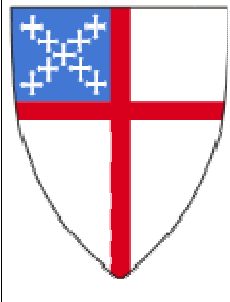


The Fabric of St. John's



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



June 2009

Pastor's Corner

Memorial Day and the Highland Festival are past for another year, and we prepare for graduations, weddings, anniversaries, and summer fun.

What a joy we feel when warm weather comes. It doesn't matter if we stay home or go away. We can still see friends, have a barbecue, take a long walk, with or without a dog, enjoy nature. God's blessings at this time of year seem to fill us up to overflowing; we have so much for which to be thankful.

And I am deeply thankful as we enter the season of Pentecost for the Holy Spirit who flourishes in all of you. You are a great joy to me and I pray daily that you will continue to flourish in God's love and grace.

God's blessings,

Mary+

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

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Monday, May 11th, at 7:00 p.m. Since there was not a quorum present no business was transacted. They just had a general discussion before being dismissed.

Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on Saturday, May 9th, with only three members present, so there were no minutes or treasurer's report.

There were several events during April which were sponsored by ECW. The Easter Breakfast served 35 people and it was delicious. Nancy Mills and Kenalee Atchinson were the hostesses.

Norman Mills funeral luncheon was held on April 16th following the memorial service in the church. Nancy Mills contributed \$700 to ECW which is earmarked for a special project pending Vestry approval.

The Annual Spring Tea was held Saturday, April 25th, and was its usual great success.

Special events are coming up in June.

Graduation Recognition Sunday

On June 7th we will honor our graduates at the coffee hour. Bea Palmer will make one of her special cakes for this event. Those to be honored are Erin Harrier and her son, Mike Harrier, who both have graduated from Central Michigan University and Lorraine Welch, an Alma High School graduate. Lorraine is the daughter of Corrine McMaster.

Sunday Sundaes

This event is held on Father's Day, June 21st. At the coffee hour we have ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings. You won't want to miss this delicious coffee hour!

Eucharist in the Park

Usually we have had our Eucharist in the Park at Wright Park, but it was decided to hold the Eucharist on the Church lawn, weather permitting.

Following the Eucharist we will have a picnic luncheon and games for the children. The date is the last Sunday in June, the 28th.

ERD Collection

A special collection for Episcopal Relief and Development will be taken on Sunday, June 28th. There are many needs in Africa such as mosquito nets for the prevention of malaria in children.

Kitchen Supply Help

There is a need for your help in purchasing kitchen supplies. If you see coffee on sale, buy an extra one and contribute it to the kitchen. There is always a need for paper products. A big need is small paper plates—these are used every Sunday. Buy a large pack of 100 plates and bring it to the kitchen. We also need paper towels, napkins and other plates and bowls. Your help is appreciated.

ECW will meet on Saturday, June 13th, and then take the summer off. Our next meeting will be in August or September to plan events for the coming year. Come meet with us as we need your support and ideas. It is important that we keep Episcopal Church Women as a part of our parish, and we can only do this if we have your presence at our meetings. All women in our parish are automatically ECW members.

Saginaw Valley Convocation News

Jake and Shirley Hamilton attended the May Convocation meeting at St. Alban's in Bay City. The following letter from the four Convocation Councils and Bishop Ousley was presented. Anyone interested in attending the June 20 meeting, please contact the Hamiltons, Vickie Bethka, or Rev. Mary.

Dear Congregation Leaders,

As you are aware, the continuing economic challenges facing the state of Michigan, the rest of the U.S. and world have impacted our ministries in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. While no significant changes in ministry or staffing have been required, both that portion of the diocesan budget administered through the Diocesan Center and also the diocesan budget administered by the convocations has undergone intense review. Congregational giving trends through April 2009

indicate that no less than a 10% drop in revenue projections for the convocation- administered programs can be expected by year's end. Fortunately, each Convocation Council has developed a plan to maintain budget commitments in 2009 but the time has come to begin imagining what 2010 will hold for us. However, we must not limit our imaginations to the financial side of ministry alone—we must look carefully at what God is calling us to do as a diocese, both through centrally administered programs and through convocation programming.

