



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 28, Issue 2

February 2010

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Thank you for a Great Year of Turn-Around and Looking Ahead to an Incredible Year in 2010!

“Moving from Vision to Action” was the major theme at this year’s Annual Meeting held Sunday, January 24th. Always a great time for all who attend, this year saw even more people come participate, enjoy fellowship and learn about what’s ahead for 2010. In addition to highlighting the *Annual Report* (extra copies of which are still available at church or on our website at www.stjohns-saginaw.org), this is the occasion in which we, as the members of St. John’s, elect representatives and members of the Vestry, say thank you to our retiring members of the Vestry, and hear from our Sr. Warden, Treasurer, and Rector. We do all of this in the context of a breakfast meeting and all in the span of just about an hour, in-between the Sunday services. This is a day that is truly filled with fun, fellowship and good food inasmuch as important information.

Please help congratulate this year’s Vestry Class:

- Connie Grantham
- Marcia Hoffman
- Dennis Thom!

Our Diocesan Delegate and Convocation Representative for 2010 will be **Karen Parr**.

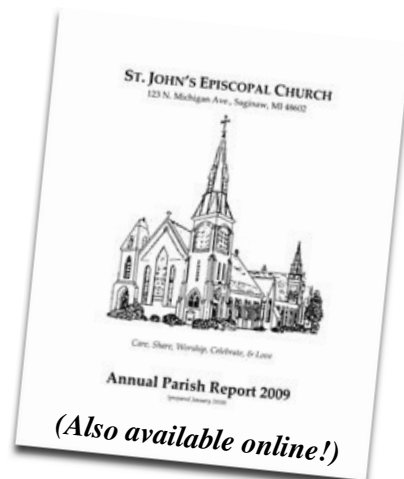
Our new Officers will be:

- **Keith Birdsall, Sr. Warden**
- **Burris Smith, Jr. Warden**
- **Marcia Hoffman, Treasurer**
- **Janet Cosenza, Clerk**

In Recognition of Some of Our Faithful and Dedicated Leadership: Well Done!

This year, there are three ‘retiring’ members of the Vestry that have truly epitomized what it means to be servant leaders. Barb Ilkka, Ellen Redfield and Herb Spence III truly need no introduction -- they have all been visibly active long before serving on the Vestry and did not let the added responsibility of leadership deter them from not only maintaining their previous ministries, but also discovering new ones along the way! It is certain that their service and commitment will continue even though they are ‘retiring’ ... for now.

To Barb, Ellen, Herb and all those who have answered the call to share in leadership, thank you! Your dedication, commitment and outstanding service truly make a difference in all that St. John’s continues to offer in the name of our Lord. The ministry we share is made possible by the leadership and commitment that continues to grow. Shared leadership is more than a concept in a business management; it is a value we continue to grow into, as we seek to **live into our vision of turning our parish around becoming a vibrant urban new - old church.**



Faith Matters: Now is the Time, Our Hour is Just Beginning!

When you think about it, in Jesus we do not see the example of one who acts in haste and then goes off, but rather an example of what can come out of deep and attentive faith. Jesus has clarity of identity and purpose not only of himself, but also of the overall mission that is at hand. I believe it is the same for us today as well – the clarity of our identity and purpose has not simply prepared us for a given occasion or moment, but for the whole mission at hand if we allow it to.

In June of 2007, we were able to celebrate a defining moment in the life of St. John's. What was accomplished in the Vision Process, I believe was far more than an intellectual exercise, more than a way to get organized, even more than a way for us to focus. Instead, I offer that our Vision process was a monumental step towards embracing a future that was no longer being determined by simply the past or even a harkening to "the good old days," or worse the strange struggle to "keep things the way they never were." The vision Process was an open and inclusive extended conversation and discernment, that is our prayerful consideration of who we are and what we feel God is calling us to next. It came in a time that few, if any wanted to live through and not just at St. John's, but also for Saginaw and Michigan itself.

