



The Missioner

**St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
Washington & 11th Streets, Lockport, IL 60441
815-834-1168 www.stjohns-lockport-il.org**

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June 2014

Over the past couple of years our congregation has been part of a diocesan program called *Thrive*. This was an effort to address some concerns from other congregations in mission status (like us) who pointed out that many congregations really do not know what it means to be vital—so, how can we turn things around?

Well, it's no secret that the Church (not just mainline denominations) have seen decline. Whether it is because of bad experiences for individuals, or that people in our culture no longer see a need for religion; the reality is that our attendance numbers have been culled a bit.

Any number of authors have capitalized on this fact, and many of them have ranged from critical to just plain resentful about the Church. Language about why the Church must change or die has been evocative, but really has done nothing to stem the perceived hemorrhage. And the more that all of us ponder this issue, the more we find that there is no simple answer.

However, this is okay. I don't think it's ever a good idea to trust easy answers.

So, back to this question of vitality. In effect, we have to ask ourselves not whether we are 'doing things' to prove our vitality—rather, we need to ask whether or not we are necessary. And, with this, is such necessity viable?

The point is, we cannot confuse 'vitality' ("exuberant physical strength or mental vigor") with "vitality (capacity for survival or for the continuation of a meaningful or purposeful existence)." In fact, while these are two definitions of the same word, we can see that "meaningful or purposeful existence" is a much more desirable state than simply being strong...

And along with this understanding of survival and meaningful, purposeful existence is the necessity of viability.

In other words, simply being active is not a definite sign of vitality—and if such activity cannot be sustained, it is likewise not vital, and obviously not necessary.

So, we might ask, what is it that the Church offers that is necessary? What is it that St. John's offers that is necessary?

I suppose in some ways, this can be an unsettling question to try to answer. After all, for the most part, our conversations around getting more people into our churches has usually eroded to discussions of music styles and varying worship formats. But if the people who need a church never cared about such things before, and wouldn't notice the difference anyway...well, we might wonder if we're asking the right questions. But in defense of these conversations—we usually stick with what we know, and have a hard time thinking outside of the box.

However, once we get beyond trying to answer questions that aren't being asked, we're still left with this question of whether the Church is vital or not.

Again, I don't think there is an easy answer—but suffice it to say, I think a few things should be considered in the framing of the question.

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First off, I think we need to ask ourselves whether or not the Church is vital and necessary to us. I think we need to honestly begin with ourselves and wonder—beyond just getting spiritual needs met—whether or not Church is necessary and vital to us. After all, we're going to have a really hard time convincing others that Church is vital if we're not sure that it is to us. The best way to help others see that our faith has meaning is if it really has meaning.

Secondly, we need to make sure that our work and our ministry is responding to real (not perceived) need. The secret, after all, to being necessary is being necessary. If the Church is addressing real need and at least trying to close certain gaps in the community (locally or abroad), it will certainly be vital in all of the right ways. However, it will not do to create a response to a need that doesn't exist—this only expends our interests and resources so that we miss our real mission and ministry in the world. Likewise, it only reinforces our own sense of importance without being important. Literally, we need to find a way to do the things for the world that it cannot do without. In this way we make ourselves 'necessary.'

Finally, I think we need to reject the notion that who we are, and what we're about is in danger of losing its relevance. Likewise, ignoring our history and our deep roots is unfruitful—and while I agree that we need to dig deeper to understand why we do what we do; I do not think that what we do and have done for centuries is irrelevant. It's my belief that the more things change, the more they remain the same—and quite literally, this is not the first time that the Church has lost membership and needed reformation. Our mistake, however, would be in assuming that we have to reinvent the wheel to get where we want to get—or that we are somehow more clever than our forebears in the faith when responding to such things.

Anyway, (I know this is a long article, but please bear with me) with so much at stake regarding—not the existence of the Church—but certainly the institutional Church as we know it; are we able to be honest enough with ourselves to really address the questions facing us? Are we able to identify and put aside our biases about what we think the Church needs to be or do so that we can truly begin to grow into the vital, and life giving ministry to which the whole Church—the Body of Christ—is called?

