter Vigil**, we kindle new fire, hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, welcome new members into the fellowship of the saints, and remember that we, too, have died and risen in Christ. And then we come together for the beauty and joy of **Easter Sunday**, celebrating the new creation that God has made, the new tasks we have been given, and the new possibilities that have been opened up for us, for our community, for the world.

For more information, contact the church office at 765.742.4079 or [stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org). Come, let us make the journey through Holy Week, and let us celebrate the great Easter miracle together. And let us continue living into that new creation, those new tasks, those new possibilities. – *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

## From the Curate

If it's true, as we are fond of saying in the Episcopal Church, that praying shapes believing, the liturgy that has shaped my beliefs the most over the last 10 years is without a doubt the Great Vigil of Easter. In fact, I've claimed more than once that the Vigil has helped me remain a Christian and has reinforced my call to serve God as a priest. For me, it's kind of a big deal! I'll try to explain why in the next few paragraphs.

As you may know, I did not come to faith in Christ in a liturgical church. We definitely had routines, but we paid no real attention to the seasons of the church year. During my years in one of the branches of Presbyterianism, communion became increasingly important to me. I developed a sense of the holiness of the moment of receiving the bread and the wine. I felt the unity that sharing communion creates, and I began to suspect that more was happening there than I could comprehend. I came to wish that I could have communion more than a couple times a year.

One of the reasons I was drawn to the Episcopal Church is the central placement of Holy Eucharist in the life of the church. To paraphrase from the beginning pages of the Book of Common Prayer, Holy Eucharist is the principal act of worship on Sundays for Christians in the Episcopal Church. But this was not always the case. For much of the 20th century Morning Prayer without communion was the norm on Sunday mornings. However, the 1979 Book of Common Prayer restored the Holy Eucharist as the primary service on Sundays and major feasts in the church liturgical year. After decades of much less frequent celebration, communion became central to the lives of Episcopalians. The rite fittingly also returned to its place in the center pages of the prayer book preceded by the rite for baptism which is full

initiation into Christ's Body the Church. As in reinforced in the prayer book, baptism begins the journey of faith, and the Holy Eucharist is the source of nourishment, inspiration, unity and renewal for the church along the way.

Theologically and sacramentally baptism and Eucharist go hand in hand, and no other special liturgical celebration combines the two like the Great Vigil of Easter. This spectacular liturgy leads those who participate in it through the entirety of salvation history from creation to the exodus to Christ's death and the light of his resurrection. The service is replete with deeply meaningful symbolism that engages all of one's sense. And God knows that I need to be as fully engaged as possible.



Even more than on an average Sunday, the Vigil involves all our senses. It is in many ways a very earthy ritual. The initial darkness in which the liturgy begins is penetrated by the light of the new fire which also breaks the silence with the sound of its lighting. Lit from this fire are the coals for the incense that fills the air and our nostrils and the Paschal candle, the symbol of the Light of Christ that vanquishes evil and death. The ancient words of the Exsultet set the stage for the importance of this glorious night. The light spreads from the Paschal candle to the candles the people clasp in their hands. In addition to beautiful music, we heard a recounting of the history of our salvation. We are led to the renewing waters of Holy Baptism and the fragrant oil that seals us as Christ's own forever. And then ... Christ is risen! We celebrate his glorious resurrection by meeting with him at his table.

Attending the Vigil shortly after I came to the Episcopal Church helped connect the theological dots for me at a time when I recently had jettisoned many of the trappings of the faith of my childhood, youth, and (relative) young adulthood. I was on shaky ground, and God knew just what kind of encouragement I needed. The way that the Vigil progresses from the "back story" to Christ's light to baptism and to the first Eucharist of Easter is both

## **Serving During Holy Week**

If you would like to serve during one of the Holy Week services, please contact Bradley at 765.742.4079, ext. 102 or via email. We need Acolytes, Readers, MCs, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters & Ushers, Altar Guild for midweek services, reception hosts for the Easter Vigil, and reception hosts for Easter Sunday. Thank you in advance for helping make our Holy Week services holy and meaningful. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

cohesive and moving. The first time I experienced it, I was amazed at how my soul made the journey through the liturgy. That night the Holy Spirit moved me from a faith mostly in shambles to one that had a coherent shape. More crucial pieces would be added in the coming years, and more healing would come. But I felt more whole and more at peace than I had in a long time.

At each Easter Vigil since, I have been filled with joy and wonder. New connections and spiritual insights have surfaced; I have been blessed in new ways. Having it all laid out there before me, the whole Christian story, in the midst of my fellow lovers of Jesus provides the perfect occasion to reflect on and revel in God's love, grace, and mystery. I believe the Holy Spirit is constantly at work in our lives, but I also believe she's delighted to move mightily at the Vigil. These brief words are a small testimony to that fact. If you have never done so, I would like to encourage you to attend the Great Vigil of Easter this year at St. John's. If you're a regular, I would urge you to immerse yourself fully in the experience. May we all come with open hearts, trusting that God will meet us in the darkness, in the fire, in the water, in the bread and wine. – *Jason Fortner, jason@stjohns-laf.org*

## **Easter Floral Decorations**

Members of St. John's are invited to celebrate Easter by helping decorate the church windows for Easter. You can bring an arrangement of your favorite flowers, but feel free to be creative. Arrangements need to be brought in on Saturday, April 8, between 9 a.m. and noon. For more information, contact Sue Bracey. – *Sue Bracey, braceys77@comcast.net*

## Updates From Our Companion Dioceses

Each Sunday, we pray for our global ministry partners including St. Andres in Mithon, Haiti and the Anglican Diocese of Brasília. Below is a brief update about their ministries.

