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St. John's 175th Anniversary Fall Festival

On Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, St. John of the Cross Episcopal Church in Bristol, Indiana invited the community to an early fall cookout party with food, games, live music, and activities for the kids. All were welcome to help celebrate the Church's 175th Anniversary. Clint Yeager took attendees for rides in his horse-drawn wagon. In 1843, the Samuel Judson family gave an acre of land that eventually became the site of the church, the cemetery and the former rectory. On Dec. 29, 1843, the cornerstone of the present church building was laid, and part of the land was certified as a "perpetual burying place" for the baptized of St. John's Church of Bristol. They had 11 families listed as communicants and a visiting priest, but money for building the actual church was not available. Jeanette Judson, wife of Samuel, returned east by stagecoach in 1844 to lobby her wealthy friends and acquaintances for seed money for the new parish. She returned with enough to set up the frame and roof rafters, and by May 1847 these were erected. She then made a second trip to raise enough to enclose the church. On May 8, 1851, St. John's was a debt-free finished church and cemetery consecrated with parish rector, Rev. Homer Wheeler.

Just the Facts:
It is a small white Greek Revival style clap-board church of hand-hewn ash trees held with wooden pegs and modeled after New England churches. The stained glass windows were brought by ship and stagecoach. The cemetery on the south of the building is the oldest Anglican cemetery in N. Indiana. First recorded burial was Abby S. Danolds on Aug. 16, 1843, 4 months before laying of the cornerstone. There is 1 Mexican War veteran & 11 Civil War veterans.