



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 28, Issue 7

July / August 2010

The Messenger is published monthly by St. John's Episcopal Church, 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602. This publication is mailed to our parishioners at no cost to them.

The Archbishop gives his thoughts on Pentecost. This, the seventh Sunday after Easter, is 'the moment when the friends of Jesus discover that they can communicate to all sorts of people they never thought that they would be speaking to'.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Reflects on Pentecost

People sometimes talk about Pentecost as the birthday of the Church. I've never been completely sure about this and I think that the birthday of the Church is the birthday of Jesus Christ. Or perhaps, if they want to put it slightly differently, it is Easter - the beginning of the community gathered around the risen Christ.

In fact you can't really give a simple date of when the Church began. It is what happens when Jesus is around and gathers people to him in the name of his father, to reconcile them and build them into a new community. But Pentecost does celebrate something very essential and very new about the reality of the infant Church as the story is told to us in the Acts of the Apostles; it is the moment when the friends of Jesus discover that they can communicate to all sorts of people they never thought that they would be speaking to. They have the gift of tongues. They can go out and make sense of all this great crowd of pilgrims assembling from every nation in Jerusalem. They can actually build bridges with strangers and so while there is already a community gathered around the risen Christ... *Continues on page 5*

IN THIS ISSUE...

Summer in the City

What does a church have in common with the local pubs? What is St. John's doing to be a part of the community around us? How can you rediscover Old Town Saginaw this summer?

Making our Future Accessible

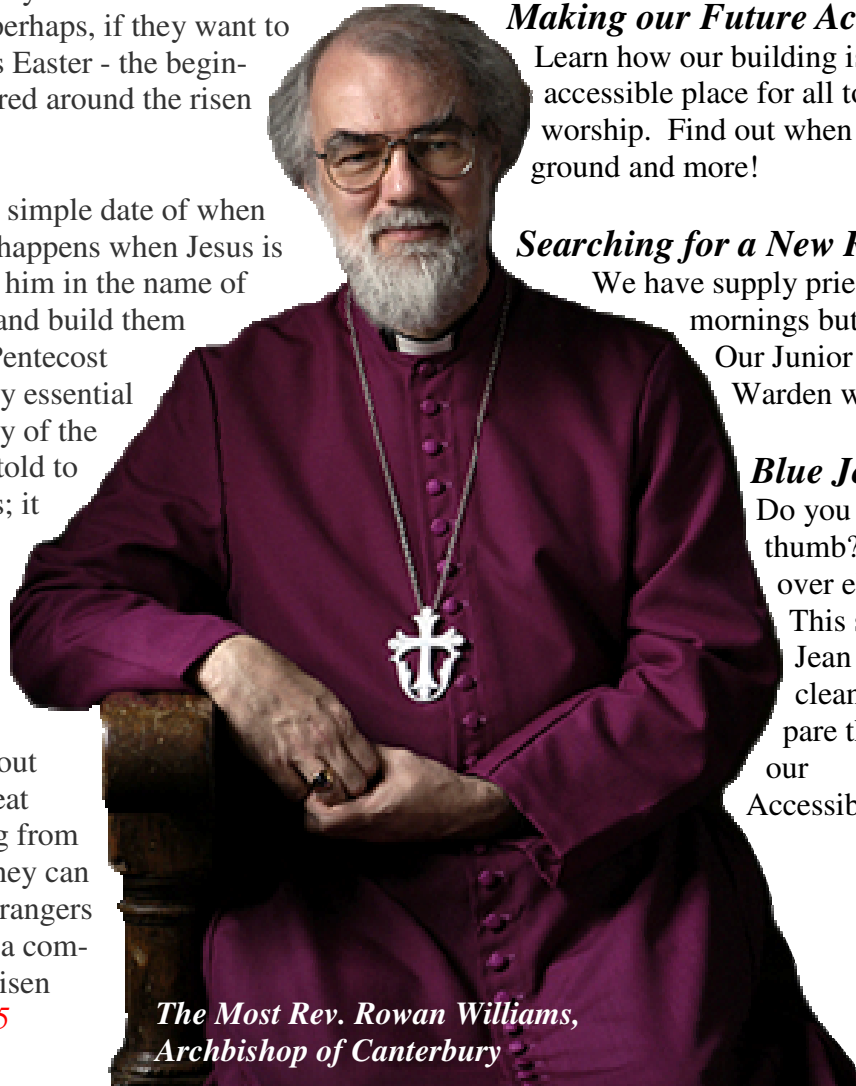
Learn how our building is becoming an accessible place for all to come and worship. Find out when we break ground and more!

