



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAFAYETTE

THE *Eagle* NEWSLETTER

St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette, Indiana | January 2023



ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

600 Ferry Street · Lafayette, IN 47901-1142
765.742.4079 · www.stjohns-laf.org
stjohns@stjohns-laf.org · [@stjohnslaf](https://twitter.com/stjohnslaf)

Parish Staff & Leadership

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop

Bradley Pace, 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

The Feast of the Epiphany marks the day the Magi visited the Holy Family. But the Greek word for Epiphany means “manifestation,” and thus, along with Christmas, Epiphany is the time we specifically recognize the God has come in human flesh, that God has been made manifest to us. More than that, Epiphany reminds us that we can find God all around us, that God is at work in the world. Where will you find God's glory? Where will you see God's face? Where will you experience God's grace and love? In the new year, I would encourage you to reflect on where you experienced God each day. If you are like me, you can sometimes feel overwhelmed by everything that has to get done, by all the normal and extraordinary stresses of life, or even by global events. But God shows up all around us in both the sublime and the mundane moments of life. Keep your eyes up. Keep your ears and hearts open. Look and listen for the God who is already in your midst and you will not be disappointed.

In the new year, we will have some specific opportunities to discern God's will for our lives and for our community's mission and ministry. Stay tuned for more information coming soon. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

From the Curate

The Feast of the Holy Innocents

While the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, perhaps better known as Christmas, was an obvious liturgical high point in December, it was far from the only feast day on the calendar that week. December 26 honors Stephen, the first deacon and first martyr. On December 27, we celebrate the patronal feast for our church, the feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Finally, on December 28, the Church honors the Holy Innocents.

We find the story of the Holy Innocents in the Gospel according to Matthew. In chapter 2, we read that a group of magi, wise men learned in astrology and other arts, arrive at King Herod's court in Jerusalem and ask if he knows the location of the child who was recently born King of the Jews. Herod is suitably disturbed by this question because at the moment, he is king of the Jews. He consults his own cadre of wise men and informs his visitors that this new king should have been born in Bethlehem. After the magi reveal to Herod the timing of this important birth, he sends them on their way to Bethlehem, asking that they return to him with information about the child so that he might go pay him homage as well.

Of course, Herod actually is afraid that this child born King of the Jews will supplant him. He wishes to retain his power, wealth, and privilege more than anything. So, when the magi fail to bring Herod news about Jesus' whereabouts because they were warned by God to not assist him, he goes on a bloody rampage. He orders the murder of every child two years old or younger in and around Bethlehem to try to wipe out the new king. These children are the Holy Innocents honored by the Church on December 28 each year.

Jesus is not among the children sacrificed on the altar of Herod's ambition because God had warned Joseph in a dream to take Jesus and Mary and seek

refuge in Egypt. Thus, in Matthew's Gospel the Holy Family become refugees fleeing their homeland to escape violence. It is only after Herod dies that Jesus and his family return from exile in Egypt and make their home in Nazareth.

Holy Innocents is a challenging feast to observe right after Christmas. It stands in stark contrast to the commercial excesses of the holidays and the way we often turn our attention inward, toward our own families. It also is troubling given the terror and death inherent in the events the feast commemorates. Yet, I believe it is an important day in the church year because it forces us to remember that the destruction of innocent children continues today. Families are still fleeing from their homelands and seeking safety in foreign countries. Systematic racism, discrimination, and economic exploitation continue to claim the lives of children in this country and around the world. Politicians of certain persuasions seek to use refugees and immigrants as pawns to retain and solidify their power. While they don't murder children directly like Herod did, the effect of their policies and disdainful inaction often results in their deaths nonetheless.

In the biblical account, God intervenes twice by dreams, once with the magi and once with Joseph. Today it falls to us to intervene on behalf of the marginalized and endangered. How can we stop this modern slaughter of innocents? In addition to prayer, we can take more direct action. We can be aware of these important justice issues and be informed about them. We can call our legislators, write letters, and lobby for better, more equitable, more humane economic and immigration policies. We can support local organizations that combat the effects of unjust systems. We can donate money and time to Lafayette Urban Ministries, Food Finders, and the weekly food pantry we host.

