



December, 2018 (Our 160th Year)

St. Jude's Episcopal Church • Fenton, Michigan

Rector's Report

As I travelled to the Fenton community Thanksgiving Eve service an incredible and beautiful sight led the way. The moon was full. And it was partially hidden behind a thin layer of cloud. For me the sight was a reminder of a different experience of the holiday season.

So often, from now until after Christmas, television commercials will depict the "perfect" family experience of the holidays. The media all too often sets up an expectation that the norm for this time of year is perfection.

If perfection is the norm, then I'm not normal. I can't remember a year when everything was "perfect". I would argue that the imperfect experience of the holiday season is the norm! Just sayin'. It's almost as if that perfect experience we've been set up to expect as normal is hidden behind a veil.

It begs the question. If everything we are exposed to predicts a perfect experience, how do we deal with the reality of imperfection?

I suppose what I find works for me is to NOT expect perfection. To stay awake to the moments of joy and to be thankful for all that I do experience. The perfect, the not-so-perfect, as well as those experiences that I'd really rather not live through. In the midst of my thankfulness I'm aware of God's presence within ALL that I'm experiencing.

That's where the perfection is. God is present no matter what! Realizing that reality, recognizing all that God is doing in every situation, that's an amazing way to journey through this time of year. Our liturgies throughout this season will all point the reality of the presence of the one who became incarnate. Jesus, Son of God, incarnate and dwelling in our midst showed us the reality of the love of God not just when things are going well, but at all times. No matter what.

May you be aware of God's loving presence at all times.

May you know God's peace in the midst of the craziness of this time of year.

May you see God's grace in every situation.

May this be a holy season for you and for all you hold dear!

God's Love and Blessings,

Tracie+

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Office Hours:

Monday & Thursday:

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Tuesday & Wednesday:

9:00 a.m.-noon

Minister of Music

Marlene J. Weston

810-658-2683

Director 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



Christmas at St. Jude's

This year we are trying something new Christmas Eve. We will still have three services, but the timing will be a bit different. And our early service will be a bit different as we won't be experiencing a traditional Christmas pageant. The third service, at 10:30pm is completely new.

So what will the evening look like?

Monday, Dec. 24 ... Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – We will gather for an Experiential Journey to Bethlehem. We will meet the people in the Christmas story as the Gospel of Luke present it. There will be costumes available for any who wish to dress in a particular role for the evening. The story may seem incomplete because we won't meet the Wise Ones. This year Epiphany is on a Sunday so we'll hold the story of the Wise-men's visit to Jesus as it's told in Matthew's Gospel until January 6. We are excited that some of our choir members will be present to musically support this service! The Eucharist at this service is a bit simpler and will be a time when our youngest participants can gather around the Table and help us celebrate.

8:00 p.m. – We will share in a time of carol singing. The choir will also be sharing some anthems in this time.

8:30 p.m. – We will share in our regular "late service" a wee bit earlier with a full and expanded choir and Holy Eucharist.

10:30 p.m. – This will be a much quieter experience of Christmas Eve that will offer times of reflection and an opportunity to light a candle for a particular prayer request. The service will be said and may have some quiet Taize songs for reflection. This service will be especially appropriate for those who struggle with the joy and energy of a regular Christmas Eve service.

Tuesday, Dec. 25 ... Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. – We will gather around a smaller Altar on the main floor of the church as we celebrate Eucharist.

Music Notes



December is a month of anticipation in the church calendar. The music of advent explores the themes of John the Baptist (There's a voice in the wilderness crying), prophecy (Signs of ending all around us) our Lord's second coming (Lo, He comes with clouds descending), and our excitement (People, look east). We conclude Advent with The Song of Mary and the traditional chant, (O come, O come, Emmanuel.)

Our choir and ringers are busy preparing for the Sundays of Advent as well as the joyous music of Christmas. This year the choir will be participating at both Christmas Eve services. As in past years, we will have guest musicians joining us. Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston



Coffee Hour Hosts



Our sincere thanks to those who provided nourishment for the body and soul during November.

Thank you to the Johnston, Pettipher, Rayner and Simpson families.

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

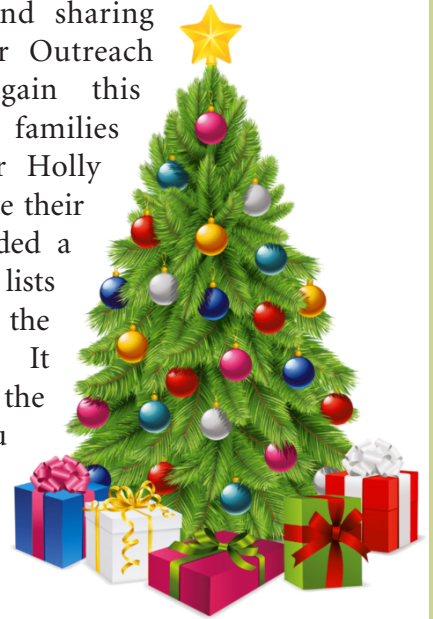
"Every day they continued to meet together...they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts."

