

St. John's

The Evangelist

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

November, 2016

"Who do people say that I am?" "But, who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:27-29)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These verses make up the theme of this year's Christian Education program for the younger children; and we as a parish have been asked to answer these questions from Jesus as well. Jesus did not ask these questions to determine who he needed to be to please the people or to get his disciples to follow him. Jesus already knew exactly who he was. He was not going to change who he was or change his character for each group he spoke to and to whom he ministered. In reality it would have been a problem for him if he had changed his nature and his character. In our modern age, we want factual dates, names, places, and events. It is hard for some people to read the Gospels and reconcile themselves to the issue that each one tells a story about Jesus with different and often opposing empirical details. Bart D. Ehrman writes: "Most ancient biographies were less interested in showing what actually happened in their subjects' lives than in portraying their essential character and personality traits. There was little sense that the human personality developed in light of its experiences and encounters with other people. Character traits were thought to be relatively constant throughout a person's life." Jesus' character traits had been predestined and any ancient reader of the Gospels would expect to figure out what these characteristics would be and would expect them to remain constant. This is why the Pharisees, lawyers, and other Jewish authorities spent so much time testing him. If he was changing his answers and character to fit the answers, Jesus would have been seen by the masses as a deviating person from his core characteristics.

In September 2009, I was invited to attend a CREDO conference at Lake Logan Conference Center near Canton, North Carolina. It is considered an honor and a privilege to attend these conferences. In 2009 I was five years into ordained ministry, four of them at St. John's. I felt as if I was still in a formative state and I was often being told by others, who I should be. The virtues of Father Joe, Father John, and even Father Phil were being told to me as if I needed to morph myself into them. One member even went so far as to constantly tell me I needed to be like the Methodist minister down the street. I never actually witnessed this minister walking on water! I found out that trying to be someone other than who I was called by God to be never ever worked very well. I went to that first CREDO conference with the intention of listening and learning as much about being an Episcopal priest as possible. I did learn a lot, but I did not necessarily learn who I am as an Episcopal priest; or learn who I am as a child of God.

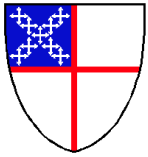
CREDO has learned a few things since 2009 and changed their stratagem. I was once again invited to a CREDO conference: CREDO II. The theme of this conference was "Living with Integrity." The most helpful piece of the conference was an assessment of my core values. What are the events, and who are the people that formed me into who I am today. Several major characteristics came out of that assessment. My first core value is my commitment to the Church and to corporate worship. I became an Episcopal priest in order to share with others the sacrament of Holy Communion which is the center of my faith. The second core value is my connectedness to creation, to nature. I am at my core a created being and connected with other created beings and to "this fragile earth our island home." A third core value is my connection to family and community. It starts with my life-long commitment to Lydia, then to my children, and then to anyone who is supportive of me and lets me be me. When Jesus was told, you brothers and sisters are outside looking for you, he replied "here are my brothers and sisters." Those who had committed to following him. I am no longer concerned with "Who do you say that I am?"; but, who does God say that I am! Who do I know that I am at my very core, and center of my being.

Why am I writing about this and telling you this information? It is because, one of my "AHA! moments" was that I truly believe that this type of internal reflection should be done by each and every one of us. I believe God is calling each of us to discover who we are called by God to be. Not an ever changing person, striving to be a different person to different audiences, but to be who God has called us to be. The first thing you must know about yourself is that you are a child of God, and that you are loved by God.

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 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
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net

Church Secretary Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
Robin Price, 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. J2A
9-9:45a.m. Adult Study, Choir Rehearsal
& Sunday School Classes
(PreK-5th Grade)
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.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:00a.m.

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.mtvstjohns.org*



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

Leadership

Greetings from the Secretary

Hello!

I was inspired to add a note based on Susan's September Treasurer report from last year. You may not recall but she put out a plea to be praying that God send you a new secretary. I hope you are not disappointed! I want to tell you my side of the story.

St. Stephens' in New Harmony was looking for a secretary before you were, and put out several notices in the paper. I felt a strong nudge to apply (and did so and was in ongoing communication with them) but there was just no way I could quit a full time position to only work 12 hours a week. The "nudge" didn't go away. So I applied at several other churches in Evansville but the drive was the drawback and again, not enough hours.

