



The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God. Reaching Out to Others

October, 2017 (our 159th year)

Where have you witnessed the presence of God at St. Jude's?

This is the question that opens every Vestry meeting right now. The answers have been wonderful and our conversations are helping all to be aware of God's presence in new and different ways.

Yesterday as we unpacked that question the canoe and kayak trip was named as one of those places where God's presence was very evident. If it wasn't brought up, that would have been my answer as well. I've spent some time this week reflecting on Sunday afternoon's adventure and I'd love to share how I witnessed the presence of God in our midst.

Dave, Mike and I shared a canoe. It was Mike's first time in a canoe and we weren't quite sure how everything was going to work. As we arrived, Greg Forsyth met us and they had already talked to the staff at the canoe rental place so we were aware before even heading down to the water that if it didn't work out, we would receive a refund for the canoe rental. The staff couldn't have been more helpful or accommodating as we figured out the best way for Mike to get into the canoe. Greg snapped a beautiful portrait of Mike's radiant smile as he enjoyed his paddle up and then down the river. That smile brightened an already beautiful day as God shone around us all.

The river was very shallow as we paddled away. Often times the paddle swept up the silt of the river bed when we dipped a little too low for the level of water. At those times the sight of the fish swimming among the various grasses were clouded. As we meandered down the river I spent some time gazing beneath the surface of the water, noticing the variety of grasses, some of which looked oddly like coral. Different shapes, different colours, such diversity. The world beneath the surface reminded me yet again of the richness of God's creation and diversity. As the clouds of silt hid the scene, I was reminded of how, at times, God's presence seems cloudy in our lives. And yet, the reality is that the fish were still there as were all the grasses. God's presence, even when cloudy, is still very real.

Looking around at the grasses that rimmed the river and seeing the wildlife in their midst was such a joy. A crane was nestled in one bank of grasses, keenly eyeing the water for a mid-afternoon snack. At one point we saw a large turtle sunning itself on a branch, peeking out of the water. The peace that God extends was so very evident.

Half way through the ride we encountered the mid-way point, a dam. Most folks hopped out of their boats and walked above the dam to enjoy a refreshing swim. Dave, Mike and I could only see a wee bit of that part of the river, choosing to stay in the canoe, and what we could see brought smiles to our faces as the pure joy of the swimmers was flowing over the dam along with the water. God's joy in their swimming was tangible.

Most of all what I noticed as we paddled away the afternoon, was the community that was built. As we moved through the water, conversations were taking place between folks that might not spend a whole ton of time together. We learned about one another. There were times that the beauty of community was very real. In our canoe the front paddler (me) didn't see some very large rocks, there were four of them, right below the surface. Before I knew it, we

(continued on page 2)

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Minister of Music: Marlene J. Weston 810-658-2683 • Director of Christian Formation: Kris Forsyth 810-208-0886
Sunday Services: Holy Eucharist: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour follows 10:30 service

We Are Family

(continued from page 1)

were hung up on one of them. As Dave and I pushed off from one, we immediately got hung up on another. And another. And another. And back to the first... If it wasn't for community, I think we'd still be there. Dave Andrejciw saw our dilemma and wasted no time in hopping out of his kayak to help guide us through the speed-bumps. How often in our lives do others appear on our journey to help us through a rough patch? That's God, reaching out through others, to help us along our way.

What a joyous afternoon we spent paddling the Huron River, learning together, enjoying the sun, the water, and one another's company. Thank you, Kris Forsyth, for organizing this intergenerational activity! Through our time together, God's presence was felt, God's peace enjoyed, God's joy radiating around and through us!

"Where have you seen the presence of God?" Will you share your experience and help us all to open our minds and souls to experience God in perhaps new ways?

Blessings,

Tracie+



As Vestry met September 20, we noticed in the budget that our pledge total is over \$4,000 below our expected pledges to date. Summer brings many travel opportunities for people, and we know that when folks are away,

often their pledges fall behind. Please have a look at your pledge and, if you are not current, we ask that you please do your best to bring your pledge up to date.

We also learned that we are currently in a cash flow crunch so have suspended the writing of checks or using debit cards. We have approved a cash draw from our investments to cover the crunch (once the cash on hand dips below \$10,000, this is automatic as per our policies).

