

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
November, 2014 (our 156th year)

Stewardship: The Spiritual Version

In this month's Beacon, you are getting not one, but two articles about Stewardship. If you're thinking that is not a good thing, then here is the good news... you are only expected to read one of them. We know that some of us are more motivated to give as a spiritual exercise, while others choose to give for the practical reason of supporting St. Jude's. If the first is you, read on, and don't worry about that article on the inside. If the second is you, feel free to skip this front page and see the article, Stewardship: The Hard Nosed Version on the inside of the Beacon.

Thanks for sticking around. I know you are here because you don't want to hear about deficits or budgets and don't care how much others are giving. No, you are one who gives as a spiritual discipline; you are one who gives because it is important to God and to your relationship with God. You don't pledge in order to give to the church, but to give back to God, and you know that everything you do with your money is a sign of how you choose to be a disciple in the world.

So let's talk about that for a moment. How are you doing? Are you working toward the tithe as your goal for giving? Maybe you are at a time in your life when you are giving 10% of your income, and maybe, right now, 3% seems like it is the kind of hard sacrificial giving that we are expected to pay. To be honest, I'm less interested in that percentage than I am in what you are doing with the rest of your money. What would I learn about you if you brought your checkbook and credit card statements into church? How would it tell me what you think is most important?

Looking at my own bank statements, I learn that housing my family and paying for food is important, while clothes aren't so much. Large payments to a school show that our children's education is of vital importance, as do the large gas bills since I know they are what get us back and forth 37 miles each way to school every day. I also see that our giving to the church is large, and to other charities, less so. And I learn that we are scattered in what we choose to support: a couple educational institutions, programs to fight hunger and homelessness, domestic and international programs, medical research. We clearly aren't focused in our giving.

I'd like to invite and encourage you to take a look at your finances this month. Talk to members of your household about what how you spend your money says about your priorities. And talk about what part of the good things God has given you is going to be returned as a direct thank you to God – and where those parts will go. Are you truly giving sacrificially, or out of habit? How does it bring you joy to give good things away for the benefit of others?

Your pledge card will be mailed out at the beginning of the month and I encourage you to take your time in considering what part of your giving will come to the church. I'd also like to suggest that you take out your credit and debit cards and a sharpie, and mark them with the sign of the cross. This way, every time you make a purchase you will be reminded that everything you do with your time, energy or money, you do as part of your relationship with God. Maybe at times this will be hard, and at other times it will be a cause for thanksgiving. Either way we are fooling ourselves if we think we can compartmentalize and don't realize that God is always present even, and maybe especially, in the mundane parts of life. May you be aware of that presence and be blessed in everything, *everything*, that you do.

Faithfully, Josh

106 East Elizabeth St., Fenton, MI 48430-2322 810-629-5681 E-Mail: stjudeschurch@sbcglobal.net

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.)

News and Happenings

Vestry Notes – October 2014

- Vestry approved hiring of a contractor to finish work in the Sunday School.
- The shed has received its first coat of stain and another is planned before winter.
- There was a long conversation about the Bishop's visitation and his ideas about growth. Two groups were formed to come back to the vestry with ideas to consider changing service schedules and to create new ways to connect with church during the week.
- The vestry was pleased to hear that we are close to acting on the 2011 Financial Review and have already done work to secure a pension for Barb.

Community Thanksgiving Service

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 26

We invite you to join the Fenton community in giving thanks for the many blessings that surround us on every side on Wednesday, November 27 at St. John's Catholic Church. The service begins at 7:00 with members of our choir and Josh participating. Afterward there is a great opportunity for fellowship and some delicious pies. Hear the brand new priest and associate at St. John's, Rev. Jim Rolph, give a talk. And did we mention the pies?

Adult Education: Bible Study, 12:00

Thursday, November 13 and 20th

We will continue our way through the Torah, discussing the time the Hebrews spent in the wilderness and how it still speaks to us in the wilderness of our own lives. Note the special time this month due to Thanksgiving. Please join us for this time of fellowship and study.

Bishop's Bible Study: Into the Wilderness

In his keynote at Diocesan Convention, Bishop Ousley challenged us to enter into a period of study about our own faith and the Bible. Josh noted in his sermon the importance of knowing God's story and connecting it to our own in being able to spread the good news of God in the world. Here is your chance to join us on an adventure in scripture, learning about the Bible, God, and yourself. Starting in January you can join us in The Biblical Wild:

Pioneers in the Christian Wilderness. Sign-ups have already begun at the website: <http://www.thebiblicalwild.org/> and some materials are due to be posted this month. Join us for this important conversation about our faith life. We look forward to some meaningful discoveries.

Stewardship Season Q and A

Saturday, November 8, 8:00 a.m. - ?

The Aroma of Stewardship

Wednesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. - ?

Stewards at the Laundry

Josh will be at Café Aroma on Saturday, November 8:00 and the Laundry on Wednesday, November 12. Drop by for a cup of coffee or a pint and bring your questions, or the things you would like him to hear. What do you want to know about church? How about the Bible, God, or St. Jude's? What do you want him to hear about your hopes and dreams? This is your time. There will be no agenda, and no handouts, just the opportunity to talk with whoever shows up. Stop by for a moment or the entire time; he will be there for at least two hours. He looks forward to hearing from you.

Opportunities for Fellowship:

Euchre Night

Friday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Bring a snack to share and your drinks.

We will teach anyone

who wants to learn how to play.

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### *Women's Advent Tea*

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

at 6:00 p.m.

A Light Unto My Path

*Give yourself the gift of time and enjoy an evening filled with reverence, fellowship and light as we prepare for the Christ Child.*

A sign-up list will be posted in October for hostess and guest participation – look for further details in upcoming *Beacons* and weekly bulletins. We look forward to seeing you again this year!

# News and Happenings

## Stewardship: The Hard Nosed Version

*In this month's Beacon, you are getting not one, but two articles about Stewardship. If you're thinking that is not a good thing, then here is the good news... you are only expected to read one of them. We know that some of us are more motivated to give as a spiritual exercise, while others choose to give for the practical reason of supporting St. Jude's. If the first is you, go back to the front page and read Stewardship: The Spiritual Version. If the second is you, then this is the article for you to read.*

So here it is, the numbers, important figures by which we run our church. Currently, we have an annual budget of \$192,000. This is a rather lean number that doesn't come close to doing all that we would like for our church building, our programs, or our world. Despite this fact, our \$173,000 projected income leaves us expecting a budget deficit in 2014 of almost \$20,000. And it gets worse. Due to some penalties for errors in pension for a lay employee, and several bills that were not paid by the previous treasurer in 2013, this deficit is expected to be much higher by the end of the year.

The finance committee of the church met just this week to take a first glance at the 2015 budget. They cut where they could and added where they had to. Thanks to excellent work from our current treasurer in playing catch-up, we will not experience the penalties or extra bills next year. Yet the cost of healthcare and living and maintain a building all continue to rise, so that, if our pledges stay the same as last year we project a \$25,000 deficit in 2015. This is not good news.

This doesn't mean there isn't some great news. Our people continue to step up and give for projects like new furnaces when they see a need. Our building is much improved by the gift from Russ Haddon. And our unrestricted investments (money we are allowed to spend however we wish) has climbed back to above pre-2008 numbers. We are not a business and some of us would argue that having small deficits is actually a good place for a church to be. The discomfort that this larger gap brings may help us to rise to a challenge and work harder to meet the needs of a church that we deeply love. Finally, in

the good news column, our new Endowment Committee has done an excellent job setting up some new opportunities for people to leave a legacy to this church, and we should be ready to roll this out in the first six months of 2015. So we hope to give the means and opportunity to replenish the general funds we are now spending.

So what would it take to balance the budget next year? Well, if we have roughly the same number of pledging units, the average pledge would have to rise by somewhere between \$300 and \$350. Since this would more than doubling some pledges, the other way to look at it is by percentage – which means we would need to average a 15% increase. This is ambitious and rather unlikely, but if we even get half way there, we will be in a far more comfortable place.

We have been entrusted with a wonderful church in a great community. We are doing good work, and the money we put into our building is not only serving us, but also the community in an amazing number of ways. I hope you will consider all of this, all that your pledge does to support not only St. Jude's but those God has put into our care in the community, and how we are preparing to continue to make this church a presence in Fenton for years to come. As you fill out your pledge card, think about all of this, all that what you do means not only for you, but for so many. If you have questions about any of this, I will be meeting with any parishioners who choose to join me twice in November, and if you can't make one of those, please feel free to contact me at the church. In the meantime know that I believe with all I have that God still has much good work to do through you and this church and I look forward to what we have in store for us next.

