



# The Eagle's Nest

St. John's Episcopal Church

October 2015

## Padre's Pen

We are now on our adventure together of examining our spiritual growth with the Renewal Works program. Hopefully you have been one who has filled out the Spiritual Growth Survey. As we often point out, it is a good thing to be together, regularly, in Worship of our Living God in Jesus Christ. But church attendance is not enough, we are called to daily study of God's Holy Word and to daily prayer. We recently renewed this commitment at a Baptism, and again at a Confirmation. I often add that we are all on our journey of faith together at different places along the same path. The key for each of us is to not get comfortable with where we are and pause too long in one place. Paul spoke to the Church in Corinth that he was feeding them according to their growth in the Spirit. This continues today. Billy Graham once said that conversion is not a one-time experience but rather that we all are converted each day as we grow stronger in our faith in the Lord.

This daily conversion and growth of our faith can be challenging. That is one reason that we are frequently tempted to rest and tell ourselves that our current belief is enough. In the strictest terms of personal salvation that is enough. We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and that his sacrifice on the Cross has assured us of everlasting life. That is enough. However we are called to be more than believers, we are called to be Disciples. Believers have "fire insurance" Disciples are empowered. In the Creeds we refer to Jesus Christ as our "Lord". If he is our

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Betsy Curlin

Bob Ellison

Chris Gregory

Ken Jordan - Parish Warden

Tyler Kitchens

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Melissa Rhodes - Rector's Warden

Charla Robb

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Lord, then he is Lord of our life and he has told us to go and make disciples of all nations, we are called to follow him and to bring others to a knowledge and love of God in Jesus.

Pray about how our Lord might be calling you to be his Disciple and in what way he is asking you to witness your faith to another who might desperately need to hear the Good News that we have to offer. This is a lost and lonely society with less and less respect for human life and less direct human contact. That means that God's love is more needed than ever. Can you be that vessel of God's healing love to help just one person realize how much more there is to this life than society has lead them to understand?

In Christ's love, Fr. Swan

## *Serving Opportunities*

Any interested youth or adult over the age of ten interested in becoming an Acolyte, please contact James Keith or Father Swan.

## *Peripatetic Parishioners*

Anni Watts and Brandon Pilger attended Grace Episcopal Church in New Lenox, IL on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## *Next Vestry Meeting*

*The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for October 21st in the Guild room following the 6:00 PM Eucharist.*

## *Mark Your Calendars*

**There is a calendar of events listed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the month. The sign-up sheet for flowers and the Sanctuary Candle is on the bulletin Board outside the Nave in the Cloister.**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** – UTO ingathering –there will be make-up ingathering on the 11th if you are out of town on the 4th. This is an amazing ministry and we all have many things in our lives to give thanks to our God!

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** - Fall Evensong at 4:30 PM with a light reception to follow. Think about 5 people you can invite!

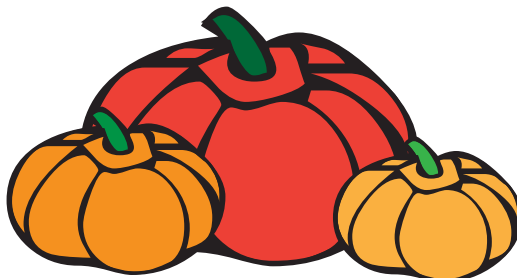
**November 7<sup>th</sup>**– Scavenger Hunt –details to follow

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** - Lessons and Carols – with a pot luck reception

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – Chili Cook Off – Kathy Phillips and Chris Gregory co-chairs

**January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Annual Meeting

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – Shrove Tuesday



## *Favorite Recipes*

We all need some comfort food when it's chilly outside!