Another crucial way we can help is to be open to serving the people God puts in our path. Bradley and I spend several hours a week helping local

people in need. They call or email the church asking for assistance with rent or utilities. They drop by during the day looking for food and housing. While St. John's is not primarily a social services agency, we are called to help however we can. Our primary means of doing so is the rector's discretionary fund. The money is used to help our neighbors in Greater Lafayette and to meet the needs of members of our worshipping community. There is a line item in the annual budget that provides for this fund, but it is never enough to meet all the needs that we encounter. We have helped over 40 families in one way or another since August.

So, while Bradley and I hope you will follow the prompting of the spirit to personally aid individuals you meet, we also hope that you will consider periodically giving to the discretionary fund so that

we can continue our work on behalf of the entire St. John's community. You can add a note to a check specifying a contribution to the fund or easily funnel your online donations there as well. Supporting the rector's discretionary fund, in addition to the other suggestions above, is a concrete way to care for the innocents among us as we pray from the collect for the Holy Innocents: Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. –
Jason Fortner, jason@stjohns-laf.org

Support Those in Need through the Rector's Discretionary Fund

The Rector's Discretionary Account is a pool of money that the St. John's clergy use to help members of St. John's or of the community at large in times of unexpected or emergency need. The account is partially funded through the St. John's budget (\$900 per year), honoraria given to the clergy for funerals or weddings, and loose plate offerings, but this rarely covers the need. Recently, we have received numerous requests for assistance, especially for utilities, and the need has far outstripped the available funds.

If you would like to give to the Rector's Discretionary Account, you may do so through the Realm online giving portal, through the Sunday offering, or by mail. Please note "Rector's Discretionary Account" with your gift. And thank you in advance for your generosity. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Annual Meeting Tentatively set for Sunday, February 5

The St. John's Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 5. While we will be worshipping in person, we may choose to have the meeting via Zoom to encourage wider participation. If the meeting is held via Zoom, we will hold a parish celebration and ministry fair on another date. Either way, look for some fun surprises to come ahead of the meeting.

Reports are due by Friday, January 18. Reports should be sent to St. John's Parish Administrator Teresa Lohrman at teresa@stjohns-laf.org.

If you have questions, please call the office at 765-742-4079. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*



Jubilee Christmas 2023

Thanks to everyone who donated and volunteered!!! Thanks especially to our organizing team: Mary Kay McCauley, Georgia Brist, Maggie McClure, and Angela Mosier from St. John's and Cathy Barron and Hilary Cooke from Good Shepherd.

The Christian Story as a Call to Vocation Tuesday evenings, 6-8 p.m., beginning January 17

Join Bradley on Tuesday nights from 6-8 p.m. from January 17 through February 21 for dinner and discussion of the Christian faith and life. We will look at the Christian story from Genesis through Revelation focusing on our vocation as stewards of God's good creation. For those of you who are new to St. John's or to the Episcopal Church, we will also discuss the way Episcopalians approach theology and Scripture. For more information, email Bradley at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or call the church office at 765-742-4079. – Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

Intergenerational Christian Formation—Holy Eucharist Sunday, January 22, 5-7 p.m.

Join with members and friends of all ages for a fun and formative evening. We will share dinner, learn about the Holy Eucharist (or Communion), bake bread, and worship together. For more information, email Bradley at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or call the church office at 765-742-4079. – Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

Deaths

Jay Mermoud, November 17, 2022
Friend of St. John's Parish

Nursery Care Returns January 15

We are happy to announce that we are planning to reopen the St. John's nursery on Sunday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon beginning January 15. Nursery care was suspended in early 2020, and during that time, our original care providers became unavailable. While children and adults of all ages are always welcome in worship, we know that this is helpful for some families. For more information, please contact the church office at 765-742-4079. — *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org.*



The Greater Lafayette Episcopal Youth Group held a lock-in in early December. In addition to shopping for Jubilee Christmas (we purchased over 85,000 sheets of toilet paper!), we played games and worshipped late into the night!

The 2023 Vestry Election

Sunday, January 15

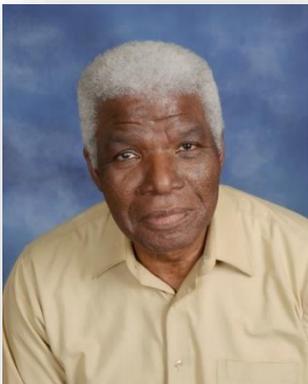
The 2023 Vestry election will take place on Sunday, January 15 before and after each service. If you are unable to vote in person for sufficient reasons but would like to register a vote, please contact the parish office at 765-742-4079.

