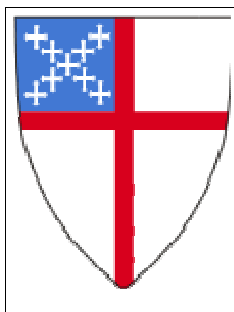
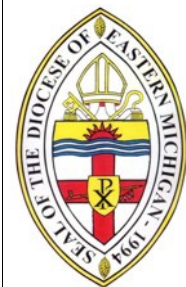


The Fabric of St. John's



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



May 2010

Pastor's Corner

On the 23rd of May we will celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, also known as the birthday of the Church, because the disciples finally became true apostles. They spoke freely about the life of Jesus Christ and how they were transformed.

A short time ago I was reading an article by William Willimon who said that when we hold things with one hand it is something casual; e.g. holding a glass, a book, a dog's leash, etc. but when we hold something with two hands then it is a serious embrace and is anything but casual. It is with two hands we embrace one another, or a child, indicating a serious relationship.

Well God has embraced us with "both hands" because God gave us Jesus Christ through whom we are adopted as sons and daughters of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus. What greater demonstration of a serious relationship could we have than God embracing us by becoming incarnate, taking on our humanity. Further, Jesus promised to send us another Advocate and so we are taught through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As Paul says: the Spirit groans within us praying those prayers we don't know how to pray.

The Feast of Pentecost is not only the birthday of the Church but it is our birthday as well. It is a time in which we celebrate the wonder of our Baptism and Confirmation when we were sealed as Christ's own forever. Therefore let us embrace this feast and truly celebrate the marvel of "God with us."

God's blessings in this season of renewal,

Mary+
What's Going on at St. John's

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met on Sunday, April 11th, following the Church service.

Rev. Mary will be gone during July on vacation. She has indicated that she will get Father Preston for supply on July 4th and will get a supply for July 18th.

We will not be using Staples for our supplies which should decrease our expenses. Doug Ballard has ordered a laser printer for the church and this should cut down on ink expenses.

Kenalee Atchinson has said that she is willing to be Junior Warden, but wants to work with someone. Nancy Mills will work with Kenalee.

There will be a cleaning bee on Sunday, April 18th. The old shrubs will be pulled out and new ones planted.

The Convocation meeting will be held at Trinity, Bay City, on April 19th. Rev. Mary will ask Barb Gladding and Kay Wohlfeill to attend.

The road sign is up and looks great—many thanks to Al Radzibon.

Al Radzibon has volunteered to be our public relations person. There was a discussion on how best to reach the public. It was noted that the Gratiot County Herald is receptive to churches.

Rev. Mary gave a handout on a program that she had attended. There was a short discussion on the history of our church. They discussed ways to bring in more people to our church; how to motivate our congregation. Different ways were offered: offering transportation, changing our format, changing our music. Jake Hamilton suggested that the Vestry read the handouts and then meet to discuss them at a later date. A time of Tuesday, April 27th, at 6:30 p.m. was set.

Episcopal Church Women has requested that they take back their checking account. After discussion, it was approved.

The next monthly Vestry meeting will be on Sunday, May 9th, after church.

The minutes were submitted by Christine Berry, the Vestry Secretary.

News from the Saginaw Valley Convocation

Saginaw Valley Convocation April 19th meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice President Eric Blackhurst.

Opening Prayer was led by Beryl from Grace Church, Standish.

Twelve parishes responded to roll call, along with The Very Rev. Robert Skirving, Dean, Gary Fox, Treasurer, The Rev. Judy Boli, Standing Committee (clergy rep).

Rev. Skirving led Bible Study using "The Walk to Emmaus" passage from Luke 24:13-35. Interesting discussion followed with several expressing the different ways resurrection faith is nurtured -- Inspiration, Revelation, and Proclamation were shared by those who had experienced them. The Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Easter was said by all.

Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were approved as presented, The Convocation is needing and requesting someone to serve as Secretary of the Convocation.

Three grants were presented and recommended by the Convocation Executive Committee. All three were approved. Monies are available for grants and parishes are encouraged to get them in with the proper paper work and budget. Grants from Convocation are available for program development and not for "bricks and mortar." Those may be requested through the Standing Committee of the Diocese. Indeed one such grant request for help with roof repair was approved (\$765) for St. Matthew's. Saginaw.

Rev. Boli reported on plans for Annual Convention this fall when the Presiding Bishop will attend. Preliminary plans include calling a special of the convention delegates prior to the convention to take care of business affairs. This will leave more time with the Presiding Bishop at regular convention.

New Business included reminders that:

1. Convocation Lay representative to Standing Committee nominees are due in by June 21.
2. Election of convocation President, vice President, and Treasurer: nominees need to be in by October 18.

Meeting adjourned by 8:15 PM

Submitted by Barbara Gladding

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King meet on the fourth Sunday of each month following the church service.

