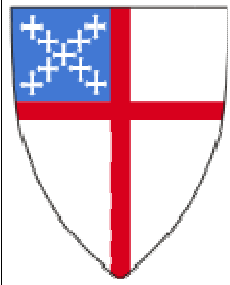


The Fabric of St. John's



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



October 2009

Pastor's Corner

I thought we might consider this month the importance of the Eucharistic Celebration that brings us together each week or when ever we gather.

For the Anglican Communion the liturgy is the central moment in the weekly life of the community. It is a time when we pray what we believe. Common prayer establishes common belief and common belief establishes common prayer. It is through the celebration of the Eucharist that we are Christ's own forever and that what happened in Jerusalem 2000 years ago is also true today. In other words we again state our belief in the body of Christ and strengthen our bonds to one another: past, present, and future.

Therefore in strengthening the bonds of the Body of Christ, liturgy becomes a dynamic experience in which our common prayer is constantly being forged. It is this community dynamic that is both changing and changeless. This is why we change Eucharistic prayers periodically; we have music that supports the liturgy of the Sunday, and also vary the degree of participation by all of you.

The Sunday assembly of the church, then, is the most important moment in the church's relationship with itself and in its relationship with the world. It is a time when we can show the world a glimpse of the reign of God to come; when God's Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. It is a small peak at the peaceable kingdom.

God's blessings, Mary+

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

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Sunday, September 13th.

A motion was made and approved that a pew be removed from the middle of the church to allow those individuals who are wheelchair bound to sit closer to the front of the church.

A motion was made in October 2008 to begin the process of closing the Plaid Door. There was further discussion as to whether the Plaid Door is still serving its purpose. It seems to be holding its own due to voluntary reductions. Bev Anderson pointed out that the Plaid Door is definitely serving its purpose and that God will provide when he is ready. Jake Hamilton amended the previous motion to state that we begin the process of closing the Plaid Door by seeking an appraisal first and then listing the store for sale. Margaret Trimmer and employees are to prepare an outline of the closing procedures and recommendations. If things turn around financially, the Vestry can revisit this motion.

The stewardship committee will be handing out envelopes and parishioners will be asked to hand in their pledges by November 1st so that Doug Ballard and the finance committee will be able to prepare a budget for 2010.

Jake Hamilton had nothing to report on the land sale except that there is increased interest by the latest buyer.

Jake Hamilton and others have been painting the fascia and hope to complete the job in the next few weeks. Jake also suggested that we put up a trail sign which says trail parking courtesy of St. John's Church. Angie Ballard will look into the cost of a sign.

Al Radzibon is filling out the remainder of Tim Cruttenden's term, since Tim has resigned from the church.

Nancy Mills made the suggestion that we have a potluck on the first Sunday of each month as there are many single individuals who enjoy them.

An audit of the finances was conducted by Doug Ballard, Ray Anspach and Vlesta Alexander.

There were some problems which were listed in the report.

Episcopal Church Women

The dinner at St. Paul's, Saginaw, went off well. About 65 people were fed. We would like to do this again next year in August.

Vickie Bethka will see that the money collected for Episcopal Relief and Development in the amount of \$290 will be sent. We will designate the money be used for mosquito nets to prevent malaria.

Supplies for funeral dinners were purchased at Sam's Club and are stored in the cupboard in the room up the stairs. They will serve 300 people.

We are going to purchase a runner and a door mat for the hall by the back door to encourage people to wipe their feet. Hopefully, this will help keep the Parish Hall floor clean. Vickie Bethka will go to Menard's or Home Depot and make this purchase.

We set dates for the coming year for the events we sponsor. They are:

Thankful Dinner on Sunday, November 8th
ECW meeting and work bee on Saturday, November 7th

Adopt-a-family planning at the meeting on October 10th. Make tags and put up tree at the meeting on November 14th.

Greening of the church on the last Sunday in Advent, December 20th. Finger food potluck to follow.

Annual Meeting Potluck on January 17th.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 16th. Put on by men.

Chili Cook-off on Sunday, March 14th.
ECW meeting on Saturday, March 13th, to do preparations.

Easter Breakfast on April 4th is undecided.

Spring Tea will be Saturday, April 24th. We will have 10 tables.

Graduation Recognition will be Sunday, June 6th, if we have any graduates.

Sunday Sondaes will be June 20th as a celebration of Father's Day.

Chairperson for the meeting on Saturday, October 10th, will be Kay Wohlfeill. Chairperson for the meeting on Saturday, November 14th, will be Shirley Hamilton.