I was slowly loosing sight of who I am and was miserable because of this. I knew that I would have to do something to change and soon. All the while, events were taking place at St. John's that would bring me "home"! I saw the ad St. John's put in the paper and through my acquaintance with Jill and Susie, I asked them about the job and sent in my resume. I knew that this position was also only part-time, but I took that leap of faith and God has blessed me for it! God is Faithful and has NOT failed me yet. He will supply all your needs (and mine). Thank you so much for welcoming me with open arms. I appreciate so much all you have done for me. In this Thanksgiving season, you are all at the top of my list of reasons to be thankful! Lord willing, I will be here until He comes again ☺!

A verse that seems to keep popping up everywhere for me these last few years, is James 1:17, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." Thank you Lord, for the gift of my place at St. John's!!

Robin

Below is a sample from Monday's Prayer Vigil for the Nation during this election season. Please be in prayer for our Nation!

Antiphon

Those who know your Name, O LORD, will put their trust in you, *
for you never forsake those who seek you.

Scripture Reading

1 Timothy 2:1-8

A reading from the First Letter to Timothy.

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. ⁸I desire, then, that in every place the men should pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument.

Here what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

Collect Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States and of this state and community in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Serving Christ through...: Christian Education & Formation

The Christmas Pageant for 2016

The Christian Education Committee met Sunday, October 30th. The Christmas Pageant will be held at the end of the service on Sunday, December 18th. Another new and fun pageant will be put on the children and some adults, to tell the Gospel Story of Jesus' birth.

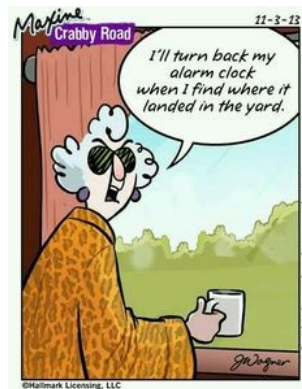
Journey in Faith Adult Inquirer's Class Dec. 7th, 6:00PM

The *Journey in Faith* group will hold its study on Wednesday evening, December 7th beginning at 6:00p.m. with a light supper. This month's topic will be "GAME CHANGERS." Church Councils and Events that shaped Christ's Church. *Journey in Faith* is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible, Church traditions, and their faith. Seekers and seasoned scholars are both welcome! A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



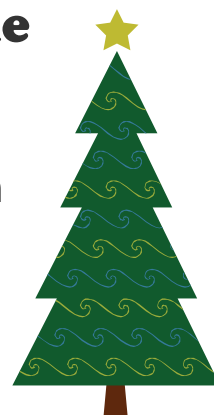
Remember to "Fall Back"!

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th.



Help Set Up The Chrismon Tree

For anyone interested in helping out, the Chrismon Tree will be set up and decorated after the morning Eucharist service on Sunday, November 27th.



Serving Christ through...: Reaching Out To Others

Shoebox Ministry Needs Your Help.



Collecting Shoeboxes Sunday, November 13th. Don't forget to bring in your already filled shoeboxes to St. John's on Sunday, November 13th, or to First United Methodist Church before Friday, November 18th.

St. John's will pay the shipping of the shoeboxes brought to the parish.

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR RIVER BOAT MINISTRY

When Rev. Kempton Baldrige was here on Sunday, October 23rd, he asked that we make homemade Christmas Cards for the crew of one particular boat. We will have card making crafts set up in the parish hall after the service on Nov. 6th, for everyone to make cards.



No Community Thanksgiving Service This Year

Due to several clergy in transition, the Ministerial Association decided not to hold a service this Thanksgiving.

NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY PORK & BEANS

The Food Pantry needs cans of Pork & Beans, any brand. Place them in the round bin in the Parish Hall.



MVMA Christmas Assistance Program

We will be receiving the names of the children we will be sponsoring this year for which we are to buy Christmas presents. Father Allen has requested names of 17 children.

Hopefully, we will receive the names and have the tags ready for pick-up by Sunday, November 20th. All wrapped presents will need to be brought to the church by Sunday, December 11th for blessing. The presents will be taken to Trinity for the families to pick up.