Vestry Nominee Standards and Expectations

In addition to National and Diocesan Canons, the St. John's parish by-laws set the following minimal criteria for membership on the Vestry: "Vestry members must be a member in good standing of the parish and qualified elector. In addition, the parish by-laws require that at least two-thirds of the Vestry be confirmed adults in good standing."

In addition to the above, the Vestry has endorsed additional expectations for each member serving in this ministry. Vestry members are expected to:

- Attend worship frequently and regularly.
- Commit to praying daily for the rector, wardens, and fellow vestry members.
- Commit to one opportunity for spiritual growth and development each year (such as joining a study group, going on retreat, attending a conference, reading an appropriate book, etc.).
- Commit to proportional giving for themselves, with tithing as a goal.
- Agree to support special functions of the parish, and to be present at same whenever possible.
- Attend the annual Vestry retreat.
- Agree to chair or serve on a parish committee.
- Assume responsibility for securing the building and counting the collection after Sunday services.



George Moore

I have been a parishioner at St. John's since arriving in July 2004. I have continually served in various administrative roles, assist in: Christian education, outreach, and worship services. I serve to better understand the Christian ethos, to reflect introspectively on its meaning for my life, as I strive to be an evolving example within the world.



Jack Sullivan

I am a cradle Episcopalian; and a member of St. John's for several years. A graduate of the University of Saint Francis and Saint Meinrad School of Theology and Seminary, I currently reside in Lafayette and work for DA Lubricants in Lebanon. I enjoy participating in the rich liturgical and educational life at St. John's. Often, I serve as an acolyte, LEM, or lector at the eight o'clock liturgy.

Jennifer Stein

I was born and raised in West Lafayette, worshipping at St. John's with my family until graduating from Purdue, when I left to work in Dayton, Ohio. From there I moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to work at Saturn, then Vanderbilt Medical Center. I moved back to West Lafayette in 2021, working remotely for Vanderbilt, then retired in August 2022.

It's been a blessing to be a part of life at St. John's again. I've enjoyed helping in the office, serving with the Altar Guild, and taking care of the linens. Recently I learned to serve as an acolyte. One of the many things I love about St. John's is our sharing with the Lafayette community, and I've enjoyed participating with everyone in several of those ministries.

My children are two senior dogs (black and white mystery mutts); and I also claim four nephews and one grand-niece, thanks to my sister and her family. Other than taking care of the pups and keeping up with a variety of daily exercise routines, I've been using my new-found retirement freedom to finally start remodeling the house and get back into cooking. Learning Spanish is my big goal for 2023.



For this election, we are electing three (3) candidates for three (3) open vestry positions. National and Diocesan Church Canons specify that eligible voters must be over 16 years of age; have their baptism recorded in our parish register; have taken part regularly in worship; have received Holy Communion at least three times in the past year; engaged in works of charity; and have been a contributor of record to the operating budget of the parish.



More Than Enough The 2023 Annual Giving Campaign

The theme for this year's campaign — More Than Enough — connects directly to some of Jesus' most famous miracles. In the Gospels, Jesus takes a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish, and then he feeds an incredible number of people. A key point in each of the stories is that whenever someone brings an offering to Jesus, he

blesses it. That blessing makes all the difference. It reminds us that there is more going on in these stories than food, more at work than our offerings alone. In each of the stories, the blessing turns a small act of generosity into a dramatic act of God's love and care. It also reminds us that whatever we offer to God, whatever we share in Christ's name, so long as God blesses it, there will be more than enough.

Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge to this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

Mikhail & Karen Atallah
 John & Elizabeth Barrett
 Jac & Kathie Basden
 Jim & Sandy Bodenmiller
 Sally Boniece
 Vicki Bower
 Rick & Carla Bowerman
 Sue Bracey
 Karl & Nancy Brandt
 Lloyd Brewer
 Randy & Georgia Brist
 Kathryn Brownell
 Tom Brush & Whitney Walton
 Anna Burman
 Mary Ann Burns
 Steve & Sally Byrn
 Mary Campbell
 Greg Buzzard & Hilary Cooke
 Nancy Dandrow
 Jamie & Kirsten Davis
 Dennis & Kristin Dell
 Brien & Becky Dick
 Alyce R Dressler
 Sue Eichhorn
 Gayle Ennis

