



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LAFAYETTE

*The*  
**Eagle**

**St. John's Episcopal Church • Lafayette, Ind. • August 2017**

---

## **2017 HOLY MOLY! Vacation Bible School**

Servant Leadership: King David, Queen Esther, and Jesus  
5-8 p.m.

August 1-3, Tuesday-Thursday

Join us for Vacation Bible School at St. John's! Each evening will include games, dinner, a Bible lesson, craft time and worship. Please register at [www.stjohns-laf.org/vbs/](http://www.stjohns-laf.org/vbs/) so we can plan enough food, materials and staff. There is no cost for this year's Vacation Bible School. For more information, please contact the church, [stjohns@stjohnslaf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnslaf.org) or (765) 742-4079 – *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*



---

## **Mark Your Calendars: Church Picnic at Prophetstown State Park**

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 6

The St. John's Church Picnic is Sunday, August 6, at Prophetstown State Park (5545 Swisher Road, West Lafayette, and follow the signs). Worship starts at 10:30 a.m. Fried chicken, drinks and paper products will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.

Please note the gate fee at Prophetstown State Park is \$8 per vehicle. You may use your Indiana State Park gate pass, pay \$8, or just say that you are with the St. John's Picnic and the church will cover the tab. For more information and for additional directions, visit [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2971.htm](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2971.htm).

There will also be a 9 a.m. service at St. John's that day.

## Message from the Rector

---

As one of my responsibilities in the Diocese of Indianapolis, I serve as the chair of the Board of Examining Chaplains. The BOE chaplains read the ordination exams for those in the ordination process, and we make recommendations to the Commission on Ministry (the COM) as to the academic fitness of candidates. I enjoy the work largely because I hate the ordination exam process and this allows me an opportunity for a certain amount of subterfuge. But every now and then, I do learn a thing or two.

In the last set of exams, one of the questions came out of an article in the October 2014 issue of *The Atlantic*. In his article entitled “Why I Hope to Die at 75,” Ezekiel Emanuel makes the argument that we should all hope to die at age 75, the age at which our physical and mental health, wealth, relationships, productivity and creativity begin to irreversibly decline. The article wasn’t a defense of euthanasia or assisted suicide (the author actually opposes both in most cases), it was more a reflection on the meaning and value of life — of what constitutes a “good life.” The exam question asked for a Christian account of the meaning and value of life — a Christian account of the “good life” — that responds to Emanuel’s argument. For a Christian, what gives a life meaning and value? For a Christian, what is the “good life”? I thought this was a fabulous question. It touches on philosophy and theology, Scripture and practical life. But most importantly, it gets to the heart of our faith. If we’re Christians, what does this mean for how we live our lives?

I imagine that some of you are naturally repulsed by the kind of argument that comes out of this article. The idea that someone might decide that their life or anyone else’s is “no longer worth living” may strike you as the height of arrogance. We could certainly argue with the details of the argument, too. Why draw the line at 75, for instance? But there are some pretty sophisticated and compelling points in his argument and some compelling assumptions at work as well. I agree, and I imagine many of us have these intuitions as well, that most of what we take to be valuable in life are all the things that Emanuel mentions. Many of us find meaning and value in our work and in our relationships with a spouse, children, grandchildren and so on. A decline in mental and physical health takes its toll on those things in particular, and can take away even the smallest pleasures and opportunities to be useful. A life wracked with pain may not seem like a life worth living. A mind ravaged by Alzheimer’s disease seems like the worst kind of loss, the loss of even one’s own sense of self. But surely Emanuel is right that some *quality* of life is a component in a “good life.”

Still there are many things we might say and many ways we could approach this question. And as I like to say, it’s complicated. But these are the ideas that I kept coming back to. First of all, according to the biblical view of the human being, we are *not* the sum total of what we produce or create. In creation, God made human beings in God’s own image and called them good. After all, Jesus tells his disciples, while God cares deeply for each blade of grass and each sparrow, each human being is much more valuable to God. Another way to put this is that human lives have intrinsic value, value in themselves.

