

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

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

Christmas 2014

December 24th - Christmas Eve

We offer two services on Christmas Eve. We encourage you and your family to choose one that will best help you celebrate this holy night.

5:00 P.M. – Family Service with Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant is 'come as you are.' Costumes are waiting, no rehearsal necessary. Join in the throng that approaches the manger and listen to the wonderful tale of the very first Christmas.

10:30 P.M. – Christmas Lessons and Carols with Festival Eucharist

A service full of music, lessons, and candlelight; we will learn about the need for salvation, the expectant waiting, and the birth of the Christ child while singing favorite hymns. The service ends with the sung Holy Eucharist on this festival day.

December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 A.M. – We celebrate this holy day with a single spoken Eucharistic service. This is a quiet, meditative time to let go of some of the cultural trappings of this day and focus on what God's coming into the world really means for us.

December 28th - First Sunday after Christmas

Please Note SPECIAL TIME

10:00 A.M. – Holy Eucharist

We will have one service this day to celebrate the ministry that St. Jude's has shared with Josh Hoover over the last nine years. We hope you will join us for a special service and a potluck to follow.

December 29th - Holy Innocents

7:00 P.M. – Holy Eucharist

In his fear at the announcement of Jesus' birth, Herod had all the babies in the area killed. We remember them, and pray for all children who have died at this solemn service.

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.)

Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Christian Formation: 9:15 a.m.

News and Happenings

Vestry Notes – November 2014

* The vestry discussed with Josh issues related to his resignation at the end of the year and agreed that December 2 would work to meet with Michael Spencer to learn about interim options and next steps.

* Chose to frame the part of the current mural at the bottom of basement steps and paint the rest of the wall.

* Approved Heritage Grants to Family Promise, Loose Center, sent back to the Endowment Committee a grant for the discretionary fund due to Josh leaving.

* Were delighted to hear that our financial reviewer believes all reports will be to vestry by the December meeting.

A Service of Remembrance for Children Who Have Died

St. Jude's Episcopal Church, Fenton
Monday, December 29, 7:00 p.m.

Three days after Christmas Day, in the Church's calendar, comes the *Feast of the Holy Innocents*. It is one of the dark mysteries of our faith that the birth of the Savior was also the cause for the slaughter of children - when King Herod had put to the sword all children under the age of two in the town and surrounding areas of Bethlehem.

We invite especially all those who have lost children of their own. This can include loss by miscarriage, abortion, violence, stillbirth, or any other circumstances. No one will be asked to share their specific loss, or story. That will remain between each worshiper and God. At the Offertory, names of children will be gathered, with a choice whether or not you wish each name read aloud. We will also read the names of children buried from this Church (and other Churches if they wish).

The service itself will be the Holy Eucharist. The beauty of this service will be a fitting memorial to that experience of grief which never leaves the heart of each who have lost children. As is our tradition, this service and the Holy Communion is open to people of any religious persuasion, as well as those who have no spiritual home.

(Remembrance for Children, con't)

Any who choose or cannot attend, but wish the *names* of children to be remembered at this service, may phone the Church office at 810-629-5681, again letting us know if you wish the name(s) read aloud.

Family Promise

Thanks to the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Family Promise of Genesee County, the same group that we support four times a year, has received a \$10,000 grant for next year. We are thankful for their support of this incredible ministry.

Buy SCRIP –

Help Our Church – No Cost to You

As you think about your Christmas shopping, please consider buying SCRIP cards this month. SCRIP are gift cards to all kinds of stores, and you will receive, dollar for dollar, exactly what you pay in gift cards to iTunes, VG's, gas stations, clothing stores, restaurants, and all kinds of different places. You can use the cards to purchase gifts, or give the cards themselves. And the church receives a percentage of every card purchased, sometimes as much as 18%. Normally you can order SCRIP cards the first and third Sundays of the month and pick them up the following week, but in December they can be ordered on the first and second Sundays so they will all be available before Christmas. Last year we made over \$2000 in SCRIP money. Please help us better that number this year.