On Saturday, April 10th, we had a blanket making workshop. Eight tied fleece blankets were completed and will be donated to the hospital dialysis unit to be given to patients coming in for dialysis. We will have another workshop in June. Please feel free to come and help us. If you wish to donate fleece for the blankets, we can use 1½ yards of patterned fleece along with 1½ yards of plain fleece for the back of the blanket. For larger blankets, we use 2 yards of patterned fleece and 2 yards of plain fleece. We meet for two hours on a Saturday afternoon (from 2 to 4) and have a good time. Come join us! If you can tie knots, you will know exactly what to do!

United Thank Offering

On Sunday, May 2nd, we will have our annual Ingathering of the United Thank Offering. Please bring your offering in your

Blue Box or get a blue envelope to put it in. Pick up a new Blue Box if you need one.

Remember that the coins you place in your Blue Box are coins of thankfulness to God. We all have much to be thankful for in our lives.

Each year, UTO collects over 2 million dollars in thankfulness coins. Grants are sent in from dioceses all over the world, and a committee meets to distribute the funds. Every penny collected goes toward the grants, nothing is kept for administration.

This is a very good way to reach out in mission. You don't have to pledge hundreds of dollars. You just have to drop a penny, nickel, dime or quarter in your Blue Box whenever you realize that you have something to be thankful for.

Pick up a new Blue Box or envelope in the narthex of the church. Turn in your gift in the alms basin on Sunday, May 2nd.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast has been meeting on the first Saturday of each month at 8 o'clock in the morning at the Big Boy. John Giles announces that the breakfast will not be meeting again until fall.

Episcopal Church Women

ECW did not meet in April. The next meeting will be Sunday, May 16th, following the ten o'clock service. There are several events occurring in June – Graduation Celebration on June 6th, Father's Day-- Sundaes on June 20th, and the Church Yard Picnic on Sunday, June 27th.

Please try to attend the meeting and help with the plans.

Help Wanted!!

I have been doing the Newsletter for several years now and would like to retire after the June Newsletter. If you are interested, please contact me. I will

send you the templates for the first and last pages. Also I will be available for any help you might need. The main problem is trying to collect all the information from the different groups. You can decide how you would like to present the news and add new features.

Carolyn Anderson
463-2413
rcander@chartermi.net

Our May Birthdays

1 Claudia Ballard
8 McKia Davison
8 Kay Wohlfeill
9 John Giles
16 Vicky Bethka
21 Lise Mitchell
27 Heather Kesselring Quackenbush
31 Charlie Mitchell

Prayers for healing and guidance are asked for the following:

Adam and Tracy Chatfield (Relatives of Jerry and Kay Crispin)
Bessie Tanner (Relative of Carroll and Shirley Grover)
Betty Neeper (Relative of Jay and Kenalee Atchinson)
Dana Bethka (Daughter of Mike and Vickie Bethka)
Donna Kramer (Sister of Melba Demas)
The Eckhoff Family (Members)
Francis Hamilton (Relative of Jake and Shirley Hamilton)
Kimberly Hodge (Daughter of Jerry and Kay Crispin)
Lyle Cousins (Relative of Anne Smith)
The Keith Parks family (Relatives of Cindy Eckhoff)
Shawn J. Austin (Friend of Bill Harris)
Karl Wakeman (Member)
Brett Lacey (Son of Karl Wakeman)

Serving in the Military:

Billie Robertson (Relative of Cindy Eckhoff)
Catherine (Zilch) McDonald (Daughter of Chuck and Lyn Zilch)
Karl Ruschman (Grandson of Alex Radzibon)
Tony Dill (Relative of Jake and Shirley Hamilton)
Christopher McCain (Husband of Cathleen McCain and stepfather of Gabrielle and Jade)

Today

Outside my window a new day I see
And only I can determine what kind
of a day it will be.
It can be busy and sunny, laughing and gay
or boring and cold, unhappy and grey.
My own state of mind is the determining key
for I am only the person I let myself be.
I can be thoughtful and do all I can,
or be selfish and think just of myself.
I can enjoy what I do and make it seem fun,
or gripe and complain and make it hard on
someone,
I can be patient with those
Who may not understand,
or belittle and hurt them as much as I can,
but I have faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ,
and believe what I say,
and I personally intend to make
the best of each day.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all people here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

May Schedule

Saturday, May 1

Sunday, May 2

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon

Ingathering of United Thank
Offering

Monday, May 3

Tuesday, May 4

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 5

Thursday, May 6

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, May 7

Saturday, May 8

Sunday, May 9

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon

11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Monday, May 10

Tuesday, May 11

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

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

Wednesday, May 12

Thursday, May 13

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, May 14

Saturday, May 15

Sunday, May 16

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon

Monday, May 17

7:00 p.m. Saginaw Valley

Convocation at St. Alban's, Bay City

Tuesday, May 18

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 19

Thursday, May 20

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, May 21

Saturday, May 22

Sunday, May 23

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

11:30 a.m. Daughters of the King
Business Meeting

Monday, May 24

Tuesday, May 25

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 26

Thursday, May 27

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, May 28

Saturday, May 29

Sunday, May 30

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and
Sermon

Monday, May 31