



# THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 27, Issue 9

October 2009

The Messenger is published monthly by St. John's Episcopal Church, 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602. This publication is mailed to our parishioners at no cost to them.

## *It Takes All of Us to Help Live Faithfully – Outside the Box!*

This program year, I am asking you to join me in embracing a new message: *Our ministry is taking us out of the box!* We are trying some bold new ways and approaches to continue being faithful to our mission and ministry. No doubt, some of these new approaches will work, some will not, but together I am certain we can discern the next step towards a bright and vibrant future and hope-filled tomorrow, fulfilling our mission in new ways to meet these days.



- **Christian Formation for Children** – Building upon what we can *experience* together, we are trying a whole new approach with our “Festive Sundays,” when after worship, we enjoy a meal and fellowship together, along with an intergenerational program / activity about the particular season or major celebration of the Church. In addition to the service for St. Francis with the Blessing of Animals on October 4<sup>th</sup> (4pm), our first Festive Sunday will be October 25<sup>th</sup> when we learn about and prepare for All Saints’ Day (the following Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>).

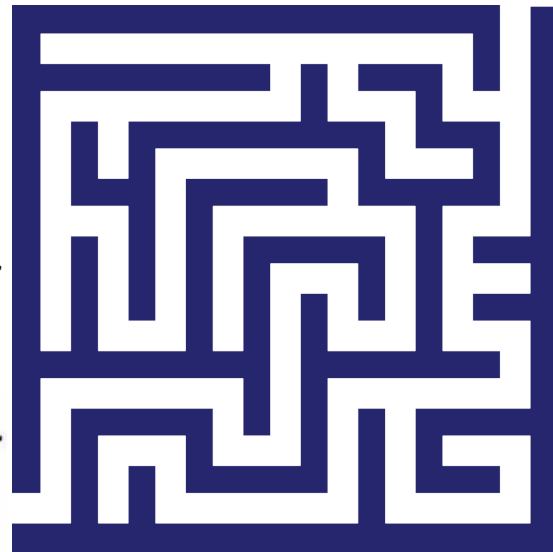
### **Activity Bags** (for Pre-K and elementary grade levels) –

Besides the modeling that you as a parent (or grandparent) can provide, we will have ‘equipped’ activity bags available for Pre & Kindergarten, as well as Elementary grade levels. There will be resources to share as a family based on that particular week’s lessons.

**Older children and youth** – Working with each individual to discover their own part of the ministry we share together, whether in worship, hospitality, outreach, formation or all the above.

**Goal** – It is our goal to provide resources that families need to help grow their child’s spirituality throughout the week as well as on Sundays.

**Nursery** – Similarly, the **nursery** will remain available on a self-service basis, meaning that parents are free to use the nursery with their child, as they need to; knowing that children are always welcome to be in the midst of the worship first and foremost.



- **Adult Opportunities for Life-long Growth** –Worship remains at the center of what we are all about and to best adapt to different schedules.

**New Sunday evening service** – With a later time of 7:30pm, we are able to provide people who are returning to town from the weekend an opportunity to worship, as well as greater variety. Responding to suggestions, the Sunday evening service will feature Evening Prayer (either said or sung) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, the Holy Eucharist on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and sung Compline on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month. We still have a mid-week service on Wednesdays at noon in the chapel.

- **New Book Discussion Group** – Beginning Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, St. John’s will be hosting a “Brown Bag Book Group” following the noon service, from 12:45 to 1:30. Bring a lunch, bring yourself and the book we’re discussing as we explore aspects of our faith through engaging literature. Come give it a try – No experience needed and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend!! The first book we’ll be exploring will be *The Great Emergence* by Phyllis Tickle.

- **Forum for the Inquiring Mind** –The first of several special offerings / programs throughout the year will be a special forum series, designed for both our newcomers as well as ‘more experienced parishioners who want learn more’ – think of it as the “Forum for the Inquiring Mind” or “St. John’s 101” – understanding why we do the things we do in the Episcopal Church. Please join us each week from 11:45 to 12:30 for this short and fun series. All our welcome!!

