



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 30, Issue 7

July 2012

The Messenger is published monthly by St. John's Episcopal Church, 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602. This publication is also mailed electronically to our parishioners.



Finding Purpose in What We Do

This summer, we've been answering the question "Why We Do What We Do" as part of our summer sermon series. We talk about the traditions and culture handed down to us as Episcopalians, such as crossing ourselves or "passing the peace." Yet, as it leads us to explore "why we do what we do" I'm compelled to ask "Why do we do it at all?" It's at this point we must embrace some ever deeper questions about life. It reminds me of when my brother, Justin, began asking, "What is the meaning of life?" I had never given the question much thought and figured it was a debate best left for philosophers. But with my brother's sincerity, it took on a new dimension--What is the meaning of life to you? What is the ultimate end of all that we do? Isn't this the question that we face as individuals and as a Church?

I won't try to answer this question philosophically, but I can share what it means to me as a Christian. I believe that life's meaning and the destiny of the Church are to be found in the same place: **being formed by God into the people we were meant to be.** This process of spiritual formation is taking place all the time! Like water shaping a stone, God is gently and continuously shaping our lives into the image of Christ... the image of Love. As a Church, this spiritual formation takes place in powerful ways **when we gather to worship and serve our neighbors.** It is in these most basic Christian expressions of Love that we begin to fulfill our purpose and grow in our love of God and our neighbor. Here, our life's purpose unfolds and our path opens before us.

Christ's Peace,
Fr. Daniel+



Fr. Daniel Cannon

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Constance Grantham
- 1 Richard Stringer
- 2 Diane Carter
- 5 Judy Stuart
- 6 Ralph Jackson
- 6 William Whitehead
- 8 Sarah Daugherty
- 9 Thomas Grantham II
- 10 Stephanie Cittel
- 10 Stephen Seibert
- 12 Janet Stringer
- 12 Jill Wetmore
- 13 Craig Tourangeau
- 17 Amy Simons
- 18 Nancy Kraus
- 18 Karen Parr
- 19 John Roberts
- 20 Matthew Seibert
- 21 Sarah Keenan
- 21 Peggy Vlassis
- 23 Melanie Hollman
- 23 Wendy Majask
- 24 Bradley Cittel II
- 24 Jasen Wilson
- 27 Heather Campbell
- 27 Jason Wright
- 30 Lorraine Swarthout

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Barb & Berney Jones
- 6 Jill & Ned Wetmore
- 15 Lori & Marc Baillargeon
- 18 Sue Ludwig & Steve Kempiski

Thank You

Thank you to **Jan & Jerry Young** for all of their effort setting up and grilling for our Summer Season Launch Lunch!

Thank you, **Sperry Garber, Lou Smith, Barb & Berney Jones, Al & Jane Vondrasek, Ruth & Rise Samra, Janet Cozena, Pat Lynes, Jan Young, Kathy TenWolde, Alison Denman, Jan Salinas, Val McDonald, Betty Donaghy, Connie Grantham, Fr. Daniel Cannon**, for your help organizing our Parish Rummage Sale Fundraiser. A special thanks to **Al Gissendanner** for overseeing storage and more! Our Lunch Bag Outreach Program loves all of you!

Thanks to **Rebecca Curell** for being an unofficial photographer for many events and services!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who participated in our Blue Jean Sunday grounds clean-up effort!

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:

Jun. 24 - Jul. 7	Janis Rump	798-3892
Jul. 8 - Jul. 21	Al & Jane Vondrasek	865-7908
Jul 22 - Aug. 4	Tom Donaghy	395-3588

Vestry Members:

Keith Birdsall	652-6768	quilter37@charter.net
Drew Christiansen	392-0109	drewchristiansen78@gmail.com
Jane Girdham	790-8712	jpgirdham@svsu.edu
Connie Grantham	695-2088	grantham@hotmail.com
Marcia Hoffman	793-8354	hoffman1982@sbcglobal.net
Mark Mahlberg	793-0801	mark-mahlberg@yahoo.com
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

Reflections

How does what I experience in my church teach me how to live in my world?

