

THE BEACON

SEEKING AND WORSHIPPING GOD...REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

MARCH 2022... OUR 164TH YEAR

ST. JUDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • FENTON, MICHIGAN

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FACEBOOK:

St. Jude's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Judy Marinco, Deacon
E-Mail: JAMarinco50@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant
Liz Sailus

Office Hours:
Mondays:
9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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

Minister of Music
Marlene J. Weston
810-658-2683

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday In-Person Worship
(also livestreamed on Facebook Live)
10:30 a.m.

Wednesday
Morning Prayer Service
via Facebook Live
8:00 a. m.

Rector's Report

As I write this, I am acutely conscious that this is my last Rector's report for the Beacon. I have to admit, it feels a little odd to be acknowledging my "lasts". I am also acutely conscious of how my announcement of leaving has affected each of you differently. Please know that all of you are in my daily prayers and will remain there throughout this transition and as you seek your next Rector.

Just a really quick update on my D.Min. in Preaching. At this point my thesis is complete and I will be defending it on March 30. After that, I should, I pray, graduate in May! Entering and moving through this degree process has been challenging and rewarding, eye-opening and life-giving. I am so thankful for my family's love, support and understanding and I'm deeply thankful and humbled by St. Jude's willingness to walk alongside me and fill in what seemed like an endless stream of feedback tools. Thank you, all of you, for everything you've done to help me accomplish this goal! Although not required for my new position, everything I've learned affects every aspect of ministry for me and I'm looking forward to seeing how it can be applied in a new way. I'm not

celebrating yet – but Dave and I are planning on how to celebrate once I've achieved the degree. It is our plan to rent the Laundry Room and hold a kind of Open House (no gifts, though!). We will send out specific invitations to the members of my Parish Project Group and will send a general invitation for all of St. Jude's through e-mail and whatever other means you choose to announce.

On a very personal note, I want all of you to know that it has been such an honor and joy to serve God with you all. Especially in these past couple of Covid years, I know how much we have all had to learn new technology, enter into conversations that we never ever even dreamed of having, accepted and lived into difficult Diocesan decisions to lock the building, came up with our own protocols more recently, the list goes on and on..... You have all participated with Grace and wisdom and support and prayer. And for that I am deeply thankful. To say that the last two years have been challenging and difficult would be, perhaps, the greatest understatement ever spoken. However, together with God, powerful and meaningful and transformational ministry has happened at St. Jude's! God's grace

(continued on page 2)

Holiday Bazaar & Craft Show 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

Rector's Report (cont'd)

(continued from page 1)

was evident in every single moment, in every single painful place, in every single joy-filled place. Over and over again I have been overwhelmed by God's presence and God's love and God's guidance.

That reality will not disappear as I take my leave. I know with every fiber of my being that there is a much deeper awareness of God here at St. Jude's! There has been an incredible transformation because of that awareness. As you move through this time of transition, remembering how you have become more aware of God's presence will, I think, be helpful, perhaps even essential. And when it's challenging to remember, call someone from the congregation perhaps who you know has "God stories". Ask them to tell you a story of their experience of God. Allow their story to fill your soul. Those stories may help you to remember and sense God's presence and may help you to remember or discover how to tell your own story. And pray. Pray for yourselves. Pray for St. Jude's. Know that you are not alone in this process. God is travelling with you and beckoning you to a new place where God already is!

Almost six years ago now I stepped through the door for the first time. I knew only a handful of

people, some from Diocesan events, some from my time with the search committee. I didn't know most of you. As Dave and I were welcomed to a joint Search Committee and Vestry evening, I asked everyone what they loved most about St. Jude's. Every single person I asked replied with the same answer. The people. As I leave, my voice joins theirs. I love so much about this place. The liturgy, the outreach, the learning and growing that happens in every generation at St. Jude's. And when you get right down to it, what I love most is the people. You have all become my family! Thank you for that. It is an incredible gift and one I do not receive lightly. I hold you all gently in my soul. You have all become a part of who I am today. I have grown and been transformed because of my relationships with you all. And now, as I said in my letter, it is time to depart and to see where all of this growth leads. As I leave it is time for you to see where all of your growth will take you.

God's blessings be with you as you grow! God's blessings wrap and fill and lead you!

With much love and many blessings!

Tracie+

Thank You!



