

St. John's The Evangelist

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

June/July 2021

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

As I write this cover letter, I am preparing to board a plane for Seattle. In June of 2019, I traveled to Seattle to attend the first year (Year A) of the College of Congregational Development (CCD). It is a two year program. The program was the vision of Bishop Greg Rickel shortly after his consecration to the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia in western Washington in 2007.

From the CCD website: "The College is a comprehensive training program that seeks to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within existing parish lay and clergy leadership. Most participants are members of teams from congregations within the Diocese of Olympia, however the College is open to other participants and has hosted individuals and teams from other Episcopal Diocese and the broader Anglican Communion."

I returned from the Seattle CCD with two congregational assignments of my choosing. The first was to use the information I had learned at the College to teach our congregation about Sabbath rest. This project was completed in early October of 2019. The second project was scheduled and begun during Lent 2020. The project was to perform an overall assessment of our ministries using *The Sources of Transformation* model taught at the College. Two sessions of the Lenten program were held before the parish was shut down due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Eventually I was able to complete the project using weekly ZOOM meetings. The feedback from the project was helpful in implementing a few changes in our ministries. More changes will come from that project as we more fully get back to normal worship and ministry.

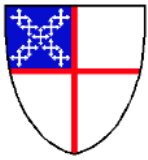
My hope, and the hope of many people, was that the virus would be gone by summer of 2020. That did not happen. Seattle, Washington was one of the first places hardest hit by the virus. My plans to go to Seattle and complete the second year (Year B) were put on hold. That did not mean that I stopped studying and gleaning as much learning from the program as possible. It was announced in February that the College would start up again in a hybrid format this year. Beginning on Monday, May 10th I have spend every Monday afternoon in a ZOOM class session with other folks attending the College this summer. The first year I attended lasted nine days including the round trip flight, but because of the hybrid format, I will only be gone seven days.

The question I have been wrestling with is how best to put all of this learning to good use. In my sixteen years as a priest in this diocese there have been a great number of programs recommended and/or offered by the diocese to assist congregations to thrive and grow. The College of Congregational Development is the most extensive and comprehensive program that has been available so far. I am now an avid disciple of the teachings of this program. Our diocese was going to start a CCD at Waycross last summer, but the pandemic stopped it. The new start date this summer is July 18th through 24th. I had hoped, and still hope, that I might be invited to be a trainer for the program at Waycross. Also, I would love to have lay leaders from our diocese attend the CCD at Waycross; if not this year, then maybe next year. I have started to teach some of the principles and models of the program, but attendance at my workshops have been sparse. Do you have any suggestions on how I might be able to teach the CCD program to more members at St. John's? I would love to get your feedback. I know this program can positively impact St. John's, but I need your help in finding the right way to share this learning.

Your Brother in Christ,

Allen +

Serving Christ In The Community For Over 165 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
Fax #: (812) 838-4881
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 am — Noon
Mrs. Robin Price, Secretary

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

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Service

10:00a.m. Holy Eucharist RITE II

*Services are live streamed on Facebook
at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays and 10:00 a.m.
on Sundays.*

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.

Weekday Schedule

Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:15 a.m.

Morning Prayer

Friday, 8:30a.m.

May be sporadic during the summer

Look us up on the web at



www.mtvstjohns.org

Also like us on Facebook:
St Johns Episcopal Church
@mtvstjohns



*Also subscribe to our You Tube channel at
St Johns Episcopal Church*

SAYING GOODBYE TO TWO PATRIARCHS

St. John's took a hit to the gut when Paul Maurer passed away earlier this year. The parish suffered yet another blow with the unexpected death of Bob Webster in mid-May. This parish has lost a lot of good and faithful men and women in the last 15 plus years. Both Paul and Bob were integral leaders of St. John's for over 60 years. Neither Paul nor Bob would want us to mourn their loss for long, but would want us to use their servant leadership example to continue working to keep St. John's a thriving congregation. St. John's still has plenty of good leaders to carry on the legacy of Paul and Bob. The history book of St. John's also tells the story of how the women of the parish have provided extraordinary leadership. Paul and Bob will be missed, but not forgotten. Their loss of leadership should be a wake-up call for those faithful members still here to step up and fill their shoes and begin the process of inviting new people, new leaders to join us in serving Christ in the community through this church.



