



The Eagle

November 2014

Walking the Way St. John's 2015 annual giving campaign

By Bradley Pace

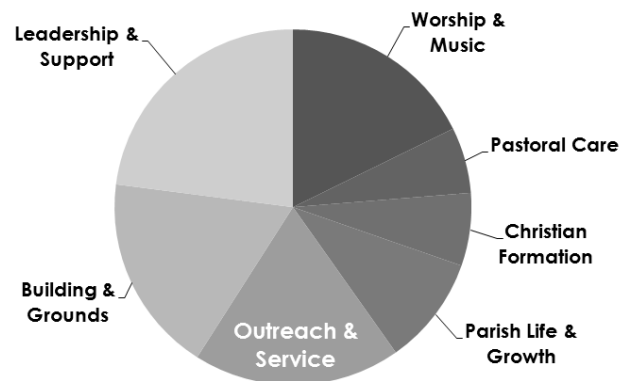
Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him. (Colossians 2:6)

One of the important ways we can support St. John's is through an annual pledge. The theme of this year's annual giving campaign – **Walking the Way** – emphasizes the practice of giving as an essential part of following the Way of Jesus. **Walking the Way** – the Way of Jesus Christ, the Way of the early Church, the way of the saints at St. John's Church who came before us – requires an awareness of and grateful response to these gifts.

There are, of course, the practical considerations of our ministry at St. John's. The parish's budget funds the ministries – the worship and music, the formation, the parish life, the administration and support, and more – that help make this a wonderful parish community. **Over 70% of St. John's income comes from those pledges made during the annual giving campaign.** Commitments made during the campaign allow the parish leadership to plan the budget.

This year's budget includes money to renovate and refurbish St. John's Commons and to increase the parish contribution to the St. John's/LUM Food Pantry. In addition, the budget includes increased funding for youth programs, parish life and hospitality, greeter ministries, performance raises for lay staff and cost-of-living adjustments for clergy.

While you consider making a pledge this year, I would like to ask you to consider "proportional



giving." Proportional giving is based on the Biblical idea of a tithe – an offering of the first 1/10th of the harvest or of the flock back to God. These are the "first fruits" of what we have received from God. I encourage you to think of your gift to St. John's (as well as all those other gifts you give back to God) as a priority in your family's budget, as coming from those first fruits rather than from what is left over.

Pledge cards were mailed out recently. If you do not receive one, please contact the church office at 765-742-4079 or at stjohns@stjohns-laf.org.

Please bring your pledge card to worship on Sunday, November 9th. That's when we will celebrate Commitment Sunday, the culmination of the journey, when pledges will be completed and offered as an act of our corporate worship. If you have questions about the campaign or about the draft budget, please do not hesitate to contact me directly, or speak with a member of the St. John's Executive Committee – Lloyd Brewer, Heather Johnston Nicholson, or Rachel Shook. You are invited to speak with any member of the vestry as well.

The life of faith is a journey we make together, not a solo expedition. The annual giving campaign is a time set aside to reflect on how this community has

nurtured you and your family in the walk of faith. It is a time to reflect on how the practice of intentional giving deepens your walk with Christ. We are a pilgrim people, meaning together we strive and support one another in taking on the mind of Christ. Jesus called

himself “the Way.” A popular refrain that is said on the pilgrims’ journey is “the Way is made by walking.” Transformation comes through practice. I invite you to pray these words during our campaign – **the Way is made by walking**. As we pray this prayer together, it is my hope that we will hear the Holy Spirit calling us to walk in love as Christ loved us.

We are all on a faith journey, and I give thanks for having you for my companions as we walk the Way of Jesus.

Help Wanted for Jubilee Christmas

By Maggie McClure

Christmas Elves: Elves are needed to transform St. John’s into a store and reception area. No special skills are necessary. Activities include sorting toys, setting up tables, and preparing for Jubilee Christmas. Set-up is Dec. 9, 10, and 11 from 6:30-9 pm. All ages are welcome. Don’t forget your elf hat.

Santa’s Helpers: Many helpers are wanted to assist Jubilee Christmas guests. Tasks include escorting our guests through the store, helping with gift selection, working the “store,” and gift wrapping. All that is needed is a desire to make our guests feel welcome from 9:30 to noon on December 13. Sign up in the Commons.

Christmas Angels: Donations of toys and cash are needed to provide toys for approximately 80 kids, and gift certificates for 20 teenagers, Christmas dinner for 38 families, and special gifts for all. Any donation amount will go a long way. Cash donations can be sent to the church office or placed in the offertory. Be sure to use an envelope marked “Jubilee Christmas” or mark checks with the same. Place toys in the collection bins.

Jubilee Christmas 2014

By Maggie McClure

Jubilee Christmas is rapidly approaching. Be sure you have the morning of December 13 blocked off on your calendar. Without the support of the St. John’s community with this event, we would not be able to help 38 families in Greater Lafayette have Christmas. There are so many ways to help and success hinges on all of us participating. The sign-up sheets are going up on November 2. Here are a few of the volunteer opportunities available.

