



Counting our Blessings

As we approach the last few months of the year and celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, we have an opportunity to remember those things in life, or more especially those people in our lives, for which we are truly thankful. A good exercise for this time of year is the proverbial counting our blessings, remembering all the ways in which God's providence has cared for us and met our needs. In our St. John's parish family we are doing the same thing. We have welcomed eleven new members this year, revived our Godly Play program and nearly completed a year with a balanced budget without cutting ministries. St. John's has a lot to be thankful for.

This coming year as we plan our church budget, we have new costs that we seek to meet including an estimated \$6000 for a mandatory external audit of our church finances, an additional \$7000 to fully meet our diocesan tithe obligations and cost of living increases for the staff which have been deferred for a year due to our tight budget. The cost for keeping our church open and fully staffed next year is approximately \$285,000. Additionally, St. John's seeks to raise approximately \$11,500 to fund outreach programs not included in the budget such as the weekly lunch bag give-away (\$6000), choral scholars (\$4000), and a Rector's discretionary fund to assist the needy (\$1500). If we had a hundred families giving toward these ministries, each could be fully funded if each family gave \$35 per week for the budget and \$2.25 per week for outreach. We know that not everyone can give that amount and that is okay. The Church is not a club with dues for membership. All we ask is that all members pray about what they can contribute to supporting the ministries of St. John's. I believe that if each person gives cheerfully for God's work, whatever he or she is able, that we will have a balanced budget again next year and will be able to continue to fully fund our outreach programs and keep our church running smoothly. Our hope is that St. John's is a place where we connect with many of the people and things that we are grateful for in life and that we will all work to pass on the many graces we have received here through Christ.

Christ's Peace, Fr. Daniel+

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Julia Burdis
- 2 Margaret Maul
- 4 Frederick Blake
- 7 Burris Smith
- 8 Duncan Redfield
- 8 Mary Slater
- 9 Berney Jones
- 9 Ellee Wilson
- 12 Ken Williams
- 13 Ken Scott
- 15 Edward Majask
- 15 Camille Daugherty
- 15 Valerie McDonald
- 17 Miranda Garza
- 17 Jean Thomas
- 18 Dennis Greenwood
- 22 Bill Vlassis
- 23 Chrissy Cannon
- 23 Dave Humpert
- 23 Sharelle Johnson
- 23 Kevin Simons
- 25 Sallie Swanson
- 26 T.C. McLeod

Happy Anniversary!

- 15 Evelyn & Ken Williams
- 27 Rebecca & Lucas Curell
- 28 Louise & Jerry Smith

Thank You

Thank you to **Sonni Magyar, Tanya Brown** and our **Youth** for helping with the reception for the 2013 Animal Blessing.

Thank you **Dave Humpert, Jan Young**, and ALL of those who volunteered your time or made donations to this year's C.R.O.P. Walk.

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.

Thank you for your service veterans and happy

Veterans Day!

We would like to honor you during our worship services on

Sunday November 10th.

*If you have served in our country's armed forces
please let the office know.*

Good Samaritans:		
Oct. 27 - Nov. 9	Sperry Garber	790-4940
Nov. 10—Dec. 8	Lou Smith	799-5583
Dec. 9—Dec. 21	Michael Keenan	790-8712

Vestry Members:

Keith Birdsall	652-6768	quilter37@charter.net
Lucas Curell	798-0031	lcurell@gmail.com
Jane Girdham	790-8712	kgirdham@svsu.edu
Melanie Hollman	792-3888	melaniehollman@hotmail.com
Barb Ilkka	793-4204	bhilkka@gmail.com
Mark Mahlberg	793-0801	mark-mahlberg@yahoo.com
Sue Marquardt	790-0656	r-s-keyofc@sbcglobal.net
Duncan Redfield	799-7893	redsailor7@yahoo.com
Dennis Thom	793-9526	dennisthom@sbcglobal.net

19th Annual Diocesan Convention Review

Last month, four representatives from St. John's attended the 19th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Over two days, Fr. Daniel, Lucas Curell, Mark Mahlberg, Ellen Redifeld and Amy Simons were able to attend workshops about communications, grant writing and social advocacy. They were able to cast a vote regarding revising the lectionary and to hear a great deal about other news within the diocese. Our own Ellen Redfield was elected out of a field of five candidates by the convention as one of three members of the new diocesan council.