Bishop's Bible Study

A reminder of our Bishop's challenge to join him in exploring the Biblical Wild starting in January. You can see the introductory video and find the introductory assignments at:

<http://www.thebiblicalwild.org/#!/Welcome-to-the-Wild/cmbz/845DB329-DB6D-454B-89D9-9A4E5A40AC7A>

This is a great opportunity to read or re-read the foundational stories of our faith. Join the diocese and Bishop Todd in reading and reflecting on the Bible, with daily readings and a weekly video with questions. And while you are at it, if you are thinking of a Study Bible as a Christmas Present, the Oxford Annotated NRSV and the Harper Collins Study Bible are excellent options.

We Are Family

Please Hold In Your Prayers

For those in particular need of

prayer: Brett Beal; Patsy Davis;

Jane Diehl; Doug; Matt Doyon; Gail Endahl; Julie Gates; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Marilyn Horton; Lindon James; Bill Lenny; the Lenox Family; Eveline McCoy; Aaron Myers; Taylor Nicely; Marge Riley; Ron Trimmer; Dave Tripplett and Latoyah Upton.

And those in continuing need of prayer: John Babcock; David Barrows; Theresa Braun; Jack Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Dot Day; Rita Feeley; Bunny Gladfelter; Renee Goss; the Grossmann Family; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Leona; the Lewis family; Theresa Maynard; Rick M; Debbie Provost; John Provost; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Susan Taber; and Gavin Woods

Pray for Our Ministers

December 1st – Lois Putnam; Ed, Ashley Ransley and Nancy Day; Dave & Denise Rayner, Dustin & Ben Rayner

December 8th – Troy, Kirsty, Lily and Ella Rising; Mark & Lynne Ronthi; Angela & Camden Roy; Jerry & Francine Rucker

December 15th – Brian Short & Renee Goss and Emily Tessa, Lucas and Brady Short; Jeff, Melinda, Abigail, and Emma Smith; Norine Smith; Scott & Sandra Smith

December 22nd – Ron Spaulding; Richard Stratton, Chet & Mary Louise Susalla; Bob, Christine and Connor Szostak

December 29th – Bruce Trimmer; John Vitovsky; Bob & Mary Warren; Mike, Kristen and Jorji Wells; Marlene Weston

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please fill out a Flower Request form for your Christmas dedication no later than December 15th in order to be printed in the Christmas Bulletin. The cost is \$30 and forms are available in the rack by the office. Please be specific in your dedication.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Camden Roy
Don Kurtz
John Pettipher
2nd Kathy Holsinger
4th Hayden Chambers
Mark Freeman
7th Gabrielle Freeman
Josephine Feijoo
8th Beth Jagos
Bob Szostak
13th Julia Hoover
15th Kelly Cronk
Patty Karsten
16th Bradley Pattan
18th Emily Pattan
21st Jessica Kane
23rd Lily Rising
Ian Rosa
26th Ella Rising
27th Rita Bretzke
Deborah Nancarrow
Austin Pascoe
30th Nicole Jagos

Dear St. Jude's Vestry and Parishioners,

The parishioners of St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham, are blessed by the acceptance of The Reverend Joshua Hoover's call to become our new Priest-in-Charge on January 1, 2015. We believe that his years of experience at St. Jude's will serve him well as he begins his ministry with us.

We know this transition will be a time of change and renewal for both parishes. We pray that God will guide St. Jude's as you begin the process of selecting a new Rector.

We look forward to giving Josh, Allie and their children a warm welcome and we joyfully anticipate their participation in our parish life.

Yours in Christ,

The Vestry and Parishioners of St. James' Episcopal Church, Birmingham

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during November: Matt and Kristen Shepherd, Ben Oliver and Lenae Chambers. 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

New Years Resolutions!

