

# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
Fenton, Michigan

***Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others***  
September, 2014 (our 156<sup>th</sup> year)

We spent most of vacation this year on the side of a mountain in Vermont with no television or radio. So we missed the news of the shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO on Saturday, August 9. We also heard nothing about how the candlelight vigil meant to honor him turned violent the next evening. It wasn't until Monday night when I checked my social media before bed that I heard the news of the shooting, the sometimes violent reaction, and the police's response. And because it was through social media, I was reading quite a bit of opinion stated as fact, and the responses were all over the map... fear, anger, righteous self defense, and calls for justice.

Justice is one of the things the church has talked about a lot lately. We discuss what it means to try to create the kind of just world we believe God desires, and so we feed the hungry, seek equal rights for minorities, and look to help the oppressed. And this is right and good. I believe it is a God given desire we've been given that seeks a just world – a world in which all people are treated with dignity and respect and are valued as the children of God that they are.

Yet in the case of Ferguson, finding justice is hard, especially from afar. There are two entirely different stories about what happened on August 9, and Christians have called for justice in very different ways, mostly siding with either the police or the African American community in Ferguson. And I would point out that those who have chosen sides have mostly picked the one that best fits the narrative that they already believe. There is still racism in America, both personal and institutional, and study after study shows that black Americans are treated differently than white ones. There is also a segment of our population that automatically assumes anyone with a badge is only there for the power trip, to lord it over others and that every policeman is a possible abuser.

So what are we to do? How are we to advocate for justice in the midst of all of this chaos? For once, the lectionary was perfect when, on the week following the violence in Ferguson, we had the following lessons:  
Genesis 45:1-15 and Matthew 15:10-28 I would ask you to take a moment and read these two passages carefully.

I heard a wonderful sermon in church that weekend which pointed out that the connection between the two stories is one of reconciliation – that is the repairing of relationships. In Genesis it is the story of Joseph and his brothers forgiving one another and living in new relationship, and in the gospel we see a new relationship form between Jesus and the Caananite woman. And while the preacher never mentioned Ferguson, he got me to thinking about how these lessons apply, which led me to the purpose of the church.

On page 855 of the Book of Common Prayer, as part of the catechism we get the following:

*Q: What is the mission of the Church?*

*A: The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.*

Our primary role is not justice, but reconciliation – the restoring of relationships. We are called to bring people to God and to work for a world in which people are at peace with one another. This is, I believe, a deep wisdom that recognizes that justice is not always possible. I think of the Truth and Justice Commission in South Africa, after the end of apartheid. After years and years of a regime that treated blacks as second class citizens, or not citizens at all, what would have been justice? Turn about with blacks oppressing whites? Remuneration of some kind? Justice was almost impossible, but what was possible was reconciliation, the slow healing of relationships, the refusal to continue what had been done in the past and the desire to move on together to create a strong and whole country. *(cont. on News and Happening)*

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**The Reverend Joshua Hoover - Rector, 810-714-6064 E-Mail: [revmjrjosh@yahoo.com](mailto:revmjrjosh@yahoo.com)**  
Director of Christian Formation: Ashleigh Wright-Pattan, 810-240-4655 Minister of Music: Marlene Weston  
Administrative Assistant: Barb Smith 810-695-7868 Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. (M - Thurs.)  
**Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Christian Formation: 9:15 a.m.**

# News and Happenings

## Vestry Notes – August 2014

The Vestry met on August 19<sup>th</sup> to confer on the following:

- discussed work on the choir room and the Sunday school
- new shed is near completion with special thanks to Holden Holsinger. An additional thanks is extended to the Freeman Brothers for donating their time and work for the shed foundation.
- voted to hire a lawn service to complete a general clean-up of the Memorial Garden.
- discussed the pains and pleasures of congregational growth.
- new waterline to church and waterproofing of choir room wall.

## A Whole New Year!!

**September 7 – Service times return to 8:00 and 10:30**

**September 7 – 9:15, Sunday School Kickoff, Breakfast and Registration**

**September 14 – Adult Education begins 9:30**

## Parents Meeting for Middle School

**Students: Sunday, September 7 at 9:45**

We know you are hearing a lot about parents' meetings right now, and might be getting a little tired, but we would like to invite you to just one more. Our middle school class – called Rite 13 – is entering its second and final year. We will discuss some of what you can expect, and talk about and schedule an important rite of passage ceremony for your child. Please join us and help us make the year as meaningful as possible for our youth.