FINANCIAL NEWS

Bob Webster realized something wasn't right and sensed that a change in leadership needed to be made. Bob was the long-time Chair of St. John's Finance Committee. One of Bob's last important decisions was to encourage Earl Harlow to join the committee. With Bob's passing, the Vestry approved a motion to accept Earl as the new Chair of the Finance Committee. Earl now wears two hats in the parish; Chair of Finances, and Junior Warden. Earl also takes on the role of being a check signatory on all of the same church bank accounts as Bob. Earl has already helped guide the Finance Committee and Vestry through a very difficult decision. Until this past year, Shawn Worman at Old National Bank was the stock broker/investment advisor for the parish. Policy changes were made at Old National Bank that would possibly have adversely affected St. John's and many of Shawn's clients. Shawn decided to leave Old National Bank and form his own company, Harmonie Wealth Management. The Vestry discussion that lasted over a month in April and May was whether to stay the course with Old National Bank and their new investment advisor on our accounts, or switch over to Shawn and his new company. It was a difficult decision, and not a unanimous vote, but the Morris Fund Portfolio and two other mutual fund accounts are in the process of being moved to Harmonie Wealth Management. This will not affect the Siebert Trust that is a whole different entity from our investments, and the parish still has two other bank accounts with Old National Bank.

Education and Formation

CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BE HELD

The COVID pandemic through off certain church-related schedules in 2020. The Journey To Adulthood (J2A) teens would have completed their fourth year of the program in May 2020 and would have been taking their Pilgrimage trip last summer. It has been the customary routine to train the teens after they get back from their trip. However, the reverse is going to take place.

Father Allen and Beth Dingman will be offering training classes for Confirmation later this summer. The training will consist of two 4 hour sessions (8 hours total) covering all of the necessary learning required for Confirmation. The syllabus of the two sessions is listed below. The dates and times have not yet been set. The last time this format was used in 2019, it was done on two Saturday morning. The J2A teens will complete their fourth year of the program beginning this fall, and will take their pilgrimage trip in the summer of 2022. Anyone who has not yet been Confirmed in the Episcopal Church is welcome to attend these classes. The reason for holding the classes now is that Bishop Jennifer will likely be making her next pastoral visit to St. John's in the spring or summer of 2022, so it is important to go ahead and get those needing or wishing to be Confirmed trained before her visit.



Proposed Confirmation Topic List

SESSION #1

Liturgical Calendar: BETH	Overview of the how all aspects of our worship and prayer are guided by the Church calendar. <i>Liturgical Jeopardy?</i>
The Church: BETH	Knowing your way around the church; learn Christian symbols within the church. <i>Scavenger Hunt?</i>
Holy Scripture: ALLEN	Old Testament and New Testament Authorships and Timelines
The Sacraments: ALLEN	Overview of all seven sacraments; focus on Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. (<i>Link these three.</i>)

SESSION #2

Church Polity: ALLEN	Governance of the Church, Diocese, Parish, & Mission. Role of the laity in Church governance.
Church History: ALLEN	Apostolic Age, Dawn of Christianity in England, Church of England at Reformation; The Established Church in Colonial America, The Establishment of the Post-Revolution Episcopal Church
The Book of Common Prayer: BETH	History of the Prayer Book; What's in the current Prayer Book. Other supplemental resources.
The Confirmation Service: BETH	A thorough discussion of the order of service and its relationship to Baptism and living out an Adult life in the Church.

Education and Formation

The Graduates

Congratulations To:

Robert Henry Bell —
for his graduation from
Kindergarten to
Elementary School.



Colbie Buchanan —
for her graduation from
Elementary School to Junior High School.

Catie Claire Bell & Brianna Edling —
for their graduation from Junior High to High
School.

Savannah Weatherford —
for her graduation from High School.

Congratulations to all our church family members who are celebrating a graduation with a loved one. Also, congratulations to our children of all ages growing a little older and moving up a level in school next fall.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you shop often on Amazon, that Waycross is one of the Charities you can choose to support?
Family Matters is another!



THANK YOU!

- ♦ Thank you to everyone that provided food to the Webster Family.
- ♦ Thank you to Mary Ann Burris for baking 8 dozen cookies for the High School Baccalaureate Service.
- ♦ Thank you to everyone that helped with the yard clean up day.
- ♦ Thank you to everyone who has helped with the outdoor services.

Coming in
2021!

THE COLLEGE OF
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Waycross Conference Center
July 18-24

A two-year initiative to equip lay leaders and clergy in congregational and organizational development. The training includes reading, facilitation, teamwork, a content exam, and the completion of two projects within participants' congregations. The College's first-year training will be offered in an intensive week-long summer format. Leaders of our diocese are encouraged to attend this training.



Our Summer Camper

Brianna Edling will be attending Waycross this summer. We are glad and excited for kids that make camp a part of their Christian formation.

