



# THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 28, Issue 9

October 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.

## *Blessing of the Animals*

*October 3rd, 4:00pm*

All of us experience community and worship in our own personal ways. Some of us love the pomp and circumstance of Christmas, Easter, and other holidays. Others prefer the quiet nature of the 8:00 service. And all of us, from time to time, ask ourselves how our spiritual lives and our regular lives can become one and the same. Among many reasons, this is part of why we recognize the saints. Not to be embarrassed by all of the godly things we haven't done but rather to be inspired by common people who loved common things like their neighbors, co-workers, or simply the world around them. **On October 3rd** we will celebrate the Feast of **St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and nature**. This service includes a wonderful tradition called the Blessing of the Animals. And why not? We bless buildings and mission projects. Why not take a day to remind ourselves of God's gift of creation and bless the non-human members of our households? **Of course this service is more than just a remembrance. We get to bring a beloved, part of our daily lives, into the church in a physical way.** In a barking, drooling, feathered, scaled, and special way we get to blend our homes with worship and community. Also, join us for a fun and **pet friendly reception** following the service.



## *IN THIS ISSUE...*

### *Becoming a Eucharistic Visitor*

Our Deacon, Pam Rena, tells us more about how we can be a part of this meaningful ministry.

### *Cottage Meetings Are Back!*

Ask some questions and get some answers about our search for a new Rector and more when cottage meetings return this fall.

### *Constant Contact*

Signing up for our email list lets important information from St. John's come right to you!

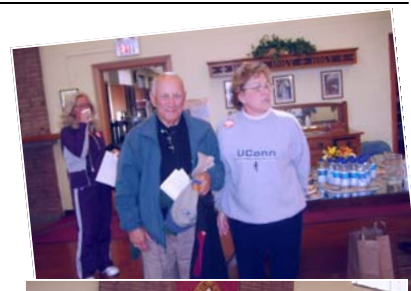
## Crop Walk—October 10th

Once again it is time for our parish to become involved in the annual Saginaw County Crop Walk. This year the event will be held on Sunday, October 10th, at 1:00pm, **starting and ending at Holy Cross Lutheran Church**, which is just across the street from us. These walks, sponsored by Church Word Service, are held throughout the country for the purpose of alleviating hunger all over the world, including right here in Saginaw. Participating in the Crop Walk is a wonderful opportunity to reach out and help those who are so much less fortunate than we are. PLUS it is always a day of fun and fellowship for St. John's.



Walker registration forms are available after Sunday services from Lou Smith (799-5583) or Dave Humpert (791-0490).

If you won't be walking, please contribute to those who are!



## Prayers, Mittens, and More!



In this project we pray, knit, and crochet for abused and neglected children. Everyone is welcome to join in this effort. Our mittens, hats, and scarves, blankets, and hangers go to children in foster care through the Saginaw CAN Council (Council for Abused and Neglected Children.)

As we knit or crochet we pray for foster care children, especially those who are to receive our handiwork. We believe that our prayer and each item we create can put a little warmth and love into a child's life. With no meetings needed, we individually work on this project all year long—any place and at any time of day when we have a few minutes or more. How relaxing and enjoyable!

We are always happy to have more people join in the effort. Just use your own patterns, yarn, hooks, and needles or call Mary Spence (792-0941) for supplies or answers to questions.

This year's ingathering is the first two Sundays in November. We'll put all completed items on a table in the Community Room. Thank you!

*Mary Spence*

***Happy Birthday!***

- 1 Nancy Cramer
- 1 Tami Snyder-Knutson
- 5 Michelle Hoepfner
- 6 Tim Braun
- 7 Tony Vlassis
- 8 Alexis Renna
- 8 Cole Winters
- 8 Bill Lawrence
- 9 Joanna Mitzel
- 10 Jenna Brown
- 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 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

***Vestry Members:***

- Keith H. Birdsall, Senior Warden
- Burriss Smith, Junior Warden
- Marcia Hoffman, Treasurer
- Janet Cosenza, Clerk
- William Frederick

# Thank You

A BIG thank you to **Tom Donaghy, Berney Jones, Al Vondrasek, Ray Ilkka, Dave Humpert, Burriss Smith, Richard Marquardt, & Sue Marquardt** for your dedicated help cleaning the parish of construction dust before Sunday services.

Thank you to all of our Welcome Back Potluck helpers including **Berney & Barb Jones, Al & Jane Vondrasek, Lou Smith, Sharon Kaylor, Nancy Birdsall, Sue Brigham, Tom Donaghy, Sharon Voelker, Dave Humpert, Richard Marquardt, Jack & Sue Luxton**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article to The Messenger these past few months including but not limited to: **Keith Birdsall, Burriss Smith, Kathie Smith, Berney Jones, Ellen Redfield, Janis Rump, Rebecca Curell, Mary Spence, Lou Smith, Paul Schaub, Pam Renna, & Sonni Magyar.**

Thank you to **Sue Brigham** for helping fold the Sunday bulletins each week!

*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.*

<b>Good Samaritans:</b>		
Sep. 19 - Oct. 2	Ruth Samra	792-6786
Oct. 3 - Oct. 16	Kathie & Burriss Smith	792-4775
Oct. 17 - Oct. 30	Barb & Berney Jones	793-0030
Oct. 31 - Nov. 13	Roz Berlin	792-8160

- Constance Grantham
- Susan Marquardt
- William Scharffe
- Dennis Thom

***Accessibility Update:***

This September we have seen our construction project progress from shovels in the dirt to holes in the wall and then some! So far we've:

- removed a window where the new main entrance will be
- put in temporary door
- used beams to support and reinforce the west side stained glass windows
- started the ramp into the church

So far each element of the accessibility project has been started except the new restroom and it's exciting to watch the building start to change and grow in to our vision. You can see the changes too, as we update our Facebook page with photos throughout the week! To date, all plans involving the Church and the Community Room are still expected to be finished in mid-October. The addition of the restroom may take a few additional weeks.

A special thank you again to our DAT (Dust Abatement Team) which meets each Saturday to be sure we all have a comfortable place to worship on Sunday!



## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*You are cordially invited to attend a...*

### **Cottage Meeting**

**COMING THIS NOVEMBER!**

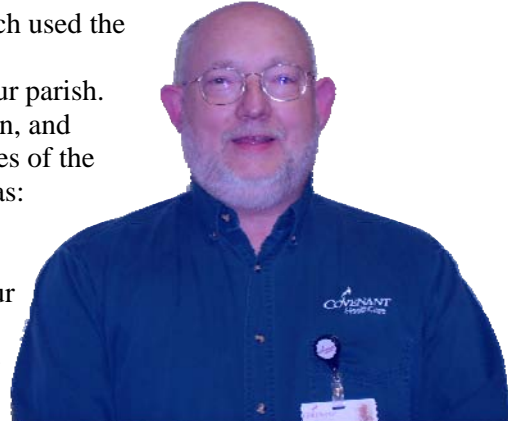
Please join Mr. Keith H. Birdsall & Mr. Burris Smith, *Wardens*, Vestry Members, and your fellow parishioners, for an update on our parish.



## ***The Wardens' Corner - Intentional Participation across the board.***

Keith Birdsall and Burris Smith, our current wardens, have each used the *Wardens' Corner* to highlight important issues and encourage communication between the parishioners and leaders within our parish. This month, we hear from Paul Schaub, a former senior warden, and explore his thoughts on what it's like to have been on both sides of the fence. I had the opportunity to ask Paul some questions such as:

- What is it like being a "regular parishioner" after having been the Senior Warden?
- How and why do you stay involved in spite of your busy schedule?
- How do you recommend building good communication between the vestry and the parishioners?



Paul says "It's important to let go of your old role. It's tricky, too, not to interfere with the very business that you yourself were leading just a few years ago. But I find that it's also important to be available and supportive of the new vestry."

Paul explained that having been in a position of church leadership he understands the business side of the church and is better equipped to find the information he is looking for. For instance, when he leaves on vacation he's sure to pre-pay his pledge instead of doubling up when he comes home because he knows that the church has bills to pay whether he's there that week or not. And if he wants to know how the vestry voted on an issue he will read the minutes posted in the Community Room. "[But] the last several years St. John's has worked hard to make sure information is available in a way we can all find it. Emails, The Messenger, bulletins, cottage meetings, all of it is there. However, we are all individually responsible for seeking it out.

Individual responsibility was a theme in our conversation. When asked how he stayed involved in spite of his busy schedule Paul illustrated how he customizes his St. John's experience. "When I don't have the time to spend half a day at church I come to the 8:00 service. It's shorter and earlier so I can still get to work." He goes on to say "There are *plenty* of opportunities to make St. John's the church you want it to be. Outreach projects, participating as a worship leader ... attendance is the same way. If you don't like to see an empty pew, make sure you're there to fill it! No. The sky is *not* falling."

The next time you see Paul greeting at the door or manning the grill at a parish potluck take some time to get to know him better. As an administrator for Covenant Hospitals and someone who has served this parish in many ways we can all learn a lot about how to balance our commitments to work, church family, and self.

Amy Simons

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL</b> Steak ♦ Seafood ♦ Spirits</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>
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## ***Christian Formation – Exploring Possibilities***

Hi! My name is Sonni Magyar and I am a new member of St. John's. I came over with the "Calvary Crew" when our church closed its doors. It was a very difficult time for us, but the caring and support that we received from the members of St. John's has made such a huge difference.



The last 4 years of Calvary's ministry, I spent in study under the mentoring of Betty Kirkley and Mar-  
nie Bash of St. John's in Midland to become a cate-  
chist within our diocese. While that role was intended  
to support our lives at Calvary, St. John's is now our home and I hope to find a way to use my  
strengths to support and grow with relationships at St. John's. I can't do it alone, though. Rela-  
tionships are meant to be built together. **I would like to start exploring the possibilities of  
what Christian Formation could mean at St. John's by asking what members see as needs  
and wants, what has worked before, and what hasn't.** We can explore formation for adults  
and children. It won't happen overnight, but if we work together, it can happen.

Kathy Humpert, who taught Calvary's elementary age group for many years has offered to con-  
tinue her ministry with children in teaching the gift of prayer with the little ones. **On any given  
Sunday that she is in attendance, she and I will go down to the community room with the  
kids for children's prayers just before coffee hour.** She teaches them how to pray about the  
things that are on their minds, issues they face at school, prayers for family and friends and how  
easy it is to do this anytime or anywhere they feel they need to. They learn to pray as a commu-  
nity. If you think your children would like to become part of this I invite them to join us after  
communion in the hall. Thank you, Kathy for you gifts.

I am including my email address and phone number for anyone who wants to contact me with  
any thoughts regarding the possibilities. We'll start compiling a list of ideas and at some point  
soon we will try to schedule a meeting to see where the future will take us... together.

Blessings,  
*Sonni Magyar*  
695-2682  
sonni\_jim@sbcgobl.net

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## ***Eucharistic Visitor / Minister Workshop***

*St. John's Episcopal Church*

*Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.*

*Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.*

During the summer we had a meeting of people interested in the Eucharistic Visitor program. I was pleased to have a group of about ten people willing to explore this important ministry of our church. At that meeting we decided to look at how we can revitalize this ministry, which includes reaching out on a regular basis to those people who are unable to worship with us each Sunday.



**What exactly is a Eucharistic Visitor?** It is a person who is trained and licensed to share communion with those unable to attend church services. Eucharistic Visitors (EVs), usually in groups of two, are sent out by the congregation with bread and wine consecrated at the service. Through this home communion service the idea is to include the home-bound person in the communion which we share at our St. John's altar. A Eucharistic Visitor uses a pre-determined service from the Book of Common Prayer to administer the sacrament.

I have spoken with Anna Leigh Kubbe, the Arch-Deacon of our Diocese, who is very pleased that there are so many people from our church who are eager to explore this essential ministry. In order to train and license people from our church the diocese has offered to sponsor a **two-day workshop to be held at St. John's on Friday evening, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. and continuing on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.** Lunch will be provided for the Saturday session. The trainers for these sessions will be The Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe and the Rev. Sherry Young, a deacon from the Blue Water Convocation. This workshop is open to all churches in our Convocation, so we will have the opportunity not only to learn about this vital ministry, but to share ideas with fellow Episcopalians from other churches throughout our Convocation.....all this in our new space at St. John's!

There is a strong need for Eucharistic Visitors and we are looking forward to renewing our licenses so that we can continue to serve those from our parish who are no longer able to worship with us on a regular basis.

These two sessions will focus on the Eucharistic Visitor part of our ministry, although Anna Leigh and Sherry will also touch on the function of Eucharistic Ministers as well. The format for the training will be interactive with role playing and sharing handouts. To be covered during this workshop are topics such as:

- Theology of the Eucharist
- Practical suggestions of exactly how to practice this ministry
- Pastoral concerns
- Spiritual issues
- The use of prayer

This workshop promises to give us the background and practice that we need to be comfortable and effective when we carry out this important function as ministers of our church. If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please contact me on my cell phone (989-798-0229) and I will see that you get the necessary information.

I am looking forward to going through this training with all of you. Together we will learn to become even more effective Eucharistic Visitors and Ministers.

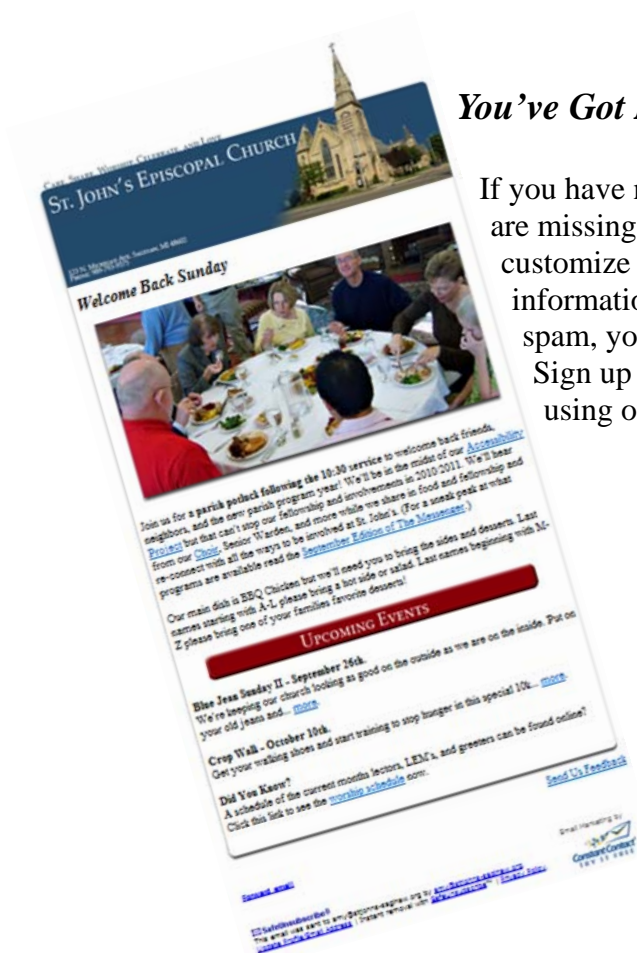
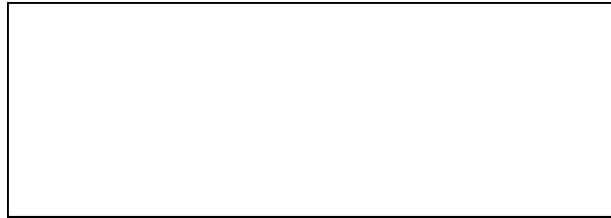
Yours in Christ,  
*Pam Renna*



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