When I arrived to serve among you in September of 2004, there was a specific image St. John's had, or was projected. I was asked to come and help solidify what was described as a program-based ministry parish. I never met that parish. It was not present in 2004 and subsequently never materialized. My first year with you became a quick dive into understanding what was, indeed, reality for the life and ministry of St. John's. The parish was in transition, but not in the way people expected or hoped; and neither was Saginaw itself. My first month here not only saw a pastoral trauma in the parish, but economic trauma in our community with the first of several key announcements made by Delphi, GM and Eaton. We became so used to saying goodbye to families on their way out of the state, that we almost did not notice they were really gone. We were in the midst of loss, there was grief and there was pain.

I believe there's something to be gained by remembering the work done by Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross around the study of death and dying. Her five stages of death could, I believe be applied to what St. John's had to live through: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Yet we must always remember that when the Church talks about death, we talk also about our core belief that resurrection follows death. I firmly believe that the envisioned future we were able to articulate 2 ½ years ago was an insight into what our resurrection can be. By no means do I believe that God is not done with our ministry in this place. Our dedication, passion, creativity and willingness to care, share, worship, celebrate and love have helped us to arrive at a new day.

My friends, I believe that day is upon us. In many ways, we have not been as clear, as vital, as committed, as united as we are today in many years. This is thanks to you and the life and ministry you are willing to continue sharing. This new day beckons us to act boldly, find new ways and approaches to be the Church – the relevant, vibrant, Christ-centered, grace-filled new-old Church that God needs at this time and in this place. The journey we have traveled was not to simply maintain, but to reclaim, rediscover the essence of what makes St. John's so important and special in your life and the lives of those we minister to in Christ's Name.

Let us be clear: this day does involve change, it does include sacrifice, and it will call upon the creativity, commitment and generosity of all of us in even newer ways. I truly believe God is beckoning each of us to find our place in this mission right now today. We have work to do – as small, challenged, blessed, creative, empowered and clear as we are. ***Now is the time, our hour is just beginning!*** *As a church, we have something new we can offer for God's people. It all needs to start with you,* and I believe God is seeking to bless you in your response to it. With your continued support we not only can prayerfully consider how best to respond to God's call to be the Body of Christ, we can live into this calling at this very time and in this blessed parish of St. John's.

Daven Clinton



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Happy Birthday!

- 2 Pat Lynes
- 2 Mary Spence
- 4 Marion Petzko
- 4 Elizabeth Trogan
- 6 Frederick (Will) Sunderman, IV
- 9 Marc Baillargeon
- 13 Paige Seibert
- 13 Kathryn Spence
- 13 Mark II Wilson
- 18 Sarah Elin
- 18 James Joswiak
- 18 Louise Small
- 19 Richard Sedwick
- 22 Louberta Weathersby
- 25 Al Vondrasek
- 26 Christine Schaub
- 27 Connor Shinaberry
- 28 Betty Galbraith
- 28 Marcia Hoffman

Thank You

Thank you **Nancy & Keith Birdsall, Sharon Kaylor, Sue & Richard Marquardt, Susan Daugherty, Jane & Al Vondrasek, Betty Donaghy, Linda Buzon, Tom Donaghy, Ellen Redfield, Ida Smith, Barb & Berney Jones, Sperry Garber, Kay Moore, Sallie Swanson, Jan Young, Tanya Brown, Michelle Hoeppner, Joan Wendland, Jo Lee, Marcia Hoffman, and Sue & Jack Luxton** for your help during the bereavement dinner for Buzz Wilber.

Thanks to **Sharon Kaylor, Nancy Birdsall, Tom Donaghy, Sallie Swanson, Michael Keenan, Jan Young, Susan Marquardt, Susan Ludwig,** and **Ellen Redfield** for your help with the January Festive Sunday Potluck.

Thank you **Nancy Kraus** for filling in for Jan Young while she was on vacation!

