



The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church • Lafayette, Ind. • September 2016

Christianity: The BIG Questions

6-8 p.m. Tuesdays

Sept. 13-Oct. 18

Christianity: The BIG Questions class returns Tuesday, Sept. 13. The classes focus on some of the main areas of the Christian faith and life. The sequence — Christianity, the Bible, the Episcopal Church and Anglican Christianity, and Discipleship — are meant to explore some of the larger

questions of the faith. The classes serve as an introduction to the Christian faith or to the Episcopal Church, but the classes go much deeper. In all, the idea is to take intentional time to explore the complexity of our faith.



Classes run from 6-8 p.m.; dinner and childcare are available during each session for those who need it.

Besides that, we're learning some really important stuff about the Christian story.

This series of classes explores the big story of the Christian faith: What is Christianity? Is it a philosophy, a moral system? Is it good news, and if so, what exactly does that mean? What's important about Jesus' life, his death and his resurrection? And what is the Christian hope? These are questions we will work through.

Class Schedule and Outline

9/13	The Good News of Jesus Christ: A stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles
9/20	The Return of the King: The life and teachings of Jesus
9/27	By his blood he reconciled us, by his wounds we are healed: Why Jesus died
10/4	Alleluia! Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for Us: The Exodus roots of Jesus' death
10/11	Launching the new creation: The meaning of Easter
10/18	Her Gates Shall Never be Shut: The gates of Hell and the gates of the New Jerusalem

The next series of classes, beginning in late October, will focus on the Bible. What do we do with this crazy, complex book, AND how do we read it as sacred Scripture?

Please contact me with questions. — *Bradley Pace, (765) 742-0709, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



On Sunday, Sept. 4, St. John's returns to two services, at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Message from the Rector

A few weeks ago, we offered blessings for all students, teachers, and school staff at St. John's and at our local schools. We charged the students and teachers saying:

As a new school year starts, every student, child, or adult, and every teacher or member of a school staff, gets a chance for a fresh start. In school, we get to use the gifts God has given us: curiosity and kindness; math, reading, science, art, and music; athletics and friendship.

Students, this is the work that God gives you: Look for and love God in all the people and in all the tasks of your school work.

Teachers and school staff, this is the work that God gives you: Look for and love God in all the students and in all the tasks of your school work.

Together, we blessed the students, teachers and school staff, saying:

Dear God, bless these students gathered here and of each school, who begin a new year of study. May they greet each school day with open ears and open hearts, finding you in classrooms and lunchrooms, homework and gym class, new faces and old friends. Keep them healthy and safe as they learn and grow.

Bless the teachers of these students and all teachers everywhere. Bless the school staff gathered here and at all schools. May God give each of them skill and strength, humor and grace, as they guide and assist and support their students.

We also blessed the backpacks that some of the students brought, asking God to "use these symbols of their work to remind each of us that you are with us in all the work we do and all the places we go."

To those of you who are students, teachers or school staff and were not there, I share this blessing with you. I hope this is a wonderful year — a year of learning, growth and development. Best wishes for a great year.

I want to remind everyone, however, that there are many opportunities to learn, grow and develop (to "grow in the knowledge and love of God") in your spiritual formation at St. John's. St. John's offers formation opportunities for young children on Sunday morning in our Godly Play classes. Godly Play teaches children the stories of our faith while creating an environment in which they can reflect and wonder about the faith. This year, there is a new middle school class that will help the children in 6th through 8th grades think about their faith in new ways. Youth Group and Confirmation classes for middle school and high school youth give those older kids a great opportunity to worship, learn in community and serve.

There are many opportunities to learn, grow and develop in your spiritual formation here at St. John's.

There are also several formation opportunities for adults at St. John's, such as the Monday night and Tuesday morning Bible Study groups, seasonal Quiet Days, the monthly book group, the Big Questions classes and more. Our EfM graduates meet for in-depth theological discussions. We also continue to share a group for EfM — or Education for Ministry — which meets at St. John's Episcopal Church in Crawfordsville. Other meetings take place on Sundays and at different times throughout the year.

You can find more information about classes and events in *the Eagle*, online at www.stjohns-laf.org, or by calling the church office at (765) 742-4079.

Make sure that you make the most of these opportunities to learn, grow, and develop in our spiritual life. And may the prayer that ended the blessing for the students, teachers, and staff include us all:

Give them open minds and discerning hearts that they may see in your world and in one another the signs of your love and care. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

— Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org



Godly Play resumes Sept. 11

Sept. 11-Dec. 18, 9:15-10 a.m.

