



# The Evangelist

The monthly newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Vernon

APRIL 2016

*"Episcotinis." "Whiskipalians."*

*"Where two or three Episcopalians are gathered, there is always a Fifth!"*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever heard these names and this phrase used before? I know I have on many occasions. I know I have spoke the phrase on a number of occasions over the years. This is partly why this month's newsletter article is very difficult to write, but I firmly believe it needed to be written. In fact, it is a necessity that it be written. We use these titles and phrase about ourselves as Episcopalians, and they are used by outsiders to describe us. These are people who have spent enough time around us to discover that there is a long-standing culture of alcohol consumption associated with the Episcopal Church. To be fair, we are not the only Christian faith that has a permissive culture toward alcohol. I was raised Roman Catholic, and the priest of my parish once announced after the final benediction at Saturday night Mass that there was a keg of beer in the parish hall for anyone wanting to stay after the service. This parish priest eventually had to take a "Sabbatical" to regain his sobriety.

For Episcopalians, having this permissive culture of alcohol usage is a two edged sword. There are those who are attracted to the Episcopal Church because we provide a sharp contrast to other Christian Churches that have "Zero Tolerance" policies toward alcohol consumption both in the church and outside of the church. There are plenty of jokes about some of these churches when they appear to be hypocritical. Not to pick on our Southern Baptist brethren, but an internet search will reveal the common saying; *"Muslims do not recognize Jews, Catholics do not recognize Protestants, and Southern Baptists do not recognize each other in a liquor store."*

To turn a blind eye and have too lax of an attitude and policies towards alcohol, or no policies at all, is to accept the biblical truth; *"You reap what you sow"* (Galatians 6:7-9; Job 4:8). If we are committed to saying "anything goes" or "don't tell me what I can and cannot do" when it comes to the tolerance of alcohol in our midst; then we have to openly admit that we are willing to accept the responsibility of damaging consequences when such an open policy goes awry. As my mother-in-law told me quite frequently; *"With adult privileges, comes adult responsibility."* We are critical and judgmental of the destruction alcoholism creates in a family system, yet too often turn a blind eye to the destruction alcoholism causes in the church family. We cannot be tolerant of alcoholism in our midst, yet be critical of the destructive behavior, bad behavior, of the alcoholic in our midst. One diocese is dealing with the damaging consequences of alcohol addiction. They have reached out to the rest of The Episcopal Church to warn us of our own peril if we do not repent of our ways. We could, in an instant, end up in the same terrible mess.

Our diocese has had informal policies regarding use of alcohol at church sanctioned events for at least ten years. Because of the tragic event in one of our diocese, a committee met at General Convention last summer and drafted Church-wide alcohol and substance-abuse policies. They were voted upon and passed. They are THE policies of our Church. Our diocesan convention voted in favor of affirming those policies. However, we also agreed to continue a conversation on these policies and draft similar and/or even more stringent measures. Each parish is required to recognize that they have read and understand these policies, regardless of what the final printed policies may be. Our Vestry and I will most likely be required to sign a document stating that we take FULL responsibility of either adhering to those policies or taking the responsibility for ignoring them to our own detriment. I would state that many of these policies are common sense rules, but we don't always follow common sense. Within this newsletter is the actual policies themselves. I want to hear constructive feedback about them and how we can go about doing a better job of monitoring our culture of alcohol and getting those addicted into counseling and treatment if necessary. I stated that this was a difficult letter to write. I am not advocating we go back to a state of Prohibition, but that we be wiser and smarter about our behavior and attitude toward alcohol.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Allen<sup>+</sup>*

# *Serving Christ In The Community For 160 Years*



## **St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Vernon, Indiana**



*A member of The Southwest Deanery of The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis;  
The Episcopal Church in the United States; and the Worldwide Anglican Communion*

**The Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick, Bishop**  
**The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector**  
**Mr. Bruce Dingman, Senior Warden**  
**Mr. Barry Cox, Junior Warden**  
**Mrs. Alex Jeffries, Vestry Clerk**  
**Ms. Susan Harrison, Treasurer**

### **Church Address:**

602 Mulberry Street  
P.O. Box 503  
Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620  
(812) 838-5445  
(812) 838-4881 Fax  
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net



### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. — Noon  
Robin Price, Secretary

