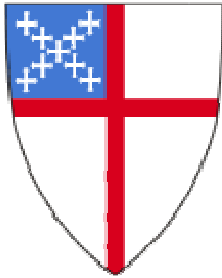


The Fabric of St. John's



Parish News of
St. John's Episcopal Church
Alma, Michigan



January 2007

Pastor's Corner

The beginning of a new year is a marvelous time to take stock of the past year and plan how we will serve God in the coming year. January is a time of introspection because of the snow, the shortened days, and the cold which keeps us indoors more than outdoors; this is a time uniquely suited to prayer and meditation.

The Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) is a time to understand that human dignity is a wondrous multifaceted thing that not only involves freedom of will and the capacity to love but as the Incarnation teaches us, it also means we participate with the God in the drama of creation, redemption, and a new creation. This why community worship is so important, for it is in community we strengthen our bonds in the Body of Christ and are given the spiritual energy to bring about the Reign of God in this world.

Being with you over this past year we have worked together very well; I hope we will continue that trend. Working together as a community for the community is one of the reasons for church in the first place. Obviously worshiping together is what informs our ministries in the community and gives us the grace to continue in our work and even expand our horizons.

I want to draw to your attention that the Annual Meeting will be on the 21st of January. I hope that all of you will come and share in the decision making. We have several decisions to make and it is best if as many of the congregation as possible participate.

God's blessings for a fruitful, healthy, and joyous New Year,

Mary[†]

Note from Nancy

As I announced on Sunday, December 10, I have decided to take January and February as “Sabbath” time. In February, I will mark two years away from the parish where I worshipped and served for almost 35 years. These two years have been a time of both pain and joy, turning inward and reaching outward. But at this point, I am still unclear how God wants me to serve in the church, and so I am taking this winter to mark Sundays quietly. Perhaps I will begin to hear more clearly.

You welcomed me warmly from my first day here, and I have continued to feel your love. Thank you for being who you are: a deeply spiritual, caring community. I love you as well, and I ask your prayers for me, as you will have mine for you.

Peace to you in this new year,
Nancy Casey Fulton, Deacon

Plaid Door Survey Results

Because the Plaid Door’s mission is to serve the community during the month of November, we asked our customers to complete a survey about the store so that we could learn how to better serve them. The survey showed some things we already knew, but it also provided us with some new direction too. For instance, while we knew that the vast majority of our shoppers were women, the survey told us what these women were specifically shopping for. Other things we learned are listed below along with our intended action plan for each.

1. Our customers have several key reasons for shopping consignment: good bargains, quality as it relates to price, variety, friendly service, and “treasure hunting”. These points will be used to target our customers in future advertisements.
2. From geographic information taken, we now know where best to advertise.
3. Details about the types of items our customers are shopping for will be sent to our consigners so that they will have better direction in selecting items to be consigned.
4. In addition, we will do a floor plan analysis to determine whether our current layout is consistent with our shopper’s main interests.
5. Based on our question about suggestions for improvements, we will begin offering special sales or promotions on a scheduled basis.
6. Also from the suggestions as a public service, we will provide bulletin board space for people who want to advertise the sale of used furniture.
7. Again from the suggestions, we will look to improve the exterior appearance of our store via the window display. We will be contacting Alma College to see whether marketing or art students would be interested in volunteering this service.
8. Finally, we will add a donation option to the consignment paperwork.

Welcome!

Moses Hobbs has been living in Ithaca for a year and a half. He retired from working at General Motors in Lansing for 31.2 years in 2000. He has a daughter and two sons and six grandchildren living in Lansing. He visits them a couple times a month. His other daughter is a nurse in Chicago.

Born in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, Moses moved to St. Louis, Missouri, at age 21. There he worked in a steel mills plant and drove a taxi cab part time. He attended a Job Corps Training program in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and then returned to St. Louis to taxi drive full time.

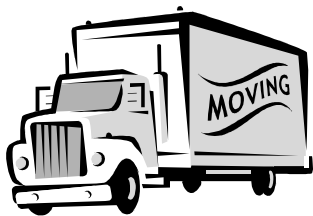
Eventually the skills learned during his Job Corps training earned Moses entry into the auto industry world of work in Lansing. At first Moses worked as a relief man, janitor, and machine operator. At the time he retired, Moses was working as a metal finisher and arc welder.

When Moses learned about a horse training center located at the fairgrounds in Ithaca, he wanted to move to that area. There are about 150 horses housed in the barns on the grounds year around by about 10 different horse owners. Moses owns six of the horses himself. He works for an Ithaca horse trainer, caring for that owner's horses in the barns along with his own. Moses races his horses as trotters and pacers at races at Jackson, Schwartz Creek, and Ithaca.

Moses owns 40 acres of land at the corner of Luce and Fillmore Roads west of Ithaca. His future plans are to build a barn and house on the property and raise horses there.

We thank Heather Kesselring for inviting Moses to come worship with us!

