



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 29, Issue 6

June 2011

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CELEBRATING OUR VOLENTEERS

St. John's has proven its dedication and perseverance in many ways in the 150+ years of its existence as a parish and it has been no different in our **2010-2011 program year**.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Vacation Bible School is back! Learn how St. John's is working with our church neighbors to create an exciting week of VBS !

St. John's joins you in spring cleaning as we get ready for our fundraiser **Rummage Sale**.

...more.



CELEBRATING OUR VOLENTEERS CONTINUED...



It has been exactly one year since we've been without a rector, yet our vision and programs have continued with the ever-present dedication of YOU, our parishioners!

Members and friends of St. John's participate as worship leaders, lecturers, ushers, Sunday school teachers, altar guild, good Samaritans, choir members, office helpers, vestry members, finance team members, committee members, and in a dozen other capacities! As we transition into summer it's important to remember that each of us needs a **period of rest and renewal**. It's also worth saying "thank you."

On **Sunday, June 12th**, we'll be saying "thank you" with a **parish potluck**. Plan on staying for lunch following the 10:30 service for a terrific time of fellowship and recognition. Of course, we are going to call upon your dedicated service once again and ask members with last names starting with **A-R to bring a side or salad**. Members with last names that begin with **S-Z please share your favorite desserts!** St. John's will provide a grilled main dish. Many, many thanks to our volunteers!

RUMMAGE SALE - JUNE 11TH

Start now cleaning out those closets and storage shelves. We are having a big spring rummage sale here on **June 11th**. Suggested items to donate include:

- Clothing (**spring & summer only**)
- Household/kitchen utensil
- Knick-knacks & decorative items
- Books
- Costume jewelry & accessories
- Shoes
- Linens (**Please identify size if applicable**)
- Toys, games
- Lamps, small appliances, small radios



We are **unable** to accept electronic items such as computer components and TV's. We will also have a **bake sale** in conjunction with this event. Please bring your rummage donations to the Community Room the week of June 6-10 between 9am & 4pm. We will also need lots of help so let us know if you are available. Call Lou Smith (799-5583), bleuheron2@aol.com or Sperry Garber (790-4940), rgarb@charter.net

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Jeff Endean
- 3 Ida Smith
- 5 Janis Rump
- 7 Charlotte Jacqmain
- 8 Bryan Butterfield
- 11 Joshua Daugherty
- 16 Steven Jacqmain
- 18 Richard Mott
- 19 Mary Ellen Whitney
- 19 Lou Smith
- 20 Ned Wetmore
- 23 Alyse Strahm
- 24 Betty Donaghy
- 25 Thomas Blackney
- 26 Paulette Stuart
- 30 Ivor Henry

Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Connie & Tom Grantham
- 3 Kathie & Burris Smith
- 7 Pam & Thomas Renna
- 8 Sherrie & Randy Yeager
- 9 Myrna & Jeff Endean
- 13 Jane & Al Vondrasek
- 23 Eleanor & Carl McLaughlin
- 26 Amanda & Christopher Doyle

Thank You

Thanks and congratulations to **Kevin Simons** who finished his 8th year of service to St. John's as Director of Music and Organist! You've helped define worship at St. John's as well as build a community of fellowship and outreach!

Thank you to **Amy Simons** (4 years of service) and **Jan Young** (13 years of service) for keeping our day to day administration running smoothly.

Thanks to **Keith Birdsall & Search Committee Members** for your dedicated efforts in progressing our search for a new rector.

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:

May 29 - June 11	Janis Rump	686-8363
June 12 - June 25	Sue Marquardt	790-0656
June 26 - July 9	Janet Cosenza	401-0853

Vestry Members:

Janet Cosenza	401-0853	janetcosenza@charter.net
Bill Frederick	781-0002	wfrederick@tm.net
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Connie Grantham	695-2088	grantham@hotmail.com
Marcia Hoffman	793-8354	hoffman1982@sbcglobal.net
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Burris Smith	792-4775	smithbr@chartermi.net
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

IN THANKSGIVING OF ACCESSIBILITY

In her own words, parishioner Karen Parr tell us what the accessibility project means to her...

Dear Herb,

This letter is to offer my heartfelt thanks to you, as the chairperson of the Accessibility Project, along with everyone else who volunteered with time, talent, and treasure. St. John's is now a place that embodies what we as a parish have agreed to do to uphold our baptismal vows of respecting the dignity of every human being. Now we can joyfully proclaim that we do indeed have a place for everyone at the table, and that everyone truly is welcome.

Thank you again, Herb, for all you have done, (and how quickly it went together once the decisions were made!) and thank you to all the volunteers. These are changes that can change lives.

Your sister in Christ,
Karen Parr

It's no surprise that our recent accessibility renovations would touch people in this way. In fact, that was part of the effort... to extend hospitality to all. **However, just because the construction is finished doesn't mean that our commitment to accessibility is over.** Many of us pledged our accessibility gifts over the course of two or three years so please don't let out-of-sight become out-of-mind.

Thanks to each of you who helped with your financial commitment, by donating walkers and wheelchairs or giving of your time and efforts cleaning and rearranging as we continue to live into our newly accessible space.



THANK YOU CHOIR!

Another choir season has ended and I'd like to thank all of the singers who volunteer so much time to keep the choir running smoothly and sounding so terrific! Our singers log in over 3,000 hours of volunteer time each year, which is nothing short of astounding!

This has been a year of transition for the parish, both in terms of leadership and our facility. Throughout the entire year, the choir has remained strong in its leadership of our liturgies. I am grateful for their steadfast dedication to St. John's.



In addition to singing, several of our choir members help out behind the scenes. Susan Ludwig maintains our folders, robes and library and Ellen Redfield and Susan and Richard Marquardt take care of the choir notebooks. This is a lot of work and it is much appreciated! Thank you to all!

*Soli Deo Gloria,
Kevin Simons*

BLUE JEAN SUNDAY "THANKS"

Thank you to EVERYONE to helped make St. John's look as welcoming on the outside as it is one the inside!



WARDEN'S REPORT

A few thoughts prompted by Blue Jean Sunday. . .

First, a very special thank you to those who took part in the BJS festivities – whether it was in the kitchen, at the grill, in the dining room, or in the gardens. Even the weather cooperated, despite the doom dire warnings of the media.

It struck me that what we had going that Sunday was what we seem to do so regularly and so well at St. John's. When something needs doing we turn out to do it, everyone with good ideas, a strong commitment and a willingness to do whatever it takes to make a wonderful place an even better place. It's a big job to keep the church grounds looking and being productive. But it's not a job where everyone goes in a separate direction – there's a need for developing and knowing the overall plan and working together to get it right. Being part of doing that job builds a great garden, but also brings us closer together as a church community.

Expand on that idea to our search for a new rector. It's a big job to keep the whole church, not just the grounds, looking and being productive. It takes everyone to make a wonderful place an even better place. We've had and continue to need good ideas (Cottage Meetings, surveys and conversations), a strong commitment (continuing and even increasing levels of attendance) and a willingness to do whatever it takes (Lunch Bags, Altar Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministry, Acolytes, Committee membership, and on and on and on.) Being part of that job over these past months has definitely brought us closer together, helped us better understand what we want from our parish life together, and hopefully made the overall plan for our future a bit clearer. And that clarity on our part will allow our new rector to know us more quickly and completely, to understand the future we seek and to lead us confidently and knowledgably into that future.

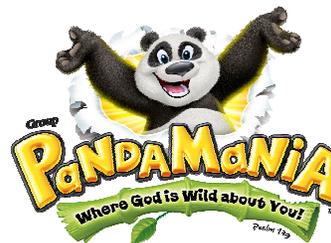
Faithfully,

Burris Smith
Senior Warden



VBS IS BACK!

VBS or Vacation Bible School is coming to Old Town in full force! St. John's is teaming up with First Presbyterian and Michigan Avenue Baptist to offer our kids a terrific week of spiritual formation just for them! Here's what you need to know:



- Theme: Pandamania – Where God is Wild about You!
- Date: June 20 – 23
- Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
- Location: First Presbyterian Church

Children **leaving** grades K-5 are all welcome to join in the fun. Each evening will be filled with great singing, Bible stories, games and snacks. Please pick up a registration form for each child you would like to bring (available online or in the Community Room). Friends and neighbors are welcome to come, too!

St. John's will need a few adult volunteers to help make a snack and build a craft for one evening. Please contact **Marcia Hoffman** for more details.

MORNING PRAYER IS TRAVELING!

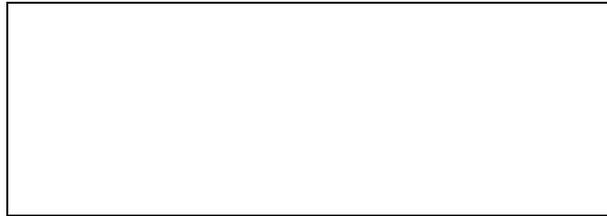


Our midweek service (Morning Prayer each Wednesday at Noon) is traveling! To freshen our spirit and to worship with different words, we are experiencing prayer throughout the English-speaking Anglican Communion. Come join us as lift our prayers to God using services in the Church of England Book of Common Prayer, the New Zealand Prayer Book, Celtic Daily Prayer, and the Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer and of course, our own Book of Common Prayer.

Our gatherings are causal and we are accommodating to those who sandwich their Wednesday prayer time into their lunch breaks. Sharon Voelker, our seminarian, will officiate.

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JUNE @ ST. JOHN'S

June 11 Rummage Sale



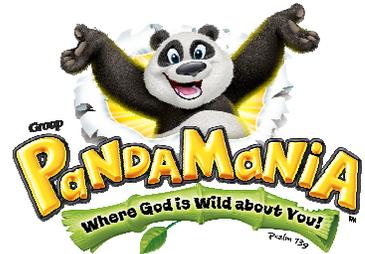
Bring your friends and go on a treasure hunt (or donate your old treasures) for this fundraising rummage sale event!

June 12 Parish Potluck

Help us celebrate our volunteers with a End-of-The-Program-Year Parish Potluck! Bring your favorite sides and salads and let's close the season with food, fellowship, and fun!



June 20-23 Vacation Bible School



Kiddos leaving grades K-5 are welcome to join us as well as other Old Town churches for a fantastic week of VBS! Check out our website for details, registration forms and video!

ST. JOHN'S IS CALLED TO CARE, SHARE, WORSHIP, CELEBRATE, AND LOVE.