Our Christian formation for children aged 3-5th grade, Godly Play, will resume on Sunday, Sept. 11, 9:15-10 a.m., on the top level (floor 2 if you're taking the elevator). Godly Play is a Montessori-based curriculum that encourages children to engage the foundational stories of our faith through play. We ask that parents help their children settle into the church space and lead them directly to the doorman for their classroom by 9:15 a.m. Parents may pick their children up from the classroom at 10 a.m.

For the fall semester, Godly Play will meet Sundays, Sept. 11-Dec. 18 (excluding Nov. 27, the Sunday following Thanksgiving). Many thanks go to all who contribute to the Godly Play program at St. John's. If you're interested in knowing how you can be a part of this ministry please feel free to contact Hilary at hilary@stjohns-laf.org.

Weekly Healing Service

Noon Tuesdays

For many years now, St. John's has offered weekly opportunities for healing prayers. We began by offering a short time of prayers for healing in the chapel after communion during each Sunday service. Now, we also offer a weekly Healing Eucharist in the chapel on Tuesdays at noon.

If you're anything like me, first hearing of "healing services" conjures images of dramatic faith healers telling people to toss aside their crutches and walk. Honestly, the only reason I first attended a healing service was because the priest of the parish sponsoring me for ordination ordered me to as part of my formation process. I was skeptical when I entered the chapel that day, but left with a completely different understanding of the service. Instead of theatrics, I found quiet and steady support for people with a wide range of prayer requests. Some came to ask for physical healing, some came with emotional struggles, others came to ask for prayers for family members or other loved ones — all left knowing that the prayers of the community would travel with them. I know I left feeling stronger for having shared a concern and physically felt my load lighten.

At St. John's we offer healing prayers in the chapel during communion. All are welcome to join us — simply come to the chapel as soon as you are able after receiving communion (it is perfectly acceptable to slip out of your pew and receive communion early). In the chapel we offer anointment with healing oil and prayers for particular concerns and then a brief liturgy of healing prayers for the wider community. Typically the healing prayers finish about the time the service in the nave ends. The Tuesday Healing Eucharist also offers prayers and individual anointment, though you are welcome to join in the service without receiving anointing.

Please know that you are always welcome to join in any of these services. — Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org



Thanks to everyone who helped with this year's Holy Moly! VBS

Thanks to all the teachers and to Michael Bennett for helping teach music. Thanks to all those who helped with food preparation and setup, especially Sally Byrn and the pancake cooks. Thanks also to all the kids for a great time!

Next Deadline for The Eagle

The October deadline for submissions to the Eagle is Monday, Sept. 19. Send submissions to eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

Seminarian Update: Alissa Goudswaard Anderson

Dear St. John's Family,

It has been some time since I have sent you all an update, though I know many of you are following my adventures via social media. It was lovely to see some familiar faces when I returned to Indiana for the Commission on Ministry retreat in the spring.

I begin my third and final year of seminary in September, and life in New York has continued to be an exceptional experience. I was elected in February as one of two "co-Chief Sacristans" of the seminary chapel, so with my colleague I am responsible for much of the liturgical operations of our services — and I have deepened my appreciation for altar guilds everywhere! My classes have been largely thought-provoking and informative. One of my recent favorites was a class on Atonement theology — I expected it to be intimidating, but it was both interesting and applicable, and I got to learn about Hugo Grotius, my great-great-great-something and most famous ancestor.

I recently completed my "field education" at one site — Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights — and began at another: Grace Church in New York City (Manhattan). My mom, whose name is Grace, thinks this is a most appropriate turn of events. I will be at Grace No. 2 for a full 12 months as pastoral resident, a part-time, stipendiary position that is part of what the seminary is calling a Wisdom Year, a senior year designed to prepare me practically as well as academically and spiritually for ordained ministerial work.

Josh continues to enjoy his work at the Episcopal Church Foundation — he is about to celebrate one year there. He also continues to make sure that I get out and enjoy my New York City surroundings. We have had a full roster of concerts and shows this summer, and while it's hard for me to choose a favorite thing we've done, seeing *Hamilton* on Broadway has been pretty difficult to top. As I write this, we are preparing to travel to Sedona, Ariz., for a week, where we will celebrate our second anniversary — and see the Grand Canyon for the first time!

