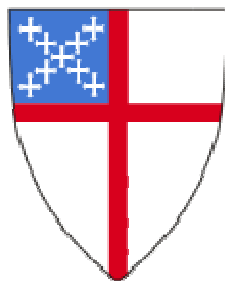


# The Fabric of St. John's

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



November 2009

## Pastor's Corner

**November is such an interesting month. The days keep getting shorter, dark clouds seem to dominate, and yet we have the national holiday of Thanksgiving,. Thanksgiving for what?**

**Certainly a successful harvest was the original intent, but also for having sufficient food and to celebrate the work of summer without worrying about having enough food for the winter. How blessed we are!**

**But as you well know there are many, right here in Alma who have no idea how they will get through the week never mind the winter; let us help those who do not have the assurance of sufficient food for the winter, or have heat, or electricity, or water. So many of these, at least the ones who call upon our church, have babies or young children.**

**I don't know how I can convey graphically enough the desperation these mothers feel. Several of them have two young children and their husband or partner has left them. One mother I helped early in the month of October was about to be evicted with her new baby because she chose to buy food and diapers instead of paying rent.**

**Please give generously on November 1<sup>st</sup> to my discretionary fund so I don't have to turn down another desperate mother this coming month.**

**Let us give thanks by helping others.  
God's Blessings.  
Mary**

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

### Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Rev. Mary Delaney reported that the seminary is going very well and people have lots of enthusiasm.

There has been no word from Mick Bowerman about the sale of the property.

Senior Warden Vickie Bethka reports that she has mailed and handed out pledge cards. We need to get the time/talent/treasure sheets distributed.

Carrie Goffnett, cares for children in the nursery, and she will be receiving \$10 when no children come and she can leave. If children are present, she will receive her regular pay.

Jake Hamilton, Junior Warden, has spoke to several appraisers and a commercial appraisal of the Plaid Door property would cost anywhere from \$500 to \$4000. Jake will do some additional research. Jake has almost completed the painting on the South side of the church, but none is done on the north side. He also says we need to repair the cracks in the black top, and this job should be at the top of our "to do" list.

The flat roof hasn't leaked lately and because of that and in view of the calendar, it appears that there is really nothing that can be done until spring. At that time we will need to get new bids.

We are going to put up a trail sign offering parking in our north lot with the compliments of St. John's. Angie Ballard is checking on the type of sign and the cost.

Nancy Mills is encouraging that we begin potlucks once a month. The church would provide coffee and disposable plates. We will begin with the first Sunday in December.

Since the next meeting of the Vestry falls on the day of the Thankful Dinner, the Vestry will meet the first Sunday in November.

## Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

The financial report showed that we have \$1724.52.

The Thankful Dinner will be Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. We want to get the dinner in before hunting season starts and so many of our men will be away hunting. Angie Ballard will be asked to make a sign-up sheet to be put up in the Parish Hall. We will have a work bee on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, to get ready for the dinner.

We are making plans for our Christmas Adopt-a-family. Kay Wohlfeill will have a family by the November meeting, and Shirley Hamilton will be asked to get one or two senior citizens to be helped. We will make tags and put up the Christmas tree in the narthex for Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Vickie Bethka has put a mat just outside the back door with a request that people wipe their feet before entering. She found runners at Menards, and we will purchase two of them for the back hall.

Kitchen supplies were checked and nothing was needed at present.

### *Your Prayers are asked for healing and guidance:*

Francis Hamilton (Relative of Jake Hamilton)

Karl Ruschman (Military/Relative of Alex Radzibon)

Kay Crispin (Member/wife of Jerry Crispin)

Shawn Austin (Friend of Bill Harris)

Steven Alexander (Son of Vlesta Alexander)

Tony Dill (Military/relative of J. Hamilton)

Karl Wakeman, Brett and Breanne Lacy

(Church family that need help and they have been ill)

Gabrielle Kooi (R. Anderson granddaughter who has moved to Alabama and is starting a new school)

## **Say Happy Birthday in November to:**

- 2 Wendy Brown
- 6 Rev. Richard Anderson
- 12 Devin Tessman
- 15 Chuck Zilch
- 18 Rev. Robert Preston
- 23 Augie Orvis

## **Daughters of the King 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.

## **Daughters of the King News**

We have placed boxes here in the church and in Glen's for the collection of coats and cold weather gear for all ages. Gratiot Commission on Aging is thrilled to know we can provide more coats for them this year.

