



# THE MESSENGER



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

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## Out of the Box

If life were really all that simple, than why haven't we figured it out yet? It seems to me that a basic human temptation is the desire to find an easy answer, especially to the complexity and messiness of life today. As I have been reading the news, which recently means holding a track-pad or a touch screen rather than a paper, I find myself, like so many of our neighbors waiting, it seems for a giant shoe to drop next. We have another cloud over us and if it isn't Delphi or GM, then it could be any number of situations that make our life today what it is...anything but comfortable or secure. Clearly, there are no quick and easy answers to the kind of complex life that we are called into, and yet I feel our beloved Episcopal Church is quite ready to meet the 'changes and chances' of these days.

Think about it. Ours is a church that does believe that life is complex and so we need more than a sound byte or bumper sticker to best get at what might be God's *yearning* for our lives. We are the Church that values intellectual curiosity as one of greatest gifts and still hold room for God to ultimately be a holy mystery. We are that church that not only welcomes you, we welcome your questions and we invite you to engage your whole self, especially your mind. Our faith tradition is a shared journey to discover anew the fullness of God's love. True, we don't offer cute bumper sticker sayings, but rather a direction to prayerfully consider –*discern*– in what new direction God is leading us and who we are to become still.

I absolutely love the remarks recently offered by fellow Episcopalian Ray Suarez, (as well as Senior Correspondent for the *NewsHour* on PBS). Ray points out that we in the Episcopal Church have a real gift with our willingness “*To admit that we are human, that we don't have all the answers but a way to get to them, and while we're getting to them we've got the gift of each other, a way to serve when you can, be served when you need it... And the willingness to say, as a central pillar of our lives, that we don't care where you grew up, where you started that long walk to redemption: You're here now.*” Isn't that part of what we



have meant when we say, ‘The Episcopal Church welcomes you!’?

You, your neighbor in the pew, me – we are all here and there's so much more to us than a simple pithy statement – there's the *direction* for our common life and ministry, and there's the direction for your life specifically. Here in this unique community we call the “Body of Christ,” we are *called* to prayerfully consider what that next direction is and

what we need along the way. Ours is a faith to be lived into not enshrined on a bracelet or bumper sticker, but a faith that is *practiced* – lived into by what we walk even more than what we talk – live into...become...exemplify...engage – no matter what your age, what your background – the Episcopal Church not only welcomes you, we invite you to discover and live into what it is that is your calling from the gifts, talents and limits that God has blessed you with.

And perhaps no better time exists to live this out than as we embark upon a new program year for our parish. Let's face it, life has become messier, more complex not simpler. At the same time, however, we have some incredible ministry that we are sharing with our greater community in new and ever-more creative ways. Conventional ways of ‘measuring’ our resources, i.e., *people* and *money* would want to suggest that life is strained at best, and yet look around on any given Sunday, *and* any given weekday for that matter and one can find more volunteers and new ways of sharing ministry than perhaps has been seen in years. There's no way around the fact that money is tight right now – for all of us and yet we are committed to our mission in this place and in this time. 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.

*Susan Clinton*

## Summer Revisited...

### *In Your Sunday Clothes???*

So what are your Sunday Clothes exactly? For a special group at St. John's it was the oldest pair of blue jeans they could find. One Sunday in July and August was set aside as "Blue Jean Sunday." Dozens of members came to spruce up the greens around St. John's and you may have noticed a few weeds are gone, edges are clean, mulch is down, and flowers have been planted. Take a look around! Enjoy the work that's been done. Visit our garden and take a few moments to be pleased about *ALL* the work we've done at St. John's. Thanks to all that came ready to get dirty. You've all helped make St. John's beautiful today and tomorrow.

### *St. John's Parish Canoe Trip:*

This past August, St. John's sent some of it's more adventurous families straight down the river. No, not like *that* and yes, "straight" may be too liberal a term, however, the spirit of adventure was among us. The river warriors hit the road at a bright and early 9am to travel to Grayling, MI. Dressed in swimsuits, flip-flops, sun block, and big hats we steadied ourselves for the unknown with a deep breath and a cup of coffee but upon arrival a change of plans and clothes were in order! We were met at the river by saturated clouds and a chilly breeze. After adding sweat pants, jackets, and mittens to our list of canoe gear we decided to only slightly shorten our trip and meet the river anyway. We traveled 8 miles protected from the wind by trees and not seeing a single drop of rain until our very last moments on the river. Everyone who came experienced the event in their own special way. For some it was wonderful time spent with the whole family and others tried something new, mentored someone new, or simply relaxed on the water. A special thanks to Jane and Michael Keenan for opening up their home (and grill) for our "canoe trip" dinner that evening. You were a welcomed refuge, indeed!