Thank you, St. Jude's, for everything! For your love, support and prayers that were present right from the time of discerning that God was calling me to service here with all of you, to now as I take my leave to serve God in a new capacity. Thank you for the celebration you organized as I stood amongst you for the last time as your Rector. Your love, your support and your prayers are a part of the nourishing and growth I received here and I am humbled and deeply thankful! My family and I have been incredibly blessed and we have been transformed by our time with you. And now, my family will remain in your midst in a new way, as parishioners rather than the family of the Rector! I will carry you in my heart, in my soul and in my new role as Canon to the Ordinary and you will continue to be a part of everything I do! Thank you!

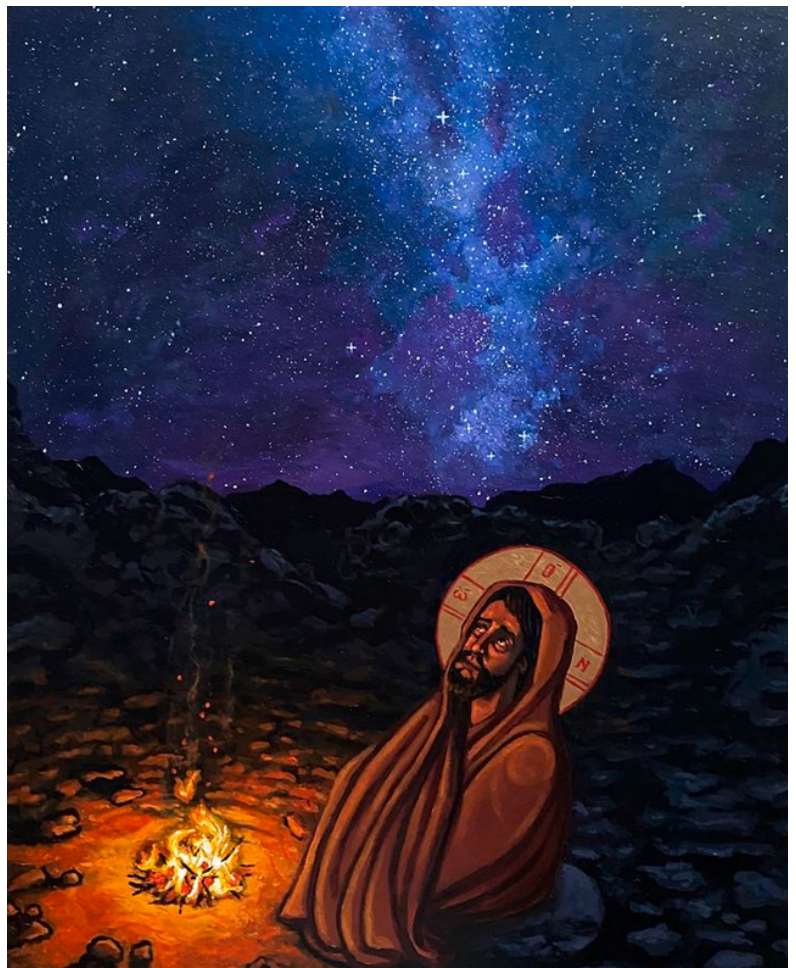
This icon, "Christ in the Wilderness," was written by contemporary, progressive iconography Kelly Latimore, embodies my time with you.

I joined you in the wilderness as you named as your growing edge a desire to deepen your spirituality. As we journeyed together, we discovered God's presence. We travelled through the ups and downs of everyday life, experiencing God's faithfulness through every aspect of life.

Today, I gift this to you as a thank-offering and a reminder of the importance, not the essential reality, of spending time with God in the wilderness.

God's faithfulness and God's blessings will continue to be with you. God's hope and God's new beginnings will wrap your entire future. God's transformation will empower you for all that God has envisioned for your ministry together!

May this icon draw you into the story of Christ in the wilderness and may you discover God's presence, God's faithfulness, God's love, God's nourishment and God's transformation as you spend time in the wilderness!



With much love and many blessings!

Tracie+

REFLECTIONS

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", January 10th edition

Etch A Sketch Forgiveness

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Psalm 103:12



The little red rectangular box was magical. As a kid, I could play with it for hours. When I turned one knob on the box, I could create a horizontal line on its screen. Turn the other knob and voila—a vertical line. When I turned the knobs together, I could make diagonal lines, circles, and creative designs. But the real magic came when I turned my Etch A Sketch toy upside down, shook it a little and turned it right side up. A blank screen appeared, offering me the opportunity to create a new design.