That means, I take it, that a human life is valuable irrespective of that life’s productive capacity or creativity. But it’s also true irrespective of all those other things that might be constitutive of a life well lived. (It might seem strange, but the idea of Sabbath rest also makes the same point. Pharaoh demanded “more bricks, less straw” and believed that the Hebrew slaves were valuable only insofar as they could build his monuments and cities. But God commanded the Hebrews to take a day of rest as a way of reminding themselves that they were more than their productivity, more than a means of production.) A friend recommended Joan Chittister’s book *the Gift of Years*, which makes the point that if we have been able to disentangle our sense of meaning and value from our attachments and accomplishments, we find later that we have the time to contemplate the mysteries of God and connect with the source of our being. But we have to disconnect from

our attachments before we can take that step. Many of us have trouble with that part of the journey. We don't want to let go of what we do, what we make, and what we have.

Another aspect of this is that we are all created by God for a purpose. Now I don't mean that God has a specific plan worked out for each one of us. I guess that could be true — God could have determined that I would serve as the Rector of St. John's or even that I would have that second cup of coffee this morning. But that's not what I mean. I mean that God has a purpose for humanity, a vocation, a calling for us as human beings. We are called to be in relationship with God. We are called to work with God for the repair of the world. We are called to seek reconciliation — the reconciliation of each person, including ourselves, with God and every other person. We are called to live in community. These are all things that virtually anyone can do whatever the circumstances. Each of us can continue seeking reconciliation whatever else we can and cannot do. We can continue enriching our communities of faith by our presence and example. And while I know that few of us want to live as dependents, the fact is, while we are called to serve others, sometimes we are called to allow others to serve us. Part of the vulnerability of life in community is that I must have, as the "servant song" puts it, "the grace to let you be my servant, too." We are called at Maundy Thursday to wash feet, but also to have our feet washed. We are called by God to serve, but we also recognize that God is a source of comfort and rest for us in our weary moments. If we are too fierce in our determination to remain independent, we can miss the grace that God offers.

One last thought. The unexamined assumption here is that we somehow "own" our lives, that they are ours. My point isn't that only God has the power over life or death or that our lives belong to God alone. That may be true, but it's something of a cliché. What I mean is that this way of thinking assumes that the real point of my life is the meaning or value it has *for me*. This way of thinking assumes that *my life* is just one more thing that belongs *to me*. But the center of gravity that makes up the meaning of my life is not found in me. Rather, it is found in the network of relationships of which I am a part. We do not live for ourselves alone and our lives do not simply "belong" to us in the way, say, that my laptop belongs to me. Instead, my life is inextricably tied to the lives of others. The English divine John Donne sums this up nicely:

No man is an island,  
Entire of itself,  
Every man is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main....  
Any man's death diminishes me,  
Because I am involved in mankind.

But not only am I connected to all humanity, I am also connected to the dynamic life of the Trinitarian God.

Nothing follows directly from this. Christian ethics is never (or, to be consistent, *almost* never) a matter of applying hard and fast rules. Christian ethics is about making sense of circumstances within the context of the Christian faith and life. Situations matter, details matter. Deciding on specific cases especially in life or death matters is very difficult. Still we are thinking as Christians — doing Christian ethics — when we are being faithful to our vocation as people called to seek the repair of the world and reconciliation of all people to God and one another through Christ.

Let me know if you have thoughts about this question. I'd love to hear what you think.

See you in Church. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

---

## Adult Bible Studies

Monday evenings 6 p.m., starting Sept. 11

Tuesday mornings 10 a.m., starting Sept. 12

The Monday evening Adult Bible Study returns at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 11. Each week, the discussion centers on a particular Biblical text and guidebook. Beginning this fall, the group will continue their discussion of *The Cross*.

The Tuesday morning Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 12, at 10 a.m. This Bible Study, hosted by Hilary and Bradley, will focus on topics of group interest and center on discussion of the chosen texts.

Both Bible Studies meet in St. John's Commons and are open to anyone including members of other churches or folks unaffiliated with any church. For questions about the Monday evening Bible Study, please contact Randy Brist at [rjbrist@gmail.com](mailto:rjbrist@gmail.com). For questions about the Tuesday morning Bible Study, please contact Bradley Pace at [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org) or Hilary Cooke at [hilary@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:hilary@stjohns-laf.org) — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

---

## The Big Questions: Christian Discipleship

6-8 p.m., beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12



CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

the **BIG**  
questions

What does it mean to be a Disciple? What does it mean to follow Christ? What are the practices that ground the Christian journey and help us be good stewards, to take up our cross, and to love as Jesus loved us?