Because the Vestry wants to be transparent, they have asked Liz to include in our weekly bulletins, the amount of our expected pledges per week and the actual amount received. We also want to include in the Beacon, reports that will show you where we are at financially. If you would like to see a detailed report, please let the office know.

Community That Transforms!

At a Vestry retreat we gathered to identify and discern a growing edge in this next season of ministry at St. Jude's. As we unpacked all that we had shared together, the energy seemed to center around enhancing opportunities to share faith and make connections that will develop and deepen relationships. Our vision involves setting an atmosphere where small groups can gather around common interests or perhaps around common life events.

In order to achieve this goal, we have invited a number of people we feel are gifted in harvesting "conversations that matter" to a workshop entitled "Community that Transforms". This workshop will take a look at the book called "Community: The Structure of Belonging" by Peter Block as we explore techniques to invite and harvest deeper conversations which can lead to the kind of atmosphere that fosters deeper relationships within smaller communities or groups.

This goal of the workshop is to design a way of moving forward as we intentionally build Communities that Transform. Emerging from this workshop will be many opportunities to sow seeds that can be nurtured as we welcome one another into Communities that Transform.



We Are Family

October Birthdays

- 2nd – Lisa Cronk
- Jerry Rucker
- 3rd – Jack Bretzke
- 5th – Kim Alexander
- 6th – David Andrejciw
- 7th – Kara Shepherd
- 9th – Kris Forsyth
- 10th – Nancy Day
- 15th – Michele Peters
- 16th – Terri Hutchins
- 17th – Evan Koch
- 18th – Sue Reilly
- 22nd – Beth Harvey
- Ron Chambers
- 26th – Dot Dowlan
- Mark Jagos



October Anniversaries

- 5th – David & Tracie Little (4 years)
- 17th – Bill & Marcia Freeman (64 years)
- 19th – Dean & Julie DuPei (20 years)
- 20th – Mark & Pat Freeman (37 years)
- Jeff & Jennifer Koch (14 years)
- 29th – Matt & Kristen Shepherd (12 years)

Happy Anniversary



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!

Coffee Hour Hosts

Our sincere thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during September: the Anderson's, Fry's, Rayner's, Pettipher's, Chciuk's and Moller's.

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



Please hold in your prayers

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Tracie, our Priest; for the Wardens and Vestry.



For those in particular

need of prayer: Craig Adams; Karen Anderson & family; Jack Bretzke; D'Jair Cominotti; Steven G.; Stan Haddock; Timothy Harman-Zerbiec; Sue Haywood; Janel Koop; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Theresa Maynard; Jordon Michael; Anne Munns; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West; Jack Ziegler & family

And those in continuing need of prayer:

Herb Aldrich; John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beal; Margot Brummett; Rachel & Don Conway; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Engdahl; Bunny Gladfelter; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Tom Hackbardt; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Angela Koresch; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Sidney Nihill; Leona; Paul Otto; Richard Perkins; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Susan Taber; Jim Thompson; Sandy Train; Elijah Unkefer

Pray for our ministers:

October 1 – Margot Brummett; Paul Brunell; Jon & Rosiland Burroughs; Teresa Bush

October 8 – David & Carol Chambers; Ronald, Jennifer, Sophia & Conner Chambers

October 15 – Shane, Heather & Hayden Chambers; Harry & Linda Chciuk

October 22 – Lana, Marcus & Julian Clark; Jessie Clawson & Becky Trier; Gale Cronk

October 29 – Kelly & Lisa Cronk; Sally Crouter; Sandy Davis; Nancy Day

Thank You to all who maintained the church lawn!

Our sincere thanks to those who have maintained the lawn and grounds at the church.



News and Happenings

Vestry Notes

1. Save Money, Increase the Comfort of Your Home for Free

With our Home Energy Analysis (HEA) program, you don't have to spend more money to keep your home comfortable all year round. Join the thousands of Michigan residents who have experienced the efficiency-raising, cost-saving benefits of an HEA.

