



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 28, Issue 1

January 2010

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.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

We, as Christians in the Anglican tradition, have always placed a high degree of importance on the message of the Incarnation, because there is something in the message and mystery of God coming down among humanity that touches the essence of how we see ourselves and relate to God that our liturgy affirms and the Word of God proclaims: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”



All that we do leading up to Christmas points to this truth, and it is how we live our life, both individually and collectively, that makes the Gospel powerful, tangible, *incarnational* for us and the community we serve. However you and your family have been able to be a part of living-out this message in this past month helps to make the message of the Incarnation and of the Gospel itself all more real and accessible for the wider world. The great part of the “Good News” that we proclaim is that it is not isolated to one day or even one season of the calendar. While the store and malls will probably have every piece of Christmas display removed by December 26th, our message that is the real story of Christmas will only be getting clearer and bolder, by what we live out. Thanks to you and the commitment we all share at St. John's.

For me, a major part of what the Church is about is what we do, not just at Christmas time, but each week throughout the year as well. As the Body of Christ, we continue to provide hope where the world sees and experiences despair, casting light to dispel the darkness, and renewing our strength with the Grace that is God when we feel totally spent. Perhaps this is why you, and the ministry we share together, matter so much, especially in times like these – to be that place and source of hope, light, strength and Grace that is St. John's.

I believe that our community needs us to continue to be that haven of hope, strength and grace that have been foundational characteristics of St. John's. It is clear that in these past years, our parish has become quite adept at how to serve more need and even be a greater witness to our community with fewer resources. One need only look around St. John's to realize that the Spirit continues to move in this Church and that great things are happening... thanks to you! As I mentioned in a recent sermon, the gifts of time, talents and treasure that we share are as unique and particular to who you are, they are a fundamental part of the life and ministry we offer and share in God's Name. It's never quite the same without you!

This is, perhaps the greatest message we need to share, not just with our neighbors in church, but with whom God will grace us with through all of our Christmas services and beyond. Our life and ministry is not the same without you... Welcome home! What we continue to share in this place and in Christ's Name is, to me, truly how “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!”

Jane Clinton

St. John's Stories – A Celebration of Life!

For most people, this article will be about a very familiar family, and as with many of these stories, it comes with all the love and struggles so many families face. Our Rector Emeritus the Rev. Chuck Stuart, his wife Judy, and their young and growing family, accepted a call to St. John's in 1967 following the retirement of the Rev. Rex Holmes. Born and raised in Monroe, Chuck was ready for a larger parish with more opportunities, and he and his family settled into Saginaw and St. John's. When Chuck subs for Darren, it's easy to see from the hugs and smiles how warmly he is regarded within the church.



In 1992 their middle daughter, Anne, was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, more familiarly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This devastating neurological disease is incurable. Anne was 28, married, and living in Tennessee working for Saturn. Although her marriage did not survive this, Anne's needs brought her family together, closer than ever. Chuck is especially proud of his sons, one of whom took a year off to be with Anne, and the other who spent two years caring for her. The normal prognosis for ALS is 4 years, but Anne and her loving family doubled that to 8 years.

The Stuarts wanted to support the choir in obtaining the new chairs, and it gave them a wonderful opportunity to honor Anne's life and courage. The plaque on her choir chair reads, "In celebration of the life of Anne Brierly Stuart." Thank you, Chuck and Judy, for sharing your story.

By Karen Parr

2010 Envelope Pick-up:

It's Sunday morning. Do you know where your offering envelopes are? If you already picked up your 2010 offering envelopes than this question is no sweat for you! If you have not yet picked up your box of offering envelopes they will be available after each Sunday service or by contacting the parish office.



	Is your financial life too complex?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Financial Planning◆ Brokerage Services◆ Retirement Plans◆ Trust Services◆ 401 (k) Plans◆ Investments
1004 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 www.tristartrust.com	<i>Let Tri-Star Trust Bank help you Simplify Your Life. Contact Jerry Young, Vice President: jerry@tristartrust.com</i>
	○ Simplifying Life.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Barbara Jones
- 1 Ian Marc Baillargeon
- 4 Kerrie Blackney
- 9 Jack Luxton
- 10 Marie Blake
- 11 Sue Brigham
- 12 Owen Baillie
- 14 Eleanor Wood
- 15 David Winters
- 16 Jacob Stuber
- 18 Jacob Winters
- 19 Andrew Hoag
- 20 Alexandra Vlassis
- 21 Diane Grigg
- 22 Tom Grantham
- 27 John Emond
- 28 Katie Wilson
- 29 Jan Young
- 31 Bill Frederick
- 31 Helen Leach

Happy Anniversary!