The Big Questions: Christian Discipleship will meet for five sessions **beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m. A light supper will be provided. Childcare is available, but please RSVP.** A freewill offering for dinner will be taken up. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

## Reflections on Evening Prayer

*Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

— Psalm 141:2

This is one of the opening sentences that can begin the order of Daily Evening Prayer. It is a lovely service, with many familiar Biblical songs (The Song of Mary, The Song of Simeon), readings from scriptures and psalms. The prayers reflect the season of the church year or commemorations of Christians from our own time and centuries past.

St. John's has offered Evening Prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. for almost 20 years. For the reader, it is a calming way to end a busy day. But it is a more than that. It connects St. John's to the larger church in our own time and in throughout history. We witness to God's love as we read and as we pray for the larger community and for the people and concerns of our parish.

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.

Sometime this fall, we will have a rector's forum event to talk about the Daily Office — the cycle of Morning and Evening Prayer in the Prayer Book. Please look for more information. In the meantime, if you would like more information about serving as a lay reader for Evening Prayer, please contact Bradley Pace at [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org). — *Mary Campbell, [mlauracampbell@gmail.com](mailto:mlauracampbell@gmail.com)*

---

## Save the Dates:

### **OUTfest '17**

#### **Saturday, Sept. 16**

OUTfest, Tippecanoe County's Pride Celebration, will take place Saturday, Sept. 16 at Fifth and Main Streets in downtown Lafayette. OUTfest is a celebration to increase public awareness of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (LGBTQA) community and to celebrate diversity among family, friends and straight allies.

Again this year, Good Shepherd and St. John's will have a joint booth, and we invite you all to join the celebration. Look for sign-up sheets in St. John's Commons or just swing by our booth that Saturday.

### **Hunger Hike 2017**

#### **5K Run Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.**

#### **Walk Sunday, Sept. 17, 2 p.m.**



## **Call for Volunteers from the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry**

Through our partnership with Lafayette Urban Ministry, St. John's operates one of the largest food pantries in the 16 counties served by our regional food bank. While our food pantry was originally intended to be an emergency service when it opened more than 40 years ago, the pantry now provides a food safety net for those who are hungry in Greater Lafayette. In 2016, for instance, the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry served more than 2,500 households. Still the need is great. Feeding America estimates that more than 16 percent of the people in Tippecanoe County (nearly 30,000 people) qualify as "food insecure."

**In order to continue this invaluable ministry, we are asking for your help.** For many reasons, the volunteer base in Lafayette has dwindled. In particular, the number of people from St. John's volunteering at the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry has dropped to a small percentage of our total volunteer corps. **Please consider volunteering for a shift or two a month.** Shifts and various jobs are needed for the regular operating hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:45 – 11:45 a.m. and Saturdays from 12:45 – 3:15 p.m. Other jobs such as pick-up and delivery, stocking and administrative tasks are needed for various times throughout the week and month. With our online scheduling program (see the link on the homepage at [www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org)), it is easy to find a time that works for you. It is rewarding work and a huge help to those who come seeking food.

I know that the people of St. John's are very proud of this vital ministry. Now is the time to make a difference. For the many dedicated folks who have volunteered over the years, thank you. For those of you, who have yet to volunteer, please consider doing so soon.

To volunteer or for more information, contact the director of the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry, Donna Barker at [foodpantry@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:foodpantry@stjohns-laf.org) or at the church office. — *Bradley Pace*, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)

## August Book Group

*In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* by Neil White

Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 6:30 p.m. in the Commons

In 1993, Neil White, a journalist and magazine publisher in Mississippi, was convicted of kiting checks. He was sentenced to 18 months in a minimum-security federal prison in Carville, La. After his arrival at the prison, he discovered that the facility was actually the Federal Medical Center and that it was home to about 130 leprosy patients. The inmates and patients occupied different parts of the buildings and grounds, but the two groups did interact.

