



The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others

December, 2016 (our 158th year)



On one of our recent road trips, Dave and I were driving along 131 and all of a sudden near Kalkaska a tree emerged at the side of the road. A very tall tree. A very different tree. A tree decorated with hundreds of shoes. Shoes hanging off every branch I could see. A tree dripping with shoes.

So, what does one do when one confronts something so incredibly odd? I pulled out my phone and googled "shoe tree." And we read all the stories we could find as we drove along. You can even find maps locating shoe trees across the country! Who knew?

I found myself asking, why would people throw a perfectly fine pair of shoes up into the branches of a tree? Well, for many it seems that this is a way to mark life changes. Grow out of a pair of shoes....visit the tree, tie the laces of each shoe together, and throw the pair way up into the branches. Graduate high school....visit the tree and toss your shoes up. Major life events marked by decorating a tree with something tangible. Leave behind a pair of shoes and as you leave the tree you walk into a new way of being.

That tree got me to thinking. We mark major events in the church as well. As I read the stories of the shoe trees, it became very clear that adding your shoes to a particular tree is really a liturgical action. And it seems to be very meaningful for a lot of people.

As Advent winds its way to Christmas, our theme turns once again to newness. The reality of Emmanuel, "God with us." We mark this event liturgically in a lot of ways. But I wonder, how might we deepen our experience of Advent and Christmas?

I'd like to offer some questions for reflection as you move forward into this newness. What is the growing edge in your life within the church and in your relationship with God? What is the newness that God is calling you to? What might be getting in the way of truly embracing that newness? What do you need to leave behind in order to move into a new way of being? What might be a good representation – a symbol of that which needs to be left behind? How might you tangibly leave that symbol behind so you are better able to walk into and through your growing edge? How will you recognize when you have embraced that newness faithfully? How might you honor that newness?

May you recognize and embrace newness in your life. May you walk confidently with God into new ways of being that honor that newness.

Blessings,
Tracie

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The Reverend Tracie Little: 810-300-9177

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Liz Sauvie, 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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop;
Todd, our Bishop; Tracie, our
Priest; for the Wardens and Vestry.

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; Edward Ketterer; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Theresa Maynard; Sidney Nihill; Richard; Ed Ransley; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Stan Spicer; Louis Sternello; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West; Ron Winters

And those in continuing need of prayer: John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Kyla Brown; Margot Brummett; Marie Church; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Endahl; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Brian Henderson; Mary Lou Jenkins; Sydne Kalet; 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

December 4 – LeeAnn Brummett; Margot Brummett; Jon & Rosiland Burroughs; Teresa Bush

December 11 – David & Carol Chambers; Ronald, Jennifer, Sophia & Conner Chambers; Shane, Heather & Hayden Chambers

December 18 – Harry & Linda Chciuk; Gale Cronk; Kelly & Lisa Cronk; Sally Crouter

December 25 – Sandy Davis; Nancy Day & Ed Ransley; Gail Delaney; Dee Dickens

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1st Don Kurtz
John Pettipher
4th Hayden Chambers
Mark Freeman
7th Gabrielle Freeman
Josephine Feijoo
8th Beth Jagos
Bob Szostak
15th Kelly Cronk
16th Teddy Shepherd
23rd Lily Rising
Ian Rosa
26th Ella Rising
27th Rita Bretzke
30th Nicole Jagos



If you do not see your name and you have a birthday or anniversary in December, let the office know. We would love to celebrate with you, but we need to know when your birthday/anniversary is (including the year for database purposes only)!

Thank you!

Christmas Carolers Needed

Young and old, all are welcome! Friday, December 2nd we will be meeting at the Dolza's (108 E. South Holly Rd. in Fenton) at 6:00 p.m. and traveling to Davisburg Methodist Church to play chimes and sing carols to the group home population that live in NW Oakland County. The Kaleidoscope Foundation sponsors a Christmas party and meeting with Santa annually. The singing and party will begin at 7 p.m. We will then go back to the Dolza's household to eat, drink and be merry! Please bring a dish to pass!