Vestry member and convention delegate, **Lucas Curell**, describes his experience this way.

Jesus said, "...anyone who comes to me I will never drive away..."

Sometimes it is easy to forget that, among the seven billion people in this world, there will be differences of opinions - and that's OK. It is, in truth, these differences that make each of us so very special and so very interesting. Unfortunately, it is also in these differences that we so often persecute one another.

As I participated in fellowship, workshops and worship, I had cause to talk with many different people and was reminded of just how broad are our convictions.

From political (displayed in the lively discussion on gun violence in the Advocacy Workshop) to cultural (seen in the spirited gospel choir that performed for Holy Eucharist) to spiritual (I think of the young woman who gave the sermon while encouraging hearty AMENs from the crowd) - each of these showcased a great strength of our church.

- We make room for everyone.
- You don't have to prove your faith .
- You don't have to wear your good works on your sleeve.
- You don't have to dress in fancy clothes.
- You don't have to know all the right times to bow .
- You don't have to be rich.
- You don't have to be perfect .
- You don't have to...
- You don't have to...

In fact, just about the only thing you **do have to do** is show up.

Before I walked through the doors of St. John's some four years ago, I never imagined there was a church that had room for me and to this day, I am still astonished at just how wrong I was.

[continued on next page...]

[Diocesan Convention Continued...]

So the first thing that jumped out at me at Convention was the openness and acceptance of our church. And this brings me to a second ministry that is part and parcel to our church.

Jesus said, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve."

In nearly every discussion and workshop there was a shared theme - helping those less fortunate. Indeed, the mission statement of the convention itself embodied this theme; Let us go forth into the public square, using our voices to speak for the good of all.

There is so much our church family is doing to help those in need. Most of the business of the convention consisted of reports on a variety of ministries within the diocese including:

- Reading Camp (<http://readingcamprocks.org/>)
- Christ Enrichment Center (<http://www.christenrichmentcenter.org/index.html>)
- Camp Chickagami (<http://www.campchickagami.org/>)
- Grace Center (<http://www.gracecentergrayling.org/>)

This doesn't even begin to report on the countless programs in each of the 47 churches that make up our diocese – like our own Lunch Bag program, Old Town Christian Outreach or Christmas baskets.

This attitude of selfless giving must surely be what Christ called us to do when He said, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." And it makes me proud to be a part of it.

In closing, I will share the challenge given to those of us at convention by Bishop Ousley.

"I challenge you to join me in solidarity with our brothers and sisters below the poverty line and on food stamps, to spend a week using just \$31.15 per person for our food."

As we consider this challenge, let us not forget that for us, it is a choice but for them, it is their every day.

St. John's which also as a year-round commitment to serving the diocese thanks these individuals who are willing to serve; Fr. Daniel Cannon (Diocesan Commission of Ministry), Barb Ilkka (Diocesan Discernment Committee), Ellen Redfield (Diocesan Council member) and Amy Simons (Diocesan Resolutions Committee member).

Holidays in the Heart of the City

November 22th @ 6:30pm

St. John's is opening its doors and hosting the Saginaw Area Concert Band as part of the Old Town event, Holidays in the Heart of the City. The SACB will perform a holiday concert on Friday, November 22nd, at 6:30pm. We'll **need some volunteers** to help usher the event and bake cookies for a reception. Can you help? Contact Amy Simons for details.



An Unofficial Choral Scholar Homecoming!