God's forgiveness works much like that Etch A Sketch. He wipes away our sins, creating a clean canvas for us. Even if we remember wrongs we committed, God chooses to forgive and forget. He's wiped them out and

doesn't hold our sins against us. He doesn't treat us according to our sinful actions (Psalm 103:10) but extends grace through forgiveness. We have a clean slate—a new life awaiting us when we seek God's forgiveness. We can be rid of guilt and shame because of His amazing gift to us.

The psalmist reminds us that our sins have been separated from us as far as the east is separated from the west (v. 12). That's as far away as you can get! In God's eyes, our sins no longer cling to us like a scarlet letter or a bad drawing. That's reason to rejoice and to thank God for His amazing grace and mercy.

By Katara Patton

Reflect and Pray

Why do you think God chooses to not treat you as your actions might deserve? How can you thank Him for separating your sins from you?

Loving God, thank You for forgiveness. Remind me that You no longer remember my sins.

In-Reach Ministry Team

One of the parish goals outlined at the Annual Meeting in January was to start an In-Reach Ministry at St. Jude's. Tracie Little has asked me to take the lead on this new ministry. We will be having a meeting in early April to discuss the guidelines and goals of this parish ministry. The date will be announced soon, so please plan to bring your ideas to share.

Some of the things we may consider is to offer help with post-surgery individuals once they are home, driving members to appointments, providing transportation to worship services, just to mention a few possibilities.

If you are interested in learning more and/or serving in this ministry, please contact Judy Marinco at 810/629-8074.



MUSIC NOTES

This year, March falls entirely within Lent, that time of reflection on the life of Christ and His sacrifice for our sins. It begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2, and continues as the Sundays incorporate beloved events from the life and teachings Jesus. As we contemplate His temptation in the wilderness (Forty days and forty nights) we also recount the parable of the Prodigal Son. Musical selections such as Take Up Your Cross and What Wondrous Love Is also project Lenten themes of introspection and the cross.

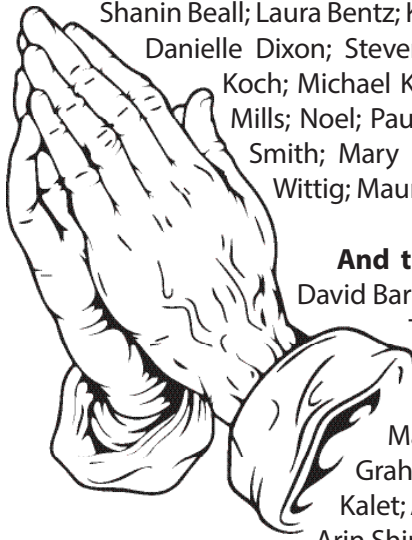
On March 6, we will also say good-bye to Rev. Tracie Little. St. Jude's Ringers will toll "I've Got Peace Like a River," and the choir will welcome guest singers for "On Eagle's Wings." It will be a day of some sadness, but also joy as we send her off to wider ministry.

Marlene Weston

PRAYER LIST

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; 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.; Rose Gladfelter; Sharon James; Carl 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 Koresch; 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!

March Birthdays

- 2nd Marcus Clark
Mary Louise Susalla
- 8th Carol Pettipher
- 9th Sophia Chambers
- 10th David Chambers
Brian Goss
Dan Harvey
- 14th Ella Koch
- 18th Rex Harris
- 19th Rosiland Burroughs
- 23rd Bonnie Ensign
Gabriella Pennington
- 31st Francine Rucker

March Anniversaries

- 6th Rex & Judi Harris (57th)
- 14th Bob & Teri Hutchins (58th)
- 16th Liz & Sean Sailus (3rd)



Cereal Needed

Our Annual School Lunch Program will take place on Saturday, March 26th. You can help by bringing in a few boxes of cereal, and/or by signing up to help prepack on Thursday 3/24 or help with distribution on Saturday 3/26. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in Vandenberg Hall. Our target is to collect 175 boxes of cereal.



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Church Office: 810-629-5681

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VESTRY

Ron Trimmer, Senior Warden

Mike Wells, Junior Warden

Dee Grossmann, Clerk

Michelle Gangwer, Treasurer

2023

Nancy Day

Paul Dolza

Rex Harris

Mike Wells

2024

Dee Grossmann

Lynn Hopper

Ron Trimmer

2025

Julie DuPei

Lois Hartranft & Arlo

Francine Johnston

Clay Putnam



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