

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others

June 2014 (our 156th year)

Dear Members, and especially the vestry and my family,

I write this month to thank you for the wonderful opportunity you gave me earlier this month to attend the CREDO conference at Lake Logan Episcopal Center in North Carolina. Having a week away on retreat by myself would have been more than enough. Including the opportunity to worship and network with 24 other clergy near my own age made it even better. Adding in some excellent wisdom from a great faculty and time for reflection on how I could be healthier physically, spiritually, fiscally and in my work made it an incredibly deep and meaningful time.

This, in fact, was the purpose of CREDO. We spent time in large group lectures and workshops, in small group discussions, and in one-on-one sessions with faculty. We shared with one another our hopes and dreams, fears and frustrations, and were as vulnerable and truthful as I've ever seen a group be. We also ate and drank, worshiped and partied, danced and laughed together.

And in the end, based on what we discussed, what we learned, and how we saw ourselves and our work, we were asked to think about what things we could enact that would make us healthier and more able to be the people God is calling us to be. This became our CREDO plan. Parts of mine were intensely personal, and there are things I will be keeping between Allie and me. But below are a few of the things that most impact my work at St. Jude's. I have already shared them with the vestry, and now I share them with you. After each goal is a short description or reason that it was added to my list.

- *Begin a relationship with a trained counselor.* In order to do my job as a pastoral counselor, it is important for me to get help from someone in keeping my own self balanced and whole.
- *Learn how to ask for help.* I often take charge in events or projects around the church. I am also capable of letting others run them. I am not good at sharing leadership and need to learn how to do this by asking for help and being in partnership. This will be good for me in terms of time and good for the congregation in terms of taking responsibility for the church.
- *Commit to forwarding summer exercise into winter months.* The reason for this is pretty obvious; school schedule and caring for kids makes it hard to care for myself. I need to do this for me and them.
- *Clean and organize my office; seek help in creating a system for my administrative work.* While I don't mind a messy office, it creates a negative space for visitors and members of the church alike. Cleaning my space and creating a new office system will help me do the parts of the job I like least better and quicker, and give a better impression to the world.

Again, I thank you for the gift of this time away, and I look forward to how it will help me grow into a better person, a better disciple, and a better priest.

Faithfully, Josh

News and Happenings

Vestry Notes – May 20, 2014

Here are a few highlights from the May Vestry meeting:

- Vestry chose contractors for the new pipes to the choir room and the work needed to waterproof the wall. Scheduling will be done immediately.
- Vestry discussed repairs to the mower, and Leroy Street steps. Also heard update on plan to build a new shed in July.
- Vestry approved a once yearly payment to have the Memorial Garden weeded, pruned and mulched. Thanks to Sarah Bancroft and Lisa Kusluski for their willingness to maintain the garden the rest of the summer.
- Josh reported on his week at CREDO and shared some of his plan for the future.
- Vestry passed a non-discrimination policy for the church (see separate note).

Summer Calendar

Even as the program year begins to wind down, there is a lot going on. Josh will be out of the office (and town) the following dates this summer:

June 23-26: Clergy Camp

July 21-26: serve as chaplain at Camp Chickagami
He will also be taking vacation some time in August.

Lawn Mowers Needed

Many thanks to Bob Warren for mowing the grass for the first time this year... and boy, did it need it! The riding mower wasn't working, but we are looking into having it fixed. Bob brought his mower from home to do the job.

Please look for the sign-up sheet in VandenBergh Hall to help with mowing this summer. If you aren't sure how to use our mower, you can talk to Dustin Rayner or Jack Bretzke. We could use your help to make sure the lawn doesn't get so embarrassingly high again.

Pentecost – Sunday, June 8

Happy Birthday to the Church – 1981 years old on June 8 (give or take a few years, and at this point, who is counting?). Come for the celebration of Pentecost in your festive red, and if you can read in a foreign language, please let Josh know so you can help with the service on Sunday morning.

Parish Picnic

Trinity Sunday, June 15

Please join us in Bush Park for the 10:30 service on June 15, as we worship God in the midst of creation and then have fellowship as we eat lunch, play games, and relax together. If you are staying to eat, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Hot dogs and rolls will be provided. Chairs are also a great, helpful, idea, but not necessary. Join us for a great time.

Summer Worship

This summer we will be going to one service at 9:00 in July and August. This is an opportunity for those who attend our two different services to know each other better and to give a more relaxed feel to our summer months.

Summer Truck Load

Food Give Away

Saturday, June 14th

The St. Jude's Outreach Committee invites you to participate in the 4th annual summer food give-away. We will be working in conjunction with the Play Like Jackson program and the Fenton Fire Department. You can help your neighbors in need by signing up to distribute food from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. There will be two work shifts available: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will also need people who have trucks and would be willing to drive any left-over food to local shelters or soup kitchens, around noon. Please sign up on the Outreach volunteer bulletin board. The give-away will be at the Fenton Fire Department.

Hope to see you there, using your hands and heart to keep St. Jude's mission alive in the community.

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others

News and Happenings

BOOK BAGS FOR READ AND FEED

The youngsters attending the Read and Feed program (August 12 - 14 and August 19 - 21) are given book bags to help them carry their books for the activity. This year's goal is to have forty bags completed and ready for distribution by August 1st.

We need volunteers to help make these bags. They are approximately 9" x 12," lined with a reinforced handle. A pattern will be available. Some people want to have a "sewing day" bringing their machines to church so they can enjoy the fellowship as they sew. Others are choosing to sew at home.

If you do not sew you can help by cutting the fabric or by ironing the finished product. You could also check your fabric stashes to see if you have material you would be willing to donate. We are looking for bright colors with kid-friendly patterns.

If none of these activities appeals to you, a small donation would help defray the cost of making the reading bags. However, you choose to help will be greatly appreciated.

Contact Beverly Mills, 248-634-3416, to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Being Anglican and a Statement on Non-Discrimination

I was reminded this Tuesday, at the Vestry meeting, just what it means to be Anglican. From the beginning, Anglicans tried to create a Via Media, that is, a middle way, between the two great religious movements of the time. The Anglican Church chose to be neither Roman Catholic or Protestant, but instead tried to choose the best of each.

In the Episcopal Church, we have worked this ethos into many parts of what we do, our liturgy, our faith statements, and the way we make decisions as a church. While we do things democratically, we also try to listen to, respect, and make room for those with minority voices in the church. Therefore, what we decide is not always what the most people want, but what we think is best for the church. As a professor of mine once put it, you can tell it is truly Anglican if everybody is angry. Very often, on any

number of issues, we take a stand that is not what those on either end want, but what everyone can live with.

A few months ago, Josh heard that a member of city council would be introducing an ordinance to make it illegal to fire someone, refuse housing, or refuse service to someone in the City of Fenton because that individual is or is perceived to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. He asked the vestry if they would like to make a statement in regards to this issue, and the vestry chose to wait and get feedback from the congregation before making a decision. What they heard from the vast majority of you is that these are important protections that should be put into place in our community. What they heard from many of you is concern about how taking a public stance would look in the community, and the possibility of anger geared towards the church. And what they heard from a few of you was how hurt you would be if the church took a position or signaled an attitude with which you disagree.

The vestry, therefore, chose to take the Via Media, the middle way. Rather than making no statement when so many in the church were clear about the need for justice, they wanted to say something. However, to be sensitive to those who disagreed, they also chose not to sign onto anyone's campaign or make comment about the specific ordinance being considered. In the end, the vestry claimed the middle ground. This is what I love about the Episcopal Church and St. Jude's, that we are able to welcome and include many different people with different opinions, and love one another as children of God despite our differences. Not only does this keep us together, but it helps us learn and challenges us to grow in our faith. I want to thank the vestry for their hard work on this difficult subject, and hope you will thank them as well. Here is the statement they passed:

St. Jude's Church believes that all people are made in God's image and likeness (Gen. 1:26), and we have promised through the waters of baptism that we will "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (BCP p.306). Therefore, we believe that it is wrong to discriminate against people in any way, since all people are our sisters and brothers in Christ.

We Are Family

Please Hold In Your Prayers

For those in particular need of prayer: Gail Bessette; Patsy Davis; Julie Gates; Ralph Gladfelder; Lindon James; Bill Loudon; Aaron Myers; Leonard Myers; Anthony Nastasy; Marion Parnell; Jillian Reed; Denny Sharpe; Charles Smith; Norine Smith; Sandy Train and Latoyah Upton.

And those in continuing need of prayer: David Barrows; Bret Beal; BJ and family; Theresa Braun; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Vicki Davis; Dot Day; Sarah Dolza; Bunny Gladfelder; Renee Goss; the Grossmann family; Brian Henderson; Laurie Ingram; Mary Lou Jenkins; Ev Koller; Teresa Maynard; Regina Miller; Debbie Provost; John Provost; Rick M; Susan Taber; Fred and Lynn Wells and Gavin Woods

Pray for Our Ministers

June 1st – Chet & Mary Louise Susalla; Bob, Christine & Connor Szostak; Bruce Trimmer; John Vitovsky

June 8th – Bob & Mary Warren; Jean Weigant; Mike, Kristen & Jorji Wells; Marlene Weston

June 15th – Jessie Withorn; Fred & Lynel Wright; Craig & Gay Adams; Herb & Sharon Aldrich

June 22nd – Bob & Kim Alexander; Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson; David & Marjie Andrejciw; Love & Eziebe Anani

June 29th – Martha Applebee; Rodney & Laura Bentz; Theresa Braun; Jack & Rita Bretzke

