

St. John's The Evangelist

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

January, 2016

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and I pray you all have a safe and Happy New Year! We are beginning a new year, 2016 to be exact. It has been the norm for several years now that the January edition of **The Evangelist** contains an extended calendar of events so you can jot events down, in pencil, in your shiny new 2016 calendars; or plug them into your smart electronic device calendars. January sets the tone, and the agenda, for the rest of the year. A lot of the committee meetings that take place in January and the Vestry Retreat in early February are designed to plan out or rough draft the entire year of ministry. Looking into 2016, I was a little hesitant to plan much past February and I took a chance at writing in event dates into April.

We knew going into last year, 2015, that we were not going to have a "normal" year because of the 160th Anniversary Celebration and our respective Renewal Grant activities. Despite the uniqueness of the year, the various event planning committees had a pretty good handle on what was taking place and when it would take place; so creating a long-term calendar of events was practically done going into January 2015. That is not necessarily the case for 2016. I told anyone who would listen that after I got back from my Sabbatical, and the dust settled, that I wanted this congregation to be thinking ahead to the future and what the ministries of this parish would look like. We have changed as a congregation over the last few years, and it is time to be adapting to those changes. Moving forward together and taking into consideration our new reality, I ask us to consider a few questions. Where do we want to go together in ministry? Can we think three years down the line or even five years? Of utmost importance we need to be asking, Where is the Holy Spirit guiding us and leading us?

It will be important for us to balance Mission-mindedness with Maintenance-mindedness. We have a church building made of brick and mortar and wood. We have a physical presence on the corner of 6th and Mulberry Street in which to call our command center for worshipping and serving Christ in our community. The privilege and responsibility of having this holy space requires us to be maintenance-minded. On Page 4 of this newsletter is a list of projects that the next Junior Warden and Vestry will need to address. Some tasks on the list need to be tackled soon and others could fall into the three to five year planning range. How will we budget and prioritize those projects. The Vestry and I have been assured by our Treasurer, Susan Harrison, that there is money available to finance some of these projects. Believe it or not, in another five years, we may be discussing the roof of the church again. We talked about the roof back in 2008 when we replaced the cupola, but we tabled the discussions because it was not yet time.

To be balanced, we must be equally mission-minded. On Page 7 of this newsletter is an article entitled, *What ministries are you still excited about?* I am asking the leadership of the parish and the entire congregation to help re-evaluate our mission priorities. I restate a saying I wrote in a recent newsletter. "How can we work smarter, not harder, to serve Christ?" Where do we want to put our energy and resources to keep our parish ministries lively and, dare I use the word, "fun"? What do we do best? Is our "best ministry" what we are currently know for by the community we live in and serve?

Finally, we are reminded in Christmas that the shepherds were led to Christ by the urging of the heavenly angels; and in Epiphany that the wise men were led to Christ by the shining of a star. What do we have at St. John's that we can use to lead others to find Christ among us in this new year of 2016 and beyond?

Your Brother in Christ *Allen⁺*



Serving Christ In The Community For over 150 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
Mrs. Diane Hancock, Vestry Clerk
Ms. Susan Harrison, Treasurer

Church Address:

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



Church Secretary Office Hours:

Mrs. Robin Price
Monday through Friday
8:00a.m. to Noon

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

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45-9:45a.m. Rite 13
9-9:45a.m. Adult Study, Choir Rehearsal,
& PreK-4th Grade Sunday School Class
10:00a.m. Holy Eucharist
Coffee & Refreshments follows the
Eucharist in the Parish Hall

**Sunday Morning Nursery Assistance
Available**

Weekday Service Schedule

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

Wednesday Morning Schedule:

9:00-10:00a.m. Women's Bible Study

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**

**Look us up on
the web at
www.mvstjohns.org**



**Also become our friend
on Facebook:
StJohns Church
or**

mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net

From the Senior Warden

As was reported in the December 29, 2015 parish newsletter, we will be electing only two new vestry members in 2016, instead of the usual three. If you have not served on vestry recently, please consider volunteering now. St. John's needs you. It is a good way to be involved with parish activities, is interesting (in my opinion), and is one way to serve Christ.

Please see Sue Webster, Diane Hancock, Steve Burris, Father Allen, or me for further information or if you want to serve.

Bruce Dingman

Who are we?