Our Church & Our Community

GLITCHES IN RECENT LIVE STREAMED SERVICES

Despite almost a year of live streaming worship services on Facebook, I am still learning new things, or more correctly, how to correct glitches in the on-line worship services. During the Recognition Sunday service on May 23rd, Facebook viewers hear no sound. At first I thought it was Facebook blocking the audio due to a copyright violation on the opening song, sung by Catie Claire Bell. This has happened before, but usually Facebook and You Tube just garble the music in question. They don't totally block all audio. As it turns out, Catie's song was played through our Bluetooth speakers. The laptop audio is also connected to the same speakers. The broadcasting software used to live stream the services automatically recognized the microphone and speaker Catie was using and not the microphone normally programmed into the laptop.

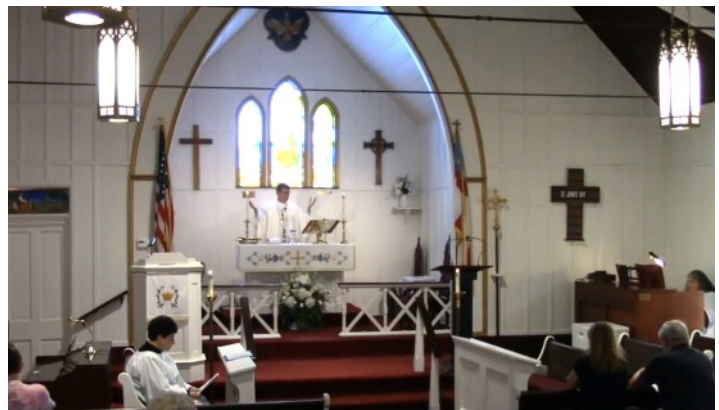
On Sunday, June 6th, the Facebook video was choppy, and paused or froze periodically. I recently installed a Wireless Internet (WIFI) booster in the back of the church. I think this is cutting down on the bandwidth (speed) at which the video is being uploaded to Facebook. I have since removed the booster and have returned to a direct link between the router and the laptop used for live streaming. A few tests have shown an improvement in the live streaming speed.

The other problem we sometimes have is with quality of services when we are in the lot across the street. Our church WIFI is not powerful enough to reach into the lot. Going back to the previous problem. Part of the reason I installed the WIFI booster in the back of the church was an effort to boost WIFI across the street. The booster would be of great benefit if we had services in the prayer garden, but the booster is still ineffective to help in the lot. The laptop and video equipment will not work in the lot without a sufficient wireless connection. So, when we are worshipping in the lot, I use my cell phone to live stream the service using cellular data. This too can allow for choppy video. But, reviewing our most recent outdoor services, the video has been pretty good.

I have trained Beth Dingman and Diane Hancock on how to set up the live streaming service using the laptop, video camera, and microphone, but I have not taken the time to instruct them how to go deeper into fixing video and audio problems when they crop up. Also, once the "Go Live" button is pushed and I walk away from the equipment to begin the worship service, I have little way of knowing if there is a problem; and I would not want to stop the service to fix the problem. Our glitches are few and far between, but they are troublesome when they happen. Most of our Sunday services are broadcast on Facebook very smooth and clean. If we want to go further into live streaming our service at a higher quality, we would need to invest in slightly better equipment, and have at least two people trained to fully operate the equipment, babysit the video throughout the service, and fix any problems that may occur.

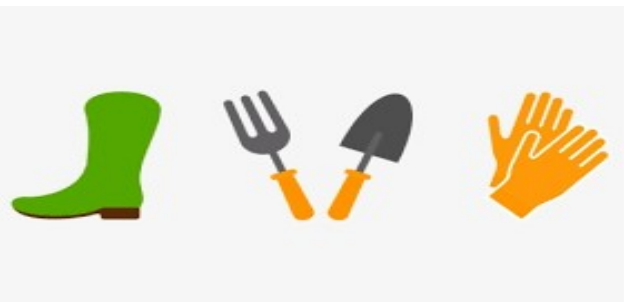
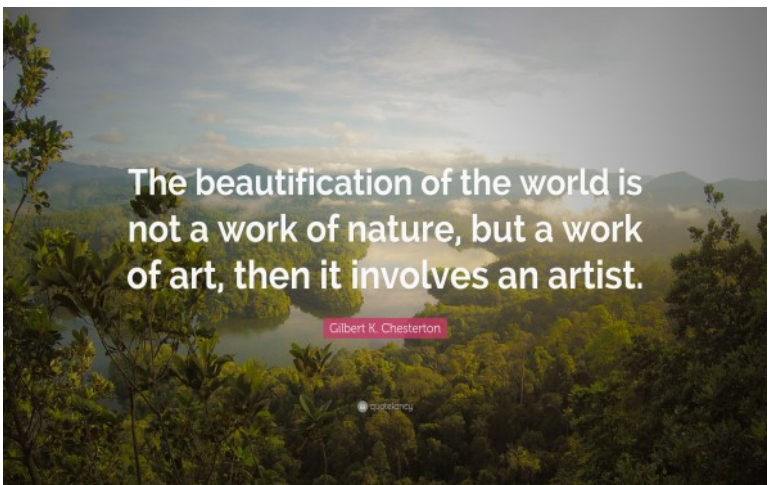
I see the comments and I know the people watching from home or away on vacation get frustrated when the live streamed service doesn't go well. I assure you that I am doing my best, and I am still learning, even if it is learning by mistakes. I welcome any and all suggestions on how to make the on-line worship service better and more spiritually fulfilling.

