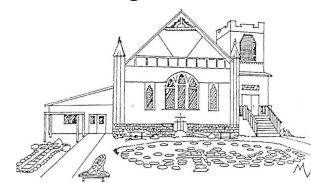


ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from Tom	1
Vestry Notes	2
Celebrations	2
Raffle Winner	3
Poem	3
"Where Your Treasure Is"	4
Peeking in the Past	5
Newsletter Editor	5
Reviewing our Mission Statement	6
Recipe	7
New stairs!	7
Ministry Schedule	8
Videographer	8
Diocese news	9

St. John's Episcopal Church

4074 S. Mill St.

PO Box 86

Dryden, MI 48428

(810)795.2371

Priest

Tom Manney

Senior Warden

Becky Foster

A Note from Tom



At my son's wedding—the weekend of July 10—I was having a chat with one of the groomsmen, himself a newlywed, about church. "You're Catholic, aren't you Mitch?" I asked.

"Not so much anymore," he said.

"What happened?" I asked.

"Just got a little boring for me," he said, "same thing every week. Same stuff over and over."

As I thought about what he said, I realized that this was a very valuable piece of unsolicited advice he had just given me. This young person's take on religion was that—for him anyway—the worship services lacked creativity. As I thought about it, I realized that it can be awfully easy for churches to get 'stuck in a rut'. We do tend to do the same things week after week. And while this may not be such a bad thing (as long as we understand what we are doing), to a younger person it may seem dull, unimaginative, or downright boring.

Please understand, I am not advocating the replacement of *worship* with *entertain-*

ment (as I have seen many churches do). But I do think that there is room in our worship services for some new ideas. Maybe some new ways of teaching scripture, for instance. I therefore invite your input. Any ideas, no matter how 'off-the-wall' they might seem, are welcome. When I hear comments about the moments in church that have had a dramatic effect on people, usually it involves something that is unusual or out of the ordinary. I encourage us all to spend the next few weeks thinking 'outside the box' about our liturgy.

Next week—this last week of July—I will be out of the office attending a liturgy seminar in Wisconsin. And while I do not expect to gain any earth-shattering ideas for liturgy, I do expect to find answers to the question of *why* we do our liturgy the way that we do. And I believe that this question—*why*—should guide all of our liturgy decisions. As you reflect on our services, please remember to ask yourself 'why?' Why do we do what we do, and what can we potentially gain from some new methods or ideas?

With every blessing...

+Tom

Website: www.stjohnschurchdryden.org

Email: stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook!



Editor: Becky Foster

St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for September is August 27.



Happy Birthday...

Sherry Boyden

Happy Anniversary

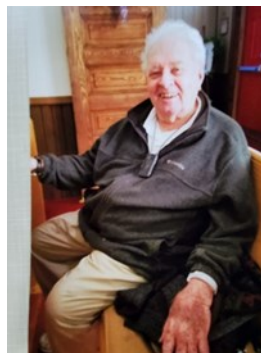
Wes & Kathy Wagester

Tom & Teri Manney

Dear Friends,

I hate to say it, but I see some small colored leaves on my lawn each morning. Summer is on the wane. At St. John's, we've been keeping pretty busy this summer.

We had a lovely memorial service for Harold Prowse – his brother Phil gave a wonderful eulogy with several interesting stories about Harold. Not too diffi-



cult to do – he was a pretty interesting fellow. And the "light" coffee hour afterwards was amazing. Not quite a full pot-luck but there was enough to handle Sunday's coffee hour too. Many thanks to all who made that possible. Harold's family and friends were most appreciative.

This coming weekend, on August 1st, we're having a baptism! This occurred because of a seed that Tim Wright planted years ago when he arranged to have Stephen Kurtz's funeral at St. John's. Our service and community impressed his daughter so much that she wanted to have her daughter baptized here. Who knows where this may lead? Sometimes the seeds we sow take a while to grow.

I've been thinking about that quite a bit lately. The epistle verse, "We walk by

faith, not be sight" has been surfacing regularly in my reflections about the future of St. John's. That, and another gospel

story – about St. Peter jumping out of the boat to go to Jesus. As long as he focused on Jesus, he was fine, when he started to worry about getting his sandals wet, he started to sink. Sr. Wardens all worry about their church. But I think I'm being guided to trust that doing our best and doing it as only we can, will be enough as long as we keep our eyes on Jesus. Sandals are highly over-rated anyway. So, we'll be trying some new things during worship as well as just allowing us to gather for fun and for inspiration. This fall will be colorful in more ways than one.