### **Hearty Crock Pot Chicken and Noodles**

4 carrots, sliced  
 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed  
 1 medium onion, chopped  
 2 cups low sodium chicken stock  
 1 teaspoon garlic salt  
 2 teaspoons dried basil  
 salt & pepper, to taste  
 1 pound egg noodles

Directions:

1. Place carrots in crockpot, followed by all ingredients except noodles.
2. Cook on LOW for 8 hours.
3. About 15 to 30 minutes before serving, add the noodles and cook until tender – not mushy.
4. Serve immediately.

*Submitted by Marv Swan*

### **Braised Pork with Cabbage and Apples**

1 T olive oil  
 1 boneless pork loin (2-3 lbs.)  
 2 onions halved and thinly sliced  
 1 1/4 lbs. red cabbage, cored and thinly sliced  
 2 T minced ginger or powdered  
 4 cloves garlic, chopped  
 1 t Chinese five-spice powder  
 1 c white wine  
 1 1/4 c apple cider  
 2 Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2 in wedges

1. Preheat oven to 350. In a large ovenproof pot, heat oil over med-high. Season the pork with

salt and pepper and brown all over, 8 minutes; transfer to a plate. Add the next 4 ingredients, season and cook, stirring until cabbage wilts, about 5 minutes. Add the wine, cook 2 minutes. Add the cider; bring to a simmer.

2. Add the pork to the pot; cover and bake 30 minutes. Add the apples to the pot and cook until pork temp reaches 145, about 15 minutes.
3. Transfer the pork to a cutting board. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the cabbage to a large bowl. In the pot, boil the liquid until reduced to a thick syrup, about 10 minutes.
4. Slice the pork; arrange over cabbage mixture and drizzle with the reduced cooked liquid.
5. Serve with smashed/mashed/broiled redskin or Yukon gold potatoes

*Submitted by Stephanie Kimball (Fr. Swan and Marv's oldest daughter)*

## *Education Opportunities*

### **ADULT STUDY**

Friday Bible Study continues at 10 AM in the Guild Room. We are currently studying the Book of Luke.

Sunday Study continues at 9:00 AM. We are studying the book The Provocative Church.

### **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school continues. There are now two classes ~ VERY exciting news! It promises to be an exciting year! Please think about children you can invite or help attend. St. John's has many resources for children and more children would allow greater opportunities for all.

## Outreach

### Reminders:

Internal: There are several members who have signed up to cook meals for those who are sick or have someone they are caring for and could use the extra help. They are:

Celeste Ames, Babbs Hazelrigg, Ken Hawley, Megan Jordan, Marv Swan and Anni Watts.

External: We are still gathering food items on Sunday for NE Community Fund. Please remember to bring an item with you. It is so easy if you just throw an extra item in your cart when shopping for yourself. Items most needed are: peanut butter, cereal, canned meats, canned “meals”, cereal, rice, beans. There are some fantastic sales out there at our local grocery supermarkets as Decatur gears up for the Annual Community Food Drive; however, keep in mind that NE Community Fund does not benefit from that drive.

The Meals on Wheels sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Our dates are the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

### HELP MAKE CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER

Of the almost 775 inmates at the Decatur Correctional Center, around 200 mothers will have children who will make a Christmastime visit in December. At the end of their visit, moms will be able to give each child one gift thanks mostly to donations from St. John’s since a Scrooge-like reduction of public and private funding for this is the current reality. Since we have taken on this ministry the prison population has more than doubled. The wardens have expressed with deep gratitude

how important and meaningful it is for both the children and the mothers to be able to receive and give these gifts. Many of the children had never gotten a Christmas present from moms who may have been addicted, homeless or otherwise unable to provide for their children. Please prayerfully consider how you can help to give to these women the opportunity to participate in their children’s celebration of Christmas in a positive parental way.

During November, put your donations in the Baptistery at the back of the church. Delivery to the prison will begin on the first Friday in December. We hope to get them there early enough that the women will be able to wrap them. There will be a list of suggested items on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall and there will be bulletin inserts.