Searching for a New Rector

We have supply priests on Sunday mornings but now what? Our Junior Warden will explain.

Blue Jean Sunday

Do you have a green thumb? Some left-over elbow grease? This summer Blue Jean Sunday's clean up and prepare the grounds for our Accessibility Project.



*The Most Rev. Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury*

July Birthdays

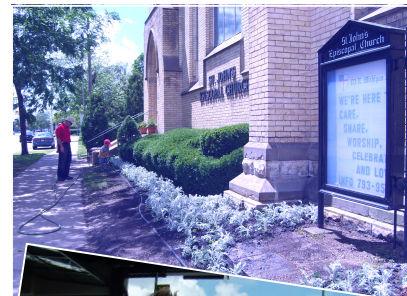
- 1 Constance Grantham
- 1 Richard Stringer
- 5 Judy Stuart
- 6 Alex Baillie
- 6 Ralph Jackson
- 6 William Whitehead
- 8 Sarah Daugherty
- 9 Thomas Grantham II
- 10 Stephanie Cittel
- 10 Stephen Seibert
- 11 Harold Grnya
- 12 Janet Stringer
- 12 Jill Wetmore
- 13 Bette Schweier
- 17 Amy Simons
- 17 Joshua Strahm
- 18 Nancy Kraus
- 18 Karen Parr
- 19 John Roberts
- 20 Matthew Seibert
- 21 Nathan Baillie
- 21 Sarah Keenan
- 21 Peggy Vlassis
- 23 Melanie Hollman
- 23 Wendy Majask
- 24 Bradley Cittel II
- 24 Jason Wilson
- 27 Heather Campbell
- 27 Jason Wright
- 30 Lorraine Swarhout

August Birthdays

- 2 Carl McLaughlin
- 2 Tom Lynes
- 6 Gino Garza
- 7 Dan Hoffman
- 8 Jeremy Jones
- 8 Rose Marie Smith
- 9 Lori Baillargeon
- 10 Mark Cittel
- 10 Connie Clements
- 12 Dan Cramer
- 15 Linda Buzon
- 16 Jim Braun
- 16 Valerie Gilchrist
- 19 Emma Barshaw
- 22 Josie Keenan
- 23 Rosemary Butterfield
- 23 Sue Luxton
- 23 Mary Jane Spalding
- 24 Marsha Braun
- 24 Kim Burau
- 24 Josephine Lee
- 24 Matthew Reardon
- 24 Clara Vlassis
- 25 Rea Corcoran
- 25 Violet Harrell
- 25 Susan Marquardt
- 26 Taylor Shinaberry
- 27 Ray Ilkka
- 28 Sarah Hoffman
- 28 Paul Schaub
- 31 Emil Marcet

Summer Anniversary's

- 2 July Barb & Berney Jones
- 6 July Jill & Ned Wetmore
- 15 July Lori & Marc Baillargeon
- 18 July Sue Ludwig & Steve Kempski
- 6 August Susan & Richard Marquardt
- 12 August Melanie & Gary Hollman
- 15 August Mary & Herb Spence Jr.
- 18 August Amy & Kevin Simons
- 21 August Katie & Mark Wilson
- 24 August Diane & Ted Grigg
- 26 August Betsy & Bruce Trogan
- 29 August Sandy & Duncan Redfield



Summer Supply Clergy:

- July 4 Chuck Curtis
- July 11 Mary Jo Schuetz
- July 18 Mary Jo Schuetz
- July 25 Chuck Curtis
- August 1 Heather Barta
- August 8 Chuck Curtis
- August 15 Mary Jo Schuetz
- August 22 Mary Jo Schuetz
- August 29 Chuck Curtis
- September 5 Heather Barta

Vestry Members:

- Keith H. Birdsall, Senior Warden
- Burriss Smith, Junior Warden
- Marcia Hoffman, Treasurer
- Janet Cosenza, Clerk
- William Frederick
- Constance Grantham
- Susan Marquardt
- William Scharffe
- Dennis Thom



Thank You

Thanks to **Bill Frederick & Al Gissendanner** for adding a new flare to the furniture in the chapel. What a lovely place for morning prayer!

Thank you **Pam Renna** for making yourself available for services and being such an important part of joining the worship lives of St. John's and Calvary.

Thanks to ALL of our coffee hour volunteers for providing hospitality to guests and members alike including but not limited to: **Keith & Nancy Birdsall, Jim & Marsha Braun, Linda Buzon, Susan Daugherty, Barb & Ray Ilkka, Jane Girdham & Michael Keenan, Jan & Jerry Young Barbara & John Roberts, and Barb & Berney Jones.**

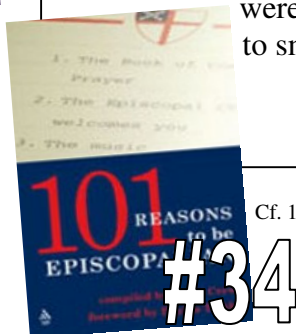
Is there someone in our parish who has gone above and beyond? If you would like to offer thanks, please call the office at 793-9575.

Good Samaritans:

- June 27 - July 10 Janet Cosenza 907-1630
- July 11 - July 24 Sue Luxton 684-9169
- July 25 - Aug 7 Tom Donaghy 395-3588
- Aug 8 - Aug 21 Sperry Garber 790-4940
- Aug 22 - Sept 4 Connie Grantham 695-2088

I spent Good Friday with the folks at St. Paul's Chapel. There I talked with a young firefighter who has been volunteering at Ground Zero for several months. In the midst of his sharing he said: "If it weren't for this place, I would be able to smile."

*Sharon Moon
Diocese of Washington*



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

Blue Jean Sunday
July 11th & September 26th

Blue Jean Sunday is a day where everyone is encouraged to put on his old jeans and tee-shirt for church. Then following the 10:30 service we'll have a light lunch (cooked up on our grill) and clean up the grounds around St. John's. Weeding, thinning, raking, trimming, planting... all the things we do to make our own homes look well cared for, we will also do here at St. John's. Under the watchful eye of Mary Ellen Whitney, we'll be sure to look our best!

As part of our accessibility project we may need a few willing volunteers to provide a foster home for some of our larger plants during the construction project. In September, we will use our Blue Jean Sunday to re-group and winterize our grounds post-construction.



Please come to church and get dirty with us for Blue Jean Sundays this summer! What a terrific day to come as you are, bring a friend, share in fellowship, and help make our city as well as our church home a cleaner, brighter place!

Great Lakes Loons

Sunday, August 22nd at 3:05pm, Dow Diamond

If you have never been to a local minor league sporting event you are in for a treat! The minor league offers all of the gimmicks and give-a-ways like the Pros with a “fight to the finish” attitude and nice price! Tickets available for \$9.00. Sign up for your tickets on the Parish Life bulletin board today!



The Archbishop of Canterbury Reflects on Pentecost continued...

...the Church has begun. It is at this moment it seems that the earliest Christians really begin to understand that what they say about Jesus is something that can be communicated in principle to absolutely anyone, to every human being to the ends of the Earth.

