

# The Messenger

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

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## IN THIS EDITION

### Upcoming Events

- Sunday Bible Study
- Tuesday Bible Study
- Voice for Life
- Sunday School

### News & Recognition

- Open Table Update
- New Choral Scholar

### Parish Life

## FROM THE RECTOR

Twentieth-century theologian Karl Barth was quoted as saying: "Take your Bible and take your newspaper and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible."

In 2017, each of us might hold a Bible in one hand while scrolling through social media with the other. But the point is the same: our task as followers of Jesus is to figure how God would have us live in our (God's) world today.

This is the really the only reason I'll be hosting two Bible studies at St. John's beginning this fall. Beginning September 10, we'll meet in the Guild Room between the 8 am and 10:30 am to hold the four Gospel accounts next to each other. Beginning September 12 at 10:30 am, we'll work from *The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People*.

As I change windows on my laptop, the news headlines are Levee Breaches South of Houston, North Korea Launches Projectile over Japan, US Exchanges Fire with Turkish-Backed Rebels in Syria.

How are we to make sense of all that's taking place in our communities, state, nation, and the world? What might our response to human suffering be? Barth's advice is to read Scripture. Read the little stories from the Bible which are woven into one grand story which provides perspective,

wisdom, hope, and inspiration.

Please consider your participation in one of these Bible studies. The communities we serve need assistance. As Episcopal Christians in 21st Century, Old Town Saginaw, Michigan, USA, God has a unique call on our lives.

How might you, as part of the St. John's family, seek first the Kingdom of God in this day?

## MINISTRY UPDATES

In the "Prayers of the People" every Sunday we pray for our Open Table Brother. What's that all about?



The [Open Table](#) is a ministry designed to help individuals make the transition from where they are to a more productive life. There are OpenTable (OT) groups in many parts of the country, usually sponsored by churches. For St. John's, this is a joint ministry with members from St. John's and Hopevale. Our members are the Rev. Pam Renna, Melanie Holman, Ellen Redfield and Sue Smith.

Frequently OT takes on a young person who has aged out of foster care or comes from a problematic family situation. (To protect privacy, the Brother or Sister is not referred to by name.) These people may not be prepared for adulthood. As a group, Open Table members help the individual acquire the skills to become independent. As our brother has worked with various Table members, his self-confidence has increased. After practicing with a Table member, he passed the test for his driver's license. He has gotten four scholarships to Delta, (one of which allowed him to buy a car for transport to school) and a computer. He has set up his class schedule and bought his books. He is taking initiative and responsibility for meeting his goals.

Open Table Members contribute their own money for training and commit to a year of meeting for one hour a week with the Brother or Sister, as well as other time as needed. Each Table member takes the lead in some aspect of daily life: education, health, transportation, etc.

Working with our Brother for a year gives us time to build long-term relationships. It also provides a variety of role models which may be lacking in his life. What we all gain from this is a better understanding of what someone else needs to accomplish on his journey to adulthood.

New Tables are forming regularly in our area. If you are interested in this ministry, contact Rev. Pam (989/798-0229). You can make a significant difference in one person's life.

By Ellen Redfield

# MEET DAVID HORWATH



Meet David Horwath, the newest voice among the voices of young scholars who have participated in our [Choral Scholar Program](#). Pictured above with his father, you may recognize David because he has sung previously at St. John's (during special services and pickup choirs). David is a music student at Saginaw Valley State University, a member of the Saginaw Choral Society, and a graduate of the Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy. Please introduce yourself and welcome David as he begins his time as a St. John's Choral Scholar!

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### Sunday Bible Study

On Sundays from 9 AM to 10 AM, beginning September 10, we will work from [Parallel Gospels in Harmony](#). The task will be to read the Gospel accounts side-by-side in chronological order. There is no need for those attending the class to purchase this book. It will be helpful for those attending the class to bring their own Bibles (any translation will do). This study is open to all adults, as well as those who are soon-to-be adults.

### Tuesday Bible Study

On Tuesdays from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM, beginning September 12, the group will read [The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People](#). It will be helpful participants bring their own copy of this book, as well as a Bible.

