



# *The Eagle*

September 2014

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## **Adult Bible Study Resumes**

**By Randy Brist**

The Adult Bible Study group resumes on September 9, 2014 in the Parish Commons and meets each Tuesday night from 6:30-7:30 PM. We will be using the Life Guide Bible Study series again this year.

Booklets will be available at the first organizational meeting. The first topic will be the Sermon on the Mount. Booklets are \$7.62 and will take us through at least 6 weeks of instruction. It is not necessary to buy a booklet to participate in the group. There are also Bibles available if you don't have one. We'd love to see some new faces in the group this year.

We are a very low key bunch, and volunteer to take turns leading discussion. We've said it before- this is NOT your typical Bible study group. Come see what it's all about, and how the Bible can apply to your everyday life. For more information talk to Randy Brist, [rjbrist@mac.com](mailto:rjbrist@mac.com) or Greg McClure at [gmcclure@purdue.edu](mailto:gmcclure@purdue.edu).

## **Conversation Circles Call Out**

**By Amy Paget**

The Diversity Round Table of Greater Lafayette Commerce invites everyone to join the fall session for Conversation Circles. We invite you to gather with others to strengthen our community's collective capacity for authenticity, compassion, humility, and courage.

Circles are gatherings of 8-12 people who: share their stories, build connections, speak from the heart, identify assumptions and their impact for a welcoming community, share diverse life experiences and explore the complexity of community issues.

To learn more about this program, contact [DRTConversationCircles@gmail.com](mailto:DRTConversationCircles@gmail.com) or speak with Amy Paget who is a member of the Steering Team.

Are you interested but not sure about joining this endeavor? There will be an introductory session held at the Tippecanoe County Public Library, Downtown on Monday September 22 from 7-8:30 pm.

# From the Rector

By Bradley Pace

As I write this, a certain degree of calm has come to the streets of Ferguson, Missouri. The Governor has told the National Guard troops that had taken up positions to withdraw, and the State Police Captain in charge of the police response said this morning that things were much, much more peaceful. Attorney General Eric Holder was in Ferguson meeting with the family of Michael Brown, the young man whose death sparked outrage in the community, and many others.

This week, I heard a report from NPR on the situation in Ferguson. The reporter was interviewing people in the street. A man, who identified himself as Bubba, told NPR's Frank Morris:

You know what happens when you back a dog in the corner. He's going to act out, and he's going to bite you aggressively. You can't treat people like animals. Treat people how you want to be treated. That's the golden rule, I thought. So if they don't want to honor the golden rule, well, then the result is going to be the actions that you see.

This situation has been on my mind a great deal lately. On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, I preached about the circumstances of Michael Brown's death and the necessity of a loving, grace-filled response on the part of the Church and of individual Christians. The Gospel for that Sunday was from Matthew. In the story, Jesus and the disciples travel to the area near the towns of Tyre and Sidon, an area north of the Galilee on the Mediterranean coast. The circumstances are complicated, but it is important to know that for them, this is enemy territory. While there, Jesus is approached by a "Canaanite woman" who shouts after him "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." Jesus, however, ignores her, and his disciples want Jesus to send her away. Jesus finally remarks that he has been sent only "to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But, the woman shows a substantial amount of bravado, kneels before Jesus, and says, "Lord, help me." This is the critical moment in the story. What will Jesus do (and, if he is our example, how must we respond)?

If you know the story, you know that Jesus, well, he calls her a dog: "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." It isn't the response we expect. It isn't the response we might hope for. It isn't what we've come to expect from Jesus. As I said in my sermon that Sunday, it's a complicated story. There are lots of hard questions that need to be answered: theological, cultural, text-critical, linguistic, historical, etc. The troubling questions have to do with Jesus' response. Why does Jesus seem so disinterested in this woman and her daughter? Why do their needs seem so unimportant to him? Why does he seem so callous? Maybe Jesus is playing along with her, teasing her. Some folks have suggested that the Greek word for "dog" here is a term of endearment—she's a "little puppy". But this all seems wrong. What's going on here?

The woman is undaunted by Jesus' response. After all, her child's life is at stake here. "Yes, Lord," she says, "yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

I couldn't help but think of the Canaanite woman when I heard the interview with Bubba. He's been treated like a dog, and so, like the Canaanite woman in our Gospel story, he co-opts the language and owns it. "You want to treat me like a dog? Then why are you surprised when I bite?"

