



ST. JOHN'S LAFAYETTE

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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

Introducing Discipleship Groups

Like many of the words we use in church, the word “discernment” has too often come to mean discernment for ordained ministry. While there’s nothing wrong with discerning a call to ordained ministry, discernment is really about finding how God is at work in the world and how we might get involved with that work. Where do I see God? What is God doing? How is God calling me to use my gifts? Who is God calling me to be? What is God calling me to do? These are all questions of discernment.

When I came to St. John’s ten years ago, I immediately noticed something interesting about the congregation. Many of you were “in discernment.” Sure, there were some folks discerning a call to ordained ministry. But many of you were discerning what to do now that you were empty nesters, retired, finishing grad school, considering marriage or having children, contemplating a job change, and more. But because

we are called to live out the baptismal covenant in our everyday lives, because we should be looking for God and listening for God's call all the time, these are also questions of discernment.

I have often wondered what it would be like to do this discernment work intentionally. Right before the pandemic, I was invited to join a small group of clergy to do this kind of work for ourselves. We formed a "Discipleship Group" (a group modeled on the work of Christopher Martin in his book *the Restoration Project*). Together, we focused on six core practices of the Christian life — prayer, worship, service, stewardship, study, and discernment. The group functioned as a kind of accountability group. We routinely asked one another: Which of these practices do you need to emphasize in your life right now? Are you following through on your commitments to these practices? How can we support you in fulfilling your commitments? How can we call you back to the work you have committed yourself to do? And while discernment was singled out as one of the practices, the entire process was shot through with the questions I mentioned above. Where do we see God? What is God doing? How is God calling each of us to use our gifts? Who is God calling each of us to be? What is God calling each of us to do?

Over the next several weeks, look for more information about creating and joining "Discipleship Groups" at St. John's. Groups commit to meeting "for a season" (a set number of meetings or period of time). And while there is a process and a framework, groups can meet in any number of ways (weekly, monthly/via Zoom or in-person, etc.) and focus their energy as will be most helpful for them. My hope is that this will be an ongoing part of our community's way of being — an ongoing part of discerning where God is at work in our lives and in the world and how to join God in that work.

In the meantime, if you are interested, please reach out to me for more information or to get started. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Discipleship Group Vows

Members read vows for the following common practices – pray, worship, serve, learn, give, work and join.

By God's grace, I will set aside time regularly for prayer, "praying to God in secret" (Mt. 6:6), working toward twenty minutes a day.

By God's grace, I will praise God, offering myself and receiving God's love and blessings with the rest of my Christian community in weekly "worship in the beauty of holiness" (Ps. 96:9).

By God's grace, I will endeavor to serve others everywhere I can, working toward giving an hour a week in service, remembering Jesus says "surely as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).

By God's grace, I will "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" (BCP p. 236) the Holy Scriptures, trusting they are "inspired by God" for my "training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16), working toward knowledge of the entire book.

By God's grace, I will be a good steward of my money, working toward giving ten percent to the church and those in need, mindful that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mt. 6:21).

By God's grace, I will do the work God sends me to do this week, remembering Jesus says "as the Father has sent me, so I send you" (Jn. 20:21) entrusting my Discipleship Group to test and support that work.

By God's grace, we have joined ourselves to one another as this Discipleship Group, and we commit to meeting regularly for this season of our lives, believing that "if we love one another, God lives in us, and God's love is perfected in us" (1 Jn. 4:12).

Thank You from Father Bradley

Thank you so much for the wonderful cards and notes of encouragement. Thank you also for the generous gifts to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Your generosity continues to provide relief and support for members of our community. I have been blessed to be the Rector of St. John's and to work in ministry with you for the past 10 years. I look forward to continuing worshipping, sharing God's love, and making Christ known with you. –
Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org

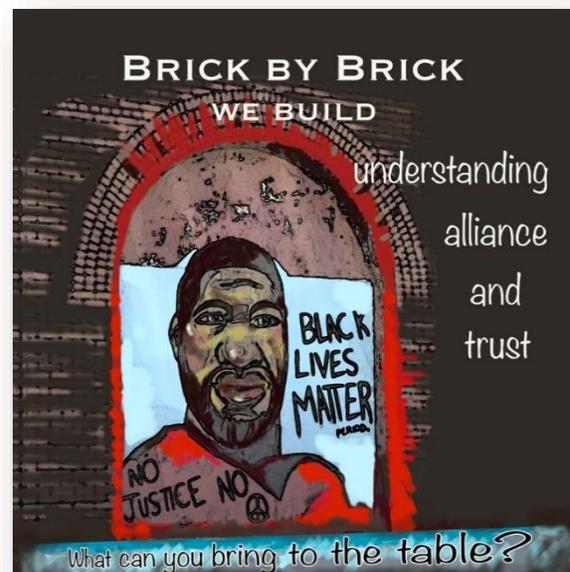


From the Curate

One of the components of the mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis is that we Episcopalians will “stand with the vulnerable and marginalized to transform systems of injustice.” Part of that focus is working to establish racial justice in our state. Our rector, Bradley Pace, is a member of the Racial Justice and Education Taskforce for the diocese. I am a member of a less formal group of people working for racial justice.

