



# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
Fenton, Michigan

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others*

November, 2016 (our 158<sup>th</sup> year)

Advent: A Time of Waiting. How are you at waiting? One of my most favorite pastimes is people-watching. Years ago, when I was travelling home from a conference, I was making a connection at a large and very busy airport. As it happened, the President of the United States was travelling through the same airport. I learned that day that all air traffic stops for Air Force One. That disrupts all kinds of travel plans.

It was early in my time in the United States, and I must confess, the opportunity to see Air Force One in person was exciting and I looked at this disruption as just one of those unplanned things. It wasn't going to pay to get upset about something I could not control. I saw that as wasted energy. That sentiment was not shared by most of the travelers lined up trying to reschedule connections that were now going to be missed. As I stood in line I listened to irate travelers screaming at the poor airline attendants who were trying desperately to ensure that everyone was rescheduled with as little disruption as possible. When I got to the front of the line the attendant apologized for my needing to reschedule my flights. Now, I'm Canadian and as a rule we apologize for everything – including things that aren't ours to apologize for. That day I explained to the attendant that she didn't need to apologize. She didn't choose when Air Force One was going to need to disrupt everything. And I apologized to her for all the angry travelers that had been yelling at her for the past hour or so. I thanked her for everything that she was doing to make everyone's travel plans as easy as possible. Then I found a place to sit and wait. As I sat I gave thanks for this unexpected gift of space and time as I sipped my tea, read my book and people-watched.

We live in a society that expects instant results. Pull up to a speaker and order dinner, drive a short distance and receive a complete meal. Drive up to a machine, insert a card, push some buttons and receive cash. Society, it seems to me, is not practiced at waiting.

Advent: A Time of Waiting. How do you wait? Throughout the Gospels we encounter story after story of people who had to practice waiting. They believed that Jesus would return any day now. Any day turned into any week, into any month and then slipped into any year and dragged into any decade. Here we are waiting and it's been centuries. That kind of waiting can, as the Gospels imply and experience teaches, lead us to a place of slipping back into old routines. Gospel writers often called the people back to their heart reminding them of what they were waiting for and how to wait.

Advent: A Time of Waiting. A time to practice waiting. A time to be called back to how we wait with God. What tools will you be using this Advent to practice what it means to wait? What helps remind you of how we wait with God? Let's share together our hints and support one another in this time of waiting. I look forward to sharing a holy time of waiting this Advent season!

Blessings,  
Tracie

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

**The Reverend Tracie Little: 810-300-9177**

**E-Mail: [traciellittle@gmail.com](mailto:traciellittle@gmail.com)**

Liz Savvie, Administrative Assistant Office Hours: M/W: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; T/Th: 9:00 a.m.-noon

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:** Craig Adams; Jack Bretzke; D'Jair Cominotti; the Dolza family; Stan Haddock; the Holsinger family; Collin & Yasuko James; Eveline Karnowski; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Theresa Maynard; Sidney Nihill; Richard; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Stan Spicer; Louis Sternello; Jennifer Ubil; Ron Winters

**And those in continuing need of prayer:** John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Margot Brummett; Marie Church; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Endahl; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph & Rose Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Brian Henderson; Mary Lou Jenkins; Sydne Kalet; Edward Ketterer; Ruth Krebs; Ev Koller; Angela Koresh; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Leona; Bob Minock; Paul Otto; Richard Perkins; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Susan Taber; Sandy Train; Elijah Unkefer

## Pray for Our Ministers

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** – Dan, Angela, Laurel & Gabby White; Jessie Withorn; Mike Wood; Fred & Lynell Wright

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** – Craig & Gay Adams; Herb & Sharon Aldrich; Bob & Kim Alexander

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** – Bill, Molly & Lydia Anderson; David & Marjie Andrejciw; Martha Applebee

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** – Sarah Bancroft; Joe Binder; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Kathryn & Barry Brow

## *Our Sincere Condolences...*

...to Sarah, Paul and the entire Trimmer-Dolza family on the death of Sarah's dear sister, Cynthia Trimmer Stout.

May Cindy's soul, and the souls of those we love but see no longer, rest in eternal peace.

