



THE *Eagle* NEWSLETTER

St. Johns' Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Indiana | October 2022



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

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Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop

Bradley Pace, Rector

Gretchen Freese, Associate Rector

Jason Fortner, Curate

Teresa Lohrman, Parish Administrator

Michael Bennett, Director of Music

Becky Dick, Senior Warden

Bruce Johnson, Junior Warden

St. John's is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Indianapolis.

From the Rector

On My first Sunday back from sabbatical (and Mother Andrea's last at St. John's), I had the opportunity to preach on a couple of my favorite parables in the Gospels. While preparing, I immediately thought of my own parables. Jesus asked those gathered, "Which of you, having a wonderful church community and a job you love, when offered 3 months off to go to baseball games, wouldn't take the money and run? Which of you," he asked again, "looking in the spam folder of your email and finding a message from someone in California inquiring about being your curate, wouldn't call the vestry and celebrate? And which one of you, upon hearing from her references that she is 'probably only available because of the pandemic' and a saint to boot, wouldn't hire her sight-unseen and thank your lucky stars?" (You may not know that I found an email from Mother Andrea inquiring about the position as Curate at St. John's in my spam folder a week or so after she had sent it. I was absolutely beside myself.)

I am so glad to be back with you. I had a great time on sabbatical, but I have missed everyone at St. John's terribly. I gave you a brief update during the middle of my sabbatical just

to say “hello” and let you know how things were going. The highlight of the second half of my time away was our family’s trip to California. We spent nearly three weeks in San Diego, Anaheim, and San Francisco. The trip was packed: kayaking with leopard sharks in La Jolla; baseball games in San Diego, Anaheim, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco (I even caught a foul ball!); Warner Brothers’ Studio; the Home Run Derby at Dodgers’ Stadium (and spending \$250 on an Uber back to our Air BnB); hitting the touristy spots in Los Angeles and San Francisco; hiking along the coast near Pacifica and in Muir Woods; and that amazing drive along California Route 1. We were constantly on the move, but we also found time for rest. If I’m honest, the most memorable part of the trip was getting robbed in San Francisco and having our connecting flight cancelled. Neither event was as traumatic or exciting as you might think. But we were glad to get home.

I spent some time reading this summer. For years, I’ve been worried especially about the political polarization in our country, so I read some political philosophy looking for insight. You’ll be sorry to know, I’m sure (but likely not surprised) that I didn’t figure anything out. I also read and reread my ordination vows trying to reconnect to my vocation as a priest. This was helpful, too, as sometimes it’s easy to get buried in the weeds and forget why I do what I do (or, to put it differently, to forget what God is calling me to do). I imagine we all feel this way from time to time (whether we’re recently retired, buried under loads of work in graduate school, renegotiating life with young children, or whatever). I’m not sure I made any great strides here either, but so much of this kind of discernment is done in community. (More about that in coming months.)

That may be the one thing that was made most plain to me during my sabbatical—I need community. I missed you by face and name. But I missed being in community with you. I missed worshiping with you, studying and serving with you, leading and caring for others with you. I look forward to getting back to all

those things, and I look forward to seeing each of you. That said, if you have time, please reach out to me about getting lunch, coffee, or the like. I’d love to catch up and share stories. Along with breaking bread with you on Sunday, it would be the best way for me to reconnect with you and the body of Christ at St. John’s. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



From the Curate

I've mentioned my years in public education several times already in sermons, articles and conversations during coffee hour. Nevertheless, I'd like to share a bit more of my experience and to consider the importance of public education from a Christian perspective now that the school year is in full swing. My father is a career public educator. His work teaching photography, videography, graphic design and offset printing for 37 years allowed hundreds of students to acquire skills they needed to find rewarding jobs that provided a good living. It also provided our family with a stable life of reasonable comfort. I even had the pleasure of taking his class my senior year of high school. This gave me the chance to learn both skills, and how to teach them, from him.

Dad's teaching certainly inspired me to become a teacher. I was also nudged toward education by two of my Spanish teachers, one in high school and the other in my undergraduate work. They helped me fall in love with the language, history and culture of Spanish, and they made me want to share that love with other people. I began to work in education during the summers between college classes even before I officially entered the secondary education program. Through the Indiana Department of Education, I worked with the children of migrant farm workers in rural central Indiana. My Spanish improved dramatically, and I was exposed to the challenging life of migratory agriculture workers. All these experiences prepared me to work in a community whose population grew from 10 percent Latin@ (this symbol contains both masculine and feminine grammatical possibilities) to nearly 50 percent by the time I left teaching last May.

