

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
March, 2015 (our 157th year)

Holy Week and Easter Services
March 29 - April 5, 2015

Palm Sunday - March 29, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The most emotional day of the year goes from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem to Jesus' horrible trial and crucifixion. The 10:30 service will begin outside on the corner of Elizabeth and Leroy Streets.

Holy Monday and Tuesday - March 30 and 31, 7:00 p.m.

Short, quiet services with time to meditate on Jesus' final days.

Holy Wednesday Tenebrae - April 1, 7:00 p.m.

A traditional combination of Morning and Evening Prayer especially created for Holy Week, we slowly darken the church as we accompany Jesus to the cross.

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Experience with the disciples the washing of the feet, the Agape meal, and the institution of Holy Communion, followed by the arrest of Jesus. There will be a stripping of the altar. After the service, take time for quiet prayer during our overnight vigil at the Altar of Repose.

Good Friday - April 3

12:00 p.m. - Community service at Fenton United Methodist Church.

3:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross (child friendly). This participatory service has proven to be meaningful to people of all ages. Walk with Jesus to his crucifixion and join in activities that help remind us of how his sacrifice is still relevant today.

7:00 p.m. - Traditional Episcopal Good Friday Service. Favorite hymns and the moving devotions at the cross.

Easter Sunday - April 4

Easter Vigil - 7:00 a.m.

Gather with the disciples to read scripture and sing songs in remembrance of how God has worked in the world. Then move into the church for the joyous Easter Acclamation and festive Eucharistic celebration of the resurrection. This is THE Easter moment, as we literally watch darkness turn to light. This service is followed by a breakfast - all are welcome to attend.

Festival Eucharist - 10:30 a.m.

Our Easter celebration is full of joy, promise, and Alleluias. Join us for the highest of holy days.

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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 – February 2015

Rev. Heather shared her list of priorities: enhancing communication, working on the Lenten program, changing office procedures, continuing pastoral care outreach, and focusing on children and youth

Vestry discussed the need for members to help shoveling sidewalks on Sunday

Vestry moved to contact a plumber for some sink and toilet issues

Lenten Study/Soup Supper

Wednesdays in Lent

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Mar. 4 - St. Jude's

Mar. 11 - First Presbyterian

Mar. 18 - St. Jude's

Mar. 25 - First Presbyterian

Our Lenten Study will follow the book *The Last Week* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

While the book is excellent and full of great information, reading it for the session is not required.

Each night we will have a meal, fellowship, and learning. This program is a joint venture with St. Jude's and First Presbyterian Church. Childcare will be provided. If you have any questions, contact Rev. Heather.

Be sure to check the sign up sheet in VandenBergh Hall and help us make sure we are able to provide what is needed for March 4th and 18th meals.

Thursday Bible Study

Two Thursdays a month (usually 2nd and 4th)

12:00 noon

We are walking through the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Bible). We are currently finishing up Numbers. It's a chance to get a detailed look at the Hebrew Scripture and ask Heather any questions that you might have about scripture, the Bible, religion in general. By moving a bit more slowly through the books, we are able to find things that we never even knew were in the Bible! You are welcome to join when you are able and do not have to worry about coming "in the middle" of any particular theme. You can bring a personal Bible or use one of those located at church.

OUTREACH UPDATES

There has been lots of outreach activity this month. Thanks to the generosity of St. Jude's, we have many neighbors with more food on their tables, socks on their feet and diapers on their bums. In January, we had our most successful Truckload Food Giveaway ever. In cooperation with Play Like Jackson and the Fenton Fire Fighters we passed out thirteen tons of food in less than three hours!!

In February, members of St. Jude's purchased over 900 pairs of men's socks for guests at Carriage Town Ministries and 9,000 diapers for the children at Carriage Town's shelter for women and children. You have also been hearing about the opportunities we have to support Family Promise. Our first support week is coming up beginning March 8 and we still have some open spots for volunteers.

On the heels of Family Promise is our School Lunch Food Program.* It will take place on Saturday, April 4, from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. at St. Jude's. Once again this year we will be including Easter Baskets for the kids. Many thanks to our friends at Fenton United Methodist and those who contribute goodies on behalf of the Easter Bunny (a collection bin will be available). We continue to do our best to fulfill St. Jude's mission of Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching out to others. Thanks to everyone who contributes in so many ways.

*The Cereal Challenge

The Outreach Committee is challenging every member of St. Jude's to donate 1- 2 boxes of cereal in the month of March to help build our pantry for the Spring School Lunch program. That means every member of each family, as we need to collect 250 boxes of cereal. This is the 9th year we have provided food for children in the Fenton area during spring break, when they do not have free or reduced price lunches at school. The committee purchases most of the food using a grant received from the local CROP Walk, but we could use some assistance. Please drop off your cereal in the front right corner of the church near the baptismal font. We are going to build a tower of cereal that reaches toward the banner of The Holy Spirit, to remind us of the good work we can do with God's help.