## 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 Gazzini  
Jennifer Koch  
Arthur Pennington  
11<sup>th</sup> Greg Forsyth  
12<sup>th</sup> Harry Chciuk  
18<sup>th</sup> Ann Minock  
19<sup>th</sup> Mary Ellen Hazell  
Julie Edgar  
20<sup>th</sup> Barb Goss  
21<sup>st</sup> Jon Burroughs  
22<sup>nd</sup> Ellen Tripp  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sarah Dolza  
Tristin Hassell  
24<sup>th</sup> Jake Kusluski  
25<sup>th</sup> Michael Wolos  
26<sup>th</sup> Krystn Freeman  
27<sup>th</sup> Rodney Bentz  
Sarah Bancroft  
28<sup>th</sup> Kirsty Rising  
Angela White

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

6<sup>th</sup> Bob & Christine Szostak (23 years)  
8<sup>th</sup> Bob & Mary Warren (58 years)  
9<sup>th</sup> Clay & Diane Putnam (37 years)  
12<sup>th</sup> Ian & Jennifer Rosa (5 years)  
14<sup>th</sup> Jerry & Joan Graham (63 years)  
Chet & Mary Louise Susalla (35 years)  
24<sup>th</sup> Robert & Ann Minock (49 years)

## St. Jude's Card Ministry--Thank You!!

Lynne Ronthi has been doing a fantastic job of getting cards out to everyone who has a birthday, anniversary, or those who need a word of encouragement or prayer! She would like to thank those that have supported this ministry. People have given cards, stamps, and money to help fund this ministry and she is very grateful!

# We are Family (Con't)

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Sincere thanks to those who provided coffee hour for the month of October: Lynne Ronthi & Amy Freeman; Bill & Marcia Freeman (celebrating a very special anniversary with family and friends; the Social Committee who organized a great Wear Your Colors Tailgate and Dee Grossmann.

Again, our thanks to CRUST for their dedicated and 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*

## October Thanks

### Fall Clean Up

Thank you to everyone who came and helped prepare our grounds for winter! With apologies, the names of those are not available at this time, but every little bit done adds to the beauty and preservation of our inside, and outside...and makes St. Jude's and even nicer place to be!

### SCRIP

Clay and Diane are busy behind the scenes at St. Jude's for which we owe them thanks. They would like to remind you to be thinking of your Christmas SCRIP purchases so you may fit them into your budget early on.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

**Euchre at 7:00 p.m.  
on November 11  
in VandenBergh Hall**

Bring a snack to share and your own beverages!

Haven't played ever? Need brushing up on your euchre skills?? No worries -- we will be glad to help anyone who would like to learn how to play...

## Notes from the Choir

November is an exciting month liturgically and musically. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints on November 6. This Sunday features 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 the other Sundays of November allude to the second coming of Christ in glory as we approach Advent. The final Sunday of the liturgical year, November 24, 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 23, is the Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John's at 7 p.m. Special music is provided by musicians assembled from various 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 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

### Weekly Announcements

We have received several complaints about the length of the spoken announcements so we're going to try printing as many announcements as possible. Please make sure that the church office receives all announcements *by Wednesday* each week so they can be included in the bulletins. This will ensure that all congregations receive all of the announcements. It is also our hope that this will keep the spoken announcements down to a minimum. If you do need to make a verbal announcement, please be sure to keep your message short and to the point: aim for ONE minute or less. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone informed!

# News and Happenings

## Vestry – October, 2016

During the October meeting, the Vestry gave a HUGE THANK YOU to the Property Committee, in particular Kathy Kortge and Francine Johnston and all those who have assisted along the way, as many projects have been completed and several still are in the works. They are even looking into applying for a grant to assist with funds to cover some of the upcoming electrical costs.

The vestry approved several grant recommendations made by the Endowment Committee for 2016.

Discussions took place regarding a possible new invoicing procedure to ensure a smoother more efficient way of communication among staff, committee members and service providers.

Approval has been given for Tracie to seek further information regarding an upcoming picture directory.

