



The Eagle

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

October 2015

From the Rector by Bradley Pace

Every now and again, it is necessary to re-imagine and rearticulate the aims of our community—our vision—and the ways we work toward that goal—our mission. Sometimes, this is driven by necessity and other times by opportunity. St. John's has done this kind of discernment before. In the 1990s, the parish commenced a major discussion of St. John's vision and mission, its programs, and its facilities. Again, some of this discernment was driven by necessity and some by opportunity. Church facilities were in dire need of repair and renovation, but the resulting conversations allowed the St. John's community to recommit to being a downtown church. It also gave the parish the opportunity to look to the future of Christian education and of St. John's outreach to those in need. More recently, after the retirement of Father Tourangeau in 2010, the parish went through a period of discernment in order to call a new rector. Doing that required figuring out where the parish wanted to go and how you wanted to get there. Again, some of this was driven by necessity and some by opportunity. The parish needed a new rector, but this process allowed St. John's to look to the future and re-imagine where you wanted to go.

Once again, necessity and obligation have converged, and our community must address some important needs and take the opportunity to look to the future. In 2014, the Vestry approved the formation of an Organ Task Force to consider the needs of our 50 year old organ. The Committee considered several options and came to a consensus about the best way forward—St. John's needs a new organ. Over the last several months, our director of music, Michael Bennett, has written about the organ, its history, its problems, and St. John's musical heritage in *the Eagle*. I won't rehash his helpful articles here



except to say that he explained clearly how important St. John's music is to this worshiping community and to the Greater Lafayette community.

While our church is beautiful and historic, there remain a number of ways that the space could be restored and improved for worship. Our choir has nearly grown beyond our seating capacity and our entryways (the vestibule and the bell tower) do not give a very good first impression. The bell tower, in particular, continues to be an iconic feature of St. John's, but the interior is an and a barrier to visitors. Now it's time to rethink our worship space, entryways, and bell tower, clean them up, make sure they are sound, restore them to their historic beauty, and make our church an open, welcoming place that reflects the open, welcoming nature of St. John's.



One last thing—the landscape of our neighborhood and of our city has changed in the several decades since our food pantry began operating. We are at something of a highpoint, both of the food pantries operation and its necessity. The pantry gives food to nearly 10,000 different individuals in a given year. We now have as many volunteers as we've ever had. But our space is severely limited, and newer, modern food pantries operate on a very different model.

With the added reality that Food Finders will open a new, larger food pantry in Lafayette next year, 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.

But as I began, these necessities give rise to important opportunities. Our needs push us to rethink our ministry; to rethink our role in our neighborhood; and to rethink how we live out our commitment to worshiping, sharing, and making Christ known in Greater Lafayette and beyond. St. John's is in a...



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The Bible: the BIG Questions by Bradley Pace



Christianity: The Big Questions class continues through October 14. After a brief hiatus, **The Bible: the Big Questions** will meet Wednesday nights 10/28, 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 will be an attendee-driven class. SO bring your questions for the first session.

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.

Ministry Fair by Lloyd Brewer

Each fall St. John's has a "Ministry Fair" to inform parishioners of active groups in the church that might be of interest to them for joining/volunteering. The fair has become such a crowded event that this year we will have a Ministry MONTH. Each Sunday in October, there will be displays in the Commons with information about some of the groups active in our church. We hope you will take time to talk with representatives during coffee hour and hear what the groups are about, what they add to St. John's lively scene, and perhaps find something that resonates with you!

October 4 – Worshiping

Acolytes, Altar Guild, Greeters & Ushers, Lector/LEM/MC, Music, Quiet Days

October 11 – Sharing and Service

Community Lunches, Episcopal Church Women, Foyer Groups, Habitat for Humanity, Jubilee Christmas, Prayer Shawl Ministry, St. John's/LUM Food Pantry

October 18 – Making Christ Known

Adult Bible Study, Big Questions Classes, Book Group at St. John's, Godly Play Children's Formation, Young Adults, Youth Group

October 25 – Parish Administration and Other Ministries

Garden Ministry, Property Committee, Vestry & Parish Administration

A Service of Holy Eucharist & Healing Sunday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. by Bradley Pace

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to come forward, to offer yourself, whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity.