Shirley Hamilton
Outreach Committee



Jerry and Cindy Kabell's new info is below:

Murree Christian School
PO Jhika Gali
Murree Hills 47180
Pakistan

Ph: 92-51-3410321 x109
Email: principal@mcs.org.pk
sophie1842@yahoo.com
kabell@cps.cmich.edu
kabellj@cmich.edu

ECW news that everyone needs to know

Submitted by Carolyn Anderson
ECW Secretary

We had an excellent response to the Adopt-a-family gift decorations on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. All the ornaments were taken and the gifts were in for sorting and delivering the weekend before Christmas. We helped a single mother with two children, a senior couple with health problems, a single senior woman, a group home in Elm Hall and two parish children. The generous response meant a blessed and happy Christmas for many people.

Epiphany comes quickly following the twelve days of Christmas, and we will celebrate on Sunday, January 7th, with our Epiphany cake. The cake will be baked containing a number of charms, and those receiving (or biting into) the charms will get a special blessing. Racquie Ballard, Haley Tessman and Angie Ballard will explain the purpose of the charms as they are discovered. Be sure to be there for the fun.

The Annual Meeting is set for January 21st following the 10:00 a.m. service. We will have a regular potluck so be prepared to bring a dish to pass and your own table service. All of the organizations are reminded to get their annual reports in by December 30th.

Lent will be starting on Wednesday, February 21st, so that means we will be having a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 20th. The men are responsible for this supper, and

we always enjoy pancakes, sausage and applesauce with a free-will offering.



Put the Chili Cook-off on your calendar for Sunday, March 11th. Get out your favorite chili recipe and bring your pot of chili to be judged along with other contributions. Prizes for the best chili!!

ECW meets on the second Saturday of each month in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. Come join us and help us bring Christ into our work and play.

Did You Know?

Phil Warsop, our trumpeter in the choir loft, is a member and regular performer in the 2006-07 Alma Symphony.

“Did You Know?” is the brain child of Barbara Gladding and is intended to help us get to know the members of our parish more fully and/or in a different light. It will be a regular part of the news letter. Please submit “Did you know?” tidbits to Heather Kesselring kesselrh@lcc.edu

Flowers!

Just a reminder, several people can go together to fund flowers for a particular Sunday.

Pastor's Schedule for January

1/1	Off	1/15	Off
1/2	9am - 1pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Worship Committee	1/16	9am - 1pm Office Hours
1/3	8:30am Warden's meeting 9am - 1pm Office Hours 1pm Home Communion 7pm Taize	1/17	9am - 1pm Office Hours 1pm Home Communion
1/4	9am - 1pm Office Hours 12pm Saginaw Valley Clericus 4pm Diaconal classes St. Paul's Flint	1/18	9am - 1pm Office Hours 12pm Alma Ministerial Assoc. 4pm Diaconal classes St. Paul's Flint
1/5	Off	1/19	Off
1/6	Off	1/20	Off
1/7	9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist 2:00 Masonic Pathways	1/21	9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist 11:00 Annual Meeting 2:00 Masonic Pathways
1/8	9am - 1pm Office Hours 6pm Vestry	1/22	9am - 1pm Office Hours
1/9	9am - 1pm Office Hours 7pm Bldg Committee	1/23	9am - 1pm Office Hours
1/10	9am - 1pm Office Hours 1pm Home Communion 7pm DOK book meeting	1/24	9am - 1pm Office Hours 1pm Home Communion
1/11	9am - 1pm Office Hours 7pm Bishop Todd	1/25	9am - 1pm Office Hours
1/12	Off	1/26	Off
1/13	10am ECW 11am Outreach Committee	1/27	Off
1/14	9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist	1/28	9:00 Christian Education 10:00 Holy Eucharist
		1/29	9am - 1pm Office Hours
		1/30	9am - 1pm Office Hours
		1/31	9am - 1pm Office Hours

St. John's Episcopal Church

550 N. Luce Rd. P O Box 605

Alma, MI 48801-0605

989 463-1070

January 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <u>New Year's Day</u> Office Closed	2 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 8:00 pm Worship Committee	3 8:30am Warden's meeting Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 7pm Taize	4 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	5 9:00am Men's Group Meets at Clark's	6
7 9:00am Adult Ed. 10:00 am Eucharist 2:00 pm Masonic	8 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 6:00pm Vestry dinner Discussion to follow	9 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 7:00pm Bldg Committee	10 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 7:00pm DOK book meeting	11 7:45am Spiritual Growth Group Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	12 9:00am Men's Group Meets at Clark's	13 10:00am ECW 11:00 am Outreach Comm. Mtg
14 9:00am Adult Ed. 10:00 am Eucharist	15 <u>MLK Day</u> Office Closed	16 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	17 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	18 7:45am Spiritual Growth Group Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	19 9:00am Men's Group Meets at Clark's	20
21 9:00am Adult Ed. 10:00 am Eucharist 11am Annual meeting 2:00 pm Masonic	22 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm 7:00pm DOK meeting	23 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	24 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	25 7:45am Spiritual Growth Group Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	26 9:00am Men's Group Meets at Clark's	27
28 9:00am Adult Ed. 10:00 am Eucharist	29 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	30 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm	31 Office Hours 9:00-1:00pm			