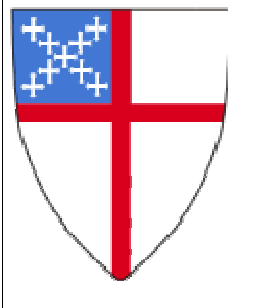


# The Fabric of St. John's

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



January 2010

## Pastor's Corner

**The songs of Christmas that are all around us at this time of year tell us about hope and love; whether it is the love shown us by the Incarnation of the Word, or the love that we ought to be showing one another. The songs of Christmas invite us to witness in him the secret of the world: That all these songs are subversive because they testify that the world is made for fidelity and not betrayal, for truth and not denial, for praise and not self-importance. When we sing this Christmas season we join with people and angels telling the world that the catechism of crisis is not our belief; that the proclamations of despair are not our birthright; instead we are one with the Christ in welcoming the reign of God.**

**May God's blessings be with you this Holy Season and throughout the New Year.**

**Mary+**

# News from St. John's

## Vestry Highlights

The Vestry did not meet in December for a regular meeting. Next Vestry news will come from the January meeting and the Annual Meeting. There will be election of four new Vestry members at the Annual Meeting.

## Episcopal Church Women

ECW met on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Special prayers were asked for Donna Kramer, Melba Demas's sister; Tony Dill, a relative of the Hamiltons who had been recently injured in a military helicopter crash; and Eric Ruszkowski, Kay Crispin's son recovering from heart surgery.

The financial report showed a balance of \$1,702.52. A bill for \$85.40 for Welcome Bag pens has not been received yet.

Events coming up are the delivery of Adopt-a-Family gifts on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the Hanging of the Greens on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> to be followed by a finger-food potluck.

The Epiphany cake with charms is planned for the coffee hour on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, to be followed by a potluck.

Potlucks to be held the first Sunday of each month will be Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. If you use the church dishes and flatware, please do your own clean-up in the kitchen.

Looking ahead to the Chili Cook-off in March, we need a chairperson for this event.

## Daughters of the King Prayer

Jehovah, you alone are God. Even creation worships you! The oceans sing your praises. The angels call you Lord. Forgive us for failing to recognize your sovereignty. I acknowledge that you are God. I praise you today and pray that I will bring pleasure to you. I pray for my nation. May its leaders look to you in turbulent times, and may its people acknowledge you as the one true God. Amen

## Daughters of the King News

Thanks to everyone who has helped us with our various projects through the previous year. We look forward to a great year ahead and hope to help many more people. Please remember our blanket project. The blankets are needed and are well used. Our business meeting will be held Jan 24<sup>th</sup> after church.

Wendy Brown

## Convocation Meeting Notes from Dec. 21, 2009 Meeting

Jake and Shirley Hamilton attended the meeting at St. Albans Church, Bay City.

Twelve Churches were present (the minimum for a quorum)

The treasurer discussed the proposed Convocation budget for 2010 and after a short discussion it was adopted with a unanimous vote.

Contained in the budget are funds for grants to member churches for Outreach Projects. Much discussion followed on ways to familiarize local parishes with the grant application process. There is obvious need in all of our communities with widespread unemployment, people with no place to live, no money for food, heat, etc.. Potential projects could include anything from the Rector's discretionary fund to projects involving other churches/groups in local communities.

Copies of the grant application guidelines can be obtained in the church office or see Jake Hamilton.

## January Birthdays

- 1 Anne Smith
- 3 Jerry Crispin
- 3 Traci Kress
- 6 Christopher W. Holtz
- 13 Meghan Elyse Ballard

- 13 Daniel Welch
- 14 Bea Palmer
- 15 Patricia Andrews
- 18 Adam Davison
- 23 Lyn Zilch
- 24 Murray Borrello

## **Please remember these people in your prayers:**

- Abigail Crispin (Relative of Jerry and Kay)
- Andrew Crispin (Grandson of Jerry and Kay)
- Doug Tickle (friend of the Grovers)
- Eric Ruszkowski (Son of Kay Crispin)
- Hannah Lyons (Relative of the Grovers)
- Herbert J. Smith III (Relative of H. J. Smith at the Masonic Home)
- John Smith (Son of John and Loreen Smith)
- Justin Gibson and Shannon Gibson (friends of Rev. Mary Delaney)
- Karl Wakeman (Member)
- Kay Crispin (Member)
- Steven Alexander (Son of Abe and Vlesta Alexander)
- Karl Rushman (Alex Radzibon's grandson in the military)
- Tony Dill (Hamilton relative in the military)

## **Some Thoughts from Bev Anderson about Giving**

“No matter how little we have, we always have something to share”....Rev. Mary

As this year winds down I would like to share some thoughts, observations, and experience I have had in relations to what Rev. Mary has often reminded us of. In addition to the collection of food for the big box, the coat collection, womens aid collection etc. I wondered if there was more that I, as an individual, could share. Then I realized there was.