*In order to take this “big picture” view of our situation and to engage a broad base of voices from the grassroots of our diocese the **Convocation Councils will convene for a joint session on Saturday, June 20th from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's Saginaw for a discussion moderated by the Bishop.** The focus of our discussion will be on how we've been living into God's mission as a diocese and how we can live more fully into that vision in the future. This is not a decision-making session but one which can help stimulate our imaginations. Your presence and participation is most welcome on this day along with any other interested leaders in your congregation.*

Faithfully,

David Vickers, Northern; Elsa Presentin, Saginaw Valley; Marty Field, Flint River Valley; Glenn Stone, Blue Water and Todd Ousley, Bishop

United Thank Offering

The Annual Ingather of the United Thank Offering was held on the first three Sundays in May. We had twelve people or families participate and received \$111.92. A check for this amount has been sent to the United Thank Offering office in Newark, New Jersey. This will become part of the grant money to be awarded this fall to requests from dioceses in this country and to places all over the world in need of funds for special projects. Just think of your contribution traveling to meet needs in many places.

Now, get yourself another Blue Box and begin saving your thankful coins for next year's

Ingathering. The need never stops, and your coins in your Blue Box do make a difference.

Eucharist in the Park

This year's annual outdoor service will be held on the church lawn. As always bring a dish to pass and your own picnic supplies. An offering for the Episcopal Relief and Development fund will also be collected at this service, so loose plate offerings will be sent in.

DOK Prayer

LORD, Thank you for teaching me in my weariness or in times when I lose heart that I can do nothing apart from you. You are my life, my strength, my salvation. I give myself to you and ask that the power of your life will restore my joy and renew my vision to keep doing your will and doing good to those around me. AMEN.

Daughters of the King News

A new blanket making workshop has been scheduled for June 13th, 11am-2pm. Please bring a sack lunch and be prepared to cut and tie.

The quarterly Taize' service will be held the 14th of June at 6pm, here at the church. UTO funds have been collected and are being counted to be sent in.

Kenalee and Wendy are attending the Province retreat and will report next month.

Our next business meeting is June 28th after the annual Eucharist in the park.

For His Sake.

Wendy

Sunday School

June 7th is the last day for Sunday School until it begins again in the Fall, probably September 13th, after Labor Day.

Birthdays in June

- 3 Michael Bethka
- 4 Karl Wakeman
- 4 Noah McCreery
- 6 Kay Crispin
- 15 Ryan Ballard
- 22 Irvin Alexander

Our Prayers are asked for:

Barbara Botsford (Margaret Trimmer's sister)
Betty Wright (Margaret Trimmer's friend)
Bill Davidson (Mike Bethka's friend)
Dean and Trish Wilson (Friends of the Crispins)
Francis Hamilton (Relative of Jake Hamilton)
Jean Quakenbush (Friend of Heather Kesselring)
Jim Brown (Member, husband of Wendy)
Jim and Diane Harper (Relatives of Margaret Trimmer)
K. Schab (Friend of Vlesta Alexander)
Kay Crispin (Member, wife of Jerry)
Royce Clark (Member, husband of Trudi)
Tony Dill (Relative in the Military of Jake and Shirley Hamilton)
Varda Hanson (Friend of Rev. Mary Delaney)
Karl Wakeman (Member and friend of Richard and Carolyn Anderson)
Gabrielle Kooi (Great-granddaughter of Richard and Carolyn Anderson)
Jerry and Cindy Kabell (Safe journey from Pakistan to the U.S.)
General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in Anaheim, CA in July

News from Jerry and Cindy

The e-mail from Jerry Kabell arrived just after the May Newsletter was published. Jerry said that the end of the school year was coming up, and the first full graduating class from the four year honor baccalaureate program was taking their comprehensive exams. It was a very busy time for him, but he did want to write to us. He writes:

I had been wanting to write about the situation here in Pakistan to explain what is going on. The problem is that I am not sure what is going on, nor am I sure that the people here know any more. What is quite clear now is that it is a lot like an iceberg. Probably 90% of it is out of sight. When we first came here, I thought that Pakistan's historical fear of India was basically paranoia, but after watching the reactions and fallout from the Mumbai attack, I am much less sure. I am beginning to think that there is a proxy war going on between elements within the two countries which has been in progress for a long time, and we see it in

the headlines mostly when innocent people and "inconvenient" institutions get caught in the crossfire.

My office mate, a gentle and very devout Shia Muslim, has explained to me that much of what is seen outwardly as sectarian violence is really a class-based struggle for control of various criminal enterprises. I am not certain that this is the whole explanation either, but if you add to this the long history of blundering and heavy handed interference of outside interests (British, Russian, US and a few others) and some of the most venal and self-serving politicians with no sense of working for the good of the larger community, as well as a rampant culture of corruption, it is not surprising that the entire subcontinent is in very difficult straits, and conspiracy theories abound.