*Come be an active part of this exciting new program year and help us take the ministry we share “Outside the Box”!*

*Susan Clinton*

### ***An Overdue Thank You...***

Bill Frederick represented the Vestry and the congregation at a Sunday service this September when he offered Darren and his family an overdue gesture of gratitude for their gifts and service here at St. John's. Below are his words:

*These next few months mark two important anniversaries. In three short months, it will have been ten years since Darren was ordained to the priesthood. And five years ago he became our rector here at St. John's.*

*I'm not sure the first 5 years fully prepared Darren for his time here. The past 5 years have been eventful and challenging to say the least. They have been a time of change here, as it has been for the city and wider community. The Vision process, cottage meetings, church turn-around, and TV wedding are all notable events. As we moved the altar forward and the communion rail to the main floor, we began to live into our vision of accessibility.*

*Darren's leadership is noteworthy because he leads from among us, encouraging and empowering us all to be God's ministers. In addition, Darren plays a significant role in the Diocese, developing programs such as the one for Safe Church, serving on Diocesan committees and mentoring mutual ministry teams.*

*Quietly in the background, Sarah provides a wealth of support and encouragement. She also shares her gift of music with us. In any young family, difficult choices in where time is spent have to be made. Sarah, Elizabeth, and Nicholas, thank you for your generosity in sharing your father and husband with us.*

*We are deeply grateful to both of you for the many gifts you have brought to St. John's. The Vestry, on behalf of the entire congregation, would like to present this card and gift as a token of our appreciation. We hope it will provide you with an enjoyable family activity.*

Again, we thank Darren and his Family, here, as a way to share publicly how grateful we are for their leadership and support.



 <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Financial Planning</li><li>◆ Brokerage Services</li><li>◆ Retirement Plans</li><li>◆ Trust Services</li><li>◆ 401 (k) Plans</li><li>◆ Investments</li></ul> <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>○ Simplifying Life.</p>
---	---

## Happy Birthday!

- 1 Nancy Cramer
- 5 Elizabeth Fenner
- 5 Michelle Hoepfner
- 6 Patricia Kennedy
- 7 Tony Vlassis
- 8 Cole Winters
- 8 Bill Lawrence
- 9 Joanna Mitzel
- 14 Kirk Smith
- 14 Jane Girdham
- 15 Mercedes Garza
- 17 Anne Beckley
- 20 Sharon Kaylor
- 22 Jane Wilber
- 23 Cynthia Baillie
- 24 Madison Shinaberry
- 25 Claire Santhany
- 25 Bruce Wells
- 27 John Bovill
- 27 Joyce Czerwinski
- 28 Joshua Stuber
- 29 Marvin Hoepfner

## Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Annerose & Jim Shannon
- 6 Katie & Daniel Keehn
- 8 Janis & Mike Rump
- 10 Stephanie & Derek Peters
- 15 Jane Girdham & Michael Keenan
- 24 Marsha & Jim Braun

## Thank You

Thanks to all of our Start-Up Sunday potluck volunteers including but not limited to: **Keith Birdsall** and **Jack Luston** for their skill on the grill, **Sharon Kaylor, Lou Smith, Ruth Samra,** and **Mary Spence** in the kitchen, and **Ellen Redfield, Michael Keenan,** for cleaning-up!

Thanks to all of our terrific Flower Cheer volunteers for the kind thoughts, warm wishes, and time spent with those of our parish in critical need: **Kim Burau, Betty Grills, Sue & Jack Luxton, Sue Marquardt, Ida Smith, Lou Smith,** and **Joan Wendland**

We are always also thankful of our lunch bag outreach volunteers: **Keith Birdsall, Susan Daugherty, Dorthy & Ivory Henry, Sharon Kaylor, Nancy Kraus, Susan Ludwig, Val McDonald, Ellen Redfield,** and **Burris Smith.**

*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.*



**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
*You are cordially invited to attend...*  
**A Reception and Cottage Meeting**  
 COMING SOON!  
 Please join The Reverend Darren Elin, *Rector*,  
 Ms. Ellen Redfield and Mr. Keith Birdsall, *Wardens*,  
 Vestry Members, and your fellow parishioners, for an update on our parish.  
 Look for *your* invitation soon and RSVP!

