



# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
Fenton, Michigan

***Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others***

July, 2015 (our 157<sup>th</sup> year)

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ:

I give thanks for this community of generous, kind, and caring people. I am grateful for the strong bonds that you have with one another and have been filled with joy as many are seeking connections with people that they don't know as well. I am regularly amazed at your willingness to engage in community with one another, even when you disagree or have to face a challenging conversation. It is an amazing gift to stay in community with one another through times of change and discernment for the future. These are signs of a healthy community! Transition can be difficult, but also fun. This community is dedicated to moving forward with positive intent. I look forward to continuing all of our conversations and seeing what new adventures God is leading us into.

### ***Continuing to experience different modes of communion***

The worship committee wants to thank you for trying a different way of communion. They are inviting us to experiment a bit to find the way that all can be deeply connected to God in the sacrament and not distracted by soggy bread crumbs or concerned about germs.

While some are happy to be able to sip from the common cup, others found not intincting a spiritual challenge. For those who like the bread, having only wafers was an unwelcome change. The worship committee would like to hear from you about how intincting/not intincting and bread/wafer affects your devotion of communion. When you take communion, how do you feel God's presence? In taking communion a different way, what changes in that spiritual connection to God? Please share your answers with Amy Freeman at 810-287-1982 or [amyfreemanrosa@gmail.com](mailto:amyfreemanrosa@gmail.com), chair of the Worship Committee, or any of the members: Michele Peters, Jack Mills, Connie Hibbard, Lynne Ronthi, or Lynn and Kathy Hopper.

### ***A dream for the library***

What is your dream for the library? How does it function? How can it help the people of St. Jude's best share the Good News? Since I have been here, it's been a meeting room, a music room, a gathering room, a learning room, and a room of discernment. It's been an active, dynamic space that always seems crowded by many people and a lot of furniture. A group of people came forward with a vision that invited us to remove some items that seemed either redundant or not used and to rearrange the rest to make maximum use out of the room's full size. This process may create some anxiety since transition feels like a lot of "moving furniture" and when it happens physically, it resonates with the emotional unsettledness. And of course, at this point we're not just talking about the library...

I invite your thoughts on your dreams for St. Jude's. God is calling you to do some marvelous thing. How are you to be part of God's dream? What gifts do you have and what other tools do you need? How does the building reflect God's dream? What gets in the way of this place being hospitable and full of peace?

I am grateful for the people who are part of this conversation with the Vestry and me. For those working to be part of the cleaning efforts around the church and the maintaining of grounds. For those who are leading or part of committees and engaging in conversation. For each and every one of you as you worship in the building, or pray with us from a distance, or send your love and support.

For the opportunity to serve God with you in this place and at this time, I am grateful.

*The Rev. Heather Barta*

106 East Elizabeth St., Fenton, MI 48430-2322 810-629-5681 E-Mail: [stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com](mailto:stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com)

**The Reverend Heather Barta – Interim Priest-in-Charge, 989-413-3229 E-Mail: [revbarta@gmail.com](mailto:revbarta@gmail.com)**

Director of Christian Formation: Kris Forsyth

Minister of Music: Marlene Weston

Administrative Assistant: Barb Smith, 810-695-7868

Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. (M - Thurs.)

**Sunday Services: July and August: 9:00 a.m.**

# We Are Family

## **Please Hold In Your Prayers**

**For those in particular need of prayer:** For those in particular need of prayer: Doug; Julie Gates; Bill Lenny; Jeff Leubke; Lewis family; Eveline McCoy; Spencer Sands; Stan Spicer

**And those in continuing need of prayer:** John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Theresa Braun; Margot Brummett; Marie Church; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Jane Diehl; Gail Endahl; Caytie Gascoigne; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell, Renee Goss; Brian Henderson; Mary Lou Jenkins; Teresa Maynard; Leona; Rick M; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Sandy Train; Susan Taber; and Gavin Woods.