A few weeks ago, the choir and subsequently the 10:30 congregation had an unofficial homecoming of choral scholars. Three of our scholars, Jeremiah Kraniak (current scholar), Tami Snyder-Knutson (former scholar) and Rachele Austin (former scholar) were featured soloists at the season opening concert of the Saginaw Choral Society. That all three of them had a portion of their musical formation occur at St. John's would have, of course, been enough to brag about. But the story doesn't end there. Also in attendance at the concert that night were former scholars Caleb Knutson and Brad Fergin, there to support their partners. After an evening of celebrating, congratulating and reuniting with friends, these five scholars did what we all hoped they would and returned to the church they have in common for a great Sunday sing with the choir.

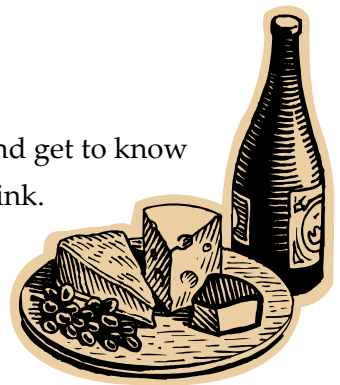


The communion anthem naturally, was inspiring! But, this is a blessing that goes beyond "good music." On this otherwise ordinary Sunday, St. John's was reminded that we are a community of people, both stable and transient, who are here to remember and support one another. We don't need a special occasion to be mindful of those around us, just the presence of mind to see an opportunity when it presents itself.

Adult Fellowship Potluck

November 15th @ 6:00pm

This is a fun "grown-up" night out for friends and members of St. John's. Come and get to know each other better! Please bring a dish to pass and anything special you'd like to drink. (St. John's will provide coffee and water. Pop, beer, wine, etc. are BYO.) All are welcome, but if you think you may come, please sign up in the Community Room so we can get an idea of how many to expect!



C.A.N. Mittens & More...

If you like to knit or crochet, then get those needles working! The yearly "**Mittens & More Ingathering**" will take place the first two Sundays in November. Please bring your handmade mittens, hats and scarves and place them on display at the designated table in the Community Room. Soon after, they will be taken to the **Council for Abused and Neglected Children Office** for distribution to children in foster care homes. THANK YOU! You can be sure that your work brings warmth and a little love to children in need of both.

Also, if you'd like some fellowship while you work, the **St. John's Stitching** group is meeting at the home of Jane Girdham, 1689 Vancouver Drive, Thursday, November 7th. at 7:00pm.

Vestry Nomination Form 2014

Do you know a fellow parishioner who would make a good Vestry member? Does he or she have a willingness to serve, a gift for leadership, support of our congregation’s vision and enjoy working as part of a larger ministry team and the commitment for a three year term? Talk to him or her about it! Then fill in the form below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office by **Sunday, December 1st**.

What is the nomination process?

The nomination process is meant to be an open opportunity for discernment. Please keep in mind that any person nominated must be an adult member of the congregation, being at least 16 years of age, baptized and either confirmed or received, must worship regularly (more than once a month), participate as a good steward in terms of time, talent, and treasure within the parish and must not be related to a person currently on the Vestry, nor on or having stepped down from the staff within the past year. New members will be voted onto the vestry at our annual meeting in January.

Vestry members commit to attending a monthly vestry meeting for a term of three years. For more information about the Vestry of St. John’s visit: www.stjohns-saginaw.org/vestry

Delegate Nomination Form 2014

Do you know a fellow parishioner who might be feeling called to serve as a Delegate to our Diocesan Convention and Convocation? If so, please fill in the form below and place it in the offering plate or return it to the office by **Sunday, December 1st**.

Much like the nomination process for Vestry, please keep in mind that any person nominated must be an adult member of the congregation, being at least 16 years old, must be baptized and either confirmed or received, must worship regularly (more than once a month) and participates as a good steward in terms of time, talent, and treasure. Other factors that the Nomination Committee will consider include: willingness to serve, a gift for leadership, support of developing our congregation’s vision, and enjoyment working as part of a larger ministry team.

