



The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
Our 159th Year

It was just a couple of weeks ago that we gathered as a community of faith to reflect on 2016 and to begin dreaming forward to 2017 and beyond. The structure of the meeting was different this year as it occurred within the context of our regular 10:30 a.m. worship service. Last Sunday I invited both congregations, those who gathered at 8 a.m. and those who gathered at 10:30 a.m. to reflect on that experience. Overwhelmingly the response was positive. Everything from the fact that the meeting itself was better attended than anyone could remember to a recognition of the power of anchoring this kind of meeting in prayer.

For me it was an incredible experience to gather with all of you and to reflect on who we are as a community of faith. It was the second week in a row that the Lectionary treated us to a remembrance of Jesus' baptism. This time Jesus asks a question of John's disciples who were following him: "What are you looking for?" Jesus also issues an invitation: "Come and see!"

Those became launching points for questions that we all reflected on. "What are you looking for when you interact with St. Jude's, whether that's at a worship service, a time of formation, an outreach experience, a social event? What are you looking for? What are you seeking? What do you most hope for?"

Looking at those hopes and expectations, we shared how St. Jude's helps to meet those needs.

And then we looked at the concept of invitation, asking, "How do you share the news about how St. Jude's addresses what you most hope for?" It was a question designed to launch us into one of our focus areas for 2017 and beyond as we wondered together what it might to ask the question, "What is it that you deeply long for," out in the public sphere with folks who may identify as "spiritual but not religious" or perhaps "None of the above" when asking about their religious identification.

We'll be calling together a group of people from St. Jude's to begin exploring that question. We'll begin by studying a couple of different books: *The New Parish: How N Neighborhood Churches are Transforming Mission, Discipleship and Community* and *Congregations in Transition: A Guide for Analyzing, Assessing, and Adapting in Changing Communities*. Using the comprehensive tools contained within those books, we'll begin dreaming a plan for moving forward into being.

None of this is meant to replace what we do at St. Jude's. It's a chance for us to extend what we do so well at St. Jude's in forming an authentic caring community to the communities around the church. It's a chance for us to experiment with what it might mean to be a church without walls at the same time as keeping and growing our current congregation within our walls.

What do you say? Are you ready to ask the question, "What is your deepest hope," outside the boundaries of our congregation? Are you ready to see what "Come and see," might look like for those who are not a part of our community? Will you join me on the journey?

Blessings,
Tracie

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; Steven G.; Stan Haddock; 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; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Louis Sternello; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West; Ron Winters

And those in continuing need of prayer: John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Margot Brummett; Marie Church; Rachel & Don Conway; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Engdahl; 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

February 5 – Mary Felix; Marv & Judith Fisher; Katie Fleming; Bruce & Glenda Fletcher

February 12 – Bob, Josie & Lucy Foguth; Gaye Lynn Foor; Greg, Kris & Leigha Forsyth; Amy Freeman

February 19 – Bill & Marcia Freeman; David, Lynn, Gabrielle & Erica Freeman; Mark & Pat Freeman

February 26 – Matt & Linda Freeman; Connie Fry; Ty & Debbie Fry; Doug & Michelle Gangwer

Our Sincere Condolences...

...to Dee Grossmann (and the entire Pennington and Brendle family) on the death of her dear grandson, Derik Brendle. Derik is also the nephew and cousin of Raquel Gazzi and her children Gabrielle and Arthur.

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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 st	Julie DuPei
2 nd	Chet Susalla
4 th	Marcia Freeman Judi Harris
6 th	Madeleine Koch
13 th	Bob Hutchins Austin Moller Leah Moller William Moller
15 th	Connor Szostak
16 th	Bill Edgar
18 th	Lorraine Moller
20 th	Dan White
24 th	David Freeman
25 th	Martha Applebee
27 th	Lester Jones
29 th	Jennifer Chambers

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 nd	Jon & Rosiland Burroughs (4 th)
19 th	Jack & Beverly Mills (51 st)

Coffee Hour Hosts:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during January: Matt and Kristen Shephard, Lynn Ronthi, Dave and Denise Rayner.

