



# The Eagle

November 2013

## Jubilee Christmas

By Maggie McClure

December 14 is the day when St. John's and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will help 38 Lafayette-area families have a Christmas celebration.

Jubilee Christmas is not possible without the participation of our community. How will you help this year?

**VOLUNTEER** to set-up, host our guests, wrap gifts, or make stockings, to name a few of the activities. The sign-up sheet will be in the Commons in a few weeks.

**DONATE** new, non-violent toys to stock the store. Consider toys suitable for our Latino and black families. Donation bins are in the Commons.

**FOOD** donations of cookies, fruit, cheese, and other snacks are needed. It is hard work shopping, and what is Christmas without yummy goodies?

**CASH** donations to pay for hams, food vouchers, teen gift certificates, gifts, and other supplies are needed.

**PRAY** for our guests and the other families being served by LUM, the volunteers, and LUM who makes this happen.

Jubilee Christmas is successful because of the support of our community. Help make 2013 Jubilee Christmas successful – **VOLUNTEER, DONATE, AND PRAY.**

Need more information? Contact Maggie McClure.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Jubilee Christmas: December 14, 10:00 – 12:00

## Fall Spruce-Up Day

By Tony Bailey

Help maintain our Church home! The Fall Spruce-Up (aka Work) Day will be held on Saturday, November 9th starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending at noon. We will be cleaning and doing repairs/fix-its and other maintenance projects.

ALL skill levels are welcome. You don't need to stay the whole time—stop in as your schedule allows. Watch future bulletins and look for a sign-up sheet in the Commons for more details. We'll have donuts (of course), drinks, and probably lunch. Please contact Tony Bailey (463-7263 or [tktblailey@earthlink.net](mailto:tktblailey@earthlink.net)) if you want to volunteer and/or know of projects that need attention. Hope to see you there!

# From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

St. John's Episcopal Church is a community of faith and a community of faithful people. Now "faith" is much, much more than belief. "Faith" is trusting that God will follow through on God's promises. "Faith" is a commitment to what God is up to in the world. Faith is dedication to God's kingdom as it springs up all around us. Faith is living out our calling to worship, to share the love of God, and to make Christ known.

Giving money to this or that church *is not* the same thing as dedication or "faithfulness" to God's Kingdom. But what we do here matters in the Kingdom of God and for the Kingdom of God because *this is our little corner* of that Kingdom. St. John's is where you and I live out our Christian calling. This community is where we live out our faith.

The community of St. John's Church has been living out the Christian faith here for more than 175 years. Beautiful Episcopal worship and music. Feeding tens of thousands of people each year through the food pantry. Forming and educating future generations in the knowledge and love of God. Welcoming all sorts of people. Caring for the wider community. We have been living out our mission to worship, to share, and to make Christ known all that time. And because of that, certainly, this *is* a community of faith and a community of faithful people.

Going forward, as we build on our traditions and our heritage, as we continue to make St. John's a center of beautiful worship and music, as we look to share the love of God more and more, as we find new and energetic ways to make Christ known to our community, as we try to live into a vision of God's Kingdom that welcomes all, loves all, serves all, we will grow in our faithfulness. If you are one of the people who attend St. John's for these reasons, I hope you will also support those ministries by making a financial pledge during this year's fundraising campaign.

Because what we do here matters in the Kingdom of God and for the Kingdom of God because this is our little corner of that Kingdom. This is where we live out our Christian faith.

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## Clarification on the Fundraising Campaign

By Bradley Pace

In its recent letter to the congregation, the Stewardship and Fundraising Committee included some projected budget information. That information was presented in new way, which may have been confusing or unclear. In addition, there may have been questions about the new initiatives that have been proposed.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of that information, please feel free to contact me at 742.4079 or at [bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:bradleypace@stjohns-laf.org). I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Each member of St. John's should have received information about this year's fundraising campaign. If you did not, please contact the St. John's office.

Thank you for your stewardship and generous support of the St. John's community.

## November Lunchtime Concert

by Michael Bennett

November 13th will bring a new program of music to our lunchtime concert series. Percussionist Matthew Finger will perform a program of six selections on the marimba. Matthew is the director of Percussion for the Lafayette School Corporation. He holds degrees from Butler University and Queens College. The concert begins at 12:10pm and lunch follows – hope to see you there!