Episcopal Fund For Human Need (EFHN) November 6th & 13th

If you forget to bring in an offering on both Sundays, don't fret; try to get the donation to the church office as soon as possible that next week! Bags of coins are also welcome!



Serving Christ through... Our Church and Community

November 13th Parish Yard Clean Up Day after morning service

Please bring your gloves and tools and help us spruce up the yard, trim bushes, and rake a few leaves.



Rummage Sale—Thank You

The St. John's Women's Guild will host their fall rummage sale on Saturday, November 5th.

Thank you in advance for donating items, helping set up, and working the sale. The ladies always do a wonderful job organizing everything.

**Thank you
to those who donated
pet food for the Posey
Humane Society!!**



**River Ministry Christmas
items are due in the
church by
Sunday, November 20th**

We are collecting: chewing gum, unscented colorless lip balm, unscented hypoallergenic hand lotion, playing cards, puzzle books, Individually packaged microwave popcorn, hot chocolate, facial tissues, and sealed packages of holiday sweets.



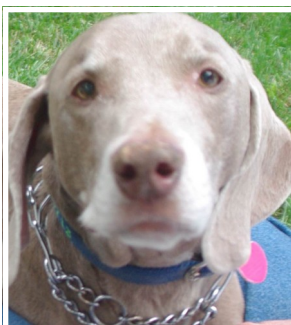
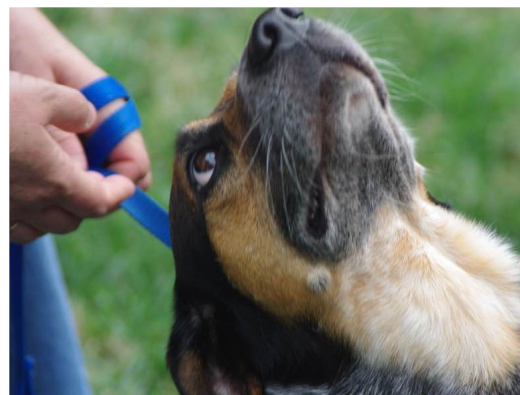
LIGHT A CANDLE.

PRAY FOR THE NATION.

A Pre-Election Prayer Vigil will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on Monday, November 7th from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. St. John's is located on the corner of 6th and Mulberry Street in Mt. Vernon. Everyone is invited to come and pray silently, light a prayer candle, or hear prayers offered for our nation as we prepare to vote in this year's election. This is not a formal worship service. Prayer visitors are encouraged to freely come and go as choose, and use as little or as much of the time as they like. A passage of Scripture and a prayer will be read every fifteen minutes during the Vigil. Even if you plan to vote early, we invite you to come and pray for others who will vote on Election Day. Let us show that our witness and unity in faith is greater than the issues that divide our nation.

Serving Christ through...

: St. Francis' Blessing of Animals



Diocesan Convention

Serving Christ through...

MEET THE NEW BISHOP



The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows was elected the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis on October 28, 2016. She was elected on the second ballot. The final vote was Clergy/67 and Laity/82.

Bishop Election

We were informed that there were 92 priests and deacons and 118 lay delegates present to vote.

We were also told that the magic number to reach for election was at least 46 clergy and 59 laity.

An electronic voting system was used, with each clergy and lay person assigned a remote, hand-held voting device. The voting was supposed to begin promptly at 11:00a.m., but it took considerable time to get the all of the voting devices to function properly. Once the kinks were worked out the first ballot was cast. I wrote down the numbers as they were verbally given.

Grace Burton-Edwards 7 & 10

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows 51 & 52

Bruce Gray 24 & 33

Lance Ousley 5 & 6

Dina Van Klaveren 6 & 13

If you do the math, that comes out to 93 clergy votes and 114 laity votes. Given the glitchiness of the voting system, the totals are not surprising. Each candidate was contacted to inform them of the vote totals of the first ballot. Grace, Lance, and Dina all decided to graciously remove their name from the second ballot. That left only Jennifer and Bruce for the second ballot. The results of the second ballot were thus:

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows 67 & 82

Bruce Gray 26 & 32

Again the total of votes was 93 clergy and 114 laity, but the margin of victory was so overwhelming that any discrepancies did not matter. Both Bruce and Jennifer were called with the results of the second ballot. Jennifer was asked whether she would accept the position, and her answer was "Yes." Each voter was asked to sign an election verification letter before dismissal from the Cathedral.

