



The Eagle

February 2014

Meditating and Moving: A Quiet Day Opportunity Saturday, March 8, 2014 | 10am – 2pm

By Amy Paget

Join us for a Lenten quiet day opportunity of common practice. We will begin with worship in the Chapel followed by an introduction to Christian Meditation. Hilary Cooke, our Associate Rector, and an experienced meditation practitioner, will introduce us to the work of the World Community for Christian Meditation <<http://www.wccm.org/>>.

According to WCCM, “Meditation is a universal spiritual wisdom and a practice that we find at the core of all the great religious traditions, leading from the mind to the heart. It is a way of simplicity, silence and stillness. It can be practiced by anyone from wherever you are on your life’s journey. It is only necessary to be clear about the practice and then to begin—and keep on beginning”—and that’s what we will do together.

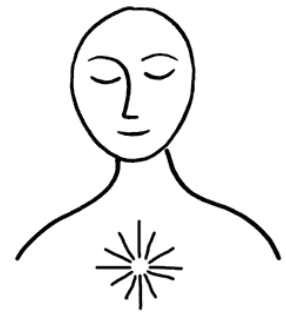
After that sedentary practice, Courtenay Murakowski will introduce us to prayer walking. Prayer walking is the practice of praying on location, a type of intercessory prayer that involves walking to or near a particular place while praying. Some people believe that being close to a location allows them to “pray nearer to pray clearer.” Prayer walks are taken by individuals, groups, and even whole churches. If the weather is good and our health permits, we will pray around the St. John’s neighborhood; if not, we will prayer walk around our church.

Following our walk, we will enjoy fellowship with a light lunch. You may bring a dish, or not!

After lunch, Amy Paget will introduce Metta (Loving Kindness) Meditation, a Buddhist practice to which she was introduced by her spiritual director. Metta meditation has brought Amy much joy and she sees it as an intentional practice focused on the golden rule and attending to the second of the greatest commandments: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. [Matthew 22:36-38]



Include future Quiet Days on your calendar and watch for our sign-up sheets in the Commons. We will be celebrating World Labyrinth Day again this year on Saturday, May 3, from 10-4 pm. We expect to be joined by Trinity UMC parishioners and to include walks at their outdoor labyrinth built last fall.



From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

You may know the old joke : How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb? Change? CHANGE?!? But my grandmother donated that light bulb (“to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for...”). It’s a bit lame, but still worthy of a chuckle.

The fact is, very few people like change. I read somewhere a few years back that only 15% of people actually like change. Still, it seems that the aversion to change is more acute in church, and the light bulb joke would apply to pretty much any denomination. In 30 years, mega-church parishioners will have similar jokes about overhead projectors, I guarantee it.

Of course change is a part of life. The teacher in the book of Ecclesiastes puts this in such beautiful, poetic language:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

If you don’t know that version, you may remember Pete Seeger’s version (“To everything, turn, turn, turn...”). Either way, it’s true. And so often, change can be really painful. Cherished old ways seem to slip away. Beloved traditions die. Friends and loved ones die. Things are just not the way they used to be.

But the fact that most of us struggle with change betrays the fact that change can be good. New things are born, they grow, they flourish. There’s energy and fresh expression. Change brings pain, but it is also an opportunity for joy.

I say all of this because I know that my very presence as your new rector at St. John’s (“New”? Has it been a whole year?) has meant change. My leadership style, my personality, my age, my family, my priorities, my sense of humor, my theology, my experiences, my understanding of the church, etc. all bring change. Even if I were a near clone of my predecessors, things would still seem different because the world has changed around us. The people coming to St. John’s have changed. Each of you will have changed from the time you first joined the St. John’s community. New people are showing up. There are a lots of young families coming, more kids, a hum of noise and energy. This is change. And that change will likely bring a mix of joy and pain.

The conventional wisdom is that a new rector shouldn’t change much in the first year. And even though I’ve been with you a whole year, I don’t have any magnificent plans to change things at St. John’s. We have beautiful worship and music. We do good things in the community. The institution is in very good shape (as you will see from reading our Annual Report). St. John’s is a vibrant, strong church. I think we’re growing, and I see every reason for that growth and energy to continue.

I’ll change some things here and there. The vestry may turn to some new priorities. We’ll continue to update our communication. But growth and energy alone bring about change. And that change will likely bring a mix of joy and pain.

