

# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
Fenton, Michigan

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others*  
January, 2015 (our 157<sup>th</sup> year)

My final mistake at St. Jude's was letting Allie write her thank you for the *Beacon* before I did. Now I am already teary as I begin writing and feel I need to live up to her example. So, I'll do what teachers always told me, start with the easy stuff. Thank You for the wonderful celebration – thank you to the vestry for planning my farewell, to all those who helped set-up and clean-up, to so many of you for your kind notes, and even to those who made me cry during communion with your messages. Thank you to the choir for their final blessing, to those who spoke, most especially Les and Sue who joined us after leading worship in other communities. And maybe most important of all, thank you to all of you for forgiving me my mistakes of the past and making it such a wonderful celebration with your good wishes, your applause, the entire mood of the day, and your tears.

“Nine years is enough time to fall in love with you (the Hoover family),” Dave James wrote in his beautiful poem. And it was. We, Allie and I, the kids, all of us fell in love with all of you in our time here. But here is the thing about falling in love; it feels wonderful, but it can be blinding. The rest of the world can fade away as you focus only on that one relationship. And you can become too comfortable when you trust people and know people so well; too comfortable to push when pushing is needed, too aware of the pains and needs of others to ask for help.

In the past year or so, I came to a place where I worried that my job had gotten too easy, where the church's love for me was so great that you weren't asking me to stretch and grow. And I was so in love with you that I no longer was pushing for this church to strive to be more. In fact, I think I was becoming more a member of St. Jude's than the leader that you both need and deserve.

I don't know if my family and I will ever have the kind of loving relationship with another congregation that we had at St. Jude's. But I believe that it is time for me to leave my comfort zone, leave a place that was home in so many different ways, in order to make a difference in another place. It is time to do my best to serve God and the church by offering my gifts to others even if it may mean the loss of an amazingly loving and supportive community.

Please know that all of the things that you expressed, your love and sorrow, your thanks for the things I've done while here, that all of them were fully reciprocated. We were so well cared for in so many different ways that I can't begin to thank everyone enough. Please continue to offer your love and trust to those who come after me, give them your support and minister to them even as you ministered to me. St. Jude's can continue to be an amazing worshiping community, but only if you continue to love each other and the strangers, both clergy and lay, who come in your doors.

Thank you for blessing us, thank you for being partners in ministry, examples of faith, and most of all, for being our friends. Our love will not leave with us; you will have it always, and we know we go forth into a new adventure well equipped because of all the good things you have done for us.

Thank you.  
Josh

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**The Reverend Heather Barta – Interim Rector, 810-714-6064 E-Mail: [revbarta@gmail.com](mailto:revbarta@gmail.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 – December 2014

- \* Accepted the church financial audits for 2011, 2013 and 2013.
- \* Discussed names for vestry nominations for the new vestry in 2015.
- \* Approved the development of a new Wednesday night service to start in January. The service is being coordinated by Ben Oliver.
- \* Josh gave his final remarks at his last vestry meeting at St. Jude's.

## SCRIP NEWS: Goal Met!

Congratulations, St. Jude's parishioners. We met our annual goal of reaching a \$2,000 profit for St. Jude's Church. Our actual total was \$2,088. Thank you for all those who decided to try Scrip for the first time in 2014. Your contribution was appreciated. You will be seeing an updated order form soon. The site where you can look up additional vendors is at [Shopwithscrip.com](http://Shopwithscrip.com). Just go to the upper tool bar and click **Shop**, and all the vendors are listed alphabetically. There are also some fun options on the site for additional browsing.

Due to account procedures, *we no longer can accept checks or cash that do not accompany your order*. The deposit must match with the order amount, and when people bring in their checks or cash after the count procedure it causes accounting problems.

You can place your order in the Scrip mailbox and I'll place your order the next order date. Let's continue to shop with Scrip and increase the profit for St. Jude's Church!

## ST. JUDE'S ADULT Study

Beginning with the January 2015 session, the Sunday morning Adult Class will be using a new tool developed by the Bishop and his staff. The tool is called "The Biblical Wild" and consists of short daily bible readings and a video that the Bishop will create every Thursday and post at the website: <http://www.thebiblicalwild.org/>.

