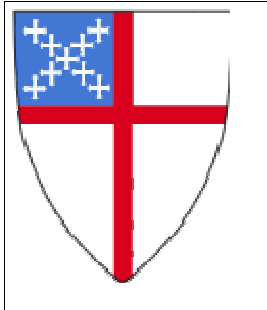


The Fabric of St. John's



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



May 2009

Pastor's Corner

“Now is the time to free the heart,
Let all intentions and worries stop,
Free the joy inside the self,
Awaken to the wonder of life.” John O’Donohue

There is spring all around us and one of the joys of this Easter season in Michigan, that in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we also witness the rebirth of the plants and animals around us. The daffodils in my yard came into bloom by Sunday and their bright yellow brightened the whole yard. It lifts our spirits to see new growth in our gardens and new spiritual growth as a result of our Lenten meditations and devotions. We are after all “Easter People.”

We are people in whom the spirit of renewal is always available to us because we have died and risen with Jesus Christ through our baptism and each year we have the opportunity to dig more deeply into our baptismal call to ministry. There are always new occasions that spur us on to a deeper understanding of God’s call to us. The Kingdom of God is here, it is we who are called upon to bring it to fruition.

Enjoy the warming days and God Bless,

Mary+

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

News from the Vestry

The Vestry met on April 6th.

Chuck Zilch was a guest at the meeting. He would like to discuss the movie "Fireproofing Your Marriage," so a time will be scheduled with the congregation after Easter.

Al Radzibon, Jay Atchinson and Chuck Zilch walked through the church and found we have three water heaters. Webster Heating and Air Conditioning from Carson City has given a quote and they are selling tankless water heaters. The one we are looking at is a 40 gallon tank and is approximately \$425. It is electric and the tank is guaranteed 10 or 15 years with a one year guarantee on the parts. It is a Rheem brand and includes disposal of the old tank, parts and labor. Adams Plumbing and Heating gives a 40 gallon tank installed, natural gas at approximately \$900. Jake Hamilton made a motion to purchase the water heater, seconded by Wendy Brown and it was approved. The Zilch and Ballard families will pay.

Rev. Mary suggested we refinance the loan on the Plaid Door property stretching the amortization to 15 years from the current 7 years to pay off. This will reduce the payments to \$265.25. Vickie Bethka suggests we check with the businesses on each side to see if they might be interested in purchasing the building. Nancy Mills will check with Mr. Nichols and Rev. Mary will contact Terry Clements the owner of The Pub. Meanwhile Jake Hamilton made a motion to refinance the Plaid Door loan at 6.8% for 15 years. It was seconded by Wendy Brown and approved.

Rev. Mary has talked to the high school and college regarding students to volunteer at the Plaid Door. They will be available after the school year.

The Senior Warden, Vickie Bethka, has found that lights in the building were left on Sunday. She will announce that people should make sure lights are turned off before they leave the building.

The ceiling tiles in the kitchen need to be replaced. The ladies from ECW felt that money

from the Spring Tea could be used for the replacement of ceiling tiles.

Jake Hamilton, the Junior Warden, gave a list of maintenance needs. May 3rd has been scheduled for yard clean up. Come and bring a rake and a sandwich. Other items are the leak in the valve and pump, mowing of the lawn, and roof bids. One bid is a tapered system, 13 inches higher than the present which would slope continuously for \$26,000. We need to get the building committee reestablished to look at the four bids we have.

The calling tree is in all of the mail boxes.

Jake and Shirley Hamilton and Barbara Gladding went to the Convocation Meeting and shared pictures and information about their trip to Mississippi.

We will continue to make our \$100 payment to the Diocese.

Episcopal Church Women

ECW did not meet in April due to small attendance on Saturday, April 19th.

Daughters Of the King Prayer

LORD, thank you for designing me to be a clay jar with amazing treasure inside. And though the circumstances of life may press me down, you never abandon me. May others see your power and light through my life. May you truly be glorified in my weakness, in this earthen vessel that I am.
AMEN.

Daughters Of the King News

The Daughters delivered 9 beautifully made blankets to the dialysis unit at Gratiot Community Hospital. They were very grateful to receive them. Thanks to everyone who helped us out either with materials or making them with us. Our next scheduled blanket workshop is Saturday, May 9, 11am-2pm. All are welcome to come help. The only needed skills are cutting and tying.

Also thanks to everyone who attended our April Taize' service. Included was a special healing service for our sister, Kenalee. Her family was

present and God's spirit was felt by all. Our next service will be held in July.

The Province retreat is scheduled for the end of May. Deposits were to be sent in by April 30th, so please get it in immediately if you are planning on attending.

Our next scheduled business meeting is Sunday, May 17th, after the church service. This is a change from the 4th Sunday because of Memorial weekend.

May God continue to bless each and everyone of us. For His Sake.

Wendy Brown

Youth Group

Pulsing rhythms and flashing lights, may not be how most of us would choose to worship our God, but for the Tweens, Teens, and Young Adults present at the Rock & Worship Roadshow, that our youth attended, God was definitely present and was uplifted by everyone there. The spirit was moving through the crowd with an energy seldom achieved in a traditional service. It was truly amazing to see the future of our churches connecting with God and praising him with every ounce of their being. It gives one hope for the future.

May 3rd will be our last BK breakfast until we return to regular meetings in the Fall. The discussion topic "Why God?," should be interesting. May will be the end of regular meetings, due to the busy-ness of the summer.

Sunday School News

The last Sunday for classes will be June 7. Classes will resume in the Fall with the start of school.

Sue Young

Norman Mills

Norman Mills, a long time member of St. John's, died on Monday, April 13th. A memorial service and luncheon were held on Thursday, April 16th at the church. Rev. Mary Delaney celebrated the Eucharist, Rev. Dick Anderson, preached, and Rev. John Mills, Jr. gave the Eulogy. The luncheon

which followed the service was held in the Parish Hall. The following thank you message was submitted by Nancy Mills.

I want to thank each and every member of St. John's who gave of their time and pocket book to honor the memory of my father, Norman Mills, at his Memorial service on April 16, 2009.

The Choir was superb, especially Margaret Trimmer's singing of the Lord's Prayer. I still get goosebumps when I remember it. Dad would have loved the hymns. The luncheon was wonderful with so many selections from which to choose and so many of you pitching in to help. Over 100 people were served and it couldn't have gone more smoothly.

Thank you also to Reverend Mary and Father Anderson who conducted the service. I have had so many compliments on what a lovely service it was.

I am deeply touched by the support I received from my church family.

Thanks you all very much.

Nancy Mills

Talking with Jerry Kabell

After a long silence, the phone rang on April 11th, and there was Jerry Kabell calling from Pakistan. He assured me that he and Cindy were well and had been very busy. He has set up a new computer program at George Forman Christian University in Lahore, and his first class will be graduating in June. Right after the graduation ceremony, he and Cindy will board a plane for the United States. They will be coming here for about a week and then travel to California. Plans are to attend General Convention at Anaheim in July. Jerry also said that they planned to go to Alabama to check out their retirement home plans.

Don't be surprised to see them in church on a Sunday in June! Then we can have all our questions answered, we hope.

An Easter Baptism

At the 10:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday, Genavieve Marie was baptized and received into the family of our church. Genavieve is the daughter of Bethany and Michael Root, the granddaughter of Cindy and Loren Foster, and the great-granddaughter of Pat Foster of Riverdale. Genavieve has a brother, Landon, and many relatives in this area. We welcome her and hope she will come often into our family.

Your Prayers are needed for healing and guidance

Barbara Botsford (Margaret Trimmer's sister)
Bette Lieber (Smith friend)
Betty Wright Trimmer friend)
Coralynne Kurrde (Holtz relative)
Chad Grover (Alexander friend)
Jim Brown (member)
Jordan (Kesselring friend)
Kay Crispin (member)
Mario and Carol Pedini (Crispin friends)
Steve Alexander (Alexander son)
Tony Dill (Hamilton relative in military)
Karl Wakeman (member)
Lillian Gostola (Dixie's mother)
Gabrielle Kooi (R. Anderson great-granddaughter)

Hot Cross Buns

Did you enjoy the Hot Cross Buns at the Easter breakfast? Everyone thought they were the best they had ever had! They were made by Nancy Mills and she is willing to share her recipe with us!

2 (1/4 ounce) packages active dry yeast
1/2 cup water
1 cup milk
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup soft margarine
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon each nutmeg, cloves, ginger
4 eggs

6 1/2 - 7 cups of flour
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup dried currants

Glaze and Icing

2 tablespoons water
1 egg yolk
1 cup confectioner's sugar
4 teaspoons milk
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract

Warm milk and water to 110-115 degrees add yeast and stir until dissolved.

Add sugar, margarine, vanilla, salt, spices and three cups of flour. Beat until smooth.

Add eggs one at a time and beat until smooth.

Add remaining flour, currants and raisins. Beat until a soft ball forms.

Turn out on a floured surface and knead five minutes.

Place in a greased bowl and let rise until double in size, about an hour.

Punch down dough. Form into 30 balls and place on greased baking sheet.

Cover and let rise until double in size, about 30 minutes

Beat egg yolk and water together and brush the tops of the buns.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

Cool on wire racks.

For icing, combine confectioners sugar, milk and vanilla, beat until smooth and drizzle the cross on each roll.

United Thank Offering

It's that time of year again. The Annual Ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be Sunday, May 3rd. Envelopes and Blue Boxes are on the table in the Narthex. Empty your Blue Box into an envelope and put the envelop in the alms basin. Pick up a new Blue Box if you need one. Hopefully you have had many thankful moments in the past year and your Boxes are full. Remember all the money goes to grants and none to the office or staff.

An example of a grant is the \$8,952 which goes to the Diocese of Kansas to provide nutritious food for low-income children over the weekend when school meals are not available. Filled backpacks will be sent home with enough food for three meals a day for two days. Its called the Weekend Backpack Feeding Program.

May Schedule

Friday, May 1

Saturday, May 2

Sunday, May 3

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
United Thank Offering
Ingathering**

11:30 a.m. Yard Cleanup

Monday, May 4

Tuesday, May 5

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 6

Thursday, May 7

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, May 8

Saturday, May 9

10:00 a.m. ECW Meeting

Sunday, May 10

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Monday, May 11

Tuesday, May 12

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 13

Thursday, May 14

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, May 15

Saturday, May 16

Sunday, May 17

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Monday, May 18

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

Tuesday, May 19

**12:00 p.m. Commission on Ministry
At Diocesan Office**

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 20

Thursday, May 21

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, May 22

Saturday, May 23

Sunday, May 24

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, May 25

Tuesday, May 26

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 27

Thursday, May 28

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, May 29

Saturday, May 30

Sunday, May 31

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

May Birthdays

1 Claudia Eaton

8 McKia Davison

8 Kay Wohlfeill

9 John Giles

10 Doug Clark

11 Verna Berecky

16 Vickie Bethka

16 Gus Cratcha

25 Tim Cruttenden

27 Heather Kesselring