Simply put, I think so... However, the work of discerning the way forward will need to begin with the people of God being truly transformed (having really experienced conversion again and again). It will not do for us to continue to make excuses for ourselves and why cannot be any other way. And then, as people continually being converted by the mind of Christ, we must begin to use our minds and our imaginations to begin to ask ourselves the hard question. Are we still necessary? It's my belief that we are, we just have to work harder at understanding why.

Peace,

Fr. Matt Humm+

Vestry News

Generous Response to our Winter Appeal

As you know St. John's was certainly impacted by the harsh winter experienced in our area. A decision was made to send an appeal explaining our dilemma and asking our congregation to prayerfully consider how they might help us with the unforeseen additional expenses associated with winter (plowing and increased utilities).

The response to this appeal to date has been very generous. So far (we continue to receive donations) St. John's has received over \$3600 in donations to help cover these costs. It is a reminder that when there is a real need, our membership is ready to respond. I sincerely thank you for your response. I have difficulty coming up with adequate words to reflect how pleased I am with the support you have shown for our (your) church.

Your generosity will assist us in meeting the additional budgetary stress placed on us by conditions that we cannot predict or control. On behalf of our leadership team I extend to you our gratitude and appreciation.

Bob Meehan
Senior Warden

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Vestry News

At the May 14, 2014 meeting, the Vestry...

Accepted the reports presented.

Heard...

- The finance reports for the month of April and year to date. As appears to date, the projected deficit for the year may be only \$20,000 rather than the budgeted \$31,000. Bad weather and low attendance has affected the “giver of record” income.
- The appeal for winter cost increases has brought in \$3,200.
- Attendance at Easter and Holy Week worship has been growing over the past few years.
- Fr. Matt and Bob Meehan attended Fierce Conversation Training provided by the Diocese.
- An update of conversations with the contractors helping us out, the city of Lockport, and Bishop and Trustees.
- About the church picnic to be held June 1st.
- A request of help for the rummage sale.

Participated in a discussion about Thrive and the vitality at St. John’s.

Took action ...

To hire Jim Alleman as sexton for five hours a week at \$12 per hour.

That if approved by the Diocese, to authorize payment of \$2500 to fulfill the application process for building approval by the city of Lockport.

To approve up to \$800 for a color rendering of the new building.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the vestry is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2014 beginning at 6:30 pm.

St. John the Evangelist

Receipts and Disbursements / April 2014

Activity for the Month

St. John’s **Total Income** exceeded **Total Expenses** (“Net Ordinary Income”) according to our “Revenue and Expenses for Month – Actual Versus Budget” (by \$100).

Total Income (\$11,023.67) is approximately \$ 1800 less than forecast. Pledge income for the month is below anticipated income by approximately \$1,300. Non – pledge income is also shy of projections for the month (\$770). Miscellaneous income (Easter Collection and Holy Week donations) accounts for the higher than expected (\$650).

Total Expense (\$16,792) for the month was approximately (\$1,913) more than forecast -- due primarily to the quarterly pension premium (\$3,400) and the cost of utilities (\$325 over budget).

Year to date:

Our expenses have exceeded our anticipated revenues by approximately \$11,000. Total expenses (\$75,781) exceed Total revenues by (\$21, 289). This figure includes \$13,000 in building and restoration expenses which are not part of our operating budget.

Total income is at \$43,364 (\$2,400 below forecast). Pledge income is approximately \$28 above expected revenue , while giver of record income is shy of forecast by \$2,600.

General Operations (Approximately \$55,279) are above budgeted expenses through the end of April (\$1,500). Our projected deficit when adjusting for building and restoration is approximately \$2,800 below anticipated expenses which can be explained by increased operational expenses such as utilities. Our expenses in for utilities and snow removal are well above anticipated cost.

In looking at the cost for snow removal and heating costs for this year, the expenses are far greater than planned for. Our cost for snow removal in 2013 was \$506 dollars compared to this years cost of \$3,595 (\$3,100 more this year)/ Our cost for heating last year for the same four months Jan-Apr billing was \$2,801.42 and this year was \$4,003 (\$1,202 more this year) These two items alone illustrate \$4,300 increase in operational expenses in the first quarter.