Thank you to everyone who so generously provides yummy items for coffee hour, makes the coffee and stays to clean up! 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. There are many available opportunities to sign up for coffee hour in the upcoming weeks. Contact Connie Hibbard if you have any questions about hosting – she will be happy to talk you through it and show you the ropes!

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

News and Happenings

Vestry Minutes

Vestry met on Wednesday, January 11. With a slightly abbreviated agenda, the Vestry was able to move forward with completing the choir ceiling in the basement of St. Jude's, accept the year-end financial report, which was brilliantly relayed by Michelle Gangwer, and celebrate the final meeting for six members. Vestry is looking forward to a new year with new team members.

BISHOP OUSLEY WILL BE VISITING!

Bishop Ousley regularly visits each congregation in the Diocese and is scheduled to visit St. Jude's on Sunday, February 5. He will be present and preach at both 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. liturgies. He will also preside at the 10:30 liturgy. As is our custom, all undesignated offerings – cash and checks – will be directed to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Todd is looking forward to visiting with all of us following the 10:30 a.m. service at an expanded coffee hour which, I've been told, will point to another liturgical event taking place that evening – the Super Bowl. Thank you to everyone who is setting up this special coffee hour! In wonderful St. Jude's fashion, it promises to be a very hospitable event! Following coffee hour, Todd will meet with the Vestry.

Please mark your calendars and plan on being present to welcome Bishop Todd for his regular parish visitation!

COPPAGE-GORDON: Epiphanies Series with 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.

SCRIP in 2017

Many of you already know what SCRIP is; many of you regularly purchase SCRIP cards-and we are so appreciative! For those of you who do not know what SCRIP is, simply put, it is purchasing gift cards from a wide variety of businesses with you getting to spend to a penny what you purchased the card for (i.e.– a \$100.00 card for Speedway gets you \$100.00 worth of gas). The catch is, St. Jude's receives \$4.00 (4%) for that card...it adds up quickly. The percentage received depends on the cards you choose, but in the end, each card purchased results in a profit for St. Jude's.

Our goal when SCRIP began was to earn \$2,000 dollars in profit from the sale of these cards. That amount was surpassed the first two years we sold SCRIP. The past two years we have fallen short of that goal.

This is where you come in. Two of the very easiest ways to contribute to SCRIP are with your grocery and gas purchases. Most families have a fairly good idea of what they budget for these two expenses. With a little advance planning, you can purchase cards for both... and then have them on hand for your trip to the grocery store or gas station.

Others know they enjoy eating out at certain places and purchase cards to use for that...crafters make sure they get their JoAnn and Michael's cards...others have even purchased airline tickets using SCRIP cards. The possibilities are almost endless.

SCRIP cards are sold at St. Jude's on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, with pick up of those cards the following week. It's easy to do, and if you have never done it before, there is always somebody to guide you. Please consider the purchase of SCRIP cards...it's the easiest way to give!

Any questions, call Diane Putnam at 810.629.6079.

News and Happenings

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that two different oils are used in different sacraments?

The second Sunday of each month at both 8 and 10:30 a.m. services, we offer prayers for healing along with Anointing and Laying on of Hands. Olive Oil which has been blessed by a priest and set apart for this sacrament is what we use. Tracie also has an oil stock which she carries in her purse at all times. This small container has within it a cotton ball which absorbs the oil so it doesn't drip out all over everything. Tracie has anointed and prayed with people facing surgery, celebrating a life event, those in particular need of healing or just needing that extra bit of prayer and connection with God through this Sacrament.