<b>Good Samaritans:</b>		
Sep 20 - Oct 3	Lou Smith	799-5583
Oct 4 - Oct 17	Kathie & Burris Smith	792-4775
Oct 18 - Nov 1	Barbara & Berney Jones	793-0030

Where faith is God's gift to us, not our gift to God.

*Louie Crew*  
 Diocese of Newark



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

## ***How do you serve? Becoming more involved in our shared parish life...***

Just as cities, organizations, and families grow through commitment and experience with each other... so does the church! St. John's is living into its intergenerational programming in ways that uses the talents and strengths of *every* member to exercise the Body of Christ.

1 Corinthians, chapter 12 speaks about our place in the Body this way:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ... But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. Now, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

You were blessed with a special set of gifts that **only you** can bring to our parish body. The best part about these gifts is that we are not asked apply them perfectly the first time we try, but rather, success comes as we discover and develop them over time with God and each other.

Where do you find an opportunity to mature your gifts, and thus the community at St. John's? There's room to lead or simply try something new! Here's just a sampling of the ways to be involved:

**Choir:** Have a musical talent? Want a musical talent? The choir is a terrific place to help lead our worship service. In the capable hands of Kevin Simons, any willing volunteer can learn to grow in this musical community.

**Altar Guild:** Interested in a more "behind the scenes" role in worship? This ministry includes care and cleaning of linens, brass, silver, and glass receptacles as well as upkeep of the Sacristy, Sanctuary, and Baptistery. Members are scheduled by the week and also meet once a month for a social dinner.

**Outreach Projects:** Are you socially minded? Lunch Bag Outreach, Christmas Basket Outreach, C.A.N. mittens, Hope Totes, Habitat for Humanity, and Crop Walk are just *some* of the ways St. John's strengthens our community. Participation in any and all of these events is a great way to see "outside the box" or in this case... the church.

**Worship Leaders:** Acolytes, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Greeters/Hosts are crucial for the flow and function of our worship services. These men and women perform duties ranging from lighting the candles, reading lessons, and welcoming our guests to assisting with communion. You can read more about which job might be right for you on our website: [www.stjohns-saginaw.org/worship.html](http://www.stjohns-saginaw.org/worship.html)

**Shared Leadership:** Do you have a gift for organization or vision for the future at St. John's? Or maybe you are someone who is a good listener and will consider new perspectives that others might overlook. You can find a home on the Building & Grounds Committee, Finance Team, Garden Team, or maybe prayerfully consider running for Vestry.

Just as it's important to exercise our own bodies evenly to be fit and healthy, it's important for members of the Body of Christ to move and grow alongside each other. Remember, you don't need to know everything before you start... most of what we learn, we learn along the way. If you have any questions about how to be more involved or want a suggestion about where you might find a good fit you can contact any of our staff directly by email or by calling the parish office at 793-9575.

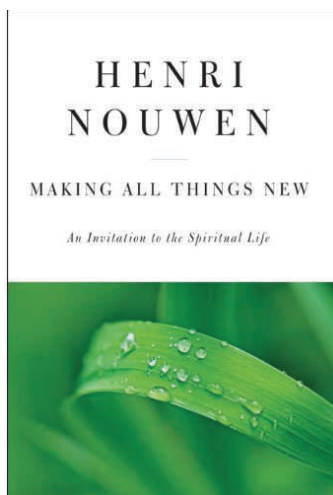
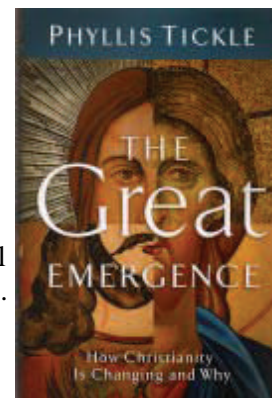


