



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church • Lafayette, Ind. • December 2019

Advent & Christmas at ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

Third Sunday in Advent, December 15

8 & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
5 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 19

6:30 p.m. "Longest Night" Service

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22

8 & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
noon Greening of the Church

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
9 p.m. Carol Prelude
9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

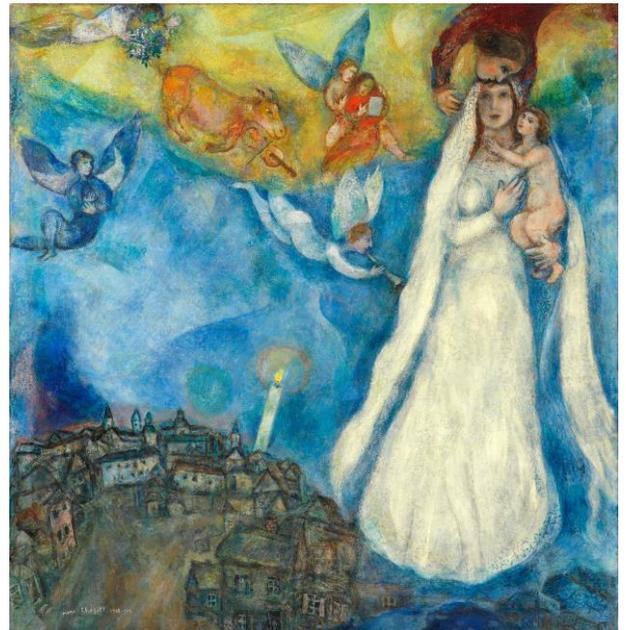
1st Sunday after Christmas, December 29

8 & 10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

The Feast of the Epiphany (observed)

Sunday, January 5

One service only at 10:15 a.m.
Epiphany Pageant & Holy Eucharist



Please join us as we celebrate the joys of Christmas at St. John's. All through the Advent season, we will observe the lead-up to Christ's birth in our Sunday services, with the lighting of the Advent wreath, with music and with fellowship. We'll extend the Christmas spirit in outreach as we welcome our partners, The Chapel of the Good Shephard, to spread the joy of giving as hosts for Lafayette Urban Ministry's Jubilee Christmas. On the fourth Sunday in Advent, we'll green the church after services. And on Christmas Eve, at both 4 and 9:30 p.m., we'll celebrate the glory of Christmas through word and song. Join us in this most wondrous of seasons.

From the Rector

When we tell the story of the exile in Godly Play, the storyteller uses the desert box, figures that represent the people of God, and a large metal chain that separates them from their home in Jerusalem and from the Temple. One storyteller on the Godly Play Facebook page told the story of a 7-year-old in her class who was working with the desert box. He had it set up just so, with God's people on one side, the Temple on the other, and the chain separating them. He looked up at the teacher and said, "You know, if you turn the chain this way, it's a bridge instead of a wall."

When I heard this story, I thought, this kid gets it; he gets something powerful about what God is up to in the world. God, it turns out, is in the business of building bridges rather than walls. In fact, this is exactly what Christmas is about. God crosses the boundary between heaven and earth, the boundary between the divine and the human. God becomes flesh and dwells with human beings. God makes his home in the midst of human joy and pain. The Christmas story is about the incarnation — the embodiment or en-flesh-ment of God. This is what John is telling us in the beginning of his Gospel. John doesn't give us a manger or lowing cattle or shepherds or magi. John doesn't even give us angels shouting *Gloria in excelsis*. Instead, John takes us back to the beginning of creation. "In the beginning was the Word," he says, "and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being ..." But then the God whose word this is, the God who is this word, did something we did not expect. "The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." This Word that became flesh comes to us in a manger, this Word lived among us as an infant child. This Word was full of the glory and grace of God because he was God in the flesh. He came to dwell with humankind — the Greek word that John uses means God literally "pitched his tent" with us. And thus, the wall between God and humanity was torn down.

May the Glory of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ, abound for you this Christmas season. May you experience the fullness of God's grace and truth. But may you also recognize what God has done, what God is doing, at Christmas. God has crossed the boundary between heaven and earth, crossed the boundary between the divine and the human. God has become flesh and lived among us, God has pitched his tent, planted his flag, made his cause with us in the midst of our joy and pain.

May the blessing of that God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and those you love this Christmastide. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Worshiping

"Longest Night" Service

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19

Christmas time is often called "the most wonderful time of the year" in our secular world. However, for many of us, it is a time of deep sadness, loneliness and grief. Named for the winter solstice — literally the longest night of the year — this "Longest Night" service offers space to engage those feelings that seem "out of sync" with the world around us. It is an opportunity to acknowledge, own and offer up those feelings to God. We hope that this service will be a place of comfort, healing and hope for all those who attend. Even if you don't feel "out of sync" with the feelings swirling around us, this service offers an opportunity for quiet and contemplation in the midst of a hectic world. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, Dec. 22, after the 10:15 a.m. service

Christmas is coming, and we “Hang the Greens” on **Sunday, Dec. 22, after the 10:15 a.m. service**. Please help put the finishing touches on the church as we get ready for the Christmas season. Bring along a pot of your favorite chili or cookies to share. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Epiphany Pageant

10:15 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5

This year, St. John’s will have an Epiphany Pageant with lessons and hymns on **Sunday, Jan. 5**. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:15 a.m. All children ages 3-eighth grade will have the opportunity to choose a part during Godly Play or middle school Christian Formation classes during the upcoming weeks. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4. Please mark your calendars and contact Julie Peretin at julie@stjohns-laf.org with any questions. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Sharing

Workshop — Thanks to everyone!