Over a decade ago, a resolution was passed requiring each congregation to create an Annual Congregational Study. The report is based on the answers to ten questions. I consider myself an observant person and a decent listener, hence, I have been submitting the report for the past ten years. If anyone would like to see and read what I have written over the years, you are more than welcome to the reports. Many of the answers to the questions have changed as we have evolved and changed over the years. If you would like to have some input in answering the questions for this year's report (2015), here are the questions.

1. Who are we?
2. Who are we called to become?
3. What is our mission in this place?
4. Who is our neighbor?
5. How are we meeting and learning about our neighbor?
6. How is this community and congregation different from a year ago?
7. How would we like our congregation to be different a year from now?
8. How are people being equipped for ministry?
9. How is leadership recognized, affirmed, and shared here?
10. How are lives and communities being transformed?

The report must be written and filed by early February. Your answers and comments must be returned to me by the end of January.

Allen+

Treasurer's Notes

Anybody who needs to finish up your pledge for 2015, anyone who wants to make a charitable contribution to the church for tax year 2015, you must get the money into the church office by Dec.31, 2015. I need to finish the St. John's 2016 budget. To finish the budget, I need the total from all the pledges. If you & your family have generously decided to make a pledge to St. John's for 2016, it would be greatly appreciated to have your pledge cards into the church office as soon as possible. Thank you all for your continued dedication to the mission of St. John's Episcopal Church. This small but mighty parish continues to amaze! What often gets lost in the numbers, but is not forgot, is the intangible giving that the people of this church offer to the service of Christ. We give thanks to you for your annual pledges and faith giving, but we also offer our thanks for all the little offerings you make to the ministries and mission of St. John's. Keep up the good work! Or, as Jesus said, "continue to bear good fruit for the Kingdom."

Thanks be to God.

Susan Harrison
Treasurer

2016 Parish Annual Meeting Sunday, January 31st

The meeting follows the worship service.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall for attendance and food: The meat is provided. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

All Vestry Wardens and Ministry Leaders are required to submit a brief written report prior to the annual meeting. All reports are due by the end of the day, Thursday, January 28th, so all reports can be collated and copied for the meeting. Please e-mail or provide hard copies to Robin Price at the church.

Leadership

Junior Warden 2016 "To Do" List

The Vestry that meets at the annual Retreat day on February 6th will have the task of electing a new Junior Warden. Typically, the Junior Warden is charged with oversight of the building and grounds up-keep. The 2016 Junior Warden is inheriting a rather lengthy "To Do" list. It will be up to the entire Vestry to prioritize the list and determine how to fund the projects on the list. Here is the current list:

- Fix hole in the church wall [and soffit] in prayer garden
- Church lighting
- Repair or replace concrete steps: sacristy entrance and front entrance
- Handicap parking out front
- Possible of removal of corner tree in lot across the street
- Research handicap accessibility

If you know of other items that need to be added to the list, please e-mail the church office or Father Allen.

Worship Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 13th, 6:00PM



More Well Deserved "THANK YOU"s!

Thank You to everyone who helped set up the Chrismon Tree in the parish hall.

Thank You to "St. Nicholas" for his yearly visit to the children of St. John's.

Thank You to everyone who purchased presents for the Mt. Vernon Ministerial Associations' Christmas Assistance Program. *Also, thank you to everyone who assisted the Program through your workplace.*

Thank You to everyone who helped green the church and decorate for Christmas.

Finally, **Thank You** to everyone who helped with the pageant and everyone who helped make this year's Advent and Christmas Services memorable.

Vestry Retreat Guest Speaker

In the January 2015 newsletter, Father Allen wrote about a possible plan to write a grant to hire a consultant to come to St. John's to help us perform a ministry review. This review would give us an outside perspective on how we are currently ministering to our community and evaluate our current strengths and challenges. Father Allen found out in early November that such a consultant resides within our own diocese. During the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry approved and allocated money to have this consultant give a presentation and lead a discussion at that the Vestry Retreat on February 6th. This half-day meeting with the consultant is far less expensive at this point than going through the process of grant writing and hiring someone from outside our diocese. It could be that the presentation will lead to a desire for further conversations with this person and at that point we might consider writing a grant to hire them for further work.

Serving Christ through... Education and Formation

Kicking Off the Advent Season at Solarbron



Beth Dingman and the Rite 13 Youth Group assisted Father Allen with the worship service at Solarbron Pointe on the First Sunday of Advent. The residents enjoy having the kids at the service.