Blessing of the Animals

Bring your pet to church on Sunday, October 4th, for a special blessing. Please have your dog on a leash and any animal that might escape in a cage! This is the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day. Your pets are welcome to stay for the service.

Daughters Of the King Prayer

LORD, Thank you for you promised presence with me today. Although my circumstances may seem overwhelming, I call to you with confidence because you are all powerful and you love me. Come and help me! Save me because of your unfailing love and help me experience you as my sure refuge. I wait expectantly to see you move in a mighty way in my life today. Amen.

Daughters Of the King News

Thanks for your support and help with the gathering of school supplies for the needy. They will be put to good use.

We will once again be collecting coats and cold weather gear for children and seniors. Help us to keep everyone warm this winter season.

A blanket making workshop will be held Sat, Oct 10 at 11am-2pm. Please bring a sack

lunch and join us.

Thanks to all who attended the Sept taize' service. God's peace and blessings to you.

Our Business meeting will be held Sun, Oct 25 after service. All women are invited to come and join us.

Youth Group

We are off to a good start. We have started our study of our church and what it means to us personally. We will be striving to conduct random acts of kindness, so if you need some assistance, please ask. October's discussion topic will be "Our role in God's world, how is it different from God's role in our world?"

Wendy

Winter Coat and Outerwear Collection

In mid September we will begin our annual collection of new or gently used coats and outerwear. Hats, scarves, mittens and gloves are also needed for either gender, in all sizes, for both adults and children. Collection boxes will again be placed at St. John's Church and at Glen's Food Store. So as we go through our closets in preparation for winter, please remember that in our currently distressed economy, there are struggling families and individuals who will need our help more than ever. Thank you for your continuous support.

Daughters of the King
Matthew 25:35-36

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your home, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me."

Tied Blankets Workshop

Daughters of the King are still making blankets for the dialysis patients at Gratiot Community Hospital. We will be getting together on Saturday, October 10th, at 11 a.m., and will work until 2:00 p.m. Bring a sack lunch

and coffee and tea will be provided. If you would like to donate fleece for the blankets we need 1 ½ yards for the top and 1 ½ yards for the bottom. Then they are tied together. We want to make some larger blankets for some of the men, so if you would like to donate 2 yards of fleece for the top and 2 yards of fleece for the bottom, it would really be appreciated. However, we have quite a bit of fleece that needs to be made into blankets. Come and join us. Bring your scissors and your ability to tie knots. Men and women are welcome. We enjoy good fellowship while we work!

October Birthdays

- 6 Jennifer Davison
- 7 Erin Harrier
- 12 Brian VanCise
- 15 Jacob VanCise
- 15 Rev. Mary Delaney
- 20 Nathan Schweri
- 26 Haley Tessman
- 28 Beverly Anderson

Your Prayers are asked for Guidance and Healing

- Francis Hamilton (Relative of Jake Hamilton)
- George Ruszkowski (Crispin relative)
- Karl Ruchman (Radzibon relative in military)
- Shawn Austin (B. Harris)
- Sherwood Moore (Friend of Rev. Mary)
- Steven Alexander (Son of Vlesta Alexander)
- Tony Dill (Jake Hamilton relative in the military)
- Karl Wakeman (Member)
- Gabrielle Kooi (Great-granddaughter of Dick and Carolyn Anderson)
- Kay Crispin (Member)
- Pat Andrews (Member)
- Cindy Kabell (Member as she travels from Pakistan to Alabama in October)

Diocesan Convention

The Diocesan Convention is meeting at Grace Episcopal Church in Port Huron on October 23rd and 24th. Rev. Mary Delaney and our delegates will be attending. Our delegates are Barbara Gladding, Kenalee Atchinson and Wendy Brown. Convention starts at 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Anyone is welcome to attend, but you have to be a delegate to vote.

Bible Study

Bible Study is meeting on Wednesday morning at 11:00 a.m. for one hour. A change was made in the study, and the book that will be studied is Isaiah. Come and join the learning and the fellowship. It's never too late to join, especially now when we are just getting started in Isaiah. The discussion gets very interesting! Rev. Mary Delaney and Rev. Dick Anderson are the leaders.

Blue Boxes—Are you filling them?

Do you have your Blue Box in a prominent place where you remember to drop in a coin whenever you are thankful? The United Thank Offering is depending on you. Your coins, added to the coins from thousands of other thankful people, will go out into the world and build churches, feed the homeless, education those who have no schools, and fund many worthwhile projects.

The next Ingathering will be the first Sunday in May, 2010. Come prepared to help in this Outreach of our church.

