



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LAFAYETTE

# The Eagle

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Ind. | November 2020

## From the Rector

### Thanksgiving in the time of Coronavirus

Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide  
open in gratitude.

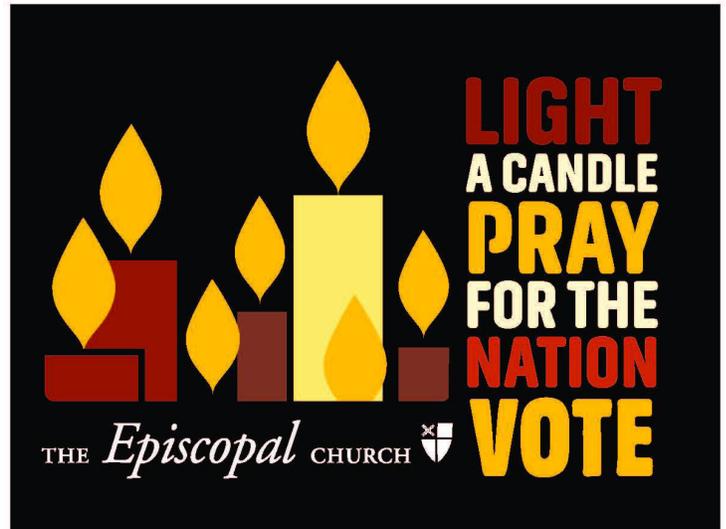
- Colossians 4.2, the Message translation

In his letter to the Colossians, Paul wrote to the Christian community there asking them to “pray diligently” and to do so while keeping their “eyes wide open in gratitude.” Paul was writing this letter from prison, so his urgent call for prayers makes a lot of sense. But what about his appeal that they stay on the lookout for reasons to give thanks?

We are now nearly a year into a global pandemic with more than 200,000 deaths in the United States and over 1 million worldwide. The murder hornets that showed up in the Pacific Northwest seemed very on-brand for 2020, but then came the deaths of Ahmaud Arberry, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and the protests over racial injustice and police brutality that followed. We also had record wildfires and hurricanes, all while dealing with an economic collapse and gearing up for a contentious presidential election that may drag out for months.

And that's not to mention our personal losses. So many plans have been abandoned, so many trips have been cancelled or postponed. Graduations and weddings and reunions had to be scrapped. We have lost jobs and businesses and marriages. The “normal” stuff — health scares, loneliness and depression, anxiety — has exacerbated and intensified. When we most need connection, we've had a hard time getting together, shaking a hand, hugging or, in some cases, even seeing our family and friends.

We even lost church, one of the places many of us find meaning and purpose and consolation. We've not been able to pass the peace or share communion. We missed Easter. We couldn't celebrate the arrival of our new Curate.



For me, one of the things that has been hardest about the pandemic is the way people have slipped out of our lives. Dottie Gist died the week that everything began closing down. Faye Groves, Mel Anderson, Dorothy Byrn and Peggy Lawson died soon after. John Albright moved to Lafayette the week the church closed. He died in July. Because he had tested positive for COVID, I did last rites with him over the phone. Steve Gast and Kathleen Williams both died unexpectedly. We haven't even been able to hold funerals, to grieve the friends we've lost, to celebrate their lives. In May, the Schreiber family moved to Ohio. In October, Barbara and Jim Hess moved. We didn't even get to say a proper good-bye to them. I have this fear that when things get “back to normal,” we'll discover that lots of our friends are missing for one reason or another.

Despite all of this, and I know it's a lot, I want to commend Paul's words to the Church in Colossae to you. I implore you, sisters and brothers, to keep praying. Definitely keep praying. But I also want to encourage you to stay on the lookout for moments of blessing. I know it sounds cliché; I know it sounds trite. But if we open our eyes, we will find so much to be grateful for. For instance:

We began the year with hope for renewed connections with our friends at Good Shepherd, and more than 200 people from our two communities attended (*continued on page 3*)

## ***The Feast of All Saints at St. John's Lafayette***

Sunday, Nov. 1

*Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.*

On Sunday, Nov. 1, we will observe the Feast of All Saints. At both the in-person and Zoom services, we will dedicate time to remember those saints of St. John's who have died since last year. There will also be time for each of us to remember the saints who have been the chosen vessels of God's grace in our own lives. If you would like to add names to the necrology for public reading that day, please go to [www.stjohns-laf.org/necrology](http://www.stjohns-laf.org/necrology) or contact the church office.

Please join with the whole church as we remember the saints of God who have come before and welcome new saints into the Body of Christ. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*



## ***Neighborhood Prayer Walks***

10 a.m. Wednesdays

Each Wednesday, friends of St. Johns are invited to gather at 10 a.m. for a walk around the St. John's neighborhood and to offer prayer for our community. We will gather in the Memorial Garden. For more information, contact the church office. — *Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)*

***Jim & Barbara Hess***

***New contact info***

4413 Hickory Grove Blvd.  
Greenwood, IN 46143

Jim's cell 765-491-9728

Barb's cell 765-714-3145

attended the Epiphany pageant. It was absolutely glorious. As the season of Lent began, we invited three adults to prepare for baptism following the ancient rite of the catechumenate. Even though the baptisms were postponed, the fact that these adults were prepared to make this commitment and take part in this experiment was wonderful. And we still have their baptisms and the baptisms of several young children to look forward to (Molly DePue will be baptized on All Saints' Day). We also had nearly 10 adults planning to be confirmed. The youth began Confirmation classes in September with eight youth from St. John's and Good Shepherd taking part. It's on Zoom, so it leaves a bit to be desired. But it's easier to show them Monty Python clips that way. (There's always a silver lining, right?)

I am always grateful to those who make our worship possible. Before the pandemic, it was the usual crew: the acolytes, altar guild, choir, Eucharistic ministers, flower guild, MCs, readers, ushers and greeters. When the pandemic began, we had to scramble to make things work online. That first Sunday, when I sat in the church chancel with my laptop and a cup of coffee, I assumed no one would show up. But 75 families did. We prayed. We worshiped. God was praised, and we were blessed. It wasn't normal. It lacked the usual beauty of our liturgy. But God was praised, and we were blessed. Since then, we've fine-tuned things — adding music and special touches. During Holy Week, we shared worship with our friends from Good Shepherd. But because we were online, we were able to invite Joanna Benskin and Bro. James Nathaniel Calabro, who recently made his vows at the Franciscan Community in San Francisco, to preach and read. On Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed several former members of St. John's and Bishop Jennifer to read the Acts passage. It was a Pentecost moment — members of the St. John's diaspora spread out across the country reminding us that we share together in the Holy Spirit's blessing. We were joined by other friends who left Lafayette years ago and by people travelling. Courtenay Murakowski actually read the Prayers of the People from Yellowstone National Park one Sunday. It was lovely. We spent the

summer continuing to pray online, and I am grateful for those who continue to help make it happen (and thankful for your graciousness as I forget to turn on the sound, unmute the right person at the right time, or play the postlude). We've even had people join the church via Zoom. I look forward to meeting offline and to sharing the joys of our community. Now that we've begun limited in-person worship, I am grateful for everyone who is helping make things work under strange circumstances and for everyone who is cooperating to keep us all safe.

You may not be surprised to know that people have stepped up in all sorts of other ways. Immediately after in-person services were suspended, we began a phone tree that included everyone on our mailing list. Folks make hundreds of calls in those first months. A few people are still making calls to check in on members who are at high risk, who live alone, or who might have other needs. I am incredibly grateful for all the pastoral help. I have heard from several of you that you have been grateful for the calls and the opportunity to make calls.

Because of your generosity, we were able to make significant donations to Food Finders and LTHC early in the pandemic as they ramped up services. People continued to help with Family Promise by providing and delivering meals or making donations. We raised nearly \$2,000 for Hunger Hike. Maggie McClure has been hard at work already getting things ready for what will surely be a very different Jubilee Christmas. The leadership worked hard early on to keep the church on an even keel. St. John's is well served by Greg McClure, Charlie Shook, Katie Nielsen and the rest of the leadership. Other members generously made special donations to ensure that bills would be covered and that essential parts of our ministry could carry on without a hitch. And everyone did it with grace and understanding. I can't tell you how much that has meant to me. While "these difficult and uncertain times" could have turned contentious and combative, we pulled together.