In the story of the Canaanite woman, Jesus finally heals the woman's daughter because of her faith. Well, that's too simple. He heals the woman's daughter because she pushed back, because she would not let him off the hook. He heals her daughter because she demanded that she be treated as a human being and as a person worthy of respect and love. She demanded that God's kingdom be expanded to include her daughter and her.

Many African-Americans in Ferguson and others besides have shown their faith. They have pushed back; they have not let the rest of us off the hook. They have demanded that Michael Brown receive justice, that African-Americans be treated as human beings worthy of respect and love. In the language of faith, they have demanded that God's Kingdom be expanded to include them.

In my sermon, I went on to say:

I want to stand here in church this morning and I want to be a good Episcopalian. I want to be a good pastor. I want to be reasonable and measured. After all, outrage, really isn't our thing. I want to say to you, "it's complicated." Because it is. The death of Mike Brown is complicated. The police response in Ferguson is complicated. The history of race and racism in this country is complicated.

But the simple fact is that saying "it's complicated", especially if those of us who are white simply leave it at that, is a noxious, sinful form of white privilege.

Recognizing complexity is not enough. We have to respond. As people of faith, we must be people of prayer and action. We must pray for calm and peace, but we must also demand justice (justice, not witch hunts, but real, honest-to-goodness justice). We must seek reconciliation.

As the rector of St. John's, I call on each of you to pray for peace and calm in Ferguson, in Lafayette, in West Lafayette, and in the streets of every city. I call on you to demand justice—in particular, justice for Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Renisha McBride, Amadou Diallo, and more. I call on you to remember the difficult work of living into God's Kingdom: a kingdom where we respect the dignity of every human being, and seek to serve Christ in every person. For some of us, this means owning up to our racial prejudice and our privilege in a society filled with racial injustice. For some of us, it will mean educating ourselves about the history of racism in this country and especially of the way that history has been experienced by people of color. For every one of us, it will mean asking God to fill us with grace and love.

In love and service,  
Bradley+

## **It's time to play!**

### **By Hilary Cooke**

Our Christian formation for children aged 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade, Godly Play, will resume on Sunday, September 7 on the top level (floor 2 if you're taking the elevator). We ask that parents help their children settle into the church space and lead them directly to the doorman for their classroom by 9:15.

For the fall semester, Godly Play will meet on the following dates: September 7, 14, 21 and 28; October 5, 12, 19, and 26, November 2, 9, 16, and 23, and December 7 and 14. Many thanks go to all who contribute to the Godly Play program at St. John's.

If you'd like to know more about Godly Play in general, see: [godlyplayfoundation.org](http://godlyplayfoundation.org) or check out our Godly Play bulletin board in the parish hall. If you're interested in knowing how you can be a part of this ministry please feel free to contact Hilary at [hilary@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:hilary@stjohns-laf.org).

# VBS Recap and Thanks

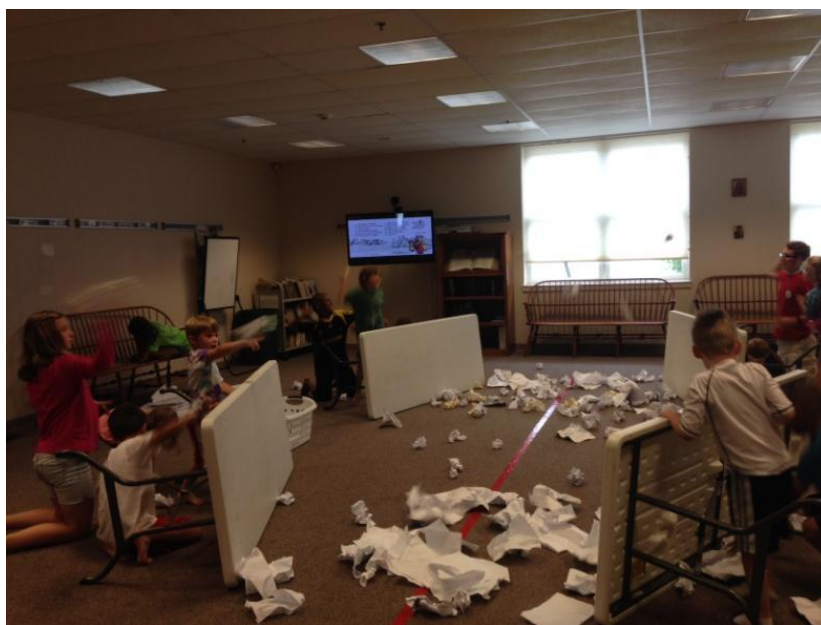
By Bradley Pace

If you missed Holy Moly! VBS at St. John's, then you missed

## Holy Moly!



A snowball fight in St. John's | Commons  
(in August no less)