RECONCILIATION Lenten Season Study

Ash Wednesday and the Lenten Season will arrive even earlier than last year, than last year. Father Allen has already completed a Lenten study program. It is based on our biblical mandate to be reconciled to one another as Jesus Christ reconciled us back to God the Father. This study will look at biblical accounts of various broken relationships and ask us to discuss how those same relationships still exist today. How does Bible suggest we fix those relationships. Sign up sheets will soon be posted to reserve copies of the study material and to volunteer to bring various foods for the soup suppers. The first lesson will begin Wednesday, February 17th, at 6:00 p.m.

Journey in Faith Monday, January 4th *Abbeys & Priories of England and Scotland*



The evening starts with a soup supper at 6:00pm. Even in their ruins, these are beautiful structures. Come and see the photos and join the discussion.

Christian Education Meeting February 7th

Following the morning service

All Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders

Topics for discussion:

- Lent
- Planning for the end our Sunday school year on May 22nd
- Thoughts on 2016-2017 Sunday School year
- 2016 VBS
- Youth Group update



Serving Christ through...

The Backward Christmas Pageant



Reaching Out To Others

The Outreach Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 10h to discuss our annual tithe budget and recipients for 2016.



Our New Outreach Chairperson

Susan Gooden has accepted the position as Chair of St. John's Outreach Committee. Susan is taking over from Diane Stover who was the Chair of the committee for over a decade. Diane has provided Susan with a helpful amount of informational materials from previous years. Father Allen also sat down with Susan to have a lengthy discussion about the position prior to her saying "Yes". Father Allen is laying out a preliminary vision for how outreach functions at St. John's moving forward. Susan will join the current committee team to also help to shape that vision and move it forward.

What ministries are you still excited about?

There are some ministries projects that become timeless; the energy and enthusiasm to keep them going never fades away. Then, there are other ministries that have a more limited life cycle. Father Allen is asking the congregation, "What are the ministry projects we undertake through the course of the year that we still are excited about?" Posted on the wall of the parish hall are individual pages with a ministry project heading. Parishioners are asked to sign their name to the projects they are willing to support either "hands-on" or financially. Those projects include:

- ☐ Lenten Project (Financial Collection)
- ☐ Precious Posey's Baby Shower (April)
- ☐ United Thank Offering (Spring & Fall)

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY

Jelly

The Food Pantry needs assorted varieties of jelly , any brand.

Place them in the round bin in the Parish Hall.



- ☐ Relay For Life
- ☐ Episcopal Fund For Human Need (Pentecost Sunday)
- ☐ River Days Festival Booth
- ☐ Habitat For Humanity Builds
- ☐ Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry
- ☐ SCI Christmas on the River
- ☐ Ministerial Association Christmas Assistance Program
- ☐ Monthly Food Pantry Collections

If you are unable to visit the parish hall, but would like to provide your input into this decision, please mark or highlight items on the list and mail them to the church, or send an e-mail with your choices.

Father Allen is also asking the Outreach Committee to consider the ministries we support through our yearly tithe of the operating budget. The list has grown rather lengthy with some ministries only receiving a few hundred dollars. Father Allen would like to see St. John's give more money to fewer ministries, or consider putting a select few ministries on a rotating basis from year to year.

Serving Christ through... Our Church & Community

HOOSIER BISHOP XI Update

The diocesan bishop search committee is completing our diocesan profile to make available to potential candidates. If you are interested, that profile will be viewable by anyone at www.hoosierbishopxi.org after the first of the year. Names will then be received throughout the Spring and a list of three to five nominees will be selected by sometime in July. These nominees will then be present for visitations at select locations within the diocese from October 13th through 15th. The election will be held during the late October diocesan convention, and the new bishop will be consecrated on April 29th, 2017.

Bishop Cate's Last Visitation to Mt. Vernon

The diocesan office recently e-mailed a new bishop visitation schedule for 2016. Bishop Cate is scheduled to make her final parochial/pastoral visit to St. John's Mt. Vernon on Sunday, May 22nd. This date is our Recognition Sunday to close out the Christian Education program year. Cate has always stated that she feels especially welcome when she can come on Sundays when parishes are having special events. This will be a great Sunday for Cate to visit and help us celebrate the hard work of all our teachers and students. More details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

2016 Confirmation Details Set

Our Southwest Deanery Confirmation date has also been set for Saturday, April 16th at 3:00pm. St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Evansville will be the hosting church for the service. At this point, St. John's does not have anyone being trained for Confirmation. If anyone would like to know about being Received into the Episcopal Church or Reaffirming their commitment to the Church, please speak with Father Allen.

