

St. John's Episcopal Church
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THE EPISTLE

August, 2008

Services & Meetings:

EVERY SUNDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 and/or
 Morning Prayer
 9:30 AM Sunday School

EVERY TUESDAY

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
 and Low Mass in
 the Lady Chapel

THIRD THURSDAY – August 21; Sept. 18; Oct. 16

9:30 AM St. Helen's Altar
 Guild Mtg.

FOURTH SUNDAY - August 24; Sept. 28; Oct. 26

Pot luck dinner following the 9:30 AM
 service.

VESTRY MEETING – TBA

6:00-8:00 PM

John's Jottings "Ordinary Time" August 2008

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

I was never a big fan of Shakespeare when I was in high school. Being a slow reader, not yet having fallen in love with this kind of "King's English" until I became an Anglican – I read what I had to and frequently consulted *Cliff Notes*, *Classic Comics* and the like to get me through stuff which, as a teenager, I consider boring and irrelevant. (I think George Bernard Shaw said, "It's a shame that youth is wasted on the young," wasn't it?)

Anyway, I do remember certain quotations from the old "bard of Avon," and one I want to share with you now is from his play, *Romeo and Juliet* (1594). I'll tell you why in just a minute:

JULIET:

'Tis but thy name that is my enemy;

Thou art thyself, though not a Montague.

What's Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,

Continued on next page.

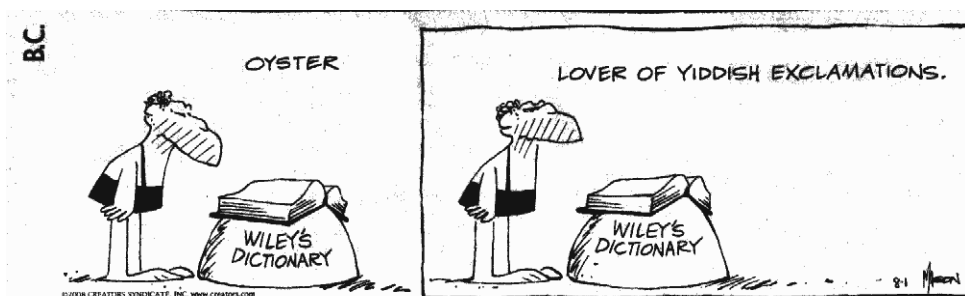
John's Jottings (Continued):

Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
 Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
 What's in a name? that which we call a rose
 By any other name would smell as sweet;
 So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call'd,
 Retain that dear perfection which he owes
 Without that title. Romeo, doff thy name,
 And for that name which is no part of thee
 Take all myself.

What matters is what something **is**, not what it is **called**. No matter what you call a rose, it still consistently emits that sweet smell unmistakably identified as a rose. I can smell it now in my memory of scents.

Many years ago, way back in the 1800s when Ionia was founded, our foremothers and forefathers planted a church here, our church, and they simply called it "Saint John's Church of the City of Ionia." That's our current legal name. It's in the earliest legal documents registered with the State of Michigan. They probably didn't bother to include "Episcopal" anywhere; everybody who was anybody knew that. Most of the movers and shakers were Episcopal. So why bother belaboring the obvious? Another question the curious might ask is, "Well, what Saint John are you named for?"

Continued on page 5

Praise the Lord for the gift of humor:

**The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori,
 Ph.D., D.D.**

Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

The Reverend John E. Crean, Jr., Ph.D.

Rector of St. John's

The Reverend David C. Meyers, Ed.D.

Deacon of St. John's

Mission Statement: Our mission is to build upon our base as a strong church family by providing a friendly, comfortable place to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PARISH ...

Prayer Suggestions for the Armed Forces

01. Protection—Psalm 34:7, Psalm 32:7
02. Wisdom—James 1:5
03. Peace—John 14:26, Philippians 4:7
04. Presence of God—Psalm 46:1
05. Inner Strength—Ephesians 3:16
06. Clear Mind—2 Timothy 1:7
07. Security—Psalm 17:8
08. Health for Physical Body—Philippians 4:13
09. Courage—Joshua 1:9
10. To Help Others—Philippians 2:3-4
11. To be aware of God's love for them—Psalm 42
12. Family concerns—1 Peter 5:7
13. Rest—Matthew 11:28-29
14. Adjust to time change, sleep—Psalm 4:8
15. Unity in purpose—1 Peter 3:8
16. Loneliness—Deuteronomy 31:6
17. Children of military—Isaiah 54:13, Psalm 68:5
18. Spouses of military—Isaiah 40:11
19. Patience while waiting—Psalm 33:20
20. God directing their steps—Psalm 32:8
21. Diligent in their work—Colossians 3:23
22. Resist temptation—1 Corinthians 10:13
23. Discernment—Philippians 1:9
24. Traveling safety—Psalm 121:7-8
25. Fighting Depression—Psalm 42:5
26. Protection from Evil—2 Thessalonians 3:3
27. Encourage those around them—Proverbs 11:25
28. Personal prayer life—Jeremiah 33:3
29. Deliverance from the enemy—Psalm 31:15
30. Angels to guard them—Psalm 34:7
31. Persistence for the task—Galatians 6:9

A Prayer for Those Who Serve

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and Prince of Peace, watch over our loved ones as they serve their country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers of military life. Keep them close to You and help them live in such a manner that is pleasing to You. Lord Jesus, give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger, strengthen them when they face hardships. Above all Lord, grant that when their service is finished they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul.

And Lord, for those who give the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for serving our country, please touch and minister grace and healing to their families. Amen.

Milestones:

Birthdays:

- Aug 05 - Krista Heilman
 13 - Tina Hayes, Jim Erskine
 19 - Margaret Jones
 27 - Jill Hamilton
 29 - Eric Krueger
 31 - Jennifer Burkhart Parker
- Sept 02 - David Wakley
 07 - Susan Erskine
 09 - Opal Travis
 14 - Ashley Jo Wing
 15 - Elaine Warnes
 23 - Royal Kirby, Kristine Lyons
 24 - Diane Hawley
 29 - Betsy Hawken

Anniversaries:

- Sept 02 - Robert and Joyce Renucci
 12 - Joe and Kathy Jones
 18 - Rob and Charmaine Miller
 21 - Homer and Diane Hawley
 28 - Bob and Bobbie Jo Renucci
- Aug 16 - Robert and Melanie Bennett
 18 - Bill and Nancy Adams
 20 - John and Carol Warnes

Care Packages for Our Troops

There is still time to donate items for the Care Package. The plan is to gather up all of the donations so that they can be delivered to the drop-off point August 23, 2008.

The donation box is located under the bulletin board to the left of the church office. Please give generously!

Pear Tree in Need of Support

Junior Warden Cindy Cotter has replaced the old, dead tree out front with a special pear tree, the cost of which is \$250. Please make a contribution to defray the cost of this beautiful tree out front. (You may even get a free pear . . . or maybe a pair of pears . . . someday.)

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PARISH ...

Sad News

Please consider sending a sympathy note to the family of **Father David Charles Lynch**, former St. John's rector, who died recently. His widow, Martha Lynch, and her daughter live at: **6906 Red Barn Rd., Crystal Lake, IL 60012-1054**. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

Mass cards are available from Fr. John in his office. There is no charge. You may select either a Tuesday or a Thursday for a requiem anniversary Mass for a loved one departed.

Who's in the Office When?

On **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays**, **Sue and Justin Carter** have volunteered to answer the parish telephone and be available in the Parish Office from 10:30AM—1:30PM. Thanks so much, Sue and Justin!

On **Fridays**, **Joyce Renucci** is in the Parish Office and will likewise be available from 10:30 AM—4:00 PM. Thanks once again, Joyce, for all you do.

Fr. John will be in the office after the 9:30 Masses on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** from about 10:30 AM—Noon. He is available for open office hours at that time; or you may book an appointment for the afternoon or evening on Tuesdays; or in the afternoon on Thursdays.

