

The Fabric of St. John's



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

August Newsletter



Pastor's Corner

Rev. Mary is out this month. Please enjoy this snippet from Bev Anderson.

As most of you know the Daughters of the King saw a need in the community and has tried to fill it. With the help of all of you, the fleece blanket ministry was established. While the dialysis patients are undergoing their treatment they lose a lot of body heat and become very cold. The fleece blankets provide them with warmth as well as tangible comfort. We received a lovely thank you note from the dialysis social worker and thought that you would like to see a copy. This thank you is not just for the Daughters, it is also for all of you. Without your help and support we would not be able to maintain the ministry.

*Dear Daughters of the King,
Thank you for the blankets
you have been making for
our patients here at the dialysis
unit. The warmth they provide
is both physical as well as
spiritual/emotional.
The work of your hands has
reached out and touched
many, you are true
friends to the dialysis patients.
Thank you again
Carolyn Cook, Social Worker
Great Lakes Renal Network*

*A friend is
someone
who reaches
for your
hand and
touches
your heart*

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am–Bible Study 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am–Sermon Potluck After	2	3	4	5 8:30am–Spirtual Growth Group	6	7
8 9:00am–Bible Study 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am–Sermon	9	10	11	12 8:30am–Spirtual Growth Group	13	14 2:00pm–4:00pm–DOK blanket workshop
15 9:00am–Bible Study 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am–Morning Prayer	16 7:00pm–Saginaw Valley Convocation at St. Alban’s Bay City	17	18	19 8:30am–Spirtual Growth Group	20	21
22 9:00am–Bible Study 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am–Sermon DOK Meeting	23	24	25	26 8:30am–Spirtual Growth Group	27	28
29 9:00am–Bible Study 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am–Morning Prayer	30	31				

Daughters of the King Prayer (1)

(Submitted by W. Brown)

LORD, you have done so much for me. I often think I have nothing to offer you. The thought that you long for my friendship is almost overwhelming because you've given so much and I've given so little. I love to be in your presence. I rejoice that you want to be with me. Help me to devote a portion of each day to communion with you.

Daughters of the King News

(Submitted by W. Brown & B. Anderson)

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way at all with our trash to treasure sale. Hopefully we managed to reach out to people in the community. Please don't forget to come help make some blankets August 14th from 2-4pm right here in the fellowship hall. The only skills needed are cutting and tying. All are welcome. The blankets are given to individuals in the dialysis unit at Gratiot Community Hospital. Apparently the procedures leaves the patient rather chilled and our blankets are most welcomed, not only for the physical warmth, but for the warmth and comfort of the prayers that go with them. We will once again be collecting school supplies for needy middle schoolers. See list of suggested supplies. Our next business meeting will be August 22 following service.

School Supply List

#2 pencils
mechanical pencils
erasers
pens- blue, black, red
notebook paper- loose leaf
spiral notebooks
index cards
graph paper
binders
folders
colored pencils
colored markers
book bags
backpacks

calculator
book covers
pencil holders

also useful
Kleenex, hand sanitizer

Youth Group

(Submitted by W. Brown)

September and the start of school are just around the corner. With that brings the weekly youth group meetings starting the Sunday after Labor Day. We will be finishing *My Faith, My Life, a Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church*. Last year we covered church history, the church calendar, how service is organized, what every thing we use and wear is called, and the sacraments. This year we tackle the hard stuff. Spirituality, faith (our own), and mission. We've looked at our foundation of church, and we will look at what that means individually, and how we use that to go forward in the world. Pray for our group as we work at individual development and discernment.

Member of the Month Feature

(Submitted by A. Holtz)

This month's featured member is Sue Young. She found St. John's Alma when she married David Young in the early 1990s. She has two children, Wendy and Stephan. She lives in Alma, MI and enjoys reading, crochet, biking, walking and cooking. She says that while she loves the church and working with the children, she would be so happy to see more new members and more bible studying. She would especially love to see more children and young families join the church.

Thank you Sue for being the first to participate!

Vestry Highlights

(Submitted by Jake Hamilton, Sr. Warden)

July highlights around St. John's church include the start-up of Water-by-the-Trail thanks to Alex Radzibon (See Alex to sign up for a turn on Saturdays), vacations by Rev. Mary and several church members, wind blown limbs (thanks to Jay Atchinson for cleaning them up) and the Trash to Treasure sale on July 24 by the D.O.K. We're thankful for Barb Gladding and our visiting priests for our July worship services.

Some future dates to keep in mind are: the monthly potluck on August 1, Vestry meeting on August 8, Adult discussion of the Gospel on Sundays at 9 AM, and the Spiritual Growth Group on Thursday mornings.

Also keep in mind that there will be another congregational meeting in mid August (Watch the Sunday bulletin for a date and time.) to follow-up on previous sessions and the vestry's quest to discern God's will for St. John's. There is still time to complete a survey sheet (copies on the table in the Narthex) if you haven't already done so or *want to add more*. They may be put in my mailbox at church. Thanks to all who have turned in one. Your input is appreciated and needed!

With Fall just around the corner it's not too early to be thinking about stewardship, tithing, and St. John's financial needs for 2011. I would be less than honest to say that our financial needs are anything but critical. The choices are clear: keep going like we are and close the doors within two years, make cuts in an already strapped budget and prolong closing, or grow our membership. Personally I prefer the latter. Difficult, yes, but by being the best disciples of Christ that we can be, there will be a way. Maybe that means reaching out to more people in need, remodeling or replacing our building, changing traditional and long entrenched ways of doing things or just plain moving ahead a bit at a time. Whatever God wants this parish to do, he will show us the way and provide the means.