Cindy Kabell will be coming from Pakistan to Alabama about the middle of October. They have purchased a house for their retirement in Vernon, Alabama which is very near the Mississippi state line. Their son, Kenneth, has already gone down to Alabama taking everything they had in storage and is getting the house ready. He traveled down in a truck, towing his car, and carrying three cats with him! He will be staying with Cindy and is trying to find work in Alabama. Cindy was very thoughtful and send the following article for the Newsletter.

Blessed Saturday Evenings

Jerry and I, since about January, have had the immense honor of being part of a wonderful group. We didn't organize it, nor does it meet at our house, and we are certainly there by invitation only. Now I know you are all thinking that you want to be part of such an exclusive group, and I wish I could invite each and every one reading this to join us. This group is made up of people of deep faith, but little learning generous hearts, but little money and they have opened their world to us. Its start tells its own story. One of the gardeners on campus received, with other campus workers, lessons in basic English given by an American teacher here in her spare time. These lessons lasted only for a very short time, but Aslam was able to take that basic learning and by intelligence and practice raise his English skills. He was able to get a house on campus with his family just about a year ago. (We put in a good word for him on that score.) Once on campus this man of deep faith decided to do something about the lack of Gospel knowledge among his fellow workers—the gardeners, maintenance crew etc. and their families. He gained some help and advice from a Pakistani lay worker from a church on the outskirts of Lahore, but did all the relationship building and organizing himself. Thus the group was born. Jerry was asked to go along to provide the teaching component. Although his Urdu is coming along, most of his talk is in English, and Aslam does the translating.

So picture this with me. At about 5:30 on Saturday Aslam comes to our house, to see what Jerry is going to talk about and think about what English words he needs to use in translating. At 6:00 we walk out to the place where we are to meet. The workers houses are all just one room about 8 ft. by 10 ft. In front of that is a covered area, open on one side. This is where the leaders usually sit in one of the two or three chairs the family owns. Everyone else sits on the ground in the walled courtyard, men in the front, women in the back, children everywhere. The string beds the family owns are leaned against the courtyard wall to make room. We start with prayers and the women cover their heads with their dupatas, the scarves

they always wear. Both women and men pray, and eventually the group moves on to singing. The most beloved of the songs are the Psalms, as translated back in the 1860's by the early missionaries to Pakistan. These are in Punjabi, with a strong beat and a refrain that repeats to make things easier for the illiterate. (Still a huge problem in the country.) This rendition of the Psalms goes very well with the local instruments, but unfortunately we have nothing but our voices, and they are raised loud and clear. The very little ones dance much like David did when he sang these Psalms so many years ago. Mostly they seem to use the Psalms about giving thanks (shukria) and joy (khush). Then Jerry speaks, and the people are so hungry to listen. An old man hangs on every word, a young girl has her Bible intently following, and the children grow quiet. After that more singing, prayers for needs and thanksgivings, prayers for babies follow. Somewhere in there I say a few words to the women and children, something they can take through the week. Then we have some wonderful Pakistani chai (tea) to close. No matter the location where we are meeting, the cups are the same. This Christian community share what little they have. After that we walk out into the warm night, and head home, so much richer and blessed.

Pray for the Christians in Pakistan. Since I have last written to you a church and two houses belonging to Christians have been burned and a young Christian boy has been beaten to death. It is impossible here to fight the blasphemy laws, and they use them against Christians at whim. However, the Church here is strong and alive, and we are glad to be a part of it.

Cindy Kabell

(sophie1842@yahoo.com)

October Schedule

Thursday, October 1

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group
7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley Clericus at
St. Alban's, Bay City

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

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

Sunday, October 4

9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon
Blessing of the Animals

Monday, October 5

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 8

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, October 9

Saturday, October 10

10:00 a.m. Episcopal Church Women
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Making of
Tied Blankets and Lunch

Sunday, October 11

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

Monday, October 12

Tuesday, October 13

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 14

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 15

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, October 16

Saturday, October 17

Sunday, October 18

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

Monday, October 19

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

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 22

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group
12:00 p.m. Alma Clericus at His Place

Friday, October 23

2:00 p.m. Diocesan Convention at
Grace Church, Port Huron

Saturday, October 24

Diocesan Convention at Grace Church,
Port Huron ends at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 25

9:00 a.m. Christian Education
10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11:30 a.m. Daughters of the King
Business Meeting

Monday, October 26

Tuesday, October 27

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, October 28

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 29

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, October 30

Saturday, October 31