Allen+



Serving Christ through...

Yard Clean Up Day



Reaching Out To Others

Outreach Tithe Recipients

June

River Bend Food Pantry, \$1000

Children's Learning Center, \$1,000

July

Willow Tree, \$1,000

YWCA Domestic Violence Center, \$1,000

Outreach "Thank You"s

**\$71.00 total in UTO coins
(and other donations)**

SEEK & FIND

Episcopal Churches

As the Covid 19 virus wanes, many of you will plan on travelling again. In those travels you may come across an Episcopal Church, share them with us! Father Allen and Lydia discovered an Episcopal Church close to their cabin in Sevierville, TN.



JUNE FOOD PANTRY

Hamburger Helper



JULY FOOD PANTRY



Breakfast Items



The Food Pantry needs Hamburger Helper or breakfast items during the summer months.

Place them in the plastic tote in the Parish Hall.

God Doesn't Take a Summer Vacation

Summer Pledges and Statements

"Like a Good Shepherd, Jesus is there!"

(Sung to the State Farm Insurance jingle.)

Wherever you might go on summer vacation, the Lord is with you. For those of you that made an annual pledge, please don't forget to keep "on track" through the summer months. If you will miss church on Sunday because of being out of town; you can mail or drop your check by the church. Giving statements will be sent out for the second quarter at the beginning of July. Watch for these in the mail. If you have any questions, please call Robin or stop by the church office.

Serving Christ through... Our Church and Community

Maximizing Church Buildings in Advancement of Ministry

A project of the Episcopal Dioceses of Indianapolis and Northern Indiana with Partners for Sacred Places and Indiana Landmarks

St. John's is participating in a new initiative established by a cooperative effort by both dioceses in Indiana. The title of this article pretty much says a lot about the intent of the program. This new program is part of a larger Lilly Endowment Thriving Congregations Initiative.

"The project has three key components: training to help congregational teams pursue creative and faithful uses of their spaces and connect with community partners; and inventory of the congregation's physical assets for ministry and mission in the buildings and property; and access to a competitive capital grants program to help congregations upgrade their spaces to support new uses."

Congregational teams will include clergy and 3 to 4 lay leaders/volunteers who can dedicate focus and time to the program. Team members will need to contribute an estimated 5 to 6 days over a 9 to 12 month period. St. John's team currently consists of Susan Gooden, Kim Steele, and Beth Dingman. It would be helpful to have a fourth lay person to join the team.

The timing of this initiative is perfect for our parish. St. John's has done considerable work in brainstorming and discussing possible uses of our lot next door and our new property to the north. What this program will add to our work is the element of having an outside pair of eyes look at our spaces, connect us to community leaders, and help us discern a right fit between possible needs of the community with the spaces we have been given by God. The first training session will begin sometime this fall. If you are as excited about this initiative as the rest of the team, please contact Father Allen.



Capital Campaign Update

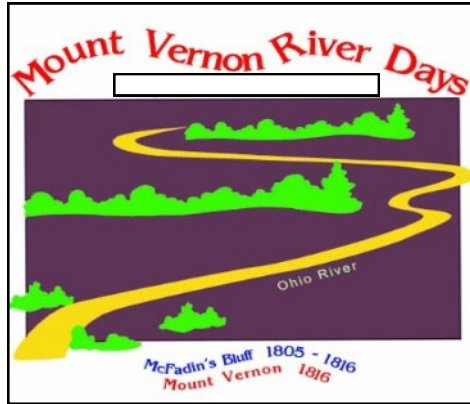
We have currently raised \$181,394.92 of our \$200,000 goal, and now that the utility building across the street has been completed and paid off, we have \$41,805.78 to spend on renovation projects on the house next door. Members of the Capital Campaign Projects Committee met on April 21st in the house next door to the church. The members toured the inside and outside of the house and property and established a priority list of things that need to be done to the house and grounds in the on-going effort to rehabilitate them. Due to the COVID virus and other issues the prices of building materials have soared. We will have to take it one project at a time and be good stewards of the money we have to spend. It may take a considerable amount of time to get everything done on the list, but the committee feels that these are the items that must be completed to bring the house back to at least a state of being livable and fully usable.

