



# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Fenton, MI

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

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

## Advent

### Four Sundays of Advent!

Advent is our season of preparation. We take four Sundays to reflect on "Christ has come and Christ will come again." While many are running around, this is a chance to reflect and focus and prepare ourselves for the ways that God comes into the world.

Also, look for Advent coin folders and hear about our recipient: Episcopal Relief and Development.

## Christmas 2015

### December 24<sup>th</sup> - 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**

An amazing story with a variety of ways to participate. Come as you are to hear the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus. Many familiar carols.

#### **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 25<sup>th</sup> - 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 27<sup>th</sup> - First Sunday after Christmas

**8 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5 p.m.**

### December 28<sup>th</sup> - 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.

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106 E. Elizabeth St., Fenton, MI 48430-2322 (810.629.5681) E-Mail: [stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com](mailto:stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com)

The Reverend Heather Barta (Priest-in-Charge) (989.413.3229) E-Mail: [revbarta@gmail.com](mailto:revbarta@gmail.com)

Liz Sauvie, Administrative Assistant Office Hours: M/W: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., T: 9 a.m.-12, Th: 8 a.m.-12

Min. of Music: Marlene J. Weston (810.658.2683) Dir. of Christian Formation: Kris Forsyth (810.208.0886)

Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist: 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.; Messy Church: 5:00 p.m. Coffee Hour follows 10:30 service

# We Are Family

## Please Hold In Your Prayers

**For those in particular need of prayer:** Margaret Ancic; Christian Beck; Bill Cowger; Doug; Patricia DuCharme; Julie Gates; Stan Haddock; Jenny Hart; Bill Lenny; Jeff Leubke; Lewis family; Lisa; Sidney Nihill; Ed Ransley; Paul Riley; Spencer Sands; Norine Smith; Stan Spicer, the Stone family, Jennifer Ubil

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

## Pray for Our Ministers

**December 6** – Michael & Sue Reilly, Troy, Kirsty, Ella & Lily Rising, Lynn & Mark Ronthi, and Ian and Jen Rosa

**December 13** – Megan Rosa, Jerry & Francine Rucker, Marilyn Saffa and Janice Schlitters

**December 20** – Adrienne, Reid & Teddy Shepard, Matt, Kristen, Jackson & Kara Shepherd, Renee, Brian, Emily, Tessa, Lucas & Brady Short, Norine Smith

**December 27** – Scott & Sandra Smith, Ron Spaulding, Richard Stratton, Chet & Mary Louise Susalla

## St. Jude's Card Ministry

There have been many positive comments about those Birthday and Anniversary Cards from St. Jude's. Many thanks to Lynne Ronthi for sending them out each month. She is also sending Get Well, Sympathy, Just Thinking of You cards and others as well. If you know of someone who is ill, had a death or birth in the family, or simply just needs to be remembered by the St. Jude's family, please contact Lynne at (810) 750-3409 or the office at (810) 629-5681 and let them know so a card is available on Sundays for signatures.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

## Caroling

All ages are welcome on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> for caroling at local group homes.

We will be meeting at Heather and Henry's house at 6:00 p.m. Then we will be caroling, visiting with Santa, and returning for a potluck dinner, singing, and fun!

Please bring a dish to pass.

10951 Terrace Rd, Holly.

Heather's cell: [989-413-3229](tel:989-413-3229).

## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Please fill out a Flower Request form for your Christmas dedication ASAP 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

## St Jude's Men's Morning Coffee Hour

Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at Bob Evans on Owen Road in Fenton. Please give us a head count by signing up on the bulletin board in VandenBergh Hall by Sunday, November 29, 2015.

## We are Family (Con't)

### **COFFEE HOUR Hosts:**

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during November: The Goss, Short, Miller, Hutchins & Gernack families, Sue Premo and Nancy Day

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 Year's 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. Contact Connie Hibbard if you have any questions about hosting – she will be happy to talk you through it and show you the ropes!

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

1 <sup>st</sup>	David & Lynn Freeman (20 years)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doug & Michelle Gangwer (16 years)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Mark & Beth Jagos (18 years)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Paul & Sarah Dolza (34 years)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Michael & Sharon Scott (14 years)
30 <sup>th</sup>	Dave & Debbie James (38 years)

### **College Care Packages a BIG Hit!**

Thank you notes or comments have come in from some of the recipients of the college care packages. We've heard from Abby (Theresa and Rob Hutchin's granddaughter), Hunter Holsinger, Connor Szostak, plus Julie Muir and Elizabeth Wozniak (Camp Counselors from Camp Chickagami). They were all surprised and delighted to receive their care package. Hunter and Connor said that their favorite item was the socks. Some recipients mentioned the decorated cookies and personal hygiene items. Thanks to all St. Jude's parishioners who donated and thanks to our youth who assembled and packed the care packages.