You will notice a new look on the ramp into church. Tom, Neil and I have been assembling a **time-line for St. John's** history and we're posting our findings on the walls for your enjoyment, your comments



and your contributions. We're starting with the early years which go quite a ways back. But as we get closer to late 1900's, we're hoping some of you might have pictures or have some information

that you can share with us. Stay tuned for more info.

About the newsletter, we're going to adjust the frequency to bi-monthly with a short At-a-Glance publication during the in-between months to update calendars or provide quick updates. This will help your Sr. Warden/Sr. Editor free up some time for other tasks at hand. I am asking for some help with some of our "regular" columns – see ad later in newsletter. Looking for volunteers. And also, looking for your feedback on what goes into the newsletter AND what you think about the frequency change.

And it seems that someone has been quietly busy cleaning our basement! I went down there for the first time in forever expecting to cringe and was totally amazed! Many thanks to the brave soul who performed this transformation. I have my ideas as to who that may have been. Do you?

Enjoy the coming month.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Becky



Congratulations to Kathy Wagester Winner of the July Basket Raffle!

Kathy also donated the basket! \$206.00 was raised for the "Double Helping" ministry that benefits Linked Hearts and local downtown businesses.

May we raise children
who love the unloved
things - the dandelion, the
worms & spiderlings.
Children who sense
the rose needs the thorn
& run into rainswept days
the same way they
turn towards sun...
And when they're grown &
someone has to speak for
those
who have no voice
may they draw upon that



Where Your Treasure Is, There Will Your Heart Be Also

An Evolutionary Examen by Louis Savary

*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, (born May 1, 1881, Sarcenat, France—died April 10, 1955, New York City, New York, U.S.) was a French philosopher and paleontologist known for **his theory that man is evolving, mentally and socially, toward a final spiritual unity**. Louis M. Savary was a Jesuit for thirty years and has been studying, writing, and teaching on his fellow Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin for over fifty years. He has a knack for making Teilhard's writings, which are almost exclusively about evolution, accessible. Here he introduces a version of the Ignatian Examen that emphasizes our participation with God's desire for evolution by increasing our awareness of goodness, gratitude, possibility, and love.*

Throughout his life Teilhard remained an optimist, despite the rejection he suffered from his religious order and from the official church because of his evolutionary ideas. In his prayer, instead of putting his attention on his failures and disappointments, he focused much more on praise, reverence, and gratitude when he related to God.

In recent years, psychologists have discovered a basic law of psychological and spiritual life. We might call it the first law of spiritual energy. It is simply this: *Energy follows attention*. In other words, wherever you focus your attention is where the energy of your body, mind, and spirit goes.

In terms of this first law of spiritual energy, Teilhard preferred to focus, with God's grace, on his own resilience, his capacity to adapt and to restore his enthusiasm for his work and relationships. . . . If he was blocked from pursuing one avenue, he found another way. . . .

Teilhard's life suggests a nightly review of your day focusing on what went right instead of what went wrong. If you focus on giving and receiving love, your thinking will change for the better. If you focus on thinking good thoughts, your heart will grow more loving. The heart and mind are always interacting in concert.

This process is known as the Thanksgiving Examen. . . .

To give thanks in general to God our Lord for the benefits received in your life, in others, and in the world today.

To ask for grace to recognize all those particular things that happened to you and others that you should personally be grateful for.

(Continued on pg 5)

(Continued from page 4) To take account of your day from the hour that you arose up to the present time, hour by hour, or period by period: first your good thoughts, ideas, and intentions; then your good words spoken and heard; and then good acts, your actions and those of others, small or large, that positively touched your life or the life of someone else. Record these in your journal.

To praise and thank God our Lord for all the opportunities you had to make a difference in the world today and to inspire you to recognize more and more such opportunities in the future.

To thank God for all God has done for you, and to ask yourself: What can I envision doing that would lead me to be even more deeply grateful? Close with the Our Father *[or another prayer with deep significance for you]*.

Louis M. Savary, *The New Spiritual Exercises: In the Spirit of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin* (Paulist Press: 2010), 49–50.

Newsletter Contributors Needed!

The Sr. Editor is asking for some help in finding material for our newsletter. There are a few elements that we try to include each month that could be provided by several people in our congregation. As you might have noticed in the Sr. Warden letter, we're moving to a bi-monthly timing, so you're not on the hook every single month. And it can be fun! Areas for you to consider are:

- Recipe Collection – from individual or internet collections
- Recent Pix of St. John's activities and services – use that

cell phone camera!

- Moments for Reflection – short poems, stories or articles on spiritual growth
- Humorous Moments – short jokes or comics

If you could help out, it would be so great! Contact Becky Foster with any questions or offers. And bless you for your support.



Some of St. John's Earliest Members

Based on the names from the Ladies Guild records, some of which were still familiar generations later, these are some of the folks who helped St. John's get started. Do any of these names sound familiar?