*We welcome
to the body
of Christ:*

Mika Elizabeth Barkman, daughter of Kimberly Alcorn Fisher and Joseph Barkman and granddaughter of Judith and Marvin Fisher as she was baptized May 25.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1st Stanley DeLisle
Peggy Kearns
Beverly Mills
2nd Tess DuPei
6th Paul Dolza
7th Amy Freeman Rosa
8th Clay Putnam
10th Gale Cronk
Josh Hoover
12th Craig Adams
13th Bill Anderson
14th Ev Koller
15th Gail Delaney
16th Julie Clapp
Nancy Mason
Libby Wright
18th Bob Alexander
Debbie James
Ashley Ransley
20th Lynell Wright
21st Timothy Hoover
22nd Doug Koch
Mary Kurtz
24th Christine Szostak
25th John Vitovsky

Our sincere condolences to:

the Kusluski family on the death of Lisa's mother
Lorine (Mickey) Gonser

and to Mary Lou Ensign and family on the death of
her brother Donald MacArthur.

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

Opportunities for Fellowship

LUGNUTS BASEBALL

in Lansing, Michigan

Thursday, JUNE 26th

7:00 p.m. Game Time

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

We did better in May and would like to thank those who provided coffee hour for the month: the Kusluski family, those who provided for the Mother's Day breakfast, the Bott family and Hoover family. As always, we thank CRUST for providing a tray of their most delicious baked goods.

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

HELPERS NEEDED !

Coffee hour and flowers for the altar are a need that arise each and every Sunday. Please take time to sign up in VandenBergh Hall for one or both. They are an important part of our ministry inside the walls of our church.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

For those who are not aware, Herb and Sharon Aldrich and Bob and Mary Warren have been the primary caretakers of our memorial garden for a number of years. They have worked with Haddon's Nursery in making sure that plants/trees that have not made it through rough weather are replaced; they have weeded, planted and made beautiful a space for us to have for those whose ashes are laid to rest, and a quiet place for prayer. As you walk up the ramp and see everything coming to life, please take a moment to soak in everything that space represents, and remember to thank the Aldriches and Warrens.

To our church family -

I wanted to thank everyone that sent cards, e-mails and phone calls to comfort us when my Mother passed away. It meant so much to us that you reached out to us during this difficult time.

It is very much a comfort to us knowing she is in Heaven where there is no pain, and Alzheimers and memory loss is not even a possibility. I know she is not suffering any more.

Thank you for all the condolences you expressed.

Lisa, Dean, Jake & John Kusluski

News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

It is incredible that we are in June. This brings a close to the music ministry season for another year. St. Jude's Ringers tolled their final time several weeks ago and the choir concludes its season on that joyous feast day, Pentecost, on June 8. It has been a busy and fulfilling season.

Thank you to all our talented and dedicated musicians who give so freely of their time. This includes not just in worship, but in the other ministries of the church since many serve in other capacities as well.

WE HAVE A GREAT NEED FOR MORE SINGERS AND RINGERS. Please consider either joining us or recommending someone we may not be aware of.

We will resume in September. Have a blessed summer.

Marlene Weston

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5th Tristin & Natalie Hassell (4 years)
7th Ed & Nancy Day Ransley (34 years)
10th Dean & Lisa Kusluski (25 years)
25th John & Carol Pettipher (48 years)
26th Bob & Kim Alexander (32 years)

PLEDGE ENVELOPES/CHECKS

As summer approaches, many of you will be taking vacations and will not be here for Sunday services. Often times, you will submit more than one check and envelope for the Sundays you are not here. We would like to save you the extra checks. Simply write one check for the entire amount. For example, you are gone for 3 weeks and you pledge \$10 a week. Write your check for \$30 and discard the unused envelopes. The computer does the rest. *(And it saves us time!)*

Additionally, if you are ordering flowers/candles or a special offering, just indicate the amounts on your envelope or check memo line and we will credit you accordingly.

Office Hours

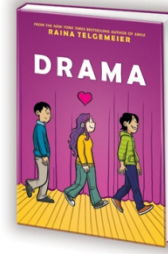
Office hours will be from 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday. Office vacation hours will be posted in the bulletin.



Summer Time Fun!



Getting To Know You...



My name is Laurel White; I am 13 years old, and I LOVE Minecraft! My favorite movie is “The Hobbit” and my favorite book is Drama, by Raina Telgemeier. The best vacation I’ve ever taken with my family was to our cottage in Canada. The best discussion that I’ve had with my youth group this year has been about prayers, and I had a great time going to the Milford Pool with my class.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is coming soon! We will once again be teaming up with the First Presbyterian Church to host VBS, and are looking forward to another fun week together! Keep a look out for more information coming soon! If you have any questions, or are interested in helping out in any way, please contact me at pattanfam5@yahoo.com. We can’t wait to see you there!



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.
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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

2015

Linda Chciuk.....	248.887.6832	Josephine Feijoo.....	248.529.3264
Lisa Kusluski.....	248.634.4694	Dustin Rayner.....	248.634.2748

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

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