When we leave St. John's after a typical Sunday service, what do we take with us? Do we take the candelabra, processional cross, prayer book, hymnal, magnificent stained glass windows, or the powerful and inspiring music? Of course not... well, at least not physically, although we may take the experience of any or all of these things in memory and spirit. Do we take the Holy word of God, the readings, Gospel, or the sermon? I suspect that we try to hold onto them the best way we know how. One thing I'm sure we take with us, if we have received



Dave Humpert

communion, is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. And with it comes the acclamation to "Go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit." What does this acclamation really mean to me, or to us? If I may be so bold, I would like to offer what it means to me and it may be that some of you have had a similar experience at some point in time.

In a grocery store check-out one afternoon, as I waited my turn, the elderly woman in front of me was having a difficult time finding the change to complete her purchase. The clerk became impatient as the line continued to grow. With a pocket full of change, I quickly counted out what she needed and offered it to her with a smile. She was a bit flustered, but I insisted that she take it. She did, completed her purchase, thanked me and left. The clerk then rang me up, but before I could leave she said, "Why did you do that?" with her hands on her hips. It was obvious that she was puzzled by my behavior. I simply said to her, "It's what I needed to do." She rolled her eyes, shook her head and called out "Next!"

I would hope that at some point she might reflect on this event and see it differently. What I didn't say was that it was a small gesture of what I believe in as a Christian. If I receive Christ's presence in the Eucharist ("He in me and I in Him") and am then to go forth into the world in His love, then I must show that love.

My intent is to simply offer a personal reflection on what I take away from church. How do you "go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit?" How does what you do build up the church as a whole?

God's Peace,

Dave Humpert

A Long Way Home

It has been a long journey to where I am now even though I came from just a few blocks away, from Calvary Memorial Episcopal Church where I was a member for 26 years. The voyage began with the formation of the five-member Mutual Ministry Support Team at Calvary early in 2006. Our initial goal was to “save” our church from diminishing membership. But along the way we all got much more out of our studies. We gained not only more knowledge of our church, but also a deepening individual spiritual awareness that continued to grow with each step the team took. I was privileged to be identified and called as transitional deacon leading, at some later date to the priesthood. I was ordained deacon by Bishop Todd Ousley on November 8, 2009. The plan, at that time, was for the team to remain and function at Calvary.

Well, things happened rather quickly in May 2010. Calvary closed and many of our members transferred to St. John’s; the Mutual Ministry Support Team, as a team, ceased to function because we were no longer at Calvary. The Rev. Darren Elin left St. John’s and I found myself acting as a deacon at my new church waiting to identify and call a rector. It was an honor to serve in that capacity at St. John’s where I began to know and appreciate so many of my new St. John’s family. I learned a great deal while serving at the altar with five or six different supply priests as we went through the search process.

And then Father Daniel arrived! What a joy for us all as we now work together with our new rector to strengthen our church and to reach out to all in the name of Jesus Christ. I am most pleased that under Father Daniel’s expert and caring tutelage, I have taken on an expanded role at St. John’s. In addition to serving at the altar as deacon on Sunday’s, I will be concentrating on pastoral care, reaching out to our parishioners who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis. This is one of the most important aspects of our shared life together as we take our love and commitment as Christians out into the community. We have a seven-member Eucharistic Visitor Team whose mission it is to minister to our home-bound, our hospitalized members. We appreciate the dedication these people demonstrate.

I will also be taking a more active role in the new service at 12:15 by sharing the preaching responsibilities with Father Daniel. I enjoy this aspect of my work at St. John’s.

[Continued on page 5]



And then there is the big honor... on October 20th at the Annual Convention at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint, I will be ordained a priest, and will be thrilled to be able to serve as Father Daniel's assistant with my main responsibilities for pastoral care!