Here is a description from the Bishop: *"The Biblical Wild is an interactive bible study for individuals, small groups, neighborhoods, and congregations where we will journey into the wilds of Holy Scripture through daily readings of the Old Testament and Psalms and weekly video reflections presented by the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop."*

The first class will be held on January 11, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in VandenBergh Hall. If you would like to attend, you can find the readings at the website above. The introduction video is also available on the website. You are invited to attend every week, but each class will be a topic on its own so please feel free to attend on whatever Sundays you are available. We look forward to seeing lots of new faces this year!

## 2014 Christmas Families

Many thanks to our St. Jude's family for your great generosity in our 2014 Christmas Families' outreach program. You purchased and wrapped gifts for five families – including our Holly Group Home with six residents and nine caregivers. With your help, nine children (ages 2 to 21) experienced a brighter Christmas. The adults, as well as the children, appreciated that people really do care! You provided numerous gifts and money for groceries, gas and gift cards. Thank you, Dee Grossman, for providing a large supply of food and turkeys for the families. The Altar Guild donated generously. Denise, Dave and Dustin Rayner donated much time, treasure – including a donation from Lisa and Kelly Cronk, and personal attention to brighten many group home residents and staff hearts and faces. Those who delivered gifts – Beverly & Jack Mills, Debbie & Dave James, Mary Louise & Chet Susalla, and Mark Hamel & Mike Green -- were able to meet the grateful parents, who expressed deep appreciation and thanks. Thank you to all, including all of our dedicated Outreach Committee members – with a special thanks also to Diane Putnam for name tags, and Linda Chciuk for coordinating everything in Carol's absence. Again, you are living out our St. Jude's commitment to "Reach Out to Others." Thank you – and Happy New Year to our 2015 St. Jude's family!

# News and Happenings

*(A message from our interim rector, Heather. From here on out, she will be using the space on the front page.)*

## Happy New Year!

As we move into a new calendar year, we also move into a new phase of life for St. Jude's. I am happy to be ministering with you during this time. The time that we spend together will be celebrating all of the great work that you have been doing, looking for opportunities that are ready to be started, and planning for the future of what God is calling you to be.

As we journey through January together, we will be grieving Josh's leaving, sharing stories, and honoring the love that you all have for each other. It is important to honor of the emotions and stories that come with loss. These stories will help me come to know you in a deeper way.

Due to previous vacation plans (to St. Maarten's, St. Kitt's, Haiti, and Puerto Rico.), I will be gone the beginning of February. When I return, I'll be learning about the history of St. Jude's and your hopes and dreams for the future.

I am excited about how God has been working through you and the new things already in the planning stages.

To help you start to know me: I have been a priest for ten years now. I am married to Henry and we live in Auburn Hills. He works as an IT developer for Android Industries (car supplier). We have two dogs (Dooley and Sparti) and two cats (Dante and Tiger Lily). For fun, we have game nights with friends, go to movies, and travel. I enjoy reading and riding horses.

In my ministry, I have specialized in transition. I worked with the campus ministry at Northwestern University between chaplains, have served as supply in many places that were going through transition, and have recently concluded a contract with Trinity, Flushing where we worked together to move from full time to part time clergy. In other places, I have worked on program development. I have worked with churches or groups within churches to identify the needs of parishioners and help them implement or develop programs to address those needs.

Thank you for inviting me along for this part of your journey! I look forward to meeting you soon

Peace,

Heather

## A MESSAGE FROM THE WARDENS.....

The celebration of Josh's ministry was a success – thanks to everyone for planning and working together to make it happen. Bill and I thought it was appropriate to mention again that the vestry voted to gift Josh with the car he was driving and his laptop. St. Jude's showed their gratitude in many ways...a generous purse, messages, a hand drawn picture of St. Jude's, a poem! We want to thank all members of the congregation that have come forward with their names to serve on the vestry and/or the search committee. We asked for people to search their hearts and you have stepped up! We will identify the Vestry for 2015 at the annual meeting and in February we will make decisions about who will serve on the search committee. I will be contacting Michael Spencer for information on process and keep you informed.