## Sunday Morning Adult Education

**Starting September 14<sup>th</sup>**

Join us at 9:30 starting September 14<sup>th</sup> as we journey together into a deeper discussion of our faith and how it affects the way we live our lives. This time is primarily one of sharing together, but we use a book to give us a jumping off place. This year we will begin by reading *Take this Bread* by Sara Miles. It is the story of her unexpected conversion to Christianity and how she began to learn what it means to be a disciple. You can read

an excerpt from the prologue of the book below. Books will be available from Josh for \$15. We hope you will join us throughout the year for discussion, laughter, and mutual support in our spiritual lives.

*From the Prologue:*

One early, cloudy morning when I was forty-six, I walked into a church, ate a piece of bread, took a sip of wine. A routine Sunday activity for tens of millions of Americans — except that up until that moment I'd led a thoroughly secular life, at best indifferent to religion, more often appalled by its fundamentalist crusades. This was my first communion. It changed everything.

Eating Jesus, as I did that day to my great astonishment, led me against all my expectations to a faith I'd scorned and work I'd never imagined. The mysterious sacrament turned out to be not a symbolic wafer at all, but actual food — indeed, the bread of life. In that shocking moment of communion, filled with a deep desire to reach for and become part of a body, I realized what I'd been doing with my life all along was what I was meant to do: feed people.

## Thursdays at Noon Bible Study – Throwing Way Back

**September 11 and 25 at noon.**

Bible study returns September 11 with a survey of the book of Exodus. Join us as we look at this central story for Jews that has important implications for how Jesus was viewed. After our survey, we will look at highlights from Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy to learn about the experience of the Hebrews as they wandered in the desert, before finally reading about the conquest of the promised land. Join us to learn more about what the Bible really says. Join us to be challenged by the stories of our faith. Or join us for the laughter and camaraderie as we explore together.

## Loaves of Compassion

In a sermon just before his vacation, Josh asked the church to write down times they or someone they saw acted out of compassion. He reminded us that these works of compassion are examples of God doing good in the world, and he invited us to write them down on loaves of bread.

How many acts of compassion have you recorded in the last month? Did you miss the sermon and want in on the fun? Don't forget to pick up a loaf of bread in the office. When you've filled your loaf with acts of compassion, bring it into the office; we are interested in seeing evidence of God at work and sharing it with the congregation.

# News and Happenings

## Time Change in the Office

With Vestry support, Josh will be switching his day off to Monday. He has found this more fruitful in the past and family circumstances have made it an option again. He will continue to check email and the office will be open on Mondays from 8:00 – 1:00.

## A Thank You to the Heritage Fund

This spring, the Heritage Fund was asked for a new kind of grant. A young man named Ryan Zavacky who recently graduated from college, and a member of our diocese, sought help to be part of an excellent program called the Episcopal Service Corps. This is a program for those in their 20's that takes them away from their current community for a year as they focus on a combination of service, deepening spirituality, and learning to live in community. The Heritage Fund was delighted to offer help that was matched by our Diocese. This, along with other monies that Ryan was able to raise, has led him to his goal. Ryan has completed his training and will soon be headed to Grahamstown, South Africa in the very near future. We received the following thank you note from him this week, and I encourage you both to follow his blog to hear about what is happening, and to keep him in your prayers over the coming year.

Dear Rev. Hoover and the Congregation of St. Jude's:

Thank you so much for your generous gift to my mission trip fund. You have made this life-changing experience possible, and I am deeply grateful for your generosity.

If I can ask for one more request, can you please pray for me and twenty other missionaries the Episcopal Church is sending out around the world this year. You can follow my blog to follow my adventures and what you have made possible. My blog is [ryanzavacky.blogspot.com](http://ryanzavacky.blogspot.com). I will be posting about my life, my experiences and journey with Christ while I am in South Africa.

Thank you again for your generous donations and prayers for making my mission trip possible.

Nkosi Sikelele (God Bless),  
Ryan Zavacky

## Fall Scrip News

It's that time of year again...children, grandchildren, college students heading back to school. Kohl's, JC Penny, Land's End, Old Navy, Bed, Bath and Beyond are just a few of the retailers scrip offers.