## ***Brown Bag Book Discussion Group – Wednesdays (12:45—1:30pm)***

*Get a copy of these great books and join us as we read and discover together about:*

***The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why*** – Phyllis Tickle [October's Book of the month]

A recent book review commented that Tickle “examines a phenomenon she refers to as the Great Emergence, a once-every-500-years trend within Christianity, in which a new and “more vital” form of the religion emerges.” Tickle believes such a development is happening now. To make her case, Tickle examines the history of Christianity, the effect of 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century cultural and social upheavals on religion, and the theories of major 20<sup>th</sup>-century thinkers. Tickle invites her readers to acknowledge the inevitability of change and to participate in the transformation.



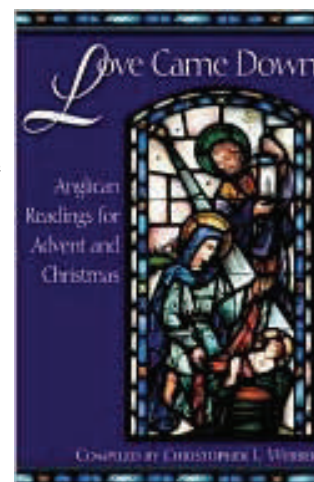
***Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*** – Henri J. Nouwen [November's Book of the Month]

Ever wondered what is actually meant by ‘the spiritual life?’ This little book by Henri Nouwen not only explains what the spiritual life is but also creates a desire to live into it for yourself.

Amazon.com Review – *Michael Joseph Gross* – “A short, clean, clear book about how to begin finding the peace of mind to hear the voice of God. [Nouwen] explains, with devastating directness, the destructive effects of busy-ness and its attendant habit of worrying, then shows how Jesus responds to these worries, and finally describes some disciplines that “can cause our worries slowly to lose their grip on us, and which can thus allow the Spirit of God to do his recreating work.” Nouwen's voice sounds like that of the mentor or spiritual director that many people have always wished for....”

***Love Came Down: Anglican Readings for Advent and Christmas*** – Christopher L. Webber [December's Book of the Month]

From Publishers Weekly – Webber's collection of Anglican readings for Advent and the 12 days of Christmas is a feast for the mind and the heart. The readings come from a host of Anglicans, including Madeleine L'Engle, John Donne, Christina Rossetti, Phillips Brooks and Dorothy Sayers. Readers who are willing to dig deeply into the riches of the season will welcome this book as a guide to observing Advent as a period of solemnity and hope. [Cf. Publishers Weekly – Ó 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.]



*All books are available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or your favorite book retailer (call Darren+ in the Church office for additional information / assistance).*

## ***Living Into Our Vision and Growing Outside the Box:***

*A Report to the Parish presented on "Kick-Off Sunday," September 13, 2009*

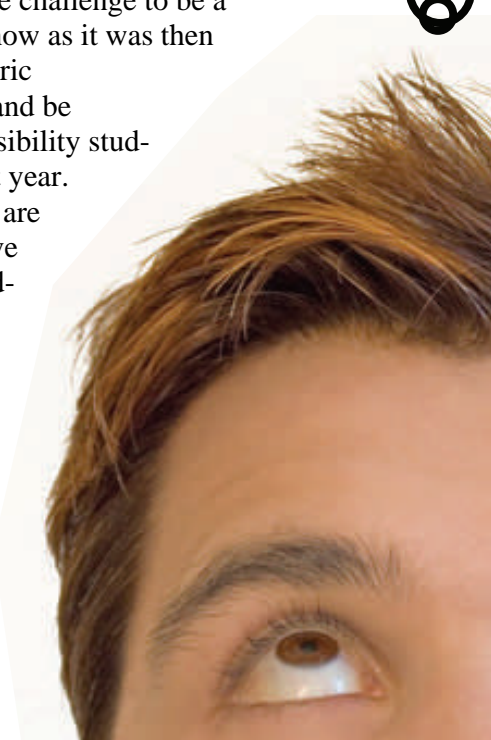
The church program year for 2009-2010 has us thinking and *growing* outside the box! We are clearly at a time and place in which the old ways in which we have 'done church' can no longer support the needs we have now. Peoples' lives, schedules and resources are far more complex and limited in terms of what is available today and each Sunday for that matter. Relationships, the community and the ministry we share remain at the core of what makes St. John's what it is today, just as it has for nearly 160 years! Now more than ever, the gifts that you can offer of *your* time, talent and treasure are what will make our ministry possible and help us remain faithful to our mission.

