

# THE *Eagle* NEWSLETTER

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Indiana | September 2022



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LAFAYETTE



## ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

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### Parish Staff & Leadership

**Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows**, Bishop

**Bradley Pace**, Rector

**Gretchen Freese**, Associate Rector

**Andrea Arsene**, Curate

**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 Curate

One of the joys we have as Episcopalians is using The Book of Common Prayer which frames the liturgy for the communal experience of worship. Updated over the centuries, its roots go back nearly 475 years to the first English prayer book that gave us a unified way to worship and pray while holding space for personal differences in theology and piety. The BCP also offers a daily guide for our personal devotional life in the section called The Daily Office.

And as the summer begins to fade and Labor Day nears, I am drawn to one of the prayers listed for Compline, the final Daily Office that invites us to close out our day in conversation with God before we go to sleep.

This is the prayer. *O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, 134).*

Each of our lives are wrapped up in the lives of others. It is dramatically illustrated when at midnight, a person is rushed to the hospital emergency department. Their chance of survival is directly dependent upon the work of paramedics, janitors, sterile processors, professors, nurses, doctors, radiology techs, pharmacists, security workers and so

many others. Our dependence on the toil of others was most recently revealed as the supply chain collapsed under the weight of the pandemic, and we waited for items we once took for granted.

This prayer at compline never fails to move me with the revelation that while I may be shielded from some trouble because of wealth, location, education or a host of other things, many are not. And when we pray for them, may we be reminded to express to them our gratitude and work to shield them from trouble also. – Andrea Arsene, [andrea@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:andrea@stjohns-laf.org)

## From the New Curate

Like most of life's journeys, my path to St. John's as a curate followed a long and winding road. (Sometimes I quote the *other* John and Paul.) Faith was always an important facet of life in my family. Mom and Dad took their faith seriously and lived out their commitment to serving God. My sister and I watched them serve the congregation at the First Baptist Church as devoted lay people in myriad ways, and their spirit of generosity and servanthood made an impression on us. Our parents' desire to know Jesus in a deeper way inspired them to form community with Christians of all stripes, and many of my childhood memories revolve around those house church meetings where praise, prayer, and care for one another abounded. Even though my walk with Jesus diverged from theirs as I got older, I have always been assured of their prayers and support.

My first call was to serve the Lord in the classroom of Frankfort High School. There I preached to my students about Spanish vocabulary, verb tenses, and culture. I tried to model God's unconditional love for my students and colleagues during my twenty-seven years there. There was certainly ample opportunity to stand with the marginalized and the dispossessed and to speak truth to power when necessary. Roughly 20 years

into my tenure, the Holy Spirit began to tug on my heart. I started to sense a call to ordained ministry, a call to preach the Gospel and lead God's people to meet Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. With God's help I managed to complete my Master of Divinity degree at Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation while teaching full time. I completed my field education at the Episcopal Church of All Saints in Indianapolis, and I served as deacon there following my ordination in December 2021.

My family sustained me during the ordination process with their love, grace, and no small amount of forbearance. My spouse, Shelbi, and our children Elliott, Matt, Luna, and Kate supported me through each phase by completing housework and other chores while I wrote papers, occasionally traveled to Chicago for class, and served at Mass at All Saints. All of us are relieved that my degree is finished and that the bishop and the people of St. John's have granted me the chance to find my footing as a priest by serving as your curate. Thanks be to God! I can now focus on the work of ministry without studying semi-obscure points of Anglican theology for research papers and discussion forums!

I am looking forward to getting to know everyone in this wonderful community of faith. I hope to hear your stories of faith, growth, and the goodness of God as we worship together and labor alongside one another doing the work God has given us to do. I have no doubt that I have a great deal to learn about the life and work of an Episcopal priest, but I'm sure St. John's is a splendid place for that to happen. I am humbled by and grateful for this opportunity. Know that you are in my daily prayers as we begin our time together. I can't wait to be surprised by what God has in store for us! - Jason Fortner, [Jason@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:Jason@stjohns-laf.org).

## September Highlights

There are so many activities going on in September that I wanted to highlight a few. First, Christian Formation for children and youth will begin at 9:15 a.m. on Sept. 11. We will begin together for storytelling and then separate into two rooms. We are looking for more volunteers to help with the Sunday morning Children's Christian Formation. If you are interested, please contact Pr. Gretchen [gretchen@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:gretchen@stjohns-laf.org). We will also be starting a one Sunday evening a month Christian Formation event that will include supper, education time and worship. Please mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 25 at 5:30 p.m. On the Sundays that we are having the evening education time, there will not be Sunday morning Christian Formation.