## *News and Happenings*

### **Notes from the Choir**

December is a month of anticipation in the church calendar. The music of advent explores the themes of John the Baptist (*There's a voice in the wilderness crying*), prophecy (*Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion*), our Lord's second coming (*Lo, He comes with clouds descending*), and our excitement (*People, look east*). This year also features musical settings of canticles: Dec. 6-The Song of Zechariah (*Blest be the God of Israel*) Dec. 13- The First Song of Isaiah (*Surely it is God who saves me*), and Dec. 20-The Song of Mary (*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord*). We conclude these liturgical and musical riches with a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at 10:30 p.m.

Our choir and ringers are busy preparing for the Sundays of Advent as well as the joyous music of Christmas. As in past years, we will have guest musicians joining us. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston  
Choir Director

### **Greening of the Church Cookie Coffee Hour**

The greening of the church will take place after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. While you are helping to make St. Jude's ready for Christmas, please enjoy some tasty cookies and share in some cheer with your St. Jude's family

,"  
The  
Social Committee  
is organizing the annual  
**"Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour"**  
for Sunday, December 20th,  
and would appreciate your help.

Please bring a plate of cookies,  
candy, fruit or a gluten free treat, and  
drop it off in the kitchen before the  
10:30 a.m. service.

Please plan to stay for this special coffee hour and  
enjoy the variety of holiday goodies,  
as well as  
coffee, tea,  
and punch.

# News and Happenings

## Vestry Notes – November 2015

The Vestry met on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> and

- Reviewed the accomplishments of the last year;
- Brainstormed new areas of attention for the upcoming year;
- Approved a document detailing the operating policies and procedures for the St. Jude's nursery.

## Bible Study: Song of Songs

December 10 at Noon. Come along to read and talk about this great love poem.

## Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will be taking a break through the holidays. There will be no more meetings until 2016.

## Christmas Communion

If you know of someone who is unable to come to church and would like to receive communion, please let the office know.

## A Thrill of Hope

Join us for Advent Reflection

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., VandenBergh Hall - for Nov. 30, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

This study presents the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each scripture passage is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by some of America's premier Biblical scholars. The DVD is divided into six 7-minute chapters, each one featuring a passage of Scripture, commentary by the scholars, and a Swanson work of art based on that passage. Included are A Visit (Luke 1:26-38), The Nativity (Luke 2:1-7), The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20), Epiphany (Matthew 2:1-12), Presentation in the Temple (Luke 2:21-40), and Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15). Along with the DVD, the discussion guide has suggested questions and beautiful full-color artwork. Discussion guides are available for those who attend.

## Episcopal Relief and Development

The Youth and the Outreach Committee join together this Advent to lead a collection for Episcopal Relief and Development as it celebrates 75 years.

### *Investing in a Better Future*

For three-quarters of a century, Episcopal Relief & Development (formerly the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief) has been heeding the call of Matthew 25: to feed the hungry, provide clean water for the thirsty, welcome the stranger and care for the sick. Today, Episcopal Relief & Development works with more than 3 million people in nearly 40 countries each year, transforming lives and strengthening communities.

Together, we have achieved amazing things. Working with Anglican and ecumenical partners on the ground, Episcopal Relief & Development empowers people to lift themselves up out of poverty, recover from disasters and build better futures for their families.

We invite you to celebrate these triumphs and invest with us in a thriving future. This interactive timeline provides a portal into our shared history. Please explore and share this beautiful history of partnerships and communities working together to heal a hurting world.

## SCRIP

In December, the 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> will be order dates with pick up the following Sundays (December 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) to ensure pick-up by Christmas.

## OFFICE NOTES

From time to time, there are opportunities for volunteers assist the office. Dates, time and the particular need will appear in the weekly email, as well as the announcements. If you would like and are able to help, please email the office at [stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com](mailto:stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com) or call Liz at 810.629.5681.

## CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Our Family Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. If you would like to help with children for this service, please contact Kris Forsyth at (248) 568-6082.

# News and Happenings

## Diocesan Convention: One Person's Reflection

Convention was interesting, fun and informative. There were many booths set up with handouts and materials to buy appealing to Episcopalians. I liked the booth that was selling used books where I was able to repurchase at great discount one of my favorite Christian books *What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian*. We studied this book during adult education and I found it very worthwhile.

