



The Eagle

August 2014

Holy Moly! Bible School August 4–8 at St. John's

By Katie Elder

Mark your calendars for August 4–8 from 5–8 pm! St. John's will host Bible School for children and youth from age 3 years old to fifth grade and for youth in 6th-12th grades.

This VBS will help bring the Bible and Christian worship to life for everyone. For more information, please contact Katie Elder at katie.elder1@gmail.com or Hilary Cooke at hilary@stjohns-laf.org.



Youth Confirmation Class

By Bradley Pace

Confirmation is a sacrament of the Church — it is a chance for those making a mature commitment to the Christian faith and life to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit toward that work. With that in mind, Hilary and I have been thinking through our Confirmation program to include more than just meeting for classes. We hope to help confirmands begin the lifelong process of living out the Baptismal Covenant and the Church's mission. The Confirmation program is geared toward students beginning the 9th or 10th grade and will take place over the course of about two years. That will give confirmands time to build community, develop mentoring relationships with other members of St. John's, be involved in ministries within St. John's and the wider Church, and grow together as Christians.

Of course, we also want to educate our confirmands in the Christian faith and how we live out that faith in the Episcopal Church. We will spend time learning about the core parts of the faith and the traditions of our denomination including Christian history, Scripture, and worship. Much of the curriculum will be based on the promises in the Baptismal Covenant: promises to learn the teachings of the Church, to worship in community, to resist evil, to proclaim the Gospel, to serve Christ in all people, and to seek justice.

But we know that our youth have busy lives and difficult schedules. So, in order to work out some of the scheduling details, Hilary and I would like to meet with prospective confirmands and parents on **Tuesday August 12, at 7 p.m.**, at St. John's. If you are interested in the Confirmation program, but are unable to attend this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we will try to set up another time to meet. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at 765.742.4079 or at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or Hilary Cooke at hilary@stjohns-laf.org

From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

Anglicanism has a big heart. And while this may prove to be its downfall, let's give it the benefit of the doubt and say our dear old mum has wide open arms and a voluminous cozy bosom. She's always lovely to come home to, because the kettle's always on, and she never starts off with an interrogation as to where on earth we've been for the last ten years. It's love first, questions later. All this makes for a very untidy house...for there's always someone coming or going in this free and easy environment, and people loitering with good intent. (Richard Giles, Always Open, chapter 12)

My favorite description of membership in the Episcopal Church is “loitering with intent.” This is the description of our attitude toward membership from the Very Rev. Richard Giles, former Dean of Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral and author of *Always Open: Being Anglican Today*. (In case you didn't know, Anglicanism is the worldwide Church Communion of which the Episcopal Church is a rather small part). Giles is British and more often than not his British sensibilities stand out in his description of the Church's life. Still his description is as true here as it is there. In general, our attitude toward membership looks a lot like “loitering with intent.” If one of the clergy get hold of your email address or, God forbid, your home address and phone number, you'll end up on the mailing lists, be asked to serve on a committee, and maybe even get a birthday card from the Rector. If not, once we get to know you, we'll think of you as part of the gang even if your name never shows up in the official records.

The fact is, no one at St. John's is going to compel you into anything (well, not anyone in an official capacity anyway). That's not how we work. Even belief isn't a requirement. Whereas some churches or denominations insist that you believe first, learn to behave second, and only then are you invited to belong; in the Episcopal Church, it works differently. First you belong the moment you walk in the door; secondly, if you give us a chance, we'll teach you how to behave (so when am I supposed to cross myself anyway?); and lastly, we hope you'll come to believe in this wild and powerful God we love and proclaim. Instead of compelling folks into membership, Giles says, “we aim to create the kind of local Christian community in which you will want to do more, because you are known and valued, and your gifts recognized. Once you have decided to jump in with both feet, you have real scope for effective Christian service and for influencing the Church's way ahead.” If you've come to St. John's long enough to get the Eagle (or we somehow figured out your mailing address ;-)), then we hope that you have found St. John's to be just that, the kind of Christian community that calls you into a deeper relationship with that same wild and powerful God we proclaim.

All that being said, membership, official membership, says something about your level of commitment and it says something about who the local Christian community, this local Christian community in particular, can call on when ministry needs to happen. And there are institutional/official ways of making that happen.

- If you came to St. John's from another Episcopal Church or from several other similar denominations, you can become a member by filling out a “**Transfer of Membership**” form. You can get that at the church office.
- You can attend one of the **Newcomers' Classes** and learn all about the Episcopal Church's history; the way we view Scripture, tradition, and reason, and come to appreciate our ethos. Classes take place in the fall (late September-early October) and in the Spring (beginning at the start of Lent). For the record, along with getting to know others who are new to St. John's, the class usually ends with BBQ at my house. That's always a good thing.
- If you are new to the Christian faith, you can be baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, records of which will be kept in the St. John's registry.

