



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church • Lafayette, Ind. • September 2018

Upcoming at St. John's this fall
Be sure to save these important dates

Sept. 2: Return to Regular Schedule

On Sunday, Sept. 2, St. John's will return to two services at 8 and 10:15 a.m.

Sept. 9: Sunday Brunch

St. John's will host Sunday brunch on Sept. 9 between the 8 and 10:15 a.m. services. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share and sign up to help. More information to come.

Sept. 16: Rector's Forum, Grace Recovery Ministries

Jason Padgett, director of Grace Recovery Ministries at Grace United Methodist Church, will join us to talk about addiction recovery efforts in Greater Lafayette.

Sept. 23: Rector's Forum, PATH Street Team

Kurt Harker of the PATH Street Team, Wabash Valley's homeless outreach program, will join us to talk about his work with the homeless in Lafayette.

Oct. 7: Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows at St. John's

Bishop Jennifer will be at St. John's on Sunday, Oct. 7. We will have one service that Sunday at 10:15 a.m. followed by a festive reception. Bishop Jennifer will be confirming the members of our youth Confirmation class.

Oct. 7: Choral Evensong & Blessing of the Animals

Join the choir at 5 p.m. Oct. 7 for a choral evensong and blessing of the animals for the Feast of St. Francis. Worshipers and animals alike will be welcome in the church for this beautiful service. Please bring your pets (all are welcome!) and a donation for the Almost Home Humane Society.



From the Rector

The St. John's Memorial Garden is one of the most beautiful places in Lafayette, and it serves both as a burial ground and a safe space, a sanctuary, for all sorts of people. In my time at St. John's, I have seen people come to pray or walk the labyrinth. I have watched parents and children sit in the garden and eat their lunch. I have seen people meet with their AA sponsors, reading the Big Book and working on their sobriety. I have seen many, many people place flowers on their loved ones' graves or just "say hi." I have also seen the homeless sit in the garden to rest, to charge their phones or fill their water bottles. I have found people sleeping in the garden on a number of occasions. And, unfortunately, I have also witnessed people using drugs in the garden.

When I meet folks in the garden, I always try to welcome them and show them compassion, whether it's a visitor who wonders in, a family eating lunch or a homeless person looking for a place to stay. I know a lot of the folks that frequent the garden. If they're homeless, I offer to connect them with LUM, Lafayette Transitional Housing and resources at Wabash Valley. I sometimes offer them lunch (we usually have lunches in the kitchen and the food pantry for those who are homeless) or try to address some other immediate need they have. I don't always get to talk to them, but I am aware that we have folks staying in the garden pretty regularly. I think most St. John's parishioners are also aware of this fact. All of this has been going on since I came to St. John's and probably much longer.

However, in the past six weeks or so, things have taken a bad turn. The police have been called to St. John's a number of times because of drug activity and violence at night, and they have arrested several people. A woman overdosed early one morning and was rushed to the hospital (fortunately she survived, and we have been praying for her ever since). During the

have witnessed people using drugs on called the police. We have also found drugs and paraphernalia hidden around

The recent problems in the garden are things happening in the Greater good news on the horizon — broke ground on a new housing facility expanding its ministry — chronic

We will continue to work to make the Memorial Garden a safe space, a sanctuary, for all people, for those seeking help and a reminder of God's love.

day, those of us in the office a couple of occasions and have garbage, clothes, blankets, the garden.

the result of a confluence of Lafayette area. While there is Transitional Housing recently and Family Promise is homelessness remains a

serious and complex problem in Greater Lafayette. More specifically, the drug problem has ramped up recently. News reports have said that across the country, opiates are becoming harder to find, and people in rural areas are switching to spice and meth. Both the Lafayette Police Department and folks on the street have confirmed that this is true in Lafayette as well. Unfortunately, these drugs tend to make people angrier, more violent and generally more difficult. At the same time, some of the downtown churches are increasing security. One church, where people tended to congregate at night, now hosts an after-school program and has ramped up its security. Because of similar security concerns, LUM maintains strict rules about who can and cannot stay in the overnight shelter. The result is that more people started coming to St. John's and the Memorial Garden at night. Their regular presence attracted drug dealers who started meeting them there. Some of the same folks who had once found welcome and hospitality at St. John's were now taking advantage of the situation.

