



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 29, Issue 5

May 2011

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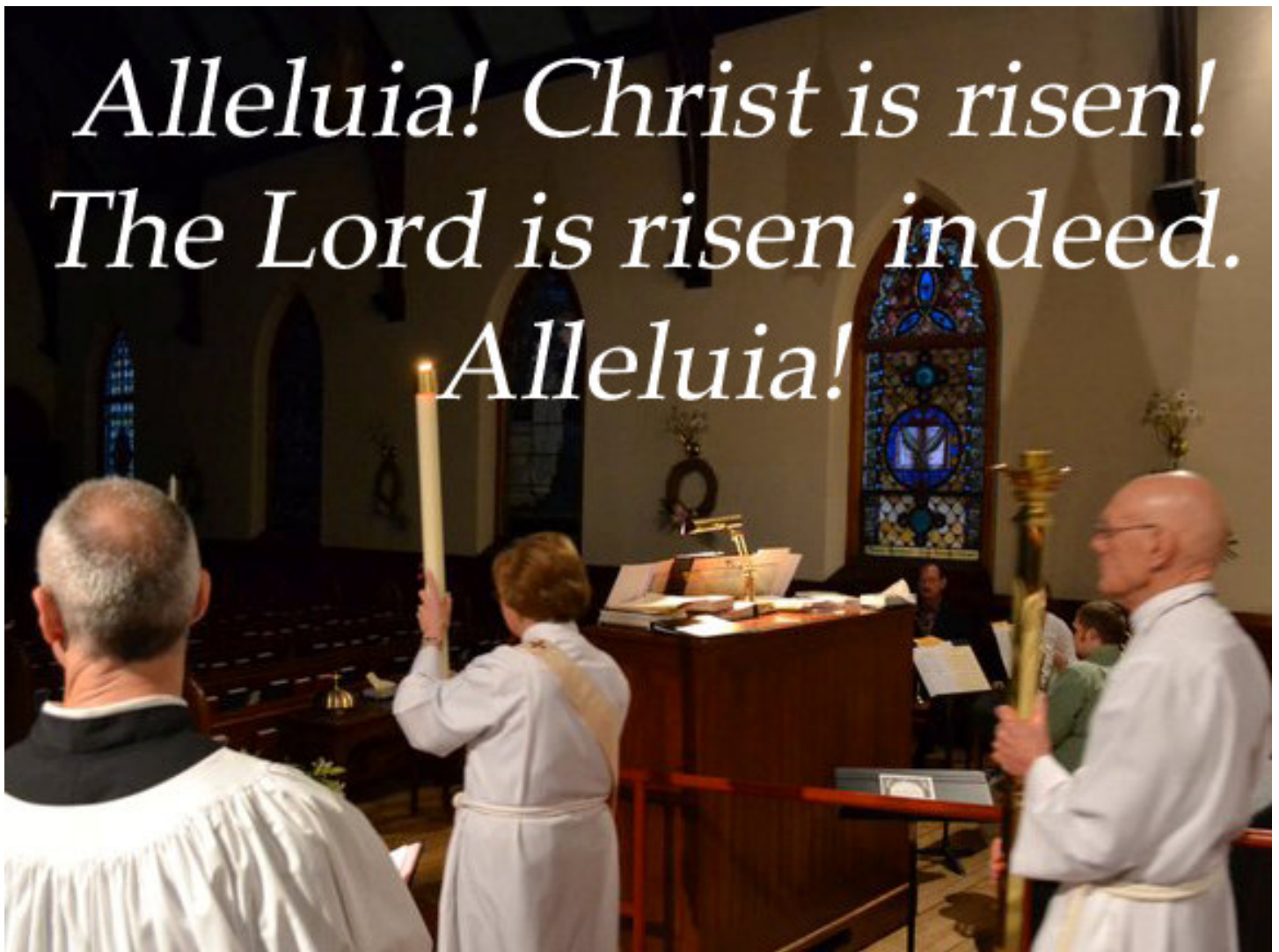
***Pictured:** During the Great Vigil of Easter, the Paschal Candle was lit from a newly kindled fire, then deacon, Pam Renna, along with acolyte, Tom Donaghy, lead the procession into a darkened church. At the Eucharist, we announced our risen Lord as the lights came on with organ, choir, brass and all in attendance shouting the first "Alleluia!" since Lent.*

IN THIS ISSUE...

Marcia Hoffman, our junior warden, reports an update on our **search for a new rector.**

St. John's joins you in Spring Cleaning as we plan our fundraiser **Rummage Sale** and first **Blue Jean Sunday.**

...more.



New Diocesan Website

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan has recently launched a revised website. Now, they offer a comprehensive place for news and resources for vestries, parish administrators and congregants. You can follow the Bishop’s Blog, sign up for diocesan e-news, and generally stay informed about what’s going on in our diocese. As an added bonus, each parish within our diocese gets its own personal page. Here at St. John’s, we’ve mostly used it to link to our current website but as those in the communications business know – the more you’re out there, the more you’re seen. Check it out at www.eastmich.org.



