

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

JANUARY 2022... OUR 164TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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

E-MAIL:

stjudeschurchfenton106@gmail.com

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

Administrative Assistant

Liz Sailus

Office Hours:

Mondays:
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays:
9:00 a.m-Noon

Minister of Music

Marlene J. Weston
810-658-2683

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday & Wednesday
Morning Prayer Services
via Facebook Live
8:00 a. m.

Sunday In-Person Communion
10:30 a.m.

Rector's Report

It seems impossible and yet here we are. As I type this note we are hours away from ringing in a new calendar year. I know I've reflected often about how quickly time seems to be marching along. Now, on this last day of 2021 I find myself doing so again. This has been quite a year during which all of us have navigated numerous peaks and valleys. It's important to look back at the year that is concluding and to honor and give thanks for our experiences of God throughout all of these situations, the good ones, the everyday ones, and the more challenging ones. It's also important to look forward to the year ahead and to ask that our eyes, our ears, and our souls are open to know how God is calling us to move forward in these next months.

"New Year's" in the church is a rather lengthy "time". We celebrate our church calendar New Year on the First Sunday of Advent. That occurred way back at the end of November for us this past year. Of course, we also live in the world so we do celebrate the calendar New Year. And, we have a chance to both look back and to look forward, celebrating all that God has done, is doing and will continue to do in our midst as we gather for our Annual Meeting.

This year I am excited to announce that our Annual Meeting will be in-person! The Vestry has chosen to hold the meeting during our 10:30 celebration of Holy Eucharist on January 23. This weaves our reflections, both of the year just ended and of the year ahead, together with prayer. Our Vestry reflected on how this experience has always been very positive and they wish to continue this practice. It also gives us a chance to give thanks for and celebrate how God has been very present in all of our ministries throughout this past year!

If you are a facilitator of any group, Liz has asked that your written report be into the church office by January 12 so she has time to put the booklet together in time for the booklets to be distributed well before the Annual Meeting to give you time to read the reports and be ready with any questions or comments you may have.

Following the Annual Meeting the Vestry has made the difficult decision to hold only a coffee hour rather than our traditional pot-luck lunch. We are conscious of the rising and spiking cases of Covid-19 and, in order to be as safe as possible, we are

(continued on page 2)

Rector's Report (cont'd)

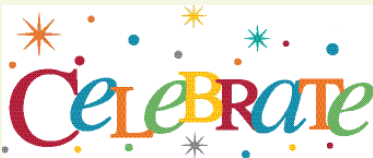
(continued from page 1)

postponing a shared meal. We now have a new coffee maker in the kitchen and we are looking forward to brewing these first few pots and sharing a time of fellowship with all!

I look forward to this next year of ministry together as we seek to follow where God is already leading!

Love and Blessings,

Tracie



January Birthdays

- 3rd – Julian Clark
- Jim Kortge
- 9th – Fred Wright
- 11th – Molly Anderson
- Ron Spaulding
- Lynne Ronthi
- 12th – Mary Felix
- 14th – Denise Rayner
- 15th – Mike Marinco
- 18th – Catherine Trimmer
- 19th – Mike Wells
- 25th – Carl Koch
- 28th – Sharon Aldrich
- Chace Green
- Mary Warren
- 29th – Sandy Davis

January Anniversaries

- 22nd – Kelly & Lisa Cronk
(45 years)

REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", December 7th edition

Live to Serve

The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



On a hot and humid day one August, my wife gave birth to our second son. But he remained nameless as we struggled to settle on a given name. After spending many hours in ice cream shops and taking long car rides, we still couldn't decide. He was simply "Baby Williams" for three days before finally being named Micah.

Choosing the right name can be a little frustrating. Well, unless you're God, who came up with the perfect name for the One who would change things forever. Through the prophet Isaiah, God directed King Ahaz to ask Him "for a sign" to strengthen his faith (Isaiah 7:10–11). Though the king refused to ask for a sign, God gave him one anyway: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (v. 14). God named the

child, and He would be a sign of hope to people going through despair. The name stuck and Matthew breathed new meaning into it when he wrote the narrative of Jesus' birth (Matthew 1:23). Jesus would be "Immanuel." He wouldn't just be a representative of God, but He would be God in the flesh, coming to rescue His people from the despair of sin.

God gave us a sign. The sign is a Son. The Son's name is Immanuel—God with us. It's a name that reflects His presence and love. Today, He invites us to embrace Immanuel and know that He's with us.

By Marvin Williams

Reflect and Pray

What keeps you from believing that God can breathe new life into your dark times and desperate circumstances? How will you embrace Jesus as Immanuel this week?

Heavenly Father, thank You for Immanuel—Jesus, Your Son. May I rejoice in His presence and love today.

The 2021 Christmas Families

Thank You for Your Loving Generosity

St. Jude's faith community shared generously this Christmas by providing gifts to 2 Family Promise families, 2 families from our Saturday food distribution, the Holly Group Home residents, and a last-minute, God-moment family in need of gas for their car.