Over this past summer, your leadership of the parish has worked extra hard, to prepare for this new program year, and to best assess and then prayerfully consider where and how God is speaking to this faith community to move ahead. We are not simply trying to run existing programs with ever-stretched resources, we are in many cases trying an entirely different approach. *You* are what can make this happen – it takes nothing short of a shared commitment from all of us! Your leadership, including Vestry, Finance Team, and staff has affirmed a clear sense of calling in order to live into our vision, which includes:

- **A Calling to Pursue and Fully Live Into our Vision**
- **A Calling to Live Into our Identity and Purpose with the Challenges of Smaller Resources**
- **A Calling to Explore New Ways of Being St. John's**
- **A Calling to Develop New Means to Be St. John's**

### *To Pursue and Fully Live Into Our Vision*

Two Years ago, our parish celebrated the discernment of our common vision for our parish – who we know ourselves to be and what we are about in terms of our purpose to care, share, worship, celebrate and love. The number *one* priority to emerge from this vision is the challenge to be a place of hospitality and welcome, particularly with accessibility. It is clear now as it was then that we all feel extremely blessed to be entrusted with the beautiful and historic buildings and grounds as our parish is; how to enable people to fully utilize and be included in our mission and ministry became the prime directive for us. Feasibility studies and options as to the best approach birthed the idea that we presented last year. And then...the market crashed and the economy has brought us to where we are today! Once again, life took another turn, but the mission and our vision have remained clear – to be accessible and welcoming for all God's people, including those with physical limitations. Since our cottage meetings last year, we have also undertaken additional conversations and assessments from various professionals as to the best approach; while at the same time, attend to the challenges of our ongoing operations today. As a result, there are some small steps we can take now which we have already begun, such as replacing the stairlift in the Community Room. We are now confident the best way to turn our vision and *top* priority of accessibility into reality has been identified, and your parish leadership feels the time *is* upon us to give the parish the opportunity to make this happen beginning in 2010. And still we know our calling is more.



*To Live Into Our Identity and Purpose with the Challenges of Smaller Resources*

St. John's is not immune from the challenges that have come along with recent market fluctuations and overall decreasing population in and around Saginaw. Two years ago, we faced a projected budget deficit of \$160,000; as we approach 2010, we are targeting a deficit of around \$55,000. As you have experienced yourself, we have made tremendous progress towards eliminating our recurrent operating deficit, while at the same time continuing to reach out in more ways. These next two years are critical!

Frankly speaking, as much as we have been able to restructure and reduce costs overall, the remaining difference will not be met by cuts alone. What is clear is any further reduction of expenses will affect the overall viability of our ministry. In gardening, there's a difference between pruning and cutting too far back that life cannot be sustained, let alone grow. So it is with the church as we face the final years of our deficit reduction plan. We are well pruned, but can we afford to cut anymore? In order to meet our goals for 2010, we have cut or eliminated positions on staff and everyone is affected. We will not be able to sustain this in the long-run.

*To Explore New Ways of Being St. John's*

While our resources have changed, our mission still remains the same. We still understand our core purpose as being a faith community called to care, share, worship, celebrate and love – it's just that how we live into this is changing. We are more united now than we have been in years! One of the ways this is clearly seen is in how we share our time and talent. Almost all of us have discovered or rediscovered the incredible gift and satisfaction that comes with direct involvement, with volunteering and sharing new ideas as well as collective wisdom and experience. Beginning with the Vision Process itself, we have explored new approaches, rediscovered valued traditions and established new practices. As you continue to read and experience in these coming weeks, the 2009-2010 program features even bolder approaches (see p.4 for more details).

