



THE MESSENGER



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

Volume 30, Issue 2

February 2012

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Traveling Light

In our lives we spend a lot of time accumulating things. Over the holidays perhaps was just a few pounds and some Christmas gifts. But over a lifetime we accumulate so much...especially living here in North America. We accumulate possessions, money, knowledge and ideas, awards and achievements. We also tend to build up unwanted things like fears, resentments and sorrows. This month, which marks the beginning of Lent, is a time for us to look at how we can **travel lighter** and let go of some of the baggage we accumulated over our lives. Lent is a time for introspection and charitable acts, a time for preparing our hearts for the joy of the Resurrection and letting go of negativity. It is a time for cutting back, taking less and giving more. Lent has always been a lean time for the Church; the fast that prepares for the feast of Easter. **It is a time to shift our focus away from accumulating and towards "letting go and letting God."**

I would encourage us all to look for things that we can let go of during this Lenten season and to find new ways to give more generously to those in need. This is the Church's ancient spiritual remedy to our culture of accumulation. Giving of our time, talents and resources is a way of reminding us that we can't take anything with us from this world when we leave. **Traveling lightly allows us to focus on the most important things in life: Loving God and loving those around us. This love is indeed the only thing that continues on forever.**

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In This Issue...

- Cover Article: Traveling Light: What is expected of Christians during Lent?
- Meet the Nursery Staff!
- Learn how to offer intentional hospitality to guests and members alike at the Hospitality Workshop.
- Special February Events: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper & Ash Wednesday Services.

Traveling Light Continued...

Our St. John's **lunch bag program** offers us all a great opportunity to give during this Lenten season. With the decrease in government assistance we have been having record numbers coming to our doors seeking food, hats and gloves. **If you are interested in helping out, this month is a great time to start.** We can always use more volunteers to take a shift distributing or to be available as a back up on occasion. We are also looking for people to pick up supplies from Sam's Club or work from home removing tags on the donated hats and gloves. Finally, as the costs of this ministry are growing and are now above \$7,000 a year, we could always use special offerings to help fund this outreach ministry. My prayer for St. John's is that we will receive the gift that this Lent can bring into our lives, through Christ our Lord.

Lenten Blessings,
Fr. Daniel+

Warden's Report

As I look back a year ago, Burris wrote, "Job One for 2011 is clear: finding a new Rector." Job One for 2011 is complete. We now need to look at 2012 and beyond. This year the Vestry will begin working on a new three year plan. How do we balance the budget? What is our plan to take care of our church building? How do we attract more people to worship with us? How do we continue to care for our current parishioners? The questions are not new. However, we need to act on the answers.

So here we are in the month of February with a great deal of work ahead of us. It's a short month, but we get an extra day this year.

- It's my favorite month. It's my birthday month.
- Lent begins in February. I hope to see all of you at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.
- Valentine's Day is in February. Do you know how many times the word "love" is used in the Bible?
- We celebrate George Washington's birthday in February. Did you know St. John's celebrated the 100th anniversary of his inauguration? We have a picture in the community room from that day. It's the one with all the men lined up on Hancock St.

I'm excited to serve as Sr. Warden in 2012. I enjoy caring, sharing and worshiping with all of you. Do not hesitate to contact me or any Vestry member with questions or concerns.

Faithfully,
Marcia Hoffman
Senior Warden



Marcia Hoffman

Happy Birthday!

- 2 Pat Lynes
- 2 Mary Spence
- 3 Cannan Peters
- 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 James Joswiak
- 18 Louise Small
- 19 Richard Sedwick
- 25 Daniel Cannon
- 25 Al Vondrasek
- 26 Christine Schaub
- 27 Connor Shinaberry
- 28 Betty Galbraith
- 28 Marcia Hoffman

Happy Anniversary!

- 14 Kathie & Dave Humpert
- 26 Mary Jane & Ken Scott

Thank You

Thank you to **Sue Luxton** and everyone who aided in the Annual Breakfast. Everything looked and tasted great!

Thanks to **Janet Cosenza, Bill Frederick,** and **Burris Smith** for your service on the Vestry and your dedication as leaders at St. John's.

Thank you to all of our lunch bag volunteers for helping expand our ministry including: **Drew Christiansen, Ivor Henry, Dave Humpert, Berney Jones, Michael Keenan, Nancy Kraus, Susan Ludwig, Pat Lynes, Val McDonald, Duncan Redfield, Jim Shannon, Burris Smith, Jane & Al Vondrasek.**

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

Good Samaritans:

Jan. 22 - Feb. 4	Ellen Redfield	779-4401
Feb. 5 - Feb. 18	Michael Keenan	790-8712
Feb. 19 - Mar. 3	Susan Daugherty	249-1989

Vestry Members:

Keith Birdsall	6526768	quilter37@charter.net
Drew Christiansen	392-0109	drewchristiansen78@gmail.com
Jane Girdham	790-8712	jgirdham@svsu.edu
Connie Grantham	695-2088	grantham@hotmail.com
Marcia Hoffman	793-8354	hoffman1982@sbcglobal.net
Mark Mahlberg	793-0801	n/a
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Dennis Thom	793-9562	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

Hospitality Workshop

February 11 @ 10:00 am to Noon

Has a guest ever asked you a question and you didn't know how to answer? Have you wanted to approach someone you thought might be new but didn't know what to say? Has anyone ever asked you where to find a Band-Aid or if there was a Sunday School?

The Hospitality Workshop will equip you with the tools needed to greet guests, answer common questions, encourage members to fully participate in our community and more. Sessions, led by Fr. Daniel and Amy Simons, will include:

- Finding YOUR communication style.
- Someone New is Here - Now what?
- I Wish I Knew Them Better - How to get Involved.
- The Nuts and Bolts - providing a safe and joyful place of worship of all.



Drew Christiansen & Dave Humpert

Meet the Vestry

Meet our newest members of the Vestry! We appreciate the time and effort it takes to participate as the elected leaders of our parish.

Keith H. Birdsall - Keith has served St. John's as a lector, coffee hour host, vestry member, and most recently as the chairman of our search committee. He attends the 10:30 service with his wife Nancy.

Drew Christiansen - Drew serves as a lunch bag outreach volunteer, lector, Eucharistic minister, as our parish delegate for diocesan convention and regularly attends the 10:30 service. This will be his first term as a member of the vestry.

Mark Mahlberg - Mark can be found each week attending our 8:00 service. He also helps with the Christmas outreach baskets, Holidays in the Heart of the City, and other special events. This will be Mark's first term on the vestry.



Keith H. Birdsall

Photo Drew

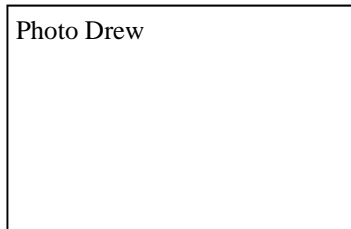
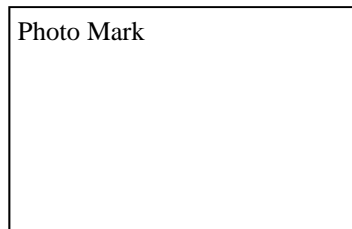


Photo Mark



The Nursery is OPEN!

This winter, we have been able to consistently staff our nursery with two contracted college students, Angela Kerns and Allison M_____. It is our hope that this will provide needed relief for parents with young children and encourages families to attend church together.



Allison plays with infants in the nursery

Meet the Nursery Staff:

Angela Kerns - Angela was born and raised in Saginaw and is currently an honors student at Delta College. Her plans are to continue her education at the University of Michigan to earn a degree in civil engineering. An experienced child care provider, Angela has worked as an in-home nanny and as a leader in the after school programs at the Freeland Sports Zone.

Allison Martuch - Allison also lives in Saginaw and is currently studying at Delta College. Her educational goal is to study law at the University of Michigan. She enjoys her time in the nursery at St. John's and hopes to grow her skills and experience caring for young children.

*Although Angela and Allison have been doing a wonderful job building relationships with our young ones we are still in need of a few volunteers to act as **substitutes** should one of them be unable to attend. Because St. John's is a "Safe Church" it is mandatory that a minimum of two adults be present when working with our youth. This a great example of the old saying "There is safety in numbers." There is no lesson prep or special skills needed. Contact Amy Simons at the parish office (989-793-9575) if you are available to help.*



Angela Kerns



Allison Martuch

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21 @ 6:00pm

Pancakes for supper! You bet! This fun Anglican tradition strives to get rid of all the “fat in the larder” before Lent arrives on Ash Wednesday. Join us **February 21st. 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 and tickets may be purchased at the door.



RTL: Janet Cosenza, Marcia Hoffman, Amanda Doyle, Linda Buzon, Christopher Dolyle

Ash Wednesday Services

February 22 @ Noon & 6:00pm



Ash Wednesday, **March 9th**, 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!

St. John's Stiches!

ATTENTION: KNITTERS CROSS-STITCHERS CREWELERS EMBROIDERERS NEEDLE-POINTERS QUILTERS The “Stitchers” are ready to meet again in 2012. Bring your unfinished project(s), or start a new one to the Keenan/Girdham home on February 5th at 7:00 p.m. If you are a beginner or need some help on your project, there is someone in the stitching group who can help you. We hope to see you on the 5th!

Looking for a new project? The C.A.N. council or the lunch bag outreach projects are always looking for more hats, gloves, and scarves to support their mission!



RTL: Marcia Hoffman, Jane Girdham, Ellen Redfield, Kevin Simons

Who Do I Talk to About That?

There are as many ways to volunteer as there are people at St. John's and you don't need a special skill set to do it. You just need to be YOU. Do you like reading? You could be a lector. Do you prefer to work alone? You could be an office volunteer or pass out lunch bags. Do you like to meet new people? You can be a greeter or an usher. Do you like to learn something new? You can sing in the choir or help with altar guild. **What have you been curious about lately?**

Whether you've been volunteering for years or you're just looking for a place to start the person to talk to about 'that' is Amy Simons. She will be your first point of contact for schedule changes or getting connected with each of our ministries here at St. John's. To learn how to can strengthen our St. John's community contact Amy Simons at amy@stjohns-saginaw.org



Amy Simons,
Communications Administrator

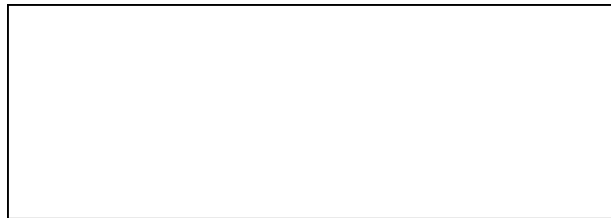


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Lenten Evensong: TBA

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