## **Pray for Our Ministers**

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** – Gail Delaney; Dee Dickens; Liza Dolza; Paul & Sarah Dolza

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** – Dot Dowlan; Dean, Julie, Tess and Dominic DuPei; Jerry & Kimberly Edwards; Larry & Pam Elder

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** – Lottie Englehart; Bonnie Ensign, Marilou Ensign; Rebecca Ensign

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** – Josephine Feijoo; Mary Felix; Marv & Judith Fisher; Bob, Josie & Lucy Foguth

## **Congratulations to our GRADUATE**

Jake Kusluski, son of Lisa and Dean Kusluski, graduated from Holly High School, class of 2015. Jake has served as an acolyte for a number of years and was an active member of the youth group.

Jake has enlisted in the Army, and will be leaving for basic training in July. Our very best wishes and prayers for his future follow him as he begins this new chapter in his life.

## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

5<sup>th</sup> Bob Warren  
7<sup>th</sup> Laurel White  
13<sup>th</sup> Jerry Graham  
Les Harding  
21<sup>st</sup> Kathy Kortge  
25<sup>th</sup> Shirley Gernack  
Troy Rising  
26<sup>th</sup> Connie Fry  
Eric Karsten  
28<sup>th</sup> Bill McDonald  
30<sup>th</sup> Kathy Hopper

## **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

1<sup>st</sup> Charles & Francine Johnston (37 years)  
7<sup>th</sup> Lester & Nancy Jones (42 years)  
12<sup>th</sup> Dave & Denise Rayner (41 years)  
20<sup>th</sup> Marv & Judith Fisher (41 years)  
28<sup>th</sup> Jack & Rita Bretzke (64 years)  
29<sup>th</sup> Scott & Sandra Smith (43 years)

### **Autumn Tapestry is back!!!**

Put Saturday, October 17, 2015 on your calendar as we gear up for the semi-annual Silent Auction! It is a big event - we cannot do it without your help! Please carefully consider where your talents could be best used, then sign-up in VandenBergh Hall!!

**making a basket**  
**visiting businesses for contributions**  
**setting up and/or cleaning up**  
**distributing the merchandise at the end of the auction**

Or just leave the space after your name blank – we'll be sure to find something for you to do! Beginning in August, we will ask you to begin bringing in the goodies!!!

Please contact Freya Hutchinson, chair, at (248) 328-0874 or Nancy Day, at (810) 964-6029 with any questions.

# We are Family (Con't)

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our sincere thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during June: The rained out "Picnic in the Park" (turns out picnic food tastes just as good in VandenBergh Hall), Paul and Sarah Dolza, and Love and Uche Anani.

We are so grateful 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*

## ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

EMs, READERS, ACOLYTES, USHERS, COFFEE HOUR HOSTS and MOWERS

In an effort to streamline the scheduling process, eliminate e-mails getting lost in cyberspace and creating a less labor intensive job, there are now sign-up sheets on the St. Jude's website where you can fill in your availability and help set up the monthly schedule.

Simply go to <http://www.stjudesfenton.com> and click on the "sign up station." Look for the date(s) you are available, click on it and fill in your information. It will automatically be saved and then the office can type up a schedule based on that information.

For those who are computer shy or do not have a computer, simply sign up in VandenBergh Hall or call the office (810.629.5681) and your information will be placed on line for you.

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.

## Good-bye

Best wishes to Love and Uche Anani, who are moving to Nashville, Tennessee to continue their medical studies and careers. Love hosted coffee hour the last Sunday in June (while Uche worked) as their good-bye to St. Jude's. We are so happy you chose St. Jude's to be your church home while

## Notes from the Choir

The choir is on recess for the summer, but remember: WE HAVE A GREAT NEED FOR MORE SINGERS AND RINGERS. Please consider either joining us or recommending someone we may not be aware of.

Both the bell and vocal choirs will resume in September

## Directory changes:

Herb & Sharon Aldrich  
831 Beach Buggy Lane  
Linden, 48451

## Ladies' Book Club

For a number of years now, there has been an active Ladies' Book Club. There is a new schedule posted in VandenBergh Hall for the upcoming year, beginning August 25<sup>th</sup>. The hostess role rotates; guests bring a dish to pass. The meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month (unless otherwise noted). If you would like to take part in book club, please feel welcome to contact the hostess for that month. Great conversation and fellowship are promised...and really great food!