– The invitation to healing prayer
from *Enriching Our Worship II*

Most Sundays, St. John's offers healing prayer in the Chapel of the Resurrection at the end of Communion. Each Tuesday at noon, St. John's hosts a service of Healing Prayer and Eucharist. Healing prayer (also known as unction or "ministration to the sick" in the *Book of Common Prayer*) has a long tradition in the Church. The person who receives healing prayer is anointed by special oil blessed by the Bishop or a priest. A minister anoints the person requesting prayer and lays hands on her invoking God to bring about healing and wholeness.

On Sunday, October 18 at the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. services, we will include a time of healing prayer in our services. After the sermon, the presider will bless oil to be used for anointing during those services as well as during services throughout the year at St. John's. Special prayers of healing will be said by the congregation. All are invited to come forward for anointing and for a time of prayer. As the invitation says, everyone is invited "whatever your sickness of spirit, mind, or body."

May God who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the Name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Amen.

– A concluding prayer from the
service of Holy Eucharist & Healing

Next Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the November issue of *The Eagle* will be Monday, October 12. Please e-mail submissions to eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

It's Time for Lunch!

by Michael Bennett



Amanda Sesler

The St. John's 2015-16 lunchtime concert series will kick off on October 14 with soprano Amanda Sesler. She will perform music by Strauss, Puccini, Floyd, and Hoiby.

Amanda is currently pursuing a master's degree in vocal performance at Indiana University. She recently performed the role of Cio Cio San in *Madama*

Butterfly with La Musica Lirica in Novafeltria, Italy. This fall she will appear with IU Opera Theater as Kitty Hart in *Dead Man Walking*. "Reimagin-ing Opera for Kids" is offering a shortened version of *The Magic Flute* in which Amanda is singing Pamina. Last year, she performed in China with the Winding Concert Band on a seven city Golden Age of Broadway Tour.

During the spring of 2012, Amanda student taught at Jefferson High School in Lafayette and sang in the St. John's Choir. I hope you will come on October 14 and enjoy a wonderful concert and fellowship. The concert will begin at 12:10 p.m.

Book Group for October

by Mary Campbell

Our October selection, *Acquainted with Squalor*, has a strong local connection. It is a collection of short stories by Nath Jones, the daughter of St. John's parishioner Dorothy Jones. It is the fourth book in Nath's "On Impulse" series (both hard and electronic copies are available through Amazon.com). Dorothy also has some hard copies, and she will sell them for \$10.00, which she will donate to St. John's.

I asked Nath to write something about *Acquainted with Squalor* in 100 words or less for this article. Here is her reply.

In 2006 I began writing thirty-one stories that start in the morning at the kitchen sink. I was interested by how we start our days at home and move into the world. Many variations on this theme never made it into the book. One was a story where a woman is on stage auditioning for the role of her life next to an old enamel sink hung on chains. In the present collection several of the nine stories begin in the

morning at the kitchen sink, but the book evolved to be more about the tensions of home building.

Nath will not be able to join us, but Dorothy will lead our discussion.

Please join us in the Commons on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. Enter through the garden door. Our meetings usually last about 1 hour. Call Mary at 426-5541 with questions or if you need help with transportation.

Evening Prayer Readers

by Mary Campbell

How would you like to participate in observing a tradition as old as the sixth century and as modern as right now at St. John's? For almost 20 years it has been a tradition at St. John's to read Evening Prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Benedictine religious have observed periods of communal prayer seven times a day since the sixth century. When Archbishop Cranmer wrote the first version of the *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549, he combined several of the Benedictine evening services into what we now know as Evening Prayer.

As people's schedules and commitments have changed, we now need more readers. The intention is that we have enough people so that no one needs to read more than a few times a month and that we have enough readers to cover vacations, illness, and changes in schedules.

I find the experience of reading the service to be beautiful and uplifting, even though I'm usually the only one there. I feel that my witness represents our parish and is also part of the continuing prayers of the larger church.