Many thanks to the two dozen or so folks who helped sort food at our last “Workshop” event at Food Finders Food Bank on Nov. 6. The staff at Food Finders weren’t prepared for just how efficient and hardworking we were going to be! Thanks for all the ways you care for our community. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Jubilee Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 14

Everything is in motion for the magical event of Jubilee Christmas. St. John’s and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will host 40 families with 120 kids. We need your help to bring the wonder of Christmas to this event. How will you help?

VOLUNTEER for one of the many jobs. Check the sign-up sheet in the Commons. Consider being an escort for one of our guests.

BUY new, non-violent toys to stock the store. Consider toys suitable for our Latino and African-American families. Donation bins are in the Commons.

BAKE a loaf of a breakfast bread to send home with a family.

DONATE cash to pay for hams, food vouchers, teen gift certificates, gifts and other supplies as needed. We need \$2,440 for the LUM bill.

Jubilee Christmas is successful because of the many ways *everyone* in the St. John’s community participates. Do what you can to make Jubilee Christmas 2019 awesome!

See Maggie McClure, Angela Mosier, Georgia Brist or Mary Kay McCauley with questions. — *Maggie McClure, magamclure@gmail.com*

Music Happenings

Lunchtime Concert: 12:10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 (one week earlier than usual)

December's lunchtime concert features **Rebecca Seekatz**, mezzo soprano, performing an eclectic program. Rebecca obtained a bachelor's of music degree from Rice University in vocal performance. She is a member of the Lafayette Master Chorale and is a frequent soloist with them. She will be singing music of Germany, France, Ireland and the United States, including notable composers Bach, Reger and Chaminade. As always, lunch (\$5 suggested donation) and fellowship follow in the commons. **Note:** This concert is scheduled one week earlier than usual.



Rebecca Seekatz

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols: 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15

There are many special things regarding worship in the Episcopal Church that uniquely distinguish our tradition. One of them is the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service is not often done at St. John's (only twice thus far this century), so you won't want to miss it. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings or lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir anthems. It is a special service of word and song that can be offered on no better place than our beautiful candlelit church. — *Michael Bennett, michael@stjohns-laf.org*

A blue rectangular banner with the text "SHINING OUR LIGHT" in white, serif, all-caps font. The word "SHINING" is larger than "OUR LIGHT". The background of the banner has a subtle, abstract light pattern.

The 2020 Annual Giving Campaign

Jesus told his followers, "You are the light of the world." As followers of Jesus, we have the opportunity to shine our own light into the world. Thank you for all the ways you shine the light of God's love into the Greater Lafayette community and beyond. Thank you, especially, for the ways you shine the light of God's love through the ministry of St. John's Church. As the Stewardship Committee mentioned in their letter a few weeks ago, we shine our light together through our worship, formation, pastoral care and service to the wider community.

The ministry of St. John's Church is only possible because of the abundance of God's generosity and the support of our members and friends. Nearly 70 percent of our worship, outreach, formation and pastoral care ministries are funded through annual pledges. That is why each year we reach out to ask our members and friends to support these ministries. If you are on our mailing list, you should have received a pledge card. If you have not, please contact the church office at 765-742-4079 or stjohns@stjohns-laf.org. You can also pledge online at www.stjohns-laf.org/pledge-online.

Please make a financial commitment to our ministries by pledging. Pledging allows the leadership to make decisions about the 2020 budget early and help us put our plans into action. Many thanks to those of you who have already pledged. And thanks as well to each and every one of you for all the ways you shine your light through your time, talent and your financial generosity. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org on behalf of the St. John's Stewardship Committee*

Making Christ Known

The Greater Lafayette Episcopal Youth Group

The youth from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, West Lafayette, & St. John's, Lafayette, meet regularly (usually twice a month on Sundays) for community and worship. Youth Group is for those in grades six through 12.

Jubilee Christmas Shopping

3-6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8

We will meet at Sam's Club and finish at St. John's.

Hanging of the Greens and *Star Wars* at Wabash Landing 9

Sunday, Dec. 22

After the 10:15 a.m. service, stay to help Green the Church for Christmas. We'll have lunch afterwards and make our way over to Wabash Landing 9 to see *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*. The movie ends at 5 p.m. Parents can pick up kids at the theater.