Save Your Change--Advent Folders

As Advent approaches, it's time once again to start saving your quarters for filling up Advent Coin Folders. As in the past our St. Jude's youth will be selecting an appropriate charity to donate the money that is collected.

New this year will be a \$20 Coin Holder as well as the traditional \$10 Coin Holder. And remember, if you want to make it a little easier on yourself (and a lot easier on the volunteer counters) you can insert a check or cash for all or part of your donation.

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during November: Connie Hibbard, Sue Premo, Kelly and Lisa Cronk, Dave and Deb James.

Thank you to everyone, all year long, who so generously volunteer to provide yummy items for coffee hour! Your ministry of hospitality is a vital piece of providing a relaxed and fun environment to visit together, to reach out to and get to know newcomers and visitors, and to catch up with long-time friends.

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 st	David & Lynn Freeman (21 years)
3 rd	Doug & Michelle Gangwer (17 years)
6 th	Ron & Cathy Trimmer (49 years)
6 th	Mark & Beth Jagos (19 years)
19 th	Paul & Sarah Dolza (35 years)
22 nd	Vic & Michelle Peters (39 years)
28 th	Scott & Sharon Michael (15 years)
30 th	Dave & Debbie James (39 years)

Entrances Re-Keyed!

On Monday, November 21st, the three outer entrances to the church were re-keyed. If you have not already received a new key, but feel that you need to be able to get into the church after-hours, please make arrangements to come into the church office during office hours to check out a key. These keys will be non-duplicable. There will be a \$25 charge for lost keys to be replaced. Contact the church office or Kathy Kortge if you have any questions or concerns.

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 (*Behold, the Mountain of the Lord*), 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 a Christmas lessons and carols. As in past years, we will have guest musicians joining us. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

Greening of the Church Festive Fellowship – Cookie Coffee Hour

The greening of the church will take place after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 18th. 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
"Festive Fellowship –
A Christmas Cookie Coffee Hour"

for Sunday, December 18th,
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

Offering Financial Support:

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Week 1	4,498.00	3,247.00
Week 2	3,883.00	2,064.00
Week 3	2,447.00	3,048.00
Week 4	1,999.00	2,662.00
Week 5	NA	1,341.17
TOTAL:	\$12,827.00	\$12,362.17

YTD Pledges Received: \$127,709.29

Pledged: \$153,786.00

83% of pledged money has been received!

HOLIDAY SCRIP

We have the perfect Scrip card for that hard to buy for person. If you don't see the vendor you want on the order form, check out www.shopwithscrip.com. They add retailers and offer special contribution incentive that change monthly. 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 only on December the 4th and 11th, so your cards will be ready for you the following Sunday.**

Any questions call Diane Putnam at 810.629.6079.

ST. JUDE'S ENDOWMENT NEWS

Since January of 1987, St. Jude's church has supported outreach based endowment activity through the Heritage Fund. As we approach thirty years of continuous endowment based activity, the options for providing long-term future support of ministry activities at St. Jude's have been enhanced and improved.

We now have a more complete and expanded offering of choices that includes

- Heritage Fund – To meet the unmet material and spiritual needs of the parish, community and church universal.
- Capital Fund – For the maintenance and preservation of our historic buildings and grounds.
- Eternal Pledge Fund – To support the annual operation of the church and provide long-term support for the daily church operations.

Endowment News, continued

The types of planned giving options have also been expanded from the traditional Bequest in a Will. Gifts of cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, and personal property are now included. Deferred gifts and other tax advantage based methods of giving are now possible ways to help fund endowments.

Starting on December 4th we will be providing additional information regarding the new and enhanced endowment offerings that are now available. We look forward to providing opportunities for all to help fund St. Jude's future.

St. Jude's Endowment Committee

A festive poster for Christmas at St. Jude's 2016. The background is dark red with white snowflakes and a gold star. The text is in white and gold. The main title is "CHRISTMAS at St. Jude's 2016". Below it, "CHRISTMAS EVE" is followed by "Christmas Service with Children's Pageant @ 5 pm" and "Holy Eucharist with Choir @ 10:30 pm". At the bottom, "CHRISTMAS DAY" is followed by "Christmas Eucharist @ 8 am & 10:30 am".