These are the official ways to become members. Why does this matter? At the end of the day, joining an institution is not really the point, nor should we take the rules too seriously (please don't tell the Bishop I said that). Instead, to quote Richard Giles again, "the Church is absolutely essential, not as a divinely appointed institution but as *a place to be*. And the place is not a building, but an assembly of faith, gathered every Sunday, where you hang out with Jesus and his crowd, catching into ideas and visions which are liable to get you in trouble."

If you have found St. John's to be a Christian community where you can worship God, where you find welcome and inspiration, and where you find the inspiration to serve God's Kingdom, consider becoming an official member. Membership shows your commitment to this community and to our mission of worshiping God made known in Christ, of sharing God's love, and to making Christ known in our community and to future generations.

See you in church,
Bradley+

Book Group to discuss 'The Goldfinch'

By Mary Campbell

We start our 2014-2015 season with *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. This book won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and has been on the NY Times best-seller list for over 30 weeks. Here is the description from the Pulitzer Prize website:

"A beautifully written coming-of-age novel with exquisitely drawn characters that follows a grieving boy's entanglement with a small famous painting that has eluded destruction, a book that stimulates the mind and touches the heart."

The Goldfinch is one very long book, at least by contemporary expectations, and this has led me to musing about long books in general. There are many of them even longer than *The Goldfinch* – including *War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*, *David Copperfield*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, and *Quiet flows the Don*. I'm sure there are more.

So, I have wondered: Does an author really need to go on for so long? (Dickens needed to for a while – he was paid by the word.) What is gained from such length? What would be lost if the book were abridged? What are your thoughts and reactions? Jane Austen is quoted as saying, "If a book is well written, I always find it too short." What would Jane think of *The Goldfinch*?

Please join the discussion at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, in the Commons. I know we will go beyond the issue of length into more challenging topics.

Do not feel compelled to read the entire book. Read as much or as little as fits your time and your interests. Then, come anyway!

OUTfest

By Hilary Cooke

OUTfest' 14, Tippecanoe County's Pride Celebration, will take place Saturday, August 2nd at Rhiele Plaza in Lafayette.

This year Good Shepherd and St. John's will have a joint booth at the celebration and we invite you all to come and join the celebration!

By the time of this printing the sign-up sheet for helping with the booth will likely be full, but come join us anyway and invite your friends to get to know St. John's better!

Youth Group, Godly Play to start in September

By Hilary Cooke

Mark your calendars now for the start of both Youth Group (grades 6-12) and Godly Play (age 3-grade 5).

The first Youth Group meeting of the school year will be Sunday, September 7 from 6-8 p.m. and Godly Play will begin on September 7 at 9:15 a.m.

More information about both of these will follow in the September Eagle.

Questions? See Hilary or email her at hilary@stjohns-laf.org.

Women's Fall Retreat September 26-28 at Waycross

By Amy Paget

St. John's women, join your sisters from around the Diocese for a wonderful weekend of respite, fellowship, and spirituality. The Episcopal Women's Ministries Council is holding your annual retreat at Waycross during the last weekend in September.

Our theme is "Clutter Free Abundant Living," featuring Shawna Bryant, a retreat leader from California, <http://shawnamarie.com/>. Shawna writes, "Abundant living flows out of a vital relationship with the Good Shepherd described in John 10:1-15."

"This weekend we will explore spiritual and practical ways to quiet our hearts and minds so we can hear the voice of our Shepherd. Discover the secrets of following Jesus through safe (and uncluttered) pastures. We will discuss ways to: Be intimate with God



- * Be attentive to God
- * Be watchful of the thief
- * Be disciplined in our walk."

In addition to the de-cluttering workshops, there will be time for enjoying the wonderful Waycross food and hospitality, and the great outdoors with walks and free time.

The Early Bird Discount fee is \$160 until August 20; \$200 thereafter. Look for registration flyers on the Women's Ministries counter in the commons or by visiting this website, <http://ewm.indydio.org/>. We will plan to carpool if that is helpful. For questions or more information, contact Charlene Watson at cel.watson@comcast.net or Amy Paget at pagets@gmail.com.

The Wisdom of the Enneagram – a Quiet Day Workshop on September 13

By Amy Paget

Heidi Kauffman will facilitate an Enneagram workshop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 13. Your \$25 registration fee, due Monday September 8, includes your own copy of the book, “The Wisdom of the Enneagram,” lunch, and a donation to St. John’s Outreach efforts. Complete a registration form in the Commons and deliver it with payment to the church office.

The Enneagram (pronounced any-a-gram) is a description of 9 personality types. Each type has its own lens to view the world and a dominant strategy for how it relates to the world. Each type has gifts and wisdom to contribute to the world.

The Enneagram is not a personality test that “puts you in a box.” It does not show who you are but it will help you identify the patterns that dominate your experience and your relationships. Learning about what motivates you and other personality types may aid in greater compassion, understanding, and harmony within yourself and your relationships.

The Enneagram has been used by people globally of all faiths. It is not a religion; rather it is a useful tool for spiritual direction and transformation. It has been used by spiritual directors and teachers of many faith traditions.

This workshop will introduce you to the structure and basics of the Enneagram and how it is useful as a tool for transformation.