Sharon Evander
 Jason & Shelbi Fortner
 Carolin Frueh
 Sally A Hastings
 Ed & Carol Helgerman
 Susan Hockings & Joe Kappock
 Kristine Holtvedt
 Linda Jeffries
 Bruce & Kathy Johnson
 Bill & Kristine Kealey
 Kaye Kleine-Ahlbrandt
 John & Dorinda Kueberth
 Robert Kurtz
 Brent & Elizabeth Ladd
 Keith & Samantha LeGrand
 Marilyn & Randy Leigh
 Carol L'Homme
 John & Deb Lindenlaub
 Karen Lohmeyer
 Jim & Shirley Marciniak
 Caryl Matthews & Don Nead
 Ray & Mary McCauley
 Greg & Maggie McClure
 Bill & Olynn McNerney
 Roy Meeks

Thomas & Sarah Melville
 Stewart & Julie Miller
 Julia Mills
 George Moore
 Nate & Angela Mosier
 Alison Moss
 Courtenay & Dave Murakowski
 Lou Nash
 Heather Johnston Nicholson
 Merrill & Katie Nielsen
 George & Pamela Ogorzaly
 Bradley Pace & Katie Elder
 Amy J Paget
 Julie Peretin
 Don Pilcher
 Raymond Polstra
 Jean Redd
 David Riesbeck
 Paul & Jo Roberts
 Stuart & Bonnie Robertson
 Mary Anne Robinson
 Marilyn Howland Ross & Jim Ross
 Jim & Carolyn Roth
 Ken & Catherine Sandhage

Lise Schools
Wes Shook
Charlie Shook
Steve & Rachel Shook
Bob & Helen Slagel
Tom & Sharon Smith

Dennis & Adelia Sorge
Cynthia Stauffacher
Jennifer Stein
Jack Sullivan
Frank & Kirsten Szendrey
Dave Brent Topp

Kyle & Stephanie Tribbett
Joseph William Vanable
Ross & Charlene Watson
Mary Weeks & Pete Palfrey
Ben Wollenburg

Names included are for those members or families who have pledged to the Annual Campaign as of December 16. If your or your family's name should be included and is not, please contact the church office at 765-742-4079 or teresa@stjohns-laf.org.

Give and Save

Some of us have found this an excellent way to contribute to charities like St John's. If this applies to you, we encourage you to consider it.

By Fidelity Learning Center

If you are looking to make a non-deductible donation to charity (St John's), you may want to consider a QCD.

If you are age 72 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your tax-deferred retirement accounts.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable directly to a qualified charity, as described in the QCD provision in the Internal Revenue Code. Amounts distributed as a QCD can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to \$100,000. The QCD is excluded from your taxable income. This is not the case with a regular withdrawal from an IRA, even if you use the money later on to make a charitable contribution. If you take a withdrawal, the funds would be counted

as taxable income even if you later offset that income with the charitable contribution deduction.

Why is this distinction important? If you take the RMD as income, instead of as a QCD, your RMD will count as taxable income. This additional taxable income may push you into a higher tax bracket and may also reduce your eligibility for certain tax credits and deductions. To eliminate or reduce the impact of RMD income, charitably inclined investors may want to consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). For example, your taxable income helps determine the amount of your Social Security benefits that are subject to taxes. Keeping your taxable income level lower may also help reduce your potential exposure to the Medicare surtax. – *Submitted by the Finance Committee*

St. John's Financial Summary

December 2022

INCOME	Jan-Nov.	Operating Budget	% of Budget
Operating Income	\$406,720.13	\$492,019.93	82.7%
Non-Operation Income	\$36,110.93	\$33,406.23	108.1%
Transfer Income	\$31,046.00	\$43,500.00	71.4%
TOTAL INCOME	\$473,877.06	\$568,926.16	83.3%
EXPENSES			
Outreach	\$65,344.02	\$85,796.00	76.2%
Program	\$13,809.10	\$21,600.00	63.9%
Administration	\$2,224.99	\$4,400.00	50.6%
Personnel	\$307,010.58	\$310,131.24	99.0%
Office	\$22,271.05	\$26,650.00	83.6%
Property	\$120,167.17	\$120,348.92	99.8%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$530,826.91	\$568,926.16	93.3%
Net Income (loss)	\$-56,949.85		

Making a bigger impact: Donate stock to St. John's

Gifted stock is a smart way to give. A donation of appreciated stock can be up to 20 percent more valuable than selling and donating the cash, allowing you to make a bigger impact and save on your taxes.

