

The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church | 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602
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IN THIS EDITION

Upcoming Events

- Fall Potluck
- Rummage Sale

News

- Congratulations Kevin!
- 10th Anniversary: The Choral Scholar Program
- Youth Programs Begin Sep. 11th
- Search Committee Update
- Office Hours

Parish Life

SOMETHING LARGER THAN OURSELVES

“The Butterfly Effect,” “ripples in a pond,” “no man is an island.” These catchy clichés are all trying to express the same conventional wisdom that we are not alone. It’s true. We are not alone and our actions are far reaching. I suspect the reason for so many of these sayings is because, with a little luck, we all come to this realization in our own time. When you realize that you are part of something bigger, you want to affirm that fact over and over again.

Our community spans distance and time while touching our members, friends, neighbors and those we will never meet. As members of St. John’s, take a moment to consider how we accompany each other and the larger church on this journey of faith. It will be a different experience for each of us, but hopefully, as we learn and grow, we will want to affirm our place in it over and over again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Potluck

September 11 @ Noon

School is starting and all our friends are back in town! Let's eat! Bring your best recipe and settle in next to friends following the September 11th, 10:30 worship service, which by the way welcomes back both the fantastic choir and Sunday School programs. We're still in need of a few volunteers to help organize food as it comes in. Please contact Amy Simons or sign-up in the community room!



Rummage Sale Fundraiser

October 7-8

Our Annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser, which benefits our Lunch Bag Outreach Program will be **Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th!** Donations can be dropped off October 4-6. Although we so very much appreciate your contributions, please try to keep donation drop-offs to the designated dates. Because of building use conflicts we're not able to store items before then. Can you help sort and sell? Volunteers, please sign up in the Community Room.



NEWS

Choral Scholar Program Celebrates It's 10th Anniversary

Keivn Simons

This fall marks the ten-year anniversary of the choral scholar program at St. John's! Since the beginning of the program, students have been an integral part of our worship at St. John's. These students have gone on to become leaders of their own choirs, singers in other churches and baptized, confirmed and married as members of St. John's. This important ministry helps students gain experience in singing church music in a liturgical setting and helps support the singing ministry of our volunteer choir members.

Not only do the students benefit from receiving a small stipend for their work, but the church benefits from their musical contributions each week. Currently, the scholar program is supported through a portion of the music budget as well as through direct donations to the music fund at St. John's. Due to the generosity of several donors, we have been able to increase the number of scholars to five: Claire Barckholtz, soprano I, Heather Seaton, soprano II, Emerald Joiner, alto, Jeremiah Kraniak, tenor and Tyler Morse, bass. We also have a number of student volunteers who regularly sing with the choir.

Two of our former scholars serve as great examples of the importance of this ministry. Rachelle Austin Fergin and Brad Fergin were both choral scholars while they were undergraduates at SVSU. They were confirmed as members of St. John's and left Saginaw so that Rachelle could pursue a master's degree in voice. They returned to be married at St. John's and then moved back to Saginaw permanently so that Brad could take the position of choir director at the Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy. Rachelle is running a very successful and growing voice studio out of their home. At St. John's, Brad serves on the vestry and supervises the Voice for Life Program for our children; both Rachelle and Brad sing with the St. John's choir.

On **November 6, at 4:00**, we will have a special Evensong to mark the 10th Anniversary of the choral scholar program. We are inviting former scholars to sing with the choir that day. I hope that you will plan to join us for a terrific afternoon to celebrate this ministry.

If you have questions about the choral scholar program or any aspect of our music program, please contact me.

Faithfully, Kevin Simons

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The search committee has been very busy over the last six months as we prepare for the vestry to call a new rector for St. John's. We have received names and resumes of potential candidates from the diocese and are now conducting interviews. We feel we have some strong candidates.

