

# The Beacon

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

Fenton, Michigan

***Seeking and Worshipping God, Reaching Out to Others***

April, 2018 (Our 160<sup>th</sup> Year)

"Spoiler alert.....the tomb was empty." I recently heard this on a radio clip and I've seen a couple of cartoons with that same sentiment floating around lately as well. I can't remember ever seeing or hearing these words in years past. So, I began to wonder, why this year do we need a spoiler alert? I also began to wonder if raising the issue in this way indicates that the world is ready to start looking at what an empty tomb means.

We are about to enter into what I lovingly call the Marathon that is Holy Week. Once again we will tell the story about Jesus' last few days as he enters Jerusalem. By the time you read this we will have already begun or perhaps even completed our journey to the empty tomb and begun 50 days of celebration.

As we gaze into that empty tomb and once again see what's there and what's not there, I wonder, what does it mean for us today? How do we hear that story? Is it simply a tale from long, long ago, significant perhaps only at that time? Or does it continue to shape and change us today as well? What does it mean to be a people of the Resurrection? Is that just something that happens later or can we experience it here and now? How do we recognize Resurrection when it happens in the world today?

I believe that Resurrection does indeed happen today! In the world, in our individual lives and in our communities of faith. I've seen Resurrection in my own life. I've witnessed Resurrection shape and reshape communities of faith. I've seen Resurrection change the landscape of the world.

As we spend the season of Easter unpacking what Resurrection means to us today, I will I invite a conversation as a part of the Gathering Rite in our weekly liturgy with a question. "How have you witnessed Resurrection?" As we all awaken to signs of Resurrection here and now, I suspect we will also begin to discern what it means to be a people of Resurrection – to live in our lives the reality of the empty tomb.

May your experience of Holy Week lead you into a deeper and more profound and transformative Easter season!

Blessings,  
Tracie+

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**The Reverend Tracie Little (810.300.9177) E-Mail: [traciellittle@gmail.com](mailto: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!

# We Are Family

## Please Hold

### In Your Prayers

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

*For those in particular need of prayer:* Jeremy Alber; Karen Anderson & family; Shanin Beall; Bob; Julie Beuchel; Carol Chambers; D'Jair Cominotti; Steven G.; Carol Green; Bunny Gladfelter; Timothy Harman-Zerbiec; Sue Haywood; Laura Hendricks; Michael Krauthofer; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Carl Manzella; Theresa Maynard; Jordon Michael; Beverly Mills; Noel; John Pettipther; Paul Riley; Mike Ryan; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Nanae & 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 Beall; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Engdahl; Ralph Gladfelter; Judy Godsell; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Ev Koller; Janel Koop; Paul Koop; Angela Koresh; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Anne Munns; Sidney Nihill; Leona; Aaron Oberle; Paul Otto; Richard Perkins; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Susan Taber; Sandy Train; Elijah Unkefer

## Pray for Our Ministers

**April 1** – Pedro, Steven, Justin & James Melchor;  
Scott & Sharon Michael; Jack & Beverly Mills

**April 8** – Ann Minock; Lorraine, Leah, William,  
Austin & Matthew Moller; Jill Perry

**April 15** – Vic & Michele Peters; John & Carol  
Pettipther; Susan Premo

**April 22** – Adam & Ashley Prew; Clay & Diane  
Putnam; Lois Putnam

**April 29** – Nancy Day & Ashley Ransley; Dave &  
Denise Rayner; Dustin, Meghan & Benjamin  
Rayner

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5<sup>th</sup> Fred & Lynell Wright (43<sup>rd</sup>)  
14<sup>th</sup> David & Carol Chambers (45<sup>th</sup>)  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bob & Dianne Simpson (41<sup>st</sup>)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> Erica Freeman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Freeman  
4<sup>th</sup> Laura Koch  
6<sup>th</sup> James Melchor  
8<sup>th</sup> Shane Chambers  
9<sup>th</sup> Mark Hamel  
10<sup>th</sup> Aiden Green  
15<sup>th</sup> Michelle Gangwer  
19<sup>th</sup> Alice McAra  
20<sup>th</sup> Scott Smith  
23<sup>rd</sup> Dianne Simpson  
24<sup>th</sup> Lynn Freeman  
26<sup>th</sup> Gay Adams  
29<sup>th</sup> Teresa Maynard

*Coming in May...*

## Progressive Dinner

The social committee is planning a progressive dinner on May 19. We are looking for folks who would like to host one of the three planned courses:

### 1. hors d'oeuvres

2. soup/salad (we are still in need of a  
host for this course)

### 3. dessert

As a host you provide the house and usually drinks for your course. We will post a sign-up sheet for people to bring food to the course of their choice. If you are willing to host, please contact Kathy Hopper. If you are unable to host, make sure you mark your calendar to join us for a wonderful time

## OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO

Richard Stratton on the death of his son, Mitchell Thomas-Stratton...

and to Kim and Bob Alexander on the death of Kim's mother, JoAnn Corsiglia.

