



The Eagle

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

May 2016

Congratulations to Our Graduates

by Bradley Pace

Congratulations to those members and friends of St. John's who have recently graduated.

- Cyrus Hulen, West Lafayette High School (Cyrus plans to attend Wooster College in Wooster, OH.)
- Mark Satta, Ph.D. in Philosophy, Purdue University (Mark plans to attend Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA.)

If there are other graduates, please let the office know by email at stjohns@stjohns-laf.org or by phone at 765.742.4079.

Save the Dates

Pentecost Sunday, May 15

Pentecost is the day the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the empowering of the Church's life and witness. Wear red to celebrate the fire of God's love and the mission of the Church. That Sunday, we will celebrate Holy Baptism at the 10:15 a.m. service and have a guest preacher. We will also have ice cream sundaes after the service!!!!

Summer Worship

St. John's will switch to the summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 5. From June through August, there will be one service on Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

Worship in the Street, Sunday, July 3

On Sunday, July 3 at 10 a.m., St. John's will join with members from other neighborhood churches for Worship in the Street. Last year, more than 200 people joined in a wonderful, celebratory service. Come and let us join our sisters and brothers in worship!

Please note: there will be an additional service of Holy Communion at the regular time of 9 a.m. at St. John's.

The St. John's Church Picnic, August 7

The St. John's church picnic will be Sunday, August 7. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by the picnic.

Please note: there will also be a 9 a.m. service at the church that day.



Message from the Rector

by Bradley Pace

Last month, I mentioned the *Anastasis* or Easter icon that hangs in the Chapel of the Resurrection at St. John's. The icon shows the risen Christ standing atop the gates of hell. The gates have been blown off their hinges. The good news of Easter is that the power of death and hell are forever broken. No one has to stay in hell any longer. While the demonic powers and evil forces that stand at cross purposes with God will continue to lash out against God's creation and against God's children, ultimately, we have nothing to fear. We have all been set free. Even the graves of the dead have been opened. Is it any wonder, then, that Jesus' last words to his disciples (in Matthew's Gospel anyway) are "go"? Go out, he tells them, and spread the good news to all people. You are no longer bound by fear, sin, and death.

There is a corollary to this way of understanding Easter in the final chapters of the Bible, in the final chapters of the Revelation to John. I know I often say that this is my favorite book of the Bible, but it's true. John's imagery is terrifying and beautiful all at once; horrifying and majestic all at the same time. In the end, after suffering and death have been poured out on the earth, after the demonic powers and evil forces have done their worst, the slaughtered lamb is victorious and God becomes all in all. There are too many pieces to fill in the complete puzzle here, but let me point out one detail. In the end, John sees the new Jerusalem descend down from heaven like a bride adorned for her husband. This new Jerusalem, this city of God's peace, is filled with the majesty and glory of God. The water of life flows from it. The trees bear leaves that are for the healing of the nations.

As he describes this city, this new Jerusalem, John sees that it has 12 gates. What is striking is that the gates of this city are never shut. "Its gates will never be shut by day," we are told, "and there will be no night there." The great city is open; its gates stand wide open. Just as the gates of hell are forever opened—just as no one is ultimately held captive by the power of fear, sin, and death—the gates of the eternal city, of the new Jerusalem, stand forever

open to welcome those who would enter into God's presence.

It's important to remember that the book of Revelation is not just a vision of the future. Indeed, it is a vision of the past, present, *and* future taken together as a whole. As such, the vision of those last chapters is not just about some day long in the future. It is the truth that flows out of the fulfillment of God's purposes. The path to God is now opened to all people. The gates stand forever open. There is no barrier that separates God from God's people.

Is it any wonder, then, that the last words of the book of Revelation—the last words of the Bible—are "come"? "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come." In these final verses, we hear the ultimate, universal invitation to come and eat from the tree of life and to drink the water of life. We hear the ultimate, universal invitation to come and live with an in God.