If you are interested, please contact Bradley. Training will be provided.

A Note about St. John's Commons from the Parish Staff

The renovation of St. John's Commons is mostly complete. A few things still need to be squared away. There were a number of personal items that were located on bookshelves or in cabinets that were moved for the time being. If you are missing an item and would like it returned to you, please contact the church office at 765.742.4079 or by email at stjohns@stjohns-laf.org.

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 All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m. The previous festival in April 2014 was extremely well received by parishioners and congregants from other denominations.



Marilyn Keiser

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!

Coffee Hour — Consider Hosting

by Lloyd Brewer

St. John's has a wonderful history of hospitality, and we enjoy our after-service coffee hour. As we start our new school year with a return to two services, we need lots of people taking on the occasional duty of host. Find a friend and sign up together or just sign up where you see only one other person has volunteered. Contact them if possible (call the office for contact information) and let them know you will be on their team. Volunteering even once a year is gratefully accepted, and newcomer volunteers are appreciated!

If you are in an activity group meeting at St John's, please suggest to your friends that you take on hosting a coffee hour together. You can use it as a chance to display information about your group and recruit new members, so it's a win/win . . . we get coffee hour hosts, and you get new members.

I am writing instructions to leave in the kitchen and would appreciate your input. Please look it over when you host coffee hour and write in corrections, additions, or give me a call with suggestions so we can have an easy resource for volunteers.

- Our wonderful "church un-lockers" prepare coffee – usually enough to serve the early group and start the later coffee hour, and by then the coffee system is warmed up to produce new pots very quickly as needed.
- The church buys donuts every week, and the hosts bring extra food if they wish – anything from pretzels, fruit, cheese and crackers to any of the snacks you may have seen offered. It is NOT required that you bring any extra food. This is as simple or fancy as you personally enjoy doing. Slipping out right after communion usually gives you enough time to put food on the table.
- Help on cleanup is always welcomed by hosts or the vestry person who has to cleanup if no one is hosting. **If you don't host a coffee hour, try to pitch in to cleanup on a Sunday when you don't have a tight schedule.**

I hope you enjoy the social side of our church family as much as I do. Thanks for your enthusiastic participation in both hosting and attending this part of our community's life. Phone 765-497-3669 or e-mail LloydBB@comccast.net.

New tables – New table cloths

Thanks to Sally Byrn we have newly made, newly sorted tablecloths. Her tips on where to find them: I was always sort of intimidated by the drawers of table cloths when I did coffee, so I sorted the tablecloths and labeled them. The ones labeled "Head Table" fit the table where folks usually put food. The ones labeled "Coffee" fit the new thin tables, one of which we are currently using for the coffee urns. There are a few for the kids table, and those also fit the top that sits on top of the rolling cart – appropriately labeled. Of course, none of the tables really needs a tablecloth with the possible exception of the head table, but there is a very nice selection of cloths that fit that table, so no one ever needs to worry about finding one that fits or getting it back immediately if taken home for washing. (All the round tablecloths are in the dresser, which has yet to find its new home; it's still in the Bishop's Parlor for now.)

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE? by Dale Adelman, Canon for Music Cathedral of St. Phillip, Atlanta, GA

Alex, I'll take, "Things that no one said about music in the Bible. Ever."

- *I will sing unto my shower, but nowhere else!*
- *Sing unto the Lord, but only if you can sing like a rock star.*
- *Be silent before the Lord, for God is easily offended by imperfect melody!*
- *Teach me thy ways, O Lord, except for the songs of our faith.*

Of course I jest, but, as Dean Candler has observed, "Sing to the Lord" is the most *frequent* command in the Bible and also the one most frequently *ignored*. Why does the Bible enjoin us so frequently to sing? Whether or not you consider yourself a singer, singing has been integral to worship throughout the entire span of Judeo-Christian history, which makes it a topic worthy of everyone's consideration.

Why *do* Christians sing in worship? There are many reasons, some of which may seem more compelling than others, but here are just a few.