## Pledge Statements

A reminder: the semi-annual statements will be available in the Library beginning July 12 for you to pick up.

## Summer Services / Office Hours

Beginning July 5<sup>th</sup> thru August 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be one Sunday service at **9:00 am**. July will feature Rite I and August will be Rite II.

**Office hours** will be from 8 am to noon Monday thru Thursday. Office vacation hours will be posted in the bulletin.

## Thank-You

We would like to make sure that thanks are given to Matt Shepherd and Kelly and Lisa Cronk for mowing the grass this past month.

With all of the rain that we saw in June, the grass has grown particularly quickly...help is always needed. Please consider spending an afternoon giving St. Jude's some "curb appeal". For those we may have missed, please make sure the office has your name so YOU TOO may be properly

# News and Happenings

## Vestry Notes – June 2015

Vestry met on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and took the following action:

- approved the May financial reports
- discussed and supported the idea of adding a third evening service in the fall, focused primarily on youth and family ministry
- reviewed the plumbing quotes for the kitchen sink drain repair. More clarification was requested
- discussed the need to remove some dying trees from St. Jude's property. We are waiting on several new bids
- elected to have no vestry meeting for the month of July.

## Family Promise of Genesee County

St. Jude's partners with St. Paul's in Flint and St. Dunstan's in Davison to host Family Promise four times each year. This is a powerful program that assists homeless families transition into housing. Great thanks to those who have volunteered time to be with the families, prepare food for the families, and stay as overnight hosts.

Some statistics:

1,400 nights of safe sleep for families and counting in 2015 alone!!

26 host/support churches, connected with U of M-Flint, Mott Community College, Baker and MSU as well as many community organizations!

Our success is growing!! We're in our 2<sup>nd</sup> year and already this year, we've doubled our number of graduate families over 2014.

And a quote:

"As I am packing up for the last time, I broke down in tears. I have a home!!!! It has been a journey and, with the help of Family Promise, it has been a less stressful one. Family Promise gave me peace amidst my storm." 2015 graduate

And from Craig Levitt, the coordinator at St. Paul's: "Family Promise week of 6/14 – 21, you are all a blessing! Thank you all so very much!!! We supported 17 different guests and 5 different

families. As a ministry we had 33 different servants for a total 278 volunteer hours. And all without any major issues. You guys just make things work. You make a coordinator job easy!!! I Thank You and love you all! I will see you in September..... Be safe and God's peace be all over you, good Brothers and Sisters!!!"

If you would like more information about how you can support Family Promise as a host, a meal preparer, or with other needs, contact Dave Rayner at [drayner2748@comcast.net](mailto:drayner2748@comcast.net) or 248-417-7457.

## Habitat for Humanity ReStore

Family Promise has developed a special relationship with the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. You can now donate items to the ReStore and designate them for Family Promise. The item will be tagged with as a special item and put onto the ReStore sales floor. Family Promise will receive 40% of the purchase price in the form of vouchers. Our graduate families will then be able to use those vouchers upon graduation to choose from any ReStore items on the floor. Essentially they will be ReStore cash.

Even better news is that THEY WILL PICK UP DONATIONS NOW! When there is a need, a donor can contact ReStore directly to arrange pick up. That means they will do all of the heavy lifting. The very crucial part of arranging a pick up is that the donor clearly states it's intended for Family Promise of Genesee County. The number is (810) 766-9089. They do pick-ups Tuesday - Saturday between 9:00am - 5:00pm.

While most of the items donated will go directly up for sale with the ReStore, we have arranged that any donated bed or bed-related item (i.e., headboard, frame) will be stored in the area we are using until a graduate needs is. Beds are hard to come by so we wanted to make sure to hang on to those. Items related to infants/toddlers and appliances will also be stored (though appliances left more than 60 days will be eligible for sale via ReStore). **Note:** A list of acceptable/unacceptable donations is available at the ReStore or you can contact our Family Promise coordinator, Dave Rayner.