We do have a second cruet of oil in the Sacristy which looks almost identical. It does have as its base Olive Oil. And it is blessed – but never by a Priest. This oil is different in another respect as well. It is infused with a variety of aromatic oils. The Chrism that St. Jude's will be using following Bishop Todd's visit on February 5 is infused with Laudate Chrism Essence from The Holy Rood Guild. This scented oil is only used during Chrismation during the Sacrament of Baptism as the sign of the cross is made on the forehead of the newly baptized as the individual is "signed with the cross and marked as Christ's own forever." Only a Bishop can bless Chrism as this is an Initiation Rite. The Sacrament of Baptism properly belongs to the Office of Bishop; however, years and years ago Bishops shared this Rite with their Priests as they couldn't possibly keep up with demand. Today the connection with the Office of Bishop happens through the symbol of Chrismation as the Chrism is blessed by a Bishop. We will be making new Chrism in time for Todd's visit on February 5 and he will bless it during the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. The youth group will be helping to make this Chrism as they continue in their formation leading up to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Office Hours Changing

The church office hours will be changing beginning the 1st of February. The office will be open Monday & Thursday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. – noon.

Vestry

One of the things that always happens at the Annual Meeting is the installation of our new vestry members who will begin serving their three year term in February. We will introduce you to the new members in next month's *Beacon*. However, it is also a time that we say good-bye to our outgoing vestry members. We give our sincere thanks to Bob Hutchins, Ben Oliver (who served as Junior Warden and sometimes clerk), Michele Peters and Fran Rucker for their service and contributions to our parish. An especially heartfelt thanks go to Bill Anderson, who has served not only as our Senior Warden for two years, but served an additional year on vestry in order to ensure a smooth transition from the departure of Josh Hoover, to our interim priest Heather Barta, and then to our new rector, Tracie Little. Bill brought to his role of Senior Warden his love for St. Jude's and the congregation, steadiness and a gift for listening and discernment.

Notes from the Choir

This year February falls entirely within the Epiphany season. The Epiphany theme of Christ, the Light of the World, continues as the gospel lessons are drawn from Christ's Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew. We are drawn into His light (*Shine, Jesus, Shine*) and are seek forgiveness (*Forgive our sins as we forgive*). We are also instructed to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, (*Prayer of St. Francis* and *Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love*).

On February 26, we conclude with Christ's Transfiguration and the final "alleluias" until Easter. The music reflects this joy (*Alleluia! sing to Jesus!*)

May we reflect the light of Christ to the world around us.

Marlene Weston

Office Volunteers Thank You's

Many people in our congregation stepped up to cover the office while Liz, our administrative assistant, was on vacation at the end of January. Thank you to the following individuals for giving of their time to assist at St. Jude's: Ron Trimmer, Lynne Ronthi, Sarah Dolza, Martha Applebee and Nancy Day.

News and Happenings

The St. Jude's Endowment Funds- *"Pay it Forward"*

The Heritage Fund: *"Providing for the unmet needs in the church and community."*

Relief funding for victims of the earthquake in Haiti; providing airfare for a St. Jude's youth to attend an Episcopal Church conference; Christmas gifts for adults with disabilities living in group homes; financial help to rebuild a senior center ravaged by fire; or, a scholarship for a student in the Dominican Republic.

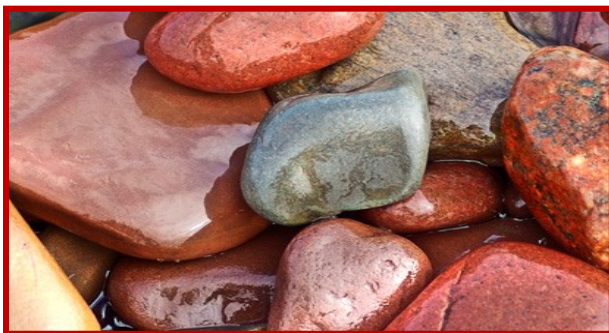
I doubt that the original founders of the Heritage Fund could have imagined what their vision would accomplish over the last 30 years. But that's what investing in endowment funds is all about, providing for unmet needs of the future. From the initial \$5000 contribution to establish the fund and the contributions which followed the Heritage Fund has grown and helped hundreds of people in numerous and varied ways.

Would you like to help meet the needs of the future? If so, contact the church office or Rev. Tracie Little for more information on how you can "pay it forward."