Let me just say the food at Convention was great - especially when shared with good company. Regarding the work, I particularly wanted to attend the workshop on Messy Church which was taught by Missy Harrison and Kris Forsyth. This was a very inspiring experience and helped me to understand what the Messy Church service is really about. It seems like a wonderful way in include children, youth and anyone that may not be inclined toward the more formal liturgy.

The Convention ended with a beautiful Jazz service at St. Paul's in Flint; the service was hosted by the new Rector and his enthusiasm for his gospel choir was wonderful to watch. The Gospel Choir from St. Paul's and the Jazz Band from Canterbury, University of Michigan were uplifting to the point I decided I could forgo my usual Sunday service. See you next year.

Josephine Feijoo

## FAMILY PROMISE

Our 4th week as a support church for the Family Promise program is fast approaching. We will need volunteers for the week of December 27th. Our role is to provide meals three nights per week (Sunday, Tuesday, and Saturday), overnight chaperones two nights per week (Sunday and Tuesday), and onsite support Saturday afternoon, when the children are not in school. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is the host church and we share the weekly responsibilities with its members, as well as, members from St. Dunstan's of Davison.

Family Promise provides accommodations, meals and assistance finding new work and living arrangements for Genesee County families who have temporarily lost their homes. The primary goal is to keep families together, something that no other shelter can do. Shelter and meals are provided at a different church each week, with each church taking four turns per year. In addition, each day while the children are in school, parents who are not at work stay at the "Day Center." At the Day Center, social services are provided to assist in finding work and permanent housing. The program can accommodate 15

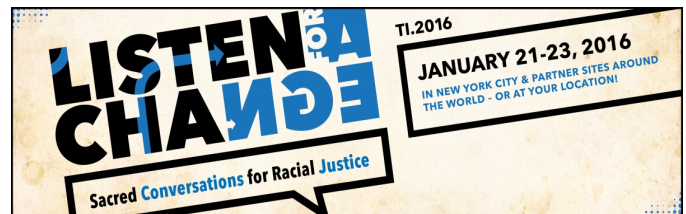
family members at a time, but the number changes often as families find homes.

Many of the families that have been through the program have now "graduated" and are in homes of their own, but still struggling to make ends meet. So this year, we are adopting two of the families as St. Jude's Christmas Families. Their wish lists will be posted on the Outreach bulletin board very soon and I suspect that those of you that have been Family Promise volunteers will recognize some names. It's great that we can continue to have a relationship with these families and help them on their journeys.

Please sign-up to volunteer either online or on the Outreach bulletin board. For more information about the volunteer jobs, go to the sign-up station on the St. Jude's website. Also consider asking a St. Jude's member, who hasn't had a chance to help out yet, to assist you. "Many hands make light work."

Or if you are new to the program, please note that you would like to be paired with an experienced volunteer. There will be a volunteer meeting before the work week to review guidelines and answer any questions. Those who volunteer to prepare a meal will be given the count for how many family members they will be cooking for, but the numbers can change day to day. You may want to shop a day or two before your assigned date.

Thank you St. Jude's for your continued support of this very important ministry.



## Join us for TRINITY INSTITUTE 2016

This January, Trinity Institute invites you to join an important conversation on racial justice. Speakers, including Nicholas Kristof and the Most Rev. Michael Curry, will bring clarity and insight into issues of structural racism, mass incarceration, and policy change. St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lansing will be streaming the conference at the following times:

Thursday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Friday & Saturday, January 22-23 at 9 a.m.

If you are interested in attending, you can find out more at <https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/>.

More information about registration and attending at St. Paul's will be available soon.

## **Christmas Families in 2015**

Our great St. Jude's caring and sharing family – coordinated through your Outreach Committee – is reaching out again this Christmas to provide gifts for four or five families from Family Promise, and our Holly Group Home to help them celebrate their Christmas. A list of hoped-for gifts will be posted in early December 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 20**.

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 (or lock box outside the 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 6 and 13 -- with Scrip Pickup dates the following Sundays on December 13 and 20**.

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 lock box), 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 20 and Thursday, 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 2015 Christmas Families – is another great opportunity  
for you to celebrate your Christmas, and further live out an important  
St. Jude's purpose.