- 6 Katie & Fred Sunderman
- 22 Nancy & Keith Birdsall
- 30 Wendy & Ed Majask



Thank You

Many thanks to **Jan Young, Sperry Garber, Kathie and Burris Smith, and Lou Smith** for your generous caring and services during Kim Bureau's mishap.

A belated thank you to **Barb Ilkka, Ellen Redfield, Mark Mahlbert, Janet Cosenza, Terri Grieshaber, and all of our cookie bakers**, for your help hosting the Saginaw Area Concert Band during the Holidays in the City Festival!

A BIG THANK YOU to **Burris Smith** and all of his Christmas Basket Outreach Helpers including but not limited to: **Keith & Nancy Birdsall, Jim & Marsha Braun, Tom Donaghy, Sperry Garber, Al Gissendanner, Gary & Melanie Hollman, Barb & Paul Ilkka, Barb & Berney Jones, Sharon Kaylor, Sue & Jack Luxton, Pat Lynes, Ed & Wendy Majask, Sue & Richard Marquardt, Val McDonald, Dick Mott, Duncan Redfield, Ellen Redfield, Marcus Roll, Beth Gray, Chris & Paul Schaub, Jim Shannon, Hailey Silk & Chad, Rebecca Curell, Kelly & Alexandria Warner, Amy Simons, Kathie Smith, Al & Jane Vontrasek, Jan, Jerry, & Jason Young**

Thank you Sue Luxton, and all who helped with the December Festive Sunday Potluck including **Sharon Kaylor, Barb Ilkka, Ruth Samra**, and everyone who brought a dish!

Thank you to **Pat Lynes, Bill Fredrick, Sue Brigham, & Val McDonald** for your extra help folding the Christmas bulletins and December Messenger!

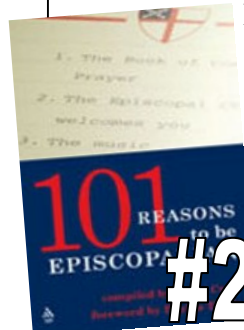
Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

Good Samaritans:

Dec 27 - Jan 9	Sue Luxton	684-9169
Jan 10 - Jan 23	Marcia Hoffman	793-8354
Jan 24 - Feb 6	Ellen Redfield	799-4401

No matter where I am in the world, I attend an Episcopal/Anglican church, I am home.

*Joan Carr
Diocese of British Columbia*



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

To Care & Share: Ways in which we Can Live Christmas Everyday!



Thank you! Since 2005, we have evolved our Annual Outreach Giving Tree / Gift Basket Project into one concentrated effort in the hopes of making a bigger difference for those in need and part of our greater community, working with the residents of Rosein Towers, which is a subsidized housing community for adults which is right around the corner from the parish.



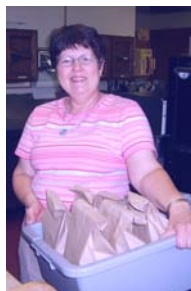
Once again, so many people from St. John's were able to step-up and joyfully meet the challenge to help over one hundred people in our community! Each resident of Rosein Towers received a number of personal needs, non-perishable food items. It's safe to say that just about everyone at church has taken part in some aspect of the project this year, including our "Boxing Day" on December 20th boxes were delivered by a team of St. John's "elves" personally delivering each basket to the residents the following day. What a thrill it was to bring people the hope, love and joy that Christmas is. All this was possible only by your support of time, talent, treasure, and dedication!



A special thanks to everyone on this year's team, and especially Burris Smith who has spearheaded this year's effort and Pat Lynes with an incredible team of dedicated volunteers in coordinating all the aspects of this year's project! We had a number of new faces on this year's project and would love to have you join us in future outreach efforts. As you can see simply by some of our pictures, all of us can have great fun and make a difference!

