

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

MARCH 2020... OUR 162ND YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

106 East Elizabeth St.
Fenton, MI 48430-2322
810-629-5681

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WEB:

www.stjudesfenton.com

FACEBOOK:

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Tracie Little

810-300-9177

E-Mail: TracieLLittle@gmail.com

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon

E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

Liz Sailus,

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Monday & Thursday:

8:30 a.m.-4:30 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

RECTORS REPORT

This month has been like no other I have ever experienced. I will admit that as new routines and restrictions have become my normal, I've rested into a place where I'm encouraged to be creative in the ways I connect with people and with groups.

I'm even beginning to play with technology, setting up gatherings on Zoom with friends and family. By the time you receive this Beacon, you will have been informed that I'm setting up Zoom Office Hours as another way, besides the phone, for you to connect with me remotely.

I also asked the question at one of our Morning Prayers, if anyone was interested in participating in a Zoom Bible Study, focusing on the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday. If you are interested in participating in a virtual, online Bible Study, please let me know either by e-mail at TracieLLittle@gmail.com or by phone at 810-300-9177.

As I've watched the world around me and as I've paid attention to this Fenton area, I've noticed a real coming together of people. And I've seen people beginning to notice those who work in areas that have been largely behind the scenes and taken for granted. Before this all happened, when was the last time you thanked someone working in a grocery store for being there and keeping the shelves stocked? Now we see these

folks as front-line workers who are putting themselves at risk.

We show our appreciation for those who work in the hospitals as we hang signs and hearts in our front windows, as groups line the entranceways respecting each person's 6-foot safety bubble and clap during shift change, as we craft beautiful images of thanksgiving in side-walk chalk on our driveways, and as we hang "We're in this together" signs in our windows and on store front signs.

At St. Jude's, we've been blessed with more community participation as people begin to recognize and support our growing Outreach endeavors. We've seen volunteer lists grow as people both from St. Jude's and from the community at large seek to help make a difference by ensuring the hungry are fed. Our new Donate button has seen traffic and our mailbox has welcomed checks to support our Outreach programs.

Our rugged individualism is giving way to real community participation as compassion brings hope to so many! Me included! That's where I've seen God in the midst of all that we are experiencing in this pandemic! Even with all of the challenges that we're having to navigate, I see God knitting us together in new and

(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

old ways. I see deeper connections between families and friends. I see complete strangers more willing to engage in conversation, each on their own 6-feet-away "X" on the floor. From Facebook posts, I see friends becoming more creative with the foods that they prepare for their families.

Yes, we are living in different times and yes, these times are challenging and at times frustrating. And, God is right here in our midst. Shedding tears with the families and friends who have lost loved ones to this disease. Celebrating with us as we connect more deeply with one another. Multiplying our donations as we provide for families in need.

And we can see the results in the faces of those who are coming to

get food. You will see a report from Outreach in this Beacon that details what we've been up to and what kind of a difference our ministry, grounded in God and supported by the Holy Spirit is making in our community.

This month has been like no other I have ever experienced. God's presence with us and our discernment in participating with God's mission to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry, has been tangible in ways that are unmistakable. And this is not just good news. This is the Great News of Jesus Christ, alive in our midst, bringing us hope, loving us into a new a deeper relationship with God and with our neighbors. Thanks be to God, that we can be this mobilizing force in our community!

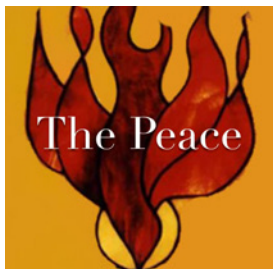
Love and Blessings,

Tracie+

THE PEACE

Matthew 5:23 – 24: So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Take just a minute and think about The Peace that we share during Eucharist. What is it that you are doing in this part of the liturgy? This question was asked at a recent Adult formation Zoom gathering. For the most part, those who offered to share what they thought, believed that The Peace offers a chance to meet and greet our neighbors in a particular way. That response wasn't surprising at all. That's one of the things



Episcopalians do particularly well, especially members of St. Jude's.

