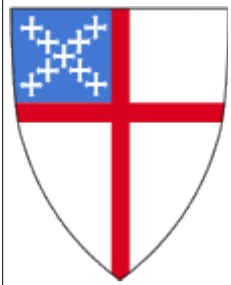


The Fabric of St. John's



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



February 2009

Pastor's Corner

I am writing this on January 20th just after viewing the inauguration of President Barack Obama. The hopes and dreams of so many are riding on the abilities of this man and I would guess that he is more than a little bit daunted by the task that lies ahead of him. What his decisions will be regarding the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan we don't know; what he promised in his campaign may not happen because he now knows so much more about these conflicts. The economy, the state of health care, the education of our children, the problems of a warming planet, and heaven knows what else is awaiting him as he assumes the duties of the presidency.

Let us pray daily that the inclusivity that he expressed in his speech will be implemented in future policies; that he will listen more than he talks; that above all he will pray daily for the guidance we as a nation need in our interactions with the world around us.

God's blessings be with our new president and his administration.

Mary+

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

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held following the church service on Sunday, January 18th.

Rev. Mary opened the meeting giving thanks to Senior Warden Margaret Trimmer for her service as a very special and wonderful Senior Warden. Margaret is leaving the Vestry now as her three year term is up.

The Senior Warden gave her report giving the highlights of 2008. Mentioned was the Vestry Retreat at Alma College in February and Century 21 putting up a For Sale sign on the property which hopefully will be sold to raise money to put a new metal roof on the church. Also mentioned was the new fund raiser of trash bags for sale, the purchase of new chairs from the Pat Mill's Memorial Fund, the installation of new low energy light bulbs in the church which were purchased using Jim Gay's Memorial Fund, and our concert in the fall to "Raise the Roof" given by Vickie Atchinson a cousin to Jay Atchinson. That was an excellent event! Since Rev. Mary had some health issues during the year, special thanks were given to Barbara Gladding for leading us in Morning Prayer so many Sundays.

A packet of reports was distributed to all in the congregation and the reports were mentioned and comments given with a chance for questions. Reports were available from the Plaid Door, Daughters of the King, Episcopal Church Women, Sunday School, and Ushers and Greeters.

The Building Committee has not met during the year because the property has not been sold. The listing with Century 21 has expired, but the property will probably be listed again.

The north roof over the offices and Sunday School rooms must be replaced. It is leaking with every rain and the insulation is now

wet and black mold will be forming in the ceilings in the hot weather in the summer. The cost will be around \$6000 and we will have to raise this money as the repair can not be put off.

Vestry members were elected by acclamation. New members are Jake Hamilton, Nancy Mills, Bev Anderson and Kenalee Atchinson. Returning members are Vickie Bethka, Angie Ballard, Tim Cruttenden, Wendy Brown, and Ryan Ballard. Volunteers for Diocesan Convention were Kenalee Atchinson and Stacey Cruttenden.

We must have a member for the Saginaw Valley Convocation. Jake and Shirley Hamilton will attend when they are in town and it is suggested that we have a sign-up sheet for those willing to go occasionally. That way there should always be someone available every month.

Our treasurer, Doug Ballard, talked about the finances of 2008. We burned the pledges so we lived on faith for the year. We made it although we lived from week to week paying the bills. Our income for the year was \$81,621.96 and our expenditures for the year were \$81,288.50. Our largest expenditures were salary and utilities.

It is hoped we can pay off the mortgage on the Plaid Door building which is \$37,000 by borrowing the money from the Diocese

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Sunday, January 11th, following the church service.

A risk assessor went through the church. It was recommended that a smoke detector and fire extinguisher be placed in the church sanctuary. There are smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in other parts of the church. The locations of the fire extinguishers need to be clearly marked so they are easily located if needed.

Data from The Plaid Door is being gathered for the application for a grant and loan from the Diocese. The bank also appears to be flexible if necessary.

The contract for the sale of the property is up for renewal. Another realtor expressed interest in selling the property. The two realtors have differing opinions as to how the property can be sold. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

The Bishop's visit is set for August 23, 2009.

Replacement of the water heater was discussed. Bev Anderson will be looking into more information on our options.

Barbara Gladding and Jake and Shirley Hamilton are going on the mission trip to Mississippi to help rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The congregation will be asked to contribute towards their travel expenses. (A collection will be taken on January 25th at the 10:00 service.)

