



The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church
Fenton, Michigan

Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others
December, 2017 (Our 159th Year)

In the pocket of my winter coat I carry something perhaps a little strange. It's a hope stone. Basically, it's just a polished stone upon which I had written the word "HOPE." Today I've rubbed that stone inside my pocket so much that the word has long since disappeared. The knowledge that this is a stone to remind me of hope has not.

We live in a world that at times seems devoid of hope. Today as I write this it is the day after Thanksgiving and the news out of Egypt is dim. Yet another attack, this time at a Mosque, has claimed the lives of hundreds of faithful worshippers. Where is hope when not even a place of worship is safe? As the news stream travels to England, my eyes are assaulted with crowds of people fleeing what they believe to be another violent site, although at this time the news coverage isn't clear.

Yes, this is a world that seems conditioned by current events to live in a place of deep fear, of jadedness, and, yes, even a lack of hope. That's where my hope stone comes into play. I play with that rock every time my hand is in that pocket. I don't expect anything magic to happen. That rock is not a Jeannie lamp just waiting for a wake-up call so that the Jeannie trapped within the lamp can emerge and grant me three wishes. No, for me it's a reminder. A time to think about the hope that is found in Jesus. A time to remember that even when things seem the darkest, God is in the midst of every single situation. A time to re-tell the stories of God working in the midst of tragedy to bring about good. A time to recall and then to live the fact that we are a resurrection people.

By the time you receive this, it will be the "week of New Year's Eve" in the liturgical year. We will have celebrated Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday in the church year. When we gather again to celebrate together on the first Sunday in December, it will be a brand new liturgical year (Year B for those of you who track these things). It will be the First Sunday of Advent. A season where we deliberately look forward in HOPE to the incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. A season where we look not just for the birth of a wee baby; it's a season where we look for Jesus in the here and now as we prepare for Jesus' return.

The reality of God with us is that we don't need to live in fear. We are people of hope and right now the world needs God's hope more than ever. As an Advent discipline why not turn to the prophets. Read again the words of hope in times of fear. Look for that hope in today's world. And when you find them, tell the story! Be a prophet! The world needs those words. Throughout the season of Advent each Sunday liturgy will begin by asking the question, "Where have you seen God's hope this week?" To help you remember to be on the lookout, hope stones will be available throughout the season of Advent. Pick up your stone at church! Put it somewhere where you will see it often. Read the prophets. Tell the story! Remember that we are people of hope!

Blessings, Tracie+

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The Reverend Tracie Little (810.300.9177) E-Mail: traciellittle@gmail.com Intern: Paul Brunell (810.618.3453)
Liz Sauvie, Administrative Assistant Office Hours: M/Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; T/Weds: 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. Coffee Hour follows 10:30 service!

News and Happenings

Vestry – November, 2017

Vestry has approved recommendations from the Finance Committee to consolidate smaller custodial funds to three “major” funds which will hopefully help build the funds more productively and streamline the giving process. The three funds will now be called, Building Capital Endowment (for building), Heritage Fund (for outreach), Eternal Pledge (the interest goes to fund our deficit). Look for more information to come about how the budget will look and ways to give. It's that time of year again as we discussed outgoing Vestry members as well as potential new Vestry members and Stewardship. With both of those in mind, if you have a desire to provide your time and talent and serve on the Vestry, or just would like more information about what that looks like, please see Tracie or any Vestry member. A great deal of discussion was had about repairs needed to both the handicap ramp and the bell tower along with an overwhelming concern for the age and upkeep of this historic building.

Respectfully submitted by Megan Rosa

November Financials

Expected Monthly Pledges and Offerings:
\$14,083.33.

November Pledges and Offerings received:
\$13,735.00.

Christmas Cookie

coffee hour on December 17.

Bring a tray of your special goodies to share with your friends at St Jude's andlinger for some time of fellowship!

Gradual Greening of the Church

Anyone who knows me even a little bit, knows that celebrating the Season of Advent is very important to me. If you walk with me through any store that displays Christmas what I consider to be too early, well, you'll likely hear something. Radio stations playing the wrong season of music too soon are another recipient of my liturgical grumpiness.

Now, rather than the odd Christmas song to invade my world, Christmas songs are being played every other song. Culture is rushing us towards a day that is still a month away! Christmas decorations at many homes are being put up and lights being lit earlier and earlier. This year many began appearing before Thanksgiving.

It seems that the world needs the light of Christmas a little bit more this year than in the past. I admit I do love to see Christmas lights brightening up the darkness of night! It used to be my practice after midnight Mass to go on a wee “tour of homes” to gaze at the beauty of those lights.

