



St. John's Episcopal Church
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THE EPISTLE

September, 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 – Sept. 18; Oct. 16; Nov. 20

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

FOURTH SUNDAY - Sept. 28; Oct. 26; Nov. 23

Pot luck dinner following the 9:30 AM
 service. July 27 will be in Greenville at
 10:30 AM

VESTRY MEETING – TBA

6:00-8:00 PM

John's Jottings "Ordinary Time" September 2008

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

There is nothing "ordinary" about September in the life of the church. That's startup time for school, church, sports, and all the rest. September is really another January of sorts, such that one might even contemplate rearranging the calendar as if that were the first month of the year. But I won't propose anything *quite* that radical here, no fear!

I have to share my excitement and enthusiasm about all the things that are happening around here. It is such a pleasure, really, to pastor a parish with such vitality and openness to new things. And that spirit of openness is allowing miracles of many sizes, shapes and forms to take place.

Where do I begin?

Well, I want to put into narrative form some of the events that we hope will be taking place in the coming fall months. We need your eager participation and support, simply just showing up at events you have some interest in, even if you are not sure you want to commit to being there all the time. We are attempting this fall to offer a variety of new events:

Continued on next page

John's Jottings (Continued):

classes, worship, activities, so that there may be something for everyone.

Sunday School starts September 7th. Remember that on the fourth Sunday of every month, the children are with us upstairs for a special Children's Sermon. Also, I have invited two of our younger members to become "Junior Lectors." They will read the second lesson each fourth Sunday at our 9:30 Mass. I welcome other interested youngsters who would like to be trained how to read in church or to serve Mass. We have open positions!

As I have been announcing in church and in the bulletin notes, our Vestry will meet with its counterpart at First Baptist Church, their Congregational Council. That meeting takes place Tuesday September 9th at our Parish House from 7-9 PM. We are wanting to get to know one another, as we contemplate embarking on a joint venture: a later Sunday morning service together.

You already know (see August *Epistle*) about our All-Parish Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 14th after Mass and brunch. I have also advertised on Sundays a major Ionia event at Resurrection Life scheduled for 6:30 pm that evening. Do come if you can, and hear a renowned preacher, Wayne Benson. That same week, our Vestry has its regular September meeting on Tuesday the 16th from 6-8 pm; non-Vestry members always welcome.

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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 ...

Care Packages for Our Troops

There is a new collection being started items for a Christmas Care Package. The plan is to gather up all of the donations so that they can be delivered to the drop-off point November 11, 2008.

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

Altar Guild

St. Helen's Altar Guild generally meets the third Thursday at 9:30 AM. New members are always needed and interested persons (either men or women!) should contact Carol Hawley (527-1345). The Altar Guild is an indispensable part of Episcopal worship. Consider it.

The **Altar Guild** has voted to purchase flowers from Sid's Flower Shop. The price is \$15 for two vases. We will take the vases to Sid's and they will deliver them to church.

If you wish to make other arrangements, please let Bonnie Pierce know when she calls you for information for the bulletin; or simply call her at 527-0163.

ENRICHment Opportunities

ENRICH of Ionia County currently has 242 families on our waiting list for the following items. If you have any of these items that are in good condition and working order we can get them to the less fortunate.

17 Baby Cribs or Youth Bed, 123 Twin Beds, 49 Full Beds, 60 Queen Beds, 105 Dressers, 91 Couches, 69 Chairs, 34 Loveseats, 71 Dining Sets, 21 Refrigerators, 12 Electric Ranges, 16 Gas Ranges, 36 Washers, 34 Electric Dryers, and 13 Gas Dryers.

If you can deliver your donated item to our building (343 W Main St., Ionia) it would be appreciated. But if you can't, we can pick up items. Either way, give us a call at 616-522-1126 for our open hours.

We are also in need of **volunteers**. **ENRICH** is operated by volunteer staff. We need truck drivers, truck helpers, store workers, and office help. If you can help, please call the above number.

THANK YOU.

Milestones:

Birthdays:

- Sep 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
- Oct 01 - Craig Seekamp
 02 - Sandra LaMont
 07 - Emilee Renucci
 08 - David Gregory
 10 - Jennifer Hawley
 11 - Joseph L. Jones
 14 - Matthew Bennett
 17 - Ted VanKuiken
 20 - Alvin Hawley
 21 - John Stowell
 22 - Audrey Hawken
 23 - Mary H. Miller
 26 - Matthew Schmitz, Margaret Wyman
 30 - Jonathan Truswell

Anniversaries:

- Sep 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
- Oct 27 - Craig and Molly Seekamp

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 ...

Parishioners to Call, Write or Visