

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others

March, 2014 (our 156th year)

Amid much publicity, one of the programs to be cut this year as part of the sequester, was SNAP. SNAP stands for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and it is the stepchild of Food Stamps. SNAP was cut as part of a deal that both cut federal expenses and raised additional income in order to lessen the federal deficit. And the publicity these cuts received was almost always over simplified and biased. On the one hand were stories of welfare queens, those buying what appeared to be luxury items with their SNAP money and the depiction of tax dollars being wasted. On the other hand were stories of families, down on their luck or unable to find full time employment at a living wage, and a depiction of those who wanted to cut the program as heartless.

So how do we maneuver our way through these biased stories? How do we figure out what is the best way to proceed as a country and as people? You and I may have different opinions about that, born of our political parties or what we think is most important to preserve for the good of our country and the welfare of her people. But we may be able to find some common ground if we start together by experiencing exactly what it would be like to be on food stamps. Jesus chose to live with and amidst the poor, in fact he was poor. Now I am inviting you to join me in learning what it is like to eat as a poor person in the United States.

The average SNAP benefit is \$4.50 per person per day, or \$1.50 per meal. So I am challenging you, during this season of Lent to see what it is like to eat on that budget, to take one week out of the next month and a half and live as if you were on Food Stamps. This is the Food Stamp Challenge! The rules are simple:

1. Your food budget for your family is \$31.50 per person for an entire 7 day week. No free food, no extras allowed.
2. You may use coupons or specials, but no shopping at Costco or Sams since they require a membership.
3. Pay attention – What have you given up? What are you substituting? Are you eating healthier or less so? What would it be like to eat this way always?

This challenge goes with our Lenten Study that will look at issues surrounding food in the world and discuss the discipline of fasting, for more you can read about it on the inside of the Beacon.

My family and I will be taking the SNAP challenge one week this month, I hope you will too. It might not solve how we think of these issues on a national level. It certainly won't stop some from taking advantage of a program they don't really need. But it may give us a sense of how the poorest among us are forced to live, and make us more aware of the things we take for granted (in my case, I must admit that I am dreading the possibility I will need to give up coffee). Maybe most importantly of all, we will be reminded that the poor are real people, beloved children of God, our brothers and sisters. And when we vote or choose to spend our money, we will remember their faces.

Faithfully, Josh

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The Reverend Joshua Hoover - Rector, 810-714-6064 E-Mail: revmrjosh@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.

We Are Family

Please Hold In Your Prayers

**For those in particular need of
prayer:** Bret Beal; Don & Cheryl

Cortese; Patsy Davis; Dot Day; Mary Ellen Hazell;
Scott & Pattie Lewis; Bill Loudon; Aaron Myers;
Leonard Myers; Marion Parnell; Rick M; Elmer
Schupbach; Denny Sharpe; Mary Louise Susalla;
Sandy Train; Fred and Lynn Wells and Mike Wells.

And those in continuing need of prayer: David
Barrows; Theresa Braun; Margot Brummett;
Louella Budenaers; Betsy Davies; Marv Fisher;
Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph Gladfelter; Renee Goss;
Grossmann Family; Brian Henderson; Sally
Hutchinson; Laurie Ingram; Mary Lou Jenkins; Ev
Koller; Teresa Maynard; Regina Miller; Beverly
Mills; Debbie Provost; John Provost; Leona; Susan
Taber; Ryan Wells; Gavin Woods.

Pray for Our Ministers

March 2 – Josephine Feijoo; Mary Felix; Marv &
Judith Fisher; Bob, Lucy & Josie Foguth

March 9 – Bill & Marcia Freeman; David, Lynn,
Gabrielle & Erica Freeman; Mark, Pat, Krystn
Freeman & Andrew Carrington; Matt, Joshua,
Jacob, Laura & Madison Freeman

March 16 – Amy Freeman Rosa; Connie Fry; Ty &
Debbie Fry; Doug, Michelle & Lauren Gangwer

March 23 – Raquel Gazzi, Gabbi & Arthur
Pennington; Tom & Shirley Gernack; Vance
Gordon; Jerry & Joan Graham

March 30 – Mike, Chace, McKenna & Aiden
Green; Mark Hamel; Paul & Dee Grossmann; Rex
& Judi Harris

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

6th Rex & Judi Harris (49th)
14th Bob & Teri Hutchins (50th)
20th Paul & Dee Grossmann (27th)
26th Brian & Barb Goss (54th)

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd Mary Louise Susalla
3rd Bob Minock
4th Ella Buchalski
5th Chloe Mae Pattan
6th Ann Podlesak
8th Bob Foguth
Connie Hibbard
Carol Pettipher
9th Sophia Chambers
10th David Chambers
Brian Goss
13th Kristen Shepherd
14th Ella Koch
15th Jeff Smith
18th Rex Harris
Scott Michael
Jessie Withorn
19th Rosiland Burroughs
22nd Dean Kusluski
23rd Bonnie Ensign
Gabriella Pennington
31st Francine Rucker
Matt Shepherd

Opportunities for Fellowship

OPEN MIKE COFFEE HOUR BAKED POTATO BAR

*Sunday, March 16th
following the 10:30 service*

*Sing, dance, read a poem, tell a story, perform
magic...showcase YOUR special talent!*

AND...

*Build a spud with delicious toppings...enjoy time
with your friends and be amazed at the "show"!!*

Sign up sheet for those wishing to participate in the
Open Mike, and separate sheet for those wishing to
bring baked potatoes or toppings
in VandenBergh Hall

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

A world of thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during February: Jack and Beverly Mills, the Spichnell family, the Fry family and Ben Oliver/Lenae Chambers. We also would like to thank CRUST again and again for adding a tray (or two!) of baked goods to each Sunday's offerings.

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

Sincere Condolences

To Craig and Gay Adams on the death of Craig's cousin, Bruce Adams

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

News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

March is a transitional month this year, one of contrasts. March 6 is 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.

We move into Lent beginning on March 9. These next four Sundays incorporate beloved events from the life and teachings Jesus. We first have His temptation during the forty days in the wilderness after His baptism. "Forty Days and Forty Nights" is one of the hymns that recount this. The second Sunday relates Jesus conversation with Nicodemus in John 3 including the much loved "God so Loved the World." The third Sunday is devoted to Jesus and the woman at the well. "Come, thou Fount of Every Blessing" recalls how He is the living water.

March concludes with the picture of Christ bringing light and salvation into the world darkened by sin. "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" illustrates this.

Have a blessed month.
Marlene Weston

Ed Liedel Christian Service Award given to Dave Rayner

We are delighted to report to those of you who weren't able to attend church on Sunday, January 12th (due to ice, snow, etc...) that the Flint River Valley Convocation awarded Dave Rayner the Ed Liedel Christian Service Award. Dave was recognized for his years of service to St. Jude's and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. His nomination included the following:

"Dave's sense of humor, his humility and the joy with which he tackles life's challenges all help the rest of us better live into our own callings. He serves as an excellent leader in our congregation and continues to be the epitome of what Christian service looks like." Congratulations, Dave, and thank you for your commitment and participation at St. Jude's.

News and Happenings

Vestry Notes – February 2014

No Vestry meeting for February as our new vestry takes time together at a retreat. Please hold them in your prayers as they discern and make plans for the upcoming year.

Shrove Tuesday, March 4

Before our Lenten fast begins, be sure to join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. We will be serving pancakes, sausage and applesauce from 5:00 until 6:30. This traditional meal goes back to the middle ages, and we look forward to having a fun evening together.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

Services at 12:00 and 7:00

We mark the beginning of the Lenten season with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This service reminds us of the truth of our mortality, our human frailty and sinfulness, and our need for God. So often we deny or ignore the dark side of our own natures, but only by naming this part of ourselves can we find health and wholeness. This acknowledgement prepares us for the awesome celebration of Easter that is the end of our journey. Join us for the Holy Eucharist and imposition of ashes that begin the journey to Jerusalem, and prepare yourself for the greatest gift that was ever given.

Simple Suppers 2014

Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9: 5:30 Dinner, 6:15 Study

This year's study with First Presbyterian Church will use Chris Seay's *A Place at the Table* to discuss issues of poverty and hunger. Chris teaches us about what it means to fast, its traditions and how it can be a meaningful part of our Lenten journey. He encourages us to go on a fast during Lent and gives daily meditations to assist us. On Wednesdays in Lent we will be discussing his work and whether we are living in scarcity or abundance. We will also share what it means to fast and how God might be calling us to give up some of what we have for others. See Josh's front page article for one way you might join us in fasting this season. The book is available from Josh or the office for \$10.

We will be hosting the program on March 19 and April 2. Please see the sign-up sheet in VandenBergh Hall to help with soup, salad, or bread on those evenings.

Camp Chickagami Sunday

Tired of this long winter? Ready for a break? How about a little summer – summer camp, that is. On Sunday, March 30, staff members from Camp Chickagami will be playing music for us at the 10:30 service and giving us a feel for the great gift that our diocesan camp is to our youth. This promises to be a great pick-me-up in the middle of Lent and a rollicking good time. Please join us for a lot of fun and a rather different Sunday morning.

The Time Change is Coming

On Saturday night, March 8, it is time to set your clocks ahead one hour. You may miss an hour's sleep, but don't miss church.

Scrip

Do you enjoy eating out? Chances are we have a Scrip card for a many of your favorite places! Applebee's, bd's Mongolian Grill, Chili's, Cracker Barrel, Olive Garden, Outback, Rainforest Café, Ruby Tuesdays, Real Seafood Co., TGI Fridays, and too many more to list.

