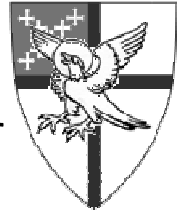




# THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 26, Issue 6

June 2009

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## Welcoming the Season of the Spirit – Anything but Ordinary!

As we celebrate Pentecost, we begin the second half of the church year. While the first-half of the church year (beginning in Advent) is centered around the life and earthly mission of Jesus Christ, the second half deals more directly with the life of the church – the continuation of Christ's mission – through the work, gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives. While Pentecost is a thrilling celebration, the culmination of the "Great Fifty Days of Easter," Pentecost probably looks quite scary through the eyes of the world, because Pentecost is all about a profound movement within ourselves: *transformation* and we don't always welcome that!



All of the readings from the Bible that we may associate with Pentecost speak to varied dimensions of change, both for each of us as individuals and as a whole. In the Gospel according to John, fear and anxiety about current events are replaced with the Holy Spirit as the force behind their lives and actions, allowing those gathered in the locked room to really know and accept *shalom* – God's Peace. In short, the Holy Spirit transformed fear into conviction and proclamation of the Good News of God in Christ. In the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, the transformation was seen with differing tongues of speech – diversity from a single way – to take the Good News into differing languages, thus differing cultures, and differing ways.

For me, Pentecost is about taking the idea of an Easter Life to the next level – to a transformed life. Again from Paul, in his second letter to the Church in Corinth, we read that, "If anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 *Corinthians* 5:17 NRSV) The "New Creation" is re-creation, being transformed, reinvented, revolutionized; in short, it is about growth and change and is an absolute foundational truth about our Christian faith. To be a Christian, you will grow, you will change, you will become a new creation. This is a promise of God and is fundamental to our Christian hope that we "live with confidence in newness and fullness of life, and await the [second] coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 861) Yes, I have talked, written and preached about this before, but let's face it, change, transformation, and growth is what the Church is all about! The problem is that we, as humans do not like it, and do our best to arrest it when we spot it. I believe a basic human temptation is to do all we can to simply remain where we have been, what is already known, comforting, and secure. With the celebration of Pentecost comes an essential question, "What is God calling us to be and do now?"



Our goal is to have an effective voice of the Gospel to the world, for the world and in the world. This means that we are called to constantly seek God in re-creating what we do and who we are as that voice, so that we can be as effective, accessible, and Transformative as possible. When you come right down to it, I think Pentecost may feel scary, because it is really not about us – Pentecost is about the work of the Holy Spirit – what God is hoping to do through us for others, to carry-on that work of reconciliation for the whole world. Part of our mission, therefore, is to do all that we can to not resist our growth and change, but to resist the temptation remain in what is simply familiar! We are called to grow in our faith. We, like the apostles before us, can allow the Holy Spirit that we celebrate at Pentecost to transform whatever fear and anxiety we have so that we welcome, embrace and proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom life to the world! Pentecost assures us that we are not about this mission alone, but are asked to live into the promise and hope that we are given by the Holy Spirit and reaffirm each year.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (*Romans* 15:13)

*Daven Clinton*

**St. John's Stories...**


You may have heard that story-telling is a lost art, now with computers, videos, and other such inanimate devices. I beg to differ, and if you want proof, talk to Jo Mitzel. Or rather, listen. I called Ms. Mitzel, thinking it would be a quick call and quick write-up. But within two minutes, I felt as if I were a child again, sitting cross-legged on the carpet, absolutely rapt in attention, as this 79 year old woman told me stories. She described herself as "happily divorced" from a troubled man, with three children, and five grandchildren and eight great grands.

With the sponsorship of a choir chair, Jo honors the memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Westwood, who were married by Father Montanus, and together for 71 (71!!) years. Her father was a machinist, and her mother a home-maker. Jo describes her mother as book-smart, and a thinker, and also a talented seamstress. She made Jo's wedding dress, and sewed for the grandkids. Her father could fix most anything, and happily fixed everything brought to him by family and friends. He liked to help people, and one way of showing it was plowing the snow from the sidewalks up and down the blocks. Jo recalled one of her parents' grandsons saying that every once in awhile, he just wanted to pick up the phone and talk to them, and then remembered it would be a long, long distance call. She said that was a great tribute to how her parents were there for everyone who needed them.