So Pentecost is the moment when the promise and the command given at the end of St Matthew's Gospel becomes a reality. 'Go and make disciples to the ends of the Earth', says Jesus, 'make disciples of all nations'. And so at Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes down on the Church to build bridges with strangers. It is a reminder that when we think about the Holy Spirit in the Christian Church we are always thinking about the way God makes connections. It is the Holy Spirit that connects us with Jesus and through Jesus to God the Father. It is the Holy Spirit that brings communion relationship between Christian believers. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us the words we speak to God in prayer, so St Paul tells us. And it is the Holy Spirit, so the Acts of the Apostles seems to say, that helps us communicate effectively, 'Christianly' with one another. The Holy Spirit that gives us the words to share good news with one another and even to take that good news into environments that are strange and unfamiliar to us.



Talking through a Summer of Transition

The search for a new Rector and more...

Communication is a wonderful thing – particularly when it works. And there are times that it really needs to work. We're in such a time now. As things change, the possibility of missed or incomplete or vague communication not only exists, but is compounded by the uncertainty. And it can be deadly. Dealing with and communicating about one significant change is hard enough, but when two or three come at us simultaneously it can be overwhelming. These changes are going to result in a "new normal" for all of us, and establishing that new normal is the work of all of us. That's why communication is so critical. Consider three major events and some of the many questions we've heard recently:



1. The process of calling a new rector is issue number 1 on many minds. How does it work? How long will it take? What happens in the meantime? In a nutshell, we have guest clergy through the summer. (See page 2 for listing) And currently, we're busy preparing a Parish Profile – a document that tells prospective rectors who we are, where we are, what we are about, what we'd like to see in our next rector. It will also identify our perceived strengths and weaknesses. The ideas, thoughts, and desires of the parish are important here. The work of the last couple of years (vision process, cottage meetings, surveys, etc.) will be very helpful in the Profile. We'll be setting up additional ways to get your ideas and needs into the mix. The Profile should raise questions in the mind of those who apply that will generate in-depth conversations with us. We intend to take as much time as needed to get this right – probably more than a year from start to finish. A year or more is a long time, so we are also in the middle of identifying what we are calling a "missioner" priest to be with us through the process of identifying our next rector. That person will start in early September. We're working with the Bishop on this, and will know more very soon.

2. What's the status of the Accessibility Project? When does the dust begin flying? Will we be able to use the church? What about an unexpected funeral? Please take a look at the Accessibility Update article on page 7 of the Messenger – lots of good information there.

3. How is the transition from Calvary to St Johns going for our new found friends and parishioners? Are we doing enough? Is there more we should be doing? What can I do? We're hearing very nice comments about the transition. What have you heard? What can you suggest to help make things even smoother and more welcoming, remembering that this is a transition for all of us?

These are valid questions that deserve answers and continuing discussion. No doubt there are many others. If our communication with you is not establishing a forum to easily and safely ask questions and get answers, we've got work to do. The vestry spends lots of time dealing with the good, the bad and the ugly that these issues present. That's what we were elected to do. And therein lies the problem. We spend hours wrestling with the issues and sometimes are guilty of thinking that a quick note in the bulletin or article in the Messenger is all it takes for everyone to understand the issue at the same level. When that happens communication has failed.

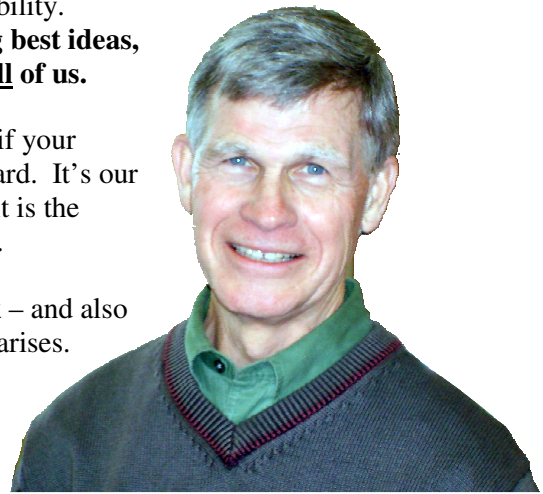
Communication is hard work, and to be successful it must be a two way street. We may think – maybe even know - we’ve answered a question many times and in many ways, but then in casual conversation someone or some group asks that very question . . . makes us realize that we all have work to do! Timely and clear communication is a basic vestry responsibility.