If you are eating on the run, we have Scrip cards for many fast food and pizza restaurants. Restaurants reimburse an average of 10%, which is great profit for St. Jude's. The complete listing for all fine, casual, and fast food restaurants can be found online at www.glscrip.com.

As Rex Harris said "hey, I didn't get it at first, but after having Scrip explained to me, we're buying all of our gas cards through Scrip, and it doesn't cost us a thing, but St. Jude's profits. If I can do it, you can do it!"

Remember to bring your checkbooks the first and third Sunday of each month to order.



Marching Into March!



The End

Sunday, March 2nd will be the final lesson for this Workshop Cycle titled, “The Body of Christ.” With the wonderful talents of Shannon Pascoe, the children will be taking part in the Story and Games Workshop. The key concepts for this workshop are:

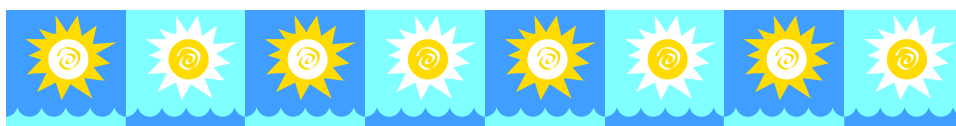
- The Church is the Body of Christ and God’s presence in the world
- Each of us has different God-given gifts that are essential to the Body of Christ
- As members of the same body, we need each other!
- If we work together, we are stronger and more effective than if we work apart

The children will apply these concepts while tracing their bodies onto large pieces of paper, and taking some time to identify their own gifts. Thanks so much to everyone that donated magazines to our program, as the children will be using them to fill in their outlines.

“Let There Be Light”



March 9th will be the start of our final Workshop Cycle for this Sunday school year. During this cycle titled, “Let There Be Light,” the children will spend their Sunday mornings learning about the story of Creation. We will discuss the different days of Creation, and what was created on each day. We will also focus on helping our children to see that the world around us is a wonderful gift given to us by our loving Creator. We will learn about the roll that we play as co-workers with God, and how we can help to care for all o f His creations through crafts, cooking and acting. As always, we are in need of volunteers to work with our children during this cycle. If you are interested, or would like to learn more about our program, please contact Ashleigh at pattanfam5@yahoo.com.



FAMILY PROMISE

Last year Josh discussed a program called Family Promise, a nationwide effort that was being considered for Genesee County. During our Outreach Survey in February, the congregation voted to support the program if it got off the ground. At that time Family Promise was in the early planning stages, but planning is now complete and the program will begin officially within the next few weeks.

As a reminder, Family Promise will provide accommodations for Genesee County families who have temporarily lost their homes. The primary goal is to keep families together, something that none of the existing shelters can do. “Host Churches” and “Support Churches” will provide temporary housing, meals, transportation, etc. while the families are in the program. Each host church will provide accommodations for 4 weeks per year, 1 week at a time. The support churches (St. Jude’s is one) will assist in providing supplies, meals, overnight chaperones, and companionship. The host church that we will support is St. Paul’s Episcopal in Flint.

Our first week will be April 13 – 20 (yes, that is Holy Week ☺). Many of you indicated an interest in volunteering and we will be contacting you (and the rest of the congregation) when all of the details are available. In the meantime, we have signed up to provide some supplies and we can start that process now. Below is a list of what is needed. Items should be new or gently used (unless otherwise stated):

- 14 Mattress Pads (Steve Melchor will gather donations)
- 5 new pillow cases
- 6 new sets of sheets (twin size)
- Diaper Genie
- 4 free standing towel racks
- Coloring books, crayons, art supplies, construction paper, writing paper, legal pads, pens, games, toys, tissue, toilet paper.

There will be a large bin in VandenBergh Hall where you can drop off your donations.

Stay tuned for more on this program. We will be talking about it on Sunday mornings and volunteer sign-up sheets will be posted soon.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.
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VESTRY 2013

Senior Warden.....John Pettipher.....248-889-2525
Junior Warden.....Josephine Feijoo.....248-529-3264
Clerk.....Linda Bott.....810-735-9167
Treasurer.....Rick Feeley.....248-240-0704
Properties Person.....Karin Bott.....810-735-9167

2014

Karin Bott.....810-735-9167 Rex Harris.....248-634-8399
Kathy Holsinger.....810-735-1052 John Pettipher.....248-889-2525

2015

Linda Chciuk.....248-887-6832 Josephine Feijoo.....248-529-3264
Dale McWhorter.....248-328-9822 Dustin Rayner.....248-634-2748

2016

Sarah Dolza.....248-634-0225 Dave James.....810-735-4547
Lorraine Moller.....810-449-2881 Connor Szostak.....810-603-0441

DELEGATES to the DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Jack & Beverly Mills.....248-634-3416 Dave & Denise Rayner.....248-634-2748
Flint River Convocation Representative Jack Mills.....248-634-3416