Acts 2:46-47



Christmas Families 2018 Giving Opportunities For You

Our great St. Jude's caring and sharing family—coordinated through your Outreach Committee—is reaching out again this Christmas to provide gifts for 4 families in our community including our Holly Group Home to help them celebrate their Christmas. Each family has provided a list of ideas/suggestions, and the 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, or #4 Box in VandenBergh Hall by our deadline of Sunday, December 16. Talk with Carol or John Pettipher at church or call them at 248-255-2260 with any questions.

Some parents hope for gas and/or gift cards. Please provide your gas and/or 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 parent(s) and mutually schedule a date and time to deliver the gifts to a Christmas Family parent(s) between Thursday, December 20 and Sunday, December 23. 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 2018 Christmas Families — is another great opportunity for you to celebrate your Christmas, and further share your love for others.

John & Carol Pettipher

St. Jude's Project Update

Gosh it is hard to believe we are ending 2018. It has been an exciting year for the Building and Grounds and the Special project Team.

In May we communicated that we were addressing several projects that needed attention. Thanks to generous members of our congregation and a couple of anonymous donors we were able to complete a project and begin working on the others.

Thanks to the Property Committee under the leadership of Kathy Kortge, our parking lot problems and a new walk from the road up to the existing walk on E. Elizabeth Street have been completed. They have tackled electrical, plumbing and tuck-pointing issues.

Our project team tackled the Sound System that either did not work or was inadequate for our church. We now have a new updated system, which should be completed mid December and hopefully functioning for the Holiday Services. Again, thank you to those who have donated to make this a reality.

Our Sanctuary has undergone revision; thank you to those volunteers led by Bill Anderson. We still have a little more to do in the area such as plaster and painting, etc. New spotlights have been placed on the altar and the Pulpit.

An assessment has been completed on our Bell Tower: safety, structure and electrical. We did receive good news on the condition and there are some issues we will address in 2019.

The Steeple lighting has been fixed and brought up to code. It has been said it reflects a beacon welcoming all to our church.

We wish all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



St. Jude's Prayer Shawl Ministry



Come one, come all... this ministry is open to men and women.

Don't know how to knit or crochet? Those who wish to learn either will have an opportunity to do so. Experienced knitters and crocheters on hand most meetings.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry makes prayers tangible to those who are facing surgery, a serious illness, or any need. The making of a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice which embodies our thoughts and prayers for the receiver. It is a gift freely given with no strings attached. Made in prayer, as a prayer, for prayer, the shawls are passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart.

In general, the meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 p.m. Upcoming months schedule, a bit altered due to holidays:

December 4th
at Judy Marinco's

January 15th
at Connie Hibbard's

Questions?

Contact Deb James
at 810-210-6305 or
Judy Marinco
at 810-629-8074

YOUR PROJECT TEAM



SCHEDULE

| Date | Hostess | Title | Author |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 12/18/2018 (early) | Kathy Hopper | The Great Alone | Kristin Hannah |
| January 22 | Sharon Aldrich | Runaway Midwife | Patricia Harman |
| February 26 | Mary Ellen Hazell | Things Fall Apart | Chinua Achebe |
| March 26 | Freya Hutchinson | Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker | Jennifer Chiavemini |
| April 23 | Denise Rayner | Ordinary Grace | William Kent Krueger |
| May 28 | Judy Marinco | The Summer of Great Grandmothers | Madeline L'Engle |
| June 25 | Kathy Kortge | The Residence | Kate Anderson |
| July 23 | Nancy Day | The Tuscan Child | Rhys Bowen |

Scrip ORDERS

On the first Sunday of each month, Nancy Day takes scrip orders. These are gift cards you purchase to spend at hundreds of businesses either in person or on line. They also make great gifts! There is zero cost to you, other than the face value of the card, and St. Jude's gets a percentage of the total amount. A win-win. So, make sure you bring your checkbook to church on the first Sunday of each month. You can fill out your order during coffee hour. The orders are sent in that afternoon, and the cards are picked up in Brighton that week and distributed the following Sunday.

Pledge Update

| SEPTEMBER | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Pledges Expected | \$14,887.25 |
| Pledges Received | \$27,012.06 |
| | |
| 2018 YEAR SO FAR (to 10/31/2018) | |
| Pledges Expected | \$146,364.16 |
| Pledges Received | \$146,011.51 |

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Carolers needed for Friday Dec. 7.

Everyone WELCOME!