News and Happenings

A Message from our Interim Priest

The season of Lent is upon us. We know that this is a time it is used for penitence and reflection and preparing for the death and resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, I invited you to think about stewardship. How are you using your time, talents, and treasures, to bring about the kingdom of God here on earth?

Good stewards of time balance personal time, focusing on God and helping others. This Lent, might you be called to examine your time and spend it wisely? How do you spend your day? And what actions do take each day to help share God's love with others?

Good stewards of talents spend time acknowledging those things in which they are gifted, practicing those talents, and using those talents to help others. What talents do you have? Is there one that you have been neglecting or is it scary to you? How might you spend time this Lent recognizing and honing your skills?

Good stewards of treasure inventory what they have and intentionally share with others. We all have stuff. And many people have extra stuff. If you have things that are not blessing your life, perhaps you can share those things so that they might bless somebody else's. Plenty of organizations will be happy to accept your donations. As you examine your budget, you might find space to give even more to organizations that you support.

There are a variety of Lenten resources available. At church, there are printed resources found in the library. Electronic options are included in this newsletter and on the Facebook page.

St. Jude's is a church filled with generous and loving people. I am excited about the ways that you're growing as community and continually reaching out to other groups. If you are not as involved as you would like to be, see the head of that ministry or me. We will be happy to get you connected in a place where you are comfortable. May this month be filled with good stewardship and intentional actions with our time, talent, and stuff.

Peace,
Heather

Check out some of these online resources:

Lent Madness: <http://www.lentmadness.org>

This is a site that examines the saints and lets us vote for

our favorites! (Think: March Madness brackets.) The winner gets the "Golden Halo."

SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist):

http://ssje.org/2015Lent/Time_Intro.pdf?utm_content=buffer68f07&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

ERD (Episcopal Relief and Development):

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/church-in-action/church-campaigns/lent>

SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee met for the first time on 2/16. The primary purpose of the first meeting was to review the Diocesan Search Process that will be followed. The process was presented by Michael Spencer, Canon of the Ordinary (responsible for transition of ministers). Our first step will be to provide Michael with some specific information about St. Jude's that he will take to a conference on March 9 with transitional representatives from other Diocese. In parallel we are beginning the development of a Parish Profile that will become one of the primary documents for showcasing St. Jude's to new candidates. We will continue to keep the parish up to date through *Beacon* articles and feedback during our Sunday morning announcements.

Members of the Search Committee include Marjie Andrejciw, Nancy Day, Sarah Dolza (Vestry Liaison), Josephine Feijoo, Amy Freeman-Rosa, Raquel Gazzi, Tristin Hassell, Holden Holsinger, Debbie James, Bill McDonald (chaplain), Beverly Mills, John Pettipher, Dave Rayner.

Scrip News

Check out Scrip online at www.shopwithscrip.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. When planning a vacation, check out the hotels, airlines, and cruise lines on the order form and at the website. Just handwrite the merchant you want and the amount on the bottom of the order form. With a little preplanning, St. Jude's can earn more income. Keep ordering!

News and Happenings

Holy Week Volunteers

Interested in reading at one of our services during Holy Week? Please let Heather know of your availability and interest.

Sign Ups for Holy Week:

Please check the bulletin board in VandenBergh Hall to sign up
Maundy Thursday, Agape meal
Maundy Thursday, Overnight Vigil
Easter Vigil Breakfast

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday will look a little different this year. We'll start with the foot washing, share an Agape meal, and then move to the church to strip the altar.

Agape is love in Greek. An agape meal is a time to be together as a community and share a simple meal together. You are invited to bring some food to contribute or just come along to enjoy. A sign up sheet will have some ideas (most with a Mediterranean theme), but you are welcome to bring anything that you might like to share with others.

Baptism

"Baptism is the initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble" (BCP, 298)

At our baptism, it is the moment when we become one of God's family; God adopts us in as his children. The parents, sponsors, and gathered assembly all pledge support to a person being baptized.

If you or someone you know is not yet baptized and would like to be, talk to Heather. The church has some "regular" days for baptism that include Easter (hopefully the Vigil) - April 5, Pentecost - May 24, All Saints' Day or the Sunday after All Saints' Day - Nov. 1, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (not until 2016). However, baptism is welcome at almost any Sunday principal service (Lent is a restricted time).

I look forward to working with you and your family to participate in this rite and have the community express welcome and love to you. We can work out dates and prepare all of the people involved.

Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation Saturday, May 2nd at 3 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, Bay City

Confirmation - for a person who is already baptized and would like to make a public statement of faith.

Reception - for a person who was confirmed in another denomination and would like to be received into the Episcopal Church.

Reaffirmation - for a person who has been baptized and confirmed and would like to make a public statement reaffirming one's faith.

There will be a diocesan liturgy on May 2 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bay City. Bishop Todd Ousley will confirm, receive, and reaffirm those who are prepared and present themselves to him. If you are interested in participating in one of these rites, please let Heather know soon so that the preparation can begin. (There is a time of learning together for those who are to be confirmed and received.)

Worship Leader Training

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

Diocesan Center, 924 N. Niagara St.
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

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. (You are welcome to attend as a learning opportunity only and not for the licensing.)

