



# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church  
Fenton, Michigan

*Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others*  
January, 2018 (our 160<sup>th</sup> year)

This year our Annual Meeting will take place in the midst of our Eucharistic celebration at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 21. Why in the midst of worship, you may ask?

Worship is where we bring all of ourselves into the midst of God's presence, asking God to be present with us as we gather, offering God our very selves, praising, praying, re-memorating as we break bread together, and we are sent out into the world, transformed by all that we have experienced to do the ongoing work of Christ. What better place to honor, celebrate and pray for all that God has done, is doing and will do in our midst!

The Annual Meeting booklet that you will receive before January 21 is a collection of what God has done through us over this past year. The reports enclosed within the booklet tell the tale of God alive and working in and through our participation. It's important to recognize what God's been up to and to give thanks for all of these activities of God. It's important to recognize and give thanks for all those who have been a part of helping us to find places to join with God's mission at St. Jude's and in the world.

This Annual Meeting is also a place where a significant discussion will take place. Throughout my time in discernment, I've learned that there has been a recurring conversation around worship space and possibly reconfiguring how we gather. In my experience this kind of repetition has often been God's Spirit prodding us to try something different. This past year I've worked with both Vestry and our Worship Ministry Team to bring this recurring conversation into some kind of focus.

We will be having a conversation to consider bringing the Altar forward, in front of where the current Altar rail is located. This will bring the "action" closer to the people and will ensure that no one has an obstructed view of the Altar and all that takes place there. To do this will mean moving the Altar rail onto the main level of the sanctuary. We've been experiencing this throughout the season of Advent and will continue that practice for the time being. This removes the barrier of stairs and unstable hand railings making us a bit more accessible. Moving the Altar forward also opens up the space at the front of the church where the Altar is currently located. One possibility for that space is for the choir to move forward. This would improve their ability to lead us in song and they wouldn't be so crowded in and pushed off to the side. This in turn opens up the possibility of adding some more pew space and perhaps even a "Soft Space" for children who are present in worship over where the choir is currently located.

At this point we have compiled a number of small changes that will allow all of this to take place. I am attempting to have an artist or architect draw up what this might look like in a rendering. It is my hope that this will be available for January 21 to aid in our conversation.

The other important aspect of Annual Meeting is that of discernment and looking ahead to all that God will do in and through us in the coming year. This year we have something important and special to celebrate! Rather than share that here, I invite you to be present with us on January 21!

Look for your Annual Meeting booklet in the next couple of weeks. Read the reports. Pray for all those stepping into or continuing in positions of leadership. Join us in giving thanks for those who are rotating out of positions of leadership. Help us discern where God is calling us to be and to what God is shaping us to do in this coming year!

And then, following the service, be present as we break bread together again at a Pot-Luck Lunch! Bring your favorite dish to pass and celebrate with us...I look forward to being with all of you, giving thanks for and Celebrating God's Abundance at our Annual Meeting!

Blessings,

*Tracie*

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**The Reverend Tracie Little: 810-300-9177 E-Mail: traciellittle@gmail.com**  
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 those in particular need of prayer:** For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Catherine, our Bishop Provisional; Tracie, our Priest; for the Wardens and 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; Jordon Michael; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Fukuko Shiraishi; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Howard Thorpe; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West

**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; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Angela Koresh; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Anne Munns; Sidney Nihill; Leona; Paul Otto; Richard Perkins; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Susan Taber; Jim Thompson; Sandy Train; Elijah Unkefer

## Pray for Our Ministers

**January 7** – Tom & Shirley Gernack; Vance Gordon; Brian & Barb Goss; Jerry & Joan Graham

**January 14** – Dee Grossmann; Mark Hamel, Mike Green, Chace, McKenna & Aiden Green

**January 21** – Bruce & Linda Hardy; Rex & Judi Harris; Lois Hartranft; Dan & Beth Harvey

**January 28** – Mary Ellen Hazell; Connie Hibbard; Lynn & Kathy Hopper; Bob & Terri Hutchins

## 2018 Giving Envelopes

If you requested giving envelopes on your pledge sheets, they are ready to be picked up in the library. If you did not request envelopes, but would like weekly or monthly giving envelopes, please contact the church office.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

22<sup>nd</sup> Kelly & Lisa Cronk (41 years)  
29<sup>th</sup> Bruce & Linda Hardy (35 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!



