

The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

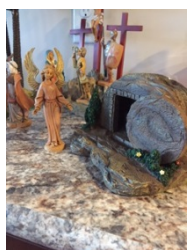
Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
January, 2017 (our 159th year)

For about 30 years now I've been building a Christmas nativity crèche. My godmother started me on it with the basic set – with four wise ones because we really don't know the number of wise ones that visited. Over the years I've added to the set a bit at a time so I have lots of angels, shepherds, animals and a few townspeople.



This year Dave and I went to Bronner's to discover many more possibilities and as we gazed at their humongous set we began to dream. Wouldn't it be cool to tell more of the story of Jesus life? So we added a carpenter shop to detail Jesus young life with Joseph and Mary. We also added some more pieces deciding that they represented particular miracles. The person pouring water from one vessel to another represents Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. The woman standing with her water vessel represents the Samaritan woman at the well. The older gentleman with the walking stick off to the right of the picture looks to me like how I picture blind Bartimaeus whose sight was restored by Jesus.

If we decided to tell the whole story – well, a part of the whole story – it wouldn't be complete without the cross and the resurrection. And those pieces were available as well. So we added the scene of the crucifixion complete with Mary, the mother of Jesus standing at the foot of the cross, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. I can hear Jesus speaking the words as we hear them in the Gospel of John each Good Friday. "Woman, here is your son." And turning to the disciple Jesus says, "Here is your mother," ensuring that Mary would be cared for following his death.



The cross is not the end of the story either, so we added the empty tomb, complete with an angel announcing to all those looking for Jesus, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."

Standing in Bronner's, surrounded by so many shoppers and having a conversation about telling the whole story in this icon that we share in our dining room may have seemed strange to any who overheard. We felt that it was important not to disconnect the story of Jesus birth from the story of his life, death and resurrection. We wanted to connect the stories, to remind ourselves that the tale we tell of Jesus' birth is just the beginning of the story. God's work of reconciling the world to God's self is told throughout the stories we unpack year after year. Stories of healing and teaching. Stories of reconciling and loving. Stories that invite us in to hear the teaching stories, to receive and to share God's loving, healing and reconciling seen through the life of Jesus. Where do you connect with this expanded story? What touches you? Where are you being invited into the story of Jesus?

Blessings,
Tracie

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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: 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; Steven G.; Stan Haddock; the Holsinger family; Collin & Yasuko James; Eveline Karnowski; Carl Koch; Jim Kortge; 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; 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; Connie Koch; Mary Lou Jenkins; 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

January 8 – Sally Diehl; Liza Dolza; Sarah and Paul Dolza; Kylee Hodil

January 15 – Dot Dowlan; Dean, Julie, Tess and Dominic DuPei; Julie & Bill Edgar

January 22 – Jerry & Kimberly Edwards; Larry & Pam Elder

January 29 – Bonnie Ensign; Marilou Ensign; Rebecca Ensign; Josephine Feijoo

Our sincere condolences to

Nancy Day, Ashley Ransley and the entire Ransley family on the death of their dear husband and father, Ed

The family of Lottie Engelhart

May Ed and Lottie's souls, and the souls of all we love, but see no longer, rest in eternal peace.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Jim Kortge
9 th	Fred Wright
11 th	Molly Anderson Ron Spaulding Lynne Ronthi
12 th	Mary Felix
14 th	Denise Rayner
18 th	Catherine Trimmer
19 th	Mike Wells
20 th	Richard Stratton
22 nd	Lisa Cronk
25 th	Ty Fry Carl Koch
27 th	Steven Melchor
28 th	Sharon Aldrich Chace Green Mary Warren
29 th	Sandy Davis

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

11 th	Julie & Bill Edgar (25 years)
22 nd	Kelly & Lisa Cronk (38 years)
29 th	Bruce & Linda Hardy (34 years)

If you do not see your name and you have a birthday or anniversary this month, please 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!

We are Family (Con't)

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during part of December: Tom and Shirley Gernack, Mark, Beth and Nicole Jagos, the Social Committee and all those who contributed to the cookie exchange for the greening of the church Christmas Tea. The first Sunday of January, there was no one signed up for coffee hour, so coffee was made – AND, as always, thanks to our good friends at *CRUST* there was amazing Stollen and breads there for us to enjoy! On New Year's Day!! We thank them for the dedicated delivery of delicious baked goods each Sunday.

Don't forget that coffee hour is a ministry in and of itself. Please take a moment to sign up – let's make it a resolution to keep the 2017 sign up sheet full!

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

Notes from the Choir

Thank you to all the musicians who made our Christmas Eve services so special. It was a wonderful evening to welcome the birth of our Lord.

January is the time of the epiphany season, that time in the liturgical calendar when we commemorate the baptism of our Lord, the calling of the disciples and the beginning of His public ministry. We celebrate Christ, the light of the world, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The music reflects these themes. January is a time of contemplation and celebration.

Marlene Weston

Christmas Families

Our St. Jude's family once again demonstrated their loving kindness by providing over 125 gifts plus gift cards to three families and "our" group home. You brightened Christmas for twelve children and six adult group home residents as well as providing a gas or gift card to the employees who provide dedicated assistance to the group home adults. From Hot Wheels to Star Wars, books to Play Doh, you brought Christmas joy to all these children and adults.