Lunch Bag Outreach: Making a difference all year long

Each week, Monday – Thursday, 9:00am to Noon, volunteers manage the project by giving of their time and compassion. This allows our office staff to focus on their work and for our vision of Outreach to be actively carried out by any member of the parish that feels they have something to offer. Because hunger is a problem that will not easily be overcome St. John's will always be in need of volunteers to help distribute the lunches and provide supplies.



How will you be involved in the St. John's Lunch Bag Outreach?

Lunch Bag Supplies:

- *Brown paper lunch sacks*
- *Plastic Spoons*
- *Square paper napkins*
- *Austin: Cheese crackers/cheddar cheese*
- *Austin: Toasty crackers/peanut butter*
- *Quarter: Chewy granola bars*
- *Members Mark: PB & J "Jamz"*
- *Capri Sun: Juice Drinks*
- *Dole: mixed fruit cups*
- *Mott's: apple sauce cups*

Epiphany Festive Sunday – January 10th – Come be part of the fun!



Come and enjoy the fun, food and fellowship on Sunday, January 10th as we celebrate Epiphany and what this season of light can mean for our lives. In addition to worship, the day will be marked with a parish potluck, fellowship and an intergenerational activity for the season with fun for all ages! St. John’s will supply the main dish and we invite you / your family to bring either a dessert (members with last names beginning with A-L), or a side item dish to pass (last names beginning with M-Z). Fun for all, it would not be the same without you!

We Are Almost There! Thanks to your Commitment, We Can Make Our Goal!

Thank you! Your commitment and the ministry we share has made it possible in so many ways to continue turning St. John’s around and embrace a bright new year! Response continues to be great and we now have crossed over the ¾ mark of our goal of \$200,000 by receiving pledge commitments of over \$151,000! This final push towards our goal will take the help and encouragement of *everyone*. You see, while we are closing towards our goal, we have not heard from everyone. Could this be You?! Please know it is not too late – together we can make a difference! I am confident that you would like to join your fellow parishioners and parish leaders in continuing to “turn our parish around” by celebrating your own commitment with your Annual Pledge Commitment and the *Time & Talent* Survey that is part of this year’s Annual Giving Brochure we have all received by mail.

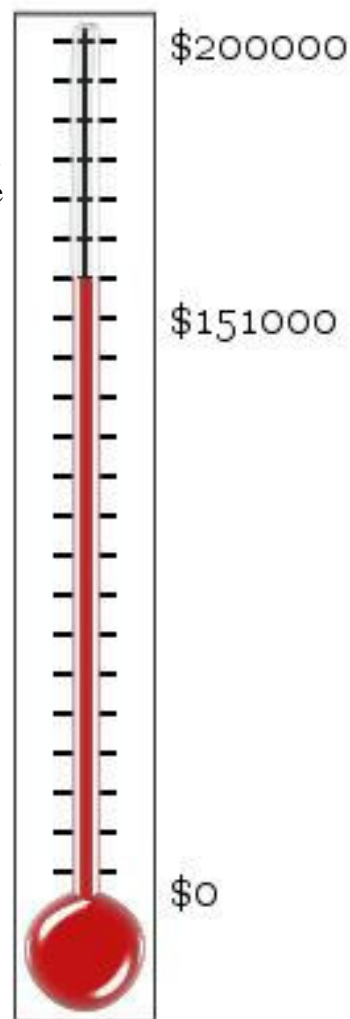
If you have recently returned your Annual Pledge for time, talent and financial commitment, thank you! If you have not had the chance to make your pledge yet, we ask you to prayerfully consider how God is asking you to help support the ministry we share at St. John’s. Additional pledge cards and surveys are available by mail or on our website. You will soon even be able to pledge on-line via our website at www.stjohns-saginaw.org, and can now return your pledge card by mail, or simply as part of our Sunday Collection at church.

Again, my heartfelt thanks for your continued generosity and commitment! Your hands-on support helps make a real difference financially as well as in our fellowship and the care, service and programs we offer.

In faith and gratitude,

Darren Elin

The Rev. Darren R.S. Elin



We All Can Make a Difference!