CHRISTMAS
at St. Jude's 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE
Christmas Service with
Children's Pageant @ 5 pm
Holy Eucharist with Choir
@ 10:30 pm
Lessons and Carols and a
Service of Light

CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Eucharist
@ 8 am & 10:30 am



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to all who attended and participated in our focus group as we reflected on Children and Youth Ministry at St. Jude's! We learned, as we felt going into this gathering, that Messy Church has been a wonderful success full of learnings and celebrations. That being said, there have also been challenges. The intent of this focus group was to take all of things we want to celebrate and keep while also addressing the challenges. We wanted to tease out what it is the family of St. Jude's is looking for in a formation program for children and youth and incorporate those values.

A wonderful group of 26 people stayed after church, told stories, drew out values, and dreamed of a new way forward. All of the information that we shared is posted on the sanctuary wall. If you weren't there, take a look. See the stories we shared that were high points of involvement and powerful moments of transformation in Children and Youth Ministry.

Positives we want to carry with us:

- The story-telling in worship asked wondering questions that evoked a wonderful and layered depth of responses linking scripture with our own life experiences.
- Worship was easy to access for all ages and encouraged participation, especially as everyone gathered around the Altar to celebrate Eucharist.
- This experience invited creativity across all generations that linked to the message of the day in a powerful way.
- There was participation from those who are not currently a part of the St. Jude's community and as those families got more involved with Messy Church, there was some participation in other St. Jude's activities.
- The pattern of the Biblical stories that were unpacked highlights the thread that links Old and New Testaments helping us better hear the work of how God's people are connected through time.
- The intergenerational experience helped us all to better honor and see the wisdom and gifts across generations.

Challenges we want to address:

- There is a perception, particularly in the 10:30 a.m. service, that children and youth have not been present in worship since Messy Church began. The reality is that almost every single week there are children and youth present.
- When the formation program for children and youth is in the evening, it makes it challenging for families to be present twice – once in the morning for adult formation and worship and then again in the evening for Messy Church. Many families have felt they had to choose between one or the other.
- Keeping children and youth together for Messy Church in a one-room-school-house kind of model made it a challenge to address the unique needs of each.

The plan moving forward:

- The children will gather during the 10:30 a.m. service. They will begin their time together at 10:15 a.m. and will join the worshipping community at The Peace so they are present for the entire Eucharistic action.
 - o This will mean that we need to have volunteers to work with the children on a rotating basis. Our commitment will be to work with the volunteers and to provide helpful curriculum so they feel comfortable taking on this responsibility.
- The youth group will gather following the 10:30 a.m. service and will be present for the entirety of our worship service.
 - o This will be an opportunity for us to be more creative with worship to help to engage all generations in a meaningful way as we continue to respect the voices of our young people actively engaging them and learning from them.

We are very excited about these changes that emerged in our focus group! They will allow us to continue to bring the best that we have learned and grown into with our Messy Church experience into a new pattern of worship and formation. Separating the youth from the children for formation will allow us to creatively focus on each group's unique needs. It is our hope that our program will continue to expand and touch the lives of even more children and young people. It is also our hope to offer intergenerational activities at various times throughout the church year.

Thank you, St. Jude's, for valuing all ages and stages of life in our family. You have heard it said that it takes a village to raise a child. In much the same way there is much wisdom and value of all of us walking together, learning together, sharing faith together, growing together as we all grow closer to one another and to God. Thank you for being a valuable part of that journey!

Blessings,
Kris Forsyth and Tracie Little

Christmas Families in 2016

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 families in our community (including 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) in the designated Family #1, #2, #3, or #4 Box in VandenBergh Hall by our **deadline of Sunday, December 18.**

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 4 and 11 -- with Scrip Pickup dates the following Sundays on December 11 and 18.**

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 18 and Saturday, 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 2016 Christmas Families -- is another great opportunity for you to celebrate your Christmas, and further live out an important St. Jude's outreach ministry.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
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Church Office: 810-629-5681
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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
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Alternates:

Sarah Dolza 248.634.0225
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