Singing helps us internalize our faith. When was the last time you left church, or a lecture, or a meeting at work, humming the sermon, or lecture topic, or business plan? By contrast, if someone were to play just the first five beats of *Amazing Grace* in any random context, I bet most of us could recall one or more stanzas of that hymn. Melody helps us remember the texts we sing, planting them deep within our hearts and minds and souls.

After the Bible itself, the hymnal is the richest collection of Christian texts we have at our disposal. Spanning nearly two millennia of spiritual devotion and theological insight by some of the greatest minds and models of our faith, the hymnal helps connect us to the whole communion of saints, across time and around the world.

Singing stirs devotion. Listening can do the same thing, but there is something different, something mysterious and profound that happens when an assembly joins its voices together in one united song of prayer or praise.

Good congregational singing is a means of evangelism. People still like to be part of a worshipping community where they feel swept up in the sound of fervent, glorious music. If you are one of those people who worries about the future of the Church, one practical thing you can do about it is to sing, as heartily as you are comfortable doing. You don't have to sing full tilt. God isn't deaf. But if you try, even just quietly, it will not only expand your experience of the text, but make your neighbor feel less like an unwilling soloist, encouraging them to join in, as well. God will still love you if you don't sing all the correct notes right away.

BUT I CAN'T SING! I know many people truly believe this, but the fact is, *nearly everyone* can learn to sing. It's very much like learning a foreign language. No one is born knowing any language at all, much less a second one, but nearly all of us possess that potential. How do we learn? By hearing *and* imitating, learning to speak single words, then simple phrases. Eventually we are able to form whole sentences, even complex thoughts. But no one learns a language (or singing) without ever speaking it (or singing) out loud. Have the courage to try, and try again.

So let's joyfully accept the Bible's invitation to "Sing to the Lord [*even if it's*] a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day" (Psalm 96:1-2). If you aren't a confident singer, then "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). Simply offer what you have, and God will surely bless it.

From the Rector

Continued from page 1

... wonderful position to begin these conversations again. There is renewed energy in the parish, we are fiscally strong, and we are flush with creative people who care about what God is doing in this place at this time. This is actually a great time to begin this process and to think about the future of our ministry together.

I am writing this, not to announce any imminent plans, but rather to let you know that the leadership of the parish is looking to the future. It is our hope to begin conversations about that future over the next several months. **I ask you to continue to pray for the church's leadership—for the vestry and staff. But mostly I want you to ask yourself, what is God doing at St. John's and in Greater Lafayette? What is God asking us to do at St. John's and in Greater Lafayette? How can we faithfully serve God and live out our baptismal promises here, in this place, and at this time?**

You will have many opportunities to share the way St. John's has been important in your life and to express your hopes for St. John's future. In the meantime, if you have questions or want to discuss any of this with me, please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of the vestry.

Please know that you remain in my thoughts and prayers.

In Christ,
Bradley+

Jubilee Christmas

by Maggie McClure

St. John's and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will once again assist between 35-40 families with their Christmas celebrations. And once again, the success of Jubilee Christmas depends on the generosity of all of you. December 12 will be here before we know it, and it isn't too soon to begin preparing. Here are some things you can do **now**:

- Mark your calendar for December 12 and plan to help.
- Donate cash to help defray the cost of hams, food vouchers, and teen gift cards. Be sure to write "Jubilee Christmas" on checks or envelopes.
- Shop for new, nonviolent toys appropriate for children 1-12 years of age.

Things you can do over the next 3 months:

- Volunteer! Look for the sign-up sheet.
- Donate cash or toys if you haven't already.
- Make stockings.
- Pray for the families we help.

Stay tuned for more!

Annual Foyer Assignments

by Lloyd Brewer

Newcomer or not, don't miss this intergenerational opportunity with minimal commitment! Sign up to be invited to a group of 8 that will meet 3-4 times in the coming year to share a meal. The approach can be whatever your group decides. You host one event and attend the others. Singles and couples are welcome (singles often join forces for their turn as hosts or pitch in to help another host). You may include your children (or other people's children) when you host . . . or not—usually an adult gathering . . . but there are no set rules. You may have people for dinner, sponsor a carry-in, have a picnic in the park, invite people to a movie and popcorn at your house, or organize meeting at a restaurant after church or another time. The options are only as limited as your imagination and preference.