5:00 p.m. – arrive at Sarah & Paul Dolza's
108 E. South Holly Road
Fenton

Dinner – Bring a dish to pass

5:30 p.m. – Drive to Davisburg Methodist
Church to practice singing and chimes.

6:00 p.m. – Sing carols, play chimes for Kaleidoscope Foundation
Christmas party - group home population

We sing for 15 min. and Santa arrives!

6:30 p.m. – Back to Dolza's to eat, drink and be merry!

Questions: call Sarah Dolza 248-895-4737



Christmas Cards to your St. Jude's Friends

This holiday season, we would like to try to be better stewards of God's earth by saving paper and also save you on stamps by trying something new.

The "News Corner" board in Vandenberg Hall has been temporarily turned into a Christmas Card board. Rather than sending out an individual Christmas card to everyone at St. Jude's, why not create one card for your entire St. Jude's family and place it on the board? People can view the cards before or after the church service on Sundays.



Holiday Cookie

Coffee Hour

Our annual holiday cookie coffee hour will be after the 10:30 service on December 16. Bring your special treats to share with friends and family at St Jude's.



Thanksgiving Reflections

St. John's Thanksgiving Service, 2018
Penned and submitted by Dave James

We Have To Believe

The day will come,
maybe not this year, maybe not in the next decade,
but the day will dawn
when love will be as common as air
and we'll breathe it in
until it seeps into our blood stream,
lodges in our cells.

This love will bend hatred into toys for children;
mold anger into kindness and patience;
bury violence into rows of lilies and snapdragons,
into roses and peonies.

This love flowing in us
will shine up in the sky;
it will rise at night and sing us to sleep;
love will fall like rain and soak the earth,
fill the seas, carry the homeless and poor
into our homes
for rest and laughter.

The day will come,
maybe tomorrow, maybe in twenty years,
when only love will matter, when love will fuel our desire,
when love will stretch its eternal arms
around the world, and everyone in it,
and we'll realize, finally,
we've made it
to heaven.

Celebrating the 43rd Annual Spiritual Journey *Sharing our Stories with Rev. Mary Jane Peck*

January 17-19, 2019

Columbiere Center

9075 Big Lake Road • Clarkston, MI • 248-625-5611

All women are invited! Bring friends!

Registration ongoing.

For registration or more information,
contact Ged Youngman at 248-609-5357 or email amyged@wowway.com

Did You Know?

If you are 70-1/2 or older and have an IRA, you are probably familiar with the Required Minimum Distribution, (RMD), mandate. Every year after 70-1/2 you have to withdraw a minimum amount from your IRA based on a specific formula from the IRS. This distribution is taxed as regular income at whatever prescribed rate you need to pay. What you may not have known is you can use some or all of this RMD as a charitable donation to a Qualified Charity, (St. Jude's). This is called the IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution rule and it allows IRA account owners who are subject to the RMD rules to use untaxed money in an IRA as a donation to a charity TAX-FREE. The rules require that the money distributed be directly transferred to a charitable organization, and they set a dollar limit of \$100,000 per year (\$200,000 per couple).

Also, you can't claim the charitable deduction for the same contribution on your tax return (sorry, no double dipping). Note, this provision does not apply to a Roth IRA, which has tax-free withdrawals and no RMDs.

Very important note

The money withdrawn from your IRA and donated to charity stays out of your

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Did You Know (continued)

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adjusted gross income only if you make a direct transfer from your account to the charity. It doesn't qualify as a tax-free transfer if you withdraw the money first, deposit it into another account and then donate it to the charity.

Most major financial institutions are well equipped to handle this transaction for you. If you want to use this option contact your financial advisor or the institution holding your IRA and let them know your preferences.

As a side note, some of the tax savings you realize could be used to increase your yearly pledge. (Just a suggestion.)

If this is something that interests you, contact whoever assists you in your financial planning and check it out.

Ministry Spotlight

We are beginning something new in the Beacon, a "ministry spotlight." Remember the old saying about "taking a village to raise a child?" That same premise works for St. Jude's... it takes ALL of us to make our church successful and we would like to let others know of the work each of our ministries/committees are doing. Please consider submitting an article.

This month, we are spotlighting the Outreach work carried out here at St. Jude's.



Are we reaching out, or what?!

Submitted by Dave Rayner

We have all been very busy this fall carrying out St. Jude's Mission to **"Seek and Worship God, Reach Out to Others."** I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of St. Jude's members. Below is just a sample of some of the things that we have accomplished together in the past couple of months.