We care deeply for one another and The Peace offers us an opportunity to demonstrate how well connected we are with one another and how deeply we care and love one another.

Have you noticed that something is missing in our daily Morning Prayer services? We have not "passed" the Peace. Not once. Has that seemed a bit odd to you? Perhaps, because we are meeting online for church, it hasn't seemed possible to pass the Peace. Afterall, generally our time of Peace lasts quite a while as we make the rounds, extending Peace to everyone we can possibly get to.

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PRAYER SHAWLS

Knitting continues with at least 5 prayer shawls completed while we have been in quarantine. Oh, the prayers that have gone into them!

The ladies prayer shawl group tried an experiment in March, doing a "phone a friend" prayer shawl meeting. We met with individuals by phone and spent time chatting while we knit together. The next "phone a friend" meeting will take place on Monday, May 18th at 1 p.m.

If you would like to take part in this meeting, please let us know your name and best phone number to reach you at. We will make plans for connections to happen...will send those out Sunday, May 17th once we have all of the names of those who would like to participate.

For information, contact:

Deb James at 810-210-6305

St. Jude's building remains closed due to COVID-19

In order to keep St. Jude's people and building as safe as possible and at the recommendation of our Bishop and the Episcopal Bishops of Michigan, the church building will be closed to ANY gatherings through May 10, 2020. This includes groups that use our building as well as any St. Jude's activities. The exception is the Saturday and Thursday grocery giveaways for the Fenton School District, Dauner Haus and others who are in need during this time, but with strict rules in place. The office remains closed with our staff working from home. You can still call the church office number which is being forwarded to our administrative assistant, Liz's, cell phone. You can also still call Tracie for any pastoral needs on her cell phone (810) 300-9177.

Connect to Virtual Office Hours via Zoom

Tracie's Zoom Office Hours

If you'd like to visit Tracie in her home office, please join her on Zoom. You will need a computer or a smart phone with video and audio capability. Just click on the link below. You may need to enter the meeting number and/or the password in order to enter. You will be placed in a waiting room and Tracie will admit you one at a time. Office hours will be held on Tuesday mornings between 10 and noon, and Wednesday afternoons from 2 - 4.

***Join Zoom Office Hours**

Tuesdays from 10 until noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81594717198?pwd=NVVLMERCOWpIZWI4NmJSaHE1dJZdz09>

Meeting ID: 815 9471 7198

Password: St. Jude's

***Join Zoom Office Hours**

Wednesdays from 2 - 4

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85744824268?pwd=MjUvQWlYRU0xNzIzb1hmaURrdUllZz09>

Meeting ID: 857 4482 4268

Password: St. Jude's

I look forward to welcoming you to my home office virtually!

Blessings,

Tracie+

**Active links are found on St. Jude's website... 'click and go' from there.*

The Peace (cont'd)

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There is actually no accommodation for including The Peace in a Morning Prayer liturgy. The Peace is only a part of our Eucharistic liturgies. The reason is theological and is based on the scripture passage noted above. The Peace is about reconciliation. It's about being right with our brothers and sisters before we receive Eucharist. The liturgy provides an opportunity to symbolically make amends. We extend God's Peace which passes all understanding, a Peace which loves unconditionally, with one another. In that action, we are naming for ourselves that God is all about reconciliation. We name before God that we are living into that reconciliation in our own lives. "The Peace of the Lord be always with you." Know God's Peace wraps you in love and wants nothing more than to be reconciled. God is all about relationship and when our relationships with one another are strained, so is our relationship with God. Brokenness acts like a barrier between us and God. So, at

The Peace, we shatter those barriers with words that flow very easily off of our tongues. "The Peace of the Lord be always with you." Because reconciliation matters to God, we seek to be reconciled, one to another.