- * Setting up the toy store
- * Wrapping gifts
- * Accompanying our customers through the store and the morning
- * Providing transportation for those in need of a ride

Donations are also needed. Here are a few items that will be needed:

- * Snacks to serve during Jubilee Christmas
- * New, non-violent toys for boys and girls aged 0-12
- * Cash to pay for hams, teen gift cards, food vouchers, and extra items.

Collection bins are in the Commons for toys, and cash donations can be put in the collection plate on Sunday or sent to the church office. Be sure to clearly specify that donation is to go to Jubilee Christmas.

Stay tuned for more details and remember to sign up. See Maggie McClure, Angela Mosier, or Jill Scharer if you have questions.

Remember, Jubilee Christmas, on December 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.

From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

You probably know that “Halloween” is a derivative of “All Hallows’ Eve”, the day before “All Hallows Day” or “All Saints’ Day.” In the New Testament, the “saints” are all the members of the Christian community. In his first letter to the Church in Corinth, for instance, Paul writes to those “called to be saints.” If you read on, however, you quickly discover that the Christians in Corinth are not exactly saintly – they are boastful, they are sleeping around, the rich members are mistreating the poor, they are taking sides and excluding others, and so on. And yet, Paul calls them saints. Why? Because they are, in the words of the collect for All Saints’ Day, the “elect” who are “knit together” in the Body of Christ to follow the godly lives of those who came before. Claiming to be a saint is not a boast. Rather, it is the recognition of a call, a mission, a purpose.

There is a lot more that could be said about this, but suffice it to say that, as members of the Christian community (as members of the Body of Christ), we are saints because we are chosen to make Christ’s redeeming love known in the world. One of the ways we make Christ known is by imitating the godly lives of those members of the Christian community who have come before us.

In the catholic tradition, All Saints’ Day came to commemorate particularly heroic Christians – the Apostles, martyrs, people of great learning and devotion. In the West especially, Christians began celebrating the feast of All Souls’ on the day following All Saints.’ These were the non-heroic Christians, I guess, who lived out their Christian faith in more mundane ways. After the Reformation, however, the Protestant reformers did away with All Souls’ Day and reminded us that all Christians are Saints.

As Protestant Catholics, Episcopalians took the middle way. We do commemorate those particularly heroic saints, all the saints of the ancient, undivided Church. And we have added some of our own to that list (folks like George Herbert, John Donne, and the Martyrs of Memphis). But we follow the reformers in remembering that all Christians are set apart for the mission of the Church and thus are all saints.

I write all of this to remind you and encourage you to attend Sunday services on **November 2nd**, the day we will observe the Feast of All Saints at St. John’s. We will dedicate special time to remember those saints of St. John’s who have died in the past year. There will also be time for each of us to remember those saints who have been the chosen vessels of God’s grace in our own lives. And, to top it all off, we will celebrate a baptism at 10:15. Please join with the whole church as we remember the Saints of God who have come before and welcome new saints into the Body of Christ.

Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the December Eagle will be Monday, November 10th. Email to eagle@stjohns-laf.org or place items in The Eagle mailbox on the porch.

Fall Spruce-Up Day set for Saturday, Nov. 8

By Heather Johnston Nicholson

Are you an indoor polisher or an outdoor raker? Ladder climber or ground floor go-getter? We need you!

Please bring your preferences and skills and join the fun at St. John's Fall Spruce-Up Day, Saturday, November 8th, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning with coffee/juice and ending with lunch.

The Youth Group will be fresh from their overnight at St. John's, the property committee will be on hand to guide the clueless, and the garden committee can tell mulch from pachysandra.

So come one, come all and make St. John's shine for the fall and the holidays. Child care will be provided.

Do you have questions, suggestions, or chores to add to the list? Please contact Heather Johnston Nicholson at 765-743-3501 or heatherjohnston.nicholson@gmail.org.

Thanks in advance for your energy and accomplishment.

Episcopal Women's Ministries

By Charlene Watson

The last weekend of September, five women from St. John's joined other women in our diocese for an uplifting, relaxing and spiritual experience at Waycross Retreat and Conference Center. Those from St. John's were Alice Anderson, Pequita Behrndt, Gayle Ennis, Amy Paget and Charlene Watson. Our retreat leader, Shawna Bryant from California, presented her program "Clutter-Free Abundant Living."

Evaluation comments from the attendees included, "the speaker was so full of Jesus' teaching and sharing her life in Christ," "we had an amazing speaker," "I liked the emphasis on spiritual

practice," "energetic," "God spoke to me for the first time in a couple years," "inspiration, sense of peace," and "abundant feeling with God." Please talk to the women named above about their experience at the retreat, and set aside the last weekend of September 2015 for your time at the 2015 EWM Fall Retreat. More information will be available later next year.

Another event at the Fall Retreat was the ratification of the bylaws of the Episcopal Women's Ministries in the Diocese of Indianapolis. Copies of these can be found on the EWM table in the Commons.

The next major gathering event for the women in our diocese will be the 2015 Spring Luncheon. Be alert for information about this luncheon after mid-January 2015. The next EWM Council meeting will be at noon Saturday, Nov. 3, at St. Paul's in Indianapolis. All women in our diocese are invited to attend. Questions? Contact Amy Paget (765-742-4239, pagets@gmail.com) or Charlene Watson (765-474-9101, cel.watson@comcast.net).