## Music for All Saint's Sunday (Nov. 3)

by Michael Bennett

I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say "All Saints' Day is one of my favorite days of the year." I am in agreement with that sentiment, for sure. Everyone seems to be so energetic on that morning. Sometimes I call it "Easter-light." You may remember that last year on this day our parish celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary! In addition to joyful music at our 10:15 service, the parish will be offering a service on Choral Evensong later that day. At 4:30pm, Dr. Heaven Fan will perform a program of harp music, and at 5:00pm the choir will sing Choral Evensong. We will be joined by Robert Richter, Organist/Choirmaster of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Carmel. I hope you will consider coming to the concert and/or Evensong as we support St. Elizabeth Hospice. A festive reception will follow Evensong. I look forward to celebrating all of the saints and celebrating our parish's 176 years of *Worshiping, Sharing, and Making Christ Known*.

### Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the December Eagle will be Monday, November 18. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org (preferred) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the porch.

## Book Discussion at St. John's

By Mary Campbell

This month, we are exploring two accounts of what it has been like growing up Native American in the 20th century. *The Education of Little Tree* (1976) is about an orphaned Cherokee boy who lives with his grandparents in an isolated area of the Appalachian Mountains during the 1930s. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (2007) is about a Spokane teen-ager "on the rez" during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Both books are written for the Young Adult audience, but they have a direct appeal to adults, as well. (Although both books describe themselves as "true," there are fictional elements in each.)

One of the great things about book discussion groups is the sharing of the experiences of each reader with the books. My personal reactions to these stories revolve around issues of poverty and racism – but also learning, love, and hope. What are your reactions, your thoughts? The style of each book is unique, and they make a fascinating contrast.

After I have read memoirs and autobiographies, I enjoy checking out the online biographies of the authors. What is consistent? What is not? What do you learn about Sherman Alexie and Forrest Carter?

Our meeting this month breaks our usual pattern of Wednesdays – we will meet this time on TUESDAY, November 19. As usual, we will meet in the Commons at 6:30. Enter through the garden door.

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## Year End Giving Retirement Accounts

By Sue Bracey, Investment Committee

As 2013 comes to a close and you review charitable contributions consider a gift to St. John's through your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The Internal Revenue Service requires that you start taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) once you reach age 70 1/2. These RMD's are subject to state and federal income tax. The American Tax Payers Relief Act of 2012 allows direct gifting from your IRA to a charitable organization through December 31, 2013. The gift counts toward your RMD and is excluded from federal taxable income.

When you consider your RMD think St. John's Endowment Fund, The Operational Subsidy Fund or one of the programs at St. John's. Your gift will benefit you tax wise and touch the lives of others in numerous ways now and for the future.

You will need to contact the provider of your IRA for forms to contribute the MRD directly to the charity for federal tax benefit or ask assistance from your accountant or financial planner.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

# Godly Play

By Hilary Cooke

Godly Play began on September 15 and continues to meet weekly from 9:15-10am on the second floor. We have been making our way through the foundational stories of our faith, from Creation to the Exodus. The older children have heard about Joseph and his brothers and Sarah while the younger children heard about Noah and Abraham & Sarah.

Why do we tell these stories? Frederick Buechner writes this about storytelling:

IN THE SIXTH month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary," and that is the beginning of a story—a time, a place, a set of characters, and the implied promise, which is common to all stories, that something is coming, something interesting or significant or exciting is about to happen. And I would like to start out by reminding my reader that in essence this is what Christianity is. If we whittle away long enough, it is a story that we come to at last. And if we take even the fanciest and most metaphysical kind of theologian or preacher and keep on questioning him far enough—Why is this so? All right, but why is that so? Yes, but how do we know that it's so?—even he is forced finally to take off his spectacles and push his books off to one side and say, “Once upon a time there was . . . ,” and then everybody leans forward a little and starts to listen. Stories have enormous power for us, and I think that it is worth speculating why they have such power. Let me suggest two reasons.

One is that they make us want to know what is coming next, and not just out of idle curiosity either because if it is a good story, we really want to know, almost fiercely so, and we will wade through a lot of pages or sit through a lot of endless commercials to find out. There was a young woman named Mary, and an angel came to her from God, and what did he say? And what did she say? And then how did it all turn out in the end? But the curious thing is that if it is a good story, we want to know how it all turns out in the end even if we have heard it many times before and know the outcome perfectly well already. Yet why? What is there to find out if we already know?

