



# The Eagle

The monthly newsletter of **ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE**

**November 2015**

## **The Feast of All Saints at St. John's, Lafayette** by Bradley Pace

*Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*



Sunday, November 1 is the Feast of All Saints. At both services that day, we will dedicate special time to remember those saints of St. John's who have died since last year. There will also be time for each of us to remember the saints who have been the chosen vessels of God's grace in our own lives. And, to top it all off, we will celebrate a baptism at the 10:15 service. Please join with the whole church as we remember the Saints of God who have come before and welcome new saints into the Body of Christ.

## **"Longest Night" Service** by Hilary Cooke

On Sunday, December 20 at 5 p.m., St. John's will hold our second "Longest Night" service. As with last year, the idea of the service is to acknowledge feelings of grief, loss, and loneliness that people may be feeling while the world around us cries out to be "merry." This service is open to anyone in the wider community, so if you know anyone you think might value such a service, please invite them!



## **The Bible: the Big Questions** by Bradley Pace

**The Bible: the Big Questions** began on Wednesday, October 28. If you missed the first class, don't let that keep you from joining in. Classes continue on Wednesday nights 11/4, 11/11, 12/2, and 12/9 from 6-8 p.m. This class will allow those in attendance to raise lots of difficult questions about the Bible. What

questions do you bring to the Bible? How do we read the Bible as sacred Scripture? What do we do about the really difficult parts? How do we make sense of this ancient text in our modern world? What does the Bible have to do with us and with the Church today? This class will be driven by the attendees' interests.

Dinner and childcare will be included. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact me at 765.742.4079 or [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org).

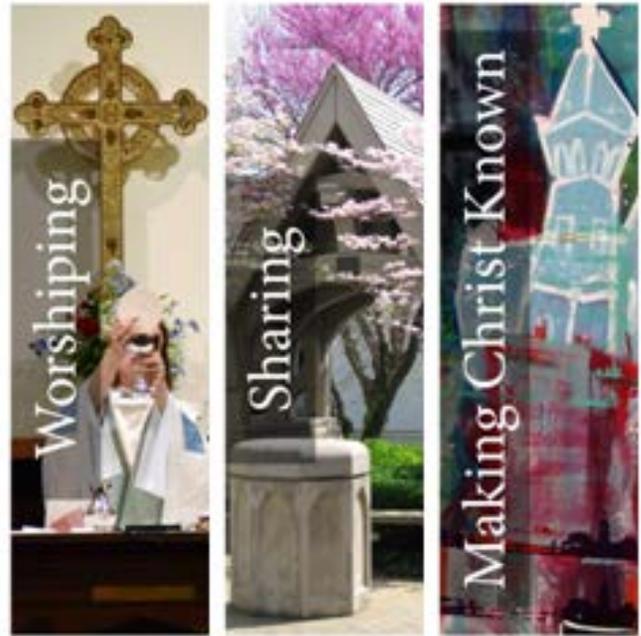
## Rector's Message

by Bradley Pace

Last month I wrote that we are about to begin a time of discernment and visioning. We will study the possibilities of purchasing a new organ, restoration work on the church, and reimagining our outreach ministries and our role in the neighborhood. I noted that the landscape of our neighborhood and of our city has changed in the several decades since our food pantry began operating. The St. John's/LUM Food Pantry is one of the largest pantries in the region and serves food to nearly 10,000 different individuals each year. We now have as many volunteers as we've ever had. However, our space is limiting, and we cannot operate on the model of many modern pantries. In the summer of 2016, Food Finders will open a new, larger food pantry in Lafayette. That means it is time to consider how the food pantry operates, how it fits into our parish's mission and ministry, and how it connects to the resources and needs of the neighborhood and larger community. These necessities give rise to an opportunity.

Recently, we received other news that will have a significant impact on the pantry's operations. In my letter to the congregation about our Annual Campaign (some of which is reprinted in this month's edition of *the Eagle*), I mentioned that Lafayette Urban Ministry has had to reduce its commitment to the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry by \$10,000. This amount is about one-third of the pantry's total food budget. The reality is that nearly 10,000 different people rely on the food pantry at least once each year. Cutting our food distribution by a third would leave some of the most vulnerable folks in our neighborhood even more vulnerable. As I mentioned in that letter, however, the current plan is to fully fund the pantry through our parish's outreach budget. I have asked the vestry and other leadership to make the food pantry an absolute priority in next year's budget.