So I want to reiterate what I have said ever since I joined you. If you ever want to discuss something with me, please make an appointment so we can talk. Come and tell me about the joys of this community. Come and tell me about St. John’s heritage and hallowed traditions. Come and tell me about your memories of St. John’s or of the church of your childhood. Come and tell me where change has been painful. I want to know. You may want to talk about it.

I continue to be so grateful for the opportunity to serve God with you here in Lafayette at St. John’s. As I said, St. John’s is a strong, vibrant church. You are faithful people, and I thank God for your witness and ministry.

Schedule Changes

By Hilary Cooke

Thanks to the generous support of the people of St. John's, the Vestry, and Bradley, and assuming that the 2014 budget passes at the Annual Meeting on February 2, my hours at St. John's will increase from 12 hours/week to half-time. This change means that I will have more regular hours at St. John's in addition to my time in services, Godly Play, and youth group. It is my intent to work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Tuesdays and Thursdays will be half days beginning at 10:30am, and Wednesday will be a full 9-5 day. In order to be more intentional about when I am working, I will likely not check or respond to emails on Mondays and Fridays.

February Book Group

By Mary Campbell

February is African American History Month, and the Book Discussions group at St. John's will again observe this theme. In 2013, we explored two accounts of growing up biracial (Black/White) in the United States – one autobiographical, the other fictional. This year we explore the experiences of a world-renown man, Barack Obama. Specifically, we will discuss his 1995 memoir, *Dreams from My Father*.

The memoir covers the history as he knew it of his grandparents and parents on both sides – White Kansans and Black Kenyans. Obama then recollects his experiences in Hawaii, Indonesia, California, New York City, Chicago, and a trip to Kenya to learn of his father's family history. He finishes his story as he heads off to Harvard Law School at age 27.

A helpful companion book to *Dreams* is a biography of Obama that covers the same time period – *Barack Obama: The Story* (2012) by David Maraniss. He reminds us that *Dreams from My Father* “falls into the realm of literature and memoir, not history and autobiography, and should not be read as a rigorously factual account.” Obama reflects what he was told about his history, which is sometimes different from what happened. Also, for the sake of brevity and privacy, he has changed names of some people and blended others into a single person. The theme is how, with his improbable history, he thinks about race and culture and what this means for him.

Please join in – we meet on Tuesday, February 25 at 6:30 in the Commons. Enter through the garden door.

Episcopal Women's Ministries

By Charlene Watson

The goal was met! In August 2013, the EWM Council challenged the women in our diocese to raise money for the Craine House Fall Capital Campaign. Craine House is a non-profit organization in its 36th year as a unique, court-appointed alternative sentencing, work-release program dedicated to serving non-violent female offender with pre-school children and from Indiana. At Craine House women and their children live with dignity in a safe, structured, and supportive environment. This House was begun by Bishop John P. Craine and The Rev. Jackie Means of our diocese. EWM voted to match monies raised (up to \$5,000) by the end of the campaign (December 31, 2013). The challenge was successful, and together over \$10,000 was contributed for Craine House. A BIG “Thank You” to all who participated.

Have you “Saved the Date?” The EWM Spring Luncheon will be held at St. Matthew's in Indianapolis on April 12, 2014. More information will be available as the time gets closer. Please contact Charlene Watson (474-9101 or cel.watson@comcast.net) for more information. Thank you.

LUM Good Samaritan Fun Follies

By Nolie Parnell

The annual Good Samaritan Fund Follies will be held April 4th at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in West Lafayette. It will be a fun evening with dinner, entertainment, and a silent auction fundraiser. Reserve your table for \$42 (each table seats 8) by contacting LUM at 423-2691. All proceeds benefit the Good Samaritan Fund. The GSF provides the means to avert a crisis through financial support so a family may avoid eviction, prevent the utilities from being disconnected, or even continue much-needed medication. In 2013, over \$100,000 was used from the GSF to help the families of our community.

Each church within the LUM partnership has been asked to provide a basket for the silent auction. With St. John's willingness to support the needs of our community, I know we can put together a spectacular basket. The theme of our basket is The Pampered Pooch. I am looking for donations that will help fill the basket. Dog treats, a brush, toys, gift cards from PetSmart or Buckles, and even bling (collar, bandana, etc) are some ideas. Don't limit yourself to the list above because the possibilities are endless. I will be accepting donations until mid-March so keep the Follies in mind when you are out shopping.