After George Floyd’s murder by police in May 2020, a mural in his likeness appeared on the building catty corner to St. John’s that houses the Lafayette Ballet Company and School. Shortly after its completion, the mural was defaced multiple times by racist hate groups. A small cadre of citizens concerned both with the preservation of the mural and the pursuit of racial justice coalesced and began to meet regularly.

When I joined St. John’s staff in August 2022, I began to attend these meetings. I wanted to help the church stay in the loop about the upkeep of the mural, to express our support for its care, and to see how we might contribute to the cause of racial justice, truth telling and reconciliation. Since I joined, the loosely defined George Floyd group has



been growing in numbers and in the scope of its mission.

Members of the association include clergy from several local churches, people connected to local government, various professionals and other people sympathetic to the cause. We meet on the second Friday of each month at noon to check in, discuss how we might collaborate and to plan some coordinated events. We are not only concerned with raising awareness of racial justice issue. We want to be sure the history of people of color in our community is preserved and celebrated. We are taking steps to ensure the continued care of the

mural and to help it be a focal point for justice. We seek to support any organizations and community leaders whose values are in line with our own. Each meeting we seem to establish new connections between one another and the institutions we represent.

The George Floyd mural group definitely is a work in progress, but we are progressing. If you are interested in attending a meeting to get the feel of what's happening and exploring how you may be able to contribute, please reach out to me via email

or see me after services. The culture of the group is such that we understand the availability of the members of our band will fluctuate. People attend meetings as they are able, but each time we get together we are surprised by the helpful connections that we make and excited by the possibilities of what lies ahead. Working together we will move toward a more just and equitable community for everyone. -
Jason Fortner, jason@stjohns-laf.org

The Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships Program

Recently, members of St. John's leadership joined other congregations from the Dioceses of Indianapolis and Northern Indiana in the Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships program. The Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships project is a nine-to-twelve-month program funded by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Thriving Congregations Initiative and is open to every Episcopal congregation in the state of Indiana. Drawing on tools, training and coaching from Partners for Sacred Places and Indiana Landmarks, participating congregations learn to:

- Strengthen their ability to identify and evaluate new ideas for using the church's building and grounds to further its ministry;
- Deepen their capacity to cultivate relationships with community organizations that may wish to use the church building in furthering their work;
- Improve their ability to speak about the impact of their ministry and presence on their community; and
- Strategically focus their decision-making about maintaining, renovating, or expanding their physical assets.

In May, we will meet at St. John's with program leaders and potential community partners to discuss concrete ways we might leverage our building and other assets to improve our community.

I am grateful to Jason Fortner, Bruce Johnson, Greg McClure, Bill McInerney, and Julie Peretin who are participating on behalf of St. John's.
- *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohnslaf.org*



Black and Gold: Celebrating Black History at Purdue Walking Tour

Special Session: Sunday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.

The College of Liberal Arts Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives are excited to invite you to our second Black and Gold: Celebrating Black history at Purdue walking tour. This year's tour will take on a new route and explore more of Purdue's rich Black student history. Come and join us as we explore our campus history, celebrate accomplishments, and actively engage in moving forward together.

St. John's members are invited to a special session (not included on the flyer) on at 1 p.m. on Sunday, February 26. There is no need to sign-up for the tour. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

Lenten Home Eucharists

St. John's will be having potluck meals and home Eucharists on Wednesdays in March (1, 8, 22, & 29) from 6-8 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be in St. John's Commons. Please join with your St. John's friends for these intimate meals, conversations, and worship. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

- Wednesday, March 1 Host: Greg & Maggie McClure — 1667 Melrose Place, West Lafayette, IN 47906-4906
- Wednesday, March 8 Host: Becky & Brien Dick — 15 Flowermound Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906-9050
- Wednesday, March 22 Host: TBD
- Wednesday, March 29 Host: TBD

Our conversations will center around Kate Bowler's Lenten devotion "Bless the Lent we Actually Have." For more information or to volunteer to host, please contact Bradley Pace. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

'Bless the Lent We Actually Have'