Why not think of taking on the resolution of hosting coffee hour one or two times during the year? Look at your calendar and think of a time that might be convenient for you and sign up. If every family that regularly attends St. Jude's were to sign up – we would not have any open spots, and that would be WONDERFUL!

And – while we are on the subject of resolutions – why not resolve to wear your name tag. If you do not have one, let the office know, and one will be provided for you!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st David & Lynn Freeman (19 years)
- 3rd Doug & Michelle Gangwer (15 years)
- 6th Mark & Beth Jagos (17 years)
- 19th Paul & Sarah Dolza (33 years)
- 28th Michael & Sharon Scott (13 years)
- 30th Dave & Debbie James (37 years)

CHRISTMAS EVE HELPERS

If you will be available for either the Early or Late Service and are willing to help, please let Barb (at phone 629.5681) know by the 15th as the bulletins will be printed that week.

***Exodus: Gods and Kings* Movie Outing Sunday, January 4th**

The Social Committee is planning a movie outing to see *Exodus: Gods and Kings* on the afternoon of Sunday, January 4th. We plan to meet at the Trillium Theater in Grand Blanc to view the movie, and get together afterwards for dinner at the Fenton House Restaurant. There are no show times listed this far in advance, so please sign-up if you would like to attend, and watch the bulletin board for updates regarding time.

News and Happenings

Notes from the Choir

December is a month of anticipation in the church calendar. The music of advent is rich in biblical themes. It explores the themes of John the Baptist (*There's a voice in the wilderness crying*), prophecy (*Long Ago, Prophets Knew*), our Lord's second coming (*Lo, He comes with clouds descending*), and our excitement (*People, look east*). We conclude Advent with The Song of Mary and the traditional chant, (*O come, O come, Emmanuel.*)

Our choir and ringers are busy preparing for the Sundays of Advent as well as the joyous music of Christmas. The music program at 10:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be Christmas lessons and carols. As in past years, we will have guest musicians joining us. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

Upon hearing the news of Josh, Allie and the Hoover children leaving St. Jude's as Josh moves to a new position at St. James, Birmingham, many have expressed the difficulty they are having in telling Josh, and Allie what their tenure here at St. Jude's has meant to them, how they have touched our lives. Please take a moment to write down a memory for them. There will be a jar to collect them in to send along with the Hoover's as they make their way to new beginnings.

Below is the letter from Josh to the congregation that was sent out the third week of November.

Dear Friends,

I write to you today to announce that I have accepted the position of Priest in Charge at St. James in Birmingham, MI. My time with them will begin on January 1st of 2015 and my last service at St. Jude's will be on Sunday, Dec. 28th.

The last nine years have been amazing for me and my family. People thought we were crazy when we told them we were moving to Fenton, MI (most had to find it on a map). But there is no doubt in my mind that the work the search committee and I did back then was filled with the Holy Spirit. There could not have been a more welcoming place, a more forgiving space for me to make my mistakes in, or a more comfortable fit. And look at the good work we have done together. We started and grew the Spring Break Feeding Program together, we tried different kinds of worship both old and new, we greatly deepened our relationship with First Presbyterian Church, and learned and grew and have had an awful lot of fun together.

Going to St. James was not an easy decision for me to make. There are many wonderful things about them, and there will be many new professional challenges for me. All of this is to be expected with a change. What made this difficult was knowing we would have to say goodbye. I can't begin to tell you the love that I have, that my whole family has, for this congregation. Nor can I begin to tell you how much your love for us has meant. I have been so well supported here that at times I have had to be careful when talking to colleagues so as not to make them too jealous. For all three of my children, St. Jude's is their only church. When we were trying to figure out dates, Julia begged for us to have one more Christmas here in our church. And don't forget that you, all of you, are still godparents to Timothy.

