

May 2015

The Messenger

St. John's Episcopal Church | 123 N. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602
www.stjohns-saginaw.org | 989-793-9575 | Care, Share, Worship, Celebrate & Love



IN THIS EDITION

What is Pentecost?

Spring Potluck

Vacation Bible School & Camp Chick!

May Confirmations

New Website

COMING TOGETHER, BEFORE GOING OUT...

As we complete the Easter season and approach Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, I always find it helpful to look at where we have been and where we are going. One of the things that inspires me about St. John's is the way the ministry is a team effort from the entire parish. I see so many of you doing your respective ministries week in and week out. Whether worshiping in the pews or serving on the Altar Guild, helping with our youth programs, serving as Eucharistic Ministers and Acolytes or as ushers and greeters or coffee hour hosts or helping to hand out lunch bags, Old Town Outreach, delivering flowers, visiting the housebound, helping in the office, or serving on one of the committees that help keep the church running, I know each one of St. John's parishioners is giving of themselves for the work of ministry. But with all of our activity, we can't forget that before the disciples went out to do the work of ministry on Pentecost they were gathered together for prayer and fellowship. This spring and summer, I invite everyone to take the time to slow down and enjoy the people that God has placed in our lives. On May 31, we are having a potluck to celebrate the end of a busy program year. Let this be the start of a spring and summer not only of devote ministry but also of getting to know our church family better.

Christ is Risen, Fr. Daniel+

WHAT IS PENTECOST?



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each” (Acts 2:1-6, NRSV).



The disciples shouting and making a scene--a pretty compelling case that the disciples of Christ had gotten into the wine. And, as we read, that is exactly what some of the original bystanders said. It's easy for those who are unfamiliar with the history of Pentecost to have a good laugh and stop the story there, but this part of our Christian history offers so much more inspiration than fodder for a chuckle. It's an example of how our amazing God meets each of us, right where we are, and speaks at our level in a language we can understand.

Pentecost was not just something that happened to the disciples. Pentecost existed before this dramatic experience of evangelism. In Greek, Pentekoste literally means "the 50th day." In the **Old Testament** Pentecost refers a seven-week agricultural festival that focused on harvesting the first crops for God. Isn't it neat the way culture and tradition are all used by God to speak plainly to the people of the time? Now, in the **New Testament**, describing what was happening in Acts in terms of a first harvest would have made perfect sense!

"It's an example of how our amazing God meets each of us, right where we are, and speaks at our level in a language we can understand."

Today, we honor this tradition by celebrating Pentecost 50 days after Easter; the **Book of Common Prayer** marks Pentecost as one of the feast days "especially appropriate" for baptism (BCP, p. 312) and we can still get excited about sharing the message of hope and salvation in a way that is relevant for our friends and neighbors, right here in Saginaw. Just like the original disciples, we serve the same amazing God who speaks to us exactly where we are and who equips us to be a witness to others exactly where they are.

*Amy Simons,
Author*

WHAT'S GOING ON THIS MAY?

Diocesan Confirmation | May 2 @ 3:00

Confirmation celebrates those making a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of baptism through a laying on of hands by the bishop.

On May 2nd, our newest member, Brenda Sanders, will be received. Show your support by attending this service hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Bay City.



Spring Potluck | May 31 @ 11:45

Friends are always welcome. Bring a dish to pass so that we can all be a part of this spring fellowship event following the 10:30 service.

The Website has a NEW Look!

The look is new, but the mission is the same; to help visitors feel comfortable attending St. John's and keep our members informed! **Check things out at www.stjohns-saginaw.org.**

Your feedback is really important to keeping this tool relevant, so please let us know how we're doing. Simply send your thoughts to amy@stjohns-saginaw.org.

Vacation Bible School

St. John's will be joining forces with our neighboring churches, Holy Cross Lutheran and First Presbyterian, to create a terrific



VBS experience! Our 2015 VBS theme is... Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power! VBS will run from **June 15-18**, 6:00pm - 8:30pm for students **age 3 through grade 6**.

Friends are always welcome! Registration forms can be found in the Community Room or at www.stjohns-saginaw.org/ministry/sunday-school/

We are also in need of adult volunteers to help prepare snacks! Contact [Amy Simons](#) for details.

Camp Chickagami

Camp Chick is the Family Camping Center of The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Over one hundred acres command the entire north shore of Lake Esau, one of Michigan's most attractive small lakes, together with substantial frontage on Lake Huron's beautiful Albany Bay.

Camp Chick's summer programs include Senior Camp, Junior Camp and Family Camp. Learn more about dates and registration at www.campchickagami.org.

LEADERSHIP & CALENDAR

Birthdays

May 1 - Dave Corcoran
 May 2 - Tom Donaghy
 May 3 - Carrie Barshaw
 May 4 - Dorothy Henry
 May 5 - Jim Newkirk
 May 6 - Chuck Stuart
 May 7 - Sonni Magyar
 May 11 - Kathie Smith
 May 15 - Richard Marquardt
 May 16 - Leon Koepflinger
 May 19 - Stephanie Peters
 May 21 - Patricia Jackson
 May 24 - Mike Rump
 May 29 - Betty Grills
 May 31 - Barbara Roberts

Anniversaries

May 1 - Dan & Marcia Hoffman
 May 13 - David & Marcie Winters
 May 17 - Herb & Kathi Spence
 May 17 - Jan & Jerry Young
 May 21 - Dick & Tine Mott

Do you know a member of St. John's graduating from high school or college? Let us know so we can recognize them in June!



MAY 2

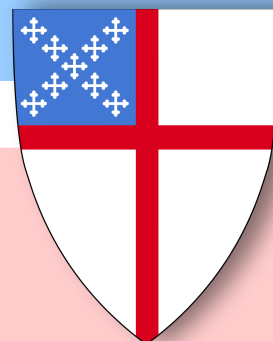
Diocesan Confirmations @ Trinity Episcopal Church in Bay City, 3:00pm

MAY 31

Church Potluck following 10:30 service

JUNE 15-18

Vacation Bible School, 6-8:30pm



THE REV. DANIEL CANNON

Rector & Priest
therevcannon@stjohns-saginaw.org



THE REV. PAM RENNA

Assistant Priest & Pastoral Care
pam@stjohns-saginaw.org



KEVIN SIMONS

Director of Music & Organist
kevin@stjohns-saginaw.org



AMY SIMONS

Church Administrator
amy@stjohns-saginaw.org



AL GISSENDANNER

Sexton

VESTRY

Barb Ilkka, bhilkka@gmail.com

Chris Schaub, chriss226@icloud.com

Lucas Curell, lcurell@gmail.com

Matt Gerhardt, matt_0706@yahoo.com

Jane Girdham, jgirdham@svsu.edu

Melanie Hollman, melaniehollman@hotmail.com

Duncan Redfield, redsailor7@yahoo.com

Kathy Ten Wolde, katenwolde@gmail.com

Ric Roberts, rbrobert@svsu.edu