In an effort to provide more comprehensive representation of our parish to and with our larger community of the diocese, St. John’s has combined the role of a delegate to serve both at the Convocation level and wider diocese at the Annual Convention. A delegate would serve for a one year term (with the ability to be re-elected for two succeeding terms), representing St. John’s at the monthly meeting of the Convocation as well as the Diocesan Annual. Thanks for your support!

To the Nominating Committee:

I suggest _____ for the 2014 Vestry. *Nominee initials* _____

I suggest _____ to serve as delegate in 2014. *Nominee initials* _____

Signed _____ Date: _____

Stewardship Updates

Curious to see how the 2014 budget is taking shape? Wonder what that means for you? Here are some highlights of the ministries supported by your giving last year!

Staff Funding: This year St. John's staff has been working to develop a new Sunday School program, the beginning of a continuing legacy to invest in the youngest members of our church family. Another staff project was to reduce the cost of each lunch bag in our program by 10-15 cents per bag and change some of the items to make for a more nutritious package in order to better serve our patrons. Additionally, we have continued to build partnerships with community groups such as Kingdom Builders, which is helping to transform the communities of East Saginaw, as well as to continue nurturing our connections with the West Saginaw Civic Association and Old Town Christian Outreach.

Choral Scholars: The Choral Scholar Program has been in operation at St. John's for since 2006 and has been an important part of our musical outreach to Saginaw Valley State University students. Several past scholars have gone on to jobs in church music and have furthered their singing careers. This fall, three of our scholars were the featured soloists with the Saginaw Choral Society and they returned to St. John's to sing on Sunday morning! Many of our scholars have been baptized, confirmed and married through their association with St. John's. In addition to our scholars, we also have numerous college students who sing as volunteers with our choir.

Lunch Bag Program: We have distributed an average of 481 lunch bags each month to help care for the individuals right in our neighborhood.

Rector's Discretionary Fund: Your contributions to the clergy discretionary fund enabled us to sponsor a survivor of sex trafficking to cover basic needs for one month to continue on her path to recovery. We sponsored the work of a campus ministry, and supplied a number of individuals in the community with food and/or gas cards to meet immediate needs.

Building & Grounds: Because of the care of our beautiful facility, we were able to host ten community events, not including the weekly rehearsals of the Saginaw Choral Society and aside from the normal activities of our congregation.

Program & Clergy: In 2013 alone, we have welcomed eleven new members.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 123 N. MICHIGAN AVE.
 SAGINAW, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org

NOVEMBER 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 <i>All Saints' Day Transferred</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:30am—Flu Vaccine Clinic 10:00am—Nursery 10:30am—Godly Play 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	4	5	6 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	7 6:00pm—Youth Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 <i>The 25th Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 9:30am—Fellowship Committee Meeting 10:00am—Nursery 10:30am—Godly Play 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	11 Veterans Day! Offices Closed	12	13 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist 7:00—Vestry Meeting	14 6:00pm—Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm—Full Choir Rehearsal	15 6:00pm—Adult Fellowship Potluck	16
17 <i>The 26th Sunday of Pentecost</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery 10:30am—Godly Play 10:30am—Holy Eucharist	18	19 6:30pm—D.O.K. Meeting	20 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	21 6:00pm—Youth Choir Rehearsal	22 6:00pm—Holidays in the Heart of the City, SACB Concert.	23 9:15am - Old Town Christian Outreach Volunteer Day
24 <i>Christ The King</i> 8:00am—Holy Eucharist 10:00am—Nursery 10:30am—Holy Eucharist & Youth Sunday	25	26 7:00pm—C.S. Lewis Pub Club @ Spenser's Route 46	27 Noon—Morning Prayer w/ Eucharist	28 Thanksgiving Day Offices Closed	29	30

Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate, & Love