I was named a Candidate for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate in the spring, and am working on applying for ordination. Thank you so much for your prayers and support along the way; they are so appreciated by me and by Josh as well. It is so lovely to know that I have a caring church home supporting me all the way from Indiana! — Alissa Goudswaard Anderson



Member Spotlight: Cindy Gerlach

Name: Cindy Gerlach

Occupation: English instructor, Ivy Tech; freelance writer

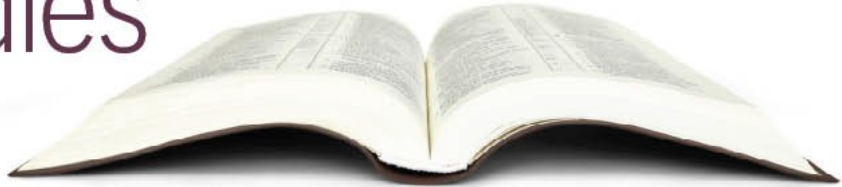
Cindy lives in Lafayette with her husband, Gary Mueller. They have three daughters: Alison, a grad student at New York University; Maddie, a senior at Indiana University; and Sylvia, a senior at Jefferson High School. An active volunteer, she serves on the board of the Tippecanoe Chamber Music Society, the Jazz Club, and the Public Schools Foundation of Tippecanoe County. She handles publicity for the Historic Ninth Street Hill Neighborhood Association and helps out with the choir program at Jefferson High School. And she's also the new editor of *The Eagle*.

Why she attends St. John's: "I came initially for the music and to hear Don Nead speak on the anniversary of his ordination; I stayed for the beauty of the service, for the message of tolerance and inclusivity, of peace, and for the commitment to social justice. I value a congregation of caring people who truly live their faith through their actions. And the music — I am looking forward to the Lessons and Carols in December."

Look for a new Member Spotlight each month in The Eagle.



Bible Studies



Adult Bible Studies: Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings

Both Bible Studies are open to anyone, including members of other churches or folks unaffiliated with any church.

The Monday evening Adult Bible Study returns at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Bishops' Parlor. **Note the time change. Each week, discussion centers on a particular Biblical text and guidebook. Beginning this fall, the group will continue their studies using the same book, "Miracles: Signs of God's Glory." — *Randy Brist, (765) 474-2835, rjbrist@mac.com*

Beginning Sept. 13, Hilary and Bradley will host a new Tuesday morning Bible Study from 10-11 a.m. in the Commons. This Bible Study will focus on topics of group interest and center on discussion of the chosen texts. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org; Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org.*

Hunger Hike 5K run and 3K Walk

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 & 18

On Saturday, Sept. 17 and Sunday, Sept. 18, St. John's will once again participate in raising funds for the Annual Hunger Hike (some of which go to support our own St. John's/LUM food pantry). On Saturday morning Bradley and Hilary (and any others who would like to join us!) will run the 5K at Celery Bog Nature Park. (No word yet on whether Bradley will be a "celebrity" runner this year). On Sunday at 2 p.m., the St. John's Youth Group will participate in the 3K walk, which begins at Riehle Plaza. This will be the 11th consecutive year our youth group has had a team participating in the walk!

We would be very grateful for your support of the youth group's efforts to raise money for the hungry in our community (and abroad). You can support us in several ways. You can offer your financial support by finding youth group members to give them money directly or by going online to donate at <https://www.firstgiving.com/team/331350>. (You can find a link to our fundraising page on the St. John's website). We always welcome any who would like to physically join us the day of the walk. Most of all, we ask for your prayers — not only for the walkers, but also for those who will be served by the Hunger Hike. — *Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org*

Upcoming Events

All Aboard for a Journey on the Trans-Siberian Railroad

Sunday mornings, Sept. 11, 18 & 25

9:15 a.m., the Commons

In the summer of 2015, I flew to Beijing to begin my Trans-Siberian adventure. We headed north out of China, crossed the Gobi Desert and the Mongolian grasslands, skirted the shores of Lake Baikal and rolled west for days across the Siberian steppes to Moscow and on to St. Petersburg. Back in Lafayette, reviewing the trip in my mind, I was surprised to find that there was a theme, a recognizable thread, running through the whole journey that I had not noticed while riding the rails. Of course the slide show includes digressions, oddities and things just for fun, but the theme is there: the transience of empire and the permanence of faith.

Please join us in the Commons between services for a journey on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. All aboard! — *Barbara Penney*, (864) 923-2111, barbara_penney@yahoo.com

September Book Group: Where Am I Eating?

Wednesday, Sept. 28

6:30 p.m., the Commons

A tradition of the St. John's Book group is joining in with the One Great Read (OGR) program of the Greater Lafayette community. We read the OGR selection and invite members of the community to join us.

