

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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A Note from Tom



Autumn is upon us, and it is (and always has been) my favorite season of the year. I love the fall for a couple of reasons. First, I prefer a cooler climate. Second, I love to be outdoors, and nothing is more naturally beautiful (in my humble opinion) than the vibrant colors of Michigan forestlands when the leaves begin to change color. And third, I love football. And so, I welcome the fall.

This particular fall, however, finds me with something of a heavy heart. The COVID 19 virus continues to thrive in America as we begin to approach the end of our second year dealing with the pandemic. This morning I reviewed the status of the nation's risk level on the Brown School of Public Health website (which I have used throughout the pandemic to monitor the virus in Lapeer and Huron counties). I was shocked to see that most of the United States (including Michigan) is back in the red:

<https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>

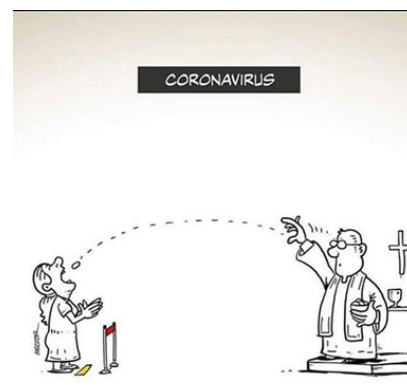
And it's disheartening to me that we are approaching *the end of our second year* still dealing with it. And as we all know, our nation's various responses to the pandemic have continued to be a real hot-button political issues. As a nation, we are divided on issues related to vac-

cines, mask mandates, social distancing requirements, etc.

And it is this very division that brings me to the point of this article. I believe that as Christians we are called to "...love your neighbour as yourself." (Mt 22:9). This has long been the cornerstone of my Christian theology, which I'll translate as 'Thou shalt not discriminate'. Regardless of our views on Covid issues, as Christians it is important that we not lose sight of our call to love one another.

The reality of our world is that misfortunes, tragedies, and bad things in general, happen. Our world has never been free of adversity, and likely never will be. Even pandemics are nothing new. But just as Christ preached love in the face of his own tragedy, so must we persevere in the face of the approaching end of Covid 19, Year Two.

So relax, enjoy the fall colors, get outdoors, and maybe watch a game or two. Autumn is here and God's in his heaven. Tom+



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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 November is October 29th.



Happy Birthday...

Yvonne Malinich

Sherry Petrie

Russ Underwood

Tom Manney

Happy Anniversary

Darlene Herndon

Jack & Ida Lynn Dodd

Vestry Notes:

Dear Friends,

I feel a bit like a squirrel trying to do all he can to prepare for winter as the warm weather migrates south. We had a lovely day for our outdoor service and picnic pot-luck (see pix a few pages in). It was a little chilly to start but warmed up nicely by the time we started the picnic. And I'm happy to say that we have not lost our pot-luck touch at all! The food was wonderful. Our industrious Jr. Warden has been busy too – front steps are painted and look GREAT! That tree by the kitchen door, which was too big for that spot and endangering our power lines, is gone. And he's upgraded our fluorescent lights to LED's which has brightened the parish hall considerably. There's a rumor that the sign post in the front might get a fresh coat of paint if the weather cooperates. That might require some prayer.

We have several of our little family in need of prayer recently. Although Jane is home from the hospital, her situation is such that we need to keep her in our thoughts and prayers – and a card would not go amiss either (be sure to add hug-hug-hug to your signature). Richard and Kathleen Buszek were in a terrible auto accident – both are OK but there were injuries that remain. There are others – Margaret Smith, Neil Hargrave and Rita, Connie Jones. If you can call or write, I'm sure it would brighten their day.

Our Time-line project went well and we are looking at ways to preserve the info and pictures for our records and possibly for your enjoyment too. It had been suggested that we create a scap-book using

Shutterfly. I would love to hear from anyone who has an interest in helping out with this project. It will be fun and give us a chance to add an artistic touch to the results.