Please remember to add to the following to your prayers:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. BCP p. 818

Committee Members: Marcia Hoffman, Chairman, Lucas Curell, Dann Federico, Matt Gerhardt, Jane Girdham, Dave Humpert, Berney Jones, Ellen Redfield, Paul Schaub



Congratulations to Kevin Simons

2016 has been an important year for our Director of Music and Organist, Kevin Simons. In May, Kevin completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree from Boston University. In July, he was named the director of the Sewanee Church Music Conference, the oldest Episcopal Church music conference in the United States. We are blessed to have Kevin nurturing and guiding our music ministry at St. John's and sincerely congratulate him on the fruits of all his hard work at St. John's, at Saginaw Valley State University and at large!

Sunday School / Nursery

School is starting and Sunday School is back in action, too! Mark your calendars for September 11th because that's when the fun begins.

Youth

Everyone is old enough to do something so you don't need to be an adult to find your place in church. Youth are encouraged to explore how they can be involved in worship on **Youth Sunday's**, the fourth Sunday of each month. Adult volunteers are ready to help mentor students in almost every capacity from acolyte and lector to greeter and altar guild. Talk with your child to see what might be a good fit! Singing in the choir isn't just for adults, either. Students third grade and above are invited to join our youth choir. We use the **Voice for Life Curriculum**, a comprehensive singing program that teaches students to read music, sing with

good technique and hone their leadership skills. Student's will work with SVSU music major Emerald Joiner and sing with the adult choir on Youth Sunday's and for other special services. Voice For Life students will rehearse following the 10:30 service each week.

Sunday School

Sunday School explores the basic elements of scripture and tradition and prayer



focusing on God's love for each of us. Sunday school meets each week from **10:30 to 11:05** at which point students join the worship service. Lessons follow the same lectionary readings that adults hear in church so it's easy to continue the conversation as a family! Students K-6th grade are invited to join us any time! Learn more by visiting:

<http://www.stjohns-saginaw.org/ministry/sunday-school/>



Nursery

This fall, we'll be integrating elements of the Frolic Program into our nursery. This curriculum begins to introduce our youngest members to faith through stories, songs

and coloring sheets. Each week, our nursery staff will choose a story focus for all nursery participants. Our regular attendees will have a chance to work through the whole children's Bible during the program year!

Birthdays

Sep 1 - Claire Simons
Sep 1 - Nancy Birdsall
Sep 2 - Emily Gerhardt
Sep 3 - Jim Brown
Sep 7 - Roz Berlin
Sep 8 - Susan Daugherty
Sep 9 - Susan Ludwig
Sep 15 - Mary Baukus
Sep 17 - Todd Barshaw
Sep 19 - Kyle Allen
Sep 22 - Mary Jo Scharffe
Sep 23 - Pam Renna
Sep 24 - Brad Fergin
Sep 24 - Susie Emond
Sep 26 - Leslie Arnold
Sep 26 - Michael Keenan
Sep 28 - Ashley Byron
Sep 28 - Tammy Treib
Sep 30 - Barb Ilkka

Oct 1 - Nancy Cramer
Oct 5 - Michele Hoepfner
Oct 7 - Julie Remer

Oct 8 Lexie Renna
Oct 9 - Jo Mitzel
Oct 10 - Jenna Brown
Oct 14 - Jand Girdham
Oct 17 - Anne Beckley
Oct 20 - Sharon Kaylor
Oct 25 - Bruce Wells
Oct 25 - Claire Santhany
Oct 27 - Chloe Sunderman
Oct 28 - Karen Martin
Oct 29 - Marvin Hoepfner

Anniversaries

Sep 4 - Bill & Mary Jo Scharffe
Sep 4 - Jim & Ruth Joswiak
Sep 12 - John & Barbara Roberts

Oct 3 - Jim & Annerose Shannon
Oct 8 - Mike & Janis Rump
Oct 10 - Derek & Stephanie Peters
Oct 24 - Jim & Marsha Braun



THE REV. PAM RENNA

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Sexton

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