We will have some opportunities to say goodbye over the next month and a half, and I will do my best to make space for any who want to meet with me in private. But there are a few things I want you to hear now. The first is that I have been in conversation with both Bishop Ousley and Michael Spencer, our Canon to the Ordinary. They are already thinking about next steps for St. Jude's and will be there with their support every step of the way. Enclosed in this mailing is a letter from Josephine Feijoo, our Senior Warden, and Bill Anderson, our Junior Warden. They have already invited Michael to come meet with the vestry in December so more plans can be made. I have complete confidence that you are in good hands with our wardens, our vestry, and the diocesan staff.

The second thing you should hear is a little harder for me to say. Leaving really does mean leaving. As of the end of year I will be unavailable as a priest or pastor. I will not be able to return to St. Jude's or take part in weddings or funerals. This may seem harsh, but long history in many churches has shown that it is best for all of us and allows us to better create new, healthy relationships. Friendships, outside of church, can and I hope will, still continue, but the pastoral relationship will need to end.

Finally, please know that I believe in a great future for St. Jude's. This is an amazing congregation and I have no doubt that, when the time comes, you will have excellent people to choose from as your next priest. God is doing some great things through the people of this congregation, and that will continue regardless of my presence. You will remain in my prayers and I have no doubt that God's blessings will be with you and the work you do.

We are leaving this church, but our love remains. St. Jude's will always be held close in our hearts.

Love, Josh

Christmas Families in 2014

Our great St. Jude's caring and sharing family – coordinated through your Outreach Committee – is reaching out again this Christmas to provide gifts for five (5) families in our community (including our Holly Group Home) to help them celebrate Christmas. A list of hoped-for gifts is posted in VandenBergh Hall. It would be great if you could review the list and sign up for the gift(s) you would like to purchase for a family member(s). Please wrap the gift, and place on it a secure tag identifying the **Family Number (#)**, the **age** and **gender – girl or boy**. Place the gift(s) under our Christmas tree in VandenBergh Hall by our **deadline of Sunday, December 21**.

Some parents hope for gas and/or store gift cards, and several of you have provided families with these in prior years. Please provide all purchased SCRIP cards to the church office in a sealed envelope showing the Family Number (#), SCRIP cash value, and your name. There are two convenient December Sunday **Scrip order dates: December 7 and 14 -- with SCRIP pick-up dates the following Sundays on December 14 and 21**.

As an alternative to purchasing a gift or SCRIP, you can also **donate money**. If you prefer to donate money for a gift or SCRIP, please write a check to St. Jude's, and note on the check it is for "Christmas Families." This can be placed in an offering plate, placed in the church office, or handed to Carol or John Pettipher or any other Outreach Committee member.

Volunteers are also importantly needed to contact a family and mutually schedule a date and time to deliver the gifts to the Christmas Family (e.g., parent(s)) between Sunday, December 21 and Wednesday, December 24). There will be a space for you to sign up for this on the Christmas Families Lists in VandenBergh Hall.

Thank you for your generosity
in this always-present need to
help others in our community!

Seeking and Worshipping God, and Reaching Out to Others
including our 2014 Christmas Families – is another great opportunity for
you to celebrate your Christmas, and further live out our St. Jude's purpose.



Happy Holidays!



Getting To Know You...



My name is Austin Pascoe; I will be 9 years old this month, and I LOVE to play baseball! My favorite movie is "Despicable Me 2," and my favorite book is called Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Cabin Fever. The BEST vacation I've ever taken with my family was to KOA Campground. I am learning about Advent in Sunday school right now and I had a great time making shepherd's pies with the Gangwer family last Sunday!



Christmas Eve

Come join us on Tuesday, December 24th for St. Jude's Christmas Eve Service! We will be having a "come as you are" style pageant this year beginning at 5:00pm, where we will be singing and ringing bells. Any children that are interested in participating can meet us downstairs at 4:30 to get into their costumes.

Sunday School

*Sunday school classes will not be held on
December 22nd and 29th. During this time, the
children can enjoy a short winter break with their
families, and will resume their Sunday morning
fun on January 5th.*



St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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

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

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|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 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 |