For more information, go to www.stjohns-laf.org/youth. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

St. John's & the Wider Church

An Update on Fr. Bob L'Homme

Many of you have asked about Fr. Bob lately. Bob had an accident in October and suffered a broken leg. He's been recouping nicely and hopes to be back in church soon. In the meantime, please keep him and Carol in your prayers. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Coffee Hour at St. John's

Please sign up

Coffee hour at St. John's is a great opportunity for fellowship and to strengthen our sense of community. It is also a great time to share Christian hospitality with visitors and those new to our church. But this only happens when people sign up.

Coffee hour is easy. You're welcome to bring treats if you like, but donuts and drinks are provided. You're more than welcome to sign-up with a partner or group.

To sign up, please contact the St. John's office. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



The 2020 Annual Report

Contributions to the St. John's Annual Report are due mid-January. Like last year, we ask that only reports containing new updates be submitted. Reports for new ministries or ministries that have changed in substantial ways are, of course, welcome. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build Update

St. John's Episcopal has been a major participant in the 2019 Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette Apostles Build. Faith Garrett, a Lafayette native, and her children, Kaius and Fraya, are beyond excited about moving into their new bungalow on South 28th Street. The House Blessing will be at **3:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24**, at 305 S. 28th St. in Lafayette. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Faith as she receives the keys to this beautiful home.

End-of-Year Giving to St. John's

Each week throughout the year, contributions that are delivered to the office, either in person or through the mail, are counted and then deposited with any offerings received on the following Sunday. Dec. 29 will be the last opportunity to have your contributions counted and deposited for 2019. **Hand-delivered contributions should be delivered to the office by Dec. 24.** If you are mailing your contribution, please allow 7 to 10 days for delivery. **Mailed contributions should also reach the parish office by Dec. 24.**

Next Deadline for The Eagle

The deadline for the January Eagle is **Monday, Dec. 9.**
Send submissions to eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

From the Vestry

At the November Vestry meeting, among items on the agenda, the Vestry discussed the following:

- The Vestry received the draft audit report from Kemper and Associates. There were no material concerns in the audit report. Kemper suggests that we create and update a procedures manual for administrative purposes and that we adopt new allocation reporting for expenses. According to the audit, St. John's consistently operates in a positive position.
- Discussed possible candidates for the next Vestry class.
- Mary Kay McCauley gave a report from the Investment Task Force. The task force is looking into the question of moving our endowment to the Diocesan Special Fund. The task force recommends that it is reasonable for us to move the funds in the future, we should hold off until the Diocese has finalized their plans about fund management. The Vestry agreed to re-visit this next fall.
- The Vestry discussed the 2020 budget.
- Maggie McClure gave a brief update on Jubilee Christmas. This year, we will host 40 families with 120 kids (24 are teenagers). We have 10 families with six or more members. The bill has gone up because the churches have agreed that families get more money on their gift cards. We will need at least \$2,400 to pay LUM, and we currently have \$1,400 in cash. We do have a lot of nice extra items to provide families. Maggie suggested that Jubilee Christmas become a line item on the budget with an allotted financial amount.

October Financial Report

St. John's Financial Summary January through October 2019

INCOME		<u>Oct-19</u>	<u>Total 2019</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
1	Pledge Income	\$45,619.00	\$307,254.06	\$382,611.00	80.3%
2	Operating Income	\$1,393.50	\$49,298.07	\$79,725.87	61.8%
3	Non-Operating Income	\$12.00	\$6,505.01	\$8,000.00	81.3%
4	Transfer Income	\$0.00	\$29,541.00	\$40,000.00	73.9%
TOTAL INCOME		\$47,024.50	\$392,598.14	\$510,336.87	76.9%
EXPENSES		<u>Oct-19</u>	<u>Total 2019</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
1	Outreach	\$5,703.58	\$70,097.68	\$85,362.70	82.1%
2	Program	\$1,043.76	\$18,435.56	\$25,000.00	73.7%
3	Administration	\$270.37	\$1,246.39	\$2,500.00	49.9%
4	Personnel	\$18,175.89	\$206,941.68	\$254,401.49	81.3%
5	Office	\$1,713.06	\$22,006.50	\$27,395.00	80.3%
6	Property	\$7,875.47	\$94,868.84	\$115,677.68	82.0%
7	Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$34,782.13	\$413,596.65	\$510,336.87	81.0%
Net Income (Loss)		\$12,242.37	-\$20,998.51	\$0.00	

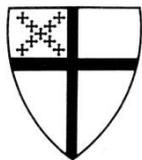
Notes:

Detailed description of these items are available for review from members of the Finance Committee.

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St. John's Episcopal Church

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Bishop of Indianapolis

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

Sunday Associate

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

Parish Administrator

Teresa Lohrman

Director of Music

Michael Bennett

Interim Children's Formation Director

Julie Peretin

Building Use Coordinator

Bill McInerney

Treasurer

Bill McInerney

Assistant Treasurer

Jim Hess

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Angela Mosier, Junior Warden
Kathryn Nielsen, Finance Committee Chair
Annie Schreiber, Clerk

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Elaine Johnson, Mary Kay McCauley,
Maggie McClure, Rebekah Sims,
Carl Taylor, Stephanie Amador Tribbett

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