In writing this, I want to be abundantly clear. There are no plans to close or reduce the operation of the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry. We can make up for the lost income. And while the new Food Finders Pantry will provide additional resources and make food more available for low income residences, it will not suddenly eliminate food insecurity. The need will still be there, and St. John's will continue to build God's Kingdom by feeding God's people. At the same time, we will take this opportunity to discern the best way forward, the best way to serve the people of our neighborhood and our community. If you are interested in talking with me about these issues, about the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry, or



about other ways we can share God's love beyond our parish, please come and see me.

Thank you for your worship of God. Thank you for sharing God's love by reaching out. Thank you for making Christ known. Thank you for your work on behalf of God's Kingdom. I remain,

Faithfully Yours,

## Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, Nov. 7 by Bradley Pace/Heather Johnston Nicholson

Bring your tools and a little elbow grease to the St. John's Fall Clean-Up Day, Saturday, November 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donuts, coffee/juice, and lunch will be provided. The Youth Group will be "fresh" from their overnight at St. John's, the property committee will be on hand to guide the clueless, and the garden committee will help us tell mulch from pachysandra.

Please come help make St. John's shine for the fall and the holidays. Child care will be provided. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Heather Johnston Nicholson at 765.743.3501 or [heatherjohnston.nicholson@gmail.org](mailto:heatherjohnston.nicholson@gmail.org).

Thanks in advance for your energy and accomplishment.

## Book Group for November

by Mary Campbell

It has been our recent custom to include a mystery writer or two for one of our meetings. This season we are going all out—our November 18 meeting will be “An Evening of Mysteries.”

Each person attending is invited to bring a list of mystery writers they particularly enjoy. The list may be one name or a dozen (or more). The writer may be as established as Arthur Conan Doyle or as recent as Louise Penny. Each person will have the opportunity to share something about why they find this writer so interesting.

Dame P.D. James (1920-2014), a master of the murder mystery, published a book in 2011 about the characteristics of the genre. She said that it is not really about the murder and mayhem—but “fundamentally is concerned with the bringing of order out of disorder and the restoration of peace” (*Talking about Detective Fiction*, p. 13). In fact, she hypothesizes that the more unsettled our lives are (on a personal or national level), the more we turn to murder mysteries. In them, it is human intelligence, ingenuity, and courage that solve apparently insoluble problems. This is a message we all need to hear at times!

I hope people will think to jot down the names of their favorite authors and some of their favorite books/stories. I’ll make up a list so that we can all have plenty of ideas for future reading.

Join us on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. Enter through the garden door. Questions? Please call Mary Campbell at 426-5541.

## Episcopal Women’s Ministries (EWM)

by Charlene Watson

Episcopal Women’s Ministries of the Diocese of Indianapolis had their annual Fall Retreat at Waycross Conference and Retreat Center the last weekend of September 2015. It was WONDERFUL! The Rev. Jean Denton was our leader and led us through the weekend on the topic of “Growing Wise.” We explored wisdom in tradition, in scripture, in experience and reason, and in nature. We examined wisdom and ripening, wisdom and the movie, and seeking wisdom through spiritual practices. From the weekend we came away with new thoughts about aging and ideas for future growth, new friends, and an uplifted and refreshed spirit.

Also at the retreat new officers were elected: Janet Higbie and Bev Ruebeck, co-chairs; Pamela Sebura, secretary; and Ann Durkos, treasurer. The next meeting of the EWM Council will be November 7, 2015 at the Church of the Nativity in Indianapolis, beginning with a program on labyrinths at 10 a.m., lunch at 11 a.m., and the meeting from noon until 3 p.m. All women in our diocese are welcome to attend.

Are you in the EWM database? Are you receiving the EWM Newsletter, relevant memos from the EWM Council, and other important EWM messages? Please contact Charlene Watson (765-474-9101 or cel.watson@comcast.net) to be included in the EWM database so this information can be shared with you in a timely manner.

## Jubilee Christmas – December 12

by Maggie McClure

We are gearing up for that magical time when St. John’s and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd help 38 families have a Christmas celebration. Mark your calendars and consider how you will help this year.

**VOLUNTEER** to set-up the store, provide hospitality to our guests, gift wrap, make stockings, to name a few of the opportunities. Check the sign-up sheet in the Commons after November 1.

**DONATE** new, non-violent toys to stock the store. Consider toys suitable for our Latino and African-American families. Donation bins are in the Commons.

**FOOD** donations of cookies, fruit, cheese, and other snacks are needed the day of Jubilee Christmas. It is hard work shopping, and what is Christmas without yummy goodies.