*In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* is a memoir. In the book, the author explains the decades-long U.S. policy of forcible confinement of leprosy patients and introduces us to patients who have found at Carville a place of refuge from the taunts and mistreatment of the outside world. We also meet an unlikely mix of federal inmates, ranging from highly educated white-collar criminals to street-smart wheeler-dealers. Ultimately, the book is the story of the author's personal journey to self-awareness, a journey facilitated by his best friend at the facility, an 80-year-old leprosy patient who was taken from her family and confined at Carville when she was 12 years old.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a discussion of the book on Wednesday, August 23, at 6:30 in the Commons. Enter through the garden. — Barbara Penney, [barbara\\_penney@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara_penney@yahoo.com), (864) 923-2111

---

## Results of the 2017 Feasibility Study

The results are in and we'll be sharing the details with you shortly. Please look for more information from St. John's Vestry coming soon. In the meantime, you are welcome to see a complete copy of the Feasibility Study Report available in the St. John's office.

For more information, contact the office at [stjohns@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohns-laf.org) or (765) 742.4079. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

---

## Sunday Worship Schedule

On Sunday, Sept. 3, St. John's will return to our regular schedule of two services:  
8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

### Next Deadline for The Eagle

The September deadline for submissions to the Eagle is Monday, Aug. 14. Send submissions to [eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org).

## **A Long Overdue Message from the Brewers**

There are not words to adequately express our gratitude to our St John's family for the prayers and love you have offered over the last year, really two years. We spent six months in NYC in 2016 for Steve's stem cell transplant. You sent cards covered with signatures and notes of encouragement. They gave cheerful decoration to the hospital room. Many of you followed our saga on CaringBridge.com Steve Brewer and sent words of support. During a thankfully short stay in ICU we had to talk Bradley Pace out of jumping onto a plane to New York. We convinced him to settle for a Facetime visit.

Then we arrived home to a huge welcome sign with lots of signatures and a lawn flamingo. The ensuing months have included too many hospital stays and have also included so many thoughtful gifts – rides, gardening, help with laundry, a day of cleaning, baby furniture for Christmas guests, and even a generous gift certificate to Dream Dinners to help with Steve's restricted dietary needs. I am surely forgetting to mention other generous and thoughtful offerings. Suffice it to say we have felt great love and support and a warmth of welcome as we are at last able to return to Sunday services. Things are looking much brighter these days but you kept us going during darker days.

So thanks more than you can know for being a church family living Christ's teachings. We are truly blessed. We have felt the power of your prayers working on our behalf time and time again. May the Lord continue always to bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon the parish and people of St John's. Amen.

With gratitude,  
Lloyd and Steve

---

## **Thank You from the Paars**

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who worked to make our last Sunday at St. John's a memorable affair. There are many people that we will miss in Lafayette, starting with our 'family' at St. John's. For those who may not have updated their address files already, our new home is at:

4032 Grand Teton Place,  
Lancaster, SC 29720-0102

Once again, our thanks to all.

Jackie & Ken Paar



# From the Vestry: Meeting Summaries

---

## April Vestry Meeting Summary

- Randy Brist reported that the capital campaign case statement has been sent to Linda Buskirk for finalization
- Project management and design fees were left out of the total given to Linda because the feasibility study is about what actual projects people are interested in and excited about. When final dollar amounts are evident, the project management fee will come back into the conversation
- New campaign slogan changed to “Our Faith, Our Future.”
- Surveys will go out in June in both electronic and paper forms.
- The current plan is that the capital campaign will kick off in August and run concurrently with the annual stewardship campaign. Linda says data show that these both complement each other.
- The Vestry voted to authorize the project management company Link to begin investigation of water leaks in the bell tower and church walls.
- Bradley reported that Quimby will be removing the organ in late September or early October, and it won't be returned until late May, early June 2018. We will be out of the church for a portion of this time but not all of it.
- Attendance was down a bit at Easter and during Holy Week
- Bradley discussed Bishop Mauricio's visit and that there would only be a single 10:15 a.m. service that day with lunch served afterwards
- The Vestry endorsed the calling to ministry of Carolin Freuh
- Bradley mentioned he had been contacted by Family Promise asking St. John's to host two-five families in the church for a week. Family promise provides cots and a helper, but St. John's would also need to supply volunteers and at least one person to spend the nights while the families are here. The Vestry discussed pros and cons but no real decision was made. The weeks Family Promise needed help with were all weeks that included holidays: Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day.
- Bradley mentioned the ongoing struggle getting volunteers for the food pantry. He met with Joe Micon. One option would be to keep the pantry open only three days a week, but Bradley feels Joe would not be in favor of that. He also mentioned that LUM is probably not interested in working with Food Finders.