It has always bothered me that at this time of year when the red (Salvation Army) kettles come out, there never seems to be enough extra money left to give.

Last January, I took an envelope, labeled it Salvation Army, and placed it in my purse. Each week I put in \$1.00 of my grocery money. Week by week the envelope filled up and by this December I had a nice donation to give. I chose the Salvation Army, but you can use this same principle for any charity, church, or service organization.

It really made me feel good inside knowing I was able to help an organization that meets the needs of so many. It truly is more blessed to give than to receive. I also found that as I was faithful each week, I always had enough for our own groceries and usually had enough extra to buy for the food box. This shows me that Luke 6:36 ("give and it shall be given to you".....) really works. As I give to others, (the Salvation Army) my needs are met and more is given to me, to give to others (i.e. the food box).

This is not my tithe, which is God' money (Leviticus 27:30). This is my offering to God through an organization that not only shares the gospel, but lives it. God said in Malachi 3:10, "...put me to the test and you will see....I will pour out abundance of all good things....". God says He will multiply our offerings so we can continue to give and meet the needs of others. It is all part of the covenant with Abraham and his seed, to bless the world and works like ripples in a pond when a pebble is dropped in.

So I have found a way to share more, and as this year draws to a close and next year begins, I have already begun to fill my little envelope again.

Peace and Love, Bev. Anderson

## **Also from Bev Anderson**

Near the Christmas holiday a young teacher assigned her young students the task of drawing pictures of the Nativity, the first Christmas. As the students were busy working on their masterpieces, the teacher strolled the aisles glancing at their creations. She stopped at one boy's desk to take a closer look. This youngster had everybody in the drawing, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, shepherds, wise men, camels, sheep etc. But he also had included a short, round person. Puzzled, the teacher asked "Johnny, is that Santa Clause? "No, ma'am" he replied, "That's round John Virgin"

**Directions to our Father's House**  
Make a Right onto Believeth Blvd  
Keep straight and go through the Green  
Light, which is Jesus Christ.  
There, you must turn onto the Bridge of  
Faith, which is over troubled water.  
When you get off the bridge, make a Right  
turn and Keep Straight.  
You are on the King's Highway—Heaven  
bound.  
Keep going for three miles: One for the  
Father, One for the Son, and One for the  
Holy Ghost.  
Then exit off onto Grave Blvd.  
From there, make a Right turn on Gospel  
Lane.  
Keep Straight and then make another Right  
on Prayer Road.  
As you go on your way, Yield Not to the  
traffic on Temptation Ave.  
Also avoid SIN STREET because it is a  
DEAD END.  
Pass up Envy Drive, and Hate Avenue.  
Also, pass Hypocrisy Street, Gossiping Lane,  
and Backbiting Blvd.  
However, you have to go down Long-  
suffering Lane, Persecution Blvd. and Trials  
and Tribulations Ave. But that's all right,  
because VICTORY Street is straight ahead!  
AMEN!!!!

**Come to the Annual Meeting  
and Potluck on Sunday,  
January 17<sup>th</sup>!!**

**We are electing four new  
Vestry members. We will  
hear from Doug Ballard  
about the new budget for  
2010!**

**Rev. Mary will report on the  
state of the church.**

**All of the organizations will  
have their reports ready to  
be read and you can ask all  
the questions that you have!  
Stay for a very good potluck  
dinner!**

*Happy New Year*

## January Schedule

Friday, January 1

Saturday, January 2

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

Sunday, January 3

10:00 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Monday, January 4

Tuesday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 6

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 7

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, January 8

Saturday, January 9

10:00 a.m. Episcopal Church Women

Sunday, January 10

10:00 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

Epiphany Cake at Coffee Hour

12:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Monday, January 11

Tuesday, January 12

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 13

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 14

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, January 15

Saturday, January 16

Sunday, January 17

10:00 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting and  
Potluck

Monday, January 18

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

Tuesday, January 19

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 20

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 21

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, January 22

Saturday, January 23

Sunday, January 24

10:00 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

12:00 p.m. Daughters of the King  
Business Meeting

Monday, January 25

Tuesday, January 26

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 27

11:00 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 28

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, January 29

Saturday, January 30

Sunday, January 31

10:00 a.m. Christian Education

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon