

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

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

YEA – Spring!

Lots of people love spring. It is that time of year when the cold goes away and the warm starts to come in. We see new growth on the trees, the flowers start to poke up out of the ground, the birds return, and we're able to move about without layers of clothing.

Theologically, we can appreciate all of this natural springtime. In our stories and our metaphors, we are always looking for signs of new life and growth. Easter is the ultimate holiday of new life. In it, we have the assurance that God loves us, forgives us, and will invite us to everlasting life.

St. Jude's is also experiencing transition, change, growth, and some exciting new life.

By the time you read this, the Vestry will have met at retreat and talked about how they want to spend their year together. Already they have been reflecting on what St. Jude's might most need. How can you be a better community together? How can you love and serve one another? How can you reach out to more people and serve more community members?

One priority that has surfaced in conversations with members and Vestry: children and youth. We are working on providing age appropriate experiences for children and youth to worship, grow their faith, and build community together.

On the calendar in April and May, you will see a special addition: Messy Church. The children's and youth program scheduled and additional activity on April 19. This program invites all people to come together to eat, play and pray. If you are a family with children or youth, please come along! If you would like to be part of a community with children and youth focus, please come along! This opportunity shows our children that they are central to our life as a parish, that they are valued, and that they are beloved by God.

It is obvious to see new life in our young ones. They grow so quickly from babies into toddlers and into school age children. I invite you to reflect on new life within yourself, even if your age indicates that you are not young anymore. Where is the spring in your life? Where is the new growth? Is there anything that needs to be pruned in order for the new life to flourish? As we begin the spring together, I invite us to new life in Christ:

For the current leadership and active members: thank you for your service. I'm happy to be part of the excitement that is all around us, and the passion that you bring to your ministries. Partnering together and identifying areas where there is new growth is really exciting to the life of this community.

For those who haven't been so active lately: I invite you to join in. I look forward to meeting you and hearing where you see new growth sprouting in your life. (Or if you need help identifying it...or need help pruning away the old to welcome in the new.) Come to worship, come be part of activities, or come and serve with other members as we reach out to the wider community.

I'm excited about the work that we have before us. I'm grateful for a group of creative and innovative people who are engaged with community life. Let us celebrate the growth that is happening and look for the new thing that God is doing through us!

*Yours,
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 – March 2015

- Carpeting for the basement has been ordered from Skaff and should be installed soon.
- Vestry approved money to fix the kitchen faucet and drain, and a basement toilet.
- Vestry retreat is Saturday, March 28, 9-5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's in Flint.
- Approved the purchasing of Godly Play materials for next year's youth education program.

Thursday Bible Study

Two Thursdays a month (usually 2nd and 4th)
12:00 noon

We are walking through the Pentateuch (the first five 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.



Messy Church at St. Jude's

When: April 19, 5-7 p.m.
May 3, 5-7 p.m.

What is Messy Church? This is an opportunity designed for parents to take part in worship and activities with their children. All people are welcome to come and participate.

The night will include some creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a celebration time which might involve story, prayer, song, and games; and a meal together.

We begin with dinner at 5:00! We look forward to seeing you there!

Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation
Saturday, May 2nd at 3 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church, Bay City

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 Committee

Are you interested in being part of the worship committee? This group helps identify the pieces of worship that help people be the most connected with God and find ways of implementing other aspects. Let Amy Freeman Rosa know if you would like to be part of this ministry. amyfreemanrosa@gmail.com or 810-629-4096

FAMILY PROMISE

The week of March 8 marked our first week supporting Family Promise this year (3 more to go). At the end of February, there were three families active in the program and we were gearing up to support one of our biggest groups to date. Thanks to the diligence of the families and the great support of the program, two of the families were able to find sustainable housing and only one family remained in the program when March 8 arrived.

The family we supported consisted of a Mom, Dad and three children between the ages of 16 and 3 months. They were a very nice family and pretty quiet since they had a car and spent lots of time out looking for housing. We had 13 volunteers and for three of them it was their first experience with Family Promise. A big THANKS to all of our volunteers, new and old; the program won't work without you!

Our next support week is coming up on June 14, so mark it on your calendars. We have developed new, easy to follow directions for Dinner Hosts, Overnight Hosts and Saturday Afternoon Hosts so anyone should find it easy to pitch in.

Silent Auction

It's that time again: time to start planning the Silent Auction, which will be held on Sat., Oct. 17 this year. If you were on the committee last time, please consider being on it again this time. If you weren't and would like to be a member of the Silent Auction committee, welcome! We will be having a meeting on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Please plan to be there. We welcome your input and look forward to seeing you.

Freya Hutchinson

News and Happenings

Hotel Complimentaries

As many of you travel for the Easter Holiday, please keep in mind that we are still collecting shampoos, conditioners, soaps, etc. as part of our Outreach. Simply allow space for an extra plastic bag in your luggage and bring them to the library when you return.

Search Committee

The Survey Sub-Committee developed and distributed a survey with the results in and to be tabulated soon.

The Profile Sub Committee is well underway to completing our 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, and Dave Rayner.

Scrip News

Don't forget to check out Scrip online at www.shopwithscrip.com to find more merchants. Click on Order Scrip, and then browse the categories of your choosing. With summer coming, and vacations, there are many restaurants, hotels, and stores that are not featured on our regular order form that you may wish to use. With a little preplanning, St. Jude's can earn more income. Keep ordering!

Cruise ...TBD

In the past, church members have had fun cruising together with trips to the Bahamas and to Alaska. It is time to start planning our next trip that would probably take place sometime in early 2016.

If you are interested in this travel opportunity, contact Kathy Hopper at 810.629.6135 or at slsch2oskier@aol.com. Interested people will meet and decide where we would like to go and for how long. There are some suggested cruises on the board in VandenBergh Hall if you would like to take a look. No travel partner? There are several people who might be cruising without a roommate, so perhaps you could partner up if you are cruising alone.

Assisted Listening Devices Available

There have been some additions to the sound system. If you need a personal assistant listening device, please talk to an usher or Heather. We probably have enough for everybody who needs one to be assigned their own. Show up a few minutes early any Sunday, and we can get you all set up.

Spring School Lunch

April 4 will mark the 9th year for our School Lunch Food Giveaway. We will be setting up a mini-grocery store in VandenBergh Hall and will give away up to 250 bags of groceries. The food will go to children and families who would normally participate in the free/reduced school lunch program, but may be challenged to put food on their tables during the schools spring break the following week. This year as a special treat we will be passing out Easter Baskets (secretly) with the help of Fenton United Methodist. Volunteer sign-up sheets will go up this Sunday for Basket Filling and transportation (April 1), VandenBergh Hall Setup (Good Friday after the service) and the Giveaway on Saturday, April 4. Please think about how you can help and look for the signup sheets on the Outreach Bulletin Board.

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; Tom Gernack; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell, Paula Hutchinson; Mary Lou Jenkins; Collin Krause; Bill Lenny; Lenox Family; Lewis family; Eveline McCoy; Delores Melfi; Aaron Myers; Taylor Nicely; Rev. Ron Otto; 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; Bunny Gladfelter; Renee Goss; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Leona; Jeff Leubke; Rick M; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Susan Taber; and Gavin Woods.

Pray for Our Ministers

APRIL 5 – Joan & Jerry Graham; Mike, McKenna, Chace and Aiden Green; Mark Hamel; Dee Grossmann

APRIL 12 – Carol Hall; Rex & Judi Harris; Lois Hartfrant; Dan & Beth Harvey

APRIL 19 – Tristin, Natalie and Miyam Hassell; Mary Ellen Hazell; Harold & Edith Hersbeck; Connie Hibbard

APRIL 26 – Patrick Hibbard & Katie Fleming and Abel Hibbard; Mike, Kathy, Hunter and Holden Holsinger; Kelly Hopper; Lynn & Kathy Hopper

Our sincere condolences

to the family of Elizabeth (Jean) Weigant, long time member of St. Jude's.

