



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 29, Issue 1

January 2011

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.



Wardens' Corner
An Imposing Task

According to Roman mythology, Janus, a Roman god, was depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions. Our first month of 2011, January, derives its name from Janus; it reflects the past, 2010, while at the same time it anticipates the future, 2011. On Sunday, January 30, the day of our annual meeting, my term as St. John's Senior Warden ends giving me the opportunity to reflect on 2010 challenges and accomplishments and to anticipate what 2011 may bring forth.



St. John's experienced a unique year in 2010. With the leaving of our rector, the assimilation of former Calvary members, the completion of the Accessibility Project, to mention only a few, St. John's parishioners had to share their time, talents, and treasures even more than usual. And share they did; many have become more involved and it is because of their efforts that 2010 will be remembered as a year of exceptional accomplishment.

As 2011 begins, St. John's is confronted by the search for our new rector and by the amount of time and effort needed to complete the preliminary phases of this challenge. Cottage meetings gave direction to this process. However, only a portion of the congregation participated. Did you? In addition to this search, our leadership must continue the daily activities of the church as well as attempting to enhance its programs and ministries. Your support and participation are vital.

I would like to thank all for their help and cooperation during 2010. It is this same spirit and attitude that must prevail for 2011. I want to especially thank the Staff, the Vestry, Ellen Redfield, Paul Schaub, Herb Spence, and Jerry Young for their support, tolerance, and guidance during my term. An imposing task became possible because of you.

Keith H. Birdsall

IN THIS ISSUE...

This month St. John's will hold its **Annual Meeting**. A time to review and look ahead. ♦ In with the new and out with the old! Did you get a bunch of new stuff for Christmas? Don't know what do with what it replaced? We do. Set it aside for our **Rummage Sale** this Spring. ♦ What's the latest on our search for a new Rector? Burris Smith brings us up to speed with the progress on our **parish profile**. ♦ How can church help you keep your **New**

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Barbara Jones
- 1 Ian Marc Baillargeon
- 4 Kerrie Blackney
- 9 Jack Luxton
- 9 Mary Jane Scott
- 10 Marie Blake
- 11 Sue Brigham
- 12 Owen Baillie
- 15 David Winters
- 16 Jacob Stuber
- 18 Jacob Winters
- 19 Andrew Hoag
- 20 Alexandra Vlassis
- 21 Diane Grigg
- 22 Tom Grantham
- 27 John Emond
- 28 Janice Jayner
- 28 Katie Wilson
- 29 Jan Young
- 31 Bill Frederick
- 31 Helen Leach

Happy Anniversary!

- 9 Katie & Fred Sunderman
- 22 Nancy & Keith Birdsall
- 30 Wendy & Ed Majask

Vestry Members:

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

Thank You

Thanks to ALL of our kitchen helpers including but not limited to: **Jane & Al Vondrasek, Lou Smith, Barb & Berney Jones, Dave Humpert, Sharon Kaylor, Sue & Jack Luxton, Tom Donaghy, Marsha & Jim Braun, Jane & Michael Keenan, The Ilkka Family, Judi & Tim Braun, Jan & Jerry Young, Keith & Nancy Birdsall, and Linda Buzon.** You make our potlucks, bereavement dinners, and coffee hours run smoothly and with a personal touch.

A BIG thank you to **Sue Brigham, Bill Frederick, Barb & John Roberts, and Pat Lynes** for your continued help folding our monthly newsletters and special holiday bulletins.

Thanks always to **Rebecca Curell** for keeping our Facebook fresh nearly every day!

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:		
Dec. 26 - Jan. 8	Sue Luxton	684-9169
Jan. 9 - Jan. 22	Marcia Hoffman	793-8354
Jan. 23 - Feb. 5	Ellen Redfield	799-4401

Does this email look familiar?

It should! If you've signed up for our e-news than you've seen this for a while now but it's new to some AND St. John's was recently featured in the national publication Vestry Papers for quality email marketing! Read the article online with the address below.

<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrypapers/technology-and-evangelism/the-email-creation-story/>



Make room for 2011! (By selling some of 2010, 2009, 2008...)