- With the help of 18 St. Jude's members we provided meals and safe overnight lodging for 3 families in Family Promise. That added up to over 100 volunteer hours and 33 individual dinners. We also provided breakfasts and lunches for the families (with the help of St. Paul's and St. Dunstan's).
- With the help of over 30 St. Jude's volunteers, the Fenton Fire Department and countless teens from Play Like Jackson, we gave away a Truckload full of fresh food to the community (124 families representing over 240 people). Not to mention providing for many more with the leftovers — can you say "Loaves and Fishes?"
- Next was the annual CROP Walk, with a new twist this year. Most years, St. Jude's has 10-15 walkers and raises between \$1,200 and \$1,700. This year, thanks to Tracie and Robbie (1st Pres.) challenging one another to beard shaving and hair coloring, we had 29 walkers and raised almost \$3,000!
- Since we weren't worn out yet, we decided to give away some more food with another Fresh Food Truckload food giveaway. Once again, over 30 volunteers gave away over 5 tons of food to more than 100 local families.
- Finally, as I write this article, we are hosting another week of Family Promise at Calvary UMC in Flint. This time we are not only helping local families in need, but we have a family of 5 that has been displaced by the fires in California (**talk about reach out!**).

Whew, I'm tired just thinking about all of this good work... but not to tired to say thanks to you all for helping St. Jude's Reach Out!!!

Diocesan Convention 2018

Submitted by John and Carol Pettipher

Bishop Wayne Hougland, highly likely to be Provisional Bishop of our Diocese – exciting opportunity for Diocese of Eastern, Western Michigan, our Episcopal church & each of us!

As we said in our St. Jude's October Beacon, we attended our Diocese 2017 Annual Convention in Bay City, where Bishop Hougland was invited by our Diocese to be Keynote Speaker, and the Adaptive Leadership Workshop Leader and presenter with much quality time for Q & A about the present and future of our Episcopal Church and youth. God is calling Bishop Hougland to be the next Bishop of the Diocese of Great Lakes Episcopal, like he was called to be Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan 5 years ago in 2013, in our opinion. At our Diocesan Annual Convention October 2018, we attended our Diocese voted overwhelmingly (65%) for Bishop Hougland (Option 3). The following information is from the www.eastmich.org and www.edwm.org websites. The information is an important high-level summary of what all of us and our Diocese have been discerning and deciding over the last 18 months since June 2017. *The information represents an exciting framework, roadmap, and process for our future together with Bishop Hougland and Western Michigan (you can read/reference next 3-5 years)!!!*

John & Carol Pettipher

Decisions & Next Steps Near-Term (3-5 Years) & Long-Term (10-20 Years)

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern & Western Michigan

1 of 2 (Source: www.Eastmich.org The Feast Online 10/31/2018)

The 24th Diocesan Convention chooses next steps in Episcopal Transition Eastern Michigan invites Western Michigan to conversation

At last weekend's diocesan convention (10-27-2018), the delegates and clergy determined the next steps in our Episcopal transition, following last year's resignation of our second bishop, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley.

The convention cast 37 (22%) votes for Option 1 (Move forward with a search process and election of the next bishop), 23 (13%) votes for Option 2 (search for and nominate a Bishop Provisional to serve 3-5 year as we continue conversations with the Diocese of Western Michigan and around sustainability), and 110 (65%) votes for Option 3, crossing the 60% supermajority threshold for a decision set by the Standing Committee on the first ballot. --1st and only ballot.

Option 3 calls for the Standing Committee to nominate the Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland, Jr., Bishop of Western Michigan, pending the consent of the Standing Committee in Western Michigan, to serve as bishop provisional in Eastern Michigan for a period of 3-5 years as we have intentional conversations about the sharing of resources and deeper relationship. Western Michigan will have a series of gatherings in the spring where they will take up this issue and consider their consent.

- Visit www.eastmich.org/convention to read the text of Resolution #3/Option #3.
- Visit eastmich.org/bishop-transition to access all documents and information from throughout our transition process.
- Visit this link to read Bishop Hougland's message to Western Michigan following the vote in Eastern Michigan.



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Diocesan Convention 2018 (continued)

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Decisions & Next Steps Near-Term (3-5 Years) & Long-Term (10-20 Years) **Episcopal Diocese of Eastern & Western Michigan**

2 of 2 (Source: www.edwm.org)

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan has voted to reach out in partnership.



The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

To the People of the Diocese of Western Michigan,

At their diocesan convention today, the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan voted to ask the people of Western Michigan for our consent to the nomination and election of me to serve as Bishop Provisional in our neighboring diocese.

This Spring at our Bishop's Workshops, we will take up this question - do we wish to enter this period of mutual discernment with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan around shared resources and ministries? How might we imagine the Episcopal Church to be in 5, 10, 20 years and how might we see our relationships across the state in that? And how might the sharing of a bishop help us be more intentional in those conversations?

The three Bishop Workshop days will take place:

- February 23 - Southern Region – St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
- March 2 - Central Region – St. Andrew's, GR
- March 30 - Northern Region – Grace, Traverse City

Registration information will be available later this Winter. Please save the date and plan to attend and add your voice to the discussion.

We continue to be grateful for our relationships with our neighboring dioceses. We do very great work together already and will continue to do so no matter the direction we choose. I am excitedly looking forward to working together to help Michigan see that the grace, peace, and joy of the Kingdom of God is indeed near.

I continue to be honored to be your bishop as we take on the important work of finding what it means to be a disciple in our little cul-de-sac of the Lower Peninsula.

May the blessing of God Almighty be with us now and always,

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.
IX Bishop,
The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan

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Diocesan Convention 2018 (continued)

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Report on Eastern & Western Michigan Collaborative Meeting St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint

1 of 2 (Source: www.eastmich.org)

Participants:

Eastern Michigan

- The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick
- The Rev. Dan Scheid, SC President
- The Rev. Ken Hitch, Diocesan Council
- Stephanie King, Standing Committee

Western Michigan

- The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.
- The Rev. Valerie Ambrose, SC President
- The Rev. Linnea Stifler, Diocesan Council
- Joanie Smith, Diocesan Council

and Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism and Networking for the two dioceses.

The Questions on the Table:

- What will the Episcopal Church in the lower peninsula look like in 10 years? 20 years?
- What new thing might God be calling us to do?
- In the midst of Episcopal transition in Eastern Michigan, might now be a time to undergo a dedicated process to consider juncture?
- How can we continue to collaborate and deepen our relationship across diocesan lines?

Core Understandings and Context:

- We feel a “longing for relationship” regardless of financial need.
- Shared sense that continuing on in separate ministry without change is not a sustainable model for the future of the Episcopal Church in this place.
- Both leaderships have voiced consideration of coming together to their diocesan communities in some way – Bishop Ousley to clergy community, diocesan convention. Bishop Hougland in conversation with congregations during parish visitations.

Eastern Michigan

- 10 months into Episcopal Transition.
- Bishop Cate was elected as Bishop Provisional part-time for one year in October 2017.
- Held five transition focused self-study gatherings - regionally and for clergy. Will report out in June 2018.
- Long-term, is financially unsustainable at current staffing and program levels, including provision for a full-time diocesan bishop.

Western Michigan

- In the process of implementing extensive restructuring from deanery system to three regions, led by staff.
- Bishop Hougland was elected in 2013 and expects to retire in approximately 10 years.
- Bishop Hougland is interested in serving as Bishop Provisional for Eastern Michigan, should a process for deepened relationship be explored.

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Diocesan Convention 2018 (continued)

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Report on Eastern & Western Michigan Collaborative Meeting

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint

2 of 2 (Source: www.eastmich.org)

Shared Ministries

Currently Practiced:

- The Academy for Vocational Leadership: A three-year program of local formation for priests (Eastern Michigan only) and deacons
- The Diocesan Church Development Institute: A two-year development program to coach and resource congregations for ministry in their local contexts
- The Canon for Networking and Evangelism: In March 2018, the two dioceses began to share a staff member to oversee communications, evangelism, and networking
- Youth Ministry: The dioceses collaborate and invite participants to almost all youth events and trainings across diocesan lines. Examples include Happening, The Gathering, the Progressive Youth Mission Trip.
- The DREAM Project: The Dominican Republic and Episcopal churches in all of lower Michigan is the shared project with the Dominican Development Group to send short-term mission teams to the Dominican Republic.
- Lower Peninsula Diversity Taskforce
- The Disciplinary Board: The three lower peninsula dioceses share a board to handle all clergy discipline and Title IV matters
- Licensing: Clergy licensed in any diocese in Michigan may serve any congregation in Michigan.
- Bishops speaking together on issues of social justice, advocacy: For example - Marriage Equality, Enbridge Pipeline 5
- AMEN Conference: Annual conference for clergy from all Michigan dioceses on Mackinac Island

Anticipated & to be Explored:

- Revival to be led by The Episcopal Church staff in Fall 2019
- Clergy Retreat - plan to share in May 2019
- Invite, Welcome, Connect Training via DCDI in 2019
- Common presence and reporting from General Convention 2018
- Common print magazine in Fall 2018
- Relationship between deputations to the General Convention
- Clergy Continuing Education - one day workshops on different areas of ministry
- Gathering Standing Committees, Diocesan Councils, Staffs for retreat
- Discernment process and shared Commission on Ministry
- More youth programs
- Camp and Retreat Ministry for children and adults
- Young Adult Ministry
- Additional staff sharing
- What else might we share?

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Diocesan Convention 2018 (continued)

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Summary of Focus Groups, Diocese of Eastern Michigan Discerning Mission & Ministry in Diocese of Eastern Michigan Five (5) Self-Study Gatherings Winter 2018 (January – March)

Questions 1 and 2: Success, miracle, and joy in the last 5-10 years and best personal experience in the diocese.

- Camp Chickagami (said in all 5 focus groups)
- Coppage Gordon Academy (said in all 5 focus groups)
- Communication/ The feast/ Multit-media
- Inclusion, Justice, Outreach
- Transition process from + Todd to +Cate
- Inter-diocesan connections and collaboration, collaboration with other dioceses, grass roots, sense of potential and movement.
- Welcoming, hospitality, invitation to join/serve and lead.
- Diocesan Convention and Diocesan Events.

Questions 3 and 4: Not done well enough, could have done better in last 5-10 years, opportunities missed, passed us by in last 5-10 years.

- Evangelism, deepening our relationship with God and each other, spiritual growth, faith formation, listening/dialogue and sharing our stories.
- Stewardship and communication/transparency of finances.
- Communication and more connection between diocese/people and “up north” feeling disconnect with the diocesan office.
- Dropping the convocation mode, becoming more centralized

Questions 5 and 6: What do you want in the next 5-10 years and what needs to be changed and what personal commitments will you give,

- Raising up young people, serving youth
- Improved communications - diocese to parish, parish to parish
- Cross diocese cooperation, cross parish information sharing, reconfigure diocese and borders, community partnerships
- Financial planning accountability and reporting/stewardship
- Be open to the Spirit, remove walls and barriers, let go of fear and pride, step out in faith not fear, pray and encourage, faith sharing testimonies, listen better, storytelling, discernment, less resistance to change, joy.

What we gain with Bishop Hougland and a long-term discernment process with Western Michigan

(St. Jude's October 2018 Beacon)

1. Diocesan of Eastern Michigan, in collaboration with Diocese of Western Michigan, *creates opportunities for shared ministries* – and *opportunities to reduce and consolidate substantial costs* – \$500,000 lower estimated annual costs (\$2.5 million over 5 years).

2. ***Gain*** an outstanding Bishop – and fast, in October 2019.

3. ***Gain*** a present Michigan Bishop who has been in Michigan for 5 years since becoming Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan in 2013.

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Thank You

THANK YOU...

...to everyone who
attended our
12th Advent Tea! Your
presence made it special.

Special thank you to the
kitchen men, we couldn't
do this without you!

*Blessings,
Christine and Lorraine*



Diocesan Convention 2018 (continued)

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4. **Gain** a Michigan Bishop who has been leading the restructuring of a sister Michigan diocese (Diocese of Western Michigan) he started considering restructuring with other diocesan leadership over the last several years. Michigan Bishop Hougland has an “in process” proven/proving track record of very positively restructuring a sister Michigan diocese. Our two (2) dioceses have many similarities, including geography, population, demographics, rural-city diversities, number of churches and church members, ministries, \$1.5 million annual budgets, etc. We likely also have some complementary differences that would be collaboratively and synergistically enhanced through an “asset mapping” process.

5. **Gain** an outstanding, knowledgeable, experienced, and very talented, creative, charismatic, personable, positive, professional and prime-of-his-career Episcopal Bishop -- with strong leadership, strategic planning, problem-solving, organizational structure, and management skills, based on Bishop Hougland's lifetime secular and spiritual formation -- and his excellent leadership for the last 5 years of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

6. **Bishop Hougland is well recognized for his strong leadership skills by our Episcopal Church.**

7. **Gain** a great Diocese of Western Michigan website www.edwm.org, that Katie Forsyth and other leaders from our Diocese of Eastern Michigan www.eastmich.org will make even better!

8. **Opportunity to potentially create a larger and more valuable missions and ministries-based** Great Lakes Episcopal Diocese.

NEWS & UPDATES

Western Michigan Team at D.L.I. in Kanuga

EDWM one of [ONLY!] 11 invited [from throughout The Episcopal Church U.S.A.] to Diocesan Leadership Initiative

Bishop Hougland, Canon Val Ambrose, and Canon Katie Forsyth attended the Diocesan Leadership Initiative at Kanuga Camp and Conference Center last week at the invitation of the Episcopal Church Fellowship, the Lilli Foundation, and the Episcopal Church.



