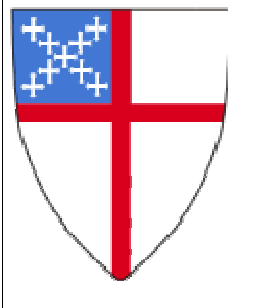


The Fabric of St. John's



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



June 2010

Pastor's Corner

June is a month of celebration: kids are out of school, graduations to attend, weddings to celebrate, and often vacations to begin. This is the month with all of the promise of a beautiful summer and we are sure it will be the best one yet. Whether the promise of June is actually fulfilled or not, we will be inundated with political ads and pollsters calling or writing to get our opinion and yes, if we would like to make a contribution to a local politician's campaign fund it certainly would be appreciated.

I get very tired of the almost continual campaigning that goes on in our country. England just had an election and the campaign took about three months. I believe it is about the same length of time in Canada. As much as I dislike all of the political rhetoric that flies around I am not suggesting we can change the length of the campaigns but I think we can have an influence on political speech.

What is distressing to me is all of the hate speech we have heard in the last few months, not just from the radical fringe, but also from seasoned representatives and senators. I suggest we let our politicians know that regardless of what sides of the political spectrum we happen to be on, we will not tolerate hate speech. It seems to me that if you have an informed opinion on a topic or a piece of legislation, than you should be able to express yourself without impugning the intelligence, integrity, parenting, or sexual behaviors of the opposing legislator. I think Bart Stupak is a case in point. Whether you agree with him politically or not, he has served the State of Michigan faithfully and to threaten him, his family, his employees, never mind the names they called him, is to do him a disservice.

Please let it be known that you are willing to listen to political discourse but not hate speech. Emotional bullying is neither informative nor enlightening.

May we have a calm and cool summer.

God's blessings, Mary+

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

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met for a short meeting on Sunday, May 9th, following the 10:00 a.m. service.

There was a discussion of offering water for the people on the trail. Rev. Mary suggested we use something other than bottled water as that would create a lot of trash. Nothing was decided.

We had a bid of \$75,000 for the land from an attorney in Mt. Pleasant. This was rejected. He would like to meet with Rev. Mary, but she declined unless his bid was doubled. The Vestry members agreed.

There was a discussion of financial planning. The discussion was opened by Doug Ballard. He says we have four funds that are currently held by the Diocese of Michigan. There were questions regarding if there were particular designations by whoever donated them. Rev. Mary will check on this and Jake Hamilton will work with her to find out the amounts and the requirements. They will report back at the June meeting.

Submitted by Christine Berry, Vestry Secretary

Minutes from Episcopal Church Women

Meeting was held on May 16 and we are looking forward to an eventful June. Please join us for the monthly potluck on June 6 where we will be congratulating our graduates. We have at least two students graduating from the 8th grade – Stephanie Brown and Jade Herber. Please let us know if you have any other graduates we can celebrate.

Father's Day will see our annual Sunday Sundaes on June 20th. Who can resist ice cream and saying thanks to all the Fathers in our congregation! And to round out the month is the Churchyard Picnic on June 27. Church will provide meat, bread, and

condiments. Everyone please bring something to pass and your place setting. Come join the fun and fellowship.

ECW was very pleased with the turnout for the Easter Breakfast and for our Spring Tea. The Spring Tea fundraiser raised over \$600 to help with church events and outreach. Thanks to everybody who participated.

To help with all the events at church we can use donations of paper supplies (8oz coffee cups/5 oz juice cups, small dessert plates, small bowls) – always appreciate paper over Styrofoam – but all is appreciated. Also need plastic silverware, and coffee (decaf and regular). Please put items on the center island in kitchen. Thanks in advance for your help!

We continue to rotate the chairs for our meetings and that is working well. At our May meeting Lise Mitchell was appointed Secretary to help with note taking. Our next ECW meeting is Sunday, September 19 immediately following church service. We will be working on our fall events.

Submitted by Lise Mitchell, Secretary

Daughters of the King Prayer

FATHER, Help me to have a happy heart. Remove the anxiety that sometimes weighs my heart down. keep my heart from growing proud. Instead, give me a pure heart - a heart that is pleasing to you. Help me hide your Word in my heart so that I can walk in your ways and enjoy a life that is a continual feast. AMEN.

Daughters of the King News

DOK will be hosting another blanket workshop on Saturday, June 12 from 2:00-4:00pm. All are welcome. The only skills needed are cutting and knot tying. We are willing to teach. We

are looking at hosting a yard/craft sale in July, and any input would be appreciated. Our next business meeting will be Sun June 27 after the service. Thanks to Carolyn and Dick Anderson for all the work they have put into the newsletter up to now. You are truly blessed. For His Sake.

EDITOR-TYPIST NEEDED

If you all want to have a newsletter, someone is going to have to help us out. We are willing to look at format changes, and different printing options. The goal is for the DOK to gather the info or have it given straight to you, and you act as a typist, sending it to the church office to be printed. We have daughters that are willing to label, fold, and stuff boxes. If interested contact any daughter, we are willing and able to work with you to make it as easy as possible. Remember no editor-typist = no newsletter. There are templates available for the first and last pages of the newsletter, if so desired. See Carolyn Anderson for help!