The gates of hell are forever open. Go. The gates of the heavenly city are forever open. Come.

See you in Church.



A bit of fun . . . submit your photo caption to stjohns@stjohns-laf.org. We'll share some of the best next month!



Newcomers and Big Questions Reunion Cookout, May 14

by Bradley Pace

If you began attending St. John's in the last 6 months (or so) AND/OR you recently attended the Big Questions classes, Bradley and his family would like to invite you over for barbecue, fun, and fellowship on **Saturday, May 14** from **6-9 p.m.** The Elder Paces live at **456 Goose Creek Way (just off of 500 North) in West Lafayette.** Please bring a salad, desert, or drink to share. Children are welcome. Please RSVP by email at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or by phone at 312.208.8791.

Book Discussion

by Mary Campbell

It's time for our Seventh Annual *What a Great Book!* meeting. For this last gathering of the season, the Book Group invites everyone to come share the titles of some of their favorite books. There are lots of reasons you might describe a book as "great." So, whether the book is exciting, or challenging, or charming, or informative, or inspiring, or funny, or timely, or has some other quality that appeals to you—please come to share and to tell us something about why you like it.

We will start constructing our selections for the 2016-2017 season at our May meeting, and some of the titles we share will no doubt be on that list. All types of books are welcome—from detective fiction, to science fantasy, history, classics of literature, short stories, biography/autobiography—we are open to it all.

We will meet on Wednesday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. Enter through the garden gate. If you need transportation, please call Mary Campbell at 426-5541, and we will see what can be arranged.

Youth Group

by Tim Smith

At the April 17 youth group meeting, we did a visioning exercise and got a lot of great feedback about what St. John's means to the youth and how they would like to see us grow together. They see St. John's as a welcoming, friendly community where they are allowed to engage with their faith, and they noted the value of

our outreach activities. In the future, there's a lot of interest in more outreach activities, particularly outreach activity in our neighborhood. Several also expressed interest in this community finding more ways to be intentional about building cross-generational relationships, beyond the relationships we already build at Coffee Hour. Our youth are very interested in the life of the parish and had a lot of really valuable input we'll use moving forward.

Pastoral Care at St. John's

by Bradley Pace

Each year, I ask your assistance in reminding me about parishioners who may have disappeared or "fallen through the cracks." Again, I want to reiterate that request. I am often reminded of how important the St. John's community is in the lives of so many people. Just recently, an Episcopalian from southern Indiana who had moved to Lafayette a few years ago contacted the church out of the blue. I took her Communion, and we had a wonderful conversation. She was so glad for the connection to St. John's, and I was blessed by meeting her.

If you think of someone you haven't seen for awhile or anyone else who might like a visit from a member of the clergy or a Eucharistic Visitor, please let one of the clergy know. We may be able to reconnect with them, or we may find out that someone is in need of prayer, care, or other support. This is a crucially important part of who we are and what we do. Offering the sacraments, sharing God's gracious love, and helping people strengthen their relationship with Jesus Christ through our prayer and support, all of these are a major part of our calling. I know that the St. John's community has been there for many of you during the good times and the bad times. Together, we can make sure that St. John's is there for others as well.

You can help me by first reaching out to folks you haven't seen for awhile. Call them, visit them, drop them a card. Secondly, you can tell me. This kind of communication can help St. John's continue to be a wonderfully supportive community. Likewise, please let a member of the clergy know if you or a family member become seriously ill, are admitted to the hospital, or are homebound for an extended period. Contact the church office at 765.742.4079 or by email at stjohns@stjohns-laf.org



From left to right: Katie Mason, Jessie Murawski, Lydia Shook, Curtis Mason, Andrew Bigelow, Hannah Vinacco, Riley Hogan, Ruthie Drinkwater, Mark Satta, and Heather Johnston Nicholson. Not pictured: Karen Sickafoose.

Congratulations to Our Confirmands **by Bradley Pace**

Congratulations to **Andrew Bigelow, Ruthie Drinkwater, Riley Hogan, Curtis Mason, Katie Mason, Jessie Murawski, Heather Johnston Nicholson, Lydia Shook, Mark Satta, Karen Sickafoose, and Hannah Vinacco** who were confirmed into the Episcopal Church at St. John's on the Saturday of Easter Week, April 2.

Jeffrey Ravellette and **Rachel Ravellette** will be confirmed on the Feast of the Ascension, Thursday, May 5 at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. Please keep them in your prayers.

Defend, O Lord, your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.



Circular Logic Marathon

On the morning of Saturday, April 2, a number of hearty St. John's members gathered at Cumberland Park for the annual Circular Logic Marathon relay. Although it was a chilly morning, the runners were at least warm at heart in the windy weather. This year's St. John's Steeplechasers include: Ashley Bigelow, Cale Bigelow, Greg Buzzard, Ezra Buzzard-Cooke, Isaac Buzzard-Cooke, Hilary Cooke, Bill Kealey, Courtenay Murakowski, Bradley Pace, Steve Shook, Rachel Shook, and Amy Van Epps.



Courtenay Murakowski



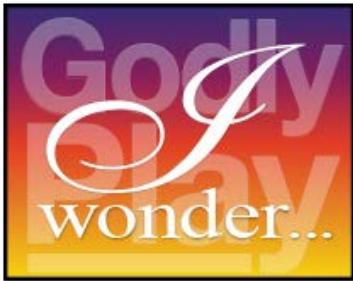
Bill Kealey



Ashley Bigelow

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

by Hilary Cooke

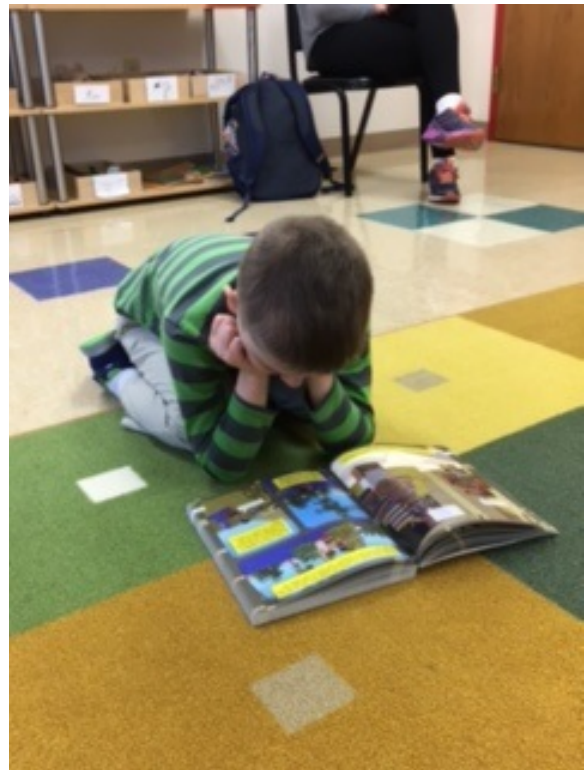


Although the Godly Play rooms may seem hidden upstairs, I assure they are a place of active community-building and formation. Although the children may wiggle when they're downstairs after the service, the time in Godly Play is a time of focused energy and intense exploration. The children are learning the foundational stories of our faith, but they are also learning about care for their environment (both outside in creation, but also in the classroom).

I wish to extend many thanks to all those who have helped with Christian formation with our young people this year: Andrew Bigelow, Darby Anne Bigelow, Greg Buzzard, Katie Elder, Gayle Ennis, Heidi Kauffman, Sarah Kurtz, George Moore, Nate Mosier, Jessie Murawski, Ray Polstra, Doug Powell, Lydia Shook, Jeff Stroud, and Hannah Vinacco.