### *How about those Loons?*

This year the Great Lakes Loons really brought their game to the next level and so did St. John's! Members and their guests took advantage of a special opportunity to see the play-off making Loons from a VIP booth high in Dow Diamond's stadium.. Family, snacks, cold drinks, perfect weather and a hard fight to the finish made our outing a complete success! How about a Saginaw Spirit Hockey Game this Winter?



# Happy Birthday!

- 1 Nancy Birdsall
- 5 Angela Endean
- 6 Naomi Oravitz
- 7 Rosalind Berlin
- 8 Susan Daugherty
- 9 Helen Lockwood
- 9 Susan Ludwig
- 10 Rick Braidwood
- 17 Todd Barshaw
- 18 Elizabeth Elin
- 18 Emma Gemple
- 19 Carl Lockwood
- 22 Mary Jo Scharffe
- 22 Sherrie Yeager
- 23 Joan Wendland
- 24 Karen Byrne
- 24 Susie Emond
- 26 Michael Keenan
- 26 Leslie Vlassis
- 28 Katie Kostal
- 30 Barbara Ilkka

# Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Shirley & Bud Blodgett
- 22 Marcella & Emil Marcet

# Thank You

Thank you **Sue Luxton**, and her faithful team of volunteers for helping organize our August potluck including **Jack Luxton** and **Berney Jones** for manning the grill, **Sharon Kaylor** and **Kathy Smith** for assisting in the kitchen, and **Nicholas and Elizabeth Elin** for helping set the tables!

Thanks to **Tom Donaghy** for all of your steadfast and creative work restoring our basement bathroom!

Thank you **Mary Ellen Whitney, Sperry Garber, and Tom Donaghy** for their extra help in making our Blue Jean Sundays successful and fun!

A BIG thank you to **ALL of our lunch bag volunteers** that help keep this ministry moving! Whether through donations or by assembling/handing out the bags... YOU are making a difference in the lives of others.

Special thanks to **Paul Schaub** for your leadership with our recent internal audit. Paul was assisted by **Sue Ludwig, Keith Birdsall, Herb Spence III, Ellen Redfield and Jan Young**.

Thank you **Herb Spence III** for all your extra work this summer especially for bringing the Vision Task Force back up to speed with our recent progress and consensus for direction.

*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:

Sep 6 - Sep 19	Burriss & Kathy Smith	792-4775
Sep 20 - Oct 3	Lou Smith	799-5583

We belong before we believe.

Joanna Wragg  
Diocese of Southeast Florida



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

## ***Growing Outside the Box***

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. 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. 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. We are not simply trying to run existing programs with ever-stretched resources, we are in many cases trying an entirely different approach altogether. *You* are what can make this happen!

**Christian Formation for Children** – Experience is central to spiritual formation, especially as it relates to children. Given the complexities of peoples’ schedules and the limitedness of time, we are trying a new approach to spiritual formation with children. Once a month, the church community will gather for a “Festive Sunday,” when after worship, we enjoy a meal and fellowship together, along with an inter-generational program / activity about the particular season or major celebration of the Church. In addition to the once a month Festive Gatherings, we will help make each Sunday Eucharist that much more connective to your child. 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. More than some fun activities to do during the service (we’ll have those too), there will be resources to share as a family based on that particular week’s lessons. It is our goal to provide these resources that families need to help grow their child’s spirituality throughout the week as well as on Sundays. 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 learning** – With adults and young adults, we are trying some new and different ways to best meet the needs of our spiritual lives. Worship remains at the center of what we are all about and to best adapt to different schedules, beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>, the mid-week evening service will be moving to Sundays at 7:30pm. The later time will allow for more flexibility, as well as provide people who are returning to town from the weekend an opportunity to worship. We will still have a mid-week service on Wednesdays at noon in the chapel; and now the evening service will return to the nave proper. 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. Compline will be the kick-off service on September 20<sup>th</sup> – don’t miss it!

In addition to the new service, there’s a new group forming and you’re invited! While book groups are hardly a new idea, it has become clear that a new and different format is needed today. 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.

