

St. John's The Evangelist

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

January, 2022

Expectations, Not Resolutions!

Tis the Season to make New Year's Resolutions, but we all know how those turn out. So instead, I have a list of expectations for 2022. What is the difference between a resolution and an expectation you ask? The dictionary definite of *resolution* is; "the process of resolving something, a firm decision to do something, firmness of mind and purpose, and answer to a problem." The definition of the word *expectation* is; "a confident belief or strong hope that a particular event will happen, a mental image of something expected often compared to its reality, a standard of conduct or performance expected by or of somebody." For me, to say that I am resolved to doing something is to set myself up for failure. To say that I have expectations of something happening or something getting done does not rely totally on whether I succeed or fail. I can hope that everything falls into place and a goal or expectation will get accomplished. I can also invite other people into helping meet my expectations. So, here is my list of expectations for 2022.

I expect....that St. John's will complete the renovation of the house next door and choose a collaborative partner to utilize that space. An article in this newsletter lays out several viable options to not only find a partner for the house, but potential partners to use our parish hall and grassy lot. This congregation has shown continued enthusiasm to complete our capital campaign goals and move forward with our correlating ministry goals.

I expect....the Vestry and the congregation will work together with me to be more intentional in growing our membership. I expect the Vestry to help me find the human resources, and other resources to educate ourselves on what it will take for St. John's to break out of our membership stagnation and find new growth.

I expect....that our nation will finally get a handle on the COVID problem, get the infection rates down, which will allow St. John's to more fully get back to pre-COVID ministry and fellowship.

I expect....St. John's to continue to share the Gospel to our community, and to the world. We are getting more and more proficient in our live streaming of worship services. However, I am not totally satisfied with the video equipment that we are using to broadcast our worship services. I hope that we can do a little more investigation of video products and upgrade what we already have to share a better quality of worship. I watch a lot of YouTube videos of subjects that interest me, and the quality of these videos is far superior to what we are sending out.

On a personal note: I expect.... to get out of my health funk, which began with COVID, and get myself back into shape. Being the best pastor I can be for St. John's involves taking care of myself. I need to get back into shape and get more energy back, and consequently get my asthma under control.

Finally, I expect....to celebrate my 60th Birthday in March. Our family has a long history of the family patriarchs not living past age 59. However, my second oldest brother is now 67, so he broke the curse. When I turned 50, I vowed to run 50 miles, an ultramarathon. I am not vowing to run 60 miles this year, but I would like to get back into running shape and run some races in 2022.

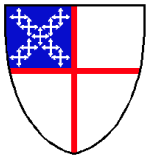
What expectations do you have for 2022? What other expectations would you like for me to add to St. John's list for 2022? Let me know your thoughts.

Your Brother in Christ,

Allen⁺



Serving Christ In The Community For over 160 Years



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



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

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector
Mrs. Tammy Weatherford, Senior Warden
Mr. Earl Harlow, Junior Warden
Mrs. Sue Webster, Vestry Clerk
Mr. Bruce Dingman, 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
Cell Phone: 812-430-2443
E-mail: rutherford317@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Morning Schedule —

9:00-9:45a.m. J2A Youth Group
9:00-9:45a.m. Adult Study, & Children's
Sunday School Class
10:00a.m. Holy Eucharist

**Face Masks Encouraged But
Not Required for Worship Services**

The Work Set Forth

- Be beacons of Jesus Christ
- Generous Invitation and Welcome
- Connect with one another and the world
- Stand with the marginalized and vulnerable to transform systems of injustice
- Provide resources for lay leaders and clergy for the Church of today and tomorrow.

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

**Also become our friend
on Facebook:
StJohns Church
or
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net**



**We also have a YouTube Channel:
St. Johns Episcopal Church**

Serving Christ through...

Leadership

Tis The Season

For Meetings

Finance Committee
Meeting
Wednesday, January 12th,
8:30AM at
Harmonie Wealth Group

Outreach Committee
Meeting
Sunday, January 16th
After the service, in the parish hall.