Schedule an appointment and one of our expert energy analysts will inspect your home and identify the best opportunities for you to save energy and money while improving comfort. Possible upgrades — which can save you up to \$150 a year — may include insulating water pipes and installing free LED bulbs, showerheads, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators and programmable thermostats (eligibility determined at the time of your Home Energy Analysis appointment). All at no charge to you. Following the assessment, you'll receive a customized report with additional recommendations for energy savings.

Consumers Energy is interested in having a sign up for an energy audit to be done in your home as a fund raiser for St. Jude's. We are attempting to find out if there is enough interest by canvassing our parishioners. If you reside in Genessee county, and would like to have this energy audit done, please let any vestry member or Tracie know.

2. More Transparency about Pledges

When our budget for 2017 was approved at the annual meeting in January - it was a deficit budget. As usual, summertime brings many opportunities for our parishioners to travel more - which means that they are at church fewer weeks. This sometimes results in our pledges getting behind a little. Our pledges drive the budget and keep our programs going strong.

One of the changes we would like to make to the monthly Beacon, and to the weekly bulletins is to have a space where our current pledge status is easily viewed. This will serve as both a reminder for those who have not had the time to catch up on their pledges, but more importantly to celebrate the generosity of the congregation in helping to keep St. Jude's vital.

3. Vestry notes

We are currently in a cash flow crunch. We will be drawing appropriate monies from investments, and will have the financial committee review some of the budget lines at their next meeting.

We will begin looking at ways to spruce up the church

for the upcoming 125th year of St. Jude's Church as it currently stands.

There will be a firm coming to look at the bell tower (which is in very poor condition) on October 7th. to make recommendations.

There are plans in place for a Christian Formation Ministry Team to be developed. Any interested parishioners are asked to speak with Kris Forsythe or Tracie Little.



Music Notes

October is a month of transition from the foliage and warmth of early autumn to the colors and barrenness of late fall. There is also a shift in the liturgical calendar from the well loved stories we have heard through the summer to teachings

of healing, humility and faith as we prepare for Advent.

The musical selections reflect these themes. "Come, thou fount," "Christ is made the sure foundation" "Shepherd me, O God," and "Jesu, Jesu" are a few we will experience.

Have a blessed October.

Marlene Weston

Directory Updates

A few people have noted an error with their photo directory information. If you have not already contacted the church office, please let us know so that we can correct any errors in our system. We will print out a correction sheet to go with the directory soon. Thank you!

Fall Clean-up Day

Our Fall Clean-up Day is scheduled for October 22, a chance to wear old clothes to church with a clear conscience! We'll fortify ourselves at Coffee Hour following the 10:30 service, then get to work with rakes, brooms, clippers, etc. There's some dusting and tidying to be done indoors as well.

See you on the 22nd, and bring your work gloves with you!

Building & Grounds Committee

News and Happenings

We Need Your Help

Plans for our semi-annual auction are coming along nicely. Twenty-nine very creative gift baskets have been donated for the silent portion of our fund raiser. Beautiful stained glass art and hand-crafted quilted items by our St. Jude artists in residence will be highlighted in the live auction. A painting party, a wine tasting, and dining events will also be included. Now we just need a few volunteers to help with set-up and clean-up. Please sign-up for the early set-up crew 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. three Sundays in November. The clean-up crew will work the first two Sundays in November from 12:30 til 1:00, and 1:30 til 2:00 p.m. on the third Sunday. Your help would be appreciated on one or all of these days. Thank you.

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Blessings
in a Basket

Sundays, November 5, 12 & 19

**Baskets will be displayed and
bids will be taken after the
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services each week.**

**A live auction and special coffee hour will
be held after the 10:30 service
on November 19th.**

*Proceeds to benefit
St. Jude's
General Fund
and Outreach.*

Blessings
in a
Basket



Why Kids Need Halloween—A Christian Perspective

Halloween Troubles

I think Halloween gets a bad rap. Some Christian families don't participate because of the holiday's pagan roots and/or the perceived satanic overtones. Some Jewish families don't participate because of the holiday's Christian roots. Some families worry excessively about safety and confine their children's activities to sterilized trick-or-treating at the mall or in the church parking lot. Some adults have co-opted the holiday, using it as an excuse to wear over-sexualized costumes and drink pumpkin-flavored beer.

