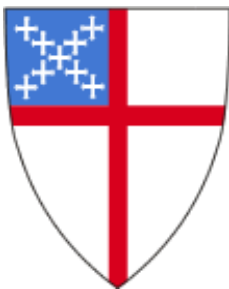


The Fabric of St. John's



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

September Newsletter



MEDITATIONS OVER A TINY CUP
(Submitted by B. Anderson)

Recently I was invited by a good friend to attend church with her and I did. It was a different denomination and the Sunday that I was there they had communion. They share communion a little differently than we do. There, the bread is brought down into the congregation on a tray by the elders. Each member of the congregation takes a piece of bread and passes the tray along.

Likewise the elders bring trays containing tiny cups of wine to the congregation for dissemination. After prayers are said the elements are consumed. I would like to share with you some of the thoughts I had as I held that tiny cup of wine.

The contents certainly looked like real blood, so dark and red, much like the blood I recently donated at the Red Cross blood drive. I was able to lie on a comfortable table to donate my blood. When the needle for the IV was inserted, the discomfort was no worse than a bee sting and was over quickly. Jesus, on the other hand, suffered excruciating pain as large spikes were hammered into his flesh to fasten him to a hard wooded cross. He had no comfortable bed to lie on and I'm sure the pain intensified each time he had to push up with his feet so that his body worked properly and he could draw a breath.

I am fortunate in that I have a strong vein in, my arm and for me; it only takes about 6-7 minutes to donate my one-pint. Then I'm rewarded with juice and cookies. It took Jesus hours of suffering to donate his blood. His reward was in doing the Father's will in providing the way to reunite all humanity with the Father. Jesus was raised from the dead, received a glorified body and will soon receive his bride, who are all those who believe and put their trust in him.

As I stared into that little cup of wine that I held, I was reminded anew of how much Jesus loves me and the blood that he willingly gave to cover my sins so that I would have everlasting life with him. Then, with a humbled and grateful heart, I lifted that little cup to my lips and drank.

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 8:30am-Spirtual Growth Group	3	4
5 9:00am–Bible Study/Sun Schl. 9:15am–Choir Practice 10:00am H.E. & Sermon	6	7 9:00 am Wardens & Rector Meeting	8	9 8:30am-Spirtual Growth Group	10	11
12 9:00am–Bible Study/Sun Schl. 9:15am–Choir Practice. 10:00am H.E. & Sermon, Potluck & Vestry Meeting after Service	13	14 4:40-7:30 Org. Meeting Alma College	15	16 8:30am-Spirtual Growth Group	17	18
19 9:00am Bible Study/Sun Schl. 9:15am Choir Practice 10:00 H.E. & Sermon Cong. Meets 6:00 pm Tazé	20 7:00pm- Saginaw Valley Convocation at St. Alban’s Bay City	21	22	23 8:30am-Spirtual Growth Group	24	25
26 9:00am –Bible Study/Sun Sch 9:15am Choir Practice 10:00am H.E. & Sermon DOK and ECW	27	28	29	30 8:30am-Spirtual Growth Group		

Daughters of the King Prayer

(Submitted by W. Brown)

Dear Lord,
I Praise you for smiles.
A smile is something anyone can do.
Smiles brighten up people's days
and tell others how much we like them.
The simple gesture of a smile
can cause a chain reaction of happiness.
Thank you for all the goodness that smiles cause.
Please remind everyone to smile
and make someone's day a little happier.
Amen.

Daughters of the King News

(Submitted by W. Brown & B. Anderson)

Thanks again to everyone who helped with blankets. We will be getting together again in Oct. Hope to see everyone there. Thanks also to everyone that helped to make school supplies available for needy middle schoolers here in Alma. As always it was a success. We will get them delivered for the start of school. We will hold our business meeting Sept 26th after service; all women are invited to join us.

We are still collecting school supplies for needy children. The list of items needed is in your Sunday bulletin. Please bring items in and place them on the table in the church library area. We plan to deliver the supplies by September 13, 2010. We have a nice selection of items collected so far, but remember, as the economy declines more children will be in need. Thanks for all that you do to help the community.