Check out Scrip online at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) to find more merchants. Click on Order Scrip, and then browse the categories of your choosing. There are many more restaurants, hotels, and stores that are not featured on our regular order form. Many of the restaurants give a high percentage, which means more income for St. Jude's.

## READ AND FEED Book Bags

A huge thank you to the women who helped make the book bags for Read and Feed. These included Linda Chciuk, Lisa Cronk, Connie Fry, Lois Hartranft, Mary Ellen Hazell, Connie Hibbard, Lisa Kusluski and Marlene Weston. They performed a variety of tasks including fabric selection, cutting, sewing, ironing and developing a new method of attaching name tags. Additionally Sarah Dolza put us in touch with Erin Oldaugh who is developing a cottage industry and made some bags for us. Connie Koch gave us a generous donation which complimented the amount we received from the Outreach Committee. There are a few leftover bags that will be donated to our next Family Promise week.

## More Read and Feed Thanks:

A special thanks to the newest volunteer to the Read & Feed Program this year. Her name is Peaches and she is a therapy dog owned by Carl Koch. Peaches created quite a stir, many ooohs and aaaahs as she spent time with the children. We appreciate your sharing her, Carl.

# News and Happenings

## Many Thanks...

While summer is a time of vacations, rest and relaxation, many St. Jude's individual, families and friends still took time to volunteer their services. The week of July 6-13 they assisted with Family Promise in meal preparation and staffing the facility.

Our lawn mowers for July and August included Craig Adams, Molly and Bill Anderson, Matt & Jackson Shepherd, Emily Short, Charlie & Francine Johnston, and Bob Warren.

We had lots of helpers for Vacation Bible School and the Read & Feed Program as well.

And, of course, there are many who served as an EM, Reader, Acolyte, Usher or Altar Guild volunteer.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to Bob Minock, Bill Anderson, Bob Hutchins and Mike Wells who have been working with the basement re-modeling project.

Thanks to all who serve God with their ministry of volunteerism!

*(PS: If I have forgotten your name, please call me at the office so I can adjust my records! Barb)*

*(con't from front page)*

This does not mean that we shouldn't continue to press for justice. In fact, without some social justice, reconciliation is impossible. The people of South Africa could not have reconciliation until Apartheid was finished and all people were equal. But it does mean that demands for someone's head, and trying to place the blame are not what we, as the church, are called to be about. Instead, we are called to create justice not as a way of figuring out who owes whom, but in order to restore relationships.

So what are we to do about Ferguson? For me, the answer is not to take sides, not to blindly support anyone, but to look for the strategies and ideas that will restore relationship... not only to create a temporary peace, but to make the changes that will allow for a more just society for everyone and allow the opportunity for positive relationships.

But more importantly for me, I feel challenged to redouble my own efforts at creating relationship across divides. To reach out to those who are in a different income level, a different culture, or who otherwise have been separated from me due to the expectations of our society. I feel called to find those who are different in order to understand them, to see the face of God in their face, and to, in my own small way, create a more reconciled world.

The problems of Ferguson are not going away in the near future, nor are they limited to Ferguson only. Around our country there are many examples of broken relationships, of those who feel unwanted or unloved, of those who are victimized or unfairly blamed. Jesus was famous or maybe infamous for speaking to sinners and tax collectors, foreigners and the sick. But he treated Pharisees and hard working people of faith the exact same way. What are the relationship that you might be called to repair? Who are the people you might reach out to with love and compassion in order to show them that they are your brothers and sisters in Christ? So long as we keep asking only for justice and not for reconciliation, we will be doomed to repeat Greensboro sit-ins, the 1967 riots in Detroit, and Ferguson, MO over and over again.

Faithfully, Josh

# We Are Family

## **Please Hold In Your Prayers**

**For those in particular need of**

**prayer:** Patsy Davis; Joyce Flick;

Ralph Gladfelter; Doug; Bill Lenny; Bill Loudon; Delores Melfi; Aaron Myers; Anthony Nastasy; Taylor Nicely; Marion Parnell; Jillian Reed; Marge Riley; Elaine Salk; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Ron Trimmer and Latoyah Upton, Fred Wells.