JOSEPHINE FEIJOO, SENIOR WARDEN  
BILL ANDERSON, JUNIOR WARDEN

## ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup>

The annual meeting is an important time to come together to discuss our plans, hopes and dreams for the future of our church.

Our day includes worshipping together at 9:00, discussion and voting in of new leaders at the business meeting following the service, and an opportunity for fellowship during a potluck lunch. *(You can bet that we will see some cheesy potatoes as well of lots of other St. Jude's specialties.)*

I hope that you will show your love and care for St. Jude's by attending this important day in the life of our parish.

*\*\* If you are a chair of a church committee, please submit your electronic or hard copy to Barb **BEFORE January 19th**. Your report should be a narrative of 2014's activities, events, successes and future plans. It should not be bulleted list but one that after reading, a visitor to St. Jude's would feel they had personally been involved and informed.*

## YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Statements will be available on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> in VandenBergh Hall. They will be arranged alphabetically. Please pick yours up to save on postage. If you have an in-kind or monetary receipt you need credit for, please contact Barb for an additional statement.

# We Are Family

## Please Hold In Your Prayers

**For those in particular need of prayer:** Brett Beal; Patsy Davis; Amy Deloney; Jane Diehl; Doug; Matt Doyon; Gail Endahl; Caytie Gascoigne; Julie Gates; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell, Paula Hutchinson; Bill Lenny; Lenox Family; Eveline McCoy; Aaron Myers; Taylor Nicely; Marge Riley; Latoyah Upton, Pat Walters and Fred & Lynne Wells.

**And those in continuing need of prayer:** John Babcock; David Barrows; Theresa Braun; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Rita Feeley; Bunny Gladfelter; Renee Goss; Grossmann Family; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Leona; Lewis family; Teresa Maynard; Rick M; Debbie Provost; John Provost; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Susan Taber; Ron Trimmer, and Gavin Woods.

## Pray for Our Ministers

**January 4<sup>th</sup>** – Jessie Withorn; Fred & Lynell Wright; Craig & Gay Adams; Herb & Sharon Aldrich

**January 11<sup>th</sup>** – Bob & Kim Alexander, Love & Uchenna Anani; Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson; David & Marjie Andrejciw

**January 18<sup>th</sup>** – Martha Applebee; Lois Badder; Rod & Laura Bentz; Theresa Braun

**January 25<sup>th</sup>** – Jack & Rita Bretzke; Kathryn Brow; LeeAnn Brummett; Margot Brummet

## *Our sincere condolences to:*

Mary Ellen Hazell and her family on the death of her husband, Jim Hazell.

*May Jim's soul, and the souls of all we love, but see no longer, rest in eternal peace*

## *New arrivals:*

Congratulations to Reid and Adrian Shepard on the arrival of Theodore (Teddy) Shepard. Welcome to your St. Jude's family!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3<sup>rd</sup> Jim Kortge  
Jason Weber  
6<sup>th</sup> Jorji Susalla  
9<sup>th</sup> Fred Wright  
11<sup>th</sup> Molly Anderson  
Ron Spaulding  
Lynne Ronthi  
12<sup>th</sup> Mary Felix  
14<sup>th</sup> Denise Rayner  
16<sup>th</sup> Ashleigh Pattan  
19<sup>th</sup> Mike Wells  
20<sup>th</sup> Richard Stratton  
22<sup>nd</sup> Lisa Cronk  
25<sup>th</sup> Ty Fry  
Carl Koch  
28<sup>th</sup> Sharon Aldrich  
Mary Warren  
29<sup>th</sup> Sandy Davis

To my dear St. Jude's family:

I cannot tell you how hard it was to say goodbye to all of you yesterday.

When we first showed up nine years ago, saying hello felt like the easiest thing in the world. I always told people that the minute I stepped through the doors I felt like I was home. And maybe it was because we were the preacher's family that we were welcomed warmly and immediately, but I don't think that's it. St. Jude's is just that kind of place.