A "Come Home to St. John's" Sunday is scheduled for March 1, which will include more than a usual potluck-- entertainment and prizes were discussed. The Vestry hopes all of those shut in by the harsh winter weather will be able to attend. (More information to come.)

Daughters of the King News

Daughters of the King Prayer

Precious savior, I sometimes take my faith for granted. Forgive me for the times I make my faith complicated or cumbersome. I want to embrace the freshness I felt when I first knew you and rejoice in the simplicity of my Father's love, but there are also new depths that you wish to show me. I ask you to take my faith to the next level, and help me to share it with others. Amen.

DOK News

Thanks to all who came to help make blankets. it was a pleasant 3 hours and much was accomplished. We hope to schedule another workshop in the near future because more blankets are needed. If you can cut or tie

a knot you are invited to join us next time we meet. Our next business meeting will be February 22 after the 10:00 service. Remember all women are invited to attend.

Youth Group

January was a slow month thanks to the weather. We hope that this month will be better. February 1st we will be at the Burger King discussing God's role in the modern world. We also will continue to learn about the seven sacraments.

Episcopal Church Women

Episcopal Church Women met on Saturday, January 17th, with five members attending. The weather was very wintry with blowing snow.

Our adopt-a-family project was very successful. The family receiving gifts was so grateful, and the seniors receiving gifts sent a thank-you note.

We started the new year with the Epiphany cake on January 11th. It was baked by Vickie Bethka and contained the usual charms.

Kitchen supplies are always needed. We use a lot of coffee, both regular and decaf, and it is expensive. We also use 8-ounce styrofoam cups and small and large paper plates, creamer for the coffee, tea bags, napkins, paper towels, and aluminum foil. We would like to ask people, as they shop, to pick up an extra item for the kitchen and bring it in.

We would also like to ask people, who use dishes and flatware from the kitchen at potlucks and dinners, to bring their dishes to the kitchen and wash and dry them and return them to their proper place. Sometimes someone has to stay later to clean up the kitchen when it could be done by those using the items.

We talked about the Welcome Bags which we give to visitors. We try to include the brochure about the church and one about the Plaid Door, homemade cookies, and some trinkets purchased from a catalog by Shirley Hamilton. The catalog items are becoming expensive so it was thought we might just add a pencil or pen with the church name on it.

We will next meet on Sunday, February 15th, with Kay Wohlfeill as chairperson. Join us after you get your refreshments in the large Sunday School room on the north side.

Altar Guild

Hello to all.

I would like to invite all the ladies (and the men also) to a cleaning Bee of the altar, Vessels, cupboards, ETC.

Many hands makes light work!

Lent is coming up fast and we would like to have everything looking clean and shining. I have set a date of Feb. 21st for the work and fun. We can start at 2 pm and should be done by 4pm, if we can have a good turnout. Bring your rags and anything you love to use at your home for cleaning.

Put the date of **Feb. 21st** on your calendar.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you all.

God Bless you.

Kenalee Atchinson, Altar Guild Directress

Say Happy Birthday in February!

- 1 Carolyn Anderson
- 1 Nancy Mills
- 1 Jackie Fishburn
- 7 Jim Brown
- 8 Andrea Davison
- 9 Doug Ballard
- 15 Audley (Barney) Smith
- 21 Cindy Kabell
- 26 Ian Cruttenden

Your prayers are asked for healing and guidance for the following:

Donald Langenburg (Holtz relative)
Ivan Holtz (baby member)
Jim Rodes (Cruttenden relative)
Mario Pedini (Crispin relative)
Rockie Ballard and Family (members)
Tony Dill (Hamilton relative in military)
Vera Hilliard (Ruskowski relative)
Karl Wakeman (member)
Gabrielle Kooi (R. Anderson relative)
Teresa Langwell (R. Anderson daughter)

A Thank You from Bev

I want to thank everyone who prayed for me, thought of me, phoned me, came to see me or sent a card to me during my time of surgery and recovery. It is very humbling to know so many care. Thank you so much. I am truly blessed.