Food Pantry rolls out new name, brand identity

The name *Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association Food Pantry* is just a little too long. The Ministerial Association also has gone by the acronym MVMA, but few people know what those letters stand for these days. The name *Mt. Vernon Food Pantry* has also been used, but people often confuse that name with the food pantry being minimally run out of At The Cross Mission. Therefore, with approval and blessing of the Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association, the Food Pantry is in the process of promoting a new name with a new logo. The new name is *River Bend Food Pantry*. This name was chosen from a list of five possible names. For 501(c)3 (charitable giving) purposes, the new name will also have the tag line, *a ministry of the Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association*. If you are planning to make a charitable donation to the pantry in the coming year, please make your donation out to the new name. The bank will continue to recognize the other names as long as it is in reference to the Ministerial Association. For further information about this name change, please talk to Beth Dingman who is a food pantry board member.

Events & Celebrations

January 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
31						

January Dates to Remember

- 01 — *New Years' Day, Feast of the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, 9:00 a.m. service
- 03 — *Epiphany Sunday*, Three Kings Party after Holy Eucharist service during coffee hour; Children Process magi to the Creche (**Adult Bible Study resumes**)
- 04 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 04 — *Journey in Faith*, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- 06 — Day of Epiphany
- 10 — **All Sunday School Classes Resume**
- 10 — Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 10 — Outreach Committee meeting after service
- 13 — Finance Committee meeting, ONB, 10:30am
- 13 — Worship Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 18 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed
- 18 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 19 — Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association meeting, 3:00 p.m. (at St. John's)
- 21 — Vestry meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 31 — Parish Annual Meeting

January Birthdays:

- 01 — Breeze Sobek
- 05 — Lydia Rutherford
- 09 — Jill Gerton
- 11 — Olivia Gerton
- 17 — Kim Steele
- 20 — Paul Maurer
- 21 — Sue Webster



January Anniversaries:

None

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



Fried Cabbage

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 teaspoons butter
- 1 can (15 ounces) chicken broth
- 1 head cabbage, cored and coarsely chopped
- 1 pinch salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bring the butter and broth to a boil in large skillet. Reduce heat to low and add cabbage. Cover and cook over low heat to steam cabbage, stirring frequently. Cook for approximately 45 minutes or until cabbage is tender and sweet. Season with salt and pepper, then serve.

THREE KINGS PARTY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD

- **Three Kings Bread**
- **Goodies placed in children's empty shoes**
- **A piñata for the children to break**

More 2016 Events & Celebrations

Mark these dates on your new 2016 calendar

Serving Christ through...

February 2016

- 01 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 01 — **No Journey in Faith** in February due to the proximity of the Lenten studies.
- 02 — Ground Hog Day
- 06 — Vestry Retreat Day, Parish Hall, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 07 — Christian Education Committee meeting after service
- 09 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 — Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 — First Sunday of Lent (The Penitential Order)
- 14 — Valentine's Day
- 15 — St. John's, Food Pantry volunteer day
- 15 — Presidents' Day
- 16 — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 17 — First Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper & Program, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 — Second Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper & Program, 6:00 p.m.
- 29 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day

March 2016

- 02 — Third Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.
- 06 — Rose Sunday (Anglican Mothers' Sunday)
- 07 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 09 — Fourth Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.
- 13 — Daylight Savings Time begins
- 13 — Fifth Sunday of Lent: Service of Healing.
- 13 — Solarbron Holy Eucharist service at 1:45p.m.
- 15 — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.