This year we will be gradually “greening the church.” Each week of Advent something will be added to our decorations. However, it won't be complete until after the celebration of the Fourth Week of Advent. Our Christmas decorations help us to focus on the importance of celebrating Emmanuel, God with us. May this gradual greening be a tool to help us spiritually prepare!

Christmas Services, 2017

December 24 –

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Regular morning liturgies at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

December 24 –

Christmas Eve:

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist with Pageant

10:00 p.m. Carol Sing (You will be invited to share the name of your favorite Christmas carol throughout the season of Advent)

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist

December 25 –

Christmas Day:

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

December 31 –

First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

News and Happenings

We're thankful for YOU

(this message was received from CWS (Church World Services) and is intended for all who participated or contributed to this year's CROP walk)

This Thanksgiving season - a time celebrating harvest and loved ones - we are especially grateful that you've opened your hearts to others.

Your compassion means that others can enjoy their loved ones today, without fearing for them tomorrow; it means that food can be shared generously without the threat of chronic hunger when the harvest ends; it means that families can unite in warmth and shelter, even in a journey of displacement.

This week, we're honored to bring more to the table with you. Thank you for looking towards a future where there's enough for all. May you have a blessed season!

Upcoming Events:

Social Committee Theater Outing

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

3:00 p.m.

TO SEE THE PLAY

FLINT

WRITTEN BY JEFF DANIELS

PERFORMED AT THE PURPLE ROSE THEATER
IN CHELSEA

Ticket cost: \$37 each with a group of 12

Tickets go on sale December 11th

Sign up on the bulletin board in
VandenBergh Hall before this date.

Payment will be due in February.

Contact Denise Rayner for
any further information.

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan is in the midst of a transition.

Last June, our bishop of over ten years, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, resigned his jurisdiction to accept a call on the Presiding Bishop's staff. In October, the 23rd Diocesan Convention voted to elect the Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick as Bishop Provisional of the diocese, serving as companion and pastor for the next year.

We have some work to do, Eastern Michigan!

As discussed at the diocesan convention, we are about to embark on a time of self-study. We will take a look at where we've been, who we are, and who we are called to be as the Episcopal Church in this place.

We invite you to participate in one of the following regional gatherings:

- Blue Water - January 6th at Holy Family, Blue Water
- Flint - January 27th at St. Paul's, Flint
- Saginaw - February 3rd at St. John's, Midland
- North (West) - March 3rd at St. Andrew's, Gaylord
- North (East) - March 10th at Trinity, Alpena

Each gathering will take place on a Saturday from 10am to 2pm and will include lunch. There is no cost to attend. Please register so we can plan for materials and lunch.

This is an exciting time to be the Church in Eastern Michigan. We are excited to begin this self-study process with you all.

Peace,

The Standing Committee

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

The Rev. Dan Scheid, President, St. Paul's, Flint
William Thewalt, Secretary, St. Christopher's,
Grand Blanc

The Rev. Sue Rich, Trinity, Bay City
Stephanie King, Vice President, St. Alban's, Bay
City

Beth Barkley, Trinity, Lexington

The Rev. Phil Seitz, St. Mark's, Atlanta

We Are Family



Please Hold In Your Prayers

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

For those in particular need of prayer: Craig Adams; Jeremy Alber; Karen Anderson & family; Jack Bretzke; Carol Chambers; D'Jair Cominotti; Keelyn Douglas; Steven G.; Bunny Gladfelter; Timothy Harman-Zerbiec; Sue Haywood; Janel Koop; Lisa Langly; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Carl Manzella; Theresa Maynard; Anne Munns; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Howard Thorpe; 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; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Joan Graham; Tom Hackbardt; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Angela Koresh; 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

December 3 – Bruce & Glenda Fletcher; Bob, Josie & Lucy Foguth; Gaye Lynn Foor

December 10 – Greg, Kris, & Leigha Forsyth; Amy Freeman; Bill & Marcia Freeman

December 17 – David, Lynn, Gabrielle & Erica Freeman; Mark & Pat Freeman

December 24 – Matt & Linda Freeman & Michael Wolos; Connie Fry; Ty & Debbie Fry

December 31 – Doug & Michelle Gangwer; Sharon Gay; Raquel Gazzi & Gabriella & Arthur Pennington

BIBLE STUDY

Please note there will be no Thursday noon Bible Study in December. We will resume in January.

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
26th Ella Rising
27th Rita Bretzke
30th Nicole Jagos

DECEMBER Anniversaries

1st David & Lynn Freeman (21 years)
3rd Doug & Michelle Gangwer (17 years)
6th Ron & Cathy Trimmer (49 years)
6th Mark & Beth Jagos (19 years)
19th Paul & Sarah Dolza (35 years)
22nd Vic & Michelle Peters (39 years)
28th Scott & Sharon Michael (15 years)
30th Dave & Debbie James (40 years)

If you do not see your name and have a birthday or anniversary this month, please let the office know. Thank you!