To be honest, the issues we have been having recently are not new. It is sad to say, but as long as I have been here, people have been using drugs in the garden. Hilary and I once watched a man shoot heroin while we were celebrating the Mass in the Chapel. I have found baggies and other paraphernalia occasionally as have members of the Garden Committee. These are simple realities of our downtown location. The other staff and I have been caring for and supporting the homeless population all this time. We don't mention it regularly because it's just a

part of what we do (like printing bulletins and running meetings). Our goal and intention has always been to help folks in small, direct, material ways (food, water, blankets, etc.) and to make sure that they know they have a place to come for help. Sometimes, things go smoothly; sometimes things get a little crazy. But little has changed over that time until very recently. But as I said, in the past several weeks, things have gotten progressively worse. The fact is that our openness and compassion puts us at some risk. As the Rector, I have tried to balance caring for the homeless with the safety of our parishoners. What I realized recently, however, is that the garden has become a dangerous place for all involved — both the people we were trying to help and the people in this church community. This is the worst of all possible scenarios.

As we became aware of the scope of the problem, the staff discussed ways to respond. We put out signs warning people that drug use and violence would not be tolerated, and that any items left behind would be removed. We reached out to members of the recovery community, Wabash Valley, Lafayette Transitional Housing and the Lafayette Police Department. I have been spending time in the garden during the day and letting people know that, while they are welcome to rest or pray there, they may not sleep or leave items behind. I have also been sitting in the garden at night, spreading the message that the garden must remain a safe space and for that reason, people are not allowed to stay overnight. We have been checking the garden carefully for anything left behind that may be dangerous. The Vestry is discussing a number of possible options, including adding additional lighting and other security measures to protect everyone involved. Fortunately, things have calmed down over the last couple of weeks. Still, we will continue to work to make the Memorial Garden a safe space, a sanctuary, for all people — for those looking for a place of peace and rest, those looking for a place to pray, for our children hunting Easter eggs or playing after Sunday services, for those at St. John’s who love and cherish it, and for those seeking help and a reminder of God’s love.

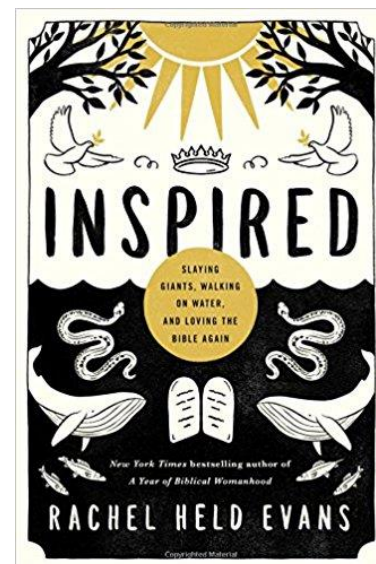


Thank you for your ministry and for the all the ways you care for those in need. While we continue to work on the problems in the garden, I ask that you be mindful of our grounds and make sure that, if you see anything that looks unsafe, please let the staff know or contact the Lafayette Police Department. I ask that you pray for those in Greater Lafayette who are homeless and those suffering from addiction. I ask that you also pray for the staff and leadership of St. John’s and for all the community resources that seek to serve those in need. May we all remain faithful to the commitments in our baptismal covenant — to seek and serve Christ in every person and loving our neighbors. After all, there are so many people in our cities who need to know that there are safe places, places of sanctuary. And there are many people who need to be reminded of God’s love. May St. John’s be that place. May we be that reminder. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Big Questions: Reading the Bible as the Word of God 6 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 11

As Christians, we claim that the Bible is the “Word of God,” that it is inspired, that it “contains all things necessary for Salvation” as the Prayer Book puts it. There are powerful stories that tell us about God’s love and the history of God’s faithfulness to humanity. But there are also many difficult texts — texts of terror and texts that have been used to terrify. How do we understand this complicated collection of writings as divinely inspired while at the same time dealing with those parts that horrify us and cause such mischief?