Hearing and understanding the message, and providing best ideas, responses and critiques is a responsibility that falls to all of us.

As we work through the exciting times ahead, let us know if your questions are not being answered or concerns not being heard. It’s our responsibility to make sure that happens. As importantly, it is the responsibility of the entire parish to hear what’s being said.

Our phone numbers are listed in the bulletin each week – and also in the Messenger. Please contact any of us when the need arises.

Burris Smith,
Junior Warden



Breaking Ground on August 18th.

Accessibility Update

We are making our future accessible! Thank you to ALL who have participated by gifts of time, talent, and treasure to bring our building into a new era that physically represents the welcome message we verbally extend to all. **We are breaking ground on the project this summer, August 18th!**

In addition to fulfilling your pledge to the accessibility campaign you can still be a part of this momentous day by:

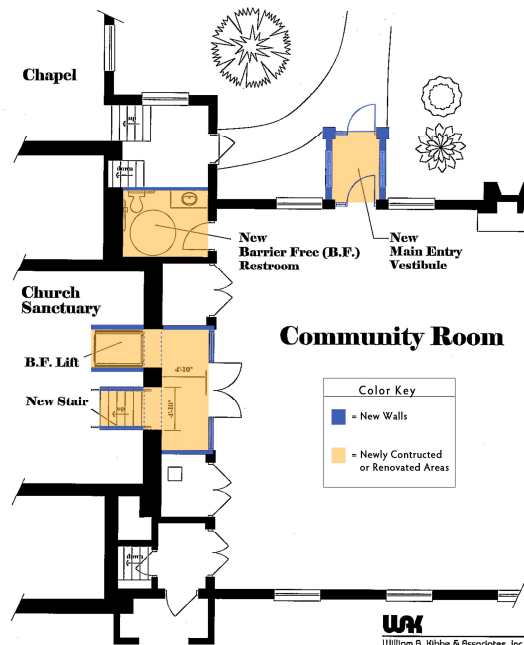
- Helping prepare the grounds on a Blue Jean Sunday.
- Fostering a plant from the grounds while construction is in progress
- Tell those who haven’t yet heard the good news!

Contributions can still be made via cash, check, or online. When you do, you’ve made possible:

- Indoor access between our Worship Space and Community Room
- Barrier-free restroom
- Larger lift for assisting a standard wheelchair
- New and inviting main entrance.

It is because of the commitment we share and the pledge you have offered that our vision of being a welcoming church for all is becoming a reality. It is incredible that so many people have come to celebrate what we are doing. Clearly, the Accessibility Project will serve the needs of our community for generations to come!

Remember this is our vision and together we can make our future accessible for all!



Lunch Bag Outreach

Where our gifts are meeting the community's need...

In 2009, St. John's was able to serve 3000 emergency brown bag lunches to those in our neighborhood and our mission has only grown in 2010. Our service to those in need is simple: come as you are, one bagged lunch per person, no gimmicks, no advertising, no questions. The quiet message we want to send is also simple: "You are valuable. You don't need to subscribe to our beliefs to be valuable. We love because He first loved us."



Each week, Monday – Thursday, 9:00am to Noon, volunteers manage the project by giving of their time and compassion. This allows our office staff to focus on their work and for our vision of Outreach to be actively carried out by any member of the parish who feels he has something to offer.

Because hunger is a problem that will not easily be overcome, St. John's will always be in need of volunteers to help distribute the lunches and provide supplies.

This summer, we need substitute volunteers to help distribute lunches while some of the regulars are on vacation. If you are interested in learning more about the lunch bag program, volunteering to distribute, or providing supplies please contact our parish office at 989-793-9575. The following is also an exact list of the items included in our sack lunches if you wish to contribute. All items can be found at Sam's Club.