Foyer is an international movement that started in England. The purpose is purely social, purely to get better acquainted with and enjoy the company of other parishioners. So join in the fun. Sign up by mid-October and come to the optional kick-off reception on October 25, 5 p.m. Questions? Call 497-3669 Lloyd Brewer for more info.

Congratulations to Nate Mosier

Nathan Mosier, St. John's parishioner and a professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Purdue, has been awarded the 2015 Agricultural Research Award from Purdue for his work in biofuels and bioprocessing technology. Congratulations, Nate. May God continue to bless you in your work.

Many Thanks to Jane Venable

For more than 20 years, Jane Venable has recruited and scheduled volunteers for the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry. Along with being a welcoming presence at church on Sundays, Jane has worked with volunteers from St. John's, from Purdue University, and from around the Greater Lafayette community to staff the pantry and provide food for those in need. Please make sure to share your gratitude with Jane. Thank you, Jane, for helping St. John's share the love of God with our community.

Laura Martin

The Food Pantry lost a good friend with the death of Laura Martin on August 16, 2015. Laura was the overall Coordinator of the Saturday Veggie Drop and could be seen almost every Saturday at the Pantry. In addition, she ran the Food Pantry at Battle Ground United Methodist Church on Tuesday evenings. She was loved much and will be missed by many of our shoppers and volunteers alike.

God the Giver: the 2016 Annual Campaign

by Bradley Pace on behalf of the
Stewardship Committee



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." Even our best moments are really moments of God's blessing shining through. As we read in the letter of James, "Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..." Every blessing—our creation, our preservation, all the blessings of this life—comes from God. God is the Giver, the one who loves you, me, and all of creation. 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."

As we prepare for our Annual Campaign, the Stewardship Committee invites you to reflect on all the ways God has blessed you. As you reflect on those blessings—as well as the way those blessings extend to your family, friends, and the greater Lafayette community, consider whether St. John's has been an extension of those blessings. This year's campaign—"God the Giver"—reminds each of us that God is the source and invites us to share those blessings with others through the mission and ministry of St. John's. Your generosity, in response to all God has given you, generates that mission and ministry and changes lives.

Please look for more information to come about how you can support St. John's financially through an annual pledge. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me at 765.742.4079 or bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org. You can also speak with the other members of the Stewardship Committee—Greg McClure, Olynn McInerney, Barbara Powell, or Cynthia Stauffacher.

FINANCE REPORT OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES* MONTH ENDING July 2015

A. INCOME

	Current Month	Total 2015	Annual Budget	% of Budget
1 Pledge Income	\$ 34,459.94	\$ 190,694.94	\$ 366,789.00	52.0%
2 Operating Income	\$ 1,341.00	\$ 25,754.86	\$ 39,973.00	64.4%
3 Non-Operating Income	\$ 2,278.33	\$ 18,580.68	\$ 37,000.00	50.2%
4 Transfer Income	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 51,000.00	49.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 63,079.27	\$ 260,030.48	\$ 494,762.00	52.6%

B. EXPENSES

1 Outreach	\$5,423.50	\$51,731.83	\$ 95,758.00	54.0%
2 Program	\$396.05	\$12,903.15	\$ 29,550.00	43.7%
3 Administration	\$0.00	\$545.51	\$ 3,700.00	14.7%
4 Personnel	\$22,511.30	\$141,117.35	\$ 237,657.78	59.4%
5 Office	\$1,276.49	\$11,726.41	\$ 26,470.00	44.3%
6 Property	\$16,344.30	\$60,055.22	\$ 101,626.22	59.1%
7 Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$0.00	\$ 50.00	\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 45,951.64	\$ 278,129.47	\$ 494,762.00	56.2%
Net Income (loss)	\$ 17,127.63	\$ (18,098.99)	\$ -	

Notes

* This is a summary report of the operating income and expenses for the indicated reporting periods. Detailed description of these items are available for review from members of the Finance Committee.