*To Develop New Means to Be St. John's*

Expense reductions have been essential, but alone they are not the solution. It is imperative that as a parish, we cultivate new resources for our ministry, both now and for the years to follow. St. John's would not be the community it is today had it not been for the generosity of past generations. Right now our ancestors are paying a good share of the cost involved in our ministry. We can make this change. Like most urban churches, we live with the reality that it takes more than we would otherwise consider to make our ministry happen. Your leadership has now taken steps to create a way for any and all of us to make difference and contribute to the needs of our mission well into the future by developing a new *Legacy Endowment Fund*. Alongside our existing portfolio, this new fund would be a protected fund, the growth from which would help support new and existing ministry in the areas of: Christian education, building & grounds, Church music, as well as worship & ministry. This is one of the new means by which we each can share from what God has blessed us with in order live into our vision and realize our calling for generations to come.

*Come be an active part of this exciting new program year and help us take the ministry we share "Outside the Box"!*

### *Continuing on the Journey of Formation and Ministry*

I would like to fill you in on the changes in my life, and changes in how I serve Christ at St. John's. Many of you know I have a neuro-musclar/neuro-motor disease, which feels more like Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde. On some days I can move as if I'm not sick at all, and on others, I'm pretty well stuck in the wheelchair or in bed. I also have the privilege of helping out my parents, now 83 and 87, hopefully so they can remain in their house as long as they want.

For three years, I have been an intern, with the hope that this year, if not last year, I would be off to seminary. However, many different things have thrown me off course. In addition to my health, the down economy has effected me, and seminaries. It's expensive! The new diocesan school is a really an exciting idea, and I'll be interested to hear how this goes. At this point, it didn't seem like a good fit for me. Darren+ is an extraordinary teacher, and I've been able to learn a great deal already.



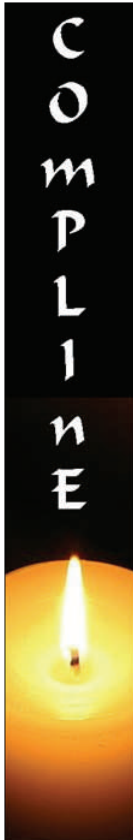
So, now what? Darren+ and I talked, and decided that I would narrow my focus down, and work primarily with pastoral care. I've had extensive training in chaplaincy, and have had numerous opportunities to practice pastoral care. However, I can't do this alone. There's a lot of people in our church, and a lot get sick, lose jobs, confront family problems, and we no longer have first Kenneth and then Virginia to help out. But the church has you. If you have a friend that hasn't been around awhile, give them a call. If you are visiting as a Eucharistic Visitor, a friend or whatever, you too can offer some peace and comfort. And please let Darren+ or myself if you have a concern, someone you know or you yourself. Most people do this already with friends and family—please keep up with this important ministry, and let us know if we can help. Feel free to call me if you want more info or ideas, or meet up with me at church.

In the meantime, thanks for all the support (and patience) you've given me over the past few years. I'm not sure where I will end up in terms of ministry down the road, and your prayers are always needed and appreciated.

Karen Parr

*Thank you Karen for all that you continue to offer in Christ's Name in and around St. John's! We are certainly blessed in your willingness to serve as our pastoral care coordinator. DE+*

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL</b> <b>Steak ♦ Seafood ♦ Spirits</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bring this copy of the St. John's Messenger to Jakes Old City Grill for <b>Sunday Brunch</b> (10:30am till 2:30pm) and 10% of your <b>food</b> purchase will be donated back to St. John's!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">100 SOUTH HAMILTON ♦ OLD SAGINAW CITY, MI 48602 ♦ 989-79-STEAK <a href="http://www.jakesforsteaks.com">www.jakesforsteaks.com</a></p>
---	---



*Compline... a service of music and stillness.*

**What will happen?**

In a darkened church on **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**, the choir of St. John's will lead anyone who wishes to join them in a Compline service. Keeping with its tradition, Compline is offered when the work of the day is completed and the quietness of evening settles over the hearts and minds of those who have come together. Unlike our traditional Sunday morning services (which are always a celebration of the resurrection) Compline can be an opportunity to calmly offer thanks for the blessings of the day which has passed and in anticipation of God's gift of tomorrow.

