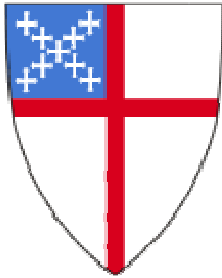


The Fabric of St. John's



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



November 2008

Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mary was unable to give us her column for Pastor's Corner this month. She is still recovering from her gall bladder surgery and infections. At the present time she is in the Short-Term Rehab unit of the Masonic Home where she is undergoing exercise twice a day to regain her strength. Rev. Mary has promised that she will be back in church by All Saints' Day for the baptisms of Ivan Robert Holtz and Milo Reed Clark. We will also be pleased to have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We need to keep praying for Rev. Mary's full recovery, and she assures us she is praying for all of us.

The following prayer is to be used with the Anglican rosary.

Cross/Crucifix:

God the Father, Giver of life and health;
God the Son, Healer of souls;
God the Holy Spirit, Bestower of wholeness:
hear our prayer.

Invitatory:

He heals the broken hearted
and binds up their wounds.

Cruciform Beads:

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.
He forgives all our sins
and heals all our infirmities.

Weeks:

Uphold us and fill us with your grace,
that we may know the healing power of your love.
from All Shall be Well, Prayers Rosary, N. DeLiza Spangler

What's going on at St. John's?

Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on Sunday, October 12th, for its first meeting on the new date. We met in October on the second Sunday because the Vestry had changed its meeting to the third Sunday and it conflicted with our time. We hope to soon get all of our meetings on a regular schedule with most of them occurring on Sunday following the 10:00 a.m. service.

We talked about the Thankful Dinner that will be held on Sunday, November 16th. Please check the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall because your contributions will be needed. The menu will be roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, squash, green bean casserole, coleslaw, rolls and pies for dessert. Plan to have dinner with us on the 16th!

In November, ECW will meet on Saturday, November 15, at 10:00 a.m. to prepare for the dinner and set up the tables. Please come if you can help. We will have a short business meeting.

We are planning on our adopt-a-family gifts for a needy family with children and for two seniors. By November 16th we should have our giving tree up and the gift tags on shortly after. This year is sure to be a year with many needy families so plan on helping out.

Our coffee hour hosts and hostesses have dwindled down to about four, so we are asked people to consider serving in this way. You need to make coffee and tea and set out juice for the young people. The rest of the treats are optional. We hope to have a supply of cookies in the freezer to be used at coffee hours. If you would like to contribute homemade cookies or purchased cookies, they would be much appreciated. Just bring them in and put them in the freezer and label them for coffee hour.

Our Gifts for our Neighbors

Behind the last pew in the nave is a large box waiting to be filled with food items that are not perishable. When the box is filled, we deliver it to the Salvation Army for their food pantry, and they are happy to have our contributions. We used to be very active in this ministry, but since the box was moved to the rear of the church, we seem to forget about the need. Please bring canned goods, cereals, peanut butter, jams, jelly, syrup, pancake mix or anything else that you can think of that someone would enjoy at their table. Let's not forget about the need in our community!

Taizé Service

Our next Taizé service will be held on Sunday, October 26th, at 5:00p.m. The time has been changed so that people who don't wish to drive after dark will be encouraged to attend.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with a Taizé service, it is a service of quiet prayer and music. The service lasts one hour and those attending are engaged in private, quiet prayer. If you finish praying for things that God has directed you to pray about, you can always open the Book of Common Prayer to the section in the back which will suggest many things to pray about. One thing to be sure to offer up in prayer is the coming election and to offer all the candidates to God for his guidance and help.

The service is very peaceful and you leave with a feeling of refreshment and knowledge that God is with us at all times.

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Sunday, October 19th, following the morning service.

Rev. Mary plans on returning on Sunday, November 2nd, if her health permits.

The dates for the Bishop's visitation were discussed, and the Vestry also discussed replacing the two missing members.

Most of the meeting was focused on the Plaid Door.

Help Needed!

We are needing more people to help out not only with Coffee Hour, but with the Altar Guild, and Ushers and Greeters. If you are called to minister in any of these, please let Nora in the office know, or talk to someone doing this ministry. For the Altar Guild, contact Kenalee Atchinson and she will arrange for your training. If we have enough people willing to serve, you would be needed less than once a month.

Daughters of the King Prayer

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
and with Thy angels
forever and ever.
Amen

Daughters of the King News

Daughters of the King will be collecting coats and other cold weather apparel for children and seniors throughout the months of October and November. Gently used or new articles are needed to keep the winter chill out. We will also be placing donations boxes out in the community.