# News and Happenings

## Vestry Notes – March, 2018

The Vestry met with a full agenda of reports and items to discuss:

\* Follow up on their suggestion that a proposal by an architect be obtained. Ron Trimmer brought forward information on the Kahn architectural agency. The proposal was reviewed and discussed and the Vestry agreed that the By-laws require two additional proposals. We are moving forward to obtain additional proposals, gather ideas and information on the proposed Sanctuary project.

\* Tracie reported her intention to rent a Labyrinth to have available in VandenBergh Hall for the Holy Week activities.

\* Formation report informed about a “Hunger Dinner” exercise which intends to build empathy and sensitivity to food insecurity issues.

\* Building & Grounds committee discussed dates for a Parish Clean-up. Stay tuned!

\* Memorial Garden plans to alter the handicap ramp and install fencing was discussed. A number of repairs needed on the building and parking areas were discussed and prioritized.

## Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday

7 am – Easter Vigil Service

8:30 am – Potluck Breakfast

10:30 am – Easter Worship Service

## Theology of Social Justice:

### Coppage-Gordon hosts

### Dr. Courtney Cowart in Flint

The Theology of Social Justice workshop has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 19th from 9:30-3:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint.

If other commitments had prevented your December attendance, consider signing up for what will be a great presentation by Dr. Courtney Cowart of the Society for the Increase of Ministry. The cost to attend is \$40, which helps us cover lunch, speaker fees, and materials.

## Saturday Series:

## The Year of the Bible

The Year of the Bible is a survey course covering the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament held in conjunction with the Academy for Vocational Leadership. Each class consists of a video lecture to be viewed ahead of class and in-person discussion and content by a local instructor. This course is a great foundation for lay preachers or anyone interested in learning more about scripture.

### Remaining classes for Spring 2018:

- Apr 14: *Gospels of Matthew and Luke/Acts*: Register on/before 4/11
- May 12: *Gospel of John/The Apostle Paul*: Register on/before 5/9
- June 16: *Paul and the Canon*: Register on/before 6/6

All sessions are Saturdays from 9-3:30 p.m. at the Colombiere Center in Clarkston. The cost to attend is \$50 per class, which includes lunch.

## SPRING INTO ACTION

The weather is (finally!) warming, and it's time to get our church building and grounds spruced up for spring. Since Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, it seems like the perfect time to have a Parish Clean-up.

Come to church on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with gardening gloves, grubby shoes and old clothes instead of Sunday finery, and maybe a few tools, too. We'll have a little extra nourishment at coffee hour, sign up for different tasks, then tackle the work outside.

If April 22's weather doesn't cooperate, we can maybe do a few indoor jobs, and wait until the following Sunday, April 29, to work on the grounds.

Meanwhile, inside St. Jude's, we can do still more to be earth-friendly by recycling more. Amy Freeman, our eco-expert in these matters, will give a Recycling Refresher presentation to the congregation, to be scheduled soon. We can make it “Easy to be Eco” around here.

Kathy Kortge

# News and Happenings

## Diocesan Confirmation

The celebration of Diocesan Confirmation will take place on Saturday, April 14 at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc beginning at 2 p.m. with a reception to follow. If you are interested in being confirmed, received or reaffirming your baptismal vows with Bishop Cate Waynick, please speak to Tracie Little as soon as possible. All those who wish to participate will be required to be present for three sessions of formation: Tuesday March 20, Tuesday April 3 and Tuesday April 10 each from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We will meet in the Couch Room in the basement for these sessions.

## Help Needed

We need someone to hang new brass plaques on the brickwork on the front doors and office doors. If you can help, please contact Tracie or the office.

## Looking Ahead

Read and Feed this year is going to be held for only four days (vs. 6) and all in one week: Monday, 7/31/18 – Thursday, 8/3/18.

## Holy Week

On Monday of Holy Week, the service was enriched by the presence of a Labyrinth. St. Jude's was allowed to borrow the Labyrinth (which saved us having to rent one) and many were able to walk the Labyrinth at the afternoon and evening service. We thank Judy and Mike Marinco for securing the Labyrinth, and Tracie for making the service so meaningful.



The Taize service on Tuesday was quiet, reflective and quite beautiful with the incorporation of music from the guitars played by Kris Forsyth, Jack Mills, Sarah Dolza and Terri Hutchins, and light provided by candles both on the altar, and lit by parishioners during prayer.