Going forward, we are starting a series of classes that will cover a variety of subjects. Fr. Tom will be our MC and the subjects

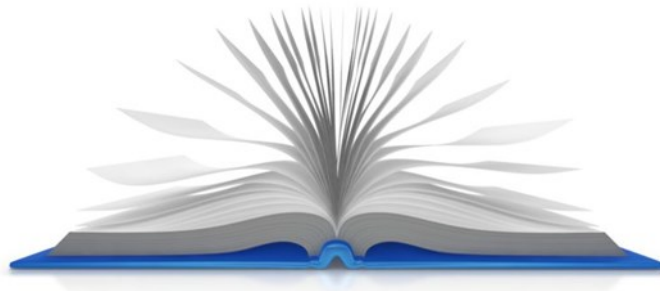
will cover some very interesting elements of our faith. And when we get together, we just have to have food – so it's an even more enticing event. See the article for more details.

We hope to participate in Halloween trick-or-treating but need to get some clarity on whether Dryden will do it on THE day which is a Sunday or move it to Saturday. We'll keep you posted as the time approaches. And a little birdie told me that the FUN Committee is planning a Harvest pot-luck for early November. I can't wait.

In the coming months, the Vestry will be preparing for the new year. Financially, we are in very good shape and that has made us think it might be time to consider investing some of our checking account. We would be sure to maintain a balance to cover our short-term needs. We are just starting our investigations and will keep you informed of our findings. This will probably be on the agenda for the annual meeting in January.

May we all rejoice in the beauty of this season. Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday. **Becky**





Taste and See Classes

Fr. Tom is starting a series of one evening classes that cover a variety of subjects. Each session is stand-alone so you can attend all or some and not worry about catching-up. We encourage you to bring a dish to pass for a brief dinner before the class begins. The first session is scheduled for:

Dates: **Thursday, October 14th, Thursday, October 28, Monday, November 1, Monday, November 15, Thursday, December 9.**

Time: **5:30**

Location: **St. John's Parish Hall**

Topics:

1. The Catechism
2. For the Bible Tells Us
3. Church History – The English Reformation and the formation of the Church of England
4. Spirituality
5. The Book of Common Prayer – Writing Collects & Prayers of the People
6. Eyes on the Prize

Bible Trivia!

Course materials will be provided.

Please bring a dish to pass.

RSVP to Fr. Tom by Tuesday, Oct. 12th. See you there!

Could this be St. John's storage shed?

Well, it's not that bad but our shed has certainly seen better days. A generous donor thinks we need to consider replacing our shed with something a bit larger and maybe a bit easier to maintain. We have been offered a matching grant of up to \$1,500 towards a new shed. The offer is good through the end of this year. If you would like to support this project, you can put an envelope in the plate on Sunday or send a check into the office with Storage Shed in the memo item. We'll probably have to wait until next spring for actual installation but it would be nice to know it's on the way.



A Timeline of St. John's Journey

Over the last few months, a display on the ramp into the church was established and updated with pictures and notes depicting the journey our church has made from its founding in 1894 to present day. There are some interesting and surprising items on that wall. Many of us participated in a "treasure hunt" in September to answer some questions about who/what/where and when over the years.



It was hard to keep the list fairly short – there was so much to highlight. For instance – do you know who made the pew racks for our hymnals and prayer books? Same fella created the wooden altar backdrop (reredos is the technical term). Then there were some corrections. Turns out Virginia Nett's husband DID NOT accompany her on the trip to NOLA to help with hurricane cleanup – it was Wes Wagester and this amateur archivist apologizes for the error.

This project was intended to do more than give us a fun review of our history. It was a chance to see where God had been at work with us and for us. We didn't have much time to ponder that on the day of the treasure hunt. But here are the thoughts that came to some of us.

The hand of God was placed on St. John and, based on the history board, it appears there have always been challenges and struggles. First to build a church building, a parsonage, a parking lot, a kitchen, etc. Faithful folks pushed through layers of challenges to first get the church doors open and then to keep the doors open, much like today.

Our St. John ancestors, felt the need to keep the doors open even when the odds were against them. Again, much like today. God has His hands upon us and through His grace St. John's continues.