January Vestry Meeting
Thursday, January 20th, 5:00 PM
in the Parish Hall.

2022 Parish Annual Meeting Sunday, January 30th

It is unclear as of this writing whether the annual meeting will take place in the parish hall with a pitch-in lunch, or if it will be held in the church sanctuary. All Vestry Wardens and Ministry Leaders are required to submit a brief written report prior to the meeting. All reports are due by the end of the day on Thursday, January 27th, so that reports can be collated and copied for the meeting. Please e-mail reports to Robin or provide hard copies to her at the church.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

We will be electing two new vestry members at the annual meeting in January. Tammy Weatherford and Sue Webster are completing their three year terms on Vestry. Tammy has been the Senior Warden this past year, and Sue has served as Vestry Clerk for the past three years. Tammy has nominated Savannah Weatherford to take her place on the Vestry. Sue is still searching for someone to take her place. Father Allen will announce the Senior Warden for 2022 at the annual meeting. The Vestry will nominate and elect the Junior Warden and the new Clerk at the first Vestry meeting after the annual meeting.

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Beth Dingman and Kim Steele served as our convention Delegates this past November. Barry and Niki Cox were elected to be the Alternates. Barry and Niki will be the Delegates this coming year, and we will need to nominate and elect two Alternates for 2022. The 2022 diocesan convention is scheduled to be held November 4th & 5th at the Embassy Suites in Plainfield, just west of the Indianapolis Airport on Interstate 70. This is the same location as the 2021 convention.

Never Too Late For Pledge Cards

If you have not yet completed a pledge card for 2022, please do so as soon as possible. Bruce is finalizing the budget. He will be presenting the proposed budget to the Vestry on Thursday, January 20th. The budget will be voted upon at the annual meeting. Even though we send out and request completed pledge cards in November and December, a pledge card can be submitted any time of the year. The completed pledge card is a form of reassurance that we will have enough income to meet our expenses.

Our Church & Community

Serving Christ through...

Capital Campaign Projects Update

The current total of money raised for the capital campaign is \$194,144.92 of our \$200,000 goal. The giving period is scheduled to end at the last of April. However, contributions will be accepted and could be needed long after April. We will most likely need to reach our financial goal to completely renovate the house and property.

The kitchen renovation is going to be a "one step at a time" process. The kitchen cabinets have been installed. The flooring is scheduled to be installed beginning January 11th. We are waiting for a contractor from Lowes to come and measure for the countertops. The kitchen walls and wood trim need to be painted before too much more work is done. The downstairs bathroom has a new tub/shower installed and the upstairs bathroom will soon have a new shower. Wood trim needs to be fixed or replaced in the downstairs bathroom. Then both bathrooms will need painting. The front porch decking is also scheduled to be replaced.

Thanks to a host of volunteers from the parish, the house was cleaned up prior to our visitors coming on December 7th. A big job was cleaning out the basement and getting the old stud framing removed. Mary Ann and Judy paid to have a service to come and clean the windows. Jeff Colson worked on wiring issues in the basement.

Not lost in the planning is the eventual need for kitchen appliances, curtains and/or blinds for the windows throughout the house, and some furniture. The need for furniture may depend on the final decision on how the house will be used.

Around the Grounds

We finally received an estimate for repairing the hole at the base of the sanctuary wall on the east side. The repair involves removing the wood panel that is currently there and replacing it with a brick wall to go with the remainder of the foundation. The repair of the wall is not going to be cheap, but it will be a long term fix if the Vestry approves the work.

There is also a continuing erosion of the sidewalk leading the parish hall. Earl has completed a patch repair until next spring when a more extensive repair can be done.

"Won't You Be My Neighbor"

It may have been mentioned before, but to refresh your memory, several years ago the diocese changed the name of regional church clusters from "deaneries" to "neighborhoods."