Childhood Fascination

And yet, Halloween continues to play heavily in the minds and imaginations of our children. This year, our third grade Sunday school class asked if they could wear their costumes to church. I denied the request, given that the holiday doesn't fall on a Sunday. Then, my 7th grade confirmation class asked if *they* could design and host a haunted house. Again, I denied them, given that a mere month would not be enough time to prepare. I can't deny their fascination; I think, in many ways, Halloween is a holiday that kids need to have.

Certainly the costume is a big part of it. Costumes help children confront their deepest fears. Rather than surrendering to the monster, they become the monster, and fear is transformed. Costumes and pretend play, imagining oneself as another, all serve a critical function in a child's self-development, as well as their ability to empathize with others.

Don't we all, even as adults, sometimes

pretend to be someone we are not? Sometimes it's exhilarating, sometimes it's exhausting. Think of the masks that we wear, the many ways we present ourselves to the world. So many of us wear a mask on a daily basis, not just in public, but even around those closest to us. We hide our true selves in a series of personas, costumes, and false faces.

Made in God's Image

As much as Halloween is a chance for children to explore different personas, it is also a time to remember that when we try to conceal the person God made us to be, our true self, it becomes very wearisome. God made us in His image, each of us special and unique. Yet we struggle to live into that image, adopting unsustainable masks that, if we wear them too long, make it hard to breathe.

What of the quintessential Halloween nighttime dash through darkened streets, seeking house after house, not knowing whether we will receive a sweet welcome or a scary rebuff? Don't we as adults often stumble blindly through the dark nights of our own lives, forever hoping to find an open door, a warm light, and maybe something sweet?

In *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes:

"I have learned things in the dark that I could not have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one logical conclusion. I need the darkness as much as I need the light."

Inside this Issue

Why Kids Need Halloween—by Lisa Brown, Director of Digital Ministry with Membership Vision. 1

Multi-Generational Programs for 2017-2018 2

Regularly Happening... 2

Multi Generational Program Plans for 2017-2018

- **Halloween Care Packaging** for College Students and folks in the Military. Suggested donation list is located on the door to the garden. We also welcome financial donations for the cost of postage. (October 15th)

- **Trunk or Treat:** We'll decorate our vehicle trunks and invite our own young people plus neighborhood kiddos to Trick or Treat in our parking lot. We'll have a hot dog lunch and games too! Bring your costume! (October 29th)



- Road Trip to the **Living Nativity at Frankentrost.** (December 2nd in the evening)
- **Advent Fair** including making Anglican Prayer Beads, Advent Calendars & more! (December 3rd)
- **Advent-To-Go** (full of resources and tools to help you observe Advent at home) Bags.

- **Christmas Eve Paper Bag Pageant:** Anyone can come and be a Wise Person or a Shepherd or an Angel. Our tiniest ones can be Animals of Nativity.

- **Valentine Workshop:** Making home-made Valentines to send to those who are homebound or who might need a little extra cheer this year.

- **Lent-to-Go Bags** (full of tools to help you observe Lent at home) for anyone who is interested!

- Something new! A **Lenten Study for Families with Children:** We'll explore "Make Room for Lent" via a book study which will mostly be conducted online. We will introduce this program at our Lenten Fair (February 18th)
- **Wizards and Wonders:** A Harry Potter program for all ages for Summer '18 (Dates TBD). We'll be turning St. J's into Hogwarts!

Sunday Morning Godly Play!

Most Sundays from September thru May

For children in Pre-K thru Grade 5. We meet in the Godly Play room (follow signs) in basement. We start at 10:25am.

Youth Group

Most Sundays from September thru early June

Youth group (6th thru 12th graders) meets most Sundays in September thru the beginning of June after the 10:30am service in the couch room (so roughly 11:45am to 12:45pm).

Regularly Happening at St. Jude's

Sunday Morning Nursery Care

For Infants thru 1st Graders

The nursery opens at 10:15am on Sundays. Nursery staffers bring any children into Godly Play, generally, for the story.

Very young children and Nursery Staffers may return to the nursery to play afterwards until parents pick their children up for communion. If the children are 4 years old or older, we generally have them stay in Godly Play for creative time or "Work Time". All of the children who stay in Godly Play for work time join their parents in worship around the time of the Peace.

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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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