



THE MESSENGER



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

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November 2010

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Renewing Our Commitment of Time, Talent, & Treasure

It has been quite a year at St. John's Episcopal Church hasn't it? Our church has "turned around" in many ways, from the physical repositioning of the pews and altar to the successful campaign with construction now under way to make our beloved church building accessible to everyone, to the welcoming and joining with the worshippers from Calvary Episcopal Church, and the departure of our Rector. Whew! We, the members of the Vestry, want to thank all of you who have been so helpful and understanding as St. John's continues to navigate the turn-around process.

Hopefully, the year to come will not be quite so busy and we can concentrate on getting back to our basic calling to **Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, and Love** in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Yet, to continue our basic mission we will need not only your spiritual, but financial support again this year. Yes, we do need to watch every dollar carefully and yes, we have made tremendous strides in our planned reduction of our annual deficit, but expenses continue to increase and your support is vital—but you know that already, don't you? We realize, fully, that if you're reading this message you are a solid member of St. John's now and we are, in effect, "preaching to the choir," but even the "choir" can use a little bit of a sermon now and then!

The contributions of time, talent, and treasure from our parishioners were vital to our continued ability to provide meaningful worship and programs for 2010. We would hope that as you think about your financial support for 2011 that you might consider a small increase of perhaps 2—5% if it would be within your means to do so. Even a small increase will help us to support the ...

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IN THIS ISSUE...

Wardens' Corner

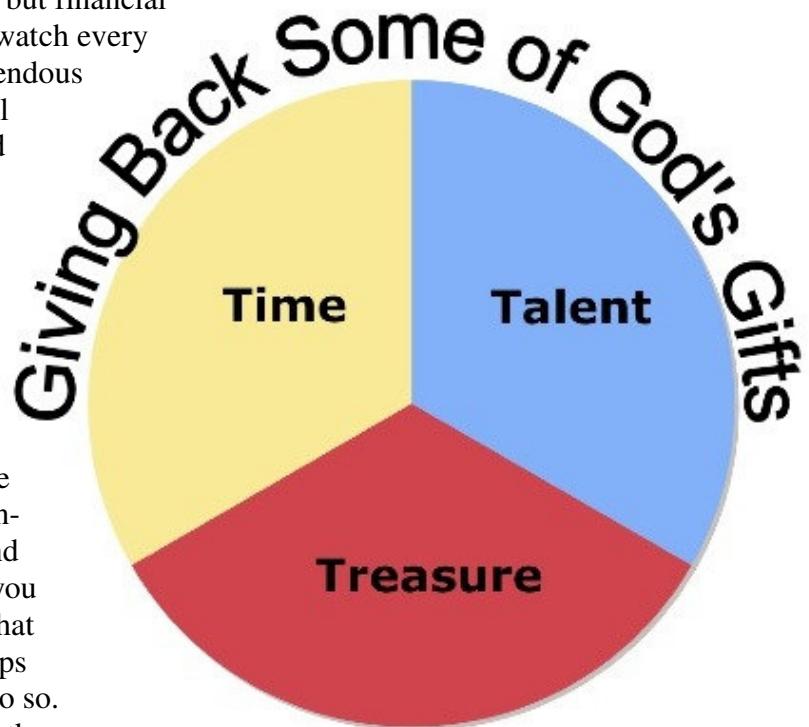
An interview with former Warden Ellen Redfield reveals insight into Cottage Meetings and our search for a new Rector.

Flu Vaccine Clinic

Still need your Flu Shot? Know someone who does? Learn how St. John's can help you out!

Christmas Outreach Baskets

Burris Smith, our Junior Warden, writes about this meaningful outreach project and how you can be involved!



[Renewing our Commitment continued]

...programs that mean so much to all of us here at St. John's.

It is the Thanksgiving season and we all have much for which to be thankful. Our thanksgiving to God can be expressed, in part, by the financial offering we make to His Church. **Please join the Vestry, Wardens, and your fellow parishioners on Sunday, November 15, 2010 for a special celebration of our shared commitment to St. John's and to offer our pledges in thanksgiving to God at the Eucharist.** Following the service we will gather in the Community room for a Reception to celebrate our good fortune as a church and to enjoy the company of one another as a parish united.



Working together we can make a difference!

*Dr. William Scharffe,
Vestry Member*

Celebrate Accessibility With a Special Service November 14th!

November 14, St. John's will have the distinct honor and pleasure of welcoming Dr. Ryan Hebert to the organ bench. **Dr. Hebert is the Director of Choral Activities at Longwood University in Virginia and Organist/Choirmaster at Christ and Grace Episcopal Church in Petersburg, Virginia.**

Dr. Hebert will help us to celebrate the renovations to our nave by offering several organ works, including Johann Sebastian Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor" and the Finale from Louis Vierne's first symphony for organ. In addition, the choir of St. John's will sing Cesar Franck's famous setting of Psalm 150 in thanksgiving all that made the accessibility project possible. **Be sure to join us at the 10:30 service on the 14th for the best music that St. John's has to offer.**



*Dr. Ryan Hebert,
Guest Musician*

*Soli Deo Gloria,
Kevin Simons,
Director of Music & Organist*

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Julia Burdis
- 2 Margaret Maul
- 4 Frederick Blake
- 6 Marion Koeplinger
- 7 Burris Smith
- 9 Berney Jones
- 9 Ellee Wilson
- 10 Robert Adams
- 12 Ken Williams
- 13 Ken Scott
- 15 Edward Majask
- 15 Camille Daugherty
- 15 Valerie McDonald
- 17 Miranda Garza
- 17 Jean Thomas
- 18 Dennis Greenwood
- 21 Hazel Stoner
- 22 Bill Vlassis
- 23 Dave Humpert
- 23 Sharelle Johnson
- 23 Kevin Simons
- 25 Sallie Swanson
- 26 T.C. McLeod
- 28 Judi Braun
- 30 Mary Tupes

Happy Anniversary!

- Patricia & Ralph Jackson
- 15 Evelyn & Ken Williams
- 28 Louise & Jerry Smith

Vestry Members:

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

Thank You

A BIG thank you to **Tom Donaghy, Berney Jones, Al Vondrasek, Ray Ilkka, Dave Humpert, Burris Smith, Richard Marquardt, & Sue Marquardt** for your dedicated help cleaning the parish of construction dust before Sunday services.

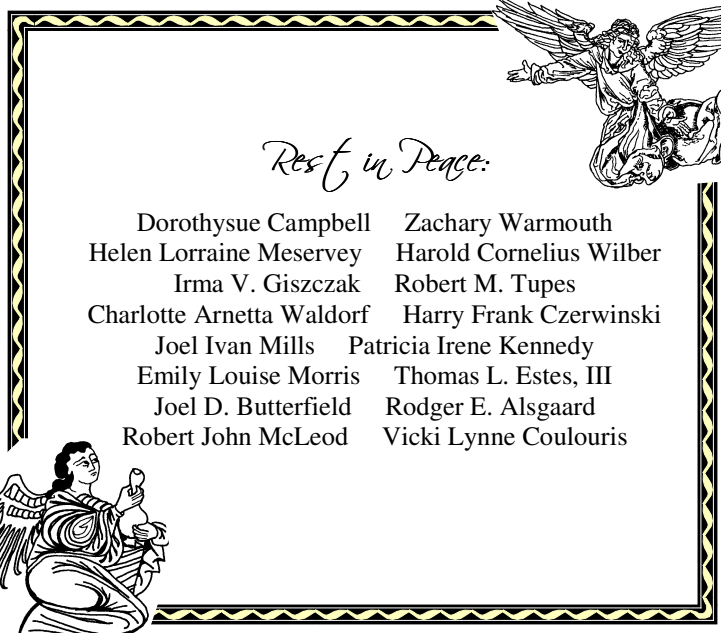
Thank you to all that serve as worship leaders and greeters including: **Todd Barshaw, Keith & Nancy Birdsall, Jim & Marsha Braun, Kin Burau, Drew Christiansen, Josh Daugherty, Ben & Betty Donaghy, Jane Girdham, Connie & Tom Grantham, Betsy Greenwood, Ted Grigg, Harold Grnya, Marv Hoepfner, Paul, Ray, & Barb Ilkka, Berney Jones, Ruth Joswiak, Michael Keenan, Josephine Lee, Carl Lockwood, Jack & Sue Luxton, Tom Lynes, Karen Parr, Derek & Stephanie Peters, Ellen Redfield, John & Barbara Roberts, Mike & Jannis Rump, Bill ScharffePaul Schaub, Amy Simons, Burris Smith, Herb Spence, Sallie Swanson, Dennis Thom, Virginia Warner, Joan Wendland, Jane & Al Vondrasek, Jan & Jerry Young.**

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:		
Oct. 31 - Nov. 13	Roz Berlin	792-8160
Nov. 14 - Dec. 6	Lou Smith	799-5583