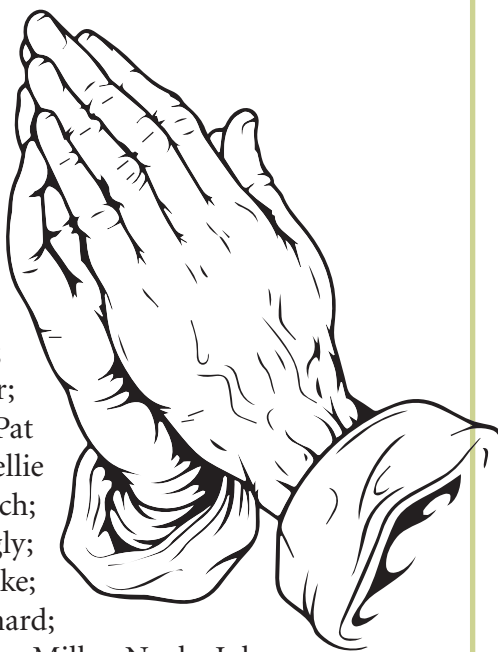
Western Michigan was one of [only] eleven dioceses [from throughout The Episcopal Church U.S.A.] invited to participate in a gathering of “innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial” dioceses of the church. The three-day long initiative consisted of training around visioning and change as well as collaborative time amongst the dioceses and church-wide staff.

Prayer List

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; Shanin Beall; Bill Belknap; Julie Beuchel; Dave Carr; Carol Chambers; D'Jair Cominotti; Steven G.; Carol Green; Bunny Gladfelter; Sue Haywood; Laura Hendricks; Pat Hinterman; Jaqueline Hoskins; Kellie Johnson; Skylar King; Carl Koch; Michael Krauthofer; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Carl Manzella; Theresa Maynard; Jordon Michael; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; John Pettipther; Paul Riley; Marilyn Safa; Spencer Sands; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Larry Smith; Stan Spicer; Howard Thorpe; Jennifer Ubil; Sandy West; Bob & Marcia Wittig



And those in continuing need of prayer: John Babcock; David Barrows; Brett Beall; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Karen Cleaver; Betsy Davies; Erica and Gail Delaney; Gail Engdahl; Ralph Gladfelter; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Mindy Kania; Ev Koller; Janel Koop; Paul Koop; Angela Koresh; Mary Kurtz; Don Kurtz; Leona; Aaron Oberle; Denny Sharpe; Arin Shinabarger; Brian Smith; Susan Taber; Sandy Train; Ellen Tripp; Elijah Unkefer Pray for our ministers

Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

- December 2 – Mark, Beth & Nicole Jagos; Dave & Debbie James; Charlie & Francine Johnston
- December 9 – Lester & Nancy Jones; Mike & Peggy Kearns; Carl & Connie Koch
- December 16 – Doug Koch; Jeff, Jennifer & Madeline Koch; Steve, Laura, Evan & Ella Koch
- December 23 – Evelyn Koller; Jim & Kathy Kortge; Keith & Lorie Krebs
- December 30 – Don & Mary Kurtz; Jacob Kusluski; Tracie, Dave & Mike Little

December Birthdays

- 1st – Don Kurtz
- John Pettipther
- 4th – Hayden Chambers
- Mark Freeman
- 7th – Gabrielle Freeman
- Josephine Feijoo
- 8th – Beth Jagos
- Bob Szostak
- 15th – Kelly Cronk
- 27th – Rita Bretzke
- 30th – Nicole Jagos

December Anniversaries

- 1st – David & Lynn Freeman (22 years)
- 3rd – Doug & Michelle Gangwer (18 years)
- 6th – Ron & Cathy Trimmer (50 years)
- Mark & Beth Jagos (20 years)
- 19th – Paul & Sarah Dolza (36 years)
- Kris & Greg Forsyth
- 22nd – Vic & Michelle Peters (40 years)
- 28th – Scott & Sharon Michael (16 years)
- 30th – Dave & Debbie James (41 years)



Beacon Deadlines

Submissions for The Beacon are due by the **22nd of each month**. Please submit them to Debbie Fry at debbiemcwilliams00@gmail.com.

Advent: The Art of Simple

The holidays can easily feel insane, but with a bit of forethought and planning, it's entirely possible to keep the festive season sane.

The primary way our family stays saner before Christmas? *By intentionally observing Advent.*

Most of us know about Advent calendars and wreaths, but unless you've grown up in a liturgical church—one that follows the traditional Christian calendar—Advent probably isn't thought of as much more than the padding around Christmas. That's what it was like for me, anyway, having grown up in a non-denominational church.

We're now an Anglican family, but we're still just a few years in. If you're a relative liturgical newbie, there are some simple ways to ease into recognizing Advent as a separate holiday from Christmas.

1. Learn the calendar.

Advent is best understood in context of the entire liturgical calendar, and while it's not necessary to fully grasp the whole thing ahead of time, it's helpful to think of it as the season *before* Christmas. Not actually part of Christmas.

Advent is the start of the new year of the Christian calendar, and one of its primary purposes is to prepare our hearts for Christmastide, which celebrates the birth of Jesus for twelve days *starting* December 25. Advent begins the fourth Sunday from the first day of Christmas, which means it's generally about a month long.



2. Slowly decorate

If we were purists, we would buy our Christmas tree and refrain from hanging ornaments until Christmas Eve, keeping it simple with lights.

