

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others

February, 2015 (our 157th year)

What is an interim? The dictionary defines interim as *an intervening time; interval; meantime*.

The most popular use of the word in the church is that time between “regular” pastors. Some might say that as Interim Priest-in-Charge, I’m here “in the meantime.” The “until you get a new Rector” phase of life. Sometimes people think: “This is the transition time...nothing is really going on...we should wait until the ‘real’ priest comes.”

But I think that that definition and thoughts miss some of the most exciting parts of the interim. It also implies that there aren’t any changes when a Rector is in place.

I’d like to put forward these thoughts:

1. Change / transition is always happening. Life is full of changes. There are adjustments that we make all of the time. Change is necessary for growth (personally and communally) and when we stop changing, we die.
2. Interim / transition times allow for exploration and adventure.
3. You are St. Jude’s. You are the body of Christ. It’s the work that you do in your daily lives and your worship together that proclaims God’s love and grace to the world. I understand that having a priest as mentor and guide is helpful to communities, but the priest is only that: mentor and guide. You are the key people who make things happen.

If you are with me so far...we’ll move on to my role in this process.

I am the one who will ask questions. Lots of questions. What have you done in the past? Who were you? Who are you now? What ministries are you doing now? Why? What might be ready to start? (This last question has a metaphor: seeds that have been lying fallow, waiting for the right conditions...and then will bloom into beautiful flora.)

I am available as priest and teacher and supporter. I am here to help you do the ministries that you have been doing and those that your passions are calling you to start.

Some might say “interim,” but I really see this as a time of growth and discovery. Let’s find ways together to worship with our whole hearts and serve others with our whole souls, and not wait around “in the meantime.”

Peace, Heather

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The Reverend Heather Barta – Interim Priest-in-Charge, 989-413-3229 E-Mail: 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 – January 2015

- Vestry approved the 2015 budget proposal from the financial committee.
- Reviewed and accepted the Letter of Agreement for Rev. Heather Barta.
- Approved work on a new sound system from Bogner Sound.
- Approved the purchase of new fair linens.
- Meeting with Michael Spencer from the diocese on the search process for a new rector.

Family Promise

On the heels of a very successful inaugural year for Family Promise, we are now gearing up to do even better in 2015.

As a reminder, Family Promise provides accommodations, meals and assistance finding new work and living arrangements for Genesee County families who have temporarily lost their homes. The primary goal is to keep families together, which is something that no other shelters in the area can do. Shelter and meals are provided each week at a different church and each church takes 4 turns per year. In addition, each day while children are in school, the parents who are not working stay at a "Day Center." At the Day Center, social services are provided to assist in finding work, new living arrangements and other needed social services.

St. Jude's role has been as a support church to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint. In our role, we provide meals three nights per week, overnight chaperones two nights per week and onsite support on Saturdays when children are not in school. We also help financially through donations and by purchasing supplies. In 2014, St. Jude's supported 8 families during four separate weeks. In total we provided 276 safe night's sleep, 415 dinners, 439 volunteer hours, \$1,000 in monetary donation and were instrumental in getting the Diocese to provide a \$10,000 grant to the program (which will be repeated in 2015).

The results of our work and the work of so many others have been unbelievable. Of the 8 guest families that we helped in 2014, 7 of them are now in permanent sustainable housing that they are

paying for. The program is doing exactly what it is intended to do. We are truly making a difference in people's lives!!!

This year our four support weeks are March 8, June 14, September 20 and December 27 (yes, it includes New Year's Eve). We are starting to gear up now for the first week. Over the next month you will hear Heather talk about Family Promise from the pulpit, hear the Director of Family Promise on 2/15, and each week during announcements you will hear from one of last year's volunteers about their experience. The forms for signing up to help will be posted in VandenBergh Hall by the time you read this article.

Finally, I wanted to end with a short excerpt from a Family Promise publication called "Friday Fun Facts." This one was from the November 7 edition:

*Last Friday, Nov. 7, we spent our day having fun. As you may have seen on Facebook, they were replacing the transformer at the Day Center. For lunch, we went to the Halo Burger on Hill Rd, with the playscape. As I was watching all of the kids go crazy, in a good way, I was blessed to witness an act which is the epitome of what Family Promise stands for. A 3-year-old little boy, not associated with us, was having difficulty scaling the playscape. 5-year-old Ta'Nireon easily passed him up then realized he was struggling. Ta'Nireon stopped his climb, turned around and offered his hand. He said, "Hey, buddy, I got you." Then, 4-year old A'Montae stopped and gave a boost from below. **That's it, folks, that is who we are, a hand up, a boost in life.***

News and Happenings

Worship Leader Training

Saturday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coppage Gordon School for Ministry
924 N. Niagra St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Tickets Available: eastmich.org

Worship leader training will take place on Saturday, March 14 at the Diocesan Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Since worship leaders are often charged with planning services as well as leading Morning or Evening Prayer, some exposure to church history, the church year and symbols, church polity, scripture, and music is included in the workshop. At the conclusion of the workshop each participant will receive a copy of the worship leader examination to be completed and returned to the workshop leader.

Cost for this event will be \$25 per person. Please send your payment with the registration form.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Rev. Tracie Little at tracie.loffhagen@gmail.com or Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo at vfargo@eastmich.org.

Follow this link to download the registration form:
http://eastmich.org/images/Coppage_Gordon_Regis-tration_Form.docx

Lenten Study/Soup Supper

Wednesdays in Lent
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Our Lenten Study will follow the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Each night will have a meal, fellowship, and learning. This program is a joint venture with St. Jude's and 1st Presbyterian Church. While the book is excellent and full of great information, reading it for the sessions is not required. Childcare will be provided.

If you have any questions, contact Rev. Heather.