In addition to filling my heart with a call to preside at Holy Eucharist and to preach, God used the damaging things that happened to public teachers and to public education policy and funding during the last decade to facilitate my exit from the profession. With the alleged accountability measures for teachers came

the scapegoating of public schools. The attacks on teacher bargaining rights and changes in how teachers were paid produced wage stagnation. Many of my colleagues were forced to take on second and even third jobs to keep their bills paid and their families fed. I did my part to work for change as president of my local teachers association for seven years. We had some success, but I was grateful for the plan to move from teaching verb tenses to preaching the Gospel that God had set in motion.

My being a teacher at Frankfort High School for 27 years is not the only reason I am such a robust supporter of public education. My belief in the institution is bolstered by my faith. In Matthew chapter 25, Jesus explains that each time we care for "the least of these" we are also caring for and honoring him. He speaks of that care in the forms of feeding, clothing and providing health care. Educating all of God's children is a special form of caring for people in need because it can be the gateway to a livelihood that provides stability and the possibility of growth. Teaching our children about the world is a crucial way that we care for them. Without quality education we would all be at a disadvantage. Educated critical thinkers are more completely enabled to promote justice, peace and the dignity of all people. All people are valuable, loved by God, and worthy of care, but education helps us all to flourish.

Given its importance, I believe we should advocate for public education. We can do so by encouraging the students and teachers we know, using our agency to influence education policy and support pro-public education politicians and praying for God's blessing on the whole undertaking of education. I would encourage you to check in with the teachers and professors you know. The difficulties that arose during the height of the pandemic are lingering, and they are still challenged to overcome them. Talk with your children and other students you know about how their classes are going. Knowing that people genuinely care about their progress can inspire

students to do their best. Contact politicians at all levels to urge them to support policies and legislation that truly benefit public education. There are members of all parties who care deeply about this

issue. Finally, in addition to these actions, we should pray for everyone involved in public education.

– Jason Fortner, jason@stjohns-laf.org

A collect from *the Book of Common Prayer*:

31. For Schools and Colleges

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Godly Play Training at St. John's

St. John's will host a Godly Play training from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 29, with lunch and snacks included. If you have ever thought about helping with Christian formation this would be a great place to start. Kim McPherson will give us an opportunity to experience a Godly Play class experience, explain some of the theology of children that goes along with Godly Play, and help us learn how to teach effectively using the Godly Play's Montessori based methods. To sign up, contact Gretchen via email or contact the church office. – Gretchen Freese, gretchen@stjohns-laf.org

Spooky Music & Fun for all ages

Join us at 5:30 p.m., **Sunday, Oct. 30** for an evening of fun. We will begin with a simple meal followed by Michael Bennett, the director of music, playing a spooky concert and talking to us about the importance of music, including hymnody in the worship service. We will conclude the evening with a short worship service. — Gretchen Freese, gretchen@stjohns-laf.org

Deaths

Barbara Bower, May 11, 2022
Mother of Vicki Bower

Patty Barrett, July 16, 2022

George Dandrow, August 7, 2022
Husband of Nancy Dandrow

James Hess, August 24, 2022
Husband of Barbara Hess



Thank You

On September 11, we bid farewell to our Curate, the Rev. Andrea Arsene. Mother Andrea recently began serving as the Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Indianapolis. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the gifts for her and helped with the celebration.

An Invitation to Oktoberfest at St. Peter's, Lebanon

Each fall in early October, St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lebanon opens its doors to the community for Oktoberfest. This family friendly event is a major fundraiser for the parish. It includes excellent German sausages and sides (made from closely guarded family recipes), games, hayrides, since 2013, small batch craft beer.

As many of you know, St. Peter's is the community that sponsored me for ordination and supported me and my family along the way. We first visited the church in January 2013, and as soon word got out that I am a home brewer, I found my first opportunity to minister. Since I served my first beers at Oktoberfest, I've come a long way as a brewer and as an Episcopalian. I will be serving a handful of different beers brewed from my own recipes at this year's event.

