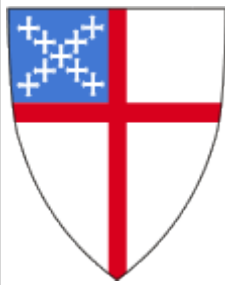


The Fabric of St. John's



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



April 2009

Pastor's Corner

The joys of Easter are not confined to Easter Sunday; they are not even confined to the Sundays of the liturgical year, each Sunday is considered a "little Easter." The joys of Easter may occur when ever you experience God working in your life or you look back and see that God was in the very place where you thought He was absent.

As you know during these last six months my health has not been the best and I have seen multiple specialists and undergone multiple tests and scans to determine the cause of these recurrent respiratory problems. Each specialist had a different diagnosis or none until the next scan. During

this time I also lost my voice for a month because of a persistent bronchitis.

Finally, Dick Anderson volunteered to do a healing service with me. God can and does work through anyone at anytime and God worked here in what I believe to be a miraculous fashion. First my voice started coming back the very next day; second I was told that the lesion attached to my lung was not cancer; and finally, I have now been told that the material in my spinal canal has gotten smaller. God works in wondrous ways and I can only conclude that God has more work for me to do. And so this Easter please offer prayers of thanks with me. Alleluia.

Mary+

See what's Going on at St. John's!

From the Vestry—

The Vestry met on Sunday, March 8th, following the Church service.

To get help for the Plaid Door, Rev. Mary would like to see if any High School students would like to donate time to help at the Plaid Door. Rev. Mary has permission from the Vestry to speak to the principal at the High School. A motion passed to renegotiate the mortgage on the Plaid Door building.

Cindy Foster's granddaughter, Genevieve, will be baptized on Easter Sunday. Bethany and Mike Root are the parents.

On Good Friday the church will be open from noon to three p.m. Stations of the cross will be at one p.m.

We have two bids for replacement of the flat roofs and are open to other bids.

Rev. Mary says that several readings are available for the lessons and the reader can choose. People should be listening to the reading rather than reading it.

Our Junior Warden, Jake Hamilton, says he has replaced the switch on the fan in the kitchen and fixed the south security light. Needs are a faucet leak in the janitorial sink, water heater leak by the bathrooms and main water heater in the boiler room will be a huge mess if it blows. A future project is stripping and rewaxing the floors in the Parish Hall and kitchen. The old drinking fountains have been removed and two dead trees need to be removed. We need a spring yard cleanup—probably the first week in May. The old round tables need to be disposed of.

Nancy Mills found the contact person for the newspaper and has send notice of our chili cook-off and Lenten meetings.

Vickie Bethka has prepared a calling tree and will soon get it to everybody.

The finance committee will be getting together to prepare a budget now that all pledges have been received.

Jake Hamilton read this to the Vestry and they thought it should be shared with everyone.

No Hands But Ours

Following World War II some German students volunteered to help rebuild a cathedral in England, one that had been badly damaged by the Luftwaffe bombings. As the work progressed, they weren't sure how to best restore a large statue of Jesus with his arms outstretched and bearing the familiar inscription, "Come unto Me." They were able to repair all the damage to the statue except for Christ's hands which had been completely destroyed. Should they even attempt to rebuild these? Finally, the workers reached a decision that still stands today. They decided to leave the hands off and changed the inscription to read: "Christ has no hands but ours."

The phrase "Christ has no hands but ours" is also found in a prayer by St. Teresa of Avila. Let it be our prayer:

Lord Christ,
You have no body on earth but ours,
No hands but ours,
No feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which your compassion
Must look out on the world.
Ours are the feet by which you may still
Go about doing good.
Ours are the hands with which
You bless people now.
Bless our minds and bodies,
That we may be a blessing to others.
Amen

From Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on Saturday, March 14th, to make preparations for the Chili Cook-off to be held on Sunday.

The collection for the Women's Aid is continuing all during March. Lists are in the Sunday bulletins and posted on bulletin boards.

The Easter breakfast will be hosted by Kenalee Atchinson and Nancy Mills. It will be served at 9:00 a.m. between the two services.

Preparations for the Spring Tea are underway with a sign-up sheet for hostesses in the Parish Hall. Hostesses will be asked to furnish two dozen of their favorite cookies and tea sandwiches and mini quiches will also be served. Angie Ballard and her group of singers will present the program.

Looking ahead to June, our graduates will be honored on June 7th. Erin Harrier and Mike Harrier will be graduating from Central Michigan University and Lorraine Welch will graduate from Alma High School. Do you know of any other graduates that should be recognized?