A taize´ service has been scheduled for Nov 15th at 5:00 p.m. so people can beat the dark.

Next business meeting is scheduled for Nov 22 after service.

For His Sake. Wendy Brown

## **What is the Taize´ Service?**

The Taize´ service is for the purpose of coming close to God. It lasts one hour and the time is spent in private prayer. You may just talk with God or you can use the Prayer Book prayers or bring a book of prayers with you. There will occasionally be quiet music in the background. Candles are brought by the people attending and are placed on the altar to be lit during the service. Come and spend a very quiet hour with your Lord.

## **Collecting Coats for the Needy**

Once again the Daughters of the King are collecting coats and other winter gear for all ages of the needy. Especially grateful are the senior citizens who need cold weather wear. See the big box in the Narthex or at Glen's Supermarket, and bring whatever you can spare that is in good condition. This is an important Outreach of our church!

## **United Thank Offering**

If your United Thank Offering Blue Box is full of coins of thankfulness, pick up another Blue Box at church. In these times of hardship for so many families, we still have much to be thankful for—food, shelter and gas for our cars, clothes for ourselves and some to spare for those in need. Say thank you for sunny days and those days when the temperature creeps into the 60's. Say thank you is you have managed to avoid the Swine Flu, or if you have had it and recovered. Life is good and God loves us. Remember this Outreach of our church.

## **Saginaw Valley Convocation**

Barbara Gladding and Nancy Mills attended the Saginaw Convocation meeting Monday evening, October 19. The meeting began at 7:00 with roll call and continued with twenty minutes of Bible study based on a reading from Mark. The passage concerned a blind man's healing and Jesus asking "What do you want me to do for you". We discussed what we would ask if Jesus came to us and asked the same question.

The balance of the meeting was spent discussing grant applications from various parishes. Judy Boli from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Saginaw gave a marvelous presentation on the work they are doing in their inter-city church, and how it has impacted average attendance which has increased from 63 people in 2000 to 84 in 2009. Their grant request was passed.

St. Paul's is the church to which we provided Sunday dinner this previous August.

There was much discussion on a grant request from Camp Chickagami. Camp Chickagami apparently doesn't really need the money and did not follow procedures for applying for a grant and it was denied.

If we had a special project that we would like to pursue, we could apply for a grant from the diocese. As an example Jake and Shirley Hamilton and Barbara Gladding received a grant last winter to travel to Mississippi to work with hurricane victims.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by  
Nancy Mills

## **Talking to Cindy Kabell**

Cindy has returned from Pakistan this month to get their retirement home in Alabama set up. Jerry has to work at Forman Christian College until 2012, although he will come back for Christmas and summers. Cindy finds that she is enjoying her time in Alabama, and Kenneth is with her. Kenneth found a job as a truck driver right away and is gone during the week. Cindy's home is only a couple of blocks from the downtown so she can walk to most places. Since there is not an Episcopal church in Vernon she is attending the Methodist church. We will probably see them at Christmas since Jerry is returning to the States on December 11<sup>th</sup> and they plan to spend Christmas with Ian who lives in Weidman. There is a lot of danger for Christians in Pakistan right now as terrorists groups are bombing different government buildings and a college in Islamabad. They would like to take over the government. Pray for the people of Pakistan.

## **A Thank You**

To our church family:

A little over two months ago I had surgery for a broken hip. Since then many of you have sent cards or letters, telephoned or visited me. I just wanted to tell you how much this has meant to us. Our church family is very much a part of our lives. We especially want to thank Reverend Mary for the hospital visits. We love you all very much.