Ezra Buzzard-Cooke



Graham Kappock

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the June/July issue of *The Eagle* will be Monday, May 16. Please e-mail submissions to eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

March Vestry Meeting Summary — March 30, 2016

- Goals and accomplishments from 2015 were discussed as were goals for 2016.
- There are three different companies bidding on the purchase and installation of a new organ all that goes with that. We are still waiting on final estimates to determine what the best option will be.
- There have been people sleeping overnight in the garden area. Belongings that remain are collected and a note is left explaining they may be picked up in the church office. Discussion included adding minimal and positive signage explaining this and directing them to area shelters.
- All events surrounding Lent and Holy Week were discussed, and everyone felt good about how things turned out.
- The Vestry approved Daniel Bayless for postulancy in the Diocese of Indianapolis. In addition, it was noted that the Diocese of Indianapolis has granted Courtenay Murakowski a scholarship grant for Deacon-In Training 2016, to be held at Waycross.
- It's been noticed that St. John's financial information is no longer being included in *The Eagle*. Meeting dates, scheduling, and deadlines were mentioned as possible reasons. The Vestry agreed that financial info must again be included in *The Eagle*, even if it is not precisely "current" due to *Eagle* publishing deadlines.

April Vestry Meeting Summary — April 20, 2016

- Father Bradley discussed the topic of clergy compensation and explained the need to be transparent with the salary figures. This was a topic at the April Diocesan Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. Several St. John's members attended. There are many variables and tax issues that must be factored in to fully understand clergy compensation. He reminded everyone that the clergy salary info can be seen in the budget.
- The Vestry discussed the Celebration and Visioning Sunday. There was wide consensus that it was very successful, and a lot of good information was gathered. Several Vestry members felt that moving the joint service to 10:15 instead of 9:00 may have been responsible for the large turnout. Father Bradley indicated the results of the table conversations would be compiled and shared with both the steering committee and the Vestry.
- Amy Van Epps informed the Vestry that this year, the Habitat for Humanity effort is not going to build a house. They are looking at smaller renovation projects in the various church neighborhoods. Amy was given some dates but there were conflicts with St. John's events for most of them. There was also not much detail given about the type of renovations that will take place. Amy is going to check into the Habitat situation and will report back. She did say Habitat requested 4-5 people for the project.
- Father Bradley announced he has been asked to travel to Brasilia, Brazil in July on behalf of the Global Missions Commission. The diocese of Brasilia is St. John's companion diocese. St. John's will learn more about this relationship going forward.
- There was discussion regarding the bid process for the organ. All three bids are now in and must be examined and compared to determine what the best option will be and what the next steps are.

FINANCE REPORT OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSES* MONTH ENDING March 2016

A. INCOME

	Current Month	Total 2016	Annual Budget	% of Budget
1 Pledge Income	\$ 31,855.00	\$ 86,025.00	\$ 362,458.00	23.7%
2 Operating Income	\$ 10,512.13	\$ 16,363.83	\$ 46,383.17	35.3%
3 Non-Operating Income	\$ 1,660.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$ 37,000.00	15.1%
4 Transfer Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,000.00	0.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 44,027.13	\$ 107,988.83	\$ 509,841.17	21.2%

B. EXPENSES

1 Outreach	\$7,972.17	\$24,506.66	\$ 99,820.00	24.6%
2 Program	\$2,589.24	\$5,745.38	\$ 27,300.00	21.0%
3 Administration	\$226.56	\$2,563.34	\$ 14,500.00	17.7%
4 Personnel	\$17,979.20	\$59,253.52	\$ 241,661.03	24.5%
5 Office	\$1,811.76	\$5,707.11	\$ 26,970.00	21.2%
6 Property	\$7,551.31	\$21,184.13	\$ 99,590.14	21.3%
7 Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 38,130.24	\$ 118,960.14	\$ 509,841.17	23.3%
Net Income (loss)	\$ 5,896.89	\$ (10,971.31)	\$ (0.00)	

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.