---

## May Vestry Meeting Summary

- Bradley reported that seven or eight interviews with parishioners have already been scheduled for the lead-up to the capital campaign. An e-mail directing folks to the electronic survey will go out in a week or so. The goal is to have at least 50 percent participation in the survey, but everyone is hoping for more.
- Bradley followed up on info from the April vestry meeting, explaining that the organ will come out in September and the work inside the church will take place in January. We will probably need to plan to be out of the church for two months.
- Bradley said he would be following up with Family Promise telling them the summer dates are probably not going to work out, and he will see if there are fall dates available.
- Bradley and Donna will be meeting with Joe Micon on June 2 to discuss issues with the food pantry. Bradley thinks St. John's needs a committee to look at and study issues with the food pantry.
- In other pantry news, the vestry approved \$2,000 to acquire a working freezer for the pantry. There is already a fund with that money available.
- Bradley mentioned that St. John's would be getting a three-year construction loan, which will work like a line of credit. This will need diocesan approval.
- Bradley acknowledged the hard work by Carl Taylor and others in the garden and commented how beautiful it looked this spring. 400 tulip bulbs were planted.
- There will be an Iftar Meal on June 17 after a panel discussion on fasting and the breaking of fasts. This will be a potluck, with St. John's setting up and members of the Muslim community cleaning up.
- Bishop Jennifer will be at St. John's at 2 p.m. June 18. This is not one of her regular scheduled parish visits.
- Bradley mentioned St. John's Night at Loeb Stadium. It will be “Star Wars Night” so there will be special events planned. He also talked about a parish trip to the Lake Shore Drive In for a family night.

(May continued)

- The mission outreach committee, under the direction of Maggie McClure, will soon meet to start a visioning process to help determine what kind of participation can be expected.
- Bradley mentioned that the wedding bylaws will be updated. These are the “rules” couples must follow to be married at St. John’s.
- The Habitat for Humanity Apostle’s Build that St. John’s is taking part in starts the first week of September. The plan is have the house down and blessed before Thanksgiving. St. John’s will need to come up with their \$3,000 share for the build. We currently do not have a balance of funds for this purpose.

---

### June Vestry Meeting Summary

- Before the actual meeting was convened, the group met with Linda Buskirk who discussed the feasibility study.
- There was extensive discussion about the food pantry. This included volunteer consistency, number of volunteers, and our relationship with LUM.
- The Vestry approved the purchase of two new freezers for the pantry to replace one that is failing. Two were needed because the single one that was originally going to be used as a replacement would not fit through the door. The money for these freezers is coming from the food pantry Restricted Funds.
- The Vestry approved the purchase of new office computers for Hilary, Donna and Michael. Bradley’s computer was replaced after Vestry approval earlier in the year
- There was discussion about the Iftar meal, which was highly successful and well-attended.
- Amy Van Epps spoke about the Investment Committee and said that plan is to update the original documents rather than placing the information in the investment statement
- The next Vestry meeting is on August 16, 2017

---

**FINANCE REPORT**  
**OPERATING BUDGET INCOME AND EXPENSE\***  
**As of June 30, 2017**

<b>A. INCOME</b>		Current Month	Total 2017	Annual Budget	% of Budget
1	Pledge Income	\$23,307.00	\$174,176.31	\$367,853.00	47.3%
2	Operating Income	\$2,032.00	\$23,230.71	\$56,636.01	41.0%
3	Non-Operating Income	\$2,031.67	\$36,494.66	\$54,500.00	67.0%
4	Transfer Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,262.42	0.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		\$27,370.67	\$233,901.68	\$535,251.43	43.7%
<b>B. EXPENSES</b>					
1	Outreach	\$6,265.83	\$46,653.21	\$101,522.00	46.0%
2	Program	\$604.60	\$10,916.43	\$24,500.00	44.6%
3	Administration	\$0.00	\$9,460.12	\$45,950.00	20.6%
4	Personnel	\$18,410.62	\$122,109.22	\$246,208.48	49.6%
5	Office	\$1,510.11	\$10,489.26	\$27,195.00	38.6%
6	Property	\$9,489.03	\$41,169.70	\$89,875.95	45.8%
7	Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	N/A
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		\$36,280.19	\$240,797.94	\$535,251.43	45.0%
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		-\$8,909.52	-\$6,896.26	\$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.