## We are Family (Con't)

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS:

Our thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during part of March: Connie Hibbard, Carol and John Pettipher (and their proxy), Diane Simpson, Bob and Terri Hutchins, Joanie and Jerry Graham (and their proxy) and Marcia and Bill Freeman, Amy Freeman and Megan Rosa

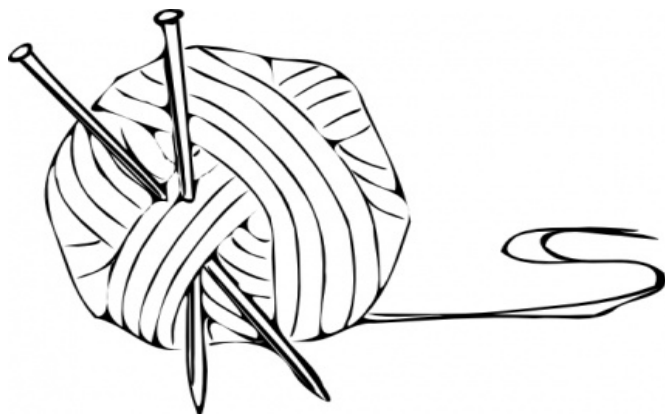
*Crust* continues to graciously send their delicious (and plentiful!) coffee cake on a weekly basis – for which we give our thanks too!

*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

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Deb James will offer a learn-to-knit seminar and prayer shawl knit-in continuing into the first two weeks of April (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>) from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at her Linden home. It is not too late to join into this ministry – speak with Deb or get the list of materials needed from the bulletin board in VandenBergh Hall. If you DO know how to knit, your expertise would be appreciated and you are encouraged to come and be a part of the fun (and a part of the teaching).

If you knit or crochet but cannot attend the seminar, but would like to learn more about making prayer shawls for those who need them, please talk to Deb or Tracie for patterns and instructions.



## News and Happenings

### Notes from the Choir

April is a liturgically rich month. “Alleluias” and the most joyous music of the year are on Easter, April 1. It would hardly seem like Easter without *Jesus Christ is risen today* and *Hail thee, festival day*.

April 8 brings us the story of Thomas wanting proof of Christ’s resurrection. *We walk by faith and not by sight* speaks to this theme.

For April 15, Jesus appears to the disciples and Peter testifies to faith in Jesus’ name. The music selections continue their joyous Easter tone.

April 22 brings us the beloved Shepherd Psalm 23 with its many beautiful musical settings and April 29 presents us the teaching that Christ is the vine and we are the branches. Have a blessed April.

Marlene Weston

### John & Carol Praise & Thank You for Fantastic Loving Support

You all sent to me – and Carol – a multitude of cards, offers of food and help, prayers, a beautiful plant, well wishes, words of encouragement, and love that continues to be overwhelming to us! But this is not surprising. Our St. Jude’s loving community of faith and commitment to each other inside our church -- and outside our church to numerous others -- is who we are, what we believe, and what we consistently do.

Your continuing abundance of prayers has made my recovery from my January 17 stroke extremely promising. I have made major progress in my condition. The doctors, physical therapists, and Carol and I are very optimistic. Thanks be to God -- working through all of you and your loving and overwhelming support and prayers. Carol and I believe in the power of all your prayers, they have made my recovery amazing!

Carol and I also greatly appreciated Reverend Tracie’s visit right after my stroke to be with us at Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital -- when we really didn’t know my condition and outlook. Tracie offered us Eucharist, and we had “tears” of gratitude and hope -- the same emotions I had when I was on our St. Jude’s Search Committee, and knew Tracie was the priest for St. Jude’s!

**Thank God for each of you – and your love!**  
Love John & Carol (and Carol’s sainthood during our 51-year marriage).

**St. Jude's Episcopal Church**  
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[www.stjudesfenton.com](http://www.stjudesfenton.com)

## St. Jude's Episcopal Church

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD, REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

### **VESTRY**

Ty Fry, Senior Warden  
Mark Jagos, Junior Warden  
Josephine Feijoo, Clerk  
Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

### **2019**

Ty Fry  
Terri Hutchins  
Kathy Kortge  
Ron Trimmer

### **2020**

Sarah Dolza  
Mark Jagos  
Denise Rayner  
Dan White

### **2021**

Josephine Feijoo  
Jackie Richardson  
Jerry Rucker  
Crista Spencer

### **Delegates to the Diocesan Convention**

John & Carol Pettipher  
Jack & Beverly Mills

### **Alternate:**

Paul & Sarah Dolza  
Rex & Judi Harris