



# THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 29, Issue 9

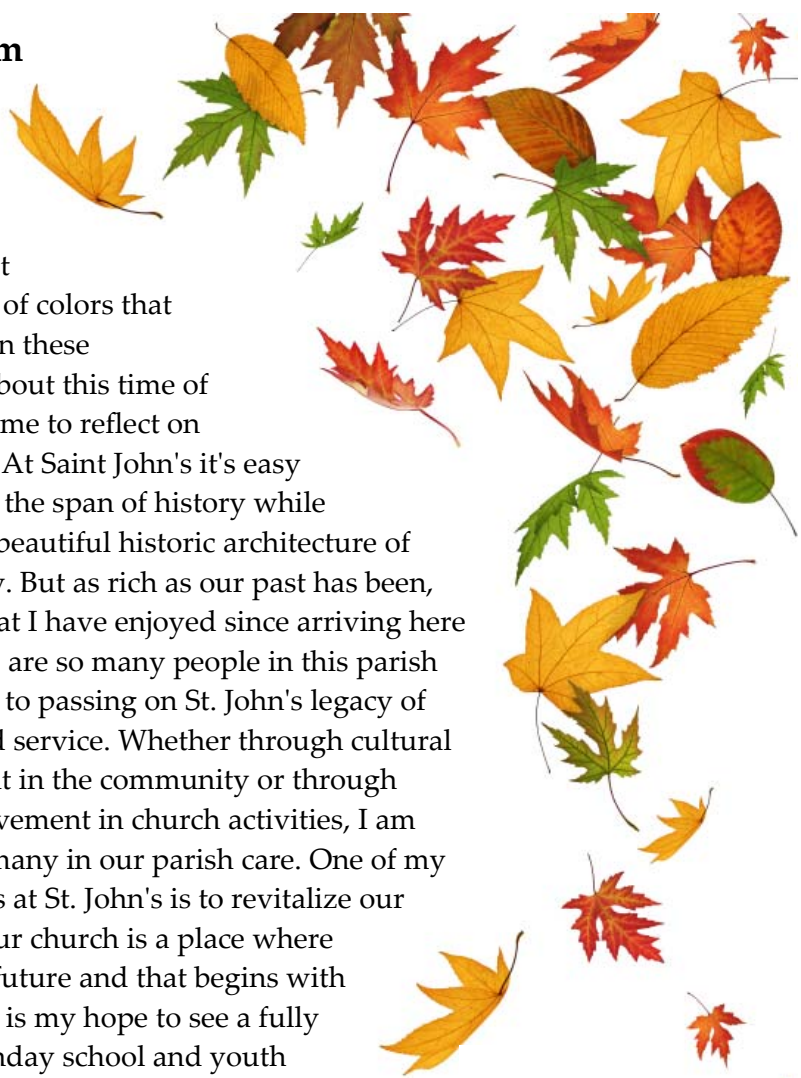
October 2011

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.

## A Message from the Rector

Fall is here and in Michigan we are blessed to enjoy that spectacular display of colors that crowns the season in these parts. Something about this time of year always causes me to reflect on the past a bit more. At Saint John's it's easy to feel connected to the span of history while surrounded by the beautiful historic architecture of this part of Saginaw. But as rich as our past has been, one of the things that I have enjoyed since arriving here is the fact that there are so many people in this parish who are committed to passing on St. John's legacy of Christian living and service. Whether through cultural or civic involvement in the community or through strong family involvement in church activities, I am glad to see that so many in our parish care. One of my biggest hopes for us at St. John's is to revitalize our youth programs. Our church is a place where our past meets the future and that begins with our parish youth. It is my hope to see a fully staffed nursery, Sunday school and youth group for St. John's young people. The active support of all of our members in passing on the legacy of St. John's to the next generation is essential. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas or know someone who might be available for hire to help staff the nursery please let us know.

Thanks for your patience,  
*Fr. Daniel*



## In This Issue...

*When is it okay to bring your pet to church? For the **Blessing of the Pets**, of course!*

*Walk to end hunger in **Crop Walk 2011**.*

*Learn how you **C.A.N.** help the **Council for Abused & Neglected Children**.*

*Words from our **Warden in the Warden's Corner***



## Walk to Stop Hunger

The annual Saginaw Crop Walk is scheduled for October 9th this year. We are now actively recruiting St. John's walkers and pledges for this event.

Crop Walks are held all over the country and we are proud that we have always participated in this endeavor which helps feed the hungry in Saginaw as well as throughout the world. In addition, we have fun walking together!

Please See Lou Smith (799-5583) or Dave Humpert (791-0490) after Sunday services for registration forms and additional information.

## You C.A.N. help, too!

All year round members of St. John's are invited to knit or crochet hats and mittens for the **Council for Abused and Neglected children**. Our gifts are distributed during the winter months to children in foster families. This year, please gather your finished hats, mittens, and scarves in the Community Room on November 5th & 13th. You're talents and prayers are greatly appreciated!