I have my office next to Jan's and I welcome you to stop by and visit. I am there on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9-12 and Wednesday's from 1-3. I am sure that you will be able to identify the French cathedrals on my office walls!

I am home now, my new St. John's home, where I am looking forward to worshipping with you and to serving together our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we are, in all that we do, and in all that we are to become.

The Rev. Pamela Renna

Loons Baseball

The fellowship of America's favorite pastime...

This year's Loon's baseball outing is scheduled for **Sunday, July 15th, at 2:05pm**. We'll be meeting at Dow Diamond for a fun afternoon of baseball, snacks and fellowship. If you've never been to a game, Dow Diamond is a beautiful stadium with all of the snacks, souvenirs, mascots and excitement you'd expect at a professional sporting event, but with room to stretch your legs! There's even a play ground for our younger baseball fans! Tickets are \$9.00 each. To ensure that we get the best available group seats, the **deadline to sign up is Sunday, July 1st**.



Old Town Christian Outreach

One Saturday a month makes a big difference!

The fourth Saturday of each month, St. John's sends a group of volunteers to serve in the soup kitchen at the Old Town Christian Outreach Center. We meet at St. John's at 9:15am, then report to the Outreach Center and work until around 1:00pm. This is a huge help to the outreach center and we represent ourselves well in the community around us. There is no ongoing commitment; simply come when you can. Consider making it a family outing for those of us with older children!



Rummage Sale Fundraiser Success!

For those of you who haven't heard, our Rummage Sale Fundraiser, is an annual event that aids in the financial support of our Lunch Bag Outreach program. This year, the communities' need for this program has been substantial and has taxed our budget to it's limits. **The money raised from the 2012 Rummage Sale Fundraiser (just over \$1000.00), will provide 6 additional weeks worth of food**, nearly compensating for the increase in need! Thanks again to all who have contributed to this worthy cause!



A Note From the Editor

Being involved benefits everyone...

This edition of "The Messenger" has highlighted a lot of the things we do at church. From worship to outreach, the wisdom of "you get out of it what you put into it" rings true. **Being involved is a spiritual exercise that brings us greater understanding of our faith. We gain the support and friendship of those around us, we more closely identify with our heritage of traditions, and we strengthen our relationship with our Savior.** And that's just what *we* get out of it! As if that wasn't enough, through our involvement the hungry are fed, the sick are visited and the weary are lifted up. What a tremendous benefit we all receive when we become involved!



Amy Simons

This month, I encourage you to speak to fellow parishioners about what they do at St. John's. Their interests and ideas may surprise you! And if you'd like, I'll connect you with a ministry that suites your time and talents.

Blessings,

Amy Simons

Communications Coordinator

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 123 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
 SAGINAW, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org

JULY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>The 5th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 9:30am – Pick-Up Choir 10:00am – Nursery 10:30am – Holy Eucharist 12:15pm – Holy Eucharist	2	3	4 Offices Closed – Independence Day!	5	6	7
8 <i>The 6th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery 10:30am – Holy Eucharist 12:15pm – Holy Eucharist	9	10	11 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 7:00 – Vestry Meeting	12	13	14
15 <i>The 7th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery 10:30am – Holy Eucharist 12:15pm – Holy Eucharist 2:05pm – Loons Baseball	16	17	18 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	19	20	21
22 <i>The 8th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> <i>Youth Sunday</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 9:30am – Pick-Up Choir 10:00am – Nursery 10:30am – Holy Eucharist & Youth Sunday 12:15pm – Holy Eucharist	23	24 7:00pm – Finance Meeting	25 Noon – Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	26	27	28 9:15am – Old Town Christian Outreach Volunteer Day
29 <i>The 9th. Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am – Holy Eucharist 10:00am – Nursery 10:30am – Holy Eucharist 12:15pm – Holy Eucharist	30	31				