Instead, we buy a tree soon after Thanksgiving, then slowly, *slowly* add decor to

both it and the rest of the house in anticipation of Christmas. No reason to feel like it all has to be done by December 25 (especially if we recognize the twelve full days of Christmas!).

A little greenery here, some candles there, paper snowflakes later in the month.... spreading it out throughout the entire season means enjoying the process instead of rushing to just be *done*.

Excerpt taken from Jerusalem Greers Blog. Check it out at <https://theartofsimple.net/advent/?fbclid=IwAR0bBGLfE3CBJtEop0xc1mlBeA9s5gtlHYRYiHf4PwvWvCGDrP03i9WYwXU>

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Upcoming Programs for All God's Children

- **Advent Fair—Sunday, December 2nd, Coffee Hour.**

Join us in the preparing that is Advent. Activities planned include clay labyrinth (handheld) making, Mother Mary and Baby Jesus icon collages and Advent Coloring. Advent-to-Go bags too!

- **Youth Group Gift Jars:** We are rebuilding our Youth Group funds so we can attend some upcoming programs. The jars will go on sale in Advent and wrap up by Epiphany.



- **Spiritual Journey Women's Retreat—January 17th—19th.** Co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Michigan and Western Michigan at Columbiere Retreat Center in Clarkston. Speakers, music, worship, labyrinth walking and more. Many of St. Jude's women attend and some of us lead music there too. Double or single rooms available. Please see the Christian Formation table for more info.

- **Valentines Outreach:** Specific Date to be announced. Either last week of January or first week of February. Come join us in making beautiful handmade creations to send to folks who are home-bound, who might need a little extra cheer this year

or to college students and folks in the military. All supplies provided. Members of the congregation are invited to submit names and addresses for our list of recipients.

- **CHARGE—A Youth Event for Middle Schoolers, Mar. 24th—26th, Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse**

City. The program will be filled with skill-shops emphasizing service opportunities, leadership development and community building. The goal of the weekend is to energize the youth to return home ready to make change in the world through the Jesus Movement. We will also have plenty of time to enjoy the amenities of Great Wolf Lodge, including the waterpark and an outdoor campfire camp style!

Godly Play & Beulah Land

Most Sundays mid September thru late 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. We rejoin parents for communion.

Youth Group

Most Sundays from September thru early June

Youth group (6th thru 12th graders) meets most Sundays in September thru late May 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 Kindergartners

The nursery opens at 10:15am on Sundays. Nursery staffers bring any children from the nursery into Godly Play (when it is being offered) 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.

WORSHIP LEADERS for December 2018

| | LEM (s) 2nd CHALISE PRAYERS | READER (S) | USHERS | COFFEE HOUR | VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY | ALTAR GUILD |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>December 2</u> | | | | | | |
| 8 am | Clay Putnam | Jerry Rucker | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10:30 am | Paul Dolza Dee Grossmann Amy Freeman | Raquel Gazzi | Rex Harris ??? | Jagos | Kathy Kortge | Christine S. Lois Hartranft |
| <u>December 9</u> | | | | | | |
| 8 am | Mike Wells | Ron Trimmer | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10:30 am | Lynn Hopper Dave Rayner Dee Grossmann | Amy Freeman | Jessie Clawson Becky Trier | Peters | Mark Jagos | Terri Hutchins Fran Johnston |
| <u>December 16</u> | | | | | | |
| 8 am | Mary Louise S. | Lois Hartranft | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10:30 am | Dave Rayner Lynn Hopper Amy Freeman | Dee Grossmann | Kelly & Lisa Cronk | Cookie Exchange | Dan White | Gaye Foor Lorraine Moller |
| <u>December 23</u> | | | | | | |
| 8 am | Jerry Rucker | ???? | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10:30 am | Dan White Dave Rayner Lynn Hopper | Megan Rosa | Dave & Denise Rayner | Fry | Ty Fry | EVERYONE |
| <u>December 24 – Christmas Eve</u> | | | | | | |
| 5 pm | Greg Forsyth Dan White Amy Freeman | ----- | ----- | ----- | ??? | EVERYONE |
| 8:30 pm | Dave Rayner Paul Dolza Dan White | Bob Simpson | Dave & Debbie James | ----- | ??? | EVERYONE |
| <u>December 30</u> | | | | | | |
| 8 am | Clay Putnam | ??? | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 10:30 am | Amy Freeman Greg Forsyth Paul Dolza | Jack & Bev Mills Dave & Deb J. Ellen Tripp Marjie Andrejciw Megan Rosa Dee Grossmann | Lorraine Moller Charlie Johnston | Szostak | Ron Trimmer Jackie R. | Mary Ellen Mary Louise |

Communion Bread Bakers:

December – Judy Marinco

January – Nancy Day

February – Terri Hutchins

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

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