**Where did Compline come from?**

The Office of Compline originated and developed in southern Europe and the Middle East during the first six hundred years of Christianity. At first, Compline was offered primarily by the monastic communities, but as Christian influence spread throughout Europe and the Mediterranean area, the offices found a place in local liturgical settings. Today, an Order for Compline can be found in the Book of Common Prayer as part of the Anglican services of daily prayer, known collectively as the Daily Office.

Join us October 18th for a service whose inspirations go back almost as far as Christianity itself. All are welcome... come as you are.

***RUN, WALK, and SUPPORT the Saginaw County Crop Walk - October 11th!***

This annual event raises awareness and support in the fight against hunger. A large portion of the proceeds gained stay right here in Saginaw to help our own community members in need. Let's be sure that we continue to support this worthy cause as well as have some fun along the way!

This year St. John's is the start/finish stop as well as event-day headquarters for Crop Walk volunteers. The distance is 10K, there are rest stops along the way, and Crop Walk vehicles will be circulating in case anyone needs to be picked up. So what do we do next?

1. Pick up a Walker Form and route map which will be available after Sunday services.
2. Build your team and collect donations for Crop Walk.
3. See or call Lou Smith at 799-5583 if you have any questions!



Not much of a walker? You can still help by sponsoring a walker or assisting as a host/cookie baker as we offer hospitality to our guests during the event.



### **PURGE!**

No, not your soul this time, but your house! We are going to have a program fundraiser rummage/white elephant/bake sale here at St. John's in November (probably the 7th).

Remember the candlesticks Uncle Henry and Aunt Maude gave you for a wedding gift? Or the lovely sweater you bought that you have never worn because the sleeves were too short for you? Turn them into CASH for St. John's. We will start collecting items which you will be able to deposit here in a designated spot which we will announce soon. We will need workers, bakers, etc.

**If you would like to be a part of the planning for this event please come to a meeting here on Wednesday, October 7th at 2:00 p.m.** However, you need not be present at this meeting to participate. Let's start cleaning out our attics, closets, and drawers!

Contact Lou Smith (799-5583) for more details.



### **Are you "Pictured" Yet?**



Remember to schedule your 2009 Parish Directory photo shoot date because *this project is not complete without you!*

If you have not yet made your appointment or need to confirm your date you can contact Pat Lynes at 793-7910.

Your families participation is at **NO COST** to you and includes:

- 1 free 8x10 color portrait
- 1 free pictorial directory
- 1 discount certificate if you choose to order more prints.

### **Festive Sunday - October 25th.**

Be sure to join us for a Festive Sunday and Parish Potluck October 25th Following the 10:30 service! This will be a meal full of fellowship as well as spiritual formation for the whole family.

Members with the last names beginning with A-G please bring one of your families favorite deserts. And members with last names H-Z please bring a hot side or salad. If you are visiting with us this Sunday please *be our guest!*



# Someplace Else BAR & GRILL

**OPEN SUNDAY!**

**DAILY LUNCH & DRINK SPECIALS**

**HOUSE-SMOKED BBQ MENU!**

118 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602

989-792-0123

[www.gosomeplaceelse.com](http://www.gosomeplaceelse.com)

## ***Centering Prayer... Peace and Quiet***

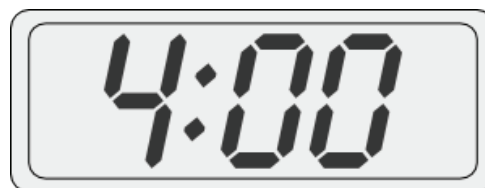
Do you feel stressed? Rushed? Behind on projects? Feeling your life is out of balance? "Sure" you say... "but who doesn't?"