612 Mulberry Street Project List

- Drywall repair from water line replacement
- Kitchen
- Downstairs bathroom
- Upstairs bathroom
- Back porch screening
- Roof
- Upstairs bedroom floor?
- Replace old and damaged light fixtures
- Overall interior clean-up
- Exterior landscaping (brick patio and sidewalks)
- Fencing
- **Other** (punch list)

What do we need to contract out?

What can we do as a church?



Mark your calendars: River Days Festival September 10th & 11th

ST. JOHN'S DISCERNMENT OF THE 2021 RIVER DAYS FESTIVAL

The city's Mt. Vernon River Days Festival Committee has confirmed that they plan on holding the festival this fall. It will only be a two day festival instead of three; Friday and Saturday, September 10th & 11th. St. John's would like to have a pared down booth this year. We would only sell Episcopade (our secret recipe lemonade) and cotton candy. No fudge or other baked sweets will be sold. This change will cut down slightly on the number of people it will take to run our booth. Having the booth is a good source of public relations for our church. An on-line survey was sent out to the congregation e-mail list in late May and early June asking if there is overall interest in continuing with our booth, and more importantly, will we have enough help on Friday and Saturday evening, our busiest times. So far, it looks like we have interest in continuing the booth, and possibly we have enough help to keep it running. The proceeds of our sales have been split between a capital improvements fund and the Youth Group pilgrimage trip fund. We expect to have lower sales with less items to sell, so how we will designate the money still remains to be determined. If you did not take the on-line survey, but have an opinion of a St. John's booth at the festival, please contact Father Allen. The Vestry will be meeting on June 24th and this will be a topic of discussion. If we are going to have a booth, we need to get our application in soon and also place an advertisement in the festival guide.

Congratulations !!

to Mr. Barry and Mrs. Nikole "Niki" Cox on their recent wedding. A family-only ceremony was held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 29th.

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon Barry and Niki, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Events & Celebrations

Serving Christ through...

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1	2	3

June Events:

- 06 — Feast of St. John's Sunday
- 07 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day
- 24 — Vestry Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 20 — Father's Day
- 21 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day



July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	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

July Events:

- 04 — Independence Day
- 05 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day
- 19-24 — Posey County 4H Fair
- 19 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry day

June Birthdays:

- 10 — Bruce Dingman
- 12 — Earl Harlow
- 16 — Austin Colson
- 30 — Rosemary Harlow

June Anniversaries:

- 06 — Tim & Kim Steele
- 06 — Ron & Diane Stover
- 08 — Jeff & Susie Colson
- 14 — Bruce & Elizabeth Dingman
- 21 — Earl & Rosemary Harlow
- 25 — Allen & Lydia Rutherford

July Birthdays:

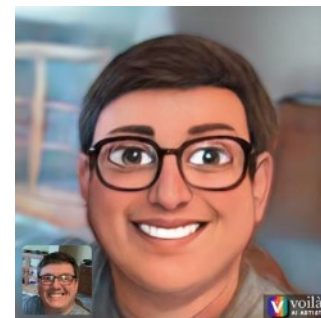
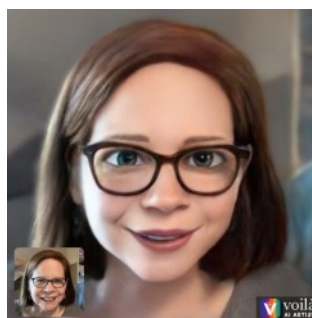
- 01 — Ryan Akins
- 02 — Steve Burris
- 04 — Doris Gerton
- 09 — Diane Hancock
- 10 — Rachel Price
- 17 — Larry Horton
- 18 — Dana Taylor
- 21 — Vincent Bell
- 25 — John Seyffarth

July Anniversaries:

- 15 — Shawn & Robin Price
- 29 — John & Jill Gerton

*Did we list it wrong?
Is your date missing?
let us know.*

**Remember
Sunday church service
is at 10:00 A.M. all summer long.**



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