When I or one of the kids hit a hard part in our paths, even if we didn't share what was going on, St. Judians would know it. You knew us and could see we needed a hug or an ear. And when we discovered that we were to have a *very* surprising gift in Timothy, I didn't need to worry nearly as much as I did. Because you all surrounded me with joy and help and guidance and arms to hold us up and remind me that in God and with God's people, all things are possible.

I am so blessed to have been a part of St. Jude's – if even for just a short while. Thank you all for everything.

With love, Allie

## We are Family (Con't)

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during part of November and December: Bill and Marcia Freeman, Amy Freeman Rosa, Matt and Linda Freeman, LeAnn Brummett, all those who contributed to the cookie exchange, and those who helped organize the going away celebration for the Hoover Family. As always, we would also like to thank our good friends at *CRUST* for the dedicated delivery of delicious baked goods each Sunday.

Don't forget that coffee hour is a ministry in and of itself. Please take a moment to sign up – let's keep the 2015 sign up sheet full!

*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 CORNER

This is the time of year when we set our goals for the new year. A desired office goal would be to increase COMMUNICATION and AWARENESS of upcoming events. Please let Barb know of any scheduled meetings, events or happenings at St. Jude's so we can, together, keep St. Jude's family and friends up to date with the activities they might like to share in. Simply email her at [stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com](mailto:stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com) or call 810.629.5681.

### NEW DIRECTORY

The office will be preparing a new directory to be distributed at the Annual Meeting. We have several new faces at St. Jude's that we would like to include as well. If you have not already done so, please fill out a Welcome Newcomer's Form located in the rack by the office and drop it into the Offertory Plate.

Anyone with a change in address, phone or email, please notify the office as well.

### NAME TAGS

As we welcome Rev. Heather Barta, please make a special effort to wear your name tags so she can get to know you better. If you do not have a tag, please sign up on the list in the rack by the office and we will provide you with one.

## News and Happenings

### Notes from the Choir

Thank you to all the musicians who made our Christmas Eve services so special. It was a wonderful evening to welcome the birth of our Lord.

January is the time of the epiphany season, that time in the liturgical calendar when we commemorate the baptism of our Lord and the calling of the disciples. We celebrate Christ, the light of the world, and our position in His ministry. The music illustrates these events and reflects the contemplative nature of this time in our Lord's ministry.

Marlene Weston



## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Kelly & Lisa Cronk (38 years)

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

**Euchre Night**  
Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:00 p.m.

A sign-up list will be on  
the bulletin board  
in VandenBergh Hall.

Bring a snack to share.

### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2015 envelopes are in VandenBergh Hall ready to be picked up. For those of you who pledge monthly, we will be utilizing the single monthly envelope as it has worked out well and has not only cut the cost of the envelopes, but also assists in the efforts of the Environmental Committee to use less paper.

Each numbered box/envelope is labeled with the corresponding name and they are in alphabetical order. Please take the time to look for your name and utilize the envelopes as they help expedite the recording process and accuracy.

All contributors are reminded that most monetary or material donations qualify as a tax deduction. Use of envelopes when giving cash allows the office to record these monies and provide you with a year-end statement.

## **WILL COME AND GO LIKE A THIEF**

for Rev. Josh Hoover and his family, Dec. 28, 2014

*“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.”*      2 Peter

Nine years become one second  
in the sight of God. In our sight,  
it’s time enough to fall in love  
with you and your family, time to lend  
our hearts out and learn how to do  
God’s work: stay awake all night  
before the crucifixion;  
feed the school children and others who are hungry;  
buy mosquito nets and blankets; fight for those  
who are oppressed; stand for justice when we can.

In one blink of God’s knowing eye, the morning sun  
rises on over 450 Sundays we spent with you—  
laughing, praying, wondering, learning.  
It seems like we just got started and now we’re done.  
But we’re not. With God,  
all things are possible; His grace will guide us through  
every dark valley, every terrible storm.

May your spirit settle into the walls and pews, into the  
cross hanging in this good, old church.  
And may God’s truth follow you and yours on that long  
road to heaven.

by David James

**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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