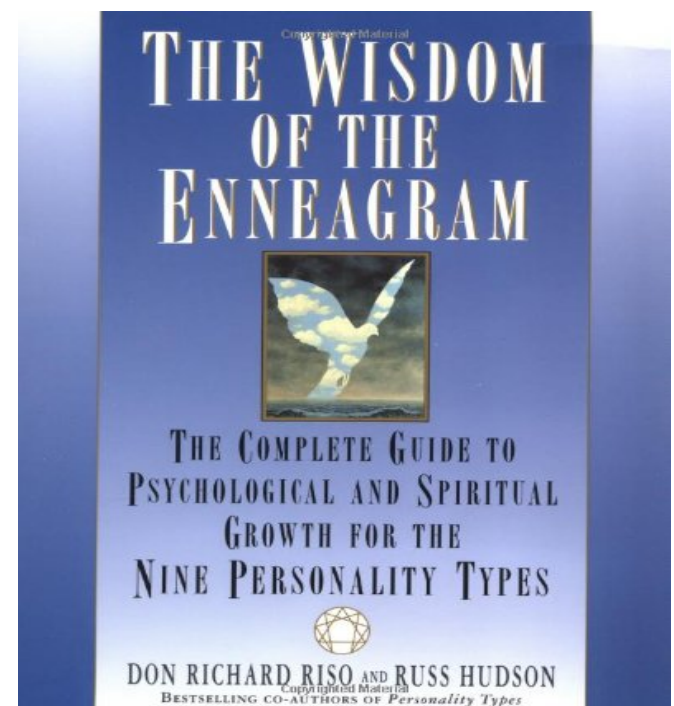
Participants will:

- * Hear how the Enneagram works as a tool of transformation

- * Learn about each of the 9 personality types
- * Have an opportunity to explore which type you may be
- * Receive your own book and a handout of resources

Heidi was introduced to the Enneagram 20 years ago when her small group at church listened to Fr. Richard Rohr, OSF, teaching about the Enneagram. Since 2006 she has studied the Enneagram intensively with a book group that meets weekly.

Heidi is director of the YWCA Women’s Cancer Program. She has two kids, a cat, and a dog. Heidi is a member of St John’s Episcopal Church.



Next Eagle Deadline

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



We give thanks to God for the lives of...

Bonnie J. "BJ" Wolf
June 19, 2014

Frances Zink
July 8, 2014
Mother of Teresa Lohrman



Vaughan H. Weston
July 22, 2014
Husband of Jackie Weston

Reminder

By Bradley Pace

The Summer Worship Schedule began on Sunday, May 25th, and continues through Sunday, August 31st, with one service at 9:00 am each Sunday.

We will return to two services on Sunday, September 7th.

The parish offices will also close at noon on Fridays through August 29th.

Keep in touch!

Ken and Jackie Paar have changed their landline telephone number to 765-250-8376.

We Know You're Out There ...

By Michael Bennett

We hear you, we see you, and we want you! This year's summer service schedule provides an opportunity for anyone who is interested in joining the St. John's Choir.

"How so," you may be asking? Even though the two-service worship schedule doesn't resume until September 7, the choir is returning on August 17. For three Sundays (August 17, 24, & 31) the choir will gather in the rehearsal room at 8:15 a.m. for warm-up and preparation.

We may or may not sing an anthem. If you'd like to come and see what it's like singing with a structured group, then please do so – just show up! What's to lose? It's only 45 minutes extra out of your day and will prove to be something worthwhile. We promise to make you feel at home.

Coming up!

Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for these upcoming happenings.

OUTfest 2014

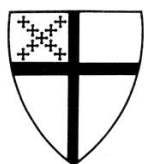
Tippecanoe County's Pride Celebration is on **August 2** Good Shepherd and St. John's will have a joint booth at the celebration, which will be staffed from 4 p.m. through 10 p.m. Please stop by and visit us.

Baptism on August 3

We will celebrate a baptism on **August 3**. We try to make baptism special, so please remember to bring your favorite finger food to share for coffee hour after the service. All present are reminded to sign the baptismal certificates as witnesses.

Church Picnic on August 10

The church picnic will be on **August 10** at Happy Hollow Park at 10:30 am. There are sign-up sheets in the Commons. There will also be a 9 am service at the church that day.



St. John's Episcopal Church

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www.stjohns-laf.org

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke

Sunday Associate

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

Parish Administrator

Teresa Lohrman

Director of Music

Michael Bennett

St. John's/Lum Food Pantry

Steve Starks, Director

Gayle Ennis, Co-Director

Building Use Coordinator

Bill McInerney

Eagle Editor

Greg McClure

Vestry

Lloyd Brewer, Sr. Warden

Heather Johnston Nicholson, Jr.
Warden

Ann Schreiber, Clerk

Jim Hess, Treasurer

Shirley Marciniak, Asst. Treasurer

Kelley Bailey, Sally Byrn,

Sally Goeke, Alissa Goudswaard,

Sally Hastings, Heidi Kauffman,

Bill McInerney, Barbara Powell,

Rachel Shook