## Pancakes on Wednesday Night



## Singing with Michael Bennett



## Spirit-filled WORSHIP



### And more.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this week's Holy Moly! Vacation Bible School! 34 children and youth attended the event. We had a wonderful, Spirit-filled week. Thanks to the parents for making sure their kids were there, to all those who helped make dinner and clean-up, to Katie Elder, Hilary Cooke, Michael Bennett, Gayle Ennis, Greg Buzzard, Tim Smith, Jennifer Chandler, Joanna Benskin, Brian Koczan, Becky Dick, the Men's Pancake Group, Helen Slagel, and Sven Schreiber for all the help and support.

# A Text Message from the 4<sup>th</sup> Century

Shared by Michael Bennet

Have you ever thought about the fact that, after the Bible itself, our hymnal is the richest collection of Christian texts we have at our disposal? We have no greater anthology of Christian poetry for use in worship. Whether you sing or not, I encourage you to open the hymnal—as you await the beginning of the service, and during worship—to read the texts we are singing. Our hymnal is an astonishing treasure-trove of Divine revelation in verse—from the simplest truths to the most profound mysteries—through the musings, admonitions, prayers, and praises of nearly every generation of Christians who have gone before us, as well as our own.

Music aside, if you check out the fine print underneath every hymn, you may be surprised to notice that, for instance, the text we are currently singing at the breaking of the eucharistic bread is attributed to Thomas Aquinas. And that some of the Christmas carols you love most have been sung by Christians for 200, or 500, or 1700 years. *The Hymnal 1982* contains words penned by some of history's greatest poets, even one hymn by a living Pulitzer Prize winner. Did you know that the texts to several of your favorite Easter hymns have been sung by Christians (albeit in Latin, and obviously to other music) for 1500 years? We live in the only age in history that has ready access to the profound poetry and hymnody of every previous generation. We also live in a time when newly composed hymnody, both texts and tunes, has flourished as it has in only a very few other generations before us. Those two facts provide immense potential for our spiritual enrichment, and they also pose significant challenges for the Church.

It is a fundamental tenet of my own life pilgrimage that, like life itself, a vibrant faith should always be dynamic rather than static. This core belief also governs my approach to music, to text, and to music-making. I have been working full-time with the “new” Episcopal hymnal for several decades, yet rarely a week goes by that I do not discover something profound that seems “new” to me. If there is wisdom to be gleaned from that realization, I suspect it is that none of us will live so long that the Holy Spirit will run out of unexpected words and music to inspire us, or the ability and will to open our eyes and ears to something more of “the beauty of holiness.” The question might be, will we be open to receive it?

Of course I hope you will read *and* sing the hymns, whether you think you have much of a voice or not. Why? Well, the answer to that would fill books, but one of the many reasons we sing is because singing texts helps us to remember them. I enjoy a great preacher as much as anyone, but as the old quip goes, when was the last time you left church humming the sermon? Throughout Judeo-Christian history, singing holy texts has been one of the ways that people who seek God have learned and internalized their faith. God's self can be revealed in more ways than we can begin to name or imagine, and one of those ways (interestingly, in nearly every religion known to humankind) has always been through singing sacred words.

I invite you to discover the hymnal. Where else are you likely to receive a 1500-year-old text message?

Dale Adelman  
Canon for Music, Cathedral of St. Philip  
Atlanta, GA

## Next Eagle Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the October Eagle will be Monday, September 15. Email to [eagle@stjohns-laf.org](mailto:eagle@stjohns-laf.org) or place items in *The Eagle* mailbox on the Rectory porch.

## Who Do You Say that I Am?

By Michael Bennet

I love summer – the slower pace, time for travel, abundant sunshine, our joint 9:00am Sunday congregation, and much more. But if you're like me, when free time is abundant, sometimes there are serious questions and thoughts which surface. These usually are shoved aside during my busy academic year and reappear during substantial breaks in my schedule.

These past few months I have found myself repeatedly asking “who am I?” I am Michael: organist, teacher, choral director, minister, performer, and administrator. In a world where everyone seeks a perfect balance between personal and professional, or work versus family, I have been seeking clarification *within* my own professional life. I enjoy each of the different facets my work affords me (some more than others), but I wish they were a bit more equal. I've often thought begrudgingly: “All I do is spend all day trying to get others to do something. I want to do something that requires only my will for success.” Others include: “I'm tired of leading warm-ups for a living,” or “I miss practicing.” Albeit I enjoy doing many of the things I sometimes begrudge, the constant repetition can lead to lack of enthusiasm, or even burn out.