The Southwest Deanery became "The Confluence Neighborhood." There is a growing desire for the Episcopal churches in our neighborhood to get together more often throughout the year for joint worship service and special events. Last year during Lent, the neighborhood held a joint Lenten study together. Plans are in the works to have a joint study again this Lent. We also discussed having special services on fifth Sundays of the Month, like the Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association did prior to COVID. There is also discussion of hosting a booth at the "Pride in the Park Festival" at the 4H Fairgrounds in Evansville in June.

Our Church & Community

Collaborative Partners for Sacred Places Initiative Site Visit to St. John's, December 7th

PART I: 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Two members of the Sacred Places organization came to St. John's on Tuesday evening December 7th. The meeting took place in three parts. In attendance for St. John's were Beth Dingman, Kim Steele, and Joetta Beebe. Nikole Cox and Susan Gooden were unable to attend the meeting. Our guests were taken on a tour of all our facilities. Laser measurements were taken of each space in order to create a blueprint for St. John's to use as a marketing tool for potential ministry partners.

PART II: 4:00 to 5:00 PM

The Sacred Places and the St. John's folks discussed our mission and goal that would go along with our hopes and dreams for our spaces. Our basic mission is to "Serve Christ in the Community." We also stated that our primary goal is to enrich the lives of families and children in our county and community. They wanted us to be more specific on how we currently meet this goal and how we see this initiative helping to meet that goal in the future.

PART III: 5:00 to 6:00 PM

The Community Stakeholders that attended this last part of the meeting were as follows:

Melanie Reising – Department of Children Services

Beth Russell — Director of Family Matters

Janet Hoehn – Black Township Deputy Trustee

Matt Thompson – MSDMV Superintendent

Ideas discussed in Part III

It was suggested that some rooms (parish hall and/or house) could be used for tutoring students of all ages. It could also be expanded into something possibly usable by Kim Steele for GED training. Another idea was for the house to be used for hospitality, such as a Retreat Center or B&B. Janet brought up the needs of homeless families and children, and if there would be any possibly for the use of the house for that need. The fact that the bathrooms are not handicapped accessible was discussed but noted they could be used for a counselor.

Melanie Reising was extremely interested in the house for a crisis shelter for children taken out of their homes by DCS. Matt suggested we consider advertising our spaces, especially the parish hall for business meetings. Beth Russell thought she and/or the Purdue Extension could use the parish hall and kitchen for evening classes. The term "Parenting Cafes" was mentioned. This has to do with training classes for new parents. It was suggested we get "Kelly" the County Health Nurse to come to a future meeting. It was also suggested we invite some business leaders and members of law enforcement to future planning meetings.

Questions raised to consider for future planning meetings.

Who else from the parish needs to be at the table for future meetings?

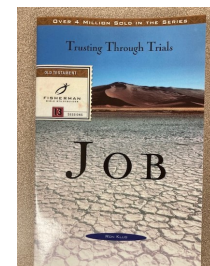
Who else in the community needs to be invited?

Who is going to be "territorial" about having an outside ministry partner use our spaces?

Do we have the enthusiasm?

What grant money might we be able to apply for a ministry in our place(s)?

Beth Dingman will be leading the Adult Sunday school group in a new study after she completes the study of Proverbs. The new study will be on the book of Job. Study books are \$8 each, payable to Beth.



Our Church & Community

Serving Christ through...

Naming our Grassy Lot

As part of the on-going process of promoting our church and making our spaces available to the community, Father Allen and the Vestry have been discussing giving the grassy lot across the street an official name and purchasing a sign to bear that name. The parameters of the name are that it had to reflect the character of our church, possibly the history of our church, our mission, and our intended purpose for the space. Below are a few of the notable names being considered. It should also let the community and neighborhood know that the lot is there for their use or rental for events.