Thank you **Sue Brigham** for your dedicated efforts in folding the Sunday bulletin each week!

A major note of thanks is due to **Sue Luxton** and her talented team, including: **Sharon Kaylor, Jack Luxton, Janet Cosenza, Sue & Richard Marquardt, Barb & Ray Ilkka, Sallie Swanson and Joan Wendland** among others for helping the breakfast so wonderful! Thank you everyone for graciously sharing so much of your time and talents to help make the Annual Breakfast & Annual Meeting so special for us all!

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.

Parish Directories Have Arrived!

Pick up yours when you come to church.



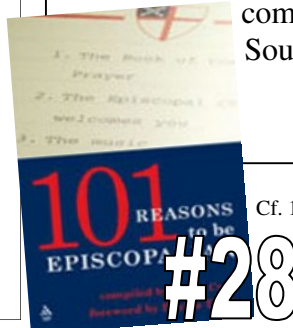
P.S.
Have you remembered to pick up your **2010** envelopes yet?

Good Samaritans:

Jan. 24 - Feb 6	Ellen Redfield	799-4401
Feb 7 - Feb 20	Michael Keenan	790-8712
Feb 21 - March 1	Susan Daugherty	249-1989

We have the liturgical beauty of the Catholics combined with the local authority of the Southern Baptists.

Cynthia McLeod
Diocese of East Tennessee



Cf. 101 Reasons to be Episcopalian, compiled by Louie Crew. © 2003 by Louie Crew/Morehouse ISDN 0-8192-1925-8 ePublishing.

St. John's Accessibility Project – Now is the Time!

You can help welcome everyone to join us as we care, share, worship, celebrate and love

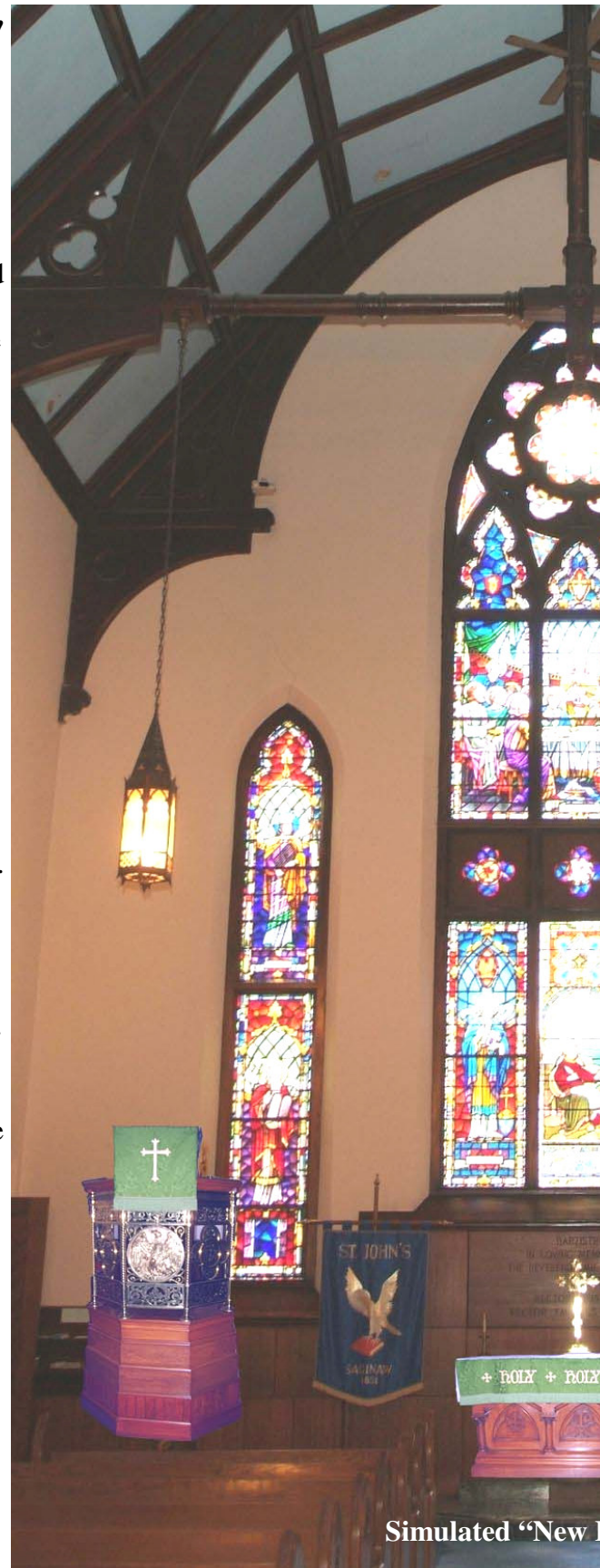
At our Annual Meeting held on Sunday, January 24th, Herb Spence III presented the news many people have been eagerly waiting to hear: “The opportunity is upon us!”