One of the things I enjoy most is performing. In the years before I became a full-time teacher, I performed in several other states: NY, NJ, OH, VA, GA, KY, and MD. I was even scheduled to play in San Francisco but had to cancel due to my accepting the position at Jeff High School. Despite the hundreds of hours practicing and pre-concert jitters, I do enjoy the energy which comes from performing live in front of an enthusiastic audience. It has been awhile (nearly three years) since I've given a concert at St. John's, even during lunchtime. I have therefore decided that, in celebration of my ten years as your parish musician, I'll be performing an anniversary organ concert on **Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**. I have planned music that I hope will be pleasing to all – music from Germany, France, America, England, and Canada, representing the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. There will be a reception afterward. I do hope that you'll come, and even invite a friend who perhaps has never heard the sound of a pipe organ.

Thank you for a wonderful 10 years!

September 2014

## Episcopal Women's Ministries Luncheon

By Charlene Watson

St. John's women, join your sisters from around the Diocese for a wonderful weekend of respite, fellowship, and spirituality. The Episcopal Women's Ministries Council is holding your annual retreat at Waycross during the last weekend in September. Our theme is “Clutter Free Abundant Living” featuring Shawna Bryant, a retreat leader from California, <http://shawnamarie.com/>. Shawna writes, “Abundant living flows out of a vital relationship with the Good Shepherd described in John 10:1-15.”

“This weekend we will explore spiritual and practical ways to quiet our hearts and minds so we can hear the voice of our Shepherd. Discover the secrets of following Jesus through safe (and uncluttered) pastures. We will discuss ways to:

- Be intimate with God
- Be attentive to God
- Be watchful of the thief
- Be disciplined in our walk.”

In addition to the de-cluttering workshops, there will be time for enjoying the wonderful Waycross food hospitality and the great outdoors with walks and free time.

The Early Bird Discount fee is \$160 up to August 20<sup>th</sup>, \$200 thereafter. Look for registration flyers on the Women's' Ministries counter in the commons or by visiting this website, <http://ewm.indydio.org/>. We will plan to carpool if that is helpful. For questions or further information, contact Charlene Watson at [cel.watson@comcast.net](mailto:cel.watson@comcast.net) or Amy Paget at [pagets@gmail.com](mailto:pagets@gmail.com).

# Enneagram Reminder

By Amy Paget

## The Wisdom of the Enneagram – A Quiet Day Workshop, Saturday September 13

On Saturday September 13, Heidi Kauffman will facilitate an Enneagram workshop from 10 – 3 pm. Your \$25 registration fee due Monday September 8 includes your own copy of the book, *The Wisdom of the Enneagram*, lunch, and a donation to St. John's Outreach efforts. Complete a Registration form in the Commons and deliver it with payment to the church office.

The Enneagram (pronounced *any-a-gram*) is a description of 9 personality types. Each type has its own lens to view the world and a dominant strategy for how it relates to the world. Each type has gifts and wisdom to contribute to the world.

The Enneagram is not a personality test that “puts you in a box”. It does not show who you are but it will help you identify the patterns that dominate your experience and your relationships. Learning about what motivates you and other personality types may aid in greater compassion, understanding, and harmony within yourself and your relationships.

The Enneagram has been used by people globally of all faiths. It is not a religion; rather it is a useful tool for spiritual direction and transformation. It has been used by spiritual directors and teachers of many faith traditions.

This workshop will introduce you to the structure and basics of the Enneagram and how it is useful as a tool for transformation.

Participants will:

- Hear how the Enneagram works as a tool of transformation
- Learn about each of the 9 personality types
- Have an opportunity to explore which type you may be
- Receive your own book and a handout of resources

Heidi Kauffman was introduced to the Enneagram 20 years ago when her small group at church listened to Fr Richard Rohr, OSF teaching about the Enneagram. Since 2006 she has studied the Enneagram intensively with a book group that meets weekly.

Heidi is the director of the YWCA Women's Cancer Program. She enjoys murder mysteries, gardening, camping, biking and swimming. She has two kids, a cat, and a dog. Heidi is a member of St John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette, IN.

## Regrets

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25-26

We as a faith community extend our condolences to the family of Dale Topp, father of Dave Topp who went to his Eternal Rest on 23 July 2014.