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m., Hilary Cooke, Bradley Pace and Rachel Ravellette will lead a four-week class on understanding the Bible as the Word of God. Classes will run from 6-8 p.m. and begin with dinner. Those attending will be asked to contribute toward the cost of books and dinner. Along with readings from the Bible, we will be using Rachel Held Evans’ new book *Inspired* and other texts. Please contact Bradley Pace for more information or to sign up for the class. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 18

The Tuesday morning Bible study, led by Hilary Cooke and Bradley Pace, returns at 10 a.m. on Sept. 18. This Bible Study will focus on topics of group interest and center on discussion of the chosen texts. We will begin this September with books from the Apocrypha, the collection of texts written between the Old Testament and before the New Testament.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study will meet in St. John’s Commons and is open to anyone including members of other churches or folks unaffiliated with any church. If you have any questions, please contact Bradley Pace at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or Hilary Cooke at hilary@stjohns-laf.org.

Godly Play Resumes

9:15-10 a.m., beginning Sept. 16

Our Christian formation for children age 3 through fifth grade, Godly Play, will resume on Sunday, Sept. 16, on the top level of the church (floor two 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 their classroom door by 9:15 a.m.

For the fall semester, Godly Play will meet 9:15-10 a.m. on Sundays from Sept. 16 through Dec. 16 (excluding Nov. 25, the Sunday following Thanksgiving).

Contact me with any questions or if you would like to get involved with Godly Play. — *Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org.*

Middle School Christian Formation

9:15 a.m. Sundays, beginning Sept. 16

Our Middle School Christian formation will resume on Sunday, Sept. 16, in the Youth Lounge at 9:15 am. We will continue our practice of using curriculum that explores questions about faith, the Bible, theology and our church traditions. If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the Middle School class, please contact Hilary at hilary@stjohns-laf.org.

Youth Acolyte Training

Sept. 9 after the 10:15 a.m. service

Calling all youth, fifth grade and older, who is interested in acolyting. We will be having a training session on Sunday, Sept. 9, after the 10:15 a.m. service. We will order pizza, go over everything you will need to know and have some fun. — *Katie Elder, katie.elder1@gmail.com*

A Blessing for the beginning of a new school year

On Sunday, Aug. 12, we offered the following prayer and blessing for those beginning school including students, teachers, and school staff:



God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers. Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. Amen. (Prayer written by Shannon Kelly)

We wish each of you a wonderful year of learning and teaching. If you didn't get a backpack blessing tag, please contact the church office and we'll make sure you get one. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Baptism and Confirmation

Baptism is the sacrament by which a person is welcomed into the household of God. In water and in the anointing of the Holy Spirit, a person is sealed by the Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. Baptism is particularly appropriate on certain celebrations and feasts days including All Saints' Sunday (Nov. 4).

Confirmation is the sacrament whereby Christians make a mature confession of the faith made on their behalf at their baptism. Confirmation takes place during a pastoral visit by our Bishop or during regional services scheduled by the Diocese. Bishop Jennifer will be confirming members of the youth Confirmation class when she visits on Oct. 7.

If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized or if you are interested in being confirmed, please contact the church office at (765) 742-4079 or stjohns@stjohns-laf.org. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Hunger Hike 5k Run and 3k Walk Saturday, Sept. 15 and Sunday, Sept. 16

St. John's will once again this year participate in raising funds for the Annual Hunger Hike. The Hunger Hike raises money to address the problem of food insecurity in Greater Lafayette, and the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry is one of the recipients of these important funds.

On Saturday morning, Bradley and Hilary (and any others who'd like to join us!) will run the 5k being held at the Celery Bog. Then, on Sunday at 2 p.m., the St. John's youth group will participate in the 3k walk beginning at Riehle Plaza.

We would be very grateful for your support of the youth group's efforts to raise money for the hungry in our community. You can support us in several ways:

- With your financial support (checks can be made out to "Hunger Hike," we will accept cash or you may donate online through the St. John's website or by searching for our team "St. John's Youth Group" at www.firstgiving.com).
- By walking or running with us — the youth group always enjoys having visitors!
- By keeping us, and all those who will benefit from the funds raised, in your prayers.