Lydia Lamb Hilliker and Sister
Emma Lamb Bacon
daughters of John M. Lamb



(Aunt) Ella Snover Manwaring was a Charter member
of the Ladies Library Association. Also one of the
first women registered Pharmacist



Earl J. Sr. & Edna Millikin

Thinking about our Mission Statement

In our July Vestry meeting, we reviewed the components of our mission statement and described what each phrase meant to us. While there were common themes, there were some that were unique perspectives of what we are as a church. I want to share these with you – but also to ask you to think about what these phrases mean to you. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

The mission of St. John's Church is:

Worshipping God, Belonging and Reaching Out.

Vestry members' reflections included:

Worshipping God

- Attend Sunday services
- More than just a church. Intentional, spiritual & educational moments, systematically organized
- A place of worship and a resource for private worship
- The foundation for dedicating our lives to His service and helping others
- Lifting our hearts & spirits in praise, thanksgiving and joy
- Not just a church but also beyond these walls
- Includes special services, classes & retreats
- Can include working & playing together



Belonging

- Connecting with each other as friends and fellow travelers on a faith journey
- Feeling fellow parishioners are "family" who are there for me good times and in times of trial



in

- Being part of St. John's congregation
- Accept & respect even when we do not agree
- Being a church that goes beyond a smile and a handshake to share who we really are as Christians under construction
- Organized fellowship programs would foster a stronger sense of belonging

Reaching Out



- To serve other people and God in any way that we can
- Responding to needs of neighbors near and far while respecting dignity
- Spreading the word about God and Jesus in ways that open doors for others
- Letting God's love shine through my actions
- A conscientious effort of connecting with others over time – phone calls may be best method
- Share our mission and news about our outreach through publicity – it might inspire others



The CARTOON KRONICLES

This just sounded so good, I just had to share. Thinking they might add a little more bourbon....

Peach-Bourbon Upside-Down Bundt Cake Recipe

By Pam Lolley from Southern Living website

Fresh [summer peaches](#) turn sticky and sweet when baked in the bottom of a [Bundt pan](#) with butter and brown sugar. After you place the peach slices in the ridges of the pan, gently spoon the cake batter over the fruit, then smooth the top with an offset spatula.

Active: 25 mins **Total:** 4 hrs 20 mins

Yield: Serves 12

Ingredients

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups butter, softened, divided
- 2 cups firmly packed light brown sugar, divided
- 4 peaches, peeled and cut into 4 slices
- 1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups granulated sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup (2 oz) bourbon
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 to 2 Tablespoons of milk



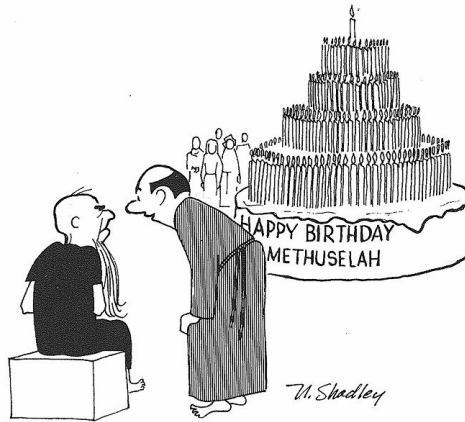
Directions:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Melt $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the butter in a small saucepan over medium; stir in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of the brown sugar. Cook, whisking constantly, until sugar has dissolved and mixture is thoroughly combined, about 1 minute. Pour mixture evenly into a 15-cup (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch) Bundt pan that has been heavily greased with cooking spray. Place peach slices in an even layer on top of brown sugar mixture.

1. Beat cream cheese and remaining 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups butter with a heavy-duty stand mixer on medium speed until creamy, about 1 minute. Gradually add granulated sugar and remaining 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups brown sugar, beating on medium speed until light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until yolk disappears. Beat in 1 teaspoon of the vanilla.
2. Sift together flour and salt; add to butter mixture alternately with bourbon, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Spoon batter carefully over peaches in prepared pan; level with a spatula.
3. Bake in preheated oven until a long wooden pick inserted in center of cake comes out clean, 1 hour and 25 minutes to 1 hour and 30 minutes. Cool in pan on a wire rack until pan is cool enough to handle but still hot, about 25 minutes. Remove cake from pan to rack, and cool completely, about 2 hours.
4. Stir together powdered sugar, remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla, and 1 tablespoon of the milk in a small bowl, adding remaining 1 tablespoon milk, 1 teaspoon at a time, if needed to reach desired consistency. Drizzle over cooled cake.



Our front steps continue their beautification. Thanks to Jack and Ida Lynn Dodd, those railings are looking great. Now if the rain would just hold off long enough to get the steps and the platform done!