& to Bob and Kim Alexander on the death of their daughter, Laurie Stadtfeld. A memorial service will be held in May at St. Jude's for Laurie.

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st Erica Freeman
2nd Jacob Freeman
4th Patrick Hibbard
8th Shane Chambers
15th Michelle Gangwer
18th Paula McAllister

20th Scott Smith
24th Lynn Freeman
26th Gay Adams
29th Teresa Maynard

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APRIL Anniversaries

5th Fred & Lynell Wright (40th)
7th Harold & Edith Hersback (61st)
14th David & Carol Chambers (42nd)

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OFFICE NOTES

PRAYER LIST REQUESTS

If you have a request, *please* fill out the Prayer Request Form with all the needed information to help maintain a clean and current prayer list (*They are under the sign-in book in the Library and also in the rack by the office*).

Additionally, your help is needed in notifying the office if someone's name can be removed.

THANKS

For those wonderful angels who volunteer to be an EM, Reader, Acolyte, Usher, Altar Guild Member, Counter, Coffee Hour Host, or provide flowers, we will be utilizing an online scheduling system that will be reflective of your availability. It will allow you to view what areas are open and you will then place yourself on the schedule. Our goal is to improve efficiency and make this task less labor intensive for the office.

You will receive instructions via email prior to implementing the program.

BEACON DISTRIBUTION

Many of you receive the *Beacon* by e-mail while some receive it by snail mail. If you are not currently on either list and pick it up from the rack by the office, please let the office know and we will adjust our records accordingly.

COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

Our sincere thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during March: Dave, Denise and Dustin Rayner, Rex and Judi Harris, Matt and Kristen Shepherd, Connie Hibbard and all who contributed to the Potato Bar/open mic event. We also offer our thanks to Crust for their dedicated delivery of their delicious baked goods that we enjoy 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

Holden Holsinger, Eagle Scout



The Holsinger family will be hosting an Eagle Scout Court of Honor commemorating Holden achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Additionally, the family will be joining with the Eck family to also honor Holden's friend and fellow scout Jack Eck. On behalf of Holden and the Holsinger family, we'd like to extend an invitation to the entire congregation to attend

the Court of Honor. The event will take place at St. Jude's Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 18th, at 2:00 p.m. A light reception luncheon will immediately follow the ceremony in VandenBergh Hall. Holden would like to, again, thank everyone for their generosity in support of his Eagle project.



News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

April is a liturgically rich month. The first few days are in Holy Week with its subdued musical offerings. "Alleluias" and the most joyous music of the year are on Easter, April 5. It would hardly seem like Easter without "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" and "Hail Thee, Festival Day."

April 12 brings us the story of Thomas wanting proof of Christ's resurrection. "We Walk by Faith and not by Sight" speaks to this theme. We also begin lessons from the book of Revelation.

For April 19, we are introduced to Saul, who later became Paul, in the lesson from Acts. Jesus makes an appearance to the disciples while they are fishing. The music selections continue their joyous Easter tone.

April 26 bring us the beloved Shepherd Psalm 23 with its many beautiful musical settings. We will also welcome Tracy Dunlop, violinist, as she joins us in worship.

Marlene Weston

UPCOMING SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

Euchre on April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be playing at the church. Bring a snack to share and your drinks. If you do not know how to play, we will teach you. If you do not have a partner, come anyway. We change tables and partners so you can play. If you would like to bring another game (Scrabble, Checkers, etc.) feel free, there may be someone else who would like to play. There is a sign- up sheet on the board.

Breakfast on May 31

We will be having a joint breakfast between the services. Look for sign-ups and more information in May.

Lugnuts Baseball Game on August 8

The Lugnuts are a minor league team in the Toronto Blue Jays system. They play in Lansing. It is a small stadium, very family friendly, and fun to attend. The New Century Chorale is singing the National Anthem and many of our church members are part of that group. Tickets will be sold starting after Easter. The cost is \$11 per ticket. The game starts at 7:00 p.m.