Pat and Vern Andrews

# God Provides At FC College

When we first arrived at Forman Christian College sixteen months ago, the campus was dominated by an enormous (at least in comparison with the other buildings) concrete structure surrounded by construction scaffolding and partly encased in a red brick façade. This was the new science building, designed to house the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science, and it was scheduled for completion by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008. It had been designed, I was told, to provide state of the art lab and teaching facilities. It was already apparent at that time that the completion date would not be met, and it soon became apparent that there were some other serious issues to be resolved with regard to the internal network.

Progress since then has been a continuing series of surprises, frustrations, detours and small triumphs. This week, with the scaffolding gone, the façade entirely in place and after hours of sweeping cleaning, clearing of construction debris and multiple truckloads of classroom furniture carried in, the first classes were held in the building. It is still not complete. We hope to occupy some of the offices sometime next week, but the labs are still two weeks (in some cases) to two months away from being usable. Nevertheless, through a series of small and large miracles in funding, design and turning design and planning errors to ultimate advantage, God has provided for the needs of our students. In the Computer Science Department, we had had two labs with 40 seats in each, which were shared by all of the baccalaureate classes, the intermediate classes, the A-level classes, some classes from other departments and students who simply needed to use computers to complete their various assignments. We will now have two 51 seat labs for teaching, along with a 36 seat lab for classes requiring specialized facilities, and two separate 56 seat labs for general student use and two dedicated classrooms large enough to hold our largest classes comfortably. We will move from sharing four offices among thirteen people, to individual offices, and a departmental office suite. We will now meet the facility guidelines to be eligible for accreditation by US accrediting agencies, both institutionally and programmatically, and will be equipped to provide a world-class education to our students. It is a giant step forward for us as an educational institution.

In addition, it has served as a lesson for me. It has reminded me once again that things happen in God's time, not in my time, and for God's reasons, not my reasons. The delay in finishing the building has allowed us to discover and correct a number of issues which had not been anticipated in the initial planning and design. The experience of sharing offices has allowed a new, mostly young and fairly inexperienced faculty to bond into a team, to share ideas and insights and to back each other up more effectively in handling student problems. It has made us a far more effective department.

As Paul said in the letter to the Romans, "All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord." Please pray with me for the appropriate completion of the final tasks needed to make the building fully operational, and pray that it may help to shine as a beacon of God's light in this land.

Jerry Kabell

*Come to the Thankful Dinner  
On  
Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
following the 10:00 a.m. service*

*You can enjoy turkey, mashed  
potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce,  
green bean casserole, winter squash,  
coleslaw, rolls and a big assortment of  
pies*

*It's free so come and bring your  
friends*

*Starting Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will have monthly potlucks  
on the first Sunday of each month. Bring a dish to pass.  
Disposable plates and plastic flatware will be available or bring  
your own. Plan to join us for good food and fellowship!!*

## **November Schedule**

### **Sunday, November 1**

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

### **Monday, November 2**

### **Tuesday, November 3**

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

### **Wednesday, November 4**

**11:00 a.m. Bible Study**

### **Thursday, November 5**

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

### **Friday, November 6**

### **Saturday, November 7**

**8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast at the Big Boy**  
**10:00 a.m. Episcopal Church Women Meeting and Dinner Preparation**

### **Sunday, November 8**

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon**  
**11:30 a.m. Thankful Dinner**

### **Monday, November 9**

### **Tuesday, November 10**

**7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**

### **Wednesday, November 11**

**11:00 a.m. Bible Study**

### **Thursday, November 12**

**8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group**

### **Friday, November 13**

### **Saturday, November 14**

### **Sunday, November 15**

**9:00 a.m. Christian Education**  
**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon**  
**5:00 p.m. Taize' Service**

### **Monday, November 16**

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

### **Tuesday, November 17**

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

### **Wednesday, November 18**

**11:00 a.m. Bible Study**

### **Thursday, November 19**

**8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group**

### **Friday, November 20**

### **Saturday, November 21**

### **Sunday, November 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, November 23**

### **Tuesday, November 24**

**7:00 p.m. Choir Practice**

### **Wednesday, November 25**

**11:00 a.m. Bible Study**

### **Thursday, November 26**

**Thanksgiving Day**

### **Friday, November 27**

### **Saturday, November 28**

### **Sunday, November 29**

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

### **Monday, November 30**