One of the many theological ponderings I've been trying to sort through during this time of isolation, is to wonder with God how we might tangibly extend The Peace with one another in a way that is safe and protects all of us from sharing any number of viruses, including those that threaten lives like COVID-19. What will The Peace look like when we can once again worship in person? Will it be the same way we've always done it? Or is there another way that we can symbolically model the depth of these timeless words which we speak at The Peace. I suspect we will not be able to engage in hugging and shaking hands in the ways that we once enjoyed. That might be a change that's really hard for the church to accept. We like extending our love in tangible ways. I'm inviting all of us to wonder together. What might a new practice of sharing reconciliation in The Peace look like?



What is a hymn?

It comes from the Greek "hymnos" meaning a song in honor of gods, leading figures and heroes. As a form of music, it is very ancient. The Bible frequently speaks of worshipers joining in praise through song.

From the beginning, Christians have been a singing church. The book of Acts speaks of the apostles singing. Indeed, Jesus and his disciples sang at the Last Supper.

The earliest hymn text in our hymnal is "Of the Father's love begotten" from the 4th century. However, during the middle ages,

singing in the church was the realm of monks in Latin.

That changed with the Reformation and Martin Luther (1483-1546) who identified music as a way to teach the faith to the people in their native language. "A mighty fortress is our God" is a testament of that faith.

To quote from "**When in our music God is glorified**": "And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the Light? Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!"

Have a blessed month.

Marlene Weston

OUTREACH DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

There's been a lot going on at St. Jude's with Food Distribution programs since social distancing began in mid-March. During a time when the need for food continues to increase, we have been blessed with both financial resources and volunteers to help. Many of you have been directly involved and know about the work we have been doing, but we wanted to summarize here to make sure you are all aware of the work that St. Jude's is doing in the community.

In March the school systems reached out and asked if we could help supplement their program that provides food for lunches during the week. They asked if we, along with 3 other churches, could provide groceries for students on the weekends. We agreed and have now distributed groceries every Saturday since March 20th, for a total of 281 bags.

Despite social distancing, we carried out the annual Spring Break School Lunch Program on March 28th where we served 400 students.

We have had a long relationship with Dauner Haus and reached out to them when the quarantine first began, knowing that the seniors there should not be going out grocery shopping. We agreed to begin supplying groceries to 60 of the residents beginning on March 19th. Since then we have distributed food every other Thursday and will continue as long as the need exists. By the time this article is published we will have provided 240 bags of groceries.

On the opposite Thursday's from Dauner Haus distribution we have

also been providing groceries for laid off employees of a local restaurant. This is a smaller effort, but to date we have provided food for 42 people. We expect this effort to dwindle as employees begin to return to work.

We have also provided food for others whose need was identified from outside the church. This group includes the current families in the Family Promise program who are presently living in hotel rooms as the churches where they usually stay no longer allow access to their buildings.

As mentioned earlier, we have been blessed with everything we need to continue to operate these programs. To date there have been 41 members of St. Jude's who have helped, many of them multiple times. We still have a long list of volunteers waiting to help. In addition to the grant money we received from the Diocese, we have received donations (mostly from outside of the church) for \$1,900. This will allow us to continue with the programs for the foreseeable future before we need to look for additional resources. In addition to volunteers and money, we have asked the congregations (ours and 1st Presbyterian) for help with bread and cereal and folks have been more than generous.