From our Floral Coordinator

Reminder: Many Sundays are available for anyone wishing to furnish flowers for either altar. Flowers from your garden are welcome. Please let **Bonnie Pierce (527-0163)** know and the vases will be made available to you. Flowers from the florist are \$15 for each pair of vases.

Suggestions: Bouquets for the side altar should be fairly small to fit between the cross and the candles, and about the same height – or a little lower – than the cross. Flowers for the high altar may be taller, if you wish.

Parishioners to Contact

This update is on those who are ill, ailing, recuperating, or who otherwise find it difficult to get to church regularly. Please drop them a line, and/or give them a call, to let them know we are thinking about and praying for them, OK?

Thanks, *John+*

Harry Boyes
138 E. Washington St.
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-2715

Kathy Davis
670 N. Jefferson St.
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-4122

Vera Scott
1133 Yeoman St, Lot 77
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-3788

Eve Steere
Burcham Center, Rm 127
2700 Burcham Drive
Lansing, MI 48823
517-827-2430

John Stowell
2577 Heartland Blvd. #2
Ionia MI 48846
616-527-3115

Opal Travis
The Laurels of Carson City
620 North 2nd Street
Carson City, MI 48811
989-584-6980

Contact Persons

If you have any notes for the *Sunday Bulletin*, or for the *Epistle*, call or e-mail Father John (616-682-7810; jnepigrr@att.net). Please submit material for the *Epistle* by the 15th of the month before the issue is published. (e.g., March 15th for April issue). If you have information for publication in the *Sentinel Standard*, please call Mildred Kirby (527-2718).

More Church News

John's Jottings continued from page 2:

Now there's St. John the Baptist, St John of the Cross, St John Chrysostom, St John Lateran, St John of God, St John of Capistrano, St John Damascene – to name a few. Then, of course, there is St John the Apostle and Evangelist – after whom we were named. This saint is also referred to as St John the Beloved, and St John the Divine.

But our founding members saw no reason to include that depth of detail either. For them, it seemed obvious. So much was taken for granted: our denomination along with which St. John we were dedicated to.

But is a name *so* insignificant? A Latin proverb says *Nomen est omen*, or “your name is your destiny.” Our Saint John was prolific in Scripture. He wrote the fourth gospel, several epistles and the Book of Revelation. He died at a very advanced age and had accomplished much. He knew and deeply loved Jesus. He is depicted as leaning on the breast of Christ at the Last Supper. He was at the foot of the cross as Jesus expired. He is a major, multi-faceted saint who enjoyed a long and productive ministry.

A number of churches bear the title “St John the Evangelist.” It is sort of a “dime-a-dozen” descriptor for our patron saint. We have many in Michigan.

As we revise our bylaws and look at our founding documents, we now have an opportunity to proclaim who we really are. We have the chance to update and clarify that we are an **Episcopal** Church dedicated to the Saint John whose feast day falls on December 27th. If you look on the Liturgical Calendar you will see that saint is called **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**.

Your Vestry and I are proposing that, as we revise our bylaws and legal documents, that we restate and clarify our legal and canonical identity. We propose to you that we restate **Saint John's Church of the City of Ionia** as **Saint John the Apostle Episcopal Church**. That would be unique within our diocese. No other parish bears that name. And what's more significant, we have become more and more an *apostolic* church. We are already exercising a major apostolate in outreach. That is huge! Other *apostolic works* will follow. An apostle is someone sent forth on a mission. That's us. Two of our members were missioned to New Orleans for Katrina rebuilding. That's only a beginning.

The Vestry and I are calling a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 14th, the Feast of the Holy Cross, for the purpose of (1) agreeing to the clarification of our parish name; and (2) approving the revised bylaws. I hereby publish the first announcement of that general membership meeting. We will meet in the Parish House right after Mass, and have a nice potluck and all, very much like our annual meeting in January. Please put it on your calendar, and please begin to pray about how you like the sound of **St. John the Apostle Episcopal Church**.

As Bishop Sheen used to say, “God love you!”

Father John+

Frier

JEWELERS

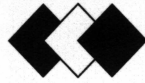
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