**And those in continuing need of prayer:** David Barrows; Bret Beal; BJ Family; Theresa Braun; Jack Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Dot Day; Julie Gates; Bunny Gladfelter; Renee Goss; Grossmann Family; Brian Henderson; Laurie Ingram; Mary Lou Jenkins; Leona; Teresa Maynard; the Lewis family; Rick M; Debbie Provost; John Provost; Susan Taber; and Gavin Woods.

## **Pray for Our Ministers**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** – Raquel Gazzi, Gabbie & Arthur Pennington, Tom & Shirley Gernack; Vance Gordon, Brian & Barb Goss

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** – Jerry & Joan Graham, Chace, Mike, McKenna & Aiden Green, Mark Hamel, Dee Grossmann

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – Rex & Judi Harris, Beth Harvey; Tristin, Natalie & Miryam Hassell, Jim & Mary Ellen Hazel

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** – Harold & Edith Hersbeck, Connie Hibbard, Mike, Kathy, Hunter & Holden Holsinger Josh, Allie, William, Julia & Timothy Hoover

### **Directory changes:**

**Marilou Ensign**  
3403 Foley Glen  
Fenton, 48430

**St. Jude's new e-mail address:**  
stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com

## **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1<sup>st</sup> David James  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sally Diehl  
4<sup>th</sup> Sharon Rogers  
5<sup>th</sup> Courtney Chambers  
Linda Chciuk  
6<sup>th</sup> Marv Fisher  
7<sup>th</sup> Dee Grossmann  
9<sup>th</sup> Cloud James  
10<sup>th</sup> Holden Holsinger  
11<sup>th</sup> Sam Harris  
Diane Putnam  
Dave Rayner  
12<sup>th</sup> Connor Davis  
13<sup>th</sup> Phoenix Buchalski  
Nancy Jones  
Lydia Podlesak  
15<sup>th</sup> MarjieAndrejciw  
16<sup>th</sup> Freya Hutchinson  
Jennifer Rosa  
17<sup>th</sup> Dean DuPei  
19<sup>th</sup> Marilou Ensign  
Francine Johnston  
Chris Roy  
20<sup>th</sup> Matthew Moller  
21<sup>st</sup> Joan Graham  
22<sup>nd</sup> Jack Mills  
Marlene Weston  
23<sup>rd</sup> Margot Brummett  
Natalie Pascoe  
Jackson Shepherd  
25<sup>th</sup> Mike Kearns  
26<sup>th</sup> Lydia Anderson  
Kayla Chambers  
Renee Short  
28<sup>th</sup> Jeff Koch  
Megan Rayner  
30<sup>th</sup> Pat Freeman  
John Kusluski

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

10<sup>th</sup> Jim & Kathy Kortge (48 years)  
14<sup>th</sup> Carl & Connie Koch (57 years)  
24<sup>th</sup> James & Tonna Nicholls (26 years)  
26<sup>th</sup> Steve & Laura Koch (16 years)  
29<sup>th</sup> Scott & Sandra Smith (42 years)

## We are Family (Con't)

### **COFFEE HOUR Hosts:**

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during July and August: Dot Dowlan, Carol and John Pettipher, Rex and Judi Harris, the Goss and Short families; Bill and Marcia Freeman and Amy Freeman-Rosa, Deb and James; Charlie and Francine Johnston; Tom and Shirley Gernack; the Holsinger and Moller families; and Freya Hutchinson

And, we would also like to thank our good friends at *CRUST* for the dedicated delivery of delicious baked goods each Sunday.

*Every day they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. Acts 2:46-47*

### **OFFICE NOTES**

**Office hours:** The office will be closed on Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day.

**Office schedule:** Beginning Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, office hours will resume the 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. schedule Monday through Thursday.

**Pledge Statements:** The mid-year statements are be available in the library. Please pick yours up, review them and contact Barb with any questions or concerns.

**Building Usage:** With the passing of the summer season, activities at St. Jude's will be increasing many times over. If you or your group is planning an event/meeting at St. Jude's, please contact Barb in the office to help insure that the room(s) you need is available. Please call 810-629-5681 or email stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com.

**Flower and Candle Dedications:** Recognize a special event, a special person or simply give thanks to God for your blessings by dedicating the altar flowers! There is a sign-up sheet in VandenBergh Hall. Please fill in the week you would like and drop your request off in the office or Offertory Plate with your gift of \$24. The altar candle also gives you the opportunity for special recognition. The cost is \$30 for one month. Please see the sign-up sheet in VandenBergh Hall.