Christ's Corner

St. John's Memorial Park

St. John's Community Park

Red Door Corner (to reflect our identity as the red door church)

Red Door Park

Rectory Park (the house on the property used to be the parish rectory)

In addition to a short, catchy title, the sign needs to have a descriptor such as:

A Neighborhood Gathering Place

A Community Park of St. John's Episcopal Church

A Sacred Space of St. John's Episcopal Church

Then, the sign needs to have the contact information for the public to get permission to use the space for events:

To schedule event usage, please contact the church office at 812-838-5445

The Vestry is still mulling over the options listed above. If you have a favorite, or can provide valuable input, please contact Father Allen or a Vestry member.

New Direction In Worship Music

Our efforts to find a replacement pianist and/or organist for Sheila Lacey have not been fruitful. Someone auditioned for the position as a pianist, but they had not played in many, many years and were very rusty. A second audition with this person is planned for early January. In the meantime, we have a unique opportunity to go in a different direction with worship music at St. John's. Two discussions and an audition of sort have taken place between Father Allen and Patrick Gerton. Prior to COVID, Patrick was playing professionally with a praise band at a church in Evansville. Patrick is available and willing to lead us in worship with acoustic guitar. While Patrick is accustomed to leading worship music, there will be a learning curve for St. John's. Patrick's first Sunday to play for us will be January 16th. If all goes well, the goal is to have Patrick play two Sundays a month. Having Patrick on board will open up new possibilities of music to sing to the glory of God, and it might help us to attract new, younger members, which is a priority of the Vestry this year.

Financial News

Our Treasurer, Bruce Dingman spent the later part of the year giving tough reports to the Vestry as necessary spending slowly outpaced income. Thanks to some catching up of pledges in the last month, the parish is on track to have a balanced budget at year's end. We also wish to thank all of our faith givers for being generous over the past year. We hope to have as good a budget showing in 2022.

The transition of our Morris Fund Portfolio from ONB to Harmonie Wealth Management Group (Shawn Worman) during the summer did not go as smoothly as we had hoped. However, the kinks seem to be worked out and Earl Harlow has been in regular contact with Shawn Worman on investment options. Earl has kept the Finance Committee and the Vestry apprised of needed changes in our portfolio. The Morris fund remains strong in its total value, but it remains to be seen how the real value of the portfolio and the income it produces will keep up with rising inflation of the U.S. Dollar. If you have any questions or concerns about the parish finances, please contact Bruce or Earl.

Serving Christ through...

Greening The Church



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone
who helped
green the
church and
purchased
poinsettias.



Serving Christ through... Connecting Kids to God



J2A Decorates For The Holidays



Reaching Out To Others

THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who took tags off of the Christmas chain and bought presents for the Posey County Christmas Assistance Program.

Rethinking EFHN

Up until a couple of years ago, we took up a yearly coin offering for the Episcopal Fund For Human Need (EFHN). EFHN has fallen on hard time in the last few years. The Fund was started by Bishop Jones and had a small start-up endowment. Over the years, the financial needs and requests for the funds outpaced the available money. The Executive Council of the Diocese is discussing how to resurrect a fund similar to EFHN.

In this new plan, each regional Neighborhood would get a lump sum of money every year. It would be up to representatives of the Neighborhood to allocate that money to worthy social service organizations within the Neighborhood.

And now we
welcome the
new year.
Full of things
that have
never been.

Balmer Maria Bilke

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY Jams and Jelly

The Food Pantry needs as-
sorted varieties of jams
and jelly, any brand.

Place them in
the plastic tote in the
Parish Hall.



Tornado Disaster Relief

As many of you know or heard, devastating tornadoes ripped through the Midwest and South on December 10th. Hard hit with fatalities, injuries, and extensive property damage were areas just south of us in Kentucky. Thanks you to everyone who wrote a check to St. John's to go toward storm relief. We will be forwarding that money to the Red Cross. If you still wish to help, please go on-line to either the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, or Episcopal Relief and Development who are have people on the ground in the storm hit areas meeting the immediate needs.