Gifted stock avoids federal capital gains taxes and most donors can also claim an income tax deduction for the stock's full market value (state and local income tax deductions may also be available in some areas).

When you give appreciated stocks directly to St. John's, your gift can be up to 20 percent larger

because you avoid the taxes you'd incur from selling and donating the cash. This means more money going to the work that you support.

Whether you want to do it yourself or get help from your financial advisor, donating stock takes as little as 10 minutes. Please contact St. John's Parish Administrator Teresa Lohrman, teresa@stjohns-laf.org, for details about gift of stock delivery instructions. – Submitted by the Finance Committee

Why aren't people coming back? -Peter W. Marty

Dear friend,

I am going to assume you're a positive person who enjoys people, radiates goodness, and thrives on hope. I'm also going to assume you're familiar with discouragement. So, tell me if I have this much right: sometime in the last year you looked out over the sanctuary and congregation you love, and you wondered, What happened to the people? Why did so many kiss congregational life good-bye?

If you've contacted any of these absent parishioners, you may well have learned that they're doing just fine. Their weekends are active and full. They either endured COVID or escaped it altogether. They sound healthy and well. The topic of church may have surfaced briefly when you spoke, but it didn't seem to be very high on their priority list. So what should you do?

Well, keep the doors of your church and heart wide open. Don't write off anyone's place in your community unless they insist on it. Restarting a lapsed habit of any kind, remember, can be more difficult than creating and cultivating a brand-new one.

I wouldn't overanalyze why all sorts of people aren't showing up. Your church may be as good as any. Let's not forget the growing secularization of culture and rising religious indifference staring us all in the face. Much of the public perceives faith as having limited social value. "We now live in a time," says Andrew Root, "where the very idea that God is real and present in our lives is no longer accepted. Indeed, it's widely contested." Skepticism about the benefits of religious community has caused many people to quit looking to the church for personal meaning or identity.

Because you are a person of faith who leans into Christian community, however, there are some things to keep in mind when you're discouraged.

First, remember that God has given the church a bigger and better hope than what the world lives by. How you communicate this beautiful idea that we follow a light brighter than the flicker of our own little bulb is up to you.

Second, don't forget to love your Christian community as you find it, not merely as you wish it were. That's Dietrich Bonhoeffer's idea, not mine. He also reminds us that there's no way to know Christ apart from Christian community. *Christus als*

Gemeinde existierend—Christ exists as community. Anybody can talk up their love for Jesus. But the church is the one place where we actually meet the living and present Christ.

Third, remind yourself that your church needs to welcome and accept people for who they are—if it is to be any kind of magnet in your community—and then love

them into who they get to become in Christ.

Fourth, keep looking for ways to grow and share the bubbling energy that ought to be evident in your church when people come together around a shared purpose. Émile Durkheim coined the term collective effervescence to describe what happens when communal gatherings foster a deep religious experience.

Finally, delight in every sign of your congregation's faithfulness. Fixating on who's not in the pews is a worthless and suffocating exercise. There is no convincing anybody of their need for Christian community. They have to want it. And their best chance for discovering that desire may come from observing the joy that's in you.

Copyright © 2022 by *the Christian Century*. Reprinted by permission from the December 1, 2022 issue of *the Christian Century*. Subscriptions: \$65/yr. from P. O. Box 429, Congers, NY 10920-0429. (800) 208-4097. christiancentury.org

Keep the doors of your church and heart wide open. Don't write off anyone's place in your community unless they insist on it. Restarting a lapsed habit of any kind, remember, can be more difficult than creating and cultivating a brand-new one.

St. John's Episcopal Church

600 Ferry Street
Lafayette, IN 47901-1142

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization U.S.
Postage PAID
Permit No. 104
Lafayette, Indiana

www.stjohns-laf.org | @stjohnslaf



Epiphany Pageant Sunday, January 8, at St. John's

St. John's will host an Epiphany Pageant of lessons and hymns on Sunday, January 8, with our friends from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:30 a.m. All children ages 3 through the eighth grade are invited to participate. We will have a rehearsal at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 7, at St. John's. Please contact Jason Fortner at jason@stjohns-laf.org for more information.