# News and Happenings

## The St. Jude's Library

Some enhancements are coming to the library!

THANK YOU to Judith Fisher and her amazing work with the library! In 2009 she spent hours going through and sorting and identifying books. At that time, they were all organized and labeled because of her interest and hard work.

Recently, Judith, Beverly Mills, and Heather Barta revisited the library and came up with a vision: **That it be attractive and useful to members of the congregation. That people actually check out books and read them.**

This group went through all of the books in the library and sorted them into two groups: books to keep and books to re-home. The hope is that there will now be a space to highlight especially wonderful books and to set up "recommended reads" so that people might find something that will be useful to their spirituality and spiritual reflection.

At the June meeting, the Vestry supported the work and recommendation of this group. Throughout the summer, there will be opportunity for every parishioner to look at the group of books that is labeled "re-home" and select the books that s/he might like at their home library.

Once members have had a chance to choose, the rest will be offered to seminary students and other ministries that help get theological books into the hands of people requesting them. Many of the books in the "re-homing" stack are older theological and historical commentary texts that seminary students will find useful.

Once there is more space, this group and other volunteers will be able to catalog new books that have been donated and perhaps even seek out recommendations that you may have to build our library. If you have questions about this process, feel free to speak with Judith, Beverly, or Heather.

## Flint Islamic Center Field Trip

Thursday's Bible Study (and some friends) took a trip over to the Flint Islamic Center at the end of May. We all agreed that it was an outstanding experience. We appreciated the hospitality of

Abed, Scott, and K.C. We had the opportunity to hear about Islam and how Islam, Judaism, and Christianity intersect. We look forward to continued conversation with them. If you are interested in being part of that conversation, contact Rev. Heather.

## Search Committee News

The church profile has been completed and is available online. The cost of printing has skyrocketed since we produced our last profile. It would cost of over \$1000 to print color copies for everyone. To keep costs in line we will print five color copies (one to be kept for the church history) which will be available for review in the library. If you would like a *text only* copy there is a sign up sheet next to the color copies.

Michael Spencer attended a meeting of regional deployment officers and brought names of two possible candidates to the Diocese. There should be more names as other deployment officers have a chance to review our profile. This process does take some time so it may be several weeks before we receive any names. This may seem like a long time but it helps us find the best match for St. Jude's.

## From Kris Forsythe, Youth Director:

Summer time is the perfect time to get ready to begin anew in the fall. It's a time to attend a conference, do some reading, set up program spaces and make plans. Right now we are having a conversation about program plans for children and youth including exploring intergenerational programs and considering various options for children and youth ministry programs. We do know, for sure, that our ministry with children will include Godly Play - a very popular and well respected Christian Formation program. We do know that we will develop a Pilgrimage for high school age young people for summer '16. Please watch for further information about plans for '15-'16 in the coming several weeks and join us as we begin anew on the Sunday after Labor Day Weekend in September.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
 106 E. Elizabeth St.  
 Fenton, MI 48430-2322

**VESTRY 2015**

Senior Warden .....	Bill Anderson .....	810.444.2378
Junior Warden .....	Ben Oliver .....	810-240-8437
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 .....	810.444.2378

**2017**

Bob Hutchins .....	810.458.4102	Ben Oliver .....	810-240-8437
Michele Peters .....	810.441.5324	Fran Rucker .....	810.750.9578

**2018**

Francine Johnston .....	810.629.5981	Megan Rosa .....	810.629.4096
Matt Shepherd .....	248.444.1735	Ron Trimmer .....	810.923.493

**DELEGATES to the DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Paul & Sarah Dolza .....	248.634.0225	Josephine Feijoo .....	248.529.3264
Terri Hutchins .....	810.629.5780		
<i>Alternates:</i>			
Dustin Rayner .....	810.459.6928	Angela White .....	810.735.4763