**DONATE** cash to pay for hams, food vouchers, teen gift certificates, gifts, and other supplies as needed.

**PRAY** for our guests and the other families being served by LUM, the volunteers, and LUM who makes this happen.

Jubilee Christmas is successful because of the support of our community. Help make 2015 Jubilee Christmas successful—**VOLUNTEER, DONATE, AND PRAY.** See Maggie McClure or Angela Mosier with questions.

### Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the December issue of *The Eagle* will be Monday, November 9. Please e-mail submissions to eagle@stjohns-laf.org.



Marilyn Keiser

## RESCHEDULED!!

### Hymn Festival with Marilyn Keiser

by Michael Bennett

Back by popular demand, Dr. Marilyn Keiser, Organist/Choirmaster from Trinity Church, Bloomington, is returning to St. John's to lead another hymn festival. The festival *Saints through the Ages* will take place on Sunday, November 22, at 5:00 p.m. The previous festival in April 2014 was extremely well received by parishioners and congregants from other denominations. Unlike a hymn sing, this service is preplanned, allowing for great flexibility in the selection of music, who will sing each verse of the hymns, etc. The service also emphasizes the spoken word and its relationship with music.

Dr. Keiser is a world-renowned concert organist and church musician. From 1983-2008, she was Chancellor's Professor of Music at Indiana University. Dr. Keiser and I will share in the organ playing and will also be joined by guest instrumentalists. This festival will be unlike any service offered in the community. Please come and invite others who love to sing in church and want to thank God for all the saints!

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## Bishop Search Committee Updates

by Hilary Cooke

The Bishop Search Committee has been hard at work over the last few months. Our primary task at this time is to develop a profile of the diocese that will be used to let potential nominees know about our wonderful Diocese. In order to develop this important profile, we need your help! We are seeking input from everyone in the Diocese about who we are and our hopes and dreams as we move forward together in our life in Christ. There are two concrete ways you can help with the profile process:

1. Go online and fill out the Diocesan survey:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BishopXIEnglish>  
or, if you would prefer Spanish, go to:  
<https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/HBXISurveySpanish>
2. Attend one of the "Holy Conversations" we have scheduled. These are an opportunity for the Bishop Search Committee to listen to you all as you engage in conversation about the Diocese. The closest conversation to us in Lafayette is on Saturday, November 7 at 1 p.m. at St. John's in Crawfordsville, but you are not restricted to that location; the full schedule can be found at [hoosierbishoppi.org](http://hoosierbishoppi.org). Additionally, there will be an online conversation—a great opportunity for any college students currently living out of state to participate!

As we continue our work, the committee seeks to be as open and informative as possible about the process. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions and keep us in your prayers as we continue this important work on behalf of the diocese.

## College Care Packages

by Kathie Basden

It is time again to think about gathering names of students from our Parish for Care packages. We want them to know that we care for them, wish them well, and carry them in our hearts while they are away or even learning close to home. We want to send treats for their bodies while reminding them we also care about their hearts, minds, and souls.

If you have a college student (or you are one) from St. John's that you would love to have celebrated in this way, please submit name and complete address to Kathie Basden at 427-5859 or [kathiebasden@comcast.net](mailto:kathiebasden@comcast.net). Or call the Parish Office at 742-4079.

Heidi Kauffman and Margot Marlatt are joining in this effort to show our students we care about them and their future.

# God the Giver—the 2016 Annual Campaign

by Bradley Pace

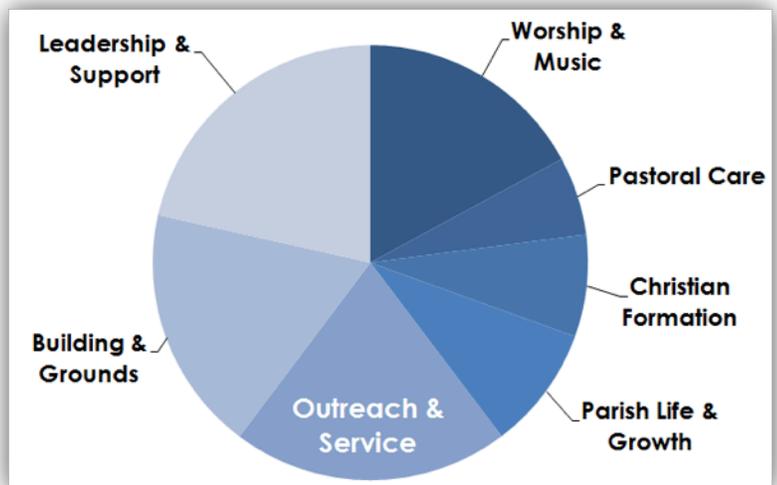
*All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.*  
-1 Chronicles 29:14

The theme for this year’s annual campaign—**God the Giver**—reminds each of us that God is the source of our blessings and invites us to share those blessings with others through the mission and ministry of St. John’s. One of the convictions of the Christian faith is that all blessings originate in God’s love for us. As Paul tells the Corinthians, whatever work we may do, it is “God who gives the growth.” Every blessing—our creation, our preservation, all the blessings of this life—comes from God. As we sometimes say during the presentation of the gifts at the altar (and paraphrasing St. Paul), “All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.” All of our resources—our time, our talent, and our treasure—are gifts from God. We show ourselves to be good stewards of God’s gifts when we share them.