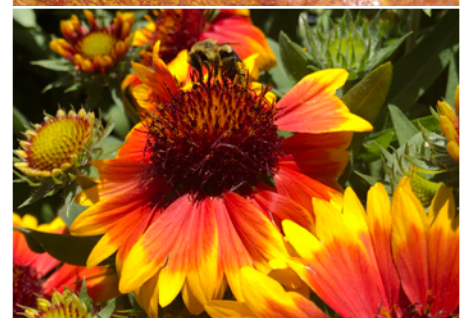
Because we have been so fortunate, and because the need continues to be so great, Outreach has decided to expand the programs in two ways. First, beginning on Saturday April 25th, we began providing groceries to not only the students for a weekend, but to their entire families and any others that

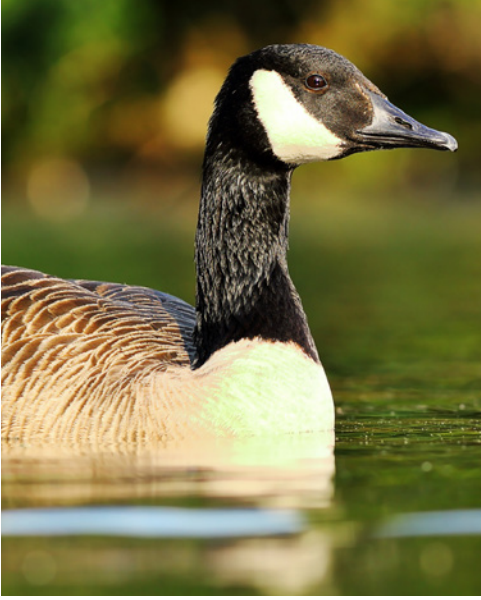
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"I believe the world is incomprehensibly beautiful – an endless prospect of magic and wonder."

— ANSEL ADAMS





REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marince from "Our Daily Bread," April 23rd edition

The Saddest Goose

Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

ECCLESIASTES 4:12

Outreach (cont'd)

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these families could reach out to. This resulted in another 29 families being served and we expect this to grow. Second, beginning May 2nd, we will be providing groceries for the families in the Townhouses at Dauner Haus (up to 51 families).

Finally, we want to assure you that everything we do, we do with an abundance of caution. No one but volunteers enters the building, every surface is repeatedly sanitized, all volunteers wear gloves and masks, we do not interact directly with guests but instead prepack bags and place them on a table for them to grab, we distribute under a 10x10 canopy that only 1 family at a time can enter...and the list goes on.

It is clear that God is working in our midst, as resources just continue to abound. We know that this is the work that God encourages us to do and we feel blessed to be a part of a St. Jude's community that is willing to embrace this calling.

**St. Jude's
Outreach Committee**

Why is there a football in the parking lot? I wondered. But as I got closer, I realized the greyish lump wasn't a football: it was a goose—the saddest Canada goose I'd ever seen.

Geese often congregate on the lawn near my workplace in the spring and fall. But today there was only one, its neck arched back and its head tucked beneath a wing. *Where are your buddies?* I thought. Poor thing was all alone. It looked so lonely, I wanted to give it a hug. (Note: don't try this.)

I've rarely seen a goose completely alone like my lonesome feathered friend. Geese are notably communal, flying in a V-formation to deflect the wind. They're made to be together.

As human beings, we were created for community too (see Genesis 2:18). And in Ecclesiastes 4:10, Solomon describes how vulnerable we are when we're alone: "Pity anyone who falls and has no one

to help them up." There's strength in numbers, he added, for "though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken" (v. 12).

This is just as true for us spiritually as it is physically. God never intended for us to "fly" alone, vulnerably isolated. We need relationships with each other for encouragement, refreshment, and growth (see also 1 Corinthians 12:21). During these extraordinary days, due to the Covid-19 virus many of us have needed to practice physical distancing to help contain the disease. Phone calls, video chats, and texting have helped. But how we look forward to the time we can meet face-to-face with our local church families again!

Together, we can stand firm when life's headwinds gust our way. *Together.*

By Adam R. Holz

Reflect and Pray

Loving God, help us to remember that You never meant us to fly solo, but together with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Today, help us to see and support someone in need of encouragement.

What kinds of circumstances tempt you to go it alone? Who do you know who could use a word of encouragement from you?

Calling All Crafters!