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord  
and let light perpetual shine upon him.



## **New from Episcopal Women's Ministries**

**By Charlene Watson**

Hopefully by now you have registered for the 2014 EWM Fall Retreat to be held at the Waycross Conference Center on 26-28 September 2014. The theme for the retreat is "Clutter Free Abundant Living" presented by Shawna Marie Bryant from California. More information and registration forms can be found on the EWM Credenza outside the kitchen. Let's represent St. John's/Lafayette well. Beginning in September there will be two sheets of paper also on the credenza. If you plan to go, are driving, and are able to take a rider or two, please sign the appropriate paper with your name and contact information. If you plan to go, but need a ride, please sign the appropriate paper with your name and contact information. Charlene and/or Amy will help with communications. IMPORTANT NOTE: "No reservations will be accepted or refunds given after September 5, 2014."

Are you interested in attending the 2015 and/or the 2016 Province V Annual Meeting? I am bringing this information to you now so you can start planning. The 2015 ECW Province meeting will take place in Toledo, Ohio and hosted by the Diocese of Ohio. When date (sometime in spring) and place (hotel) are final, this information will be shared with you. The 2016 ECW Province V meeting will take place at the Grand Hotel on Mackinaw Island, 12-14 May 2016, and will be hosted by several dioceses throughout Province V. Tentatively, the 2019 Province V Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Diocese of Indianapolis – that's us! For your information, there are 14 dioceses in Province V and include the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Missouri (a portion of), Ohio, and Illinois. These Province V meetings are wonderful times of meeting Episcopalian sisters from a large area and an opportunity for continued spiritual growth and enrichment.

Please contact Charlene Watson (765-474-9101, cel.watson@comcast.net) OR Amy Paget (765-742-4239, pagets@gmail.com) if you need more information. Thank you.

## **St. John's Book Discussions**

**By Mary Campbell**

Book Group for September 2014

For many years now, the Book Group at St. John's has joined in the One Great Read (OGR) program of the Greater Lafayette community. We read the OGR selection for our September meeting, and our meeting is listed in the OGR events, open to all. (Our meetings are always open to everyone, but we don't usually advertise them to the public.)

The 2014 One Great Read is *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, published in 1962. This book, written with children and teens in mind, has continued to be popular and acclaimed for 52 years. Adults have claimed it, too, as well as the younger audiences.

I read *A Wrinkle in Time* for the first time a few weeks ago and was both charmed and deeply moved. What about you? Have you read it before? Try reading it again. I am especially interested in the reactions of children and youth. Does *A Wrinkle in Time* hold its own in comparison with the Star Wars and Harry Potter sagas? What about the book is appealing to you – or not?

Join us on Wednesday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons. Alison Moss, a member of St. John's and Head Reference Librarian at the Tippecanoe County Public Library, will lead our discussion.

# Join us as we **CONNECT** our families



## **Do you know the names of the people sitting around you?**

Help us to build a tool that will put names with faces.  
Be a part of our new family directory program—  
we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

**Each family will receive a complimentary  
8x10 portrait and free directory for participating!**



At St. John's Episcopal Church  
600 Ferry Street • Lafayette, IN

Wednesday • October 1st	2:30-9:00 PM
Thursday • October 2nd	2:30-9:00 PM
Friday • October 3rd	2:30-9:00 PM
Saturday • October 4th	10:00 AM-4:30 PM

Register at [www.stjohns-laf.org](http://www.stjohns-laf.org),  
in St. John's Commons,  
or call Shirley Marciniak at 765.463.6299  
or Ginny Hull at 765.474.2614.

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## **Annual Hunger Hike**

**By Hilary Cooke**

On Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> the St. John's youth group will once again participate in the Hunger Hike of Greater Lafayette. Each year the Hunger Hike raises money to support Lafayette Urban Ministry's Food Programs (including our own Food Pantry here at St. John's), Food Finders Food Bank, and St. Tom's Haiti Ministry. We hope to continue our efforts of the last nine years and continue to increase the funds we raise.

We would be very grateful for your support of the youth group's efforts to raise money for the hungry in our community (and abroad). You can support us in several ways. You can offer your financial support by finding youth group members to give them money directly or by going on-line to donate at [www.firstgiving.com](http://www.firstgiving.com) (search for the team "St. John's Episcopal Youth Group"). You can offer us your physical presence by joining us in the walk (we'd love to have you!). And you can offer us your spiritual support by keeping us, and those who will be served by the Hunger Hike, in your prayers.