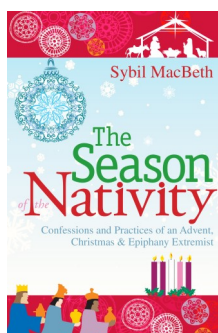


## FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2015

### Recommended Resource for Families



*My new favorite resource for observing Advent, Christmas and Epiphany is **The Season of the Nativity: Confessions and Practices of an Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Extremist** authored by Sybil MacBeth. Here's an excerpt from the introduction:*

Here is a skeleton snapshot of the Nativity season. Throughout this book more flesh, muscle and sinews will be added to these bare-bones definitions Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

Advent recounts and remembers the events prior to Jesus' birth. For more than a thousand years, the ancient peoples who became the Israelites longed for a savior. They wanted freedom from slavery and captivity.

Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Isaac, Rachel and a host of other spiritual relatives trusted the One God to listen to their cries and send a Messiah who would rescue them. Advent recalls their longings, their dreams and their waiting for the One who would free them. The scripture readings, the themes and the songs of this season are full of the promises, prophecies and predictions of the Savior and Liberator whom God would send.

Continued on page 2

### Advent-To-Go Bags



St. Jude's families with children and youth are invited to pick up an Advent-to-Go bag on the first Sunday of Advent—either after the 10:30am service or at the 5pm service during Messy Church.

Inside the bag, families will find Advent votives, a booklet for family Advent wreath lighting, an Episcopal Relief and Development Advent Calendar, a Praying-in-Color Advent meditative and much more.

Can't make it to church on the first Sunday in Advent? Arrange to pick an Advent-to-Go bag up during the first week of Advent. Email Kris Forsyth at [kris\\_stjudesfenton.org](mailto:kris_stjudesfenton.org) or call the church office.

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## Recommended Resource continued...

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Christmas is the fulfillment of Advent waiting. This is the time for rejoicing and Alleluias. God has given the world an unexpected Savior, born in a small town in a small stable or cave to people with no worldly status. Peace will come.

Epiphany heralds the ramifications of Jesus' birth. The arrival of the Magi from foreign lands foretells the day when faraway people will learn about this surprising Savior. Jesus cannot be contained in his own land with just his own people. His saving work will go viral and spread to the ends of the earth.

*This book is chock full of rituals, practices and activities*

*for observing a more holy nativity season. From purple lights in Advent, to paper chains, to progressive chreche scenes, to practicing hopefulness, to praying an Advent word, to a movement prayer to the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth, there are possibilities for everyone. Other suggestions include spreading your gift giving throughout the twelve days of Christmas and hanging stars around the house at Epiphany time and exploring the story of Simeon and Anna and the presentation of Jesus at the temple.*

*This is a book that will help families develop new, more sacred traditions.*

*Check it out at Barnes and Noble, Amazon, Paraclete Press, Books-a-Million and more.*



**Youth Group is selling gift jars throughout Advent. Proceeds go to their Pilgrimage fund.**

### Advent I Messy Church

Sunday, November 29th, 5pm

*Come join us in making a combo Advent Wreath/Calendar, Chrismons and more.*

### Advent II Messy Church

Sunday, December 6th, 5pm

*We'll celebrate St. Nicholas on this, his feast day. Join us in setting our shoes out in case St. Nick comes by, making origami mitres, apple walnut St. Nicholas and more.*

### Advent III Messy Church

Sunday, December 13th, 5pm

*Youth group to meet separately this week as we continue to explore Advent.*

# COMING EVENTS

### Advent IV Messy Church

Sunday, December 20th, 5pm

*We will be prepping for the Christmas Eve family service this week. Come join us in preparing for a simple pageant.*

### Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th, 5pm

*Join us for a family friendly Godly Play Christmas Liturgy*

### Christmas Messy Church

Sunday, December 27th, 5pm

*Christmas Carols, Christmas crafts and more.*

### Youth Group Prepping Dinner for Family Promise

Tuesday, December 29th, (tentative)



**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**  
106 E. Elizabeth St.  
Fenton, MI 48430-2322  
Church Office: 810-629-5681  
[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com)

## *St. Jude's Episcopal Church*

### **VESTRY 2015**

Bill Anderson, Senior Warden . . . . 810.444.2378  
Ben Oliver, Junior Warden . . . . . 810.240.8437  
Dave James, Clerk . . . . . 810.735.4547  
Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer . . . . 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 . . . . . 810.923.3493

### **DELEGATES to the DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Paul & Sarah Dolza . . . . . 248.634.0225  
Josephine Feijoo . . . . . 248.529.3264  
Terri Hutchins . . . . . 810.629.5780

### **Alternates:**

Dustin Rayner . . . . . 810.459.6928  
Angela White . . . . . 810.735.4763