Her father died at 94, and her mother moved in with Jo. At some point, it was discovered that her mother had never been baptized. Jo sent Father Winters out after her, and her mother, in her 90s, became the oldest person Rich baptized. St. John's Church is about the people that live, worship, marry and die, past and present and future, in and around St. John's Episcopal Church. St. John's is made of people, not bricks. These stories are our heritage and need to be preserved. And ask Jo to tell you a story.

*Karen Parr*



**Altar Flower Sign-Up Form**  
 (Use this form or the calendar on the Parish Life bulletin board to reserve YOUR altar flower date!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is given (check one):

\_\_\_\_\_ In grateful thanksgiving for (e.g. blessings received, and important person in your life, an anniversary, or birthday).

\_\_\_\_\_ In loving memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable (\$35.00) to **St John's Church** and indicate Altar Flowers.)

# Happy Birthday

- 1 Jeff Endean
- 3 Ida Smith
- 4 Lynda Glenn
- 5 Janis Rump
- 7 Charlotte Jacqmain
- 8 Bryan Butterfield
- 11 Joshua Daugherty
- 16 Steven Jacqmain
- 18 Richard Mott
- 19 Mary Ellen Whitney
- 19 Lou Smith
- 20 Ned Wetmore
- 23 Alyse Strahm
- 24 Betty Donaghy
- 25 Thomas Blackney
- 26 Paulette Stuart
- 27 Nicholas Elin

## *Happy Anniversary!*

- 3 Connie & Tom Grantham
- 3 Kathie & Burris Smith
- 8 Sherrie & Randy Yeager
- 9 Myrna & Jeff Endean
- 13 Jane & Al Vondrasek
- 23 Eleanor & Carl McLaughlin
- 25 Adrienne & Tim Cole
- 27 Sarah & Darren Elin

# Thank You

Thank you Sue Luxton, Sharon Kaylor, Lou Smith, Ida Smith, and everyone to brought a wonderful side dish and dessert to the May Potluck!

Thanks to Michael Keenan, Linda Buzon, Ellen Redfield, Jane Girdham, Josie Keenan, Marcia Hoffman, Sarah Hoffman, and Lou Smith for all of your dedicated efforts helping with Innovo this year!

Thanks to Berney & Barb Jones, Lou Smith, Sallie Swanson, and John Roberts for assisting with hospitality for the Brahms' Requiem.

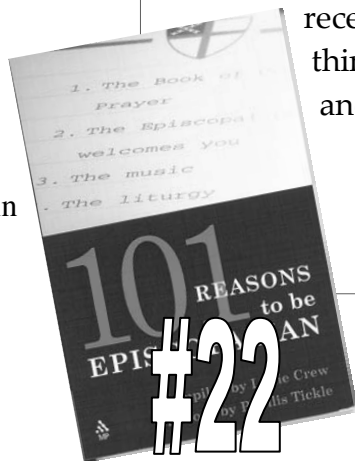
***Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.***

### Good Samaritans:

May 31 - June 13	Sperry Garber	790-4940
June 14 - June 27	Ruth Samra	792-6786
June 28 - July 11	Sue Luxton	684-9169

I love Anglicanism for its basic humanity, its sense of decency and order, its freedom of thought and its insistence on the corpus of faith, "those things necessary unto salvation." I love it for its tradition and for the women and men of faith who have been lights of the generations in whose company we worship. I love it for its quirkiness, its untidiness, its comprehensiveness and for its ability to receive, accept, alter or jettison new things, while being always merely and astoundingly the Church.

*Father Tony Clavier  
Diocese of South Dakota*



Cf. 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian, compiled by Louie Crew. © 2003 by Louie Crew/Morehouse ISDN 0-8192-1925-8 e Publishing.

***Thank you Teachers!***

Over this past season of Church School our teachers (all professional educators!) have come together again to create an environment for our young people that is meaningful to both their spiritual formation and sense of community at St. John's.

Each week they guide our youngsters through a program of lessons and activities appropriate for member and visitor alike.

Thank you Rachel D'Arpini, Elizabeth Stuber, and Sarah Elin, and Amy Simons for your labor of love!



***Thank you Choir!***

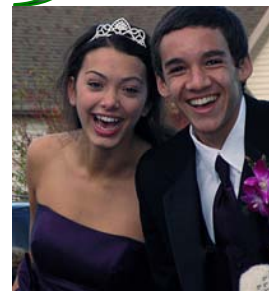
Another choir season has ended, and I'd like to thank all of the singers who volunteer so much time to keep the choir running smoothly and sounding so terrific! Our singers log in over 3,000 hours of volunteer time each year, which is nothing short of astounding! In addition to singing, several of our choir members help out behind the scenes. Susan Ludwig maintains our folders, robes and library and Ellen Redfield and Susan and Richard Marquardt take care of the choir notebooks. This is a lot of work, and it is much appreciated! Thank you to all!