### Haiti

The situation in Port au Prince is very grim, with gangs continuing to kill and kidnap people. The Diocese of Indianapolis supports St Andres parish and school in Mithon. Mithon is in the country and somewhat removed from the gang activity. While the school and church continue to operate, the economy is very poor, leaving the people of Mithon in even worse poverty. Many have difficulty procuring even one meal per day. Our continued prayers and support are needed.

You can support the “Lunches and Lessons” program at St. Andres School financially by going to [indydio.org/donate](http://indydio.org/donate).

### Education for Ministry

An EfM seminar group is forming at St. John’s. We will begin EfM seminars in August and meet 36 times throughout the academic year. The specific day and time for meeting have not been determined. The current plan is to split the meetings between in-person and Zoom.

Each seminar meeting has time allotted for worship, discussion of the reading texts, and theological reflection. This is not a Bible study group. It is a program that helps participants discover their gifts of ministry by opening their hearts and minds to God’s call.

There is a \$325 fee per year. In addition, participants are responsible for purchasing the texts. Sewanee will provide a reading and resource guide

### Brasília



Our last update from Brasília indicated that the work of the diocese is going well. The Anglican Social Center in Pedregal continues to provide services in the area and serves more than 100 children a day. The new athletic center was dedicated last year. St. John’s provided some of the funding to make this athletic center possible.

You can support the Diocese of Brasília’s ministries, including the Social Center in Pedregal by going to [indydio.org/donate](http://indydio.org/donate). – Maggie McClure, [magamcclure@gmail.com](mailto:magamcclure@gmail.com)

every year. St. John’s, the diocese, and Sewanee have scholarship funds available to assist those who need financial help.

Go to [theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/program/](http://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/program/) to learn more about the program. Go to [theology.sewanee.edu/files/resources/efm-books-handout-2021-2025.pdf](http://theology.sewanee.edu/files/resources/efm-books-handout-2021-2025.pdf) to view the texts used for study. An informational meeting will be scheduled in April for those interested in participating or learning more. Look for the announcement, or contact Maggie McClure directly, in person or via email. – Maggie McClure, [magamcclure@gmail.com](mailto:magamcclure@gmail.com)

## **Bishop's Visitation**

### **Sunday, April 23**

Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows will visit St. John's on Sunday, April 23. Look for more details about the schedule for her visitation and about a festive reception following services. This will be Bishop Jennifer's last episcopal visitation before going on sabbatical from May through August. – *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

## **Worshipping with the Chapel of the Good Shepherd**

### **Sunday, April 30**

On Sunday, April 30, St. John's will worship with our friends at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd (610 Meridian Street) in West Lafayette. There will only be one in-person service that day at Good Shepherd. – *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

## **Black History Walking Tour at Purdue**

On Sunday, February 26, members of St. John's and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd took the Black History Walking Tour at Purdue University. The tour was led by Briggitta

August, Director Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of St.

John's. Highlights included the successes and struggles of

Purdue's first Black students and the story of Helen Bass Williams, Purdue's first Black professor. Learn more about her story at [www.purdue.edu/asc/about-helen.html](http://www.purdue.edu/asc/about-helen.html). – *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*



## Anniversary Organ Concert

Friday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

Internationally recognized as a conductor, organist and teacher, James O'Donnell has performed all over the world. Following a distinguished 23-year tenure (1999-2022) as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, O'Donnell now is Professor of Organ at Yale University School of Music. In his tenure at Westminster Abbey O'Donnell was responsible for all musical aspects of the abbey's work, training and conducting the abbey choir in its daily choral services, recordings, concerts, and broadcasts and at the national occasions for which the Abbey is known, including directing the music for the September 2022 State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He has toured extensively with the Choir of Westminster Abbey to the United States, the Far East, Australia, and Europe. We are delighted to be hosting this free concert given by such a fantastic, internationally known organist.



## St. John's Financial Summary

April 2023

INCOME	February	Budget	% of Budget
Pledge Income	\$41,243	\$369,549	19.3%
Operating Income	\$4,688	\$126,181	5.7%
Non-Operating Income	\$3,296	\$58,557	11.3%
Transfer Income	\$0.0	\$42,100	0.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$49,227</b>	<b>\$596,388</b>	<b>14.3%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Outreach	\$5,262	\$86,001	12.2%
Program	\$2,088	\$28,620	10.3%
Administration	\$624	\$4,450	32.7%
Personnel	\$26,925	\$342,186	15.3%
Office	\$1,537	\$28,912	13.4%
Property	\$9,371	\$106,220	15.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$45,807</b>	<b>\$596,388</b>	<b>14.6%</b>
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$3,420</b>		

# St. John's Episcopal Church

600 Ferry Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901-1142

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## Holy Week Schedule

### Maundy Thursday

April 6 • 12 noon (via Zoom) & 6 p.m. w/dinner in St. John's Commons

### Good Friday

April 7 • 12 noon & 7 p.m. (via Zoom)

### The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 8 • 8 p.m.

### Easter Sunday

April 9 • 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (via Zoom), & 10:30 a.m.

*The St. John's office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 10.*