To make a monetary donation, make a check out to St. John’s and put prison ministry on the memo line.

Any questions, ask Judy Ellison, Sandy Roe or Mindy Chadwick

### CHILDREN’S SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Don’t forget about the Christmas Child. No shoeboxes need to be donated just the supplies. The focus for August, September and October are listed below as well. If you see a great deal for those items before then, grab them!

Steno paper pads (6x9, easy to fit in box), regular pencils, sharpeners, ink pens, erasers, solar calculators, glue sticks hats, sunglasses, deflated soccer balls, small handheld ball pumps, t-shirts personal hygiene -wash cloths,

*OUTREACH Continued on page 5...*

**OUTREACH** Continued from page 4...

mild bar soap, stick deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, flashlights w/enough batteries for a refill, small toolkits, scissors, playing cards.

There are many thermometers on the north wall of the Parish Hall indicating that we need quite a few items to complete the boxes! Please check them out.

November- finish up and a packing day to be announced later

**Vestry Meeting Highlights**

Melissa reported that we had a successful Mix and Mingle and those who attended had a great time and enjoyed the food and fellowship; RenewalWorks was launched on September 12<sup>th</sup> with the request for the completion of a survey ~ James Keith is the facilitator with a strong committee comprised of Betsy Curlin, Megan Jordan, Tracy McMahon, and Melissa Rhodes ~ a good mixture of long standing member and new; the discernment committee met for the last time and Recommended Chis to be a candidate for Holy Orders; we had 2 Confirmations with a great reception for our annual ice cream social to include a cake in honor of the confirmands. Father Swan brought up the topic of a place in the pews for wheelchair bound members and visitors.



**Holy Days in October**

Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm and Saturday at 7:30 am we meet for Eucharist. It is our custom to honor a memorable figure in the life of the Church down through the ages. For October, we will give thanks to God for these faithful servants:

Saints Days for October:

**Wednesdays**

- October 7 William Tynedale, Priest
- 14 Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky
- 21 St. Luke, Evangelist
- 28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles

**Saturdays**

- October 3 Remigius of Rheims
- 10 Robert Grosseteste, Bishop
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch
- 25 St. James of Jerusalem
- 31 All Hallowss Eve

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(See Genesis 3)

10-27-2014

... AND MY EYES WERE OPENED AND I KNEW THAT I WAS NAKED AND I SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER AND MADE MYSELF

## *News Flash & Updates*

**A Synopsis of:  
Moving into the Neighborhood:  
Mission Vision for the Parish  
Prayer ~ Care ~ Share**

Are we sharing the Good News, our faith, and representing the Kingdom well in our Parish neighborhoods? This was the question asked on September 19, when the Diocese of Springfield hosted a Mission Strategy workshop with Carrie Headington, missionary for evangelism from the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas. The workshop for clergy and lay leaders gave opportunities for reflection on current practices, sharing, and a number of practical ideas for keeping the mission central in all that we do as a Parish.

During the workshop, we were invited to look at PERCEPT, a tool licensed by the diocese to identify who lives in our parish neighborhood with a variety of demographic and socio-economic data to help identify needs which our parish might uniquely address. We were also challenged to reflect on our personal neighborhood and circles to think how St. John's might be present in meaningful ways. Ms. Headington further suggested 5 areas to focus on: outreach/community service, preparing the congregation, renewal of faith, being welcoming, and inviting.

St. John's and many of the parishes of the diocese have a number of outreach /community service activities including soup kitchens, food pantries, meals-on-wheels, prison ministry, and hospital ministry to name a few. Headington encourages us to add 3 components to each of these to help them be a part of our mission strategy. 1) Let people know who we are and why we are serving. 2) Invite those whom we serve to

St. John's. 3) Invite non-church members to be a part of our community service. By doing those three things the service opportunity moves from being a charitable work alone, to a missional one.