Many thanks to all who have supported us in the past and who will continue to do so this year. — *Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org*



Blessed Are the Peacemakers: A Study on Gun Violence Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 5 Central Presbyterian Church

Please join with the members of Central Presbyterian Church as they provide a six-week study session on gun violence and how we can help make a difference. Led by community activist Kathy Fairbanks Parker and seminary intern Wil Reinowski, the group will meet for six Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in Room 106 of Central Presbyterian's Education Building beginning Sept. 5. Among the topics to be explored are: Who are the gun violence victims; how is gun violence all around us; gun laws; gun violence as a public health issue; gun safety; and local actions to address gun violence.

Please register via email to Kathy Parker at kcfparker@gmail.com so that seating arrangements may be fully planned. There is no charge for the series. — *Amy Paget, pagets@gmail.com*

Scent Awareness

For a couple years now I have been raising awareness about scent sensitivities in our congregation at St. John's, and I want to thank you for taking the time to read the *Eagle* articles and to engage in conversation around this topic. I have noticed the helpful ways you as a congregation have responded to this concern, and I thank you for taking this concern so seriously!

Because I haven't written anything recently, I believe it's time for a brief recap, especially as we strive to welcome new folks to St. John's.

I have always been a singer and joined my first choir when I was 5 years old. As members of the choir, we were instructed not to wear perfume or aftershave because people with allergies would find that the fragrances could bring on allergy attacks and make it difficult or even impossible to sing. In recent years I have become aware of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). MCS "is a multisystem disease that is characterized by symptoms associated with exposure to low levels of chemical vapors. These levels of exposure are commonly found in the ambient environment. Systems that are affected by MCS include the respiratory system, the neurologic system, the gastro-intestinal system, the skin in some cases." (<http://www.chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org>)

At St. John's we have several members with MCS and other allergies/sensitivities with physical reactions, ranging from mild coughing and sneezing to hospitalization. Unfortunately, our recent renovations, while lovely, have made it impossible for some people to attend worship as the chemicals from the woodwork, paint and other construction are quite strong.

As these scent sensitivities have become more apparent in our culture, churches have also begun to respond to this growing concern. Note how many hospitals and doctor's offices have become scent-free zones, and for almost 10 years the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has banned fragrances of any kind in all their workplaces.

While pretty much nothing we do in this world is without risk, we at St. John's strive to create a worship space that is safe for all our members and visitors who are scent sensitive. You can help us in our goal of being open and accommodating to all who wish to worship with us by being scent aware.

As we strive to be a scent-sensitive community, we ask that members of and visitors to St. John's be mindful that the following items can be particularly problematic for those who are scent sensitive: perfume, cologne, after-shave, shampoo, hair conditioner, hair spray, scented lotions, fabric softeners and detergents.

Of course, this is an ongoing process of welcoming and hospitality. We continue to seek ways to welcome and engage all people as we live out our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being.

For those interested in learning more about MCS, the website www.chemicalsensitivityfoundation.org has a wealth of information including a link to peer-reviewed scientific and medical articles. A video on that website shares stories of people living with MCS to give an idea of just how greatly MCS can affect one's daily living.

I am available for conversation if anyone has questions or concerns. — Hilary Cooke, hilary@stjohns-laf.org, (765) 742-4079 x103

September Book Group: *The Log of a Cowboy* by Andy Adams

7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27

When two people simultaneously recommend a book for our group, you know it is worth a try. Both readers are very enthusiastic about *The Log of a Cowboy* by Andy Adams. Adams published this book in 1903, recalling his first cattle drive 30 years earlier, at the age of 16. (The memoir has been re-printed many times since then and is available from many sources.)

I think its appeal is that it has something for everyone. It's about genuine cowboys taking 3,000 cattle from Mexico to Montana over the course of several months. You read about stampedes firsthand, about the difficulties and dangers of quicksand in swollen rivers, about the risks and adventures during stopovers in towns like Dodge, about the Texas Rangers, and much more. It is a personal memoir, a tale of adventure, as well as a glimpse into an important part of American life in 1882.