The learnings - when God is at the center of your faith, which illuminates the history board, there is ALWAYS hope, and like the Episcopalian prayer states, "And we do not hope in vain." The future needs to be shaped by keeping God at the center of every decision that gets made! Whether it's to continue to pour money into the building and grounds to ensure St. John's is attractive and maintained in the community to show "God is alive and well"; or through ministries such as Double Helping, Outreach Coats, collecting food for the Dryden food bank and school supplies, genuine care and concern for each other, or donating to a fellow church in despair. I can hear the founders of St. John saying "Well done, keep up God's hard work."

We have been blessed with many, many people who have said, "Here I am Lord, send me." From the Ladies Guild (and their families) to the Vestry Veterans who re-upped multiple, multiple times, to the individuals who took classes for Worship Leader and Preaching certificates, to the quiet steady work done by Altar Guild or our go-to party organizers – St. John's has continued through both fat and lean times.

We have been blessed with some very special clergy, especially in times of great need. Archdeacon Charles Braidwood stepped in multiple times to ensure St. John's had the right talent at the right time. Rev. Bierlein did just about everything he could do – taught Sunday School, directed the choir, pledge canvassing. Fr. Mand and Canon Bob made St. John's a warm, welcoming place so markedly that it is still our hallmark. Fr. Tom has given us optimism and steadiness during our siege by Covid.

Our community is our strength. Finances may get ugly, clergy may transfer away, some dear friends may leave our group. But, with God's help, we continue to love and support each other and find strength when it is needed.

God will not leave us to flounder. A leader or leaders will surface to help us find our (cont. pg 5)

way to the next turning point.

And this is what the Sr. Warden came to see:

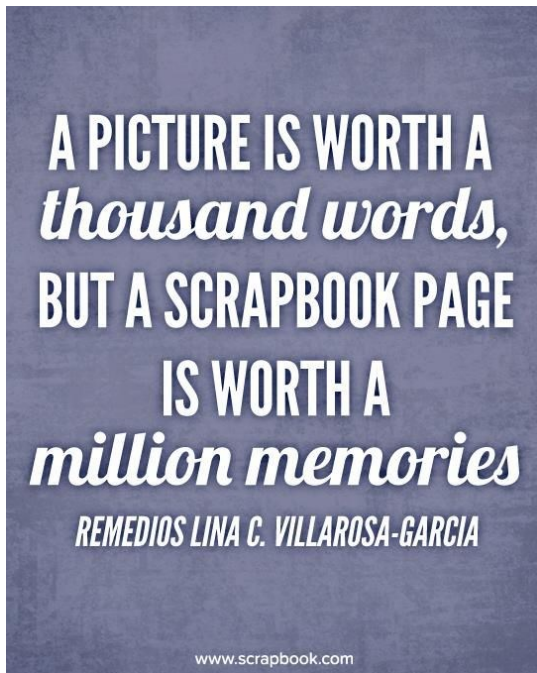
I was a bit reluctant to start this process. I feared that reflecting on our past would only highlight the differences between our high-water mark and our current situation. We used to have SRO services, 60 or more children in Sunday School, so many choir members that the choir loft was too small. That's not how it is today. *But I found reassurance instead. This is not the first time this has happened. And who can really foretell what the future holds? Better to trust the Prime Architect and do the work He has given us to do.*

I was also worried that, being a small church, our outreach efforts would look pretty puny. These were not discussed in the timeline but they were there – clothing collections, drives for mission funding, recent collaboration with other local churches to create a food bank, collaboration with the local high school to help needy teens with winter clothing and school supplies. But nothing on a scale to match some of the major efforts elsewhere. But then, we ARE a small church in a SMALL community. Then I remembered Mother Therese's quote "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love". That's St. John's.

Blessings on all the pilgrims who make this journey with us. Amen.



The steps looked pretty good BEFORE but absolutely fabulous AFTER. Great Job! Many thanks to Jack and Ida Lynn Dodd!



Let's have some Scrapbooking fun! We want to turn our time-line into a nice scrap book. We are thinking of doing it digitally using a service like Shutterfly - they produce printed copies of the pictures and quotes that look really nice. And there's lots of opportunity to add artistic touches. Becky is hoping for one or more scrappy people to join her in this project. Just let her know you what to help. Come along – it will be fun!



It's time to start making your plans!