We will also be featuring several special offerings / programs throughout the year. The first of which 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 make it a point to join us each week from 11:45 to 12:30 for this short and fun series beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

***In Other Words...***

Our common mission is built upon our life-long learning and growing in faith – our own spiritual formation – which begins with worship. There is really no substitute for the experience we can share when we worship together, with all ages and backgrounds present. Raising children to have a faith that is vibrant and life-long begins with the modeling and support we can provide at the youngest age possible and continue to share as they grow-up. In addition, families are able to share in worship by assisting together, perhaps with hospitality as greeters, ushers or hosts, serving as an acolyte, choir member and even learning to be a lector.



Biblically, worshipping with our children puts us on solid ground with Jesus’ teaching, as Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” Our children have something to teach us about absolute trust and joy!

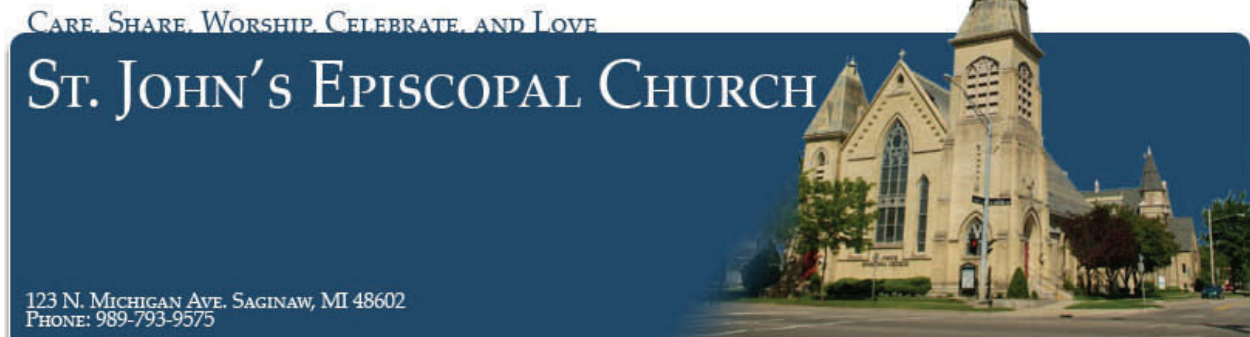
As a parent, I can think of no better witness than this – “Oh, I can remember squirming in services when I could not understand their significance, and our boys, when they were little, didn’t find sitting still and keeping quiet any easier than I had. But I wanted them to have what I knew I had, so they always went along with my wife and me. Joining in adult things and doing as adults do was something I knew that they, like all children, longed for. Much more than that, though, I wanted them to have the comfort I had found in the rituals of our faith and culture—the slow growing knowledge that even as all living things will die, some things will also endure.”

*Fred Rogers* (Children & Family TV icon, Presbyterian Pastor, Father, Grandfather)

<h1 style="font-family: serif; font-size: 2em;">Someplace Else</h1> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BAR &amp; GRILL</p>	<p><b>OPEN SUNDAY!</b></p> <p><b>DAILY LUNCH &amp; DRINK SPECIALS</b></p> <p><b>HOME-SMOKED BBQ MENU!</b></p>
	<p>118 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602</p> <p>989-792-0123</p> <p><a href="http://www.gosomeplaceelse.com">www.gosomeplaceelse.com</a></p>

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Get the **MOST** out of [www.stjohns-saginaw.org](http://www.stjohns-saginaw.org)!



Early this summer St. John's launched a completely new edition of our parish website. This article will help you get the MOST out of the new edition by pointing out some new features and other helpful tricks and tips! If you haven't yet paid a visit to the electronic home of St. John's Episcopal Church then today is the day to get acquainted!

The first things you will see when visiting our site are several simple messages:

1. Our motto, "*Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, and Love*" is printed clearly at the top as a reminder to everyone that these are the motivating factors of our church body.
2. A simplified menu on the left-hand side will help you find the information you are looking for more quickly. If you are not sure which category is right for you... just move your mouse over the word and more options will appear at a glance! For a complete list of every option simply click "sitemap" at the very bottom of the page.
3. "*Welcome Home!*" The same message that we offer our visitors in the pew and at the peace is now reflected right away to our visitors on the web. Here, neighbors looking for a place to worship will find the most relevant information with one simple click! This is a great way to encourage YOUR friends and neighbors to learn more about St. John's.

Within the site, members will find access to information about current events in our church and the wider church instantly! For example:

- Our parish calendar is kept as up-to-date as possible with many events listed several months in advance. If you would like to learn more about an event on the calendar just click it to see the details. Because this calendar is sponsored by Google, you can easily transfer events of your choice to your own electronic calendars. Did you misplace your paper copy of the parish calendar? Here, you can also print another!
- You can stay current on topics of the wider church by viewing the "Episcopal Life" link.
- Copies of The Messenger and The Annual Report can also be found online. This is a practical tool if you would like to reference an article or share a story with a friend. Also, by viewing the electronic version of The Messenger you can follow links to our advertisers, outreach organizations, and more. Over time you will find more forms and documents online through the "downloads" link.