And then many of you turned up when you had to. After the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, you showed up for racial justice. You attended protests in Lafayette and Indianapolis, Diversity Round Tables, workshops and the like. You demanded answers from our local authorities and continue to work for a greater Lafayette. I know many of you are in this work for the long haul, and I am grateful for your commitment.

I am grateful for the births of Ellie McCartney, Miriam Melville and Saoirse Tribbett. I can't wait to see them running through St. John's Commons together. I am grateful for the wedding of Julie McClure and Stewart Miller. I am grateful that I was able to spend time with Shawn Deignan and Tom Hoffer as they prepare to be married next year. Early in the year, Loren and Patricia Graham reached out to me about a recommitment service. The Grahams were married at St. John's 65 years ago. Sadly, they had to postpone, but they hope to be here for their 70th.

I am grateful for the work Julie Peretin, Rebekah Sims and Hilary Cooke did this summer to produce an at-home VBS program focusing on compassion and social justice. It was a huge hit. Julie did a great job as the interim Christian Education Director generally. She was a huge help and wonderful to work with.

I am really looking forward to the ordinations this December of Joanna Benskin, Rebekah Sims and Andrea Arsene. I don't know what those services will be like (Will one or more of them be at St. John's? Will we be able to be there?). But I know that these women will do great things for God and the Church. Their ministry makes me hopeful.

I am grateful for my staff, and you should be, too. They are wonderfully talented and incredibly committed to their work on behalf of the Church. I can't tell you how fortunate we are to have Andrea Arsene. It is definitely a "God thing" that brought her here (she was in seminary with Joanna Benskin, so it was at least partly a case of having someone on the inside). If you haven't met her yet, you are going to love her. Just ask the folks who

have. I was ecstatic when Gretchen Freese agreed to join the staff in January. Originally, she was going to be with us on an interim basis to cover my sabbatical. But if we can make it work, we hope to keep her on the staff both as a pastor and priest and as the director of Christian Formation. The one consistent piece for the clergy is Bob L'Homme. I am ever grateful for his continued ministry, his collegiality and his wisdom. I look forward to a time when we can all serve together.

Without a doubt, St. John's benefits immensely from the talent and commitment of Michael Bennett and Teresa Lohrman. We are fortunate that Michael is able to continue sharing his gifts and leadership with us. What a blessing to be able to hear him play each week. Behind the scenes, he's always incredibly helpful, whether he's planning worship, holding members of the parish in prayer or keeping the staff meeting on track. And then there's Teresa Lohrman, our parish administrator. I cannot say enough about all the ways she holds the church together. Combined, Teresa and Michael have been at St. John's for 45 years! 45 years!!!

It's been a long decade this year. It hasn't been easy, and there are several months (and an election) still to go. So we need to keep praying. Praying for our nation, praying for our community, praying for justice and peace (and then *working* for justice and peace). But we have to pray with our eyes wide open. Otherwise, we're likely to miss the moments of blessing, opportunities for thanksgiving. Otherwise, we're likely to miss the way God answers our prayers and the hope we can draw on to keep moving forward. Keep it up friends. Keep those prayers coming. And stay alert. Look for all the ways God continues to bless us despite all of the hardships; look for the ways God answers our prayers. I remain,