Date/Meeting location

Feb. 25 - 1st Presbyterian

Mar. 4 - St. Jude's

Mar. 11 - 1st Presbyterian

Mar. 18 - St. Jude's

Mar. 25 - 1st Presbyterian

As always, the hosting church will be responsible for providing soups, salad, bread and beverages. Be sure to check the sign up sheet in VandenBergh Hall and help us make sure we are able to provide what is needed!

We Are Family

Please Hold In Your Prayers

For those in particular need of

Prayer: Brett Beal; Cheryl & Don Cortese; Patsy Davis; Jane Diehl; Doug; Matt Doyon; Gail Endahl; Caytie Gascoigne; Julie Gates; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Reverend Les Harding; Paula Hutchinson; Bill Lenny; Lenox Family; Eveline McCoy; Aaron Myers; Taylor Nicely; Marge Riley; Latoyah Upton, John Vitovsky; 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

February 1 – Jon & Rosiland Burroughs; David & Carol Chambers; Harry & Linda Chciuk; Sally Croater

February 8 – Gale Cronk; Kelly & Lisa Cronk; Sandy Davis; Nancy Day, Ed and Ashley Ransley

February 15 –Stanley DeLisle; Gail Delaney; Dee Dickens; Paul & Sarah Dolza

February 22 –Dot Dowlan; Dean, Julie, Tess and Dominic DuPei; Lottie Englehart; Bonnie Ensign

Sincere thanks...for your prayers for our brother Ralph Gladfelter who received a liver transplant at Henry Ford Hospital on Jan 21st. Please continue to pray for him and for the donor's family.

Sincerely,
Carol Chambers, Connie Koch and families.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st Julie DuPei
2nd Chet Susalla
4th Marcia Freeman
Judi Harris
5th Norine Smith
6th Madeleine Koch
Emily Short
11th Mike Holsinger
12th Brady Short
13th Bob Hutchins
Austin Moller
Leah Moller
William Moller
15th Connor Szostak
18th Theresa Braun
Anani Love
Lorraine Moller
20th Dan White
21st Lottie Englehart
24th David Freeman
25th Martha Applebee
27th Lester Jones
29th Jennifer Chambers

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE

**a n d
W E L C O M E !**

During the Annual Meeting on the 25th, outgoing Vestry members Linda Chciuk, Josephine Feijoo, Lisa Kusluski and Dustin Rayner were recognized for their service to St. Jude's during the past three years. Additionally, Josephine was commended for serving as Senior Warden this past year. She did a wonderful job in leading us towards a new future as Josh prepared to leave for his new position.

Bill Anderson was introduced as our new Senior Warden and acknowledged for his service in the position of Junior Warden this past year.

Vestry is a three-year commitment to our church, and those who serve are a representation of OUR voice. Please take the time to thank these individuals, and also to welcome our newest members who will serve a three-year term: Fran Johnston, Megan Rosa, Matt Shepherd and Ron Trimmer.

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during January: Bob & Kim Alexander, Jack & Beverly Mills, Matt & Kristin Shepherd and all those who brought food for the potluck that followed the annual meeting

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

As you may have noticed, there are many openings for hosting Coffee Hour. While Crust provides some baked goods, volunteers are needed to commit to preparing coffee and beverages and perhaps bringing additional items. St. Jude's has been long known for its hospitality and fellowship during coffee hour and making visitors, members and friends feel welcome. Won't you give a little of your time to continue that tradition?

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 TIDBITS

A reminder the office will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day

ANNUAL REPORTS... There are extra copies of the Annual Report available for your reading pleasure and review of the year 2014 at St. Jude's in the Library.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS and ENVELOPES....Please help to save postage costs and pick up your statement the library before February 8th. Those not picked up by then will be mailed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 810.629.5681.

WELCOME TO ALL NEWCOMERS...We have had the good fortune of having visitors who become regular attendees, and then members of St. Jude's. Unfortunately, the office is not always made aware of who these people are. If you know someone, (or perhaps that someone is yourself), please take a moment to fill out a "Welcome Newcomers" form (please ask an Usher for the form or take one from the rack by the office) and drop it in the Offertory Plate. This helps us to get you on the *Beacon* recipient list and also recognize your birthdays and anniversaries.

If you are already a member and notice a new face, please take time to welcome them and forward their information to the office.

News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

While February is a short month on the secular calendar, it is a rich one on the liturgical calendar. The first three Sundays conclude the Epiphany season. The lessons continue the themes of service and healing while the musical selections reflect these topics. On February 15, the final Sunday of the Epiphany season, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord as well as enjoy the last alleluias until Easter. The music is appropriately joyous.

February 22, the first Sunday of Lent, brings us the account of our Lord's baptism and temptation during the forty days in the wilderness. "Forty Days and Forty Nights" is one of the hymns that recall this theme.

Marlene Weston

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2nd Jon & Rosiland Burroughs (2)
19th Jack & Beverly Mills (49th)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

Euchre Night:

Bring a snack to share

Friday, February 6th

at 7:00 p.m.

Valentine's Sundaes:

Sunday, February 15th

during coffee hour

A sign-up list is on the bulletin board in VandenBergh Hall for both events.

and...

...coming in March – and back by popular request

Open Mike/Potato Bar

Watch the *Beacon* and weekly bulletins for more information...

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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

VESTRY 2014

Senior Warden..... Bill Anderson.....810.208.0097
Junior Warden.....TBD
Clerk.....Dave James.....810.735.4547
Treasurer.....Michelle Gangwer.....810.208.0120

2016

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

2017

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

2018

Fran Johnston.....810.629.5981 Megan Rosa.....810.629.4096
Matt Shepherd.....248.444.1735 Ron Trimmer.....810.923.3493

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