Saginaw Valley Convocation Meeting

(Submitted by B. Gladding)

July 19, 2010 at St. Alban's, Bay City

The meeting opened with prayer by Pat Stacey of St. Paul's, Gladwin. Present were: Charles Leibrand, Convocation President, The Very Rev. Robert Skirving, Dean, Gary Fox, Treasurer and the Rev. Judy Boli of Clericus. The following congregations were also represented: St. Paul's Gladwin; St. John's Midland; St. Matthews, Saginaw; St. Paul's, Saginaw; St. John's, Sand Point; Grace, Standish; St. John's. Alma.

Treasurer's Report included payment of a grant to St. Paul's. Saginaw, for the replacement of a refrigerator used in their feeding program. The Health Dept. found the old one not meeting requirements; all agreed this was necessary to continue the program and the motion carried unanimously.

Standing Committee report included some information on plans to re-structure the Diocese. A Commission called by the bishop has been exploring ideas for two years. They have reviewed other diocesan structures throughout the country and will make recommendations to the Diocese this fall. A series of information meetings will be held in September to bring everyone up to date on the Commission's findings. Vestries may be called together for their interaction and analysis of the new plans.

Nominations:

- Stephanie King has been nominated to serve as Convocation lay representative to the Standing Committee.
- The very Rev. Robert Skirving has agreed to serve as a clergy Deputy to General Convention.
- One more clergy person and two lay persons are still to be nominated.
- No nominees have come forward from this Convocation to serve as Trustees.

A motion was made and approved that the Convocation Executive Committee be granted

authority to accept nominations of all qualified persons whose names may come forward by August 10 – when the above nominations are due.

Nominations for officers for Convocation this coming year will be overseen by Rev. Skirving and Rev. Boli and will be presented for a vote at the October meeting.

Under new business, a lively discussion was led by Rev. Judy Boli that time be set aside at each Convocation meeting for brainstorming ideas to help small churches grow. It was agreed that the computer world has to be considered as the means of communication to young people. Keeping web pages up to date is a necessary first step. Using Face Book by individuals is another means of advertising church affiliation. Each church is reminded to “Practice What They Preach.” Senior and Junior Wardens are elected leaders in each vestry and it may be helpful to have them meet to exchange ideas. A sign at St. Alban’s reads, “Thrive Not Survive.

Meeting closed at 9 PM with prayer by The Rev. Judy Boli.

Barbara Gladding and Melba Demas attended from St. John’s.

August Birthdays

August 1 – Trudi Clark
August 2 – Luke Sefanovsky
August 3 – Jim Davison
August 4 – Zachary Davison
August 6 – Loreen Smith
August 14 – Heather Clark
August 18 – Kenalee Atchinson
August 21 – Derek Stefanovsky
August 25 – Vernon Andrews
August 26 – Gabrielle Cooi
August 28 – Angela Holtz
August 29 – Janice Anspach

Reminders:

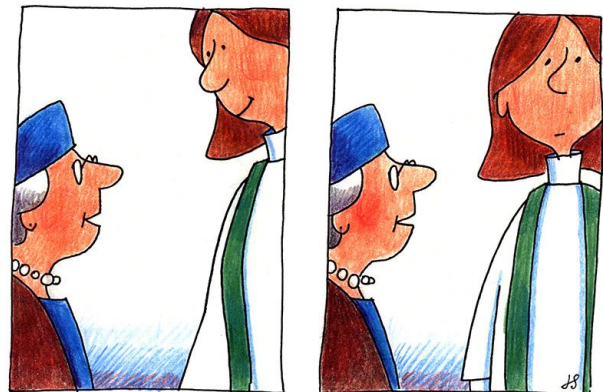
No ECW meetings or Sunday School until September.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers for Healing and Guidance:

Aaron Crispin (Relative/J&K Crispin)
Cheryl Longstreet (Relative of C&L. Smith)
Bob Hetzman (Friend of C& S Grover)
George Ruszkowski (Relative/E. Ruszkoski)
Jerry Crispin (Member)
Royce Clark (Member)
Tom & Judy Johnston (Friend of C&S Grover)
McKenzie Rose Stothers (Friend of A. Holtz)
Serving in the Military:
Billy Roberson (Nephew of C. Eckhoff)
Catherine (Zilch) McDonald (Daughter of C&L Zilch)
Karl Ruschman (Grandson of A. Radzibon)
Tony Dill (Relative of J&S Hamilton)

UTO Reminder – don’t forget to add coins to your United Thank Offering box when you have something to be thankful for – and we all know God gives us gifts every day. ☺

A Bit of Humor:



RECTOR, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M 100% IN FAVOR OF YOUR PLANS FOR CHURCH GROWTH

JUST AS LONG AS NONE OF THESE NEW PEOPLE SIT IN MY PEW.

From:

www.cpg.org/onlineresources/cartoons

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Sunday Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.
Christian Education (all ages): 9:00 a.m.

August 2010

St. John's is a Church of the Episcopal
Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, Bishop

The Rev. Dr. Mary Delaney, Rector
Nora Kowitz, Secretary
Bob Crist, Organist
Basil Anderson, Sexton

VESTRY

Jake Hamilton (Senior Warden), Kenalee
Atchinson and Nancy Mills (Junior
Wardens) Doug Ballard (Treasurer), Chris
Berry (Secretary), Bev Anderson, Alex
Radzibon, and Kay Wohlfeill