Nevertheless, in the midst of all this, God's work goes on. FC College continues its educational ministry. Church supported schools at all levels are drawing students from all parts of the communities in which they are located, as they are seen to be markedly superior to the government schools. Operation Mobilization has a community outreach program which includes youth camps, adult education and workshops, and even a door to door campaign in the villages. The International Christian Fellowship which we attend on Sundays conducts an extensive social support ministry. A few weeks ago we visited Sukkur, a crossroads city in the northern Sindh where I had been invited to consult and conduct a workshop at the Institute for Business Administration. IBA has only one Christian student (out of about 2000) but he and his family are workers with Campus Crusade for Christ. This list of the signs of God's work here could go on and on. As bleak and worrisome as the headlines appear, I cannot help but be hopeful for this land and its people. After all, as Jesus said to His disciples, "In this world you will have troubles, but fear not, for I have overcome the world."

Please pray with us for God's continued guidance this land and all who work here.

Love to all,
Cindy and Jerry

June Schedule

Monday, June 1

Tuesday, June 2

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 3

Thursday, June 4

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, June 5

Saturday, June 6

Sunday, June 7

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
Graduate Recognition at Coffee Hour

Monday, June 8

Tuesday, June 9

10:a.m. Clergy Conference at
Higgins Lake

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 10

Clergy Conference at Higgins
Lake until 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 11

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, June 12

Saturday, June 13

10:00 a.m. Episcopal Church Women

11:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m. DOK Blanket
making workshop

Sunday, June 14

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

6:00 p.m. Taize´ Service

Monday, June 15

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

Tuesday, June 16

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 17

Thursday, June 18

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, June 19

Saturday, June 20

Sunday, June 21

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
Father's Day—Sunday Sonda Sunda
at Coffee Hour

Monday, June 22

Tuesday, June 23

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 24

Thursday, June 25

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, June 26

Saturday, June 27

Sunday, June 28

9:00 a.m. Adult Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
outdoors on the south side

Picnic outside following service with a
barbecue

Daughters of the King meeting following
the Eucharist

Monday, June 29

Tuesday, June 30

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

For Memorial Day

For Memorial Day we pause to remember and honor those men and women who faithfully defend(ed) our country. Bev Anderson says that in keeping with that theme here is a description of a different kind of soldier for you to think about.

I AM A SOLDIER FOR GOD I am a soldier in the army of my God. The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer. The Holy Bible is my code of conduct. Faith, prayer, and the Word are my weapons of warfare. I have been taught by the Holy Spirit, trained by experience, tried by adversity and tested by fire. I am a volunteer in this army, and I am enlisted for eternity. I will either retire in this army at the Rapture or die in this army; but I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or pushed out. I am faithful, reliable, capable and dependable. If my God needs me, I am there. If He needs me in the Sunday school, to teach the children, work with the youth, help adults or just sit and learn, He can use me because I am there! I am a soldier. I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered, petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up or pepped up. I am a soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, or lure me. I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in place, saluting my King, obeying His orders, praising His name, and building His kingdom! No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, cards, candy or give me handouts. I do not need to be cuddled, cradled, cared for, or catered to. I am committed. I cannot have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around. I cannot be discouraged enough to turn me aside. I cannot lose enough to cause me to quit. When Jesus called me into this army, I had nothing. If I end up with nothing, I will still come out ahead. I will win. My God has and will continue to supply all of my needs. I am more than a conqueror. I will always triumph. I can do all things through Christ. Devils cannot defeat me. People cannot disillusion me. Weather cannot weary me. Sickness cannot stop me. Battles cannot beat me. Money cannot buy me.

Governments cannot silence me and hell cannot handle me. I am a soldier. Even death cannot destroy me. For when my commander calls me from this battlefield, **H**e will promote me to **C**aptain and then allow me to rule with Him. I am a soldier in the army, and I'm marching claiming victory. I will not give up. I will not turn around. I am a soldier, marching heaven bound. Here I stand! Will you stand with me?

If you've accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior you're already enlisted! Question is, which part of the service are you in:

1. **Active Duty:** Serving the Lord faithfully, daily, and on duty 24-7?
2. **Reserve status:** Serving only when called upon or twice a year, Christmas and Easter?
3. **Guard status:** Backing up the Active Duty group? or
4. **AWOL!** Absent without the Lord?

When I say good morning I mean to say:

G-od
O-ffers us His
O-utstanding
D-evotion to

M-ake us
O-bedient &
R-eady for a
N-ew day with Him.
I-nspire others please, and
N-ever forget
G-od loves you!

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

From Kenalee Atchinson