As you are probably well aware, our congregation identified improving the accessibility of St. John's facilities, especially to our worship space with easy access to and from the community room and a barrier-free restroom, as the top priority during our Vision Process. As a result, the plan that was developed and presented to the congregation and has since been confirmed by design professionals and accessibility specialists as the best and most cost efficient way to address this priority has our full support.

We realize the next step is to allow our congregation to decide if we are currently able to fund this project. Each member of our Vestry, has already made their own personal commitment and we would like to encourage you to do the same. Since the \$150,000 project cost estimate is about ¾ of the total of our annual pledges, it can be expected that it will take an average total gift of approximately ¾ of each household's current pledge amount in order to make this project a reality. Grace and generosity abound at St. John's. Herb was able to share that in advance of the Annual Meeting before these plans were officially announced - St. John's has received gifts for over half of the projected costs of the accessibility project. Additional pledges were received that day, as well. *How can you help?* Please, prayerfully consider a gift in that range, which would amount to about ¼ of your household's pledge per year, if paid over 3 years. We understand this may not be possible for everyone and we will continue to encourage those who can make larger gifts to do so. Look for your commitment letter to arrive shortly. In the meantime, should you wish to pledge your commitment to be a part of this important and exciting project now, you can go to our website at www.stjohns-saginaw.org where you can pledge and even fulfill your pledge all on-line.

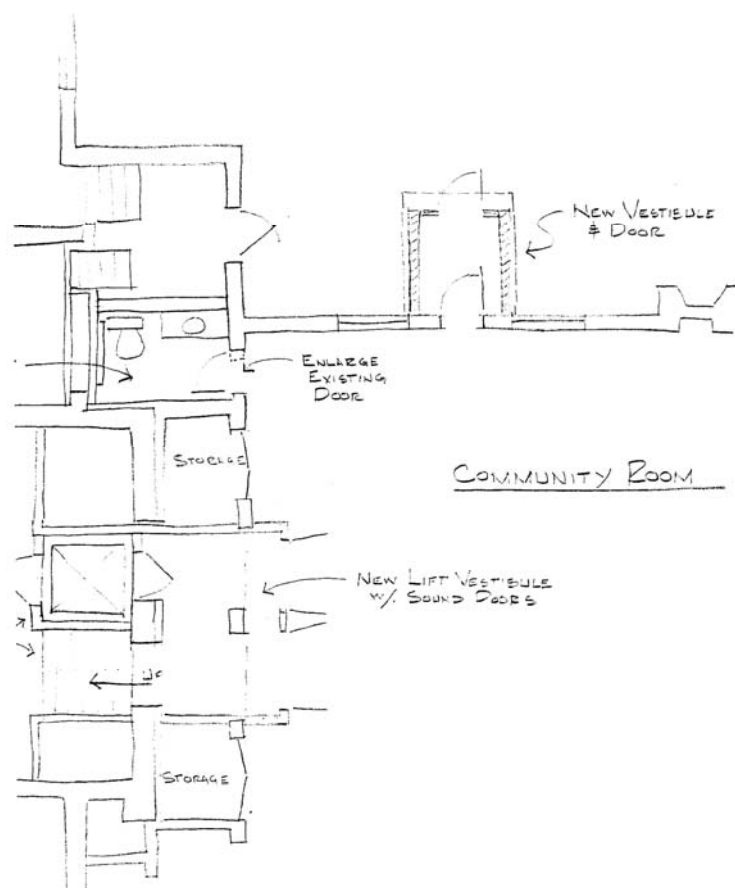
Thank you for all you do to help St. John's really make a difference in the lives of our parishioners and our community. Together, we **can** make this happen!