Online Lenten Formation with Chapel of the Good Shepherd

During Lent, Good Shepherd will host online discussions using Kate Bowler's Lenten devotional "Bless the Lent We Actually Have." The devotional — which can be found at katebowler.com/blessthislent/ and used privately or in a group — includes scripture, discussion questions, and opportunities to reflect on our Lenten journey. Hilary Cooke will lead meetings on Tuesday nights beginning February 28 at 7 p.m. For more information go to www.goodshep.org or contact Hilary Cooke. – *Hilary Cooke, hilary@goodshep.org*

CLA DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES PRESENTS:

BLACK AND GOLD:

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY AT PURDUE
WALKING TOUR



The College of Liberal Arts Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives invites you to our Black History at Purdue Walking Tour this February.

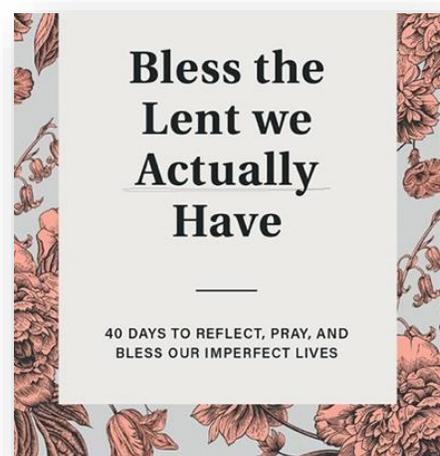
MEET IN CLASS OF 1950 LECTURE HALL

[HTTPS://WWW.CLA.PURDUE.EDU/DIVERSITY/EVENTS.HTML](https://www.cla.purdue.edu/diversity/events.html)



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts



Baptism

Lenora Willow Jakubowski, February 5, 2023, on the Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany.

Nora is the daughter of Lis Metzger and Joe Jakubowski.



The Rite of Reconciliation

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that “The ministry of reconciliation, which has been committed by Christ to his Church, is exercised through the care each Christian has for others, through the common prayer of Christians assembled for public worship and through the priesthood of Christ and his ministers declaring absolution.” The Rite of the Reconciliation of a Penitent (also known as “confession” in some traditions) is available for all who desire it and is not restricted to any particular time or season. However, because the season of Lent — which began on Ash Wednesday, February 22 — is a time specifically dedicated as a time of self-reflection and penitence, it is an especially appropriate time to seek reconciliation with God, one another and with ourselves. While the Anglican approach to the rite of reconciliation has always been “all may, some should, none must,” it can be a powerful reminder that, despite our failings, we are forgiven and loved by God. If you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation, please contact the church office and ask to speak with a member of the clergy. – *Bradley Pace, bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org*

January Vestry Notes

The St. John's Vestry met on Jan. 11 for our regular meeting. Among the items discussed were:

- The Vestry welcomed new members George Moore, Jennie Stein, Jack Sullivan
- The 2023 budget was discussed and passed. It is a balanced budget.
- The annual report will be available electronically on Friday, Jan. 27.
- The annual meeting will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, via zoom.
- We will have a parish celebration and Ministry Fair on Sunday, Feb. 5, after the 10:30 a.m. service.
- The vestry retreat and orientation will be Saturday, February 11.
- Father Bradley is looking for a second person for nursery care on Sunday mornings.

St. John's Financial Summary

January 2023

INCOME	Jan.2023	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Pledge Income	\$30,608	\$369,549	8.3%
Operating Income	\$1,910	\$126,181	1.5%
Non-Operating Income	\$3,345	\$58,557	5.7%
Transfer Income	\$0.0	\$42,100	0.0%
TOTAL INCOME	\$35,863	\$596,388	6.0%
EXPENSES			
Outreach	\$5,257	\$86,001	6.1%
Program	\$868	\$28,620	3.0%
Administration	\$756	\$4,450.00	17.0%
Personnel	\$25,414	\$342,186	7.4%
Office	\$2,337	\$28,912	8.1%
Property	\$4,924	\$106,220	4.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,557	\$596,388	6.6%
Net Income (loss)	\$-3,694		

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Save the Dates: Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Holy Week and Easter form the foundation of our Christian life and worship. It is important that we join with our Christian family here at St. John's and throughout the world and attend the services that make up the Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter.

- Palm Sunday, April 2 — 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (via Zoom), & 10:30 a.m.
- Maundy Thursday, April 6 — Time TBD
- Good Friday, April 7 — Time TBD
- Holy Saturday, April 3 — 10 a.m. in the Chapel of the Resurrection
- The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 8 — 8 p.m.
- Easter Sunday, April 9 — 8 a.m., 9 a.m. (via Zoom), & 10:30 a.m.