YOUTH GROUP

We will have our last official meeting June 6th. We will meet at the local Burger King and discuss potential summer activities. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the fall. May you all have a great summer.

Submitted by Wendy Brown, President

Spring Tea 2010

Boy what a great time! It was one of our best Teas. Thank you ladies! Many thanks go out to Nancy Mills and her daughter, Susan, for the idea of wedding dresses. Thanks to all for the wonderful cookies. I would like to thank Barb Gladding, Sue Young, Shirley Grover, Margaret Trimmer and Ann Smith for their help in food and work.

On to next year! We need ideas for gifts and what we do for a program. Thank you all for

doing a great job and for all your work. ALSO, thanks to Jake Hamilton and Michael Bethka for their making tea and all their help. We really could not do it without them.

Submitted by Vickie Bethka, Chairperson

Found in the Pews at St. John's! Have you read it??

Our worship at St. John's is active—it's something we DO.

What follows is a short description of the way we worship. We are very pleased that you are with us.

THE WORD OF GOD

We gather in the Lord's Name—not casually, as at a bus stop, but deliberately and self-consciously as the People of God, the Body of Christ in this particular place, called together for a specific purpose.

Procession & Hymn—music joins us together in community as the worship leaders process to their assigned places.

Acclamation—we stand as we state our purpose for gathering: to bless God and God's kingdom.

Collect for Purity—we pray that our worship may be worthy.

“Glory to God”—an ancient hymn praising God.

Collect of the Day—a brief prayer especially appointed for the day, often reflecting a theme in the lessons.

We then proclaim and respond to the Word of God. We are people of the Book: the Bible. Through the telling and hearing of its stories we come to know and to proclaim who we are as God's people. These are stories of creation, redemption, and the salvation of God's people through Jesus Christ our Lord. It is the Good News.

The Lessons—we are seated to hear reading from the Old Testament, the Psalter, and the New Testament epistles.

The Gospel—we stand facing the one who reads, hearing the Gospel of the Lord proclaimed in our midst.

Sermon—drawn from the readings, the Good News is applied to the pains, joys, and questions of our daily lives. The Word of God is not ancient history, but is living and active in our midst.

The Nicene Creed—responding to the Word, we stand and reaffirm the ancient articles of faith in the Creed.

Prayers of the People—our worship continues with the offering of prayers for the world, the Church, those in need, the departed, and for our own congregation. Opportunity is made for any worshiper to add concerns, to pray for specific individuals, and to share personal thanksgivings. We stand for the prayers and may kneel for the Confession of Sin.

Confession of Sin—together we acknowledge our separation from God and our need for forgiveness.

The Peace—shaking hands or embracing, we greet one another. Acting out the forgiveness and peace of Christ we have received.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we turn our hearts to the wonderfully mysterious way that God loves and nourishes us. Communion is the time when we thankfully remember how God has blessed us. In our shared meal, we claim the promise that Jesus is really present to us in the bread and the wine, and we enjoy the spiritual nourishment he offers.

Offertory—here is our opportunity to show our gratitude to God by giving back. We stand as our financial gifts, and the bread and wine, are presented in our name.

The Great Thanksgiving—the congregation is invited to participate in the central prayer of the “Eucharist” (the name of our worship service, from the Greek, meaning “thanksgiving”). The congregation may stand or kneel after the “Holy, holy.”

The Breaking of Bread—in silence the bread is raised and broken. The silence ends as we join in an anthem which concludes with a heartfelt “Alleluia!” We are then invited to approach the Altar and share in the heavenly food and drink of Christ’s Body and Blood. Everyone who is baptized is welcome! Participants receive a portion of bread in their hands and respond to the words of administration with “Amen.” We ask that you guide the base of the cup of wine (chalice) with your hand. Some prefer to receive the wine by intinction (dipping). To do this, hold the bread in the palm of your hand and either dip the bread in the chalice or allow the chalice bearer to intinct the bread and to place it in your mouth. Those not wishing to receive the wine should cross their arms over their chest as the chalice bearer approaches.

Postcommunion Prayer—we give thanks for God’s loving care in feeding us, and we ask for guidance as we are sent out to be God’s people in the world.

Recessional Hymn—as the worship leaders leave their assigned places, we sing another hymn of praise.

Dismissal—we are sent forth to be faithful witnesses of Christ, visible and active in the world.

United Thank Offering

Many thanks to the ten people or families who participated in our Ingathering. We collected \$119.27 and it will be sent to the national office of the United Thank Offering.

Please pick up a Blue Box from the table in the narthex and start saving your coins of thankfulness for the 2011 Ingathering next May. Every penny that is contributed goes to outreach projects, none is used for administration. Together with all the contributing churches, over 2 million dollars is collected each year and distributed in grants. Requests come in from all the dioceses and from Anglican churches throughout the world.

Thank you!!!