# News and Happenings

## **Supporting Camp Chickagami**

Want to help a young person (8-17) find or deepen her/his faith in a changing and challenging world? Unable to get to our own Camp Chickagami to help out but understand its significance to our youth and church? **Here is your opportunity!!**

Missy and Jim Harrison have enthusiastically supported camp and worked there, inspiring youth in their faith journey while making camp meaningful yet also fun. Their church in Indian River, Transfiguration, sent 12 youth to camp this year. Missy has made available for a donation toward a camp scholarship for 2015 absolutely beautiful note cards with photographs taken in the Harrison's own "back yard" – close-up photos of birds, a barred owl, a tiger swallowtail butterfly – even a raccoon staring Missy down from a pine tree! These colorful cards, blank inside and ready for your personal message, come six to a package with a suggested minimum donation of \$20, all of which will go toward a scholarship for a deserving youth desiring to attend camp but needing the help you can provide. They can be purchased from Carol or John Pettipher. Thank you!!

# We Are Family

## Please Hold In Your Prayers

**For those in particular need of prayer:** Patsy Davis; Jane Diehl; Doug; Gail Endahl; Eric; Julie Gates; Judy Godsell; Marilyn Horton; Charles Hutchins; Bill Lenny; Lenox Family; Eveline McCoy; Delores Melfi; Aaron Myers; Taylor Nicely; Ron Trimmer, Dave Tripplett and Latoyah Upton..

**And those in continuing need of prayer:** John Babcock; David Barrows; Bret Beal; Theresa Braun; Jack Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Dot Day; Rick Feeley; Rita Feeley; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph 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; and Gavin Woods.

*Please take a moment to review our prayer lists and contact the office with any changes needed to represent current prayer requests. Thank you in advance for your assistance!*

## Pray for Our Ministers

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Ev Koller; Jim & Kathy Kortge; Don & Mary Kurtz; Dean, Lisa, Jake & John Kusluski

**November 9<sup>th</sup>** – Renee LeBlanc; Nancy Mason; Teresa Maynard; Bill McDonald

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** – Sandy Merrill; Jack & Beverly Mills; Bob & Ann Minock; Lorraine, William, Leah, Austin & Matthew Moller

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Ben, Gwendolyn & Maurin Oliver and Lenae Chambers; Coby, Shannon, Austin & Natalie Pascoe; Mike, Ashleigh, Bradley, Elizabeth & Chloe Pattan and Emily Wright; Vic & Michele Peters

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** – John & Carol Pettipher; Ann, Channer and Lydia Podlesak; Susan Premo; Clay & Diane Putnam

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2<sup>nd</sup> Madison Freeman  
6<sup>th</sup> Dustin Rayner  
10<sup>th</sup> Josie Foguth  
Jennifer Freeman  
Lauren Gangwer  
11<sup>th</sup> Sharon Gay  
Raquel Gazzi  
Jennifer Koch  
Lisa Kusluski  
Arthur Pennington  
12<sup>th</sup> Harry Chciuk  
18<sup>th</sup> Ann Minock  
19<sup>th</sup> Mary Ellen Hazell  
20<sup>th</sup> Barb Goss  
21<sup>st</sup> Jon Burroughs  
23<sup>rd</sup> Uchenna Anini  
Sarah Dolza  
Tristin Hassell  
24<sup>th</sup> Jake Kusluski  
26<sup>th</sup> Krystn Freeman  
27<sup>th</sup> Rodney Bentz  
28<sup>th</sup> Kirsty Rising  
Angela White

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

6<sup>th</sup> Bob & Christine Szostak (21 years)  
8<sup>th</sup> Bob & Mary Warren (56 years)  
9<sup>th</sup> Clay & Diane Putnam (35 years)  
12<sup>th</sup> Ian & Jennifer Rosa (3 years)  
14<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Joan Graham (61 years)  
Chet & Mary Louise Susalla (33 years)  
19<sup>th</sup> Jim & Mary Ellen Hazel (60 years)  
24<sup>th</sup> Robert & Ann Minock (47 years)  
Doug & Kate Weber (19 years)

## IN MEMORIAM:

Bill Leonard, husband of Elizabeth Leonard...