*We are planning for our
2nd annual Fall*

St. Jude's Crafter's & Holiday Bazaar

**Friday & Saturday,
November 20 & 21, 2020**

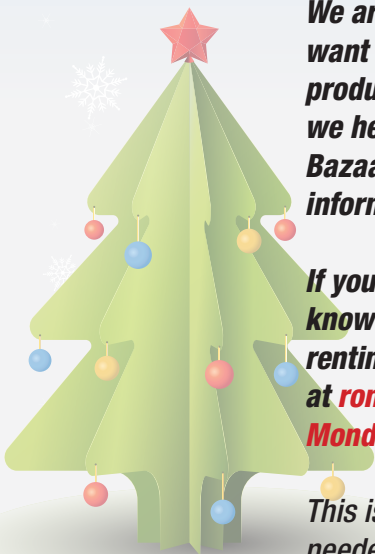
Are you an artisan? A woodworker/craftsman? A potter? Do you have a hidden Van Gogh talent? Do you knit/crochet scarves, sweaters, hats?

We invite you to be a part of this project!

We are looking for individuals who may want an opportunity to sell their handmade products. This will be a juried event. Once we hear from you, a representative from the Bazaar Committee will be in touch with further information.

If you are interested in renting a booth, or know of crafters who would be interested in renting a booth, please notify Ron Trimmer at ron.m.trimmer@gmail.com no later than Monday, June 1, 2020.

This is our primary fundraiser for funding a much needed elevator lift for our facility, to aid in the accessibility of our parishoners and visitors.



Building and Grounds Cleanup

Building and Grounds Clean up is still scheduled for Sunday, May 31, 2020 after the 10:30 a.m. service. The rain date will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2020. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Volunteers are needed and appreciated.

We will keep you updated if we have to cancel, or postpone.

The Craft Show and Holiday Bazaar

The Craft Show and Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for November 20 and 21, 2020. We are still looking for crafters. Please share with others.

We are also looking for someone to chair the St. Jude's crafters booth, if you can volunteer for this, please let Ron Trimmer know at ron.m.trimmer@gmail.com.

Let's spread the love!

Do you have anything you'd like to have printed in St. Jude's monthly newsletter? A thank you? An observation? A thought? A positive moment? A God moment? A photo that speaks a thousand words? A favorite quote or poem?

If you do, please send to me. We need to spread goodness and KINDNESS in this world... time to spread some SUNSHINE! So, I believe anything positive to share with others, is a good way to do that.

My email address is:
debbiemcwilliams00@gmail.com

Beacon Deadlines

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

May Birthdays

- 3rd – Benjamin Rayner
- 5th – Charles Johnston
- 6th – Dominic DuPei
- 10th – Jenne Hadden
- 12th – Carol Chambers
- Danyelle Morgan
- Susan Premo –
- 14th – Miryam Hassell
- 15th – Steve Koch
- 16th – Connor Chambers
- 19th – Sandra Smith
- Bruce Trimmer
- 21st – McKenna Green
- 22nd – Vance Gordon
- 24th – Lynn Hopper
- 26th – Judy Maringo
- Lois Putnam
- 27th – Justin Melchor

May Anniversaries

- 5th – Mike & Peggy Kearns (30th)
- 10th – Dan & Angela White (23rd)
- 18th – Mark & Lynne Ronthi
- (24th)
- 19th – Ed & Marlene Weston (47th)
- 20th – Glenn & Ellen Tripp (53rd)