Soli Deo Gloria,  
*Kevin Simons*



*Congratulations*  
**Class of 2009**

*Josie Keenan*  
&  
*Thomas Grantham*



***Annual Parish BBQ & Vision Celebration! - June 7th.***

Our annual Parish BBQ is quickly approaching! Following the 10:30 service on **June 7th** we will be gathering together as a parish for a mid-year review of our vision process. Also, the day of our final Parish Potluck, we will be firing up our grill for a festive BBQ! There will be lawn games for the grown-ups, crafts for the kids, food, and fellowship for all!

If you would like to bring a dish to pass... Last names starting with A-R please bring a hot side or salad. Last names starting with S-Z consider bringing one of your favorite desserts!



***Wedding Day – on TNT coming this June!***



*Holly & Steve*

Every couple dreams of having the perfect wedding. For many, it's the most important and emotional day of their lives. But for some, insurmountable obstacles create barriers to making their dream day a reality. Honoring these couples is the new TNT series "Wedding Day." In the premier episode, **June 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm**, St. John's is the location for one of these "dream weddings"

of the deserving couples! Learn the story of this Michigan couple and see how St. John's was transformed as part of their wedding!

***Habitat for Humanity – Blitz 2009!***

Mark your calendar for June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>! Habitat for Humanity is once again calling upon the volunteers of St. John's to help with *Blitz Build 2009*. This year, we'll have a great time while helping paint the interior of a home of the milestone 150<sup>th</sup> house! If you're interested in participating in this community wide project please call the parish office or sign up on the Parish Life board in the Community Room.



## *The CREDO Experience: Identity, Discernment, Practice and Transformation*

Darren+ has just returned from participating in a recent CREDO conference. CREDO stands for “Clergy Reflection Educational Discernment Opportunity” and is an eight-day conference where participants are invited to work with their peers and a faculty team on issues related to their health, finance, vocation, spiritual well-being and visioning. This was actually the second CREDO that Darren+ has attended with the hope that he will attend several altogether over the course of his career.

CREDO was founded in 1997 as a pilot program funded by The Church Pension Group. The number of participants has grown each year, with more than 500 clergy and bishops attending a conference in 2005. More than 2,300 Episcopal clergy, deacons and bishops from virtually every diocese in the country have taken advantage of the CREDO benefit. Participants are selected at random from all active clergy with more than one year in the pension fund. The Church Pension Group is the major sponsor for CREDO which sees the program as a valuable investment that is made towards the health and future of the Church’s leadership.



Darren+ joined 30 other clergy in this second-level CREDO conference. Over the course of the conference, participants met in plenary sessions, small groups and private consultations with faculty members. CREDO is also designed for participants to have ample quiet time to reflect on their personal and professional lives, discerning the future direction of their lives and ministry, responding in new ways to their sense of vocation. Each participant commits to extensive reflection through pre-conference instruments and surveys that focus on personal and professional wellness. Part of the preparation was to have ten respondents complete a “Clergy Vocational Profile” which is an on-line survey that is used to help make observations about how a clergy person is seen in their ministry and wellness by others. The work of CREDO is organized around four major areas in each person’s personal and professional life. Each of these components is explored as an integral part of the whole.

- **Spiritual** – offers CREDO as a sacred space where each participant can reflect on his or her interior life and relationship with God in Christ.
- **Vocational** – provides opportunities for reflection, discernment and planning in the professional areas of vocation, career and work.
- **Health** – encourages reflection on physical and emotional health and well-being, stewardship of the body and development of a plan to address the individual’s health needs.
- **Financial** – explores all aspects of personal financial management and encourages reflection on God-given resources and how best to use them in response to God’s call.

Through this discernment and visioning process, and with the help of a faculty team of professionals, each participant builds a CREDO Plan – a personal covenant based on his CREDO work and an expression of the CREDO experience. The CREDO Plan provides a personal baseline and strategy for effective implementation. Now having returned from CREDO II, your ongoing support and prayers will be an essential part of Darren’s realization of his CREDO Plan, which has already had been shared with the Vestry. Now comes the excitement and challenge of living into his goals and vision for the future. Here is a personal example of how one can live into transformation!