Rest in Peace:

Dorothysue Campbell	Zachary Warmouth
Helen Lorraine Meservey	Harold Cornelius Wilber
Irma V. Giszczak	Robert M. Tupes
Charlotte Arnetta Waldorf	Harry Frank Czerwinski
Joel Ivan Mills	Patricia Irene Kennedy
Emily Louise Morris	Thomas L. Estes, III
Joel D. Butterfield	Rodger E. Alsgaard
Robert John McLeod	Vicki Lynne Coulouris



Wardens' Corner: Moving Forward on Our Search for a Rector

Since the loss of our previous rector this past Spring, the search for our new rector has been, for many, a subject on the tips of our tongues. It is also the reason of our upcoming **Cottage Meetings** (*for dates and times see the next page*). As I prepared for my own participation in these meetings there was one woman who jumped to mind as someone I needed to consult. Ellen Redfield has served as a Warden at St. John's and has the added insight of having been the daughter of an Episcopal priest. She and I shared a conversation where I was able to ask:

- What insights to the church have you gained by having a priest as a father?
- How many times have you experienced a Rector turn-over?
- We have been described as “not a rector-dependant parish.” What does this mean to you?
- As a former Warden what is your hope for the conversation in the upcoming Cottage Meetings?



*Ellen Redfield,
Senior Warden, 2009*

Ellen explained that being the daughter of a priest gave her a more realistic expectation of what a priest or rector could be. **“We expect a Rector to be good at all aspects of the job. But they are just one person. Someone who is gifted at pastoral care may not be a terrific preacher and so on...”** She also reminded me that as her family moved from parish to parish having a ready-made community of support and affection was a real advantage.

As an adult, her church experience transitioned from changing parishes to changing priests. Ellen has seen a total of eight rector turn-over's in her lifetime and three have been at St. John's. She has observed that the way clergy move around has changed substantially. Before they used “the network” and went where they were needed via word of mouth. Today, it's a much a more formal and a more involved search process with a parish profile, internet advertising, and more.

When asked about St. John's being “not rector dependent” and what it means for our search, Ellen said, “To me, we've been empowered to take on the responsibility of the Ministry of the Baptized. We do need a priest and rector to lead worship and for many other things, but our focus is not totally on the priest. Our focus is on the Eucharist, and our relationship with God and each other. It's like the way music transcends the conductor and the orchestra. This is different from the way some of us grew up, but we are living into it.” This can be seen in all aspects of our daily lives at St. John's.

Her hope for the critical Cottage Meetings is four fold:

1. That people **come** because the leadership needs their input!
2. We **look forward** and set aside thoughts of previous Rectors
3. We **listen to each other** and try to access the underlying force of the conversation.
4. **Think ahead...** what are we really looking for? What's important to us? Theology? Programs? Pastoral Care? Preaching? Come with some ideas ready to go!

Thank you Ellen, for your continued support and leadership here at St. John's!
Amy Simons

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

You are cordially invited to attend a...
Cottage Meeting*

Thursday, November 4th, at 7:15pm
Tuesday, November 9th, at 7:15pm
Sunday, November 14th, at 12:15pm

Please join Mr. Keith H. Birdsall & Mr. Burris Smith, *Wardens*, Vestry Members, and your fellow parishioners, **for a critical conversation on our search for our new Rector.**

**Unlike previous years you will not be receiving an individual invitation.
Please attend any one of the meetings listed above. All meetings will be held in the Community Room.*

Holidays in the Heart of the City

On Friday, **November 19th**, St. John's will be participating in the city wide event "Holidays in the Heart of the City." This event, sponsored by several business associations on both the West and East side of Saginaw is intended to bring a bit of light hearted and festive family entertainment to the city. Some featured programming for Holidays in the City include: visiting Santa Claus, a reindeer petting zoo, a variety of live musical entertainment, street vendors, and fireworks at dusk, just to name a few.

St. John's is offering our Community Room as a warm rest-stop for festival goers as well as hosting the **Saginaw Area Concert Band for a special holiday concert in the church.** You can be involved by:

1. *Volunteering to usher the concert for the SACB*
2. *Volunteering to greet and welcome the festival goers who to choose St. John's to warm up.*
3. *Volunteer to make cookies for our guests that evening.*

If you would like to be involved in this terrific opportunity to show the community what a wonderful treasure it has in St. John's contact *Amy Simons* at amy@stjohns-saginaw.org .



Crop Walk Review

We were blessed with wonderful weather for the Crop Walk on October 10th. The warm temperature, bright sun, and colorful trees made the walk most enjoyable. Walkers included **Dave Humpert, Janet Cosenza, Tom Donaghy, and Lou Smith.** Also special thanks to Sue Brigham who assisted with the Crop Walk registration at Holy Cross. Many thanks to them as well as all who contributed to them with their pledges.

P.S. It is not too late to pay up your pledges if you have not already done so.

Lou Smith



St. John's Stories

Over the past several years the St. John Stories that highlighted those involved in sponsoring our choir chairs have come to an end. As I wrote in the beginning, I intend to bring them all together in a little book! If anyone had a chair story that didn't get written, please let me know-- it's not too late!

Karen Parr



Prayers, Mittens, and More!

In this project we pray, knit, and crochet for abused and neglected children. Everyone is welcome to join in this effort. Our mittens, hats, and scarves, blankets, and hangers go to children in foster care through the Saginaw CAN Council (Council for Abused and Neglected Children.)

We are always happy to have more people join in the effort. Just use your own patterns, yarn, hooks, and needles or call Mary Spence (792-0941) for supplies or answers to questions. This year's ingathering is the first two Sundays in November. We'll put all completed items on a table in the Community Room.

Thank you!
Mary Spence



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Christmas Outreach Baskets

Hard to believe, isn't it? How can we be talking about Christmas Baskets when it's only – yikes – November! What happened to summer? This annual event has fast become one of the highlights of our outreach year – and one that offers so many opportunities for everyone to get involved. So yup, summer's gone. But in its place we're again offering, for your holiday season enjoyment, the excitement of the Christmas Outreach Basket program!

For several years now the parishioners at St. John's have contributed their time, talent and resources to make the Christmas season a bit brighter for a significant number of our Old Saginaw City neighbors. **Each Christmas we've prepared over 100 baskets filled with food, household necessities and a few holiday surprises for each of the residents of Rosien Towers.** In doing so we have made good friends and created a tradition that all of us – both residents and parishioners – look forward to. When we look at this program, together with the year-round lunch bag outreach, we touch the lives of our immediate community in very significant ways.



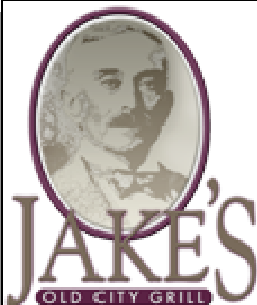
The more the merrier for the event. **We'll begin in earnest in late November with the annual giving tree, and work toward our delivery date of December 20.** During that time, we'll need volunteers to shop, organize transportation, work with the wonderful staff at Rosien Towers, set up and fill baskets, complete Christmas cards, and lots more. We've got some new ideas this year and welcome yours, too!



The holidays can be an exciting and hectic time for many of us. But they can also be a time of loneliness and pain for others. There is nothing better to keep the season in perspective than taking time out to help others who may be in that unenviable position. It seems to fit so nicely with the sharing, caring and loving that is such a big part of our mission. And since we hand deliver all the baskets to each resident, we have the great fortune to see directly the results of our efforts. It's hard to tell who is receiving the greater gift.

Sure it's a big job, but many hands make for quick and enjoyable work- and above all – this is a FUN event. Hey, what's not to like when you're rubbing elbows with old friends, making new ones, and making a difference in the lives of our neighbors? **Please take a minute to add your name to the signup sheet in the Community Room.** We've listed several ways in which to become involved, but even if you're uncertain as to how you can help, sign up anyway. We'll definitely put you to work!

Burris Smith



JAKE'S OLD CITY GRILL

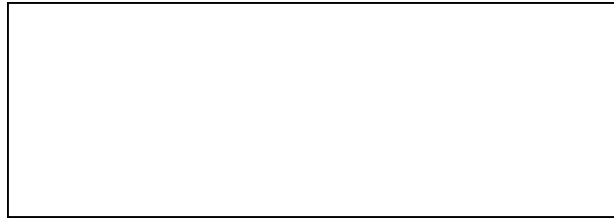
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Flu Vaccine Clinic

Need your flu shot? Know someone who does?
St. John's continues to make getting your
flu shot as easy as coming to church with
a **public** Flu Vaccine Clinic.

On Sunday, **November 7th.** from
9am to Noon, roll up your sleeve and
help protect yourself and those
around you from the flu. Shots are
\$25.00 and yes, some insurance is
accepted.

See all the details online at
www.stjohns-saginaw.org