To prepare ourselves to do this effectively, Headington recommended having a group pray for the mission of St. John's on a regular basis. She also recommended continuing adult bible study and Sunday school series and adding a "seeker" series.

Renewal of faith, Headington pointed out, creates evangelism as an overflow to our own renewed passion. To help renew our faith she suggested a number of activities St. John's already offers such as Cursillo, reading books together, participating in the Daily Office, and the Renewal Works program. Some interesting ideas she suggested we might try included music gatherings, art gatherings, and quiet/reflection days.

Headington suggested we take a look at our definition of "welcoming" from a stranger's eyes. Assume we are new to the area and looking for a worship space, the first place we start is the web. Social media and search engines are now the primary way that most people learn about new opportunities and it is important that those be up to date and informative. It was pointed out by the group representing Emmanuel - Champaign that Facebook post boosting was a simple and cost effective way to get the word out about upcoming events. Other areas to reexamine included signage (can strangers find the sanctuary? parking?), the order of service (is a clearer version needed for visitors), and a basic walk-through of the building and grounds. She also emphasized that this generation is full of coffee and food aficionados so it's important

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**NEWS FLASH** *Continued from page 6...*

to have good coffee, real creamer and healthy snack options. In addition to our regular greeters and gift bags, Headington suggested considering coffee hour greeters and having a lay parishioner follow up with visitors sometime after their visit to invite them to additional church activities.

Finally we focused on inviting people. Bishop Martins offered that sometimes a non-Eucharistic event is the best way to invite friends and members of our parish community to get to know us. Headington added that one of the biggest problems people cite in their lives is loneliness, and this is a place where the parish can make a difference simply by being present. Headington suggested a strategy of parishioners making a habit of regularly inviting 1-5 people to 1-5 events. This might sound daunting, but a brief glance at St. John's calendar tells us that even without adding events we have 4 Eucharistic services (Wednesday evening, Saturday morning, and 2 on Sunday morning) each week and 2 adult study series (Friday Bible group and Adult Sunday School). Upcoming for October, we have additional events such as Evensong, and Blessing of the Animals. For both general and special events Headington recommends having flyers, cards and "E-vites" handy with times and directions so that all any parishioner has to do is share the info, and it's all easily on hand. Beyond the walls of St. John's we were also urged to think of any event which we are a part of as an opportunity for fellowship. Whether it is a sports event, a cooking class, serving at Good Samaritan Inn, a book club, or supper with friends we are always living members of the Kingdom.

Overall, Headington reminds us to begin with prayer for the needs of our parish community, to show that we care so that others may know us by our love, and to share whether our time,

resources, money and when people ask why we do it share the Good News. In doing so we fulfill the mission Jesus told us before ascending to Heaven "the Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1: 8

## RenewalWorks

RenewalWorks was launched on September 12<sup>th</sup> with a survey. James Keith will be the facilitator and has formed a leadership team for the follow-up workshops that will take place after the survey is complete. Please complete the survey as soon as possible. This is vital!

## Car Rally

Save the date of November 7 for an evening event that we have named a Car Rally. The Peters' and the Hawley's are making plans for the revival of what was formerly known as a scavenger hunt. This has been such a fun event in the past. We hope that many of you will put it on your calendar. More details to follow soon.

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10-03-2014

OH MAN ... THIS SACKCLOTH TOTALLY FIT ME THE LAST TIME I WORE IT

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## Photos

### Bishop's Visit & Confirmation



## Birthdays



- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Arline Causey  
Patricia Hunter  
Elizabeth Keith
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Mary Peters
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Margaret Curlin
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Gary Moore
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Charla Robb
- 13<sup>th</sup>- Judy Ellison  
James Peoples
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Stephen Chadwick  
Holly Farrow
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Louise Kidd
- 20<sup>th</sup>- James Jones
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- Adele Curtis
- 31<sup>st</sup>- Kathryn Moore

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(See Matthew 6:19-21)

10-20-2014

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