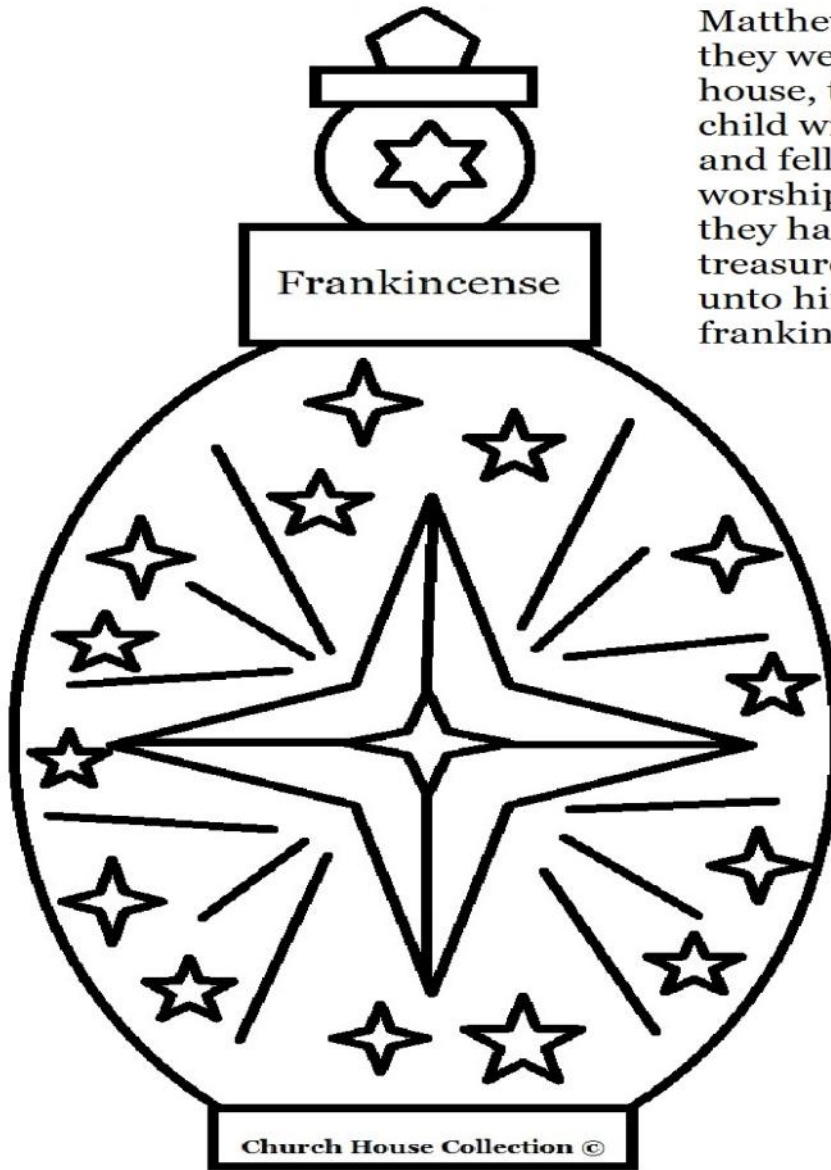
- 16 — Last Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 17 — Vestry Meeting, 6:00p.m.
- 21-25 — Mt. Vernon School District Spring Break
- 20 — Palm Sunday, Procession of Palms and Passion Gospel Reading
- 21 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 24 — Maundy Thursday, Agape Meal at 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. with Stripping of the Altar at Reserve Sacrament Altar
- 25 — Ministerial Association Community Good Friday Service, 12:05 p.m.
- 25 — St. John's Good Friday Service, 6:00pm Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
- 26 — Easter Vigil Service, 7:00pm; End of Lent pitch-in reception after the service
- 27 — Easter Morning Service, 10:00 a.m.

April 2016

- 01 — April Fool's Day
- 04 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 04&05 — Spring Clergy Conference at Waycross
- 08 or 15 — Relay For Life Pork Chop Lunch Fundraiser ??????
- 09 — Lay Leadership Day at Waycross
- 16 — S.W. Deanery Confirmation, 3:00p.m., St. Paul's, Evansville
- 17 — Precious Posies Baby Shower, first collection Sunday
- 18 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 19 — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 21 — Vestry meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 — Precious Posies Baby Shower, second collection Sunday

Many listed events are tentative; please continue to check the events listed in each month's newsletter, the Sunday bulletins, or our church website. www.mvstjohns.org/calendar.htm

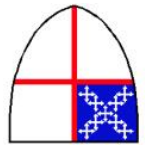
Connecting Kids to God



Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



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



*The birth of a Savior
in a manger
at Christmas
leads to
our redemption
through a
bloody cross on
Good Friday
and the empty tomb
of Easter*