You've asked and we heard you! Yes! St. John's is planning to have our second annual Rummage Sale Fundraiser in the spring (probably in May). So save your goodies! We will include clothing this time but limit it to spring and summer items. And there is plenty of opportunity to join the team during the next few months of planning. Contact Lou Smith for details.

FYI: We will not be accepting electronic items such as computer parts, cell phones, etc.

Lou Smith, Sperry Garber and the Crew

New Year, New Commitments in 2011

Most of us have made a New Year's Resolution or two. Some of us have pledged to drop a few pounds, save a little more, eat right, call our mothers every week, and an array of other things. Why not let St. John's help you out?

There are lots of ways to live into your resolutions right here at church:

- *More exercise?*
Ride your bike to church
- *Money minded?*
Join the Finance Team or re-dedicate yourself to your pledge.
- *Want to remember family members or friends?*
Invite them to worship or consider Altar Flowers.
- *Eating healthy?*
Bring fresh fruit, veggies, or a whole grain dish to a potluck.
- *Learning something new?*
Join the choir or lead a book group.



Your life and your church-life don't need to be two separate states of mind. When you come to church bring your whole-self and we'll all be a little stronger, a little smarter, and a little closer to keeping our New Year's Resolutions as we leave!

2010 Annual Parish Meeting & Breakfast

To be held Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 9a.m.

Schedule of Events:

- **Holy Eucharist at 8:00am**
- **Parish Breakfast at 9a.m.**
- **Annual Meeting at 9:15a.m.**

Items to Include:

- Financial Report & Presentation of the Budget for 2011
- Election of New Vestry Members & Parish Delegate
- Appreciation for Retiring Vestry Members:
*Keith H. Birdsall, Bill Sharffe,
Sue Marquardt*



Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 10:30

Each January, the leadership, staff, and members of St. John's gather together to review the previous year and articulate our vision for the year to come. We also elect three new members to our vestry. Each of us in attendance will receive a copy of the 2011 Annual Report. Look for the candidates for Vestry to be published via Sunday bulletin and online.

2011 Envelope Pick-up:

It's Sunday morning. Do you know where your offering envelopes are?

If you already picked up your 2011 offering envelopes than this question is no sweat for you! If you have not yet picked up your box of offering envelopes they will be available after each Sunday service or by contacting the parish office.



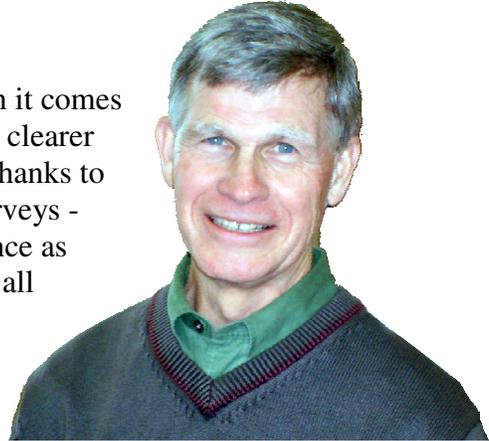
Lay Ministry Training:

Worship Leader training is being offered January 22 and February 5, 2011 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Diocesan Center. Worship Leaders are licensed to lead worship in the absence of clergy. This two-part training is also a great refresher for those licensed for many years.

Interested? Contact the parish office to sign up.

Parish Profile Update

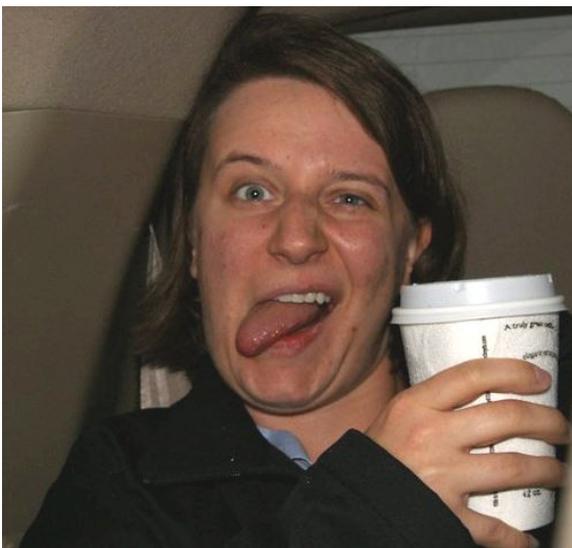
In this incredibly busy season, we have not been idle when it comes to our efforts to find our next Rector. Now that we have a clearer picture of what we want and require in our next Rector – thanks to your thoughts and ideas from the cottage meetings and surveys - getting those requirements publicized to as wide an audience as possible is the next step. That's what the Parish Profile is all about – think of it as a very detailed job posting.