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

TAIZÉ

Please join us Sun September 19th at 6pm for an hour of prayer, soft music, and spiritual renewal. All are invited. We hope to see you there.

COATS, COATS, COATS

It's coming up on that time of year again. DOK will once again be collecting coats for needy youths and seniors in the neighborhood. We will collect through the month of Oct., and will have collection areas out in the community.

Youth Group

Welcome back!!! first meeting is Sunday Sept 12 at 9 at the local Burger King. Hope to see all teens there.

Sunday Dinner at St. Paul's, Saginaw

On Sunday, August 15, St. John's, Alma took their turn at providing dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Saginaw. Nancy Mills and Barbara Gladding prepared the food and along with Vlesta Alexander and Evelyn Gay served approximately 80 people that day. Total cost of the food prepared and taken to St. Paul's was donated by members of the parish. The menu of sloppy jo mix on buns, potato salad, baked beans and brownies was well received and we hope to duplicate it again next year.

St. Paul's is an inner city church that sponsors weekly meals for up to 100+ people. Food is provided and served by churches in Saginaw, and surrounding area, with St. Paul's filling in when no one has signed up. The Rev. Judy Boli is rector at St. Paul's.

ECW September Meeting Change

(Submitted by S. Hamilton)

All women of the church are members of Episcopal Church Women (ECW). St. John's-Alma ECW will consider its pre-scheduled plans for fall and Christmas activities and projects in September. Since vestry has scheduled a congregational meeting on September 19, ECW will hold its meeting in the church during coffee hour on Sunday, September 26, the same date that Daughters of the King will meet. If we women attend this meeting as well as we did last winter and spring, we should be off to a good start with our plans! Plan to come and join in the activity and fellowship!

Notes from the Senior Warden -(Submitted by J. Hamilton)

The September potluck dinner has been moved to the second Sunday because of the Labor Day Weekend.

Our next Congregational meeting will be held on September 19. Feel free to offer additional input to the vestry by using the survey sheets in the Narthex or talking to a vestry member. Any and all comments are appreciated and needed as we work on discerning God's will for St. John's, Alma.

I trust that the leaky roof situation is under control. Many thanks to the Jr. Wardens, Alex Radizbon, Rev. Mary, Nora, and everyone else who helped with that emergency in my absence.

Shirley and I are currently at our daughter Ada's home near Doylestown, PA. Tomorrow we will be taking the three grandkids camping in the Pocono Mtns. Then Friday we will travel on to Albany, NY to visit Shirley's niece before going on up into Maine for a week or so. From there it will be back toward Ithaca via Ontario to visit Shirley's brother. We plan to be home soon after Labor Day.

September Birthdays

September 9 - Ivan Holtz

September 15 - Corinne McMaster

September 18 - Chris Holtz

September 24 - Christine Berry

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

Ellen Wertz (Friend of E. Ruskowski)

George Ruskowski (Son/E. Ruskowski)

Jerry & Kay Crispin (Members)

McKenzie Rose Stothers (Friend of A. Holtz)

Natasha Stewart (Cousin of Rev. Mary)

Serving in the Military:

Billy Robertson (Nephew of C. Eckhoff)

Catherine McDonald (Daughter of C&L Zilch)

Michael Harper (Nephew of M. Trimmer)

Tony Dill (Relative of J. & S Hamilton)

Wesley White (Nephew of M. Trimmer)

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. ☺

Member of the Month

(Submitted by A. Holtz)

I joined St. John's Episcopal Church in 2003 when I began dating Chris Holtz, a fellow member. I loved the friendly atmosphere and the traditional liturgical worship. Now that Chris and I have children and are putting them first, I try to volunteer in ways that they can't interfere with.

My perfect Sunday involves hanging out with my boys in the Nursery, joining Richard and Carolyn Anderson for dinner and family time, and finally a long hike in the woods with Chris and the boys.

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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