Personally, I am amazed at the detail of Adams's recollections after 30 years and about the maturity he apparently had at age 16. (I'm sure there was some selective recall and even some omission of sensitive subjects, but it is still amazing.) I wish I had an edition with a map. Adams gives many landmarks, but I'm having trouble following them. Maybe someone can find a map, or even make a map!

We are meeting on Thursday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Commons. Come, join us on the trail! — *Mary Campbell, mlauracampbell@gmail.com, (765) 426-5541*

Youth Group News

Fall Cookout: Sept. 9

The St. John's Youth Group will commence meeting on Sept. 9 with our fall cookout. We're looking forward to another year of fun and fellowship with youth in grades 6-12. As in past years, the youth will lead the St. John's Hunger Hike team and participate in shopping and preparation for Jubilee Christmas. In October, we will hike at Turkey Run. Other activities include game nights, bowling, a Twelfth-Night party and spiritual formation. Youth Group generally meets on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

This year, youth at St. John's have several opportunities to participate in Diocesan and regional youth events, including:

1. Peer Ministry Training at Church of the Nativity, Indianapolis — Oct. 13
2. Waycross Fall Festival for Youth & Families — Oct. 27
3. Diocesan Youth Fall Retreat at Waycross — Nov. 30 - Dec. 2
4. Diocesan Youth Spring Retreat at Waycross — March 1 - 3, 2019
5. Province V Youth Weekend at Waycross — March 8 - 10, 2019

Bradley Pace, Hilary Cooke, Tim Smith and Rebekah Sims will serve as this year's youth group leaders. If you are a youth grade 6-12 or a parent of a youth, stay tuned for a full schedule delivered via email. Please email hilary@stjohns-laf.org or bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org with any questions.

A Note of Thanks

Beloved St. John's Community,

My sons, Ed & Will, and I want to thank you for the many ways you have carried our family in the year since Ted's death. You fed us at the funeral and afterwards; you prayed and sang with us over this entire year, and you made gifts honoring Ted to this church and beyond. Please accept our thanks.

The St. John's Community buoys me every week and I appreciate your loving concern. Bless you. — Amy Paget,
pagets@gmail.com

Next Deadline for The Eagle

The deadline for the October Eagle is **Monday, Sept. 10**.
Send submissions to
eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

Parking at St. John's: The Good News & the Bad News

First the bad news. Tenants are now moving into the old J&C building (now Press Apartments) on the corner of Sixth and Ferry Streets. This means they will also be using the old J&C parking lot. The good news is that most of the spots (about 15 of the 25 or so) are not for tenants and will be available for our use on Sunday mornings. The lot will be relined soon, and spots will be numbered. When that happens, we will place a sign indicating which spots are available for our use. **In the meantime, we are allowed to park on the north side of the lot (the side closest to Trinity UMC). If you park on the other side, you are doing so at your own risk.** More information will be forthcoming when it is available.

In addition, we also have permission to park in several other lots near the church on Sunday mornings. Parishioners may park at **Dr. Yocum's office** and at **Tricoci University**, both of which are on Ferry Street just east of the church. Parishioners may also park at **Mulhaupt's** on Ferry Street just west of the church as well as **Wintek**, which has a large parking lot on Sixth Street north of the church (please note, the Wintek lot is *neither* the TAF lot *nor* the lot owned by First Christian Church). Street side parking is available on each of the streets surrounding St. John's. Because most businesses are not open on Sunday morning, there should also be available parking on Main Street and Sixth Street south of Ferry.

We plan to formalize agreements with local businesses and have signs placed to direct visitors, etc. We will continue to block off parking spots nearest the church on Sunday mornings for those who have mobility issues. You *do not need* a handicap sticker to use one of those spots (unless they are also marked as handicapped spots). For those of you who are able to walk a few blocks, please consider parking in one of the more distant lots.

While it is great to see the growth and expansion of downtown Lafayette, it does come with costs. Parking will continue to be an issue for the foreseeable future. If you have any suggestions or solutions, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. If the church can help provide transportation, let us know that also. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*