This year the Outreach Committee decided once again to follow one of our baptismal vows, which is to "respect the dignity of every person". In doing so, this year we provided gift cards for 13 children from 2 families, a mom and two children from each of the two Family Promise families, wrapped gifts for 6 men from the Holly Group Home and gas cards for the 7 staff members, and gas cards for each family that comes to the Basic Needs Pantry.

Our faith community has again met the needs of those on the margins, as we came together to generously provide a special Christmas. This was our 18th year of brightening the lives of many at Christmas by the outpouring of your love.

Blessings for a Happy New Year!

Sharon Aldrich

Mike & Judy Marinco

Dave & Denise Rayner

John & Carol Pettipher

On behalf of your Outreach Committee – and each and every one of you!



Over the past two years we have been blessed to be able to serve hundreds of people in our community. As we have come to know them and their stories, I have become increasingly aware of how much we all have in common. I am also struck by how fortunate I am to have never been in a place in my life that required that I ask for assistance. We are all proud people, and it must be so difficult to put oneself in such a vulnerable position and ask for help.

I recently read a Facebook post from our dear friend Sue Colavincenzo, Rector at St Dunstan's in Davison and former St. Jude's Intern. The post describes this reality on a far better way than I ever could. I asked Sue and she said she was comfortable that I share her thoughts with you. Her post is included below:

Dave Rayner

A perspective on the beggars of the world

"I have never had to beg." I'm talking about begging from other people or begging for something in the world. Make no mistake, I've done plenty of begging of God. But that's a different thought for later.

"I've never had to beg" for food or a roof over my head or medical care or my right to be seen and heard, or to have basic rights for my children. I've never had to beg for water or for my children to be clothed. I would if I had to, though. I have been blessed far greater than what I ever deserve. I quickly and wholly acknowledge that.

"I have never had to beg" not because I did everything right or because I am better than anyone else. Or smarter. There is something to be said about being born at a right time and at the right place. Even then, circumstances have never put me into a place where I had to beg for basic needs. I was not widowed at an early age and left with small children. I am not disabled because of a disease or an accident. I was not left in a world with no family to be there for me. My husband wasn't sent to defend my country and come home unable to support our family because of his service. I am not a young father who was widowed by breast cancer. I do not have to walk

miles everyday to get water for my family to drink. I was not a street child in India or a Syrian mom or dad in a foreign refugee camp.

I was never marched to a ditch for execution. "I have never had to beg."

Many times lately, I have thought to myself, "How difficult it must be to have to beg." How difficult it must be to have to ask for everything you need. And only God knows how difficult it would be to ask for a want.

God has laid it on my heart to point out a dynamic that is subtle but can be so demeaning and discouraging. I can't imagine how it would be to always have to ask, to beg, time and again, for everything. To always have to beg and know that someone is judging me that I am irresponsible or I am not worthy or because my gender or my race are not as worthy as others or that my begging is a result of my own actions. Maybe it is. But I also know that I praise God everyday that I, Sue Colavincenzo, have not had to pay a price for every mistake I have ever made.

I have told our secretaries at St. Dunstan's that the thing I have loved about them all is not that they are great on the computer and can do a lovely bulletin. It is because they all have had a heart for people who come to our church with a need.

Drew Pikstein, Melissa Kellar, Maddie Vamossey, and Victoria Dodge, I love that you all four make people understand that it is our privilege to provide food because when we give food from the pantry we are giving food to Jesus. Just think how difficult it would be to have to ask for food from a church. The person who is asking can come away feeling worse about themselves or being encouraged. Thank you, Drew, Melissa, Maddie, and Victoria, that you have represented the Body of Christ at St. Dunstan's with a gracious and loving heart.

Help me, Lord Christ, to not judge anyone who has to beg. Help me, Lord Christ, to see the need before they have to ask. Help me to be a gracious and cheerful giver. And help me to receive graciously when it is my turn to beg so that others can be givers, too.

II Corinthians 9 says, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ... You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

Wouldn't the world be a wonderful place for all if nobody ever had to beg for anything?

MUSIC NOTES

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 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.

Musical selections will include "I bind unto myself this day," "We all are one in mission" and "Gracious Spirit, give your servants." January is a time of contemplation and celebration.

Marlene Weston

Holiday Bazaar & Craft Show 2022

November 11 & 12, 2022

It is hard to believe that we are less than a year away from the second Holiday Bazaar and Craft Show. **We have begun to get crafters for this event.** If anyone goes to a craft show or event and finds a crafter that would be a good fit for St. Jude's, please get their card, fill them in a little on the event, and share this information with the Co-Chairs.

We are in need of a chairperson for the church bazaar booth. If no one steps up there will not be a booth.

We need volunteers willing to work on different areas of the bazaar.

Seed money is needed! Any donation, no matter how small or how large, will be most appreciated. If contributing cash, please attach note indicating that it's for this event. If check, use memo line. Thank you so much!

We also are looking for team leaders for this event. If you're willing to be a part of this, please let us know.