St. John’s Receives All-Star Award

St. John’s has been using email marketing service, *Constant Contact*, since 2008. This allows us to send quality HTML emails to different groups of people based on their interests and connect them with the activities, news and people of our parish.

For the second year in a row St. John’s has received the Constant Contact “All-Star” award! This means that we rank above the national average for quality emails. Your personal information has been protected and treated with respect AND we’ve hopefully sent you information that you have found timely and meaningful. Every time you open a St. John’s email and click a link to our website you’re teaching us what you find most meaningful and we intend to maintain the standard. Thank YOU for helping make St. John’s an emailing All Star!



Happy Birthday!

- 1 David Corcoran
- 2 Tom Donaghy
- 3 Carrie Barshaw
- 4 Dorothy Henry
- 5 Susan Beckley
- 6 Chuck Stuart
- 7 Sonni Magyar
- 7 Amanda Doyle
- 11 Kathie Smith
- 13 Clarence (Bud) Blodgett
- 13 Eleanor McLaughlin
- 15 Richard Marquardt
- 16 Leon Koeplinger
- 19 Stephanie Peters
- 21 Patricia Jackson
- 21 Nancy Wilson
- 22 Helen Needham
- 24 Michael Rump
- 25 Shamil Johnson
- 28 Susan Beckley
- 28 Kaylee Cittel
- 29 Betty Grills
- 31 Pat Mueller
- 31 Barbara Roberts

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Marcia & Dan Hoffman
- 10 Clara & Bill Vlassis
- 11 Carrie & Todd Barshaw
- 12 Kerrie & Tom Blackney
- 13 Marcie & David Winters
- 17 Jan & Jerry Young
- 17 Kathi & Herb Spence III
- 18 Sue & Jack Luxton
- 21 Lorraine & Ron Swarhout
- 23 Barb & Ray Ilkka

Thank You

Thank you to **Paul Schaub, Sue Luxton** and their crew of helpers including but not limited to **Barb & Berney Jones, Sharon Kaylor, Jane & Al Vondrasek, Jan & Jerry Young, Melanie Hollman, Marcia Hoffman, Sue & Richard Marquardt, Sue Brigham, Chris Schaub and Dave Humpert** for all of your efforts making our 2011 Lenten Fish Supper one of the best ever!

Thank you to Kevin Simons and the Choir of St. John's for all of your extra efforts and wonderful music during Holy Week.

Thanks to Pam Renna, and members of the Altar Guild for your hard work and extra planning during Holy 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.

Good Samaritans:

May 1 - May 14	Janis Rump	686-8363
May 15 - May 28	Linda Buzon	790-2164
May 29 - June 11	Ruth Samra	792-6786

Vestry Members:

Janet Cosenza	401-0853	janetcosenza@charter.net
Bill Frederick	781-0002	wfrederick@tm.net
Jane Girdham	790-8712	jjgirdham@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
Burriss Smith	792-4775	smithbr@chartermi.net
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

Think Green

Now that spring has finally arrived many of us experience a renewed enthusiasm for the beauty of God's creation. The fresh air, flower blossoms and returning birds point us toward a Creator that "makes all things new." Yet even as this lifts our spirits we are also reminded that as a special part of God's creation it is our responsibility to wisely govern its resources.



Tom Donaghy, a long-time parishioner of St. Johns, has recently helped make our parish a little greener by providing us with the means to recycle our outdated paper products such as used bulletins and other paper work. Tom has even supplied us with a new paper shredder to make recycling easier and protect personal information.

How can you make St. John's a little greener? How about riding your bike to church? The bike rack is returning to our parking lot (by the kitchen door) and is a perfect way to get some exercise, save money on fuel and best of all think green! Thanks to everyone at St. John's who helps make our institution a good steward of our resources...

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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:

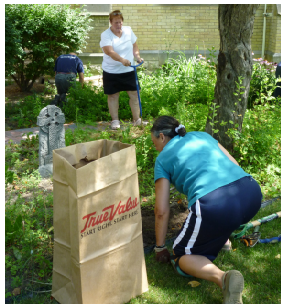
- Clothing (**spring & summer only**)
- Household/kitchen utensil
- Knick-knacks & decorative items
- Books
- Costume jewelry & accessories
- Shoes
- Linens (**Please identify size if applicable**)
- Toys, games
- Lamps, small appliances, small radios



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 donations to the Community Room the week of June 6-10. 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

Blue Jean Sunday - May 22

Yup. We want you to put on your scrubby old jeans and come to church! Naturally, there's a catch. On May 22, following the 10:30 service, we're going to meet for a quick bit of lunch and then head out into the yard to give our grounds a spring cleaning. Raking, planting, trimming and all of the other things we do around our own homes to keep them looking our best we will do to our church home as well. St. John's will provide a hot-dog lunch and lots of refreshments. We need you to bring your garden tools, gloves, sunhats, sun block and your sunny disposition!



Mother's Day is May 8th!

Here is your reminder, guys! Mother's day is just a few days away, but it's not too late to surprise her with Altar Flowers and a special bulletin announcement! In fact, altar flowers are a great way to honor just about anyone on a special occasion. Use the form below to sign up today!

Altar Flower Sign-Up Form

(Use this form or the calendar on the Parish Life bulletin board to reserve YOUR altar flower date!)