Cost for this event will be \$25.00 per person.

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@eatmich.org.

We Are Family

Please Hold In Your Prayers

For those in particular need of

prayer: Brett Beal; Marie Church;

Cheryl & Don Cortese; Patsy Davis; Jane Diehl; Doug; Matt Doyon; Gail Endahl; Caytie Gascoigne; Julie Gates; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell, Tom Gernack; Paula Hutchinson; Mary Lou Jenkins; Bill Lenny; the Lenox Family; the Lewis family; Eveline McCoy; Delores Melfi; 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; Sarah Bancroft; David Barrows; Theresa Braun; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Bunny Gladfelter; Renee Goss; Les Harding; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Leona; Teresa Maynard; Rick M; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Susan Taber; and Gavin Woods.

Pray for Our Ministers

March 1 – Marilou Ensign; Rebecca Ensign; Josephine Feijoo; Mary Felix

March 8 – Marv & Judith Fisher; Bob, Josie & Lucy Foguth; Bill & Marcia Freeman; David, Lynn, Gabrielle & Erica Freeman

March 15 – Mark & Pat Freeman; Matt & Linda Freeman & Michael Wolos; Amy Freeman Rosa; Connie Fry

March 22 – Ty & Debbie Fry; Doug, Michelle & Lauren Gangwer; Sharon Gay; Raquel Gazzi & Gabbie & Arthur Pennington

March 29 – Tom & Shirley Gernack; Vance Gordon; Brian & Barb Goss; Elisa Goss

Our sincere condolences

To Dee Dickens, Kirstie Rising and Tara Wakeham and their families on the death of Dee's sister, Debbie Provost and Debbie's husband, John Provost on February 5, 2015.

May Debbie and John's souls, and the souls of those we love but see no longer, rest in eternal peace.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2nd Mary Louise Susalla
3rd Bob Minock
5th Chloe Mae Pattan
6th Ann Podlesak
8th Bob Foguth
Connie Hibbard
Carol Pettipher
9th Sophia Chambers
10th David Chambers
Brian Goss
Dan Harvey
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

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS STARTS ON MARCH 8TH

If you don't remember to "Spring Forward," you will arrive at church just in time for *possibly* communion, *definitely* announcements, and you'll feel silly at Coffee Hour.

Don't let any of that happen – set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 8th.

March Book Club

The book *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown will be discussed on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude's in VandenBergh Hall. ALL are invited to this month's book club!

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our sincere thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during February: Jack and Beverly Mills, Dave and Deb James, The Sunday Sundaes (hosted by the Social Committee), and Ben Oliver and Lenae Chambers (with beautiful Gwen and little baby Maurin). *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*

Coffee Hour-Something MORE Happens!

It becomes easy to take coffee hour for granted. But, when you exit the sanctuary after Sunday service and walk down the hall to VandenBergh Hall, something is already starting to happen. You notice people looking for someone to talk to – to make a connection. You see the anticipation of enjoying a cup of coffee and having the opportunity to start or finish business. You see children holding hands and moving to a table – interacting with each other, and talking to adults. You see newcomers against the wall, waiting to be approached and welcomed. It is an important time to be together. It is especially important during this time of transition.

While Crust provides some baked goods, which is an incredibly helpful and generous gesture--volunteers are needed to commit to preparing coffee and beverages and perhaps bringing an additional item, the most helpful being something simple for our gluten free friends such as a fruit or vegetable tray, cheese and gluten free crackers. **It does not need to be all of these things!** Our coffee hour offerings tend to be a little over the top, which may prove to be daunting to somebody on a budget, or new to being a coffee hour host. 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?

Upcoming dates that are not filled in on the sign up sheet in VandenBergh Hall:

- March 22nd
- March 29th
- April 18th
- April 25th

News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

While March holds the promise of spring and warmer weather, it is special in the liturgical calendar as well. As a long month of five Sundays, it encloses all of the season of Lent, that time of reflection on the life of Christ and His sacrifice for our sins.

These Sundays incorporate beloved events from the life and teachings Jesus. These include the cleansing of the temple and the much loved *God so Loved the World* of John 3. *Take up Your Cross, the Savior Said* and *Lift High the Cross* are two of the many musical offerings we will experience during this holy time.

March 29 begins with the jubilation of Palm Sunday (*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*) and concludes with the Passion reading that leads us into Holy Week (*O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded*), that time of reflection, as we recount the events of Christ's suffering.

March is very special; may we partake in the worship experiences of this blessed time.

Marlene Weston

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6th Rex & Judi Harris (50th)
- 14th Bob & Teri Hutchins (51st)
- 26th Brian & Barb Goss (55th)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

Open Mic/Potato Bar

Sunday, March 15th

(following the 10:30 service)

Sing a song, read a poem, do a magic trick, tap dance...just show us what you've got!

While the "show" is in progress, enjoy a baked potato bar with all of the trimmings

Sign up in VandenBergh Hall to bring the topping of your choice or baked potatoes

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