The fall Diocesan DOK meeting was held Friday 17 October, before the Diocesan convention. The Diocesan bylaws were changed so that the elected vice-president is in effect the president-elect and will automatically replace the president at the end of the three-year term. It is hoped that by doing this we can develop more effective leadership. The position of treasurer was left as an elected position, but

the current treasurer can serve several terms if she so chooses. Dates and locations were also set for the 2009 spring and fall assemblies.

Spring assembly is scheduled for May 3rd at St. Bart's in Bridgeport to commence immediately after the Sunday service. Fall assembly is scheduled to be held the Friday morning of the Diocesan convention at Grace Church in Port Huron. (October 23 and 24, 2009) Two committees were formed. A by-laws committee, and a committee to look at holding a retreat for daughters in all the Michigan Dioceses. One last note, Vicki needs a firm commitment for the Province retreat scheduled to be held at Conway the last weekend in May. There has been a motion made to skip this retreat and hold the Province officer elections at Triennial. The fear is that too few daughters will be able to attend Triennial to hold a proper vote for our Province officers.

November's business meeting will be held on the 23rd following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Youth Group

The Youth group will meet at the Alma McDonald's the 1st Sunday of every month. They will spend the class time talking about different themes and ideas. November's theme is "*Can you be a Christian and Popular at the same time?*" The other Sundays of the month will find us in the classroom looking at different Saints and how different aspects of their personalities are relevant in today's world.

Diocesan Convention

Our delegates attended the Diocesan Convention held at St. Paul's, Flint, on Friday and Saturday, October 17th and 18th.

Christian Formation is the new term for Christian education and Sunday School. Everyone was asked to fill out an Education/Formation Training Survey to list what you would like to see taught regardless of place, time or distance.

The keynote speakers were the feature of the afternoon. The Rev. Ron Spann of the Diocese of Michigan came to speak on Racism. He is a person of color and he talked about white privilege and what it has meant to persons of color.

On Saturday, we had the Financial report from the Diocesan Treasurer. In spite of the difficult times we are going through, our Diocese is in good shape. In 2007 we had a net surplus of \$57,000 and in 2008 it is predicted to be \$19,000. This comes about because we have had no large expenses and the Diocese has handled its finances very carefully. The three-year outlook forecasts surplus budgets through 2011. The mortgage on the Diocesan center will be paid off in 2010. Strong financial discipline will continue.

The Bishop spoke on the state of the Diocese. It was interesting to note that only 11 congregations in the Diocese can afford full-time rectors.

Excellence in Ministry awards were given out. Different reports were read with the report on Camp Chickagami being of interest. The Camp was started in 1929 when the Fletcher family made a donation of land outside of Presque Isle with frontage on both Lake Huron and Lake Esau. Much of the care of the camp is through volunteer help and donations are always needed to maintain the buildings. This past summer the camp served 46 young people. It is being considered for 2009 that bus transportation be offered to take the young people to camp which might enable more to attend.

The highlight of the Convention was the closing Eucharist with the beautiful music of the St. Paul's choir and their pipe organ. With a congregation of about 200 people, the singing was inspiring. Bishop Todd celebrated the Eucharist and preached the sermon, and we all left at the end feeling very refreshed and uplifted from this gift from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome!

Tina McCreery and her two children have been attending St. John's Episcopal Church in Alma since last December. They live in Alma. Tina has lived here all of her life. She attended Alma Public Schools.

About seven years ago Tina earned Certified Nursing Assistant certification while working for Arcadia assisted living facilities in Alma and St. Louis. She plans to attend Mid Michigan Community College (Mt. Pleasant campus) in January. She will begin taking the classes required for a four year degree to become a Registered Nurse.

Tina's activities and hobbies as a single mom presently mostly revolve around her children. That includes their homework, going to movies together, playing games, and watching movies at home.

Daughter Hayley, soon to be ten years old, is in fourth grade at Pine Avenue Elementary. She and Tina like to cook together. Hayley belongs to her mom's Girl Scout troop. She loves school and is a good student.

Noah, age seven and a half, is in second grade at Hillcrest Elementary. He is a very active child who loves to run and likes biking. He copes with several challenges--ADHD, asthma, fever seizures along with other recent seizure problems, a weak immune system, and the sickle cell anemia trait.

Tina has three brothers and two sisters. Three of them live in Alma, one in Clare, and one in Mt. Pleasant. Her dad and stepmom live in Riverdale. Her mom and stepdad run the business GLR Wrenching (auto repair) in Alma.