St John's Vestry and Accessibility Campaign Team





Floor Plans for the Community Room, Accessible Restroom, and chair lift to the church.



Outreach:

C.A.N. Update:

A BIG thank you needs to be extended to Mary Spence and everyone who contributed to the bountiful ingathering of handmade blankets, mittens, scarves, hats and hangers for children in foster care! The contributors whose names we have listed are: **Karen Arman, Betty Galbraith, Edith David, Rose Marie Smith, Virginia Warner, Charlotte Jacqmain, Susan Ludwig, Rebecca Carell, and Kathryn Judd.** If we missed your name please let us know!



Lunch Bag Outreach:

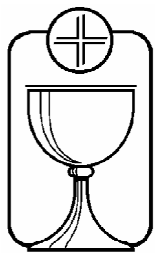
We continue to lift the community with our emergency lunch bag program. Each week, anywhere from 20 to 70 lunch bags can be handed out to those in our community most in need. This is a meaningful ministry that lets ALL members participate fully in our vision for Outreach. If you would like to help contribute supplies or volunteer to help pass out the bags please contact our parish office at 989-793-9575.



If you turn in a receipt for your donations, the gift will be acknowledged on your contribution statement as an in-kind donation.

Taking Church Beyond Our Walls – Home Communion

One aspect of our Cottage Meetings this past fall was the opportunity to share with many in the parish something that only a few are well acquainted with: “Home Communion.” Whenever you or a loved one is in the hospital or homebound, St. John’s can bring the church to you, by means of a pastoral visit/Home Communion. Pastoral visits and Home Communion not only allows one to receive the sacrament, but also keeps us all connected in terms of the common life and ministry we share.



Today, with all the privacy regulations that we must comply with, now more than ever we need you to share with us when you or a loved one are in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit by either the priest or parish visitor. This is a fundamental ministry St. John’s continues to offer and is only as effective as all of us working together. If

you or someone you love would like a visit, please contact the parish office by either email at care@stjohns-saginaw.org or phone 793-9575.



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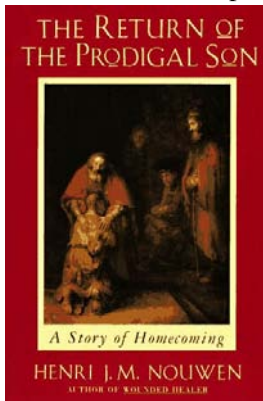
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Do Something to Feed Your Soul This Lent – Join Our Lenten Series!

Beginning Tuesday, February 23rd, come be a part of an extraordinary journey that all began with a chance encounter with a reproduction of the famous painting by Rembrandt. In his book, Henri Nouwen shares the deeply personal and resonant meditation that led him to discover the place within where God has chosen to dwell. This book has the power to not only challenge but transform how we look at ourselves as well as those close to us in terms of grace, forgiveness, and deep love that faith enables. This Lent we will read and discuss this beautiful book along with members of our neighboring parish, Calvary Episcopal Church who will join us each Tuesday for a shared soup supper, a simple celebration of the Holy Eucharist, as well as fellowship. Do something good for yourself this Lent, something that will feed your soul!