These are just a few of the ways you can get the most out of our website, however, if you would like to learn more or simply start the process of receiving electronic information you can sign up for our Constant Contact emails by filling out the form on the homepage!



***Something Wonderful is Coming to Sunday Evenings at St. John's Starting September 20<sup>th</sup>!***

Beginning September 20<sup>th</sup>, in addition to Sunday mornings at 8am & 10:30am, St. John's will be featuring a later service at 7:30pm. That's right! The later time will allow for more flexibility, as well as provide people who are returning to town from the weekend an opportunity to worship.



In addition to Sundays, we will still have a mid-week service on Wednesdays at noon in the chapel. 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. **Compline will be the kick-off service on September 20<sup>th</sup> – don't miss it!**

***Crop Walk - October 11th.***

Mark your calendars for Crop Walk 2009! This year, St. John's is providing our Community Room as the Start/Finish station as well as event-day head quarters for event administrators. Walker, runners, and cookie-bakers will all be called upon again to join forces in raising awareness to stop hunger. See Lou Smith for details and registration.



***Change a Life in One Day...***

Our lunch bag outreach program is one of the most meaningful and impacting programs we have. Many of you have helped assemble and pass out these emergency meals and more of you have decided to help donate supplies. But if you have not yet involved yourself in this ministry we challenge you to spend one morning... just 4 hours... with one of our current volunteers to help pass out meals. We guarantee that you will change the life of someone you feed and are willing to bet you will be changed as well. Any day Monday - Thursday, 9am to Noon... we'll see you there.



## A St. John's Chair Story...

*First, I should apologize to Burris and Kathie. I did tell you that you didn't have to actually write the story, just give me some basic information, answer a few questions, and I would take it from there. And usually, this is true. But then I read this, and Kathie's disclaimer that she didn't think there was much here for a story. Kathie, I was overcome with the resonances-- the hats and gloves, the immaculate and gleaming wood in the pews, and the smell of lemon and Mrs. Murphy's soap. And, of course, the music. So, Kathie, I'm kind of going back on my word. This story is one of the keystones of any church and any family, and lovely as you wrote it. So, the following is written by Kathie Smith, about her mother Eleanor Smith*

We started going to St. John's in the late 70's/early 80's, coming from St. Matthews, and Mom joined us. She was good friends with Cindy Whitney (Tom's mom) and also a friend of Fran's [the Rev. Fran Schwannecke.] In addition, she loved organ music – played a mean organ herself- and of course St John's organ and Sandy[Echan] playing it was such a treat. She loved the choir and wished she'd had the voice to be a part of such a wonderful ministry as the choir. She often said that the beautiful music, the lovely stained glass windows, the beautiful dark wood and ornate altar lent itself to prayer and meditation – two of her favorite pastimes. Mom joined several guilds and would invite the guild to lunch at her place – and once at ours for space – once a year. She also headed many guild events such as rummage sales/bake sales, and knitted lots of things for annual craft sales and Church Christmas Present giving to those in need.



So the main reason we dedicated a choir chair in her name was her love of church and church music. Mom loved reading her Bible in her later years and also loved it whenever Fr. Chuck Stuart or Fran would visit with her at home. AND - the consummate lady that she was - NEVER wore slacks or jeans in or out of church. She really tried to at one time or another and I remember shopping with her at Jacobson's (her favorite store) and talking her into a really attractive pants suit. She took it home, and took it back – it just wasn't something she could manage to do! And this is a lady who raised 4 children – the early years on a farm!

She was a wonderful mom and grandma – had 4 children all of whom left Saginaw but for us who moved back here. Widowed at the age of 52, she spent much of her time traveling with friends, working, and becoming quite active at St. John's. She would have loved Kevin Simons and what he has done for our music ministry– and Kevin would have loved her!

Submitted by Karen Parr & Kathie Smith



## JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL

Steak ♦ Seafood ♦ Spirits

*Bring this copy of the St. John's Messenger to Jakes Old City Grill for **Sunday Brunch** (10:30am till 2:30pm) and 10% of your **food** purchase will be donated back to St. John's!*

100 SOUTH HAMILTON ♦ OLD SAGINAW CITY, MI 48602 ♦ 989-79-STEAK

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

***From the Director of Music: Looking Ahead...***

Choral music continues to thrive at St. John's, and I am excited to begin a new choral season! The first Sunday back for the Choir is September 13. We have several new members joining us, so it will be a thrilling day!