This fall Tina and co-leader Sue Young started a Junior Girl Scout Troop here at St. John's Church. There are ten fourth and fifth grade girls attending. This is Tina's first experience with a Girl Scout troop. Meetings are on Mondays at 3:30 pm each week. The troop will be selling Girl Scout cookies from October 31 through November 10. Shirley Hamilton, Outreach

November Birthdays

2 Wendy Brown
6 Rev. Richard Anderson
12 Devin Tessman
15 Chuck Zilch
18 Rev. Robert Preston
23 August Orvis

Please Pray for Healing and Guidance for:

Callie Ehlman (Bethka daughter)
Ellen Wisman (Kesselring friend)
Gabrielle Kooi (R. Anderson greatgranddaughter)
Jade Herber (R. Anderson great granddaughter)
Jim and Marcy Pruitt (Crispin friends)
Kim Vuong (Gladding friend)
Lee Beard (Gladding relative)
Rev. Mary Delaney (Rector)
Nicole Gulick (in recovery after accident)
Norman Mills (member)
Tony Dill (Hamilton relative in Military)
Varda Hanson (Rector's friend)
Karl Wakeman (member)

United Thank Offering

Do you have your Blue Box where you can see it? Are you remembering to offer up prayers of thanksgiving? Even in these difficult times of higher prices and declining stocks and all the other news of gloom and doom, we can still be thankful for our families and our warm beds and food on the table. Drop your pennies into your Blue Box at the end of the day and say "Thank you, God, for all that I have from you!"

The United Thank Offering comes to between \$2.5-\$3 million every year for use in both domestic and international projects. Over one hundred grants are awarded each year. It is the hope and prayer of the United Thank Offering Committee that each year they will be able to respond more fully to the grant requests.

How do you go about making a request for a grant? Forms for grant requests are obtained from your diocesan office beginning in October. In the United States the forms are completed and returned to the diocesan office by the requester and signed by the diocesan bishop. Each diocese may submit two requests each year. The completed requests are sent to the UTO office and must be postmarked no later than January 31st. All requests are researched by the UTO committee. Awards are made in late summer. Grant monies are available to use from September until the following September.

Every cent that is collected through Blue Boxes and Blue Envelopes is given away in grants.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group that has been meeting on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. has been canceled until spring. The ladies who are regular in attendance do not care to drive on wintry roads, and since that time is fast approaching, they requested that the study of Paul's letter to the Romans be put off until the roads are in good shape.

Happy Halloween

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff--including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside you to shine for all the world to see.

Taken from "The Mustard Seed" of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Rose City.

Drop in at the Plaid Door and shop. You will be pleased and surprised at what you find! Many of our well-dressed parishioners do their shopping at the Plaid Door.

November Schedule

Saturday, November 1

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at the Big Boy

Sunday, November 2

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
Baptism of Ivan Robert Holtz and Milo Reed Clark
11:30 Young Families with Children**

Monday, November 3

7:00 p.m. Daughters of the King Book Meeting

Tuesday, November 4 Election Day

**9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**

Wednesday, November 5

**9:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group
11:00 a.m. Bible Study Canceled**

Thursday, November 6

**7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group
7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley Clericus at St. Alban's, Bay City**

Friday, November 7

Saturday, November 8

Sunday, November 9

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting**

Monday, November 10

Tuesday, November 11

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, November 12

9:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, November 13

7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, November 14

Saturday, November 15

10:00 a.m. ECW meeting for business and preparation for Thankful Dinner

Sunday, November 16

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
11:30 a.m. THANKFUL DINNER**

Monday, November 17

7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley Convocation at St. Alban's, Bay City

Tuesday, November 18

**12:00 a.m. Commission on Ministry at Diocesan Office
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**

Wednesday, November 19

9:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, November 20

**7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group
12:00 a.m. Alma Clericus at His Place**

Friday, November 21

Saturday, November 22

Sunday, November 23

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
11:30 a.m. Daughters of the King Business Meeting**

Monday, November 24

Tuesday, November 25

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, November 26

9:30 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Thursday, November 27 Thanksgiving

Friday, November 28

Saturday, November 29

Sunday, November 30 First Sunday in Advent

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon**

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Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.
Christian Education (all ages): 9:00 a.m.

November 2008

St. John's is a Church of the Episcopal
Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Mary Delaney, Rector
Nora Kowitz, Secretary
Bob Crist, Organist
Basil Anderson, Sexton

VESTRY

Margaret Trimmer (Sr. Warden), Ryan Ballard
(Jr. Warden), Angie Ballard (Clerk of Vestry),
Doug Ballard (Treasurer), Sue Young, Wendy
Brown, Vickie Bethka, and Tim Cruttenden