Lastly, we know you are standing by as we begin our quest for a new class of incoming vestry members for the 2017 year. If you are interested in serving, please feel free to let us know; we look forward to serving with you.

## Financial Reports for August & September:

	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPT.</b>
Week 1	3,576.00	4,498.00
Week 2	1,827.00	3,883.00
Week 3	2,378.00	2,447.00
Week 4	2,751.00	1,999.00
Week 5	<u>NA</u>	<u>NA</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,532.00</b>	<b>\$12,827.00</b>

## YTD Pledges Received: \$117,653.29

Pledged: \$153,786.00

76.5% of pledged money has been received!

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

The annual Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, sponsored by Fenton Area Clergy, will be held at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 600 N. Adelaide St., Fenton at 7 p.m. on Wednesday (Thanksgiving Eve), Nov. 23. The speaker will be Father Gabriel from St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church in Fenton.

A combined choir from churches in the community and bell choirs will perform.

Following the service, a reception will be held in St. John Activity Center, sponsored by St. John Parish Life Commission.

## ADVENT

This past week I met with the Worship Ministry Team and we began thinking about Advent and Christmas. It's hard to believe that Advent is just around the corner. The first Sunday of Advent is November 27!

One of the things that we talked about was the placement of the Advent wreath. In the past it has sat out where the Stewardship tree now is. This puts it right in the midst of high traffic during the time of Communion and many of the folks who need to walk past it wear flowing robes. Because of the fire hazard this can cause, we are going to experiment this year with placing the Advent wreath just behind the Altar rail. This led us to a discussion about Communion and the accessibility challenge receiving up at the Altar rail causes for some of our parishioners.

Along with experimenting with the placement of the Advent wreath, we will also be trying something different for Communion. For the seasons of Advent and Christmas (from November 27 through January 8), we will have a standing station at the base of the stairs leading up to the Altar area. After this trial time is over, we will be looking for feedback. How was this experience for you? This will help us determine how best to address issues of accessibility and safety as we move forward.

# News and Happenings

## God's Hope in Community

Over this past month we have been reflecting on all of the ministries that happen at and through St. Jude's. Each week we've all been asked to answer a question on colorful leaves that have populated our stewardship tree. The last question will be in our October 30 bulletins. During the last week of October our stewardship tree will be complete!

Pledge forms for 2017 were available for pickup on October 16 and were mailed during the week. These forms invited us all to reflect on how we have experienced God's Hope in Community – both the community of St. Jude's and the many communities of which we are a part. It's our hope that you were able to take some time to reflect on God's Hope and to give thanks. To help the Finance Ministry Team prepare our budget in a timely fashion, we have designated October 30 as the day to turn in your pledge form. If you haven't done so, please do so as soon as possible!

November 6 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday and during worship we will ask God's blessings on our ministries as we bless our stewardship tree and our pledge forms. We will give thanks for all the ways that we see and experience God's Hope in Community and we will ask for God's blessings as we continue participating with God in spreading Hope both within the community of St. Jude's and in the greater Fenton area.

Thank you all for everything you do to support God's mission at St. Jude's! As we've learned through the populating of the stewardship tree, what happens here is powerful and transformative! And it wouldn't be possible without your participation, your openness and your financial gifts. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## Family Promise Volunteers Week of October 16-22 – Fabulous Service!

During a Family Promise dinner at St. Paul's this week, one of the moms said:

*“Your church is wonderful and all of the people who are helping are awesome!  
I finally feel safe!”*

Thank you and bless you, St. Jude's volunteers – all 14 of you are awesome!

In your order of great service during our Family Promise week: Josephine Feijoo (Dinner Host Sunday), John & Carol Pettipher (Overnight Hosts Sunday), Mary Louise & Chet Susalla and Lois Hartranft & Arlo (Dinner Hosts Tuesday), Jack & Beverly Mills (Overnight Hosts Tuesday), Charlie & Francine Johnston (Saturday Afternoon Hosts), and Kelly & Lisa Cronk and Lynn & Kathy Hopper (Dinner Hosts Saturday).

Thanks to each of you for your kind gift of service to families in transition. It is the essence of our *“Seeking and Worshipping God, and Reaching Out to Others”* throughout the year!