And that brings me to the second reason why I think stories have such power for us. They force us to consider the question, “Are stories true?” Not just, “Is this story true?”—was there really an angel? Did he really say, “Do not be afraid?”—but are any stories true? Is the claim that all stories make a true claim? Every storyteller, whether he is Shakespeare telling about Hamlet or Luke telling about Mary, looks out at the world much as you and I look out at it and sees things happening—people being born, growing up, working, loving, getting old, and finally dying—only then, by the very process of taking certain of these events and turning them into a story, giving them form and direction, does he make a sort of claim about events in general, about the nature of life itself. And the storyteller's claim, I believe, is that life has meaning—that the things that happen to people happen not just by accident like leaves being blown off a tree by the wind but that there is order and

purpose deep down behind them or inside them and that they are leading us not just anywhere but somewhere. The power of stories is that they are telling us that life adds up somehow, that life itself is like a story. And this grips us and fascinates us because of the feeling it gives us that if there is meaning in any life—in Hamlet's, in Mary's, in Christ's—then there is meaning also in our lives. And if this is true, it is of enormous significance in itself, and it makes us listen to the storyteller with great intensity because in this way all his stories are about us and because it is always possible that he may give us some clue as to what the meaning of our lives is.

[Originally published in *The Magnificent Defeat*]

I am grateful to our dedicated storytellers, doorpeople, and other helpers: Joanna Benskin, Andrew Bigelow, Greg Buzzard, Katie Elder, Gayle Ennis, Cyrus Hulen, Heidi Kauffman, George Moore, Nate Mosier, Jessie and Ariel Murawski, Ray Polstra, Doug Powell, and Jeff Stroud.

NOTE: Godly Play will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 1.

## Caring for Students

By Kathie Basden

It's time to bring back an old tradition to St John's! College care packages!!

In the past we sent out care packages to the students of our parish and I believe it is time to do it again. We want them to know that we care for them, wish them well and carry them in our hearts while they are away or still close to home. We want to send treats for their bodies while reminding them we also care about their hearts, minds and souls.

If you have a college student from St John's that you would love to have remembered in this way, please submit their names and complete addresses to Kathie Basden 463-4305 or <kathiebasden@comcast.net>.

If you would like to help the day of packing the packages, we would definitely love your help with this rewarding job.

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## Youth Group

by Hilary Cooke

I am delighted to announce that Tim Smith has joined our team of youth group leaders – welcome Tim! This month the youth group ventured beyond the walls of St. John's to enjoy some fun and fellowship at Exploration Acres. In November we look forward to an overnight lock-in and helping with the fall "spruce-up" day at St. John's (Nov. 8-9). If you or your children are interested in getting involved with the youth group please contact Hilary or Bradley.

## LUM Report

By Nolie Parnell

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. Matthew 25:35*

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away and LUM is in full swing preparing for the day. Planning for LUM's Community Thanksgiving Celebration is well underway for the annual event. LUM's Community Thanksgiving Celebration will be held on Thanksgiving Day at Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Lafayette (North 7<sup>th</sup> Street) from noon until 2 p.m. In 2012 volunteers fed 800 individuals on Thanksgiving Day and the 2013 celebration is expected to have similar numbers. There are still numerous volunteer opportunities on the days leading up to Thursday and on Thanksgiving Day as well. If interested in giving your time to this wonderful event either sign up online ([www.lafayetteurbanministry.org](http://www.lafayetteurbanministry.org)) or call LUM directly at 423-2691. As if preparing a Thanksgiving feast for 800 people was not enough on LUM's plate (yes, pun intended) on Thanksgiving Day, there will also be a 5K race benefiting LUM. The second annual Give Thanks 5K sponsored by Tri-N-Run and Midwest Rentals will be held the morning of Thanksgiving Day. The race is held at the Munger Park Trail entrance on Creasy Lane in Lafayette with an 8 am start time. This is a family event for both runners and walkers- strollers and dogs are welcomed. Give Thanks 5k is an event which raises money for LUM and provides your family a unique way to celebrate the meaning of thanksgiving while burning calories before the Thanksgiving meal. What a fantastic idea! If interested you (and your family) can register using a link found on Tri-N-Run's website <[www.tri-n-runlafayette.com](http://www.tri-n-runlafayette.com)>.

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## Quiet Day

By Amy Paget

Launch this year's Advent season with a day focused on Advent themes. You are welcome to join us for the full time period or any portion thereof. This day will be held at St. John's.