I would love for you to join me on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Peter's (650 East Washington St., Lebanon). The \$10 ticket includes a full meal, dessert, and two pours. There will be a variety of wines and delicious non-alcoholic beverages available as well. See me during coffee hour or email me if you have any questions. –
Jason Fortner, jason@st.johns-laf.org



Wednesday Noontime Concerts Return

The music committee is delighted to announce the return of the 2nd Wednesday Noontime Concerts. You will notice a change in wording, as the format itself will be different. Concerts will begin at noon and will last approximately 30-40 minutes. Audience members are invited to bring their own lunch to enjoy during the concert. Drinks and desserts will be provided in the Ferry Street vestibule. Rather than paying for your lunch, we will accept a free-will offering to help offset the cost of the musician honorarium, as the concerts will be longer than in the past. We are very excited to resume this series. The fall schedule is:

- October 12 - Karen Isaacs, violin
- November 9 - Marc Loudon, piano

It is our hope to continue these into 2023. We look forward to seeing you there. - *Michael Bennett, michael@stjohns-laf.org*

Service of Holy Eucharist & Healing 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 16

Healing prayer (also known as “unction” or “ministration to the sick”) has a long tradition in the Church. The person receiving healing prayer is anointed by special oil blessed by the Bishop or a priest. A minister anoints the person requesting prayer and lays hands on her invoking God to bring about healing and wholeness.

On Sunday, Oct. 16, at both the 8 and 10:30 a.m. services, we will include a time of healing prayer in our services. After the sermon, the presider will bless oil to be used for anointing during those services as well as during services throughout the year at St. John’s. Special prayers of healing will be said by the congregation. All are invited to come forward for anointing and for a time of prayer.

— *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Hunger Hike Update

Many thanks to all who supported the 2022 Hunger Hike to combat food insecurity in our community. While we exceeded our goal of \$1,500, LUM and their partners continue to raise funds for this important work in our community. You can still participate by donating at www.stjohns-laf.org/giving-to-stjohns and designating “Hunger Hike”.



Get Ready for Jubilee Christmas 2022

Planning is underway for this year’s Jubilee Christmas, to be held on Saturday, Dec. 10. Jubilee Christmas is a Lafayette Urban Ministry program designed to serve families who may not be able to provide their children with Christmas gifts. Many details are yet to be worked out, but we anticipate having some form of in-person event this year instead of the drive-by events of the past two years. The greatest need right now is cash donations to begin purchasing the gift items for each family’s baskets, which can be done through the Realm app or on Sundays using the Jubilee Christmas envelopes. As we get closer to the time, we will communicate more information as we develop our final plans. If you have any questions, please contact St. John’s Jubilee Christmas coordinator, Mary Kay McCauley, at mk3@gmail.com.

Join the St. John's Vestry

The St. John’s Vestry will soon be looking for new members to join the vestry in 2023. Vestry terms last three years and begin after the annual meeting in February. While there are specific canonical responsibilities, vestry service is much more than these minimal, canonical requirements suggest. Our ministry focuses on the work of God as it is lived out in this church community. Vestry members commit to a reasonable understanding of the church’s structure, management, and finances; to be leaders in attending the worship and fellowship of the church; to support the church through financial stewardship; to lead in outreach, service, and evangelism; and to support the mission and ministry of the church in other ways. Vestry members commit to be leaders in prayer and in the study of Scripture and to living out the Gospel in their daily lives.

If you feel that you may be called to service on the St. John’s vestry or if you would like additional information, please contact one of the current members of the vestry’s middler class: Becky Dick at beckydick.wl@gmail.com, Bill Kealey at billkealey@gmail.com, Dee Kueberth at dkueberth.lafayette@gmail.com, or Tom Melville at care572@outlook.com. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

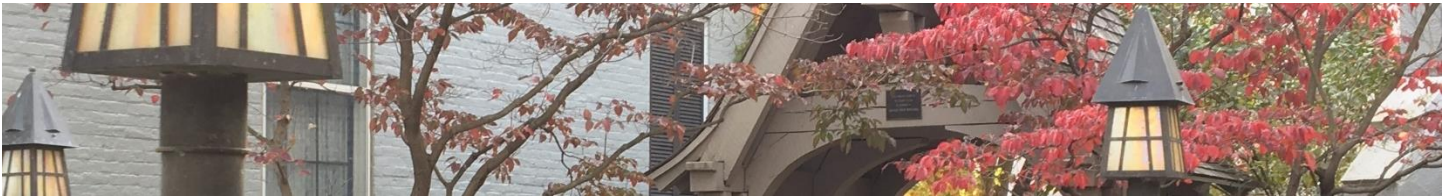
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Save the Date

- **Sunday, Oct. 2, 5 p.m. – Blessing of the Animals**
- **Wednesday, Oct. 12, 12 noon – Noontime Concert**
- **Sunday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Healing & Holy Eucharist**
- **Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. – Godly Play Training**
- **Sunday, Oct. 30, 5:30 p.m. – Spooky Music & Fun for all ages**