Jubilee Christmas Success

By Maggie McClure

Accumulating snow did not keep volunteers and guests alike from getting to church on December 14 to participate in Jubilee Christmas. St. John's and Good Shepherd served 39 families with 99 kids. In addition, 27 bags of gifts went to After Jubilee Christmas where even more families were helped. Thanks to all who donated gifts and cash, set up the "store," hosted our guests, wrapped presents, and did all the other tasks that it took to make Jubilee Christmas 2013 a truly magical event.

Thank You

By Dottie Gist

A big thank you to all the wonderful caring folks at St. John's who helped me get through my broken bone ordeal this past month. The caring calls, the delicious soup and cookies, and the beautiful prayer shawl helped me cope with some tough times and I appreciate your thoughtfulness so much. Being a church member means more than just attending church on Sunday and you all are shining examples of what Christianity is all about.

Episcopal Youth Event

By Hilary Cooke

This summer will mark the 12th triennial Episcopal Youth Event (aka EYE), to be held at Villanova University July 9-16. EYE is an opportunity for young people finishing grades 9-12 to gather with other Episcopal youth from throughout the country. During their time together, the youth will worship, study and participate in a three-day mission trip. This time, two young people from St. John's will be attending: Cyrus Hulen and Jessie Murawski (there are 14 young people and 4 adults from our diocese attending).

Our community can support Cyrus and Jessie in a variety of ways. We can remember them and the other youth in our prayers, we can engage them in conversation about their experiences, and we can help with financial expenses. The cost per participant is \$450, and Cyrus and Jessie will be doing some fundraising to help with the cost. It is also very likely that the diocese will create some kind of fundraising opportunity—more details to come.

Weekday Worship Schedule

By Bradley Pace

Beginning in February, the weekday worship schedule will change slightly. We will continue to have Evening Prayer on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, there will be Healing and Holy Eucharist at 12:00 (noon). On Thursday, there will be Holy Eucharist at 12:00 (noon). The chapel will continue to be open for prayer weekdays from 8:30-4:00

New Weekday Schedule

beginning in February

Evening Prayer

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 5:30 PM

Tuesday

Healing & Holy Eucharist at 12:00 (noon)

Thursday

Holy Eucharist at 12:00 (noon)

Our Youth Group – January

Photos from the Epiphany Party (1/12) and Community Lunch (1/26)



November Financial Report

By George Moore

A. INCOME	Current Month	Total 2013	% of Budget
1. Pledge Income	\$ 25,540.71	\$258,540.46	88.22%
2. Operating Income	\$ 3,246.56	\$ 38,392.41	101.96%
3. Non-Operating Income	\$ 916.67	\$ 10,083.37	33.61%
4. Transfer Income	\$	\$ 32,452.00	62.41%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 29,703.94	\$339,468.24	80.25%
B. EXPENSES			
1. Outreach	\$ 5,072.39	\$ 53,814.93	66.61%
1. Program	\$ 2,092.76	\$ 17,163.05	76.18%
3. Administration	\$ 47.00	\$ 1,470.82	52.53%
1. Personnel	\$ 15,336.66	\$ 192,369.09	86.37%
5. Office	\$ 1,313.24	\$ 22,330.08	90.52%
▪ Property	\$ 2,574.26	\$ 61,756.69	88.82%
▪ Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$ 0.00	\$ 374.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 26,436.31	\$ 349,278.66	82.57%
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 3,267.63	\$ (9,810.42)	

Notes:
^aThis is a summary report of the operating income and expenses for the indicated reporting period. Detailed description of these items are available for review from members of the Finance Committee.

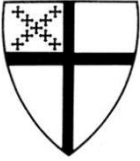
Inquirer's Class Begins Sunday, March 2

By Bradley Pace

St. John's will host an Inquirer's class for any new members, adults seeking confirmation, or anyone interested in learning more about Anglican/Episcopalian Christianity. The full schedule has not been determined yet, but most meetings will be held on Sunday after the 10:15 service (beginning 15 minutes or so after the service). A light lunch will usually be served as well. We will also hold a Saturday retreat that will include a tour of St. John's and an "instructed Eucharist" (i.e., a service of Holy Communion where the details are explained). Anyone is welcome to join the class. For more information, please contact Fr. Bradley at bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org or call the church office at 742.4079.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the March Eagle will be Monday, February 17. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org (preferred) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.



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Associate Rector

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke

Sunday Associate

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Alissa Goudswaard,

Bill McInerney, Kelley Bailey,

Lloyd Brewer, Sally Byrn

Reminder:

Sunday, February 2 is our Annual Meeting. We will have a combined Eucharist at 9 am, with brunch and meeting to follow.