Our chorister program will also continue, beginning on Sunday, September 27. This is an opportunity for children and youth to work with our choral scholars as well as me in preparing to join our Choir for several services throughout the year. This was very successful last year, and I am looking forward to continuing musical growth! The choristers rehearse at 11:45 (after the 10:30 service) until 12:15 every Sunday in the choir room.

With the move to having a 7:30 service on Sunday evening, we will also be introducing a sung Compline service once a month. This is a short service (about 30 minutes) and is sung from beginning to end. Most of the music sung is chant-based, making this a truly meditative experience. Our first service of Compline will be on September 20 at 7:30 in the church.

We are so blessed at St. John's with a marvelous facility and instruments with which to make music. Even more than the physical assets of a beautiful acoustic and organ, we are blessed with volunteers and staff that continue to work to sing praises to God. As we embark on a new season, may God continue to bless our handiwork.



Soli Deo Gloria,  
*Kevin Simons*

	<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>1004 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 <a href="http://www.tristartrust.com">www.tristartrust.com</a></p>	<p><i>Let Tri-Star Trust Bank help you Simplify Your Life.</i> <i>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>

**Blessing of the Pets...**

What one of our special family members couldn't use a little church?

You, your neighbors, and of course *all creatures of our God and King* are invited to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis with us **Sunday, October 4th** at 4:00pm. This special service includes a pet blessing and a wonderful pet friendly reception for all of our beloved furry, feathered, and scaled friends.



**Come Join Us for a Special Short Forum Series This Fall!**

Beginning **September 20<sup>th</sup>** and only running through October, there will be a special forum series, "Discovering a Faith For the Inquiring Mind" which will be held from 11:45am to 12:30pm (in the Guild Room). If you are new to the Episcopal Church or have just wanted to learn more about our tradition or simply wish to better understand why we do the things we do in the Episcopal Church, then this group is for you! Your questions are most welcome and *encouraged* as we explore together what it means to be a part of this particular part of the Church. For more information, please contact Darren Elin+ by either email at [darren.elin@stjohns-saginaw.org](mailto:darren.elin@stjohns-saginaw.org) or by calling the parish office at 793-9575.



**What day is your special day?**

Altar Flowers can be a terrific way to remember or celebrate a person or event and share the occasion with your church community. What day is your special day?

**Altar Flower Sign-Up Form**

*(Use this form or the calendar on the Parish Life bulletin board to reserve YOUR altar flower date!)*

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

Date of Sponsorship: \_\_\_\_\_



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 in the memo. Thank You!)

***The Parish Directory is Coming!***



What has changed in your life since 1999? For most people it's quite a bit and just as our individual lives are in constant motion so is the life of our parish. In the last 10 years St. John's has moved the furniture, welcomed new faces, and expressed a renewed vision to Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, and Love.

This year we will be creating a new church directory that suitably reflects our shared life together and it is not complete without YOU! Your family's participation is at **NO COST** and each participating family will receive:

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

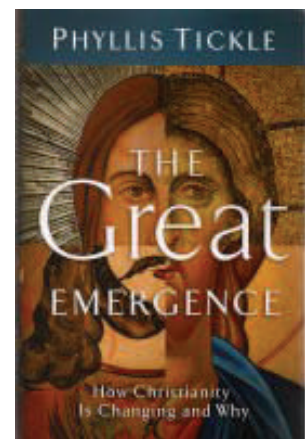
Photo shoot dates are **October 22nd-24th**. Make your appointment after each Sunday service or by calling Pat Lynes at 989-793-7910.

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

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. 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. Come join us!

***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.



*Books are available through Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, or your favorite book retailer. (For more information, call Darren+ in the Church office at 793-9575).*

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### ***Start-Up Sunday is September 13th!***

Everyone is welcome to join us as we *kick off* the start of our program year with a parish potluck! Members with last names beginning with A-S please bring a salad or hot side. Members with last names starting with T-Z please bring your favorite dessert. If you are planning to visit with us this day please ***be our guest...*** we're glad you're here!

*More* than just a potluck, Start-Up Sunday will plant the seeds of information that will grow into conversation and future decisions at cottage meetings this fall! Topics included are:

- Spiritual Formation
- Vision Progress (we're becoming more accessible!)
- Summer work of the vestry and finance team
- More...