## F A L L B A C K!

## SUNDAY NOV. 6<sup>TH</sup> 2:00 A.M.

Come to church Sunday, November 6 refreshed from an extra hour of sleep...or, be an hour early and put the coffee on, please!

## Reflecting on Messy Church:

In my time in seminary we lived a pattern that had been a part of my Christian journey almost from what I would identify as “the beginning.” We called it “Action – Reflection.” We were invited to reflect upon our various experiences (action) in writing, verbally, in small groups, in the larger group of my entire class, and in meditation. We then learned to take what we had been doing and theologically reflect on our experiences. It was a method that helped us not only to become self-aware, but it also steeped us in the practice of discernment. In the midst of the reflections we were being invited to pay attention to what God might be telling us and to discern how we might respond and join God on the journey. This intentionality is a process that has become almost second nature for me.

Over this past year, St. Jude’s tried a new pattern for our youth and children to gather to grow alongside of adults. We used a format that emerged in England called Messy Church. An intergenerational opportunity for all ages to share in an activity, a meal, a Bible story with “wondering” questions, and worship. We’ve shared in this experience of Messy Church for a year and now we want to intentionally reflect on what’s been happening. We want to take stock of what’s been working and we want to name that which challenges us. Kris and I want to invite lots of folks to join us as together we discern what God has been up to in this Messy Church experience and to listen to where God might be taking us next.

For those of you who have found something powerful and meaningful in the way that we have been gathering, this time of reflection and dreaming is for you! During the process we will engage in on Sunday, November 13 we need to hear about your experiences.

For those of you who have found that Messy Church hasn’t been particularly helpful in your spiritual journey, this time of reflection and dreaming is for you! We need to hear about your experiences as well.

For those of you who are interested in the spiritual growth of our young people, this time of reflection and dreaming is for you! We want to hear what it is you look for in providing opportunities for our children and youth to discover God and to make connections between scripture and life.

For our young people who have been participating in Messy Church, this time of reflection and dreaming is for you! We want to hear what you’ve enjoyed and what you could leave behind to make room for something new.

This time of reflection will take place on November 13 in the library from noon to 1:30. We will be providing lunch and child care will be available so parents and grandparents of young children can participate. We are asking you to let us know if you will be attending so we can make our lunch plans. Please call the office at 810-629-5681 and let Liz know your name and how many will be attending.

Kris and I will be working with the results of our reflections through November and December to determine where we need to tweak our children and youth program. Details will be provided in January’s Beacon and through our e-mailed and printed weekly announcements as soon as possible.

In anticipation of the changes we expect to make, we will experiment with a new pattern for gathering through November and December. Each of these gatherings will be from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. and no meal will be provided.

**Youth Group:**           **November 6**  
                                  **November 20**  
                                  **December 11**  
                                  **December 18**

**Intergenerational:**   **November 27 (Advent Fair)**  
                                  **December 4 (Celebration of St. Nicholas)**

Please mark your calendars and plan on participating in our time of reflection. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me by phone (810-300-9177) or e-mail (TracieLLittle@gmail.com). Kris and I are excited about this time of reflection and dreaming and we are looking forward to hearing about all aspects of your experiences and dreaming together with God and with you what can make our Children and Youth program even more powerful!

**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**

Bill Anderson, Senior Warden ..... 810.444.2378  
 Ben Oliver, Junior Warden ..... 810.240.8437  
 Megan Rosa, Clerk ..... 810.735.4547  
 Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer ..... 810.208.0120

**2017**

Bill Anderson ..... 810.444.2378  
 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

**2019**

Ty Fry ..... 810.874.6064  
 Kathy Kortge ..... 810.869.7224  
 Carol Pettipher ..... 248.889.2525

**DELEGATES to the DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Paul Dolza ..... 248.634.0225  
 Josephine Feijoo ..... 248.529.3264  
 Greg Forsyth ..... 810.208.0886  
 Jerry Rucker ..... 810.750.9578

**Alternates:**

Sarah Dolza ..... 248.634.0225  
 Angela White ..... 810.735.4763