Bev Anderson

Some Prayers you can use for our government, church and families

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all;
govern the hearts and minds of those in
authority, especially our new President,
Barack Obama, Vice-President Joseph
Biden, and all members of the Cabinet,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages of
sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for those remaining in the workplace

Life has changed;
colleagues have gone - redundant,
out of work
Suddenly, what seemed so secure is now
so very fragile.
It's hard to know what I feel;
sadness, certainly,
guilt, almost, at still having a job to

go to,
and fear of the future;
 who will be next?
 how will I cope with the
 increased pressure of
 work?

Lord Jesus, in the midst of this
uncertainty, help me to keep going;
 to work to the best of my ability,
 taking each day at a time,
 and taking time each day to walk
 with you
for you are the way, the truth and the
life. Amen.

A Prayer for peace in Gaza

Lord God of compassion,
whose will is for peace built on
righteousness,
we pray for peace in Gaza;
for comfort and help for all who suffer,
and for reconciliation between
Palestinian and Israeli,
through Jesus Christ, the Prince of
Peace. Amen.

Prayer for the current financial crisis

Lord God, we live in disturbing days;
 across the world,
 prices rise,
 debts increase,
 banks collapse,
 jobs are taken away,
 and fragile security is under stress.
Loving God, meet us in our fear and hear our
prayer;
be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands,
and a light in the darkness;
help us receive your gift of peace,
and fix our hearts where true joys are to be
found,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lent

Lent begins this year on Wednesday,
February 25th. Services of Penitential Order,
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist will be
held at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Plan to attend
one of these services. Plans for special
services during Lent will be announced later.

Talking to Jerry Kabell

Jerry Kabell called in December to talk
until his cell phone minutes ran out. He has
been very busy setting up the computer
department, of which he is chairman, at Forman
Christian College, but feels he can now send us
an article most months. One did not arrive so
far in January. He says Cindy keeps busy and
is tutoring two students. They plan to return to
the States for a visit at the end of May and stay
until August. They have to take a missionary
training course in New York City and will spend
time in California with Cindy's mother. Of
course, they will be here to visit Ian and
Kenneth and hopefully spend some time at St.
John's.

UTO

The United Thank Offering Ingathering
will be the first Sunday in May, and that day is
coming up fast. Is your Blue Box almost full?
Have you found lots of things to be thankful for?
Pray the United Thank Offering prayer...

*"Source of all creation, all love, all true joy,
accept we pray, these outward signs of our
profound and continuing thankfulness for all of
life. Bless those who will benefit from these
gifts through the outreach of the United Thank
Offering; and keep each of us ever thankful for
all the blessings of joy and challenge that come
our way, through him who is the greatest gift
and blessing of all, Jesus Christ our Lord and
Savior. Amen"*

February Schedule

Sunday, February 1

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and

Sermon

Monday, February 2

Tuesday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

8:00 p.m. Worship Planning session

Wednesday, February 4

Thursday, February 5

7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, February 6

Saturday, February 7

Sunday, February 8

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and

Sermon

11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Monday, February 9

Tuesday, February 10

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, February 11

Thursday, February 12

7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, February 13

Saturday, February 14

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat
at St. John's

Sunday, February 15

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and

Sermon

11:30 a.m. Episcopal Church Women

Monday, February 16

7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley

Convocation

at St. Alban's, Bay City

Tuesday, February 17

12:00 p.m. Commission on Ministry
at the Diocesan Office

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, February 18

Thursday, February 19

7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, February 20

Saturday, February 21

2:00 p.m. Altar Guild Cleaning Bee

Sunday, February 22

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, February 23

Tuesday, February 24

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, February 25

2:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

Thursday, February 26

7:45 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

12:00 p.m. Alma Clericus at His Place

Friday, February 27

Saturday, February 28

Come Home to St. John's

Welcome

You are cordially invited to a party in your honor! On March 1, 2009, we are having a celebratory Eucharist with beautiful music, a potluck luncheon and music by Bob Crist.

This has been a difficult winter to say the least and so we thought one way to rid ourselves of the winter blahs is to have a party and invite everyone who is on our member list. This will be great fun and we are looking forward to welcoming all of you. You will be receiving a letter shortly with more details. Stay tuned!

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

February 2009

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

Ryan Ballard (Junior Warden), Angie
Ballard (Clerk of the Vestry), Vickie
Bethka, Wendy Brown, Tim Cruttenden,
Bev Anderson, Kenalee Atchinson,
Jake Hamilton and Nancy Mills