Hard to believe, but Christmas is not far away. We plan to have our Christmas Bazaar in early December – date will be finalized soon. But it's not too early to start thinking of what you would like to bake, create or donate. Preparing for Christmas is almost more fun than the day itself, agreed? I wonder what goodies we'll see on the tables this year?

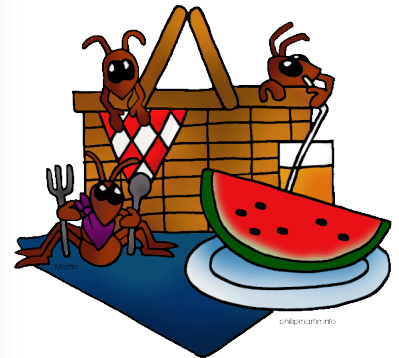


Sherry Petrie spent HOURS sewing all these little squares together for our new wall hang



St. John's Inaugural Sunshine Service

This was a lovely service and the pot-luck was outstanding. A little cool at the start but sunny and dry. We had music and heard our bell loud and clear. Notice that the pot-luck pix feature lots of empty plates – it was wonderful! Planning to do it again next year (with God's help).





Barter

By Sara Teasdale

Life has loveliness to sell,
 All beautiful and splendid things,
 Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
 Soaring fire that sways and sings,

And children's faces looking up
 Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,
 Music like a curve of gold,
 Scent of pine trees in the rain,
 Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
 And for your spirit's still delight,
 Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,
 Buy it and never count the cost;
 For one white singing hour of peace
 Count many a year of strife well lost,
 And for a breath of ecstasy
 Give all you have been, or could be.



Ministry & Counting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Videographer</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
Oct 3, 2021	Margaret	Neil	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Becky	Wes
Oct 10, 2021	Darlene	Mary	Rev Cavin	Sherry Wagner	Neil	Jack
Oct 17, 2021	Kathy	Corinne	Rev Manney	Ina Dockham	Wes	Ina
Oct 24, 2021	Tammy		Neil	Mary Cameron	Jack	Becky
Oct 31, 2021	Wes		Kitty	Wes Wagester	Ina	Neil
Nov 7, 2021	Jim	Tammy	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Becky	Wes
Nov 14, 2021	Tammy		Neil	Ida Lynn Dodd	Neil	Jack
Nov 21, 2021	Mary	Corinne	Rev Manney	Sherry Wagner	Wes	Ina
Nov 28, 2021	Neil		Becky	Ina Dockham	Jack	Becky

THE 27TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION – Oct. 29 & 30

After more than a year in which our modes of gathering and community building were upended, our dioceses – its congregations, ministries, leaders – demonstrated remarkable resiliency, creativity, and commitment to sharing the Good News.

In this time of “regathering” and as we consider what God is calling us to be in the next year, five years, twenty years, and beyond, we pause to gather and celebrate our ministry “in the field” – doing the work God has called us to do in this place and at this time.

Our convention will bring together leaders from across the dioceses to learn about those ministries, engage in deep conversation, and to celebrate one another in the midst of a difficult year and as we look ahead to our new ministry field.

St. John’s delegates are: Mary Cameron, Becky Foster, Corinne Fry and Neil Hargrave. Please pray that this gathering is spirit filled and fruitful.



Help Wanted! We'll Pay for Certification!

We would LOVE to be able to offer pancake dinners or other meals to the public BUT we need to meet certain Health Department requirements. MSU Extension Center in Imlay City is offering an 8 hour class that would enable the participants to take (and hopefully pass) the test to certify them as ServSafe Food Protection Managers. This is a HUGE step in being able to serve food to the public. We will pay for the class and the books. Dates & times are:

All classes are on Mondays

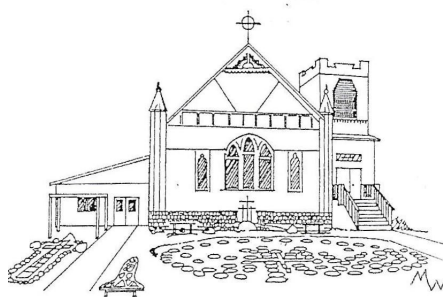
October 18th, November 15th and December 14th

9AM to 5PM

Location: Imlay City

Please contact Becky Foster if interested. Thanks.





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