Banking Account Activity

The First Midwest Bank Operating Account balance as of the end of the month was \$6,934.64

There were no transfers of funds during the month of April.

Formation

Youth Formation - Thank You

The 2013 - 2014 church school year is now ended. Looking back, I can see that we have again taken some big steps forward. Since I have been involved, we have never had so many people teaching and guiding our youth. We began the year with seven teachers and two student helpers. Nine of us rotated through our schedule and put together some great lessons. I want to thank each and every one of you who helped make this past year one of growth and hope. I know it was not always easy and there were some growing pains, but you all contributed and assisted us in making this year a success. Knowing that I can count on this group of people when it comes to Youth Formation has me looking toward next year with even more expectation.

We are even working on summer activities. Stay tuned!!

Again, all my thanks to: Tom Boyle, Leona Davies, Ellen Hill, Hannah Hill, Charity Humm, Beth Pesavento, Pam Sheetz, Tim Thompson, and Shannon Williams.

Finally, to the parents of our students, who have placed their faith in our program and these teachers to help bring the Spirit into their children's lives, thank you.

God bless,

Todd Sheetz

Director—Youth Formation



Centering Prayer



- See you June 12th at 7 PM (Meets 2nd Thurs of month)
- Wrapping up Contemplative Saint Series / Study this month.



Be on the lookout for...The Adventures of SWEET BABY JESUS
What the heck is "The Adventures of SWEET BABY JESUS?"

SWEET BABY JESUS is a way for us to keep in contact with each other throughout the summer. You can simply bring SWEET BABY JESUS out to dinner with you, to the beach, to hang out with your grandchildren, as well as any adventure around town!

Take SWEET BABY JESUS with you and see what happens.

Sweet Baby Jesus will making his rounds at the parish picnic along with more info!!!

Parish Life

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY



The St. John' Concert Series held the last of its performance dates in March and April, each followed with receptions in the Montgomery Parish Hall. These afternoon concerts were well attended, with 35-45 concert goers, respectively. Hospitality would like to thank concert volunteers and donors for their efforts and delicious refreshments, throughout this entire concert series. The team looks forward to the 2014-2015 concert series, and we could not do it without you! Lastly, thank you to Tom Secor...great job!

We appreciate everyone that continues to sign-up and help, however they can. We hope that you too will please come out and join this ministry, we really do have lots of fun. With that, we would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest member, Lee Moarn.

Hope you and your families have a wonderful summer!

Peace,
Lillian Hensley

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Fun, Food & Fellowship at Church Picnic - June 1st



Parish Picnic and Church School Year End Celebration will be Sunday, June 1st after the 10:30 AM service at St. John's. Contact: Leona Davies at ldavies@paloscomm.org or Beth Pesavento at bpesavento2002@yahoo.com. to RSVP, confirm your picnic dish offering or answer questions. Invite your families & friends...all are welcome. See you there!

Rummage Sale by the Numbers

- 3 Purposes for the rummage sale: an opportunity for parishioners and their friends to get rid of stuff, an opportunity to provide inexpensive items for the community who needs them, and an opportunity for the **joining together of the St. John's family.**
- 26 Adults who helped preparing the site and staying the extra hours, making anyone feel she/he got the best deal on a most beautiful item, knowing just where to put the signs, always being available, taking care of advertising without a hitch and dropping in with humor to add, bringing baked goods, staying to help, joining in the fun of conversation and laughter, and helping with the cleanup.
- 5 Girls ages 9-11 who helped with the sale and sold lemonade.
- 5 Days of preparation
- 2 Days of sale
- ? Parishioners and their friends who cleaned their homes and donated items to be available.
- ? Shoppers from the community who appreciated what we had to offer them.
- 3 Benefited from the leftovers. Veterans, Lockport Resource Center and Purple Heart Charity Pick up.

\$1,614.77 **Amount of money made for St. John's ministries was over this.**

Blessings and Thanks,
Susie Meehan



A collection of beautiful prayer shawls (crochet and knit), made by Julia Matile, was presented to Fr. Matt and **St. John' last month.** The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet June 4th and 18th at 11:30 AM (1st and 3rd Wednesday each month.) For more information, contact Julia Matile. All are welcome.