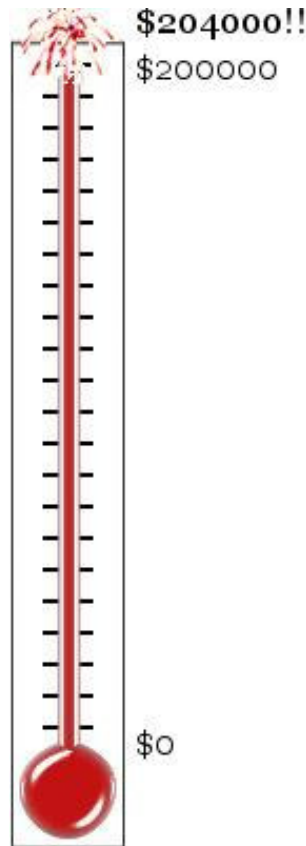
 <p>1004 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 <a href="http://www.tristartrust.com">www.tristartrust.com</a></p>	<p><b>Is your financial life too complex?</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>◆ Financial Planning</td> <td>◆ Trust Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Brokerage Services</td> <td>◆ 401 (k) Plans</td> </tr> <tr> <td>◆ Retirement Plans</td> <td>◆ Investments</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Let Tri-Star Trust Bank help you Simplify Your Life. Contact Jerry Young, Vice President: <a href="mailto:jerry@tristartrust.com">jerry@tristartrust.com</a></i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">○ Simplifying Life.</p>	◆ Financial Planning	◆ Trust Services	◆ Brokerage Services	◆ 401 (k) Plans	◆ Retirement Plans	◆ Investments
◆ Financial Planning	◆ Trust Services						
◆ Brokerage Services	◆ 401 (k) Plans						
◆ Retirement Plans	◆ Investments						

**Thank you! Your Commitment Makes a Difference!!**

Thanks to your continued support and generosity we have now received pledges and commitments for our current year's goal of \$200,000. Actually, our combined pledge total projects us to exceed our goal by over \$4,000!! Thanks to you and the commitment shared by your fellow church members we remain "on-track" – not only for this current program year, but also in the larger sense of turning our parish around.

As you know this year's budget is part of an overall four-year financial plan to eliminate our recurring operating deficit. Living into our commitment and mission means we continue to take a great step in realizing the goal of the plan: a zero deficit by 2011. This year's goal is simply one of several crucial goals that create an overall financial picture for St. John's that is viable and sustainable in years ahead. So our job is hardly over, as we already begin to consider how best to reduce our program budget by \$40,000 for next year and increase income wherever and whenever possible.

Come hear more about these steps at our Annual Parish BBQ on June 7<sup>th</sup> and thank you for your continued support of the ministry we share at St. John's!



**New Efforts to Go Green!**



Soon you'll notice a beautiful new green bike rack next to the main entrance at St. John's. This addition will provide more opportunity for those in our congregation to "go green," stay healthy, and soak in the city view on their way to church! A special thanks to Duncan Redfield, Ellen Redfield, and Berney Jones for your dedication and effort!





**JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL**  
Steak ♦ Seafood ♦ Spirits

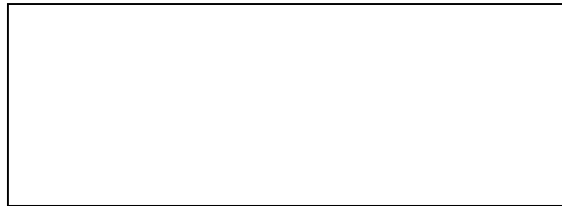
*Bring this copy of the St. John's Messenger to Jake's Old City Grill  
And 10% of your **food** purchase will be refunded back to St. John's!*

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## *June At St. John's!*

### ***June 7st. Annual Parish BBQ***

Join us after the 10:30 service for our Annual Parish BBQ. We'll have all of your favorite Summer BBQ foods, activities for the whole family, and great

company!  
It's not the same without YOU!



### ***Sunday's in June***



Each Sunday evening starting in June one of our Summers feature films will be showing on the corner of Ames and North Hamilton! All you need is a chair, a snack, and a friend to enjoy the show! Take advantage and support the immediate community around St. John's.

### ***June 26th-27th. Habitat for Humanity***

Join St. John's and help with *Blitz Build 2009*. This year, we'll have a great time while helping paint the interior of the milestone 150<sup>th</sup> house!