For pastoral emergencies, please call:  
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector  
Cell Phone: 812-430-2443  
Home: 812-838-4406  
E-mail: rutherford317@sbcglobal.net

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

8:45—9:45 a.m. Rite 13 Group  
9:00—9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday  
School Classes, Adult Study & Choir  
Rehearsal  
10:00a.m. Holy Eucharist

Coffee & Refreshments follows the  
Eucharist in the Parish Hall

**Sunday Morning Nursery Assistance  
Available**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the people of  
St. John's Episcopal Church,  
Mt. Vernon, Indiana is to:

**Proclaim the love of God and  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ through  
prayer, study, and action.**

### **Vision Statement**

With God's help,  
we commit ourselves to:  
Recognize God as the author of  
all creation

**Be a place of welcome and  
refuge for ourselves and others**

Offer weekly worship and Eucharist

Stay grounded in God's Word  
through Christian education

Pray for our needs and those  
of others

**Lend a helping hand to those in any  
kind of need or trouble,**

and finally to

**Maintain thankful hearts for God's  
many blessings**

### **Weekday Schedule**

Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.

### **Morning Prayer**

Morning Prayer, Tuesday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.



*Look us up on the web at [www.mvstjohns.org](http://www.mvstjohns.org)  
Also become our friend on Facebook: [mtvstjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:mtvstjohns@yahoo.com)*



# Leadership

## Jr. Warden Report

It always amazes me when spring comes. The buds on the plants are just fascinating! And so is our church home! It carries some great character!

**We are currently working on these projects;**

**American with Disabilities Act Compliance** – We have Adam Green an architect from Newburgh assisting with this project. His initial drawing is on the wall in the parish hall. This could be a great way to brighten up our church home while bringing it into compliance with ADA.

**Concrete Steps at front of church** – Possible Replacement, if we chose not to comply with ADA. Concrete Steps coming out of sacristy door – Possible replacement, if we chose not to comply with ADA.

**Wall Rack for Brochures** – This is being reduced in size and painted white!

**Lighting** – We are working with Dana Taylor, Adam Hayward – Vincent Lighting Systems and Brian Schmett – Amerlight to develop recommendations on how we can enhance the lights within the church. A move to LED's will provide additional light with less power.

**Roof Washing** – The north side of our roof is stained and we are working with a contractor to use a friendly chemical application that will remove the stains.

**Gutter Cleaning** – we are working on cleaning the gutters

The soffit work on the north wall of the church should be completed by Sonny Clark this spring as the weather becomes more consistent.

We have spent additional time since assuming this position looking closely at our church home. There are several areas that we should consider;

- Sanding and re-painting the front porch
- Cleaning the front porch canopy
- Removing the Chimney from the north wall

If there are items you notice should be addressed please call at your convenience and we will do our best. 812-483-4319.

Barry Cox — Junior Warden

## Treasurer's Notes

Believe it or not -- Robin and I sent out the first quarter 2016 pledge giving statements this week ! Easter is OVER ! When I look out my office window I see grass that needs mowing ! Wow. Just can't get my mind around how fast time seems to be moving. As always, if anyone has any questions, after reviewing their giving statement, please don't hesitate to contact me or the church office. Also, I want to remind members again, that it is possible to make donations to St. John's online. We have an account set up to be a "payee" for your bill pay system.

For anyone who watches the stock market, please keep in mind that St. John's long term investment portfolio is structured to generate "income". Our holdings are primarily chosen to pay dividends to the church. The finance committee and our professional advisors choose very conservative positions for our holdings and need to make very few changes to our portfolio. The market trends only effect the market value of St. John's account ON PAPER. Our income from month to month is what we monitor closely. We depend on the money generated from our portfolio to pay the bills. As you remember, I projected our portfolio annual income for 2016 to be \$90,000 in this year's budget. We manage our stock holdings on that number not the DJIA.

We had a fantastic response to our Lenten outreach project this year -- as usual ! We made well over our goal to donate bees to Heifer International. This small but mighty church family continues to amaze ! Please take note that by the end of his month we will be doing our annual Relay For Life Pork Chop Lunch fundraiser. Please help out as you can, we welcome all levels of participation ! This is a great way to give back and have FUN at the same time !

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the St. John's family. As we continue to walk the walk in the way of our journey with Christ, as we spread our blessings out into the world, we also are blessed. Your generosity and dedication is what makes this church so special.

Susan Harrison, Treasurer

## HOOSIER BISHOP XI

The period for prospective candidates our next bishop closed on Monday, February 15th. The search committee is now in a silent period of reviewing all of the applications from which they will nominate three to five candidates to put forth for election. Those finalists will be announced sometime in July.



## Education and Formation

### Christian Education Meeting

**April 17th**

**Following the morning service**  
**All Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders**

Topics for discussion:

- Planning for Recognition Sunday & the Bishop's visit on May 22nd
- 2016 VBS
- 2016-2017 Sunday School
- Youth Group update



### Confirmation

**2016 Southwest Deanery Confirmation Service**  
**Saturday, April 9th,**  
**3:00 P.M.**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Evansville**

Anyone interested in learning more about being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, please speak with Father Allen. Anyone wishing to Reaffirm their commitment to their faith can also partake in this service.



*Father Allen had a full house of kids to listen to his Children's Sermon on the Second Sunday of Lent, February 21st.*



### Journey in Faith Returns in May

**Monday, May 9th**

**Topic:**

**Common Riding Ceremonies**  
**Of the Scottish Borders**

# Reaching Out To Others

## Outreach Tithe for April

*Children's Learning Center, \$1,000.*

*Wadesville Day Care, \$500.*

*Pound Puppies, \$500*

*Willow Tree, \$250.*

## Precious Posies Baby Shower

**Our Spring Ingathering For Precious Posies will be held Sunday, April 17th and 24th.**

The following items are needed:

*Disposable diapers (all sizes)*

*Pull-ups*

*Sippy cups*

*Baby bottles*

*Bibs (cloth and disposable)*

*Pacifiers*

*Home safety items (socket plugs, etc.)*

*Wipes*

*Baby blankets*

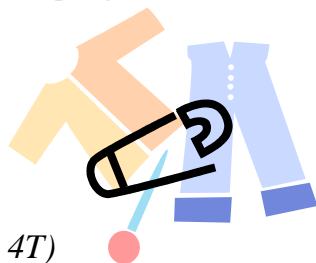
*Wash cloths*

*Burp cloths*

*Crib sheets*

*Toys*

*Summer clothes (up to 4T)*



The United Thank Offering Ingathering will be The first two Sundays in May, 1st & 8th. **This is our only UTO ingathering in**

**2016.** We will be collecting coins in November for EFHN (Episcopal Fund For Human Need).



## PORK CHOP LUNCH FUNDRAISER

The 14th Annual Pork Chop Lunch Fundraiser will be held on Friday, April 29th from 11a.m. until all the lunches are sold and distributed.

Volunteers are needed to help in the parish hall Thursday morning to prepare lunch items; and help is needed to put together the meals on the day of the fundraiser beginning at 9:00am. Contact Father Allen or the church office if you can help either day.

**The Relay Event is June 4th**

## APRIL FOOD PANTRY Boxes of Sleeved Crackers

The Food Pantry needs boxes of sleeved crackers of any brand or variety.

Place the boxes in the round bin in the parish hall.



# Church & Community

## Final Tally on Bees and Honey 2016 Lenten Outreach



**Our Goal was \$600**

**20 shares at \$30 per share**

**We raised \$840**

**Or 28 shares**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Lenten outreach project.

## Well Deserved "THANK YOU"s!

**Thank You** to everyone who provided food items for the Lenten Soup suppers and participated in the discussions.

**Thank You** to Carrie Akins for providing the Simnel cakes for Rose Sunday and to Susie Colson for helping with serving and clean up.

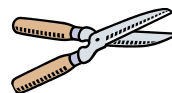
**Thank You** to everyone who helped with all of the Holy Week services.

**Thank You** to everyone who purchased flowers to decorate the church for Easter.

**Thank You** to everyone who purchased Easter candy and helped with the egg hunt.

## Spring Clean Up Day April 10th After Service

Bring your gloves and rakes to help spruce up the flower beds, church yard, and lot.