"They want you to blow out the candles."



Ministry & Counting Schedule

Date	Lector	Eucharistic	Worship Leader	Counter 1	Counter 1
Aug 1	Margaret Smith	Corinne Fry	Rev Manney	Lelia	Neil
Aug 8	Darlene Herndon	Neil Hargrave	Rev Cavin	Becky	Wes
Aug 15	Kathy Wagester	Mary Cameron	Rev Manney	Neil	Jack
Aug 22	Wes Wagester		Becky Foster	Wes	Lelia
Aug 29	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Jack	Becky
Sept 5	Jim Fry	Tammy Turnipseed	Rev. Manney	Lelia	Neil
Sept 12	Neil Hargrave		Kitty Underwood	Becky	Wes
Sept 19	Mary Cameron	Corinne Fry	Rev. Manney	Neil	Jack
Sept 26	Ina Dockham		Becky Foster	Wes	Lelia

Livestream Schedule

Date	Videographer
Aug 1	Becky Foster
Aug 8	Mary Cameron
Aug 15	Ida Lynn Dodd
Aug 22	Wes Wagester
Aug 29	Sherry Wagner





Dear Friends in Christ,

We write today with a process update on the future of episcopal leadership over the next few years in our life as dioceses, following the resignation of our former bishop.

After lengthy discussion and consideration, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop's Office, the Joint Standing Committees have begun the process of seeking a shared bishop provisional for our two dioceses. It is the intention of the Standing Committees that this person would serve us full-time for 2-4 years, with the option to stand for election as a bishop diocesan at the conclusion of that time.

According to the canons of the church (Canon 13, Sec. 1), a "bishop provisional" is an already-consecrated bishop (either already serving elsewhere or retired) who is elected to serve a diocese for a specific amount of time, holding all of the responsibilities and authority of a bishop diocesan. According to the process set out by the canons, the Standing Committee is charged with interviewing a slate and selecting one candidate, who is then formally nominated to the diocesan convention for election. We are on track to be able to hold this election at our joint diocesan convention in late October.

What about our current Assisting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Skip Adams? We cannot understate our gratitude to Bishop Adams for his service as chaplain and advisor over the past several months. Bishop Adams has now served twice during his "retirement" (first in South Carolina, then with Eastern and Western Michigan) and as such, we're learning he has extended his provisions allowed by the Church Pension Fund. In order to remain legal and to retain his well-earned pension, he will need to conclude (or pause) his time with us at the end of this September. After we have called and elected our new Bishop Provisional, and in discerning conversation with them and CPG, we are hopeful that there may be opportunity for Bishop Skip to serve with us again in the future.

We are pleased to report that, with the help of the Presiding Bishop's Office, three candidates for bishop provisional will be interviewed over the next month. All of the candidates are enthusiastic about the possibility of working alongside our dioceses as we continue to explore our relationship with one another and as we process, both as individual dioceses and together, our experience of the last year under suspension and the pandemic. All three candidates would serve our dioceses on a full-time basis, departing the dioceses in which they currently serve.

It is important to note that, while the canons charge the Standing Committee with interviewing and selecting one candidate, our Joint Standing Committees have chosen to have broader representation on the interviewing committee, which will conduct the interviews and offer advice and feedback to the Joint Standing Committee. The interviewing committee is composed of six members of each diocese and includes all orders of ministry and geographic regions. Those members are:

The Rev. Nancy Mayhew, Co-Chair*
St. Alban's, Bay City

The Rev. Curt Norman
St. John's, Saginaw

The Ven. Beth Drew
Trinity, Three Rivers

Gary Grinn*
St. Paul's, Gladwin

The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer
Eastern Michigan Diocesan Staff

Nancy Foster
St. Mary's, Cadillac

The Rev. Deacon Anna Leigh Kubbe*
Holy Family, Blue Water

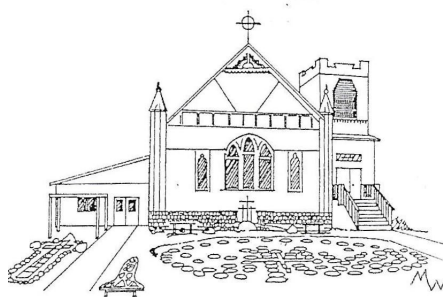
The Rev. BJ Heyboer, Co-Chair*
St. Mark's, Newaygo

Carole Redwine*
St. Philip's, Grand Rapids

Tanna Leclair
Grace, Port Huron

The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer
St. John's, Grand Haven

The Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose
Western Michigan Diocesan Staff



St. John's Episcopal Church
PO Box 86
4074 S Mill St.
Dryden, MI 48428