Building a Dwelling Place for God

When we are baptized, we are reborn in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We are stones in the foundation of faith, living members of the church, and part of the body of Christ. We are beginning a program of formation for confirmation. Each will begin by washing a stone, giving his or her baptized name and placing the stone on a central table lit by a candle. In the next few months, confirmands will meet to challenge themselves to know the baptismal vows made on their behalf and confirm that, yes, they do believe and do promise to walk in a life of Christ. They will ex-



plore what it means to be a child of God, a Christian and an Episcopalian. Let us together make room in our daily prayers for the confirmands that they continue to be strengthened and re-

newed by the Holy Spirit, and as living stones together, they build a dwelling place for God.

Please also prayerfully consider coming alongside a young confirmand as a mentor. The role involves a short term commitment.

Confirmation will be on Saturday, May 13th at St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw. Further details will be provided at a later time.

Valentines Workshop

We will be making Valentines, soon, for friends who are home-bound and/or need a little extra cheer this year during coffee hour on Sunday, February 5th. We will provide a wide variety of materials and you provide the effort and the creativity!

Participants will be invited to choose a name from a basket and then prayerfully create their Valentine and sign it. Later on, we'll package all of the valentines and send them off.

We are collecting names and addresses now. Please consider submitting a name or two or three. Note: we will send Valentines off to our college and military friends too!



Inside this

Confirmation Preparation	1
Valentines Workshop	1
Namia Lenten Series	2
Calendar of Activities	2

Come Explore the Many Christian Themes in Narnia

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be offering an intergenerational series based on C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia.

Come join Edmund, Lucy, Peter and Susan as they travel thru the wardrobe and into Narnia where it-is-always-winter-but-never-Christmas. Once in Narnia, we'll meet lots of new friends including Tumnus, Mr. & Mrs. Beaver, Father Christmas, Aslan and more. We'll also meet the evil White Witch and try to stay out of her way as much as possible!

During our time together, we'll explore several themes from the story including betrayal, repentance, forgiveness, love, sharing, hope and sacrifice.

Along the way, we will also consider Bible passages from Paul's Letter to the Corinthians regarding love to the summary of the law "Love the Lord Your God with all your heart and soul and love your neighbor as yourself" to the Prodigal Son to words about sacrifice from the Gospel of John and words about loving one another from the Gospel of John as well.

At the close of the series, we'll wrap up with the Great Coronation feast!

We will need several helpers throughout including characters, craft and game leaders, set decorators, snack preparers and servers and more.



Sunday Morning Godly Play!

Sunday Mornings, 10:15am—11am

And continuing thru early June. For children in Pre-K thru Grade 5. We meet in the Godly Play room in the basement (follow the signs).

COMING EVENTS

Youth Group Serves Family Promise

Sunday, February 5th, 5pm—approx. 8pm

Because this event is taking place in the evening, we won't also have youth group after church.

We'll depart St. J's at 5pm.

Youth Group

Sundays, February 12th, 19th and 26th

Youth group meets after the 10:30am service in the couch room (so roughly 11:45am to 12:45pm). We're working on Confirmation prep during the next several weeks as well as meeting with 1st Pres Youth.

Valentine Workshop

Sunday, February 5th, Coffee Hour

Intergenerational fun and creativity and service!

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Viewing Parties

Saturday, February 25th, 7pm at First Pres or Sunday, February 26th, 1pm at St. J's.

Bring a bag lunch, if you like, for the viewing party on Sunday. We'll provide the popcorn and juice!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 28th, Time TBA

This event is a pilgrimage Fundraiser for Youth Group

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
106 E. Elizabeth St.
Fenton, MI 48430-2322
Church Office: 810-629-5681
www.stjudesfenton.com

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

VESTRY

2018

Francine Johnston 810.629.5981
Megan Rosa 810.444.5066
Ron Trimmer..... 810.923.3493

2019

Ty Fry 810.874.6064
Kathy Kortge 810.869.7224
Carol Pettipher 248.889.2525

2020

Dan White 810.735.4763
Sarah Dolza..... 248.895.4737
Denise Rayner 248.634.2748
Mark Jagos 810.735.0821

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Dave & Debbie James 810.735.4547
Jack & Beverly Mills 248.634.3416

Alternate:

Greg Forsyth..... 810.208.0886