Bring your own spiritual exercises or select from among those provided. We'll begin and end with worship and enjoy a soup luncheon at 12:30pm. Watch for the sign-up sheet...and do take some time for God and you! Questions? Contact Amy Paget <[pagets@gmail.com](mailto:pagets@gmail.com)>.

Include future Quiet days on your calendar...all are Saturdays. We will celebrate World Labyrinth Day from 10-4pm on Saturday May 3, 2014. A Lenten date is in the pre-planning stages...stand by!

# August Financial Report

By George Moore

A. INCOME		Current Month	Total 2013	% of Budget
1.	Pledge Income	\$ 22,335.50	\$185,902.64	61.28%
2.	Operating Income	\$ 1,506.00	\$ 27,870.07	74.01%
3.	Non-Operating Income	\$ 916.67	\$ 7,333.36	24.44%
4.	Transfer Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 22,452.00	43.18%
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 24,758.17</b>	<b>\$243,558.07</b>	<b>57.57%</b>
<b>B. EXPENSES</b>				
1.	Outreach	\$ 4,590.50	\$ 38,092.41	47.15%
2.	Program	\$ 703.91	\$ 12,796.66	56.80%
3.	Administration	\$	\$ 126.05	4.50%
4.	Personnel	\$ 14,833.44	\$ 142,559.95	64.01%
5.	Office	\$ 1,030.32	\$ 10,826.78	43.89%
6.	Property	\$ 3,804.65	\$ 48,122.60	69.21%
7.	Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)	\$ 0.00	\$ 374.00	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 24,962.32</b>	<b>\$ 252,898.45</b>	<b>59.78%</b>
	<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ ( 204.15)</b>	<b>\$ - 9,340.38</b>	

Notes:  
<sup>a</sup>This 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.

## United Thank Offering

By Mary Louise Davis

Our Fall Ingathering for UTO (United Thank Offering) gifts is Sunday, Nov. 10 at both services.

These are offerings in thankfulness for the daily gifts of God's wonderful gifts of support, care, and love given to us by family, friends, and strangers – of our parish of St. John's, and small and large surprises of life as we live it daily.

These offerings support the important grants of UTO all over our Anglican world. We share our love and caring to other parishes and programs that need our support in their projects.

Have a blessed holiday season.

## Liturgical Calendars

by Teresa Lohrman

Follow the course of the church year at home with the Episcopal Church Calendar for 2014. The calendar is edited to conform to the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, with the calendar dates in the proper color for the day.

On the back of each calendar sheet find the lessons and psalms for each Sunday and major feast days, with liturgical notes and suggested concluding collects for the Prayers of the People. Under the calendar pad find Tables of Feasts and Fasts, with useful information about lessons and psalms.

Call the parish office, 742-4079, to reserve your calendar at the cost of \$5.00 each.

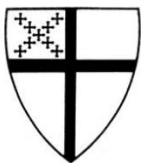
# Rearranging the Commons

by Hilary Cooke

Recently a group of parents of younger-aged children met to discuss some ways to both keep children and adults safe during coffee hour (i.e. children not running into furniture and people, and adults not tripping over said children) while keeping our space welcoming and inviting to people of all ages. In our discussion we considered a variety of ways to meet these goals but here is what we finally decided:

We determined that probably what would work best for our needs would be to use the end of the commons area (where the kids' table is currently located) to create a "soft space" for younger children. Ideally we will set up a rug or other mats/cushions or even some soft chairs and some toys in that area to encourage the children to stay in that general vicinity. We may even use the TV to show some kid friendly videos (Veggie Tales?) on Sundays when it is not in use for other reasons. To allow a little more space, we discussed moving some of the big square tables down toward the chapel area or maybe even move the food and drink tables in that direction as well.

These are just our first thoughts about addressing this need, and we welcome feedback from people of all ages. Our plan is to try to begin some of the rearranging at the fall "spruce up" day on November 9. This is, of course, a process and so we will be happy to continue to receive feedback and suggestions as we begin to implement some of these changes. If you have specific suggestions, please speak with Hilary, Bradley, Tony Bailey or Sven Schreiber.



## St. John's Episcopal Church

600 Ferry Street  
Lafayette, IN 47901-1142  
765-742-4079  
[www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org)

### *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace

### *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke

### *Sunday Associate*

The Very Rev. Robert L'Homme

### *Parish Administrator*

Teresa Lohrman

### *Director of Music*

Michael Bennett

### *Building Use Coordinator*

Bill McInerney

### *Eagle Editor*

Alissa Goudswaard

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