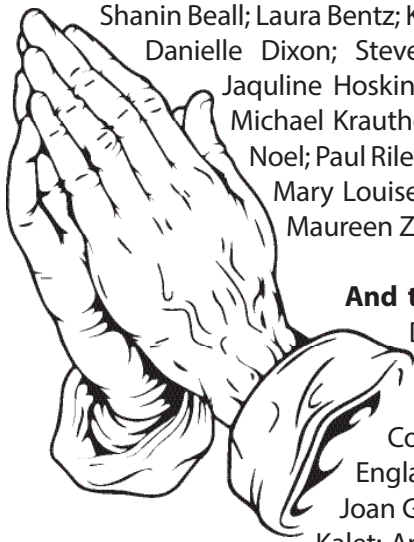
Each month we will keep you updated on this event. If you have questions about the event feel free to talk with any of us!

Bazaar Co-Chairs:
Nancy Day
Lynn Hopper
Ron Trimmer

PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; Tracie, our Priest; Judy, our Deacon; for the Wardens and Vestry.

For those in particular need of prayer: Martha; Jeff F.; Jeremy Alber; Shanin Beall; Laura Bentz; Kathy & Tom Brighton; Cindy; Joe Capadagli; Danielle Dixon; Steven G.; Bunny Gladfelter; Sarah Heikkila; Jaqueline Hoskins; Sharon James; Carl Koch; Connie Koch; Michael Krauthofer; June; Bill Lenny; Laura; Liz; Jack Mills; Noel; Paul Riley; James Simpson; Larry Smith; Sarah Smith; Mary Louise Susalla; Brad Wiechelman; Marsha Wittig; Maureen Z.



And those in continuing need of prayer: Bill; David Barrows; Brett Beall; Butch & Julie; Rita Bretzke; Todd Brighton; Diane Brighton-Weinman; Dave; Karen Cleaver; Cathy Conn; Betsy Davies; Melissa Draper; John England; Mary Franklin; Gabe; Ralph Gladfelter; Joan Graham; Brian Henderson; Clint; Kelli; Sydne Kalet; Angela Koresh; Leona; Sherry More; Richard;

Arin Shinabarger; Brian Smith; Sandy Train; Leonard Traskos; Ellen Tripp; Patti Vasquez

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



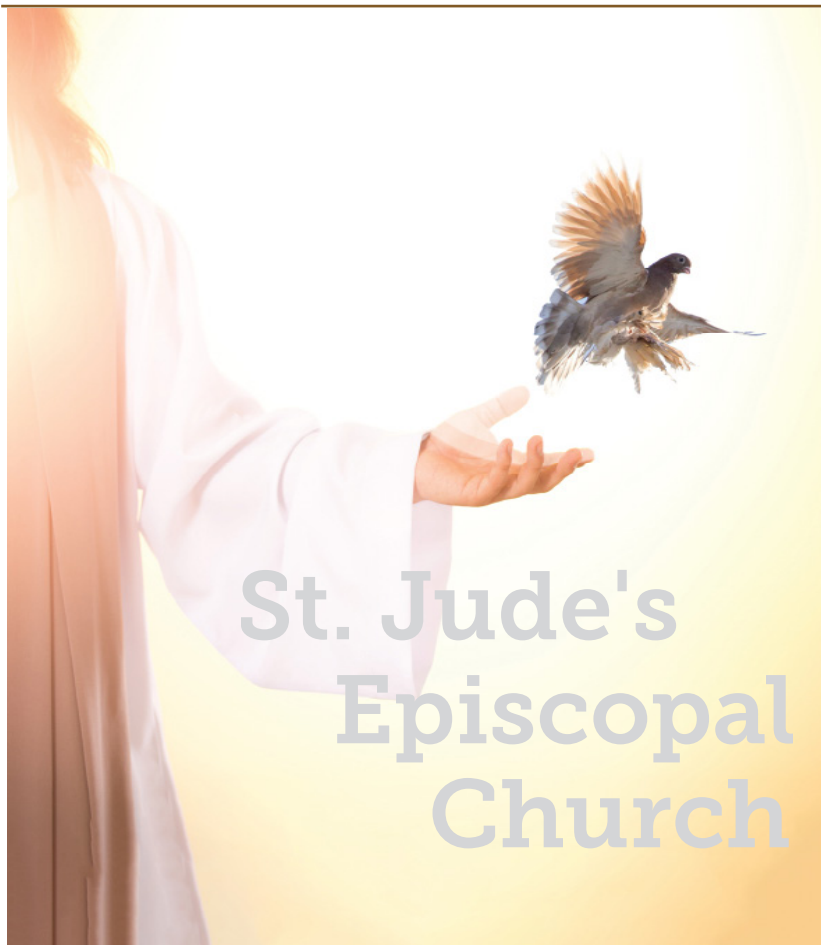
St. Jude's Episcopal Church

106 E. Elizabeth St.

Fenton, MI 48430-2322

Church Office: 810-629-5681

www.stjudesfenton.com



VESTRY

Charlie Johnston, Senior Warden
Ron Trimmer, Junior Warden
Debbie James, Clerk
Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2022

Deb James
Charlie Johnston
Jack Mills
Diane Putnam

2023

Nancy Day
Paul Dolza
Rex Harris
Mike Wells

2024

Dee Grossmann
Lynn Hopper
Ron Trimmer