Throughout our gatherings this fall, we have been in great creative conversations. Ironically, in these times of enormous and necessary down-sizing, one of those resources that we continue to grow is with people – the commitment, time and talents that so many of our parishioners like you have shared in order to meet the needs of our mission and greater community. 2010 will bring ever-more opportunities to help make a difference in this way.

As you have no doubt already have noticed from the 2010 Budget, we continue to reduce overall costs all across the board, from program expenses, to fixed costs, and with salary reductions to existing staff members. Some of these reductions come with greater sacrifices than we may realize, but they all involve change to a great degree. What helps to make a difference in managing these necessary changes is what we can share in terms of our own involvement – all of us – with all ages and experienced being called upon. Some of these reductions/changes may seem small, but they are also representative of a new/rediscovered spirit for our parish. In 2010 more than ever before in recent history, our ministry will be made possible by volunteers and contributions of time, talent and items, rather than professional staff and purchasing.

How can I help? I'm glad you asked! Beginning in January, the next wave of changes will be seen that affects how we offer fellowship and hospitality. We will need your help! The 'somebody' who can make difference can no longer be 'somebody else', it needs to be each of us as individuals and families.

Coffee Fellowship – For years, even decades our parish has made doughnuts from Hamilton Bakery a standard fixture of Sunday Coffee after church. This became such a fixed custom that it appeared in the afghan of St. John's! In the past, people have thought the doughnuts pay for themselves by the "coffee money" that was placed in the basket. The reality is that we have not covered costs for years. Today, every expense is scrutinized as to how it impacts our ministry. Beginning in January, we need to keep the tradition of Coffee Fellowship, but move away from the custom of purchasing doughnuts for the 10:30 service. Instead, we are calling upon one of the greatest assets we have discovered in these past years: our parish bakers! So many people love to bake at St. John's that it became a "no brainer" that we need to put these talents to regular use. You will notice a new sign-up board for Coffee Fellowship in the Community Room, please consider when you could help provide some of the means for our fellowship and bring a couple dozen baked treats to share.

Flowers – In much the same way, the time is upon us to realize what the costs of flowers each week actually is by today's standards. We can no longer assume that 'somebody else' will underwrite what we all enjoy each week in worship. The custom of St. John's, like most parishes is to ask individuals/families to 'adopt' a week's flowers as either a gift in thanksgiving or in memory of a loved one/special occasion. A new flower sign-up for 2010 is now also up in the Community Room. The reality is that if there is not a week adopted and it is not a high holy day, we probably will not have flowers that week. Again this may seem small, but "every expense costs real money."



Coffee Hour Fellowship	
Coffee Hour Hosts Sign-up	Coffee Hour Treats Sign-up
Jan. 3 _____	Jan. 3 _____
Jan. 10 Festive Sunday _____	Jan. 10 Festive Sunday _____
Jan. 17 _____	Jan. 17 _____
Jan. 24 Annual Breakfast _____	Jan. 24 Annual Breakfast _____
Jan. 31 _____	Jan. 31 _____
Feb. 7 _____	Feb. 7 _____
Feb. 14 Festive Sunday _____	Feb. 14 Festive Sunday _____
Feb. 21 _____	Feb. 21 _____
Feb. 28 _____	Feb. 28 _____
Mar. 7 _____	Mar. 7 _____
Mar. 14 Festive Sunday _____	Mar. 14 Festive Sunday _____
Mar. 21 _____	Mar. 21 _____
Mar. 28 _____	Mar. 28 _____
April 4 _____	April 4 _____
April 11 Festive Sunday _____	April 11 Festive Sunday _____
April 18 _____	April 18 _____
April 25 _____	April 25 _____
May 2 _____	May 2 _____
May 9 Festive Sunday _____	May 9 Festive Sunday _____
May 16 _____	May 16 _____
May 23 _____	May 23 _____
May 30 _____	May 30 _____
June 6 _____	June 6 _____
June 13 Festive Sunday _____	June 13 Festive Sunday _____
June 20 _____	June 20 _____
June 27 _____	June 27 _____
July 4 _____	July 4 _____
July 11 _____	July 11 _____
July 18 _____	July 18 _____
July 25 _____	July 25 _____

*Thinking Outside the Box?
Never be afraid to try anything new.
Remember amateurs built the ark.
Professionals built the Titanic.*

Come and be a part of St. John's First Jazz Dinner!