Have a favorite hymn? Now is your opportunity to request a hymn this summer. Request cards are at the back of the sanctuary, (*next to sermon reprints*) and can be turned into Tom Secor. Look forward to hearing and a little singing from you!

HEALTH MINISTRY



Blood Pressures readings will be available on Sunday, June 8th from 8am to noon. If you have questions about your medications, please bring them with you. Any health issues/questions can be emailed to the Parish Nurse, Lee Moarn, at stjohnparishnurselockport@gmail.com or call the Parish Office at 815-834-1168.

Episcopal Church Women – God and the City

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Chicago held its Annual Meeting in conjunction with hosting the Province V Annual Meeting on April 24-27, in downtown Chicago. This year’s theme: “God in the City.” Province V covers six mid-western states and the women from this area were given an opportunity to discover Chicago as well as conduct their annual business.

I participated on Saturday in the Diocese of Chicago portion of the ECW Convention and Annual Meeting. I attended a couple sessions: Cathedral Counseling, presented by the Diocese and an Episcopal charity. The other session titled, “Majesty and Mystery,” was presented by Lester Barker, whose creations with folding, cutting and mounting tissue snowflakes cleverly expressed the session’s theme and spiritual meaning. The poem below is posted on the back of his mounted creations:

Snowflakes

Beautiful, fragile, fleeting
 In the fiercest blizzard or deepest drift
 No two are alike—
 each a unique masterpiece
 of the Creator

Not unlike each one of us—
 Beautiful, fragile, here for a moment
 Each of us a unique creation
 of His hand



The Saturday luncheon’s keynote speaker was The Rev. Kat Banakis, priest and community connector part time at St. Luke’s, Evanston. She was enthusiastic, inspiring and fun. Eucharist was celebrated by Assisting Bishop Epting, who spoke on Friday. ECW officers for the coming year were installed too.

I had an opportunity to connect with many friends as well as share several spirit filled moments. ECW, Diocese of Chicago provides opportunities for women throughout the year, financial grants to charities, opportunities for individual members and scheduled program offerings. I would encourage women from St. John’s to participate in these diocesan wide ECW events. The Fall Forum is scheduled for Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, LaGrange. Watch the newsletter for announcements.
 ~ Susie Meehan

Outreach

Lockport Food Pantry—June Schedule of Items for Donations:

June 1: Pork & Beans/Beans June 8: Peanut Butter & Jelly June 15: Cereal / Oatmeal
June 22: Pancake mix June 29: Vegetable soup/cans of vegetables

Outreach Meeting, Thurs, June 5th at 7 PM ~ Morning Star Mission, Sat, June 14th at 10:30 AM
 ***Still need volunteers at Morning Star Mission on July 12. ***

Please see bulletin board for more info and to sign-up. Questions: contact Judy Broud. Thank you!

June Lectionary

Date	1st Lesson	Psalm	2nd Lesson	Gospel
June 1	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
June 8	Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
June 15	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8 or Canticle 2 or 13	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
June 22	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Psalm 69: 8-11 (12-17) 18-20	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
June 29	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42

Some Helpful Resources For Daily Prayer

For Daily Prayer www.missionstclare.com
 For Daily Readings satucket.com/lectionary
 Episcopal News www.episcopalcafe.com
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens>
 National Church episcopalchurch.org
 Diocesan Website episcopalchicago.org
 Parish Connections stjohns-lockport-il.org
 Twitter: @forwardinchrist
 Facebook: St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church-Lockport, IL



Website: www.stjohns-lockport-il.org
Contact us: 815-834-1168
office@stjohns-lockport-il.org

Those for whom prayers have been asked:

Alice A.; Karen A. ; Niece A.; Barbara; Bernadette; Jody B.; Ella B.;
 Mac B.; Andrew & Audrey C.; Anthony C.; Carol C.; Tessa C.; Sandra
 C.; Wilma C.; Connie; Bob D.; Dana; Deb D.; Robert D.; Tracy D.;
 Dina; Elizabeth; Carroll F.; Dorothy F.; Kathy F.; Denise G; Evelyn G.;
 Michael Thomas G.; Barbara H.; Brittany H.; Jerry H; Khloe H.; Neil H;
 Robert H.; William H.; Adrienne J.; Jack & Donna; Dorothy J.; Bob K.;
 Delores K; Lee; Diane L; Evonne L.; Denise M.; Mike M; Mac; Maggie;
 Nick; Nathan; M. Naughton; Cassidy N.; Pam; Anna P.; Clara P.; Donna
 P.; Hadley P.; Joe P.; Mary Ann P.; Tom P.; Wally P.; Roger; Amalia
 R.; Annette R; Brian R.; Hank R.; John R.; Dolly S.; Gay S.; Vicki S.;
 Linda T.; Tom; Marty V.; Bob W.; Jerry W.; Joe W.; Katrina W. ; Jim Z.

**And all those with terminal illnesses, their families,
 and those caring for them.**

*** Please contact the office if any of the above information changes.*

Important Dates to Remember

June 1.....Church Picnic (after 10:30 AM Svc)
 June 4Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
 June 4.....Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
 June 5.....Outreach at 7 PM
 June 7.....Centering Prayer at 8 AM
 June 8.....Pentecost Sunday (wear red, orange, or yellow)
 June 8.....Blood Pressure Readings from 8 AM—12 PM
 June 10.....Standing Committee at 11:30 AM
 June 11.....Vestry at 6:30 PM
 June 12.....Centering Prayer (Desert Series) at 7 PM
 June 14.....Centering Prayer at 8 AM
 June 14.....Morning Star Mission at 10:30 AM
 June 18.....Daughters of the King at 10:30 AM
 June 18.....LHAMA at 11:30 AM
 June 18.....Prayer Shawl at 11:30 AM
 June 21.....Centering Prayer at 8 AM
 June 28.....Centering Prayer at 8 AM

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Amber Hall	6/3
Jason Hall	6/6
Dave Danckwart	6/13
Penny Grobe	6/14
Mike Wirth	6/14
Robert Lindstrand	6/15
Cadi Riofski	6/16
Maggie Riofski	6/18
Laura VanAllen	6/21
Karen Wirth	6/22
Ruth Johnson	6/23
Joyce Moore	6/27
Ellen Hill	6/28
Francis & Laura VanAllen	6/2
Robert & Joan Kingsbury	6/3
Eugene & Janice McElheny	6/18
Edmund & Sharon Laskowski	6/20
Donald & Dale Lundy	6/22
Tim & Jackie Williams	6/23
Clark & Karen Davis	6/24
Mrs. Julia Matile	6/28

Staff

The Rev. R. Matthew Humm, *Priest*
 Thomas J. Secor, *Director of Music*
 Jill Crisman, *Church Secretary*
 Jim Alleman, *Sexton*
 Robert Meehan, *Sr. Warden*
 John Schwab, *Jr. Warden*
 Susan Meehan, *Clerk*

Vestry Members

Judy Broud 15	Lee Moarn 16
Rob Brennan 16	Art Pesavento 16
Leona Davies 15	Marlene Van Kuiken 17
Chris Hill 15	

Dorothy Cirrencione, *Sacristan*
 Todd Sheetz, *Director Christian Education*
 Open, *Ushers*
 Judy Broud, *Outreach*
 Rob Brennan, *Marketing*
 Lee Moarn, RN,BSN,FCN, *Health Ministry*
 Wendy Stewart, *Daughters of the King*
 Lillian Hensley, *Hospitality*
 Judy Matile, *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

SUNDAY

8:00 AM. Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Formation
(resumes Aug. 2014)
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
7:00 PM Holy Eucharist
(6:30 PM-2nd Wed)

**Mission Statement of
St. John the Evangelist Church**

“The mission of St. John the Evangelist Church is to incarnate our Baptismal Covenant as we worship and praise God through the Sacraments of the Church, proclaim the Gospel in word and action, promote Christian fellowship and spiritual growth, and encourage all members to live their lives for the benefit of all God’s people.”



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