With each of these studies (especially the one on Tuesdays), the goal is to not rush our way through the Bible. Instead, we will mine the depth of Scripture at a deliberate pace. It's conceivable the Tuesday study could last for a couple of years, given the holiday and other breaks. But that's okay!

Also, some are afraid if they miss one session they will fall behind to the degree that they never return. Please do not slip into this mindset. There is no cumulative final exam! Attendees will be able to easily fit back into place when life keeps them from missing a session.

### Youth Choir & Youth Sundays

Led by veteran Choral Scholar, [Heather Seaton](#), and using the Royal School of Church Music program, students interested in joining Youth Choir will learn how to read music, sing with good technique, how music helps lead worship and so much more! Youth Choir will meet each Sunday at 9:15 am and again following the 10:30 service until 12:15.

Once a month, youth are also encouraged to participate in worship as lectors, acolytes, junior altar guild members, and more! If your student is interested in participating, contact [Amy Simons](#) in the church office.

# UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED...

## Sunday School | K-5th Grade

Students kindergarten through 5th grade are encouraged to attend one of our two Sunday School classes. Using the Spark Activate Faith Program, **Sunday School I (K - 2nd grade)**

introduces students to the very basic elements of scripture and tradition focusing on God's love for us, loving each other, and prayer. **Sunday School II (3th - 5th grade)** will help students grow into a deeper understanding of scripture and tradition.

They will read from the Bible, learning the basics of book, chapter, and verse. And explore in more detail, the people, places, context, and life applications that surround God's love for us. Weekly lessons correspond to the appointed readings in the lectionary (the scriptures we read in church) and each student will have a take home materials so that families can learn and grow together.



Classes begin on Sunday, September 10th at 10:30 AM.

## Nursery | Infants - Preschoolers

Did you know that St. John's uses the [SparkHouse: Frolic](#) program in our nursery? This nursery evolution enhances caring and supervised play to a Christian formation experience for our toddlers and preschoolers! Children hear stories, sing songs, and participate in projects that introduce the foundations of our faith such as prayer, creation, and loving one another. They will also be lead through an intentional reading of the Frolic First Bible. (Available on [Amazon](#) in you would like to purchase one for home!)

## ONLINE GIVING

If you haven't already heard, St. John's is excited to have launched electronic giving! Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account or processed using your credit or debit card. This new option offers convenience for you and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. There's no worry about remembering a checkbook and, when travel or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue uninterrupted.

Giving online is easy. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the [www.stjohns-saginaw.org](http://www.stjohns-saginaw.org)
2. Click on the "Contribute" menu option
3. Click on the Create Profile button
4. Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions!

## ***Birthdays***

Sep. 1 - Claire Simons  
Sep. 1 - Nancy Birdsall  
Sep. 2 - Emily Gerhardt  
Sep. 3 - Jim Brown  
Sep. 7 - Roz Berlin  
Sep. 9 - Susan Ludwig  
Sep. 15 - Mary Baukus  
Sep. 17 - Todd Barshaw  
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 - Tammy Treib  
Sep. 28 - Ashley Byron  
Sep. 30 - Barb Ilkka  
  
Oct. 5 - Michele Weadock  
Oct. 7 - Julie Remer  
Oct. 9 - Jo Mitzel  
Oct. 10 - Jenna Brown  
Oct. 12 - Liam Fergin

Oct. 14 - Jane Girdham  
Oct.17 - Anne Beckley  
Oct. 20 - Sharon Kaylor  
Oct. 25 - Bruce Wells  
Oct. 25 - Claire Santhany  
Oct. 29 - Marv Hoepfner

## ***Anniversaries***

Sep. 1 - Dick & Jan Stringer  
Sep. 4 - Bill & Mary Jo Scharffe  
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. CURT NORMAN**

Priest & Rector  
[curt@stjohns-saginaw.org](mailto:curt@stjohns-saginaw.org)



### **THE REV. PAM RENNA**

Assistant Priest & Pastoral Care  
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### **KEVIN SIMONS**

Director of Music & Organist  
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### **AMY SIMONS**

Church Administrator  
[amy@stjohns-saginaw.org](mailto:amy@stjohns-saginaw.org)



### **AL GISSENDANNER**

Sexton

## **VESTRY**

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