Other elections: At the Thursday evening opening of the convention, each nominee for diocesan committees and positions were announced and opportunity was given for nominations from the floor. A lay person was nominated from the floor to run against Beth Dingman for the position of laity to the Disciplinary Board. Despite the extra nominee, Beth was elected to the position.

Resolutions: The resolution to give the Global Missions Committee another three years to spend the leftover \$120,000 for Haiti relief was passed. The money will be specifically designated for Hurricane Matthew disaster relief at our diocesan funded school, St. Andres in Mithon.

Canon Revisions: The amendment to Canon 18 to make it easier for a Vestry to elect a new rector was passed. The other amendment to Canon 18 to set a monthly dollar figure on what a parish should pay a person going through holy orders failed. A number of small congregations spoke against the amendment citing that they would not be able to afford to pay the amount. The amendment to Canon 4 to create new guidelines for the election of a bishop was tabled. Many people felt that it was too soon after the current election to draft a set of rules for a future bishop election. There may still be new ideas and things to learn from this process.

Diocesan Budget: The 2017 diocesan budget passed easily with no opposition this year.

The planners for this year's diocesan convention had to allocate an inordinate amount of time for the possibility that the election of the new bishop could last into Saturday. Since the election took very little, the entirety of the remainder of the convention business was wrapped up rather quickly on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The 2017 Diocesan Convention will be co-hosted by the parishes of Jeffersonville and New Albany.

Events & Celebrations

November 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			

November Dates to Remember

- 01 — *All Saints' Day*
- 02 — Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (*All Souls' Day*)
- 02 — *Journey in Faith*, 6:00 p.m.
- 05 — Women's Guild Rummage Sale, 8:00a.m.
- 06 — **DAYLIGHT-SAVING TIME ENDS**
- 06 — First EFHN Sunday
- 07 — St. John's, Food Pantry volunteer day
- 07 — Pre-Election Prayer Vigil 5-7 PM
- 08 — **ELECTION DAY!!**
- 11 — Veteran's Day
- 13 — Second EFHN Sunday
- 13 — *Operation Christmas Child*, due at church
- 13 — Fall Parish yard clean up/work day
- 15 — Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 17 — Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in parish hall
- 20 — Christ The King Sunday, The Last Sunday of Pentecost
- 21 — St. John's, Food Pantry volunteer day
- 24 — *Thanksgiving Day*—Church office closed.
- 25 — Church office closed.
- 27 — Setting up of the Chrismon Tree after the service
- 27 — First Sunday of Advent/Father Allen at Solarbron for afternoon worship

Early December Dates to Note:

- 04 — St. Nicholas visitation to St. John's
- 07 — *Journey In Faith*

November Birthdays:

- 04 — Catie Claire Bell
- 04 — Barry Cox
- 09 — Imani Webster
- 16 — Ethan Goad
- 24 — Justin Jeffries
- 26 — Gail Robb



November Anniversaries:

- 22 — Steve & Mary Ann Burris
- 29 — Philip & Gracie Bell

If we missed it or got it wrong, let us know.

AUTUMN BEEF-TOMATO SOUP



- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1 c. chopped onions
- 1 qt. hot water
- 1 c. chopped carrots
- 1 c. diced potatoes
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- Pinch of basil
- Lg. can of tomatoes

Brown beef slowly; add onion. Saute 5 minutes. Drain beef. Combine all ingredients except tomatoes, in a large pot. Bring to a boil, cover, and simmer 20 minutes. Add tomatoes, chopped up. Simmer 10 minutes and serve.

If you have a favorite recipe that you would like to share in a



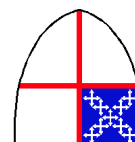
Faith and Fellowship at Harmonie Park

Serving Christ through...



Serving Christ through...: Connecting Kids To God





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



Veteran's Day November 11th

**Be sure to thank a
military veteran
for their service
to our country.**