## "I'm a Little Tea Pot..."



*Santa Claus found this forgotten gift in the bottom of his bag after he returned to the North Pole after Christmas, so he passed it on to the Easter Bunny to deliver to St. John's. For all of you hot tea drinkers, this electric water heater is now available for your use. Also great for instant hot chocolate.*

## "Survey Says?"

Back in late February a survey was sent out asking for feedback on the 2016 congregational renewal and anniversary celebration program. Your responses will help the renewal/grant committee write the final report to the Lilly Foundation about our experience of receiving the grant. Please find, complete, and mail back those surveys as quickly as possible.



# Our Church & Diocese

## **The Episcopal Church Use Of Alcohol At Church Sponsored Events**

*Adopted at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church*

*Affirmed by the 178th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis*

1. The Church must provide a safe and welcoming environment for all people, including people in recovery.
2. All applicable federal, state and local laws should be obeyed, including those governing the serving of alcoholic beverages to minors.
3. Some dioceses and congregations may decide not to serve alcohol at events or gatherings. Others may decide to permit a limited use of alcoholic beverages at church-sponsored events. Both can be appropriate if approached mindfully.
4. When alcohol is served, it must be monitored and those showing signs of intoxication must not be served. Whenever alcohol is served, the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge must appoint an adult to oversee its serving. That adult must not drink alcoholic beverages during the time of his or her execution of his or her responsibilities. If hard liquor is served, a certified server is required.
5. Serving alcoholic beverages at congregational events where minors are present is strongly discouraged. If minors are present, alcohol must be served at a separate station that is monitored at all times to prevent underage drinking.
6. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Food prepared with alcohol does not need to be labeled provided the alcohol is completely evaporated by the cooking process; however, it is recommended that even in this case the use of alcohol in cooking be noted on a label.
7. Whenever alcohol is served, appealing non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal prominence and accessibility.
8. The serving of alcoholic beverages at church events should not be publicized as an attraction of the event, e.g. "wine and cheese reception," "cocktail party," and "beer and wine tasting."
9. Ministries inside or outside of congregations will make certain that alcohol consumption is not the focus of the ministry and that drinking alcohol is not an exclusively normative activity.
9. Food must be served when alcohol is present.
10. The groups or organizations sponsoring the activity or event at which alcoholic beverages are served must have permission from the clergy or the vestry. Such groups or organizations must also assume responsibility for those persons who might become intoxicated and must provide alternative transportation for anyone whose capacity to drive may be impaired. Consulting with liability insurance carriers is advised.
11. Recognizing the effects of alcohol as a mood-altering drug, alcoholic beverages shall not be served when the business of the Church is being conducted.
12. Clergy shall consecrate an appropriate amount of wine when celebrating the Eucharist and perform ablutions in a way that does not foster or model misuse.
13. We encourage clergy to acknowledge the efficacy of receiving the sacrament in one kind and consider providing non-alcoholic wine.

Being mindful of the emerging legalization of other addictive substances and the increasing rise of addiction, The Episcopal Church provide for the ready availability, implementation, and continuing development of this policy church-wide, in consultation and coordination with Recovery Ministries of The Episcopal Church.



# Pathways to Vitality

SPRING DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

## MONEY AND WELLNESS: HOME, WORK AND CHURCH

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

*Indianapolis Museum of Art, Deer Zink Event Pavilion*  
4000 Michigan Road, Indianapolis

The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis invites you to attend the launch of the Pathways to Vitality Initiative — a remarkable three-year program designed to help us understand and manage the relationship between financial wellness and congregational vitality.

*During this highly interactive conference, you will learn more about:*

- > Personal financial wellness and its impact on workplace (*church*) wellness
- > The cost of ministry and the importance of transparency in helping our congregations
  - > The overall vision for the Pathways to Vitality Initiative

### Financial Wellness and the Workplace with *Pete the Planner*



Peter Dunn *a.k.a. Pete the Planner* will be our morning keynote speaker. He is an award-winning comedian and financial mind. Pete is a USA TODAY columnist and the author of ten books, six of which were featured in a nationwide launch at Barnes & Nobles stores in January 2015. He is the host of the popular radio show, The Pete the Planner Show, on WIBC FM and is a columnist for the Indianapolis Star. Pete has appeared regularly on CNN Headline News and Fox Business as well as numerous nationally syndicated radio programs. He is consistently considered one of the top five personal finance experts in the nation. Pete's favorite personal finance accomplishment is paying for a basement remodel without borrowing money.