HOW MANY WERE HELPED BY THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND?

From January through December 2021,
137 families were helped through the Rector's
Discretionary Fund. \$15,258.95
was the total amount spent helping those
families.

Events & Celebrations

Serving Christ through...

DECEMBER 2021 S M T W T F S 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 DESIGNED BY FREEPRINTME.COM						
JANUARY 2022 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 DESIGNED BY FREEPRINTME.COM						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	1	2	3	4	5

January Dates to Remember

- 01 — *New Years' Day*
- 03 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day
- 09 — **All Sunday school classes resume**
- 12 — Finance Committee meeting, Wednesday, January 12th, at Harmonie Wealth Management Group at 8:30a.m..
- 16 — Outreach Committee meeting after service
- 20 — Vestry meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed
- 17 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day
- 18 — Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- 27 — All leadership & committee reports for the annual meeting are due to Robin.
- 30 — Parish Annual Meeting
- 31 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day

January Birthdays:

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



January Anniversaries:

None

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



Tired Of The Same

Worn Out New Year's Resolutions?

Here are some "out of the box" suggestions for 2022.

1. Get your photo taken in five interesting places.
2. Go someplace you've never been.
3. Try a new food each week.
4. Send handwritten letters more often.
5. Learn a new language.
6. Floss every day.
7. Break some sort of record.
8. Do something nice for others every day.
9. Listen to more music and watch less TV.
10. Eat slower.
11. Claim all pets as dependents on taxes.
12. Stop buying worthless junk on Ebay-because QVC has better specials.
13. Avoid fingertip soreness by learning to play Rock Band or Guitar Hero instead of a real guitar.
14. Talk with a robot voice all the time.
15. Build biceps by increasing reps of Ding Dong curls to 3 sets of 15.
16. Buy new clothes big enough to account for next year's holidays.
17. Eat more fruit....snacks.
18. Save some money for a rainy day. That way you can shop online instead of having to go to an actual store.
19. Lower bills by digging a hole to put them in.
20. Stop drinking orange juice after brushing teeth.
21. Craft something yourself.
22. Do something that scares you.
23. Cook more or take cooking classes.
24. Keep a journal.
25. Read a book a month.

Hope these brought a smile to your face today!

Realbuzz.com, collegelifemadeasy.com, parade.com/969195/megagrants/new-years-resolutions-ideas and holidayappy.com

Events & Celebrations

The origin and meaning behind the gifts listed in the 12 days of Christmas.

The exact origins and the meaning of the song are unknown, but it is highly probable that it originated from a children's memory and forfeit game.

It is believed that it was created by Roman Catholics in England when Protestants, specifically Puritans, outlawed Christmas and other related church doctrines.

The twelve days in the song are the twelve days starting with Christmas Day to the day before Epiphany (5 January). Twelfth Night is defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as "the evening of January 5th, the day before Epiphany, which traditionally marks the end of Christmas celebrations".

The best known English version was first printed in 1780 in a book intended for children, Mirth without Mischief, as a memorisation game to be played on Twelfth Night. Participants were required to repeat a verse of poetry recited by the leader. Players who made an error were required to pay a penalty, in the form of offering a kiss or confection.

2 Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments

3 French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

4 Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

5 Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of man's fall from grace

6 Geese A-laying = the six days of creation

7 Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

8 Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes

9 Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

10 Lords A-leaping = the ten commandments

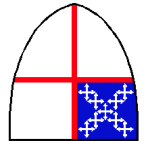
11 Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles

12 Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

The partridge in the pear tree, naturally, represents Jesus Christ.



St. John's Episcopal Church
602 Mulberry Street
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“

Let our New Year's
resolution be this: We
will be there for one
another as fellow
members of humanity,
in the finest sense of
the word.

GÖRAN PERSSON

PureWow

*Let the troubles of the
past year be left behind
as we look forward to a
new year filled with love
and fresh opportunities.*

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