The Profile contains a very complete picture of St. John's. In it, we are painting a true picture of ourselves – a portrait that will help candidates understand our needs and situation. It's not always pretty, but it is honest. We define who we are and the community in which we exist. We have many strengths as a church and parish, and we list those. But we have significant challenges; we list those also. We have taken much time to translate the results of the Cottage Meetings into a very specific list of the skills and characteristics we must have in our next Rector. We address our financial and facility situations and their trends and priorities. We discuss our attendance, worship, and leadership history. Our Profile must also allow candidates to see our shortcomings and ask probing and important questions. Finding the best person demands this.

The Profile is in final stages of completion and will be a main Vestry agenda item in January. Even though the Profile is not yet finalized, our vacancy is currently being posted in a limited way nationally with help from the Diocesan office. The completed Profile will be posted on our webpage. As you know, the Vestry is functioning as the search committee, and as such is heavily involved in preparing the Profile. Many thanks to Amy Simons and her invaluable contributions to this effort.

Burris Smith



The Camera Loves You!

And so do we! St. John's is calling all shutter-bugs to the scene. There has been an overwhelming response to the abundance of real-life pictures in our publications (including the Parish Profile) and to keep it up... *we need your help!*

If you are at a St. John's event (such as: potlucks, handing out lunch bags, attending a book study, working on the altar guild, or whatever it is you do) take some pictures (digital please) and send them to info@stjohns-saginaw.org. Help share others all the wonderful things you do!

Outreach Basket Wrap-up

A big **thank you** to all who helped make the Christmas Basket Outreach a great success this year. On Monday, December 20, **we delivered 103 baskets** to our friends and neighbors at Rosien Towers. The residents positively love our efforts, and we continue to get thank you notes and cards (and even a donation or two!) from them. This truly is a labor of love for us.

So many of you contributed in so many different ways. Some brought food and non-perishable items for the baskets. Others donated generously for our annual shopping spree. On Saturday before our Monday delivery, many of you chipped in to set up the basket-packing assembly lines. Lots of heavy lifting and toting involved. After the services on Sunday, so many of you took the time to stay and pack the baskets. Many hands made quick work of that effort.

If there were a common thread among the remarks from all who participated it was this: We're not sure who gets the most pleasure from doing this – the residents at Rosien Towers, or those of us who provide our time, treasure and talent to put it together. Our guess? It's about even. We all won.

Thanks again. We're already looking forward to next year.

Burris Smith



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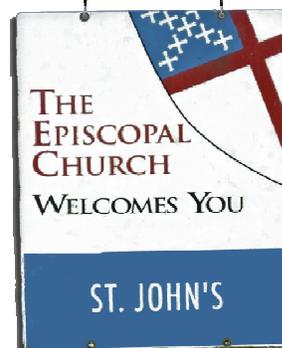
St. John's Episcopal Church WELCOMES YOU!

St. John's is a place where ALL are invited to come and worship. We hope that your time with us leaves you feeling renewed yet full of questions.

Did you know that a Red Door was meant to symbolize sanctuary? That's right. A safe place. A harbor. Somewhere that is protected and secure. That's why at St. John's our two front doors are painted red. A tradition that sends the message that you are welcomed here.

Sunday, 8:00am - Holy Eucharist (spoken)
Sunday, 10:30am - Holy Eucharist (choral)
Wednesday, Noon - Morning Prayer.

Welcome to the community at St. John's!



SUNDAYS 8:00am - 10:30am

WEDNESDAYS 12 Noon