The selection this year is *Where Am I Eating?*, published in 2014. The author, Kelsey Timmerman, lives in Muncie; he will be at the opening event at 7 p.m. Sept. 1 at the downtown branch. More events will soon be listed at the TCPL website: www.TCPL.lib.in.us. Go to the Events tab and click on Adult Programs.

Where am I Eating? explores the production of five American food staples: coffee, chocolate, bananas, lobsters, and apple juice. For many decades, I have been very concerned about our food, specifically the safety and sustainability of our agriculture. Timmerman deals with these issues, but his focus is on the human costs of growing and harvesting these staples. Because he takes us to the locations and acquaints us with some of the people involved, it becomes a very personal experience. I was especially moved by the stories of Juan (Costa Rica) and Michael (Ivory Coast). I cannot forget them.

Our discussion leader will be Alison Moss, Head Reference Librarian at the Tippecanoe County Public Library. She is a member of our parish, and she is Co-Chair of the One Great Read Committee. We will reserve some time for questions related to the program and choosing the selections. — *Mary Campbell*, (765) 426-5541

Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis and the Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct. 2

5 p.m., St. John's Memorial Gar

Calling all animals and animal lovers!! Attend the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis, 5 p.m. **Sunday, Oct.2** in the St. John's Memorial Garden. We will give thanks to our creator for the love of our animal friends with a liturgy for the Blessing of Animals. Please bring your pets (all are welcome!) and a donation for the Almost Home Humane Society (financial or in-kind). — *Hilary Cooke*, (765) 742-4079, hilary@stjohns-laf.org



From the Vestry: Meeting Summary, August 17

- Hilary showed a brief segment of a documentary dealing with chemical allergies and the idea of “scent awareness.” She referenced the *Eagle* article she wrote that provided awareness to members of St. John’s.
 - Michael Bennett and Ray Polstra were present to answer questions regarding the quote for a new organ and all that it entails, including any contingencies like wall repair. The vestry talked about all aspects of the quote and what it means to St. John’s. After lengthy discussion, the vestry approved signing the letter of intent for St. John’s to enter into agreement with Quimby Pipe Organs to build a new organ.
 - Bradley reported that Steve Starks has proposed the Food Pantry be closed on Mondays. It is the day of the week with the lowest number of people served and is also the day where the pantry has the least amount of food. Food Finders is open on Monday and could help those in need. The vestry agreed to his proposal, but Lafayette Urban Ministries must approve it.
 - The vestry signed a letter of support to the diocese for Alissa Goudswaard.
 - The vestry voted to approve \$2,800 for the purchase of a new amplifier system for the church to replace the one that has stopped working. Ted Paget was instrumental in getting this done.
 - Peter Cooper reported that he had researched areas of downtown via aerial photos looking for possible solutions to the parking issue at St. John’s. He mentioned there were several business lots that might be available to St. John’s members if arrangements could be made. He offered other ideas as well, including a van shuttle service. The vestry took his report under advisement.
 - There will not be a full Habitat for Humanity Apostle’s build this year. Instead, Amy Van Epps reported that Habitat will concentrate on renovating and revitalizing existing homes. She will be putting an updated post on the Facebook page.
 - Bradley reported the donut issue has been solved. Volunteers will be purchasing a month’s worth of donut holes and we will freeze them to use during the month.
 - Bradley recommended the Annual Meeting be held after the 10:15 a.m. service instead of 9 a.m. in order to keep the service times as consistent as possible. The vestry was in agreement.
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2016-17 LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES 10th Anniversary Season Wednesdays, 12:10 p.m.

*Concerts are free.
A light lunch follows in the
Commons (donation suggested).*

*Bread donated by
Great Harvest Bread Company.*

Oct. 12, 2016	Karen Goff, soprano
Nov. 9, 2016	Greg Kostraba, piano and Josh Aerie, cello
Dec. 14, 2016	Melinda Odle, viola
Feb. 8, 2017	Michael Bennett, organ
Mar. 8, 2017	Lafayette Jefferson High School Varsity Singers Michael Bennett, director
Apr. 12, 2017	Karen Schoenhals, guitar



Summer at **ST. JOHN'S, LAFAYETTE**

Pentecost Sunday

The Baptisms of Hunter Jackson and Knox Stevens
Candlelight Vigil for the Victims of the Orlando Shooting
Waycross Camp · Bradley's trip to Brasilia
St. John's Night at Loeb Stadium
Kayaking Wildcat Creek · Holy Moly! VBS





ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

Thanks to everyone who helped make Summer at
ST. JOHN'S, LAFAYETTE
a great one.