There is something at church that could help.

As a part of our adult formation program, we offer a time to listen to a gospel reading and meditate. Every week we meet at St. John's, read the gospel assigned, and then silently meditate for about 20 minutes. While styles of meditation differ and everyone finds their own way to best apply their "quiet time" the outcome is the same... a moment to center, or settle down... to be open to God—not so much an invitation to God, but the awareness of God's eternal presence in your life. Some meditate on the gospel reading, some choose a word or phrase from the gospel, or choose a thought that is meaningful to them. If you get restless, or sleepy, you just move your attention back to the word or phrase you had chosen earlier. After the mediation, we recite the Lord's Prayer, share our mediation experiences if desired, and then ask what the group can hold in prayer for each member, for the next week.

St. John's offers this program every Wednesday at 4 pm in the Guild Room, and we are generally finished by about 4:45 pm. This is a great way to lay your burden down, introduce a peaceful and intentional time and space to just be in God's presence, as well as a chance to build relationships and community. If you have questions, please call the office at 793-9575.

Come and rest.



## ***Developing New Means to Fulfill Our Mission***

Many of you may not be aware, but St. John's has a fund at the Saginaw Community Foundation that is a sponsor-designated fund. The St. John's Fund is an outreach fund, whereby St. John's has the opportunity to receive an annual dividend that, in accordance with Saginaw Community Foundation guidelines, will then be directed toward outreach programs in the community.

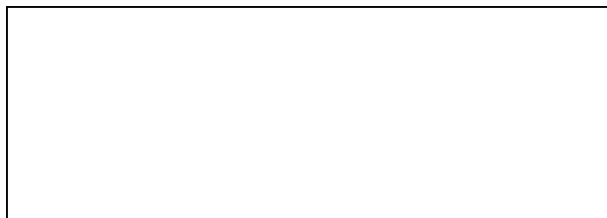
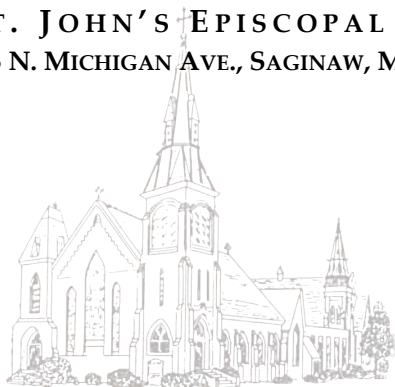


If you are a current *Cornerstone Club* member or other contributor to the Saginaw Community Foundation, you have the option of designating a specific fund to where your contribution will go. Pledge cards will be coming out soon from the Saginaw Community Foundation and I would ask you to consider designating the St. John's Fund for all or a portion of your contribution. In this way, we can gain much-needed dollars for our Outreach programs.

There something that makes these contributions special! Contributions to the Saginaw Community Foundation qualify for a state income tax credit of up to 50% or \$200, whichever is larger. That means if you give \$400 or more to the Saginaw Community Foundation and file a joint return, you will receive a tax-credit of \$200 when you file your Michigan State Income taxes, plus the tax-deduction of the donation itself, AND you help St. John's continue to help others in need. A win, win, win! Please contact the church office at 793-9575 for information.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
123 N. MICHIGAN AVE., SAGINAW, MI 48602-4235

Non-Profit  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Saginaw, MI  
Permit No. 111



## Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis



### ***Animal Blessing.***

*You and your pets are invited to  
an informal family evensong and*

***The Blessing of the Animals,***

*in the Community Room  
on Sunday October 5 at 4:00 p.m. to  
Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis.*

*Bring the whole family  
and share this  
unique opportunity to  
celebrate God's creation together.*

**Sunday, October 4th at 4:00pm**