*FOLLOWING THE 10:30 a.m.  
ANNUAL MEETING LITURGY*

*JANUARY 21, 2018*

*Bring your favorite dish.  
Enjoy fun, fellowship and good  
eats!*

## We are Family (Con't)

### **COFFEE HOUR Hosts:**

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during part of December: Julie, Tess and Dom DuPei, Jack and Bev Mills, the Marinco's, the Social Committee and all those who contributed to the cookie exchange for the greening of the church Christmas Tea.

As always, we thank CRUST for their dedicated delivery of fresh baked goods each Sunday.

Please, 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 2018 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*

### **Christmas Families**

Thank you once again to our St. Jude's family for demonstrating your loving kindness by providing Christmas through gifts and gift cards to the families identified by Carol and John Pettipher as being in need.

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 2018!

# News and Happenings

## Vestry Notes – December 2017

Along with the generous giving of our parishioners, with the hard work of our financial committee, St. Jude's has a balanced budget for the first time in many years. Very exciting news: we will *not* be operating at a deficit!

The planning has been underway to stop using the Quickbooks program. We will be going live with the Realm program for bookkeeping with Liz Sauvie taking a more active part in day-to-day operations.

We have a list of needs that have been identified by the buildings and grounds committee that will be reviewed and brought forward to our parishioners as 2018 rolls out.

We will be looking for potential candidates to replace our outgoing Vestry members. If you are interested, please let Tracie, or any current Vestry member know.

## Family Promise Gala

Are you interested in supporting Family Promise? They are hosting a Winter Wonderland Gala on February 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. St. Jude's has already filled one table of eight as a Silver Sponsor and we've begun a second table. If we fill a second table and sponsor it at the Silver level, the cost per couple will be \$187.50. If we simply sell individual tickets, they will be \$75.00 each. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Tracie by Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and she will order tickets for you.

## Television Donation

After a request for the donation of a newer TV to replace our current old cart TV, we received not one, but two offers to donate televisions. Thank you for your quick response to this need for St. Jude's.

## Regional Diocesan

### Self-Study Gatherings

As was announced at the recent diocesan convention, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is about to kick off a season of self-study taking "a look at where we've been, who we are, and who we are called to be as the Episcopal Church in this place."

Members of the diocese are encouraged to attend one of the five 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 10-2 p.m. and will include lunch. No cost.

**There is a sign-up in VandenBergh Hall if you are interested in going to the Saturday, Jan. 27th meeting at St. Paul's in Flint.**

## 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*

# News and Happenings

## In Search of Acolytes

The ministry of Acolyte is one that has traditionally been seen as something young people do to participate in worship. However, it is not limited to those who are young.

At this point our Eucharistic Ministers are doing “double duty”, serving as both Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte. To switch roles part way through the service can be confusing and Eucharistic Ministers are not trained to serve as Acolytes. We are looking to expand this ministry and bring Acolytes back to St. Jude’s.

Acolytes arrive early to church in order to robe, light the candles and get the processional cross so they are ready to lead our liturgical leaders for the day – the choir, the Eucharistic Minister, our intern and the presider. They lead the Gospel procession as we bring the Word into the midst of the people. They help to set the Table for Eucharist. Following the liturgy, they lead the procession as we are sent out and they extinguish the candles.

Are you interested in becoming an Acolyte and supporting our worship? Tracie will work with all those who are interested (current Eucharistic Ministers as well as anyone else interested in serving as Acolyte) during a training session or two to be held during coffee hour. The exact dates will be chosen based on the schedules of those who are interested. Once this is complete, we will commission the group to serve as Acolytes and they will be scheduled on a rotating basis.

Please speak to Tracie or call the church office to let us know if you would like to serve as an Acolyte.

The Episcopal Church Women invite you to

## *the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spiritual Journey*

January 18-20<sup>th</sup> 2018

Columbiere Center • Clarkston, MI

## **Wonder Woman:**

*How We See Ourselves;*

*How God Sees Us*

The Reverend Manisha Dosert will lead us to discern our spiritual gifts and how to use them to be Christ’s hands at work in the world. Manisha will provide helpful, insightful questions for our small groups. Each will have an opportunity to contribute to the discussion, helping us to discern our individual ministries.

Cost: Single: \$200.00

Shared room: \$180.00

All women are invited & friends welcome.

Retreat Registration and Questions,  
please contact: Ged Youngman 248-609-5357

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**St- Jude's Episcopal Church**  
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*St. Jude's Episcopal Church*



**VESTRY**

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

**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

**Term TBD**

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

**Delegates to the Diocesan Convention**

Dave & Debbie James .....810-735-4547  
 Jack & Beverly Mills .....248-634-3416

**Alternate:**

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