**Please note! \*If you have not notified the office of any changes, address, phone, cell, e-mail, etc. please do so by September 15<sup>th</sup> as we are looking to update the Church Directory.\***

## *News and Happenings*

### **Notes from the Choir**

It is hard to believe that September is upon us and it is time for the music ministry season to begin. Our annual SUPER SUPPER FOR SINGERS will be on Thursday, September 4, at 6:30 p.m. We will begin with an overview of the season and rehearsal will follow. Regular rehearsals will resume on September 11 at 7 p.m.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF MORE SINGERS.** Please come if you desire to help lead worship in a very special way. We also have much fun! Questions? Talk to any choir member or Marlene Weston.

St. Jude's Ringers begin rehearsals on September 11 at 6 p.m. Ringers are encouraged to arrive early to assist with set-up.

Marlene Weston

### *In Requiem*

#### *Our Sincere Condolences to:*

Terri and Bob Hutchins on the death of Terri's brother Terril Tompkins.

Scott and Sandra Smith on the death of his mother Virginia Smith

Dee Grossmann on the death of her father Leonard Myers

Kathy and Jim Kortge on the death of Kathy's mother Dorothy L. Shaw

*May their souls, and the souls of all those we love, but see no longer, rest in eternal peace.*

### **ALTAR ANGELS**

Each week when we come to Sunday Services, we see the flowers on the altar, the appropriate cloths covering the altar, current hymn numbers on the wall, the wine goblet filled and the bread and wafers placed on their plate.

There is a group of dedicated behind the scenes women who make this possible each week. Please take a moment to thank Gay Adams, Linda Chciuk, Sandy Davis, Sarah Dolza, Dee Grossmann, Judi Harris, Mary Ellen Hazel, Julia Hoover, Kathy Hopper, Terri Hutchins, Fran Johnston, Lorraine Moller, Mary Louise Susalla, and Christine Szostak for their continuing efforts.

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to Erin Smith and Matthew Rico, married on August 16<sup>th</sup>.



# Welcome Back!



## Getting To Know You...



My name is Jake Kusluski; I am 17 years old, and I LOVE swimming! My favorite movie is “Act of Valor,” and my favorite books are the Harry Potter Series. I also enjoy going on vacation Up North with my family. I liked talking about life with my youth group last year, and I had a great time on our pilgrimage.

## Sunday School!

It's time to register for Sunday school once again! On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> we will be starting the Sunday school year with an hour of fun! We will begin with registration and breakfast at 9:00 am in Vandenberg Hall. Then, it's time to head outside to get back into the swing of things. All children are welcome to join in the fun, so mark your calendar, because we can't wait to see you there!

# VBS



Another successful week of VBS has past! We had around 50 children attend this year, and we were able to fill our jungle with a TON of school supplies to donate to children in need.

Thank you so much to Dot Dolan, Josh Hoover, Julie Dupei, Lucas Short, Brady Short, William Hoover, Holden Hoslinger and Emily Wright for all of their hard work and dedication to Vacation Bible School this year. It would not have been such a success without you!



**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**

106 E. Elizabeth St.  
Fenton, MI 48430-2322

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**VESTRY 2014**

Senior Warden.....	Josephine Feijoo.....	248.529.3264
Junior Warden.....	Bill Anderson.....	810.208.0097
Clerk.....	Dave James.....	810.735.4547
Treasurer.....	Michelle Gangwer.....	810.208.0120

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**2015**

Linda Chciuk.....	248.887.6832	Josephine Feijoo.....	248.529.3264
Lisa Kusluski.....	248.634.4694	Dustin Rayner.....	248.634.2748

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**2016**

Sarah Dolza.....	248.634.0225	Dave James.....	810.735.4547
Lorraine Moller.....	810.449.2881	Bill Anderson.....	810.208.0097

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**2017**

Bob Hutchins.....	810.458.4102	Ben Oliver.....	248.634.8399
Michele Peters.....	810.441.5324	Fran Rucker.....	810.750.9578

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**DELEGATES to the DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Jack & Beverly Mills.....	248.634.3416	John & Carol Pettipher.....	248.255.2260
Flint River Convocation Representative		Jack Mills.....	248.634.3416

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