On Father's Day, June 21st, we will have our annual Sunday Sundaes with lots of ice cream sundaes for everybody

A vote was taken about the meeting date for ECW. Moving the date to the third Sunday has not worked out, so we voted to go back to meeting on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Results of the Chili Cook-off

Six delicious pots of chili were entered in the Cook-off and the judges after much deliberation made the following decision:

3rd place – Ryan Ballard

2nd place – Doug Ballard

1st place – Devin and Cameron Tessman

From the Altar Guild

Thank you to the ladies that helped with the cleaning of the vessels for the altar. The ladies made the work go fast.

It is time to get flowers for Easter—lilies, tulips, hyacinths or other spring flowers. You can also give money if it is easier for you. See the page for donations in your Sunday bulletin. Tear it out and put it with your donation in the alms basin on Sunday. If you give flowering plants, bring them to the church just before Easter so they can be put by the altar or on the ledges.

From the Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King Prayer

LORD, thank you for providing something to hold on to when everything in this world seems to be shaking. My hope in Jesus is an anchor for my soul and will keep me steady in all the storms of life. Thank you for the promise that those who flee to you for refuge can take new courage because your promises are true and you never break your word! Amen.

Daughters of the King News

Thanks one and all to everyone that came to make blankets. We greatly appreciate your help. Remember that we are hosting a 'T-ize' service on April 19th at 6pm. That should allow everyone to get home before dark. All are welcome to attend. It will provide an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Easter season. The annual Province V retreat is scheduled for May 29-31 in Conway, MI. Anyone can attend as a guest. If interested contact a DOK member. \$70 deposit is due by April 30. Our business meeting will be held April 26th after service.

Wendy Brown

Youth group

The *Rock and Worship Roadshow* will be at the Breslin Center, on the MSU campus, April 17th at 7:30. Cost is \$10 at the door. If

interested in attending with the youth group please contact Wendy Brown.

From the Plaid Door

The Plaid Door is now taking spring items, by appointment. Go through your closets and call us for an appointment – 463-1914.

Also, we would love to see you in the store. We are getting lots of nice things. Tell your friends and family about us. Thanks.

Margaret Trimmer

Birthdays in April

7 Sue Young
7 Jay Atchinson
14 Melba Demas
19 Marilyn McClinic

Your prayers are needed for guidance and healing

Betty Wright (Trimmer friend)
Holden Atchinson (Atchinson grandson)
Jayson Atchinson (Atchinson son)
Kay Crispin and family (members)
Tony Dill (Hamilton relative in the military)
Bill and Nora Kowitz (church secretary)
Karl Wakeman (member)
Lillian Gostola (Dixie's mother)
Gabrielle Kooi (Anderson granddaughter)

United Thank Offering

Grateful hearts are the reason the United Thank Offering is able to continue to award grants which are gifts of love, and which change lives. They are also the reason the United Thank Offering is a vital mission arm of the Episcopal Church. We love the concept that UTO is not a fund drive, but rather a discipline

in our daily life in Christ wherein we offer prayers thanksgiving for our countless blessings; this makes giving a joyful experience.

One of the great joys of serving on the United Thank Offering Committee is the opportunity to visit grant sites and to see what these gifts of love are making possible. Our prayer is that the work of the United Thank Offering will continue and will flourish for many years to come.

The annual Ingathering for UTO will be Sunday, May 3rd. Bring your Blue Box or envelope and put it on the alms basin while giving thanks for your offering.

Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday, April 9
Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday, April 10
Church open from 12:00
p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for prayer
Stations of the Cross at
1:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, April 12
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon
9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon**

April Schedule

Wednesday, April 1

5:00 p.m. Soup and Bread

6:00 p.m. Lenten Study

Thursday, April 2

8:30 Spiritual Growth Group

7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley Clericus

St. Alban's, Bay City

Friday, April 3

Saturday, April 4

Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Procession of the Palms

Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Monday, April 6

7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, April 7

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 8

5:00 p.m. Soup and Bread

6:00 p.m. Lenten Study

Thursday, April 9, Maundy Thursday

8:30 Spiritual Growth Group

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 10, Good Friday

**12:00 p.m. to 3:00p.m. Church is
open for prayer**

1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 11

10:a.m. ECW Meeting

Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:00 a.m.Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Monday, April 13

Tuesday, April 14

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 15

Thursday, April 16

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, April 17

Saturday, April 18

Sunday, April 19

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and

Sermon

6:00 p.m. Taize' Service in Church

Monday, April 20

7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley Convocation

at St. Alban's, Bay City

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 p.m. Commission on

Ministry at Diocesan Office

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 22

Thursday, April 23

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, April 24

Saturday, April 25

1:00 p.m. Spring Tea

Sunday, April 26

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, April 27

Tuesday, April 28

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 29

Thursday, April 30

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group