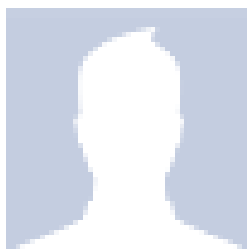
On January 31, 2010, St. John's will welcome back D.S. and the Flat Five, a jazz group based at Saginaw Valley State University. Many of you will remember them from the reception during the Diocesan Convention several years ago. We're excited to welcome them back to St. John's for an evening of food and jazz.

The dinner will be catered by Fedder's Classic Catering from Burt, Michigan, and will feature food that will tickle your tastebuds! Wine and beer will also be served. The proceeds from the dinner will go to fund the choral scholar program at St. John's.

Tickets are \$20 and will be available after Sunday worship as well as directly from the church office. The doors will open at 6:00, with dinner served at 6:30. For more information, contact Kevin Simons at kevin@stjohns-saginaw.org or (989) 793-9575.



In case you have not yet heard...

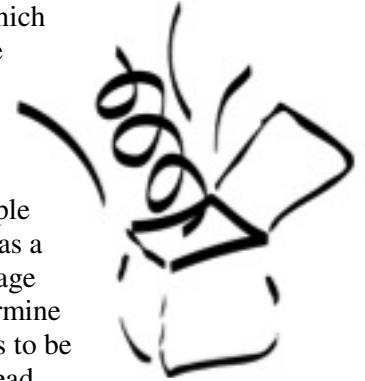


Obituary: *Someone Else* — Our church was saddened to learn of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most generous givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help this year, remember—we can't depend on Someone Else anymore. (In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy for Someone Else may make a contribution of time, talent or treasure to St. John's Episcopal Church. Thank you.)

Originally submitted by John & Barbara Roberts

Living Into Our Vision... Great News to Share!

For our current program year, we have employed the theme, “*To think outside the box.*” This was done because we have come to a critical juncture in our journey as a parish. 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. Despite the challenges all around us in Saginaw, there is a sense in which we not only feel called to continue offering the kind of ministry that has enriched the lives of many for almost 160 years now, but also think of new possibilities, new approaches and redevelop our ministry to best serve the needs of today and that of the future.



As everybody knows, we have been on an extraordinary journey over these past couple of years – to turn our beloved parish around and to being living into the Vision that, as a community, we discerned together. For over two years, many members took advantage of the invitation to gather for conversation, prayer and study in an effort to best determine not only where we, as the parish of St. John’s stand, but also who we know ourselves to be about now, as well as what, where and how we feel God is calling us in the years ahead.

On behalf of the Vestry, let me personally invite you to come be a part of our Annual Meeting and Parish Breakfast on Sunday, January 24th. It will be here when we will not only share in worship, food and fellowship, but also share with you some incredibly exciting news about what is already happening in and for our parish and what is possible for the life and ministry we share in the months ahead. In the meantime, as we look towards the Annual Meeting, I ask you to consider how far we have now come in terms of financially turning our parish around.

As you may have heard from our recent Cottage Meetings this past fall, we are making great strides not only in planning and controlling expenses, but now with increasing revenue. We have become quite effective in realizing that stewardship involves time, talent as well as treasure. Now, specifically with regard to financial resources, we need everyone to consider how to support our mission in at least three ways:

- Ongoing Annual Giving – pledge income that affects our annual budget.
- Extraordinary Need Gifts – a special gift that is offered for a specific capital need (once every ten years)
- A Planned Gift – to be realized in the future by bequest and/or investment

It is this latter aspect of financial support that from our conversations this fall, garnered the most interest, as it can include in some situations income benefits for you as a donor right away. Most people simply considered “planned giving” to be about a bequest made as part of a will. While that has certainly been and continues to be a great way to remember the Church, there are ways for you to make a significant contribution now that will continue to benefit our mission in the years ahead.