November Silent Auction

We received over \$5,000 from the Silent Basket and Live Auctions on Sunday, November 19th! Thank you to all who participated in making baskets and donating other beautiful and useful pieces for the auctions. Thank you also to everyone who came to support St. Jude's. Part of the money will go to outreach and the remainder will go into St. Jude's general fund to help us continue our ministries and programs for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018! A special thank-you to Denise Rayner (who brought the idea forward for a new and unique way to do our "Silent Auction") and Freya Hutchinson for all of their hard work organizing this event!

St- Jude's Episcopal Church
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 Fenton, MI 48430-2322
 Church Office: 810-629-5681
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St. Jude's Episcopal Church



VESTRY

Megan Rosa, Senior Warden.....810-444-5066
 Ty Fry, Junior Warden810-874-6064
 Debbie James, Clerk810-210-6305
 Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer810-208-0120

2018

Francine Johnston810-629-5981
 Megan Rosa 810-444-5066
 Ron Trimmer..... 810-923-3493

2019

Ty Fry810-874-6064
 Kathy Kortge 810-869-7224
 Carol Pettipher 248-889-2525

2020

Dan White810-735-4763
 Sarah Dolza.....248-895-4737
 Denise Rayner 248-634-2748
 Mark Jagos810-735-0821

Term TBD

Debbie James810-210-6305
 Terri Hutchins..... 810-407-4094

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Dave & Debbie James810-735-4547
 Jack & Beverly Mills248-634-3416

Alternate:

Greg Forsyth.....810-208-0886

We are Family (Con't)

News and Happenings

COFFEE HOUR Hosts:

Our sincere thanks to those who generously provided nourishment for the body and soul during November: Lana Clark, Josephine Feijoo, Lois Hartranft and Sue Premo

We also offer our thanks to *Crust* for their dedicated delivery of their delicious baked goods that we enjoy 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

Circular Table Cloths

Thank you to whoever took the circular tablecloths home to be laundered. This coming Sunday, December 3 is the advent tea and we would like to be able to utilize the table clothes. If you are the person who anonymously took the table clothes to clean them, please bring them back sometime this week so that they can be used Sunday. Thank you!

Notes from the Choir

What are Carols? The carol is defined as a dance or song of praise and joy. The origins of carols predate the Christian era and were part of a folk tradition to be found at all times of the year. Since the Middle Ages, they have been more associated with Christmas.

Christmas carols, also known as *noels* (French for "Christmas") are found in Europe in the 9th and 10th centuries, although one the oldest, *Of the Father's love begotten* (hymn 82) dates from c. 400 AD. In England, carols first appeared in print in 1426. With the Reformation, these Christmas songs exploded in popularity as the people sang in worship.

This year, we will have a carol-sing at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve. We will enjoy selections from the congregation-as many as time allows. The service begins at 10:30. Our choir (with guest singers) and ringers will contribute to making the evening fun and special with the joyous music of Christmas. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

Christmas Families in 2017

Our great St. Jude's caring and sharing family – coordinated through your Outreach Committee – is reaching out again this Christmas to provide **gifts for 5 families in our community (plus our Holly Group Home) to help them celebrate their Christmas.** The Holly Group Home gifts will be provided and funded by your Outreach Committee. Each family provided a list of ideas/suggestions, and their lists are posted in VandenBergh Hall on the Outreach board near the kitchen. It would be great if you could review the lists and sign up for the gift(s) you would like to purchase for a family member(s). Please wrap the gift(s), and place securely on the **outside of your gift a tag identifying the Family Number (#), age of the child, and that your gift is for a boy, girl, or parent(s).** Place the gift(s) in the designated Family #1, #2, #3, #4, or #5 Box in VandenBergh Hall by our **deadline of Sunday, December 17.**

Some parents hope for **gas and/or store gift cards.** Please provide your gas and/or store gift cards to the church office in a sealed envelope showing the **Family Number (#), cash value, and your name.**

As an alternative to purchasing a gift(s), you may prefer to **donate money** to help our Christmas Families. If so, please write a check to St. Jude's, and note on the check it is for "Christmas Families." Your check can be placed in an offering plate, placed in the church office, 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 a Christmas Family parent(s) between Tuesday, December 19 and Sunday, December 24. There is a space for you to sign up for this near the top of each Christmas Families List 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 2017 Christmas Families -- is another great opportunity for you to celebrate your Christmas, and further live out an important St. Jude's outreach ministry.