College Care Packages

By Kathie Basden

It is time again to think about gathering names of students from St. John's for care packages. We want them to know that we care for them, wish them well and carry them in our hearts while they are away, or even learning 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 (or you are one) 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. Or call the parish office at 742-4079.

Heidi Kauffman, Lloyd Brewer and Margot Marlatt are joining this effort to show our students we care about them and their future.

Baby Shower

By Hilary Cooke

We are celebrating the upcoming birth to Elaine and Michael Johnson with a baby shower at the LaBonté household at 2 p.m. on November 15. Everyone is invited!

If you would like to join us, please email Cecilia LaBonté at Cecilia.hennessy@gmail.com to RSVP, and she will respond with the address.

We'll be playing two very simple, but fun, games! One is a diaper raffle, in which a raffle ticket is given out for every package of diapers brought to the shower. The other game is called Guess That Baby, in which a slideshow of baby pictures is played and we all try to guess which guest corresponds with the picture.

We'll have cakes and snacks, and we look forward to seeing you if you can make it!

St. John's Book Discussions

By Karl Brandt

Each Sunday at St. John's, during our "Prayers for the People," we pray for the Diocese of Bor in South Sudan, a partner diocese of our Diocese of Indianapolis, and their bishop, Ruben.

In November, the St. John's Book Discussion group provides an opportunity to learn more about the history of Bor and Sudan and its political struggles through a novelistic autobiography of Valentino Achak Deng, "What Is the What," by Dave Eggers.

The Diocese of Bor's website notes: "Bor was the origin of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," who are more than 27,000 who were displaced and/or orphaned during the Second Sudanese Civil War (1983-2005)." Deng was one of the "Lost Boys," trekking by foot across southeastern Sudan while still a preteen, arriving at refugee camps in

Ethiopia and Kenya, from which he was ultimately brought to the United States.

"What Is the What" is a story of resilience, perseverance, and survival. Recounted in an engaging style by Eggers, the book was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. It is a powerful tale, one that helps us gain a picture of life in South Sudan, still a site of turmoil even after gaining separate nationhood.

With the proceeds from "What Is the What," Deng and Eggers have established a foundation (www.vadfoundation.org) that is working to bring educational opportunities for both boys and girls to Deng's hometown of Marial Bai.

Please join in on the discussion at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 19, in the Bishops Parlor. Enter through the garden door.

August Financial Report

By Rachel Shook

A. INCOME	Current Month	Total 2014	Annual Budget	% of
Pledge Income	\$ 26,801.00	\$ 203,691.63	\$ 326,418.00	62.4%
Operating Income	\$ 1,654.38	\$ 30,649.81	\$ 38,886.30	78.8%
Non-Operating Income	\$ 916.67	\$ 7,333.36	\$ 11,000.00	66.7%
Transfer Income	\$ -	\$ 44.50	\$ 50,000.00	0.1%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 29,372.05	\$ 241,719.30	\$ 426,304.30	56.7%
B. EXPENSES				
Outreach	\$ 5,319.52	\$ 42,926.76	\$ 66,072.00	65.0%
Program	\$ 1,424.79	\$ 13,777.34	\$ 23,950.00	57.5%
Administration	\$ 0.00	\$ 429.50	\$ 3,900.00	11.0%
Personnel	\$ 16,311.29	\$ 146,295.29	\$ 225,306.94	64.9%
Office \$	\$ 1,511.51	\$ 16,443.13	\$ 26,520.00	62.0%
Property	\$ 3,774.85	\$ 43,314.32	\$ 80,555.36	53.8%
Miscellaneous (Non-Budget)		\$ 2,019.25		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 28,341.96	\$ 265,205.59	\$ 426,304.30	62.2%
Net Income (loss)	\$ (1,030.09)	\$ (23,486.29)	\$ -	

Notes

* This is a summary report of the operating income and expenses for the indicated reporting periods. Detailed description of these items are available for review from members of the Finance Committee.

Music for All Saints' Sunday, November 2

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."

In addition to joyful music at our 10:15 service, the parish will be offering a service of Choral Evensong later that day. At 4:30pm, the Amber (String) Trio will perform a program of beautiful music, and at 5:00pm the choir will sing Choral Evensong.

I hope you will consider coming to the concert and/or Evensong as we support our diocese's "Share Love and Hope for South Sudan" fund. A festive reception will follow Evensong. I look forward to celebrating all of the saints and celebrating our parish's 177 years of *Worshiping, Sharing, and Making Christ Known*.

November Lunchtime Concert

By Michael Bennett

November 12th will bring a new face to our lunchtime concert series. Organist Matthew Middleton from Christ Church Cathedral will perform a program of music by J.S. Bach, Kenneth Leighton (GBR) and José Antonio Carlos de Seixas (POR).

Middleton holds degrees from the University of Texas and Indiana University. The concert begins at 12:10 p.m. and lunch follows. I hope to see you there!