At our recent Cottage Meetings we shared the great news that your leadership has taken steps to create a way for any and all of us to make a difference and contribute to the needs of our mission well into the future by developing a new *Legacy Endowment Fund*. By adopting a traditional endowment approach, this new fund would be protected, with only the growth helping to support new and existing ministry. Alongside our existing unrestricted portfolio, this new protected fund would help support four key areas of our parish life:

- Christian education,
- Building & grounds,
- Church music, as well as
- Worship & ministry.

The *Legacy Endowment Fund* is but one of the new means by which we each can share what God has blessed us with in order live into our vision and realize our calling for future generations to come.

2010 Annual Parish Meeting & Breakfast

To be held Sunday, January 24, 2010 at 9a.m.

Schedule of Events:

- **Holy Eucharist at 8:00am**
- **Parish Breakfast at 9a.m.**
- **Annual Meeting at 9:15a.m.**

Items to Include:

- Financial Report & Presentation of the Budget for 2009
- Election of New Vestry Members & Parish Delegate
- Address by the Rector
- Appreciation for Retiring Vestry Members:

Ellen Redfield, Barb Ilkka, Herb Spence III

- **Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:30**



Candidates for Vestry

Thank You!! You asked and they've answered...These are our candidates to serve on our incoming Vestry class for a three-year term. Each of these individuals have been asked and prayerfully considered a call to serve in this important role. At our Annual Meeting and Breakfast on January 24th, all members are eligible to vote for our Vestry candidates as well as elect our Parish Delegate for Convocation and at-large Delegate to Convention.

Candidate for Re-Election as

Parish Delegate to Convocation and At-Large Delegate to Convention

Marcia Hoffman – A life-long and dedicated member of St. John's, Marcia is no stranger to leadership, having previously fulfilled a term as Warden. Marcia currently serves in the Altar Guild, the choir and continues to be an active part of our community life, often assisting with fellowship events, such as the Animal Blessing, Shrove Tuesday, and St. Nicholas.



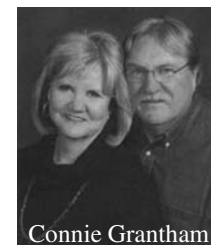
Marcia Hoffman

Dennis Thom – Life-long and dedicated member to St. John's, Dennis currently serves as one of our 'hosts' (an usher/greeter) at both the 8 & 10:30 services.



Dennis Thom

Connie Grantham – Baptized at St. John's, Connie continues to serve as one of our 'hosts' (an usher/greeter) at the 10:30 service.



Connie Grantham

Candidate for Re-Election as

Parish Delegate to Convocation and At-Large Delegate to Convention

Karen Parr – In addition to her role this year as our parish Delegate to Convocation and At-Large Delegate to Convention, Karen serves as a Pastoral Visitor, and continues to enjoy her own participation with our choir.



Karen Parr

Spiritual Formation For All

Experience is central to spiritual formation, especially as it relates to children, which is why we always encourage families to worship together. Besides the modeling that you as a parent (or grandparent) can provide, we have ‘equipped’ activity bags available for Pre & Kindergarten, as well as Elementary grade levels. Inside are fun activities to do during the service as well as devotional resources to share as a family based on that particular week’s lessons that you are welcome to take home. Similarly, the **nursery** is 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.

Once a month, the church community gathers for a “Festive Sunday,” 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. The next Festive Sunday will be January 10th with the theme of Epiphany.

In consideration of children and families we will help make each Sunday Eucharist that much more connective to your child.

Adult Opportunities for Life-long learning in the Season After the Epiphany

Have You Ever Wanted To Know More of What the Bible is All About...

Special Forum on Sunday, January 17th (11:45—12:30pm - Guild Room)

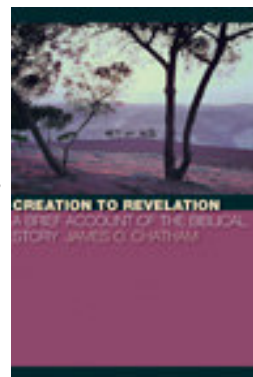
Come take a stroll with us as we explore the work St. Paul did in Corinth, as recorded in his letters to the Churches there (readings we hear in the season After the Epiphany). There was a great deal more happening than we may have heard from just our Sunday lectionaries – scandals, controversies, warring factions – they are all here, giving Paul much to talk about. Come and discover why these two books are as relevant today and why they are among the most popular books of the Bible. A fun and engaging time!

The Brown Bag Book Group Continues – Wednesdays (12:45—1:30pm)

You are invited to take part in an extraordinary journey throughout the Wednesdays in Epiphany, as we will take an overview look at the Bible – Yes, the whole enchilada!

Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story – James O. Chatham [Featured Book for Epiphany]

Pastor emeritus James O. Chatham presents *Creation to Revelation: A Brief Account of the Biblical Story*, a condensed guide to biblical scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Spelling out the narrative of the Bible in layman's language across twenty-six short segments, *Creation to Revelation* is meant not to replace the Bible, but to entice the reader to read the Bible with a fuller understanding of what is happening, and improve one’s comprehension of it for the sake of biblical studies and personal understanding of its message. Sample questions for deliberation at the close of each chapter round out this excellent abbreviated survey of the story that scripture has to tell us. [Cf. Midwest Book Review]



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

Choral Evensong - January 17th

Join us as St. John's rings in 2010 with a special Choral Evensong on January 17 at 7:30. The music featured will be the "Evening Canticles in F" by Sir George Dyson and "Abide with Me" by the contemporary American composer, Richard Webster.

Evensong is a time-honored Anglican tradition that we are proud to offer at St. John's. The service is a musical feast for the ears, with beautiful sung prayers, organ music and choral anthems. It is a perfect way to prepare for the coming week.

For more information, contact Kevin Simons at kevin@stjohns-saginaw.org or (989) 793-9575.



2009 Christmas Message from the Presiding Bishop

The mornings are dark, pitch black until after most of us have begun our days. The hints of dawn in the eastern sky, those streaks of rose and pink that promise more and brighter light, bring hope even in the dark mid-winter. Where do you look for that kind of hope borne on slim rays of light?

Jesus is already abroad, even in the darkness. The hungry one fed, the street people who have their feet cared for, the humble and honored guest at your dinner table – each one offers a glimpse of that dawn, if you look closely enough.

What we have waited long for, ages and eons for, has been born among us. He comes among us quietly, almost stealthily, in an obscure barn, long ago. This child holds all our hope for light. This tiny frame seems too frail to bear our yearning. Yet the nations come streaming to this light even before he is weaned. The divine has come to dwell in our midst, and God's eternal promise of peace, restoration, and home is made flesh.

Where and how will you seek out this light of the world? In what other frail frames will light expunge darkness? The light grows with our own eager searching, light reaching out to light, divine reflection yearning for its source. May the light of Christ light your way in the darkness, may his light spread through nations besieged by war and hunger, may we continue to search out his light in the dark places of our own hearts.



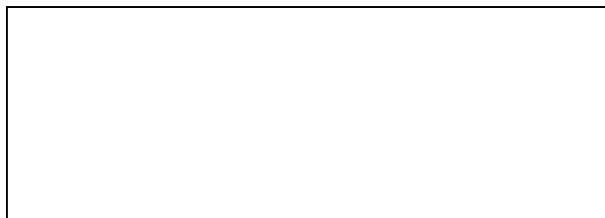
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop
The Episcopal Church

<p>Someplace Else BAR & GRILL</p>	<p>DAILY LUNCH & DRINK SPECIALS NEW MENU!</p>
	<p>118 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 989-792-0123 www.gosomeplaceelse.com</p>

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

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

Change Service Requested



***Festive Sunday Parish Potluck
January 10th.***

Come and enjoy the fun, food and fellowship on Sunday, January 10th as we celebrate Epiphany and what this season of light can mean for our lives.

***Evensong Service
January 17th.***

Music featured will be the "Evening Canticles in F" by Sir George Dyson and "Abide with Me" by the contemporary American composer, Richard Webster.

*January
2010
Happy New
Year!*

***Annual Breakfast
& Parish Meeting
January 24th.***

9:00 - Parish Breakfast
9:15 - Annual Meeting
10:30 - Holy Eucharist

***Jazz Dinner
Choir Fundraiser
January 31st.***

Get your tickets for the most fun fundraiser you'll support all year!
See page 7 for details.