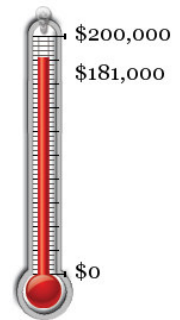
A chance encounter with a poster depicting a detail of Rembrandt's The Return of the Prodigal Son set in motion a chain of events that enabled Nouwen to redefine and claim his vocation late in his life. Nouwen brings the parable to life with empathic analyses of each character. And Nouwen's writing is so clear and his tone is so appealingly frank and humble that readers--no matter how far from home--will find hope for themselves in the prodigal peace Nouwen ultimately achieves. --Michael Joseph Gross (Amazon.com)

Come explore *The Return of the Prodigal Son* each Tuesday night in Lent!
In just an hour-and-a-half, we will feed your body, mind and soul!

- 6:00pm Shared Soup Supper
- 6:30pm Simplified Holy Eucharist
- 7:00—7:30 Discussion: *The Return of the Prodigal Son*

Thanks to You, We Can Close the Gap With Our Annual Giving!

As we enter 2010 the goal of eliminating our recurring deficit is in sight! It has certainly been true, but now it is clear to see that every commitment is needed – perhaps now more than ever before! Let’s face facts: we are doing more than paying bills at St. Johns. **We are supporting God’s ministry and you can help!** At year’s end we have received pledges totaling more than **\$181,000** and with regular giving, we can project that amount to grow to at least **\$193,000**. As great as this response is, we still have not heard from everyone. *How about you?* Let us celebrate what God is doing in our midst and continue to turn St. John’s around! Closing the gap between income and expenses and realizing the priorities and goals of the parish will take your commitment! Thank you.

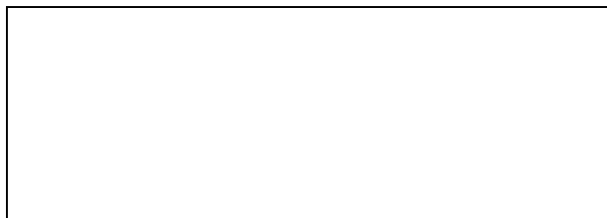
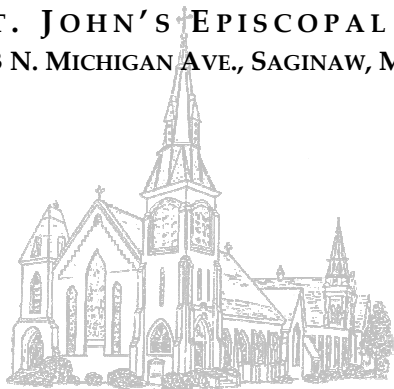


Additional Annual Giving Brochures (with a pledge card) are available in the Community Room, or simply contact our parish office by calling 793-9575. This year making and even fulfilling your pledge is even more convenient, as you can now pledge and even pay to fulfill your pledge directly and securely on-line on our website at www.stjohns-saginaw.org (click on the “support us” link).

	<p>DAILY LUNCH & DRINK SPECIALS</p> <p>NEW MENU!</p> <p>118 N. Michigan Ave. Saginaw, MI 48602 989-792-0123 www.gosomeplaceelse.com</p>
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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

This fun Anglican tradition strives to get rid of all of the "fat in the larder" before Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday.

Join us **February 16th at 6:00pm** for a light evening of food, fellowship, and fun, including "putting away the Alleluia" until Easter Day. A donation of \$5 per adult (children \$2.50) is requested.



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday, **February 17th**, is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians focus on their complete sinfulness and the necessity of Christ's suffering and death to insure their salvation. The ashes we incorporate into the service are referred to many times in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, and repentance. Join us for one of two special services on Ash Wednesday (noon and 6:00pm) to mark the beginning of this important season and remind ourselves exactly why Easter is such a celebration!