## The Cost of Ministry with Bishop Richard Foss (ELCA)



Reverend Richard Foss, former bishop of Eastern North Dakota Synod (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*), will be our afternoon speaker. Bishop Foss has been very engaged in Lilly Endowment Inc.'s National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. Nationally, these challenges include crushing seminary debt and part-time salaries for full-time ministries, among others. Bishop Foss will share his experiences and insights regarding the true costs of ministry for clergy, lay leaders and their congregations. Lilly Endowment named Bishop Foss recently as the first program director for its national initiative.

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### Important Planning Information

- > Registration opens at 9:00 a.m.
- > Morning program will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.
- > Pete the Planner will host a book signing following his presentation
- > Lunch is included
- > Free parking is available on the Museum's surface lot or in its underground garage
- > The Leadership Conference will end no later than 3:30 p.m.
- > The day includes free admission to the Museum following the Leadership Conference

*All clergy and convention delegates are expected to attend. Wardens, vestry members, treasurers and other parish leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. This is truly an extraordinary opportunity for all parish leadership and clergy.*

To register, please visit <https://goo.gl/r146Fr> or call 800-669-5786.



*The Pathways to Vitality Initiative and the Spring Diocesan Leadership Conference are made possible in part by a generous grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.*

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***If you would like to go to this conference, please contact Father Allen as quickly as possible for further information on registration and transportation considerations.***

# Events & Celebrations

**April 2016**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## April Events

- 01 — April Fool's Day
- 04 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 04-05 — Spring Clergy Conference at Waycross
- 09 — Southwest Deanery Confirmation Service, St. Paul, Evansville, 3:00 p.m. (Central Time)
- 10 — Church Yard Spring Clean-Up Day after the service
- 11 — Congregational Renewal Committee meeting, 4:00 p.m. in the parish hall
- 16 — Leadership Day gathering for all clergy and lay leaders of congregations. Indianapolis Museum of Art, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 Central Time
- 17 — Christian Education meeting after the service
- 17 — Precious Posies Baby Shower, first collection Sunday
- 18 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 19 — Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 21 — Vestry meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 — Precious Posies Baby Shower, second collection Sunday
- 28 — Prepping for Relay For Life Fundraiser, parish hall, 9:00 a.m.
- 29 — Relay For Life Pork Chop Lunch Fundraiser  
Meet at parish hall at 7:00 a.m. to load trailer and set up at Auto Zone parking lot. Lunch assembly begins at 9:00a.m.

## April Birthdays:

- 04 — Melonie Steele
- 07 — Amy Steele
- 12 — William Gerton
- 13 — Mary Ann Burris
- 24 — Susan Harrison



## April Anniversaries:

- 15 — Michael & Tammy Weatherford
- 17 — Chris & Diane Hancock
- 23 — Paul & Judy Maurer

*If we missed your day or listed it incorrectly let us know so we can update our files.*

## RED LOBSTER Cheddar Biscuits

Light, Airy, and Tasty  
Garlic-Cheese Biscuits



### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups biscuit mix
- 1/2 cup shredded mild Cheddar cheese
- 2/3 cup milk
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- Parsley flakes, for sprinkling

### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Stir together the biscuit mix, Cheddar, and milk until a soft dough forms. Beat with a wooden spoon for about 30 seconds. Spoon onto a greased cookie sheet. Smooth down tops to prevent hard points from forming. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until tops are brown. While the biscuits are baking, melt the butter in a pan and stir in the garlic powder. Once the biscuits are done, brush the butter on the tops, sprinkle with parsley flakes, and serve hot. (Optional: sprinkle with salt.)

**Indiana Primary  
Election Day  
Tuesday, May 3rd**





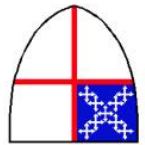
# : Reflections of Holy Week and Easter

Serving Christ through...





St. John's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 503  
602 Mulberry Street  
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620



## The Great Easter Vigil March 26th, 2016

Perfect Weather!

Our Lenten season  
ended,  
and our "Alleluias"  
returned.

May the truth of the  
Resurrection fill you  
with all joy and hope  
this Easter Season!