Faithfully yours,

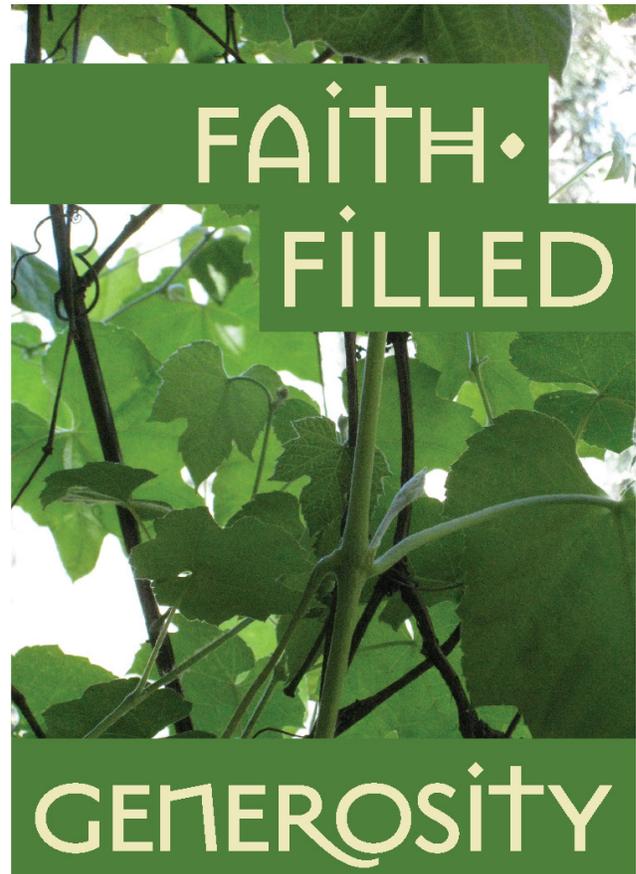


The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

# ***Faith-Filled Generosity: The 2021 Annual Giving Campaign***

Each year, as our ministry unfolds, we learn a little more humility about our plans than the previous year. 2020 has certainly been a year for changing plans, for being agile, for experimenting and rolling with the punches. In doing so, we have used our time and resources for the mission of the Church, to help each other and to engage with the community. As we plan our ministry for 2021, we know that we will likely encounter new challenges and different disruptions. But we will face those challenges by continuing to worship God, to share God's love and our lives by reaching out to the community, and to make Christ known by proclaiming the Gospel and following in his footsteps. We will do all of this together because this is what it means to be faithful to God's call.

Your faith-filled generosity — generosity that trusts God to use you and your gifts to make the world better, to build God's kingdom — makes St. John's ministry possible. Pledging is crucial to helping the Vestry and other leadership plan for next year's ministry, especially in an uncertain year. You should receive more information about this year's annual campaign soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Bradley Pace at [bradley-pace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradley-pace@stjohns-laf.org) or 765-742-4079, or any member the Stewardship Committee. — *on behalf of Cindy Gerlach, Greg McClure, Olynn McInerney, Angela Mosier, Bradley Pace & Cynthia Stauffacher*



## ***Hunger Hike Update***

Many thanks to all who supported the 2020 Hunger Hike to combat food insecurity in our community. We joined with friends from Good Shepherd on three walks through our community in September. We raised more than \$1800 in support of feeding ministries in our community. Thanks to everyone who participated and/or donated. — Bradley Pace, [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org)



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**Associate Rector**

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**Curate**

The Rev. Andrea Arsene

**Sunday Associate**

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

**Parish Administrator**

Teresa Lohrman

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Michael Bennett

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Bill McInerney

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 Aaron Sims, Rebekah Sims

**Eagle Editor**

Cindy Gerlach

Deadline for the December Eagle is  
**Monday, Nov. 9.** Submit items to  
 eagle@stjohns-laf.org.

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**St. John's Financial Summary September 2020**

**INCOME**

	Sep-20	Total 2020	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Pledge Income	\$18,090	\$235,847	\$376,080	62.7%
Operating Income	\$157	\$17,090	\$95,207	18.0%
Non-Operating Income	\$6,812	\$61,877	\$17,200	359.8%
Transfer Income	\$0	\$30,276	\$47,360	63.9%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$25,059</b>	<b>\$345,090</b>	<b>\$535,847</b>	<b>64.4%</b>

**EXPENSES**

	Sep-20	Total 2020	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Outreach	\$8,415	\$60,143	\$94,374	63.7%
Program	\$245	\$5,461	\$27,250	20.0%
Administration	\$0	\$650	\$4,400	14.8%
Personnel	\$27,286	\$190,548	\$267,017	71.4%
Office	\$1,292	\$12,432	\$25,800	48.2%
Property	\$7,756	\$89,667	\$117,006	76.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$44,994</b>	<b>\$358,901</b>	<b>\$535,847</b>	<b>67.0%</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>-\$19,935</b>	<b>-\$13,811</b>	<b>\$0</b>	