Want to knit or crochet in a group? Join us for **St. John's Stitches**, Thursdays at 7pm. See the schedule in the Community Room for locations.

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## Warden's Report

Have you noticed a different feeling around our church lately? There seems to be an atmosphere of new found enthusiasm and joyful expectation—not to mention genuine relief. It's been a long journey, but if the many, many positive comments are any indication, it's been a journey well worth the time and energy invested. Father Daniel's presence has ignited a spark in all of us.

As parishioners we should expect to hear from Father Daniel individually and personally. He believes strongly in pastoral care and has already begun making contacts and visitations. As lay Eucharistic ministers, lectors and acolytes we are experiencing him gently leading us in new and meaningful ways of celebration, while honoring the traditions of St. John's. As altar guild members, we are witnessing him making that ministry open and inclusive honoring involvement and seeking ideas. As vestry members, we are seeing Father Daniel as a collaborative leader, a partner in the operational side of the church. As anyone involved in any way at St. John's we are seeing a person who listens well and respectfully and joyfully seeks to understand and lead.

Vestry member Bill Frederick may have said it best: "In our Parish Profile we said we were looking for someone who needed to have seven or eight very specific and demanding skills and characteristics. I thought if we found a person with half of these skills we would be lucky. I think we've found one who meets or exceeds all our expectations." Bill was baptized at St. John's over 91 years ago. With that much history on his side, he should know. We vestry members agree.

*Burriss Smith,*  
Senior Warden

## Happy Birthday!

- 1 Nancy Cramer
- 5 Michelle Hoepfner
- 6 Tim Braun
- 7 Tony Vlassis
- 8 Alexis Renna
- 8 Cole Winters
- 8 Bill Lawrence
- 9 Joanna Mitzel
- 10 Jenna Brown
- 14 Kirk Smith
- 14 Jane Girdham
- 15 Mercedes Garza
- 17 Anne Beckley
- 20 Sharon Kaylor
- 22 Jane Wilber
- 23 Cynthia Baillie
- 24 Madison Shinaberry
- 25 Claire Santhany
- 25 Bruce Wells
- 27 Joyce Czerwinski
- 27 Chloe Sunderman
- 28 Joshua Stuber
- 29 Marvin Hoepfner

## Happy Anniversary!

- 3 Annerose & Jim Shannon
- 6 Katie & Daniel Keehn
- 8 Janis & Mike Rump
- 10 Stephanie & Derek Peters
- 15 Jane Girdham & Michael Keenan
- 24 Marsha & Jim Braun

# Thank You

Thank you to **Sue Luxton** and your group of helpers for all of your efforts organizing the Welcome Back Sunday Potluck.

Thank you **Bill Frederick, Pat Lynes, John & Barb Roberts, Sue Brigham, and Sharon Voelker** for your continued help assembling the Messenger!

*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:

Sep. 18 - Oct. 1	Diane Grigg	793-1669
Oct. 2 - Oct. 15	Kathie Smtih	792-4775
Oct. 16 - Oct. 29	Barb Jones	793-0030
Oct. 30 - Nov.12	Sperry Garber	790-4940

### Vestry Members:

Janet Cosenza	401-0853	janetcosenza@charter.net
Bill Frederick	781-0002	wfrederick@tm.net
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Connie Grantham	695-2088	grantham@hotmail.com
Marcia Hoffman	793-8354	hoffman1982@sbcglobal.net
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Burriss Smith	792-4775	smithbr@chartermi.net
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

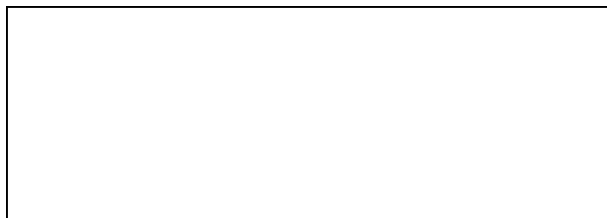
# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## **Blessing of the Animals - October 2nd. @ 4:00pm**

All of us experience community and worship in our own personal ways. And all of us, from time to time, ask ourselves how our spiritual lives and our regular lives can become one and the same. Among many reasons, this is part of why we recognize the saints. Not to be embarrassed by all of the godly things we haven't done but rather to be inspired by common people who loved common things like their neighbors, co-workers, or simply the world around them.

On October 2nd we will celebrate the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals and nature. This service includes a wonderful tradition called the Blessing of the Animals. And why not? We bless buildings and mission projects. Why not take a day to remind ourselves of God's gift of creation and bless the non-human members of our households? Of course this service is more than just a remembrance. We get to bring a beloved part of our daily lives into the church in a physical way. In a barking, drooling, feathered, scaled, and special way we get to blend our homes with worship and community. Also, join us for a fun and pet friendly reception following the service.



*ST. JOHN'S IS CALLED TO CARE, SHARE, WORSHIP, CELEBRATE, AND LOVE.*