When we share the gifts God has given us, we further the mission and ministry of St. John’s, and with God’s help, change lives. Our parish’s budget funds the ministries—the worship and music, the formation, the parish life, the administrative support, and more—that help make this a wonderful parish community.

In consultation with other members of St. John’s leadership, the executive committee has determined that it will take around \$503,000 to fully fund St. John’s ministries in 2016. If fully funded, our budget would include a continued commitment to care for our building and grounds, a 2% raise for our staff, and plans to hire a part-time Christian Education director in the fall focusing on youth and adult formation. In addition, because of critical needs at Lafayette Urban Ministry’s Emergency Shelter, LUM has had to reduce its commitment to the St. John’s/LUM Food Pantry by \$10,000—an amount equal to nearly one-third of the pantry’s food budget. This was a difficult but necessary decision for LUM.

For the time being, our plan is to fully fund the pantry making up the difference through our parish’s outreach budget. All told, this means that more than 20% of our proposed budget goes to outreach—to the St. John’s/LUM Food Pantry, to our Diocesan and international ministries, to seminarian support, to the new Episcopal Community in Brownsburg, and to other ministries and initiatives in the Greater Lafayette area. After all, God is the Giver. As community, we are called to respond to God’s love by sharing the blessings we have received. And, since budgets are moral documents—since they provide a snapshot of a community’s heart—I believe this says something important about our church’s commitment to sharing God’s love and our lives by reaching out to our community.



This budget is only a first draft and will be revised as our financial picture becomes clearer. If you have questions or would like more information about the draft budget, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. You are also encouraged to speak with one of the wardens or another member of the vestry. Members of the vestry understand the importance of this year’s campaign, and members have already pledged their commitment.

I want to remind you, however, that this year’s campaign isn’t really about giving to St. John’s; it isn’t about funding our budget; and it isn’t even about *our* generosity. It’s all about recognizing God’s gifts, about God’s mission, and about God’s generosity. God is the giver. But if you believe as I do that this church community is both a gift of God and one of the ways God bestows blessings, please help support St. John’s mission and ministry by making a pledge.

Thank you and God bless.

## Youth Group Lock-In

by Hilary Cooke

On Friday, November 6, the youth group will gather at St. John's at 7 p.m. for an overnight Lock-in. After an evening of fun and games (sardines anyone?), we'll rise and shine bright and early to help with the fall spruce up day.

## Holiday Quiet Day Saturday, November 14

by Amy Paget

Join us to prepare for the holiday season with a flexibly scheduled time of reflection on Saturday, November 14 at St. John's. This free event starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m. Guests are encouraged to join us at any time. Bring a brown bag lunch if you wish.

We will share resources for celebrating Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Attendees can select from many resources and activities, use listening stations, explore hymnody, and independently deepen their intentionality in engaging the church seasons. Questions? Contact Amy Paget or Courtenay Murakowski.



## LUM Volunteer Request

by Maggie McClure

LUM will be hosting a Jubilee Christmas event for 50 families at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 12 with the surplus toys from Jubilee Christmas host sites and is looking for volunteers to provide hospitality to the families. This event has typically been held on the Monday after Jubilee Christmas without any hosts. If you can't attend the St. John's event that morning, consider volunteering for the LUM event. To volunteer, go the LUM website and the volunteer page. Here is the link: <http://www.lumserve.org/volunteer>.



*photo by Randy Brist*

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to former St. John's members Cecilia and Nicholas Labonté on the birth of their son Mathias John LaBonté, who was born on October 14 in Toledo, Ohio. Congratulations also to new big sister Theodora.

## **Thanks to Heidi Kauffman for her service**

Recently, St. John's vestry member Heidi Kauffman resigned her position in order focus on her studies. Heidi is enrolled in a graduate program in Health Administration at IUPUI. Best wishes, Heidi, and thank you so much for all you do for St. John's and for the Greater Lafayette Community.