Several group home residents enjoy music, and one gentleman, Roger, plays guitar. He mentioned he hoped to have the opportunity to "jam" guitar music with someone. When the Jagos family learned this, Nicole Jagos said she would welcome the opportunity to do so! Nicole, sharing your gift of music and playing guitar with Roger was appreciated by all! Thank you for sharing your many gifts.

Again, our St. Jude's church family has shown we ALL reach out to those in need and respond with care and love. Thank you, and we wish you many blessings in 2017!

News and Happenings

Vestry Notes – December 2016

Clay Putnam presented at the December Vestry meeting and the vestry approved the proposed 2017 budget. We discussed the format for the upcoming Annual Meeting (1/15/17), which will be only a 10:30 service with the annual meeting business embedded into the service. Thanks to Kathy Kortge and Tracie's hard work we have received a grant from the Diocese to be used for electrical improvements. A few shingles will be replaced on the roof over VandenBergh Hall this week. The office has been dealing with quite a few technical difficulties as of late including router, internet and most recently data storage shortage; because of this, the vestry has approved Liz to purchase a new office computer. As most of you know, St. Jude's is very much an *alive* building with groups meeting nearly everyday in nearly every room; it is because of this the Vestry and a couple other St. Jude's committees have decided to change meeting dates to Wednesdays going forward. This will help alleviate some of the over-crowded spaces. This month, the Vestry will meet to celebrate a year of hard work and say goodbye to those whose terms are up.

ST. JUDE'S ADULT STUDY

The Sundays leading up to Lent will be dedicated to a video series exploring the worlds wide and rich array of religions. There is no book to read, so all you have to do is show up. The video will start promptly at 9:30 to allow time for discussion to follow. Please join in!

Annual Meeting on January 15th

Sunday, January 15th, we will have our annual meeting during the 10:30 a.m. service. There will be no 8 a.m. service that Sunday. A potluck lunch will follow – please bring your own table service and a dish to pass.

*** If you are a chair of a church committee, please submit your electronic or hard copy to Liz ASAP. Your report should be a narrative of 2016's activities, events, successes and future plans. It should not be a bulleted list but one that after reading, a visitor to St. Jude's would feel they had personally been involved and informed.*

COPPAGE-GORDON: Epiphanies Series - Cynthia Crysdale

*World-renowned speakers in Michigan,
focus on future of the church*

Dr. Cynthia Crysdale will be presenting "Jesus Died for our Sins? The Sense and Non-Sense of the Cross" at St. Paul's, Brighton on February 15, 2017 from 9-4 p.m. Cynthia is an author and professor of Christian Ethics and Theology at Sewanee.

The cost to attend is \$75 (or \$140 to bundle with the Diana Butler Bass event later this year). Register online at epiphaniesconference.com.

2017 Giving Envelopes

Weekly and monthly giving envelopes for 2017 are available in the library now. If you would like giving envelopes, but don't see your name, please contact the office. Thank you!

Lenten Narnia

It won't be long until we are preparing for a Christmas pageant and even our Lenten Narnia program. We are looking for a few folks to help with props and costumes. For one thing, we are hoping to replace our Kings/Wiseman robes (we will also use these for the coronation of the "sons of Adam and daughters of eve" during our Narnia program) with simple capes. See Kris for more details on that. Secondly, we are looking for someone to make a freestanding lamppost. Here's a photo of how it might look. Thank you!

News and Happenings

Rector's Report

It doesn't seem possible that I've been with you for eight months this month! It feels like only yesterday that I stepped through the door as your Rector for the first time. It's been an incredible first few months full of blessings. This time of year always finds me reflecting on what has past and what God has in store for our future together.

We always gather together in January to reflect on our past and future during our Annual Meeting. It's such an important gathering – a time for us to share and to hear about your experiences and your dreams! In the midst of that sharing often comes the glimpse of what God is dreaming for us next.

This year the Annual Meeting will look a little different. We will meet earlier than in many past years, gathering together on January 15. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending – your voice is essential!

The other change is that we will hold the Annual Meeting within the context of our regular 10:30 am celebration of Eucharist. Different elements of the meeting will occur at appropriate times in the liturgy. On this day only, the 8 a.m. service will be cancelled to allow all of our regular attenders to be present and participate in the annual meeting at 10:30. Following our worship together we will break bread together again as we join in a celebratory pot-luck lunch. We ask that you bring a dish to pass and your table service as we gather to be nourished by food and fellowship. If you forget one or the other, please do stay anyways – we will have some paper plates and silverware available and there will be plenty of food to share. Our plan is to be totally wrapped up by no later than 12:30.

Along with looking at the past year, this Annual Meeting is important as several new opportunities for 2017 will be presented. We will also have some time to engage in conversation during a Time of Reflection in

place of the sermon. This conversation will help the incoming Vestry to hear the beginnings of the movement of the Holy Spirit as together we set a path to live into God's vision for 2017.

Please plan on being with us on January 15, engage in the conversation that will begin that day, celebrate with us all that has been accomplished this past year, and help us dream forward how we are being called by God to support God's work in Fenton and the surrounding areas! You are an essential piece of all that is done through the mission and ministries of St. Jude's! I look forward to celebrating with you during our worship and pot-luck lunch on January 15!

Blessings,
Tracie

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 Megan Rosa, Clerk 810.735.4547
 Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer 810.208.0120

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 Megan Rosa 810.629.4096
 Matt Shepherd 248.444.1735
 Ron Trimmer 810.923.3493

2019

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 Carol Pettipher 248.889.2525

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 Greg Forsyth 810.208.0886
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Alternates:

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