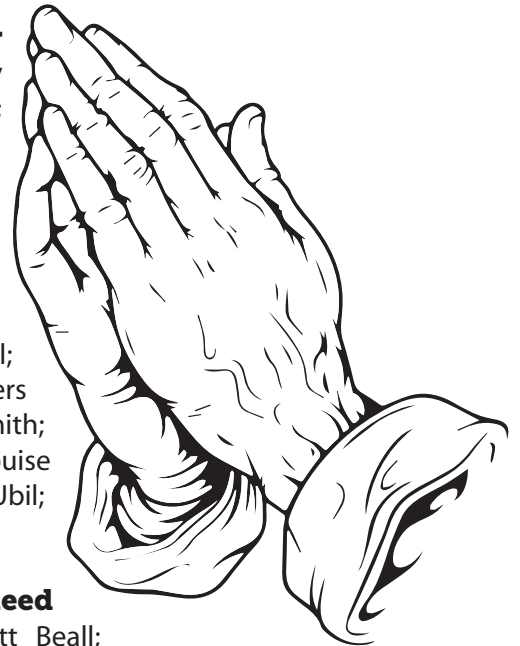
Celebrate



PRAYER LIST

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

For those in particular need of prayer: Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Shanin Beall; Judy Bronner; Steven G.; Harold Gray; Bunny Gladfelter; Sarah Heikkila; Jaqueline Hoskins; Sydnie Jane Jones; Michael Krauthofer; Lisa Langly; Leon Layman; Bill Lenny; Jeff Luebke; Mike Maringo; Theresa Maynard; Jack & Beverly Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; Mike Rose; Leeanne Sanders and baby; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Stan Spicer; Mary Louise Susalla; Howard Thorpe; Jennifer Ubil; Marsha Wittig; Maureen Z.



And those in continuing need of prayer: David Barrows; Brett Beall; Butch & Julie Beuchel; Jack & Rita Bretzke; Margot Brummett; Dave Carr; Karen Cleaver; Cathy Conn; Alex Creamean; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; Gail Engdahl; John England; Mary Franklin; Ralph Gladfelter; Lisa & Barb Gladstone; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint Johnson; Kellie Johnson; Mindy Kania; Ev Koller; Janel Koop; Paul Koop; Angela Koresh; Leona; Anne Munns; Cathy Niemet; Richard Otto; Brian Paisley; Jay Rizzo; Arin Shinabarger; Nanae & Fukuko Shiraishi; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Jill Tripp.

If you have updates or changes to the prayer list, please let Liz in the church office know. Thank you!

Pray for our St. Jude's Family:

- May 3 – Mary Felix; Gaye Lynn Foor; Greg, Kris and Leigha Forsyth
- May 10 – Amy Freeman; Bill & Marcia Freeman; Mark & Pat Freeman
- May 17 – David, Lynn, Erica and Gabrielle Freeman;
- Matt & Linda Freeman; Michael Wolos
- May 24 – Connie Fry; Ty & Debbie Fry; Doug & Michelle Gangwer
- May 31 – Sharon Gay; Raquel Gazzi & Gabriella and Arthur Pennington; Tom & Shirley Gernack

CHOOSE HOW YOU GIVE

"All must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God."

– Deuteronomy 16:17

Give easily and securely...

If you are able to continue your pledge through these challenging times we have several options:

1. Mail in your pledge to address below
2. Online Giving:
<https://onrealm.org/StJudesEpiscopa/give/now>
3. Text StJudesChurch to 73256
4. ACH (Automatic Withdrawal) from your bank account to the church account. Contact Liz in church office to set this up.



St. Jude's Episcopal Church
106 E. Elizabeth Street
Fenton, MI 48430

If you have questions about giving, please feel free to contact the church office:
(810) 629-5681
or stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com.



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Fenton, MI 48430-2322
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www.stjudesfenton.com

St. Jude's Episcopal Church



VESTRY

Charlie Johnston, Senior Warden
Lynne Ronthi, Junior Warden
Debbie James, Clerk
Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2021

Josephine Feijoo
Lynne Ronthi
Jerry Rucker
Mike Wells

2022

Deb James
Charlie Johnston
Jack Mills
Diane Putnam

2023

Nancy Day
Paul Dolza
Rex Harris
Christine Szostak

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Jack & Beverly Mills
John & Carol Pettipher

Alternate:

Dave & Denise Rayner
Charlie & Francine Johnston