September not only brings the beginning of the programming year, but on Sept. 11, we will welcome Father Bradley and his family back from sabbatical while saying farewell and Godspeed to Mother Andrea as she will begin her rectorship at All Saints, Indianapolis, on Sept. 18. Morning Christian Formation will begin on Sept. 11 and Sept. 18 with the Evening Christian Formation beginning on Sept. 25. The 10:30 worship service on Sept. 11 will be followed by a picnic at Columbia Park to celebrate Mother Andrea's ministry with us and to welcome back the Elder Pace family.

September 18 will mark another beginning as we restart the 8 a.m. Rite 1 in person service. We will continue to have 9 a.m. Morning Prayer Zoom and 10:30 Rite 2 in person worship services as well.

So, a quick look at what our Sundays will look like starting Sunday, September 18 is:

- 8 a.m. - Rite 1 worship in the sanctuary
- 9 a.m. - Morning Prayer on Zoom
- 9:15 a.m. - Christian Formation for ages 3- middle school
- 10:30 a.m. - Rite 2 worship in the sanctuary

On Sunday, Sept. 25, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., families with children and youth are invited to gather in the commons for a meal at 5:30 followed by a time of formation and connection at 6. We will conclude with a half-hour worship service at 7 p.m. that all are welcome to attend. During our evening together, we will invite students to make backpack tags, learn about the Bible and how to use it, and focus a short time on a Scripture passage that will help us begin our journey about learning about people we should know from the Bible.

On Monday, Sept. 26 at 10:00 a.m., we will begin our weekly Bible Study focusing on 50 people we should know from the Bible. The format for this Bible study will be more lecture like than discussion based. I will hand out a syllabus with the Scripture passages for October through December on that Monday morning. Please note the change in day and time. So, the 9 a.m. Tuesday morning study is moving to 10 a.m. on Mondays.

We could really use more volunteers to help with Christian Formation and with youth group. We will continue our joint youth group with Good Shepherd, joining Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Our hope is that together, we will get more junior and senior high youth involved and have more fun together learning about our Christian faith.

May the love of God surround you and encourage you as we begin this programming year and as we continue in ministry together. - Rev. Dr. Gretchen Freese, [gretchen@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:gretchen@stjohns-laf.org)

## Fruits and vegetables can help our health, as our souls prosper

*I pray that above all that you may prosper and be in good health,  
even as your soul prospers.*

After a long winter and a brief spring, the summer fruits and vegetables are ripening and coming to market. The joy of a perfectly ripe peach, with its juice dripping down my arm is one of the few messy moments I look forward to each year. Or what about a garden or farmers'-market fresh sweet carrot? I'm an advocate of washing our veggies. But I can't resist just wiping a tomato on my jeans, sprinkling a little salt, and taking a delicious, sun-warmed bite on the way home, offered with a prayer of thanksgiving and hope that I'll be just fine like I was when I was 7.

It is easy to eat 700 calories in a burger or milkshake. But fresh vegetables and fruits provide a storehouse of fiber, vitamins, and minerals without a dense calorie load. So, for a change, allow yourself to become beguiled by their vibrant color, fragrant aroma, delicious taste, varying textures and crisp sounds this season offers. Yes, I'm recommending that we yield to their temptation as our health allows. Winter will come and hard choices will need to be made. But for now, let's find new fruits and vegetables to enjoy in new ways to prosper and be in good health, even as our soul prospers.

### St. John's Financial Summary July 2022

<b>INCOME</b>	Jan-July	Budget	% of Budget
Pledge Income	\$225,535.00	\$386,450.00	58.4%
Operating Income	\$53,633.10	\$105,569.93	50.8%
Non-Operation Income	\$22,295.13	\$33,406.23	66.7%
Transfer Income	\$13,398.00	\$43,500.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$312,401.23</b>	<b>\$568,926.16</b>	<b>54.9%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Outreach	\$37,493.82	\$85,796.00	43.7%
Program	\$8,549.48	\$21,600.00	39.6%
Administration	\$742.21	\$4,000.00	16.9%
Personnel	\$190,154.63	\$310,131.24	61.3%
Office	\$11,205.67	\$26,650.00	42.0%
Property	\$79,439.23	\$120,348.92	66.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$327,585.04</b>	<b>\$568,926.16</b>	<b>57.6%</b>
<b>Net Income (loss)</b>	<b>\$-15,183.81</b>		

## St. John's Episcopal Church

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## Save the Dates

### Sept. 11

Christian Formation begins at 9:15 a.m.  
Picnic at Columbia Park, following 10:30 a.m. service at St. John's.

### Sept. 18

8 a.m. Rite 1 worship service returns.

### Sept. 25

Youth and family evening, and worship at 5:30 p.m.

### Sept. 26

Bible Study begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Commons at St. John's