

The Messenger

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

As I write this, I've been at St. John's for a little more than six months. I get asked every now and again about likes and dislikes, life experiences, and whatnot. Since it is summer, I'll share thoughts based on some of the questions I've received from you thus far. I hope this helps you to get to know a little more about me. I'll probably write something like this from time to time. Please feel free to pose an inquiry. As Willy Wonka says, "All questions must be submitted in writing."

Hobby?

I collected baseball cards when I was growing up: Topps, Fleer, Donruss, and other brands. My parents would buy me a single-pack or two anytime they stopped by 7-11. My older brother and younger sister would usually get a candy bar or Slurpee. But I preferred baseball cards. Heck, I'd even forego the rock-solid, flat, rectangular piece of bubble gum in the pack which usually stuck to the bottom card on one side and the packaging on the other. My mom would chew it, though. I even took my mother's scissors and cut baseball cards off backs of cereal boxes, as well as the boxes of individually wrapped Hostess products like

Twinkies and Ding Dongs.

I loved (and still love) baseball because the sport provides some of my earliest childhood memories. At an early age, I knew of Pete Rose and the Big Red Machine from Cincinnati. (Yes, Rose would later bet on baseball and receive a lifetime ban. Maybe it's time to forgive and move on. Put the guy in the Hall of Fame for his playing days. But I digress). Besides Rose I knew of Hank Aaron, Vida Blue, Tom Seaver, Johnny Bench, and others. When America was graced with cable television and we could then watch not three but 12 channels, I spent most every night of the summer watching the Atlanta Braves on the fledgling WTCCG, channel 17. It eventually became TBS.

Why did I become obsessive about baseball cards? They helped me learn. Not only could I recite stats for players by reading the backs of baseball cards, I learned how to pronounce their names, and found on the map the city, state, and in some cases international locale each player was born. Baseball cards nurtured my love for the sport and supplemented my education. I embarked on a new adventure each time I opened a pack. And, yes, I still have all of my baseball cards from childhood.

What music is on your iPod (iPhone)?

Here are the artists currently on my playlist called "Curt's Jams" –

Ben Folds Five, Led Zeppelin, Stone Temple Pilots, Bruce Hornsby & The Range, Traveling Wilburys, Eric Clapton, Billy Joel, George Harrison, Journey, Nik Kershaw, Crowded House, Wynonna Judd, Elton John, Men at Work, ABBA, Lorrie Morgan, Paul McCartney & Wings, Skee-Lo, Robert Plant, The Juliana Hatfield Three, Marcy Playground, Depeche Mode, Foo Fighters, Ringo Starr, Thompson Twins, Bruce Springsteen, Hole, Heart, Carlene Carter, Beastie Boys, Fleetwood Mac, Patrick Hernandez, Anita Ward, Johnny Cash, Bee Gees, KC and the Sunshine Band, Frank Sinatra.

There are others artists I listen to, but these are the ones currently on my life soundtrack.

Favorite Foods?

I'm allergic to peanuts; they cause me to have migraines. So, just about anything without peanuts, peanut oil, or peanut by-products, I'll eat.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Church Picnic

Jul. 15 @ 12 PM

Independence Day was just a warm-up for that best-ever-dish-to-pass of yours! You'll have a second chance to show it off when you join us for a church picnic at the [Harvey Randall Wicks Park](#) (McCarty Rd)! We'll bring the hot dogs, lemonade and table service. Please bring the sides, desserts, and games! We have reserved a pavilion so this picnic will be made in the shade!

Pick-Up Choir

Jul. 7 & 23 and Aug. 27 @ 9:30am

Have you always wanted to join the choir but didn't have the time or courage to give it a try? This summer is your summer! Pick-up choirs will meet at 9:30am to rehearse and sing during the 10:30 service. It's no sweat to give it a try! We don't even vest. Come! Let's have a good sing!

Golf Scramble

April 13 @ 2:30pm

It's back, the St. John's Golf Scramble at the Sawmill Golf Course! The cost of \$20 includes 9 holes of golf, an electric cart and practice balls. Prizes will be awarded! There will be an opportunity for fellowship at the course after golfing. Deadline to sign up is July 30th.

EpiscoPower Youth Week

Aug. 27-30 @ 2:30pm

Youth 3rd through 12th grade are

encouraged to join Fr. Curt, Kevin Simons & other leaders for "EpiscoPower Youth Week," a week of evenings full of music, scripture, worship and training that will launch youth into a new program year! So mark the dates and get ready to EpiscoPower up! Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve meals. And did we mention that youth AND volunteers get cool EpiscoPower shirts? You bet they do! Contact Amy Simons in the church office for details.