Lunch Bag supplies:		
Brown paper lunch sacks	Plastic spoons	Austin: Cheese crackers / cheddar cheese
Quaker Chewy granola bars	Austin: Toasty crackers/ peanut butter	Mott's apple sauce cups
Members Mark P.B. & J "Jamz"	Dole mixed fruit cups	Snack Pack pudding cups
CapriSun juice drinks	Square paper napkins	



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St. John's uses Pay Pal!

From now on, when we forget our check-books, miss a Sunday while on vacation, or want to donate to a special cause, our gift to St. John's is only a few clicks away.

Visit the *Support Us* page on our parish website and you can donate to a number of causes with your credit card. St. John's is PayPal verified which means that any credit card transaction you process via our website is safe and secure.

By clicking on a "Donate" button from the *Support Us* page you will be taken to PayPal where you can enter your information, gift amount, and a memo regarding the purpose of your gift. *Yes, it is that easy!*



The Best Seat for Fireworks!



On **Sunday July 4th at 7:00pm** there will be an opportunity for St. John's parishioners to have the "best seats in the house" for the Saginaw Fireworks Display.

The Diocesan Center will be open **just for us** at 7:00 p.m. Come whenever you can. The earlier you come, the easier you will be able to find a parking place. Simply tell the police that you are from St. John's Episcopal Church and that you are going to the Diocesan Center. They will open the barricades for you! We hope that you will be able to join us for the time of fellowship and sharing the festivities. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, and any snack you might want. We will have a large table set up on the patio and people can share what they bring. **If you have any questions please call Pam Renna (792-6794) or Judi Braun (799-5971).** We hope to see you there for this 4th of July celebration.

Coffee Hour Fellowship

For years, even decades our parish has made doughnuts from Hamilton Bakery a standard fixture of Sunday Coffee after church. This became such a fixed custom that it appeared in the afghan of St. John's! In the past, people have thought the doughnuts pay for themselves by the "coffee money" that was placed in the basket. The reality is that we have not covered costs for years. Today, every expense is scrutinized as to how it impacts our ministry. We need to keep the tradition of Coffee Fellowship, but move away from the custom of purchasing doughnuts for the 10:30 service. Instead, we are calling upon one of the greatest assets we have discovered in these past years: our parish bakers! So many at St. John's love to bake that it became a "no brainer" that we need to put these talents to regular use. You will notice a new sign-up board for Coffee Fellowship in the Community Room; please consider when you could help provide some of the means for our fellowship and bring a couple dozen baked treats to share.





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Summer in the City

This year The Saginaw News has been running an advertising campaign with the businesses in Old Town (including St. John’s) called *Rediscover Old Town Saginaw*. The point of this group advertising wasn’t to get a special deal (although we did) or promote a series of events (although we did). The point was to remind people that Old Town is alive and working to make our community the place we want to live. The goal was simple: fill an entire page of The Saginaw News with information about an old town event and promote the organizations that support it. We did it. Then we did it over and over again all year long. St. John’s has been a continued sponsor of the Lawn Chair Film Festival. We host events such as community band concerts for Holidays in the Heart of the City and the WSCA Easter Egg Hunt. We are also, a card carrying member of the West Saginaw Civic Association. ***Why would St. John’s make such an effort to work with the local pubs and shops? Because our success comes from the success of those around us.***

The members of St. John’s have always been civically minded but it’s never too late to learn something new. Below you’ll find just a few of this summer’s adventures (in are near Old Town) listed to help all of us Rediscover Saginaw.

The Lawn Chair Film Festival

When: Sunday’s at dusk

Where: Ames & N. Hamilton

Info: www.lawnchairfilmfestival.com

St. John’s is a proud sponsor of Old Town Saginaw’s Lawn Chair Film Festival. Every Sunday at dusk on the corner of Ames and N. Hamilton some of our favorite movies of the summer (and some of our favorites from summers past) are shown at no charge. All you need is a friend and a lawn chair to enjoy the event. You can pack a snack or purchase some of the available concessions. Here is a schedule to help you plan what movies you’ll see this summer!