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

## We are Family (Con't)

### COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during October: The Freeman's and Amy Freeman Rosa, the Social Committee and all of those who contributed to a very spirited tail-gate coffee hour, Tom and Shirley Gernack, Terri and Bob Hutchins and Dee Grossmann.

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

### SIGN UP, SIGN UP, SIGN UP!!!

Each week, we are given a tray/box of baked goods from CRUST and need somebody from the parish to make the coffee and juice and perhaps supplement with a simple snack that is gluten free (fruit, cheese, vegetable tray). It needn't be a feast. Please help us continue our friendly tradition of a time to visit and share with one another.

### Journey to Adulthood

"The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It encourages relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore the two guiding principles of the program: 1) Manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God; and 2) Adulthood must be earned.

The first two years (Grades 6-7 or 7-8) celebrate the individuality of each young teen and their creative potential, while exploring Biblical stories of God and God's people. The Rite-13 liturgy (Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) is the community expression of this and serves as a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood" (Leaderresources.org).

It was a very special Rite 13 service last month as we observed our young people as they move toward their adult potential. To see their families sitting at the front of the church together and hear the support of their teachers and the congregation was very moving. We congratulate our Rite 13 celebrities: Molly Anderson, Nicole Jagos, John Kuslusi, Gabriella Pennington and Laurel White.

## News and Happenings

### Notes from the Choir

November is an exciting month liturgically and musically. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints on November 2. This Sunday includes some of the most thrilling music in the entire Christian year. We begin with one of the greatest hymns in the English language, *For All the Saints*; experience the child-like faith of *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*; review the Beatitudes with the contemporary song, *Blest are They* and conclude with the magnificent *Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones*.

The readings for November 9 and 16 allude to the second coming of Christ in glory as we approach Advent. The final Sunday of the liturgical year, November 23, is designated as Christ the King Sunday. These days will feature music appropriate to the lessons as well as some favorite harvest themes.

Wednesday, November 26, is the Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John's at 7:00 p.m. The music is provided by a combined choir and handbell ensemble assembled from the churches. Several musicians from St. Jude's will be participating. This is such a wonderful opportunity to give thanks and meet our friends from the wider Christian community and it is always gratifying to see familiar faces from our congregation. Come join with us!!

November 30 is the beginning of the new liturgical year with the first Sunday in Advent.

November is a packed month full of times of celebration as well as reflection. Let us enjoy these special times as we worship together.

Marlene Weston

### Time Change!

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> --**

get an extra hour of sleep

AND still join us at our

regular 8:00 and 10:30

services. Win/Win!!

## Updated Website for SCRIP

The new ShopWithScrip.com has arrived! It combines the best of GLScrip.com and ShopWithScrip.com, and I think you'll like the changes they made. Just go to [ShopWithScrip.com](http://ShopWithScrip.com) and click on shop, then go to browse to check out all the new vendors. If the vendor is not on our order form, just handwrite the vendor and card amount you want on our order form. I hope you find this website easy to use.

Now is a good time to start buying SCRIP  
with Christmas just a few weeks away!

If you are planning on buying for our Christmas families, please consider making your purchases with Scrip cards, which gives to St. Jude's Church also! ***Orders will be placed two consecutive Sundays, December on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.*** Your order will be ready for you the following Sunday. This change in our normal ordering dates will allow you to have all purchases by December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Any questions call the Diane Putnam at 810.629.6079.



# November News



## Getting To Know You...



My name is Lydia Anderson; I am 11 years old, and I LOVE to dance! My favorite movie is "Frozen," and my favorite book is called The Secret Identity of Devan Delany. The BEST place to go on vacation with my family is to Disney World. We are learning about each other in my youth group right now, and I have had a great time at the Halloween party this year!

## Just a reminder...

There will be no Sunday school on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## A Spooktacular Time!



Thanks so much to everyone who joined us for our annual Halloween party! We had a spooktacular time!





**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**

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

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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 |

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**2015**

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

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**2016**

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

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**2017**

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

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**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 |

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