NEWS & RECOGNITION

Sewanee Church Music Conference

Pop Quiz: Who directs the oldest Anglican church music conference in the United States? You're very own St. John's Director of Music and Organist, Kevin Simons, that's who!

Sewanee TN, is not only the alma matter of our rector, Fr. Curt, but also the host of the nation's long-established [Sewanee Church Music Conference](#), which has been under the directorship of our very own Kevin Simons for the past two years.

During the SCMC, conferees make a pilgrimage to what is affectionately referred to as "the Holy Mountain" to spend a week with nationally recognized musicians and clergy, attend workshops and lead worship services. You may recognize one or two of this year's faculty members which include: **Barbara Crafton+** (priest, author, and one of the many ground-zero chaplains on during

the September 11th attacks), **Peter Conte** (Choirmaster and organist of St. Clement's Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Grand Court Organist of Macy's world-famous Wanamaker Organ), and **Todd Wilson** (Organist and artist-in-residence, Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio and head of the organ department at the Cleveland Institute of Music).

Also attending this year is St. John's **Choral Scholar, Tyler Morse**. Tune into our [Facebook page](#) for more photos and updates from the 2017 SCMC!

Choral Scholar goes to RSCM

This summer, Choral Scholar Heather Seaton, also had a chance to venture south to be steeped the rich traditions of Anglican church music.

Based at St. John's in Charlotte, N.C., [RSCM](#) (Royal School of Church Music) students were under the direction of Dr. Julian Wachner, sang during several worship services and focused on the mechanics of teaching the VOICE for Life program.

Heather says *"Having the opportunity to attend the RSCM Charlotte course was a priceless experience. I was not only learning great anthems, singing in beautiful churches under fabulous instruction, and learning about this program, I was alongside talented and kind church musicians from around the states. Hearing the music the children were making was beautiful and inspiring. I'm so thankful that I was given the opportunity to attend this course and I can't wait to share what I've learned with St. John's!"*

Preparing for the Columbarium

Renovations to the chape and preparing for the installation of the columbarium has begun! Thank you to Sperry Garber and Anne Beckley for removing the wallpaper and dressing up the space!

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
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

July 1 - Connie Grantham
July 1 - Dick Strtringer
July 2 - John Carter
July 5 - Judy Stuart
July 6 - Matt Gerhardt
July 6 - Mike Houle
July 6 - Ralph Jackson
July 8 - Sarah Daugherty
July 9 - Tom Grantham
July 10 - Bill Carroll
July 11 - Dawn Penney
July 12 - Jan Stringer
July 12 - Jill Wetmore
July 14 - Evan Rzeszutek
July 15 - Jim Mack
July 17 - Amy Simons
July 18 - Nancy Kraus
July 19 - John Roberts
July 21 - Pag Vlassis
July 21 - Sarah Keenan
July 23 - Melanie Hollman
July 23 - Wendy Majask
July 25 - Judy Millar

July 26 - Jacquie Forrest
July 29 - Michael Busch
Aug. 4 - Tom Lynes
Aug. 9 - Lori Baillargeon
Aug. 10 - Connie Clements
Aug. 16 - Ferris Arnold
Aug. 16 - Jim Braun
Aug. 18 - Thomas Renna
Aug 19 - Emma Barshaw
Aug 22 - Josie Keenan
Aug 23 - Mary Jane Spalding
Aug. 24 - Cllara Vlassis
Aug. 24 - Josephine Lee
Aug. 24 - Maarsha Braun
Aug. 25 - Rea Corcoran
Aug. 25 - Sue Marquardt
Aug. 25 - Violet Harrell
Aug . 27 - Ray Ilkka
Aug. 28 - Paul Schaub
Aug. 28 - Sarah Hoffman
Aug. 30 - RHyllis Richardson
Aug. 31 Lucas Curell

Anniversaries

July 18 - Steve Kempfski &
Susan Ludwig
July 20 - Reed & Ashley Byron
Aug. 6 - Richard &
Sue Marquardt
Aug. 11 - Jerry & Sue Lockhart
Aug. 12 - Michael Keenan &
Jane Girdham
Aug. 18 - Kevin & Amy Simons
Aug. 22 - Bruce & Marilyn Wells
Aug. 24 - Ted & Diane Grigg
Aug. 26 - Jeffrey & Amiee Torok
Aug. 29 - Duncan &
Sandra Redfield



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