Date:	Movie Title:	Genre:	Rating:
July 11	The Secrete of Kells	Folk	Not Rated
July 18	500 Days of Summer	Comedy	PG13
July 25	Departures	Foreign	PG13
August 1	Fantastic Mr. Fox	Animation	PG
August 8	An Education	Drama	PG13
August 15	Edward Scissorhands	Comedy/Fantasy	PG13

Old Town Motorfest & Garber Wing Thing

When: July 16 & 17

Where: Hamilton Street

Info: www.oldtownmotorfest.com

This year Old Town Motorfest has expanded into a two day event including the first annual Garber Wing Thing. Classic car connoisseurs come

from all over Michigan to show off their rides. Whether you are looking for something classic, novel, or just plain cool you'll find it here. Silent auctions, prize drawings, and voters-choice awards make the Old Town Motorfest the perfect host for the Garber Wing Thing. If cars don't get you excited, but you wanted to cruise Old Town for something else to do, stop by the entertainment tent where you can sample chicken wings and their special sauce from eight local vendors. A competitive eating contest, live music, and cold drinks round out this event's attractions.



Independence Day Gala

When: July 4th

Where: Old Town University - 301 Cass St.

Info: www.oldtownuniversity.com

Celebrate Independence Day in Style! Watch the Saginaw fireworks from the second floor of Old Town University with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Family friendly options are also available. Space is limited so call in advance for tickets. (989-792-0346)

The Farmers Market

When: M-W-F 10am to 3pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm

Where: 507 South Washington Ave.

Info: www.saginawfarmersmarket.org



Don't know what to make for dinner tonight? Stop by the Farmers Market and be inspired! Fresh Michigan fruits, vegetables, herbs, baked goods and more are available just over the river. You could pick up the fixings for fresh salsa on your way to the post office. How about a French Toast breakfast made with fresh baked bread sliced soft and thick! Vendors serving New Orleans style jambalaya or Mexican food are there to serve lunch and it's ready to go! Be inspired by the seasons at the Saginaw Farmers Market.

The Saginaw Eddy Band

When: Sundays at 7:00pm

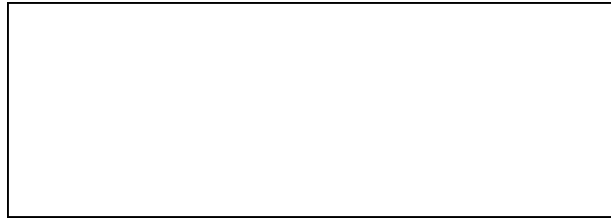
Where: Ojibway Island

If the movie playing at the film festival isn't your style how about a concert band performance? Each Sunday this summer The Saginaw Eddie Band performs a new program, frequently featuring a local guest soloist. All you need is a lawn chair and a friend to enjoy the show. Admission is free to all.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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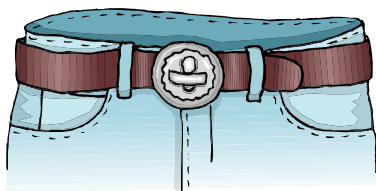
Change Service Requested



***Blue Jean Sunday
 July 11th***

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What a terrific day to come as you are, bring a friend, share in fellowship, and help make our city as well as our church home a cleaner, brighter place!



***Construction Begins
 August 18th***

Thank you to ALL who have participated!

In addition to fulfilling your pledge to the accessibility campaign you can still be a part of this momentous day by:

- Helping prepare the grounds on a Blue Jean Sunday.
- Fostering a plant from the grounds while construction is in progress
- Tell those who haven't yet heard the good news!



***Loons Baseball Game
 August 22nd***

If you have never been to a local minor league sporting event you are in for a treat! The minor league offers all of the gimmicks and give-a-ways like the Pros with a "fight to the finish" attitude and nice price!

Sign up in the Community Room by August 15th!