Say Happy Birthday in June to

Michael Bethka on the 3rd
Karl Wakeman on the 4th
Kay Crispin on the 6th
Ryan Ballard on the 15th
Karen Mitchell on the 17th
Irvin Alexander on the 22nd

Please keep these people in your prayers for healing and guidance

Bill Harris (Member at the Masonic Home)
Don Denton (Friend of Bill Harris)
Gracelyn Chatfield (Great-granddaughter of Jerry and Kay Crispin)
Herb Smith (Friend of Bill Harris)
Shawn J. Austin (Friend of Bill Harris)
Karl Wakeman (Member)
Lori Bates (Friend of Jerry Crispin)
Marci Proulx (Friend of Jerry and Kay Crispin)

Serving in the Military:

Billy Robertson (Nephew of Cindy Eckhoff)
Catherine (Zilch)McDonald (Daughter of Charles and Lyn Zilch)
Karl Ruschman (Grandson of Alex Radzibon)
Tony Dill (Relative of Jake and Shirley Hamilton)
Christopher McCain (Husband of Cathy and stepfather of Gabrielle Kooi and Jade Herber)

Northwest Coast Update

Now that Heather Anderson has joined the 8am-5pm/M-F portion of society (i.e. she works full time), and is no longer able to spend endless months climbing mountains, she has taken up a new pastime.....Running!!

Last month (April) she ran in her first 50k race with Remy meeting her at all the check points to cheer her on and offer water, band-aids, or whatever was needed as she chugged through. Heather came in 1st in her

division, which was women 39 years and under. At first she didn't realize she had won since a few other women had passed her up during the race, but later she found out that they were running in a different division.

Heather finished 23rd over all out of 60-7- men and women contestants in different divisions. Her time was 8 hours, 56 minutes. I can't imagine running for nearly 9 hours, but she did it. Afterward she celebrated with a large piece of cheesecake and then dinner.

From Bev Anderson

And now for some humor...

A cat arrived in Heaven and was greeted warmly. The cat was asked what he would like most to make his stay more enjoyable—what was his heart's desire. The cat replied, "I would like a large, comfy pillow to snooze on." So the cat was given the softest, moist luxurious pillow to snooze on.

Later, 3 little mice arrived in Heaven. They were also warmly greeted and asked the same question. After consulting each other they said, "Because Heaven is so vast, we would like roller skates so we can better explore this place." So they were given roller skates.

Much later, the Lord happened upon the cat snoozing on the pillow. "So, how are you enjoying Heaven," he asked the cat.

"Oh," replied the cat, sleepily, "This pillow is just wonderful, and the meals-on-wheels aren't bad either."

From Bev Anderson

The Ant and the Contact Lens: a true story

Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb.

As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens.

“Great,” she thought. “Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry.”

She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there. She felt the panic rising in her, so she began praying. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she may find her contact lens.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She thought of the Bible verse, “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth.”

She thought, “Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me.”

Later, when they had hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them, shouted out, “Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?”

Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!

The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens with the caption, “Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You.”

I think it would do all of us some good to say, “God, I don't know why You want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But, if You want me to carry it, I will.”

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Important Notice!!

Sunday, June 6th

Potluck Dinner following
the Holy Eucharist
service at 10:00 a.m.

Congregational meeting
following the dinner

We need to follow up on
the last congregational
meeting and discuss plans
for the future of the
church!

Please plan to come. We
need your input. Please
pray before the meeting
to ask God's plan and will
for our church. What is
God trying to tell us?

June Schedule

Tuesday, June 1

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 2

Thursday, June 3

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, June 4

Saturday, June 5

Sunday, June 6

9:00 a.m. Christian Education

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

11:30 a.m. Potluck Dinner

Recognition of graduates

Congregational Meeting

Monday, June 7

Tuesday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Plaid Door Check Writing

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

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 9

Thursday, June 10

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, June 11

Saturday, June 12

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tied blanket
making workshop sponsored by
Daughters of the King—all welcome

Sunday, June 13

9:00 a.m. Adult Study on the Gospel

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting

Monday, June 14

Tuesday, June 15

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 16

Thursday, June 17

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

Friday, June 18

Saturday, June 19

Sunday, June 20

9:00 a.m. Adult Study of the Gospel

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Sunday Sundaes Sunday Celebration of
Father's Day—make your own sundaes

11:30 a.m. Daughters of the King

Business Meeting

Monday, June 21

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

Tuesday, June 22

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 23

Thursday, June 24

8:30 a.m. Spiritual Growth Group

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

Friday, June 25

Saturday, June 26

Sunday, June 27

9:00 a.m. Adult Study of the Gospel

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sermon

11:30 a.m. Outdoor picnic with hot dogs
and hamburgers—south side of the
church

Monday, June 28

Tuesday, June 29

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, June 30

HAVE YOU SEEN? A picture of our Trail Parking sign for our church parking lot is on page 42 of the May 6, 2010, edition of the Gratiot Area Visitors & Recreation Guide published by the Gratiot County Herald. The sign is located by the road at the north driveway entrance of our church parking lot. It welcomes anyone accessing the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail at the north edge of our church property. Alex Radzibon arranged for the publicity.