Name: _____

Date of Sponsorship: _____

This gift is given:

- In grateful thanksgiving for...
- In loving memory of...

(Please make checks (\$35.00) payable to St. John's Episcopal Church. Thank you!)

Warden's Report

Hello Parishioners! I'm sure the question that is on all of your minds is, "How is our search going?" The Search Committee is meeting weekly to review applications. By the time you read this, we will be preparing for telephone interviews. By the end of May, our applicant list should be narrowed down to two or three possible rector candidates.

It is not easy to operate our church without a rector, but because of the dedication of our staff and all of you, we continue to plod along. Thank you to all who have stepped to the plate (it's baseball season) and taken on tasks to make sure we have three services each week. It takes all of us to prepare for these services along with weddings, funerals and Holy Week.

As I write this column, we are still waiting for the new lighting to be installed in the church. It should be brighter soon. We are also getting questions answered about our sound system. I hope by this fall we will all be able to hear better in the church.

I pray that all of you had a blessed Easter and were able to attend services during Holy Week.

I ask you to pray for our Search Committee and its process in reciting the following prayer during your weekly prayer time:

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.

Prayerfully,
Marcia Hoffman



Anniversary Cover Art Contest

In January of 2012 our parish newsletter *The Messenger* will celebrate its 30th anniversary! To commemorate the event we are launching a **Cover Art Competition** for the January edition of our beloved parish newsletter. Official rules will be posted shortly but to get your creative juices flowing we want YOU to ask yourself where St. John's has been, where it's going, and what would best represent us on the cover of *The Messenger*?

[continued on page 7]

...Cover Art Continued



Here are a few guidelines to get you started:

- Submissions are due December 2011
- All two dimensional artwork is fair game: photos, paintings, drawings, whatever. (We have a 8.5x11 scanner to make these things digital)
- Be creative! Alter the image, make a collage, use a fancy setting on your camera!
- Winner goes on the cover of the January edition of *The Messenger*
- The theme is “30 Years”
- Team efforts are okay!

Living into an Easter Life... What's So Important About Baptism, anyway?

A lot, actually. Baptism is our initiation into the Body of Christ. It is a public recognition that we are all children of God and that we are called to live into our faith with God's help and in His community. In this sacrament, we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever. Baptism builds relationships with sponsors and godparents or simply within our church community. **It is also a way that we continue to live into the new life of Easter!** Can you remember your baptism? Those of us who came into God's family as adults usually have interesting stories to tell. Those of us who were baptized as infants may fondly remember Sunday School and Nativity plays. Nevertheless, it is why St. John's exists. Baptism is one of the most important things we do and YOU are part of it.

Are you or someone you know thinking of being baptized? Here are some answers to common questions:

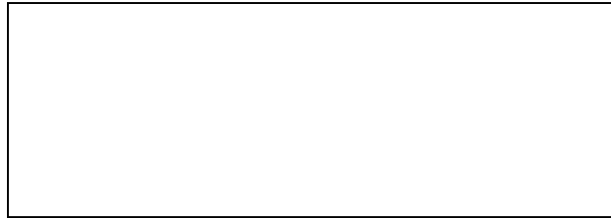
- **Do I need to be active in church?** Yes. Because through baptism you are being called into a life with Christ and fellow Christians it is important to be an engaged part of our Christian community.
- **Are adults as well as children baptized?** Yes!
- **Do adults need Godparents?** Each candidate for baptism has a Godparent (for children) or Sponsor (for adults). It's a way of making sure you don't walk alone in your faith.
- **What happens at a baptism?** You can read the exact service order on page 299 in a *Book of Common Prayer* or contact the parish office with any questions. But generally speaking, you are asked to commit to your life as a Christian and the congregation promises to help.



The church generally recognizes several “good” days for baptisms: The Easter Vigil, The Day of Pentecost, All Saints Day, and The First Sunday of Epiphany. Our next opportunity is on **June 12, 2011** (Pentecost). If you or your child is interested in being baptized into God's family please contact our parish office for more information.

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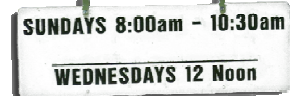
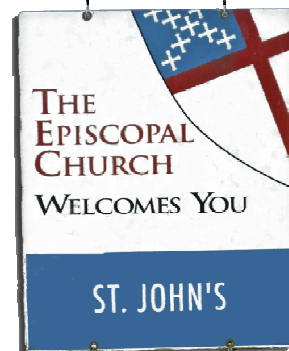
St. John's Episcopal Church WELCOMES YOU!

St. John's is a place where ALL are invited to come and worship. We hope that your time with us leaves you feeling renewed yet full of questions.

Did you know that a Red Door was meant to symbolize sanctuary? That's right. A safe place. A harbor. Somewhere that is protected and secure. That's why at St. John's our two front doors are painted red... a tradition that sends the message that you are welcomed here.

Sunday, 8:00am - Holy Eucharist (spoken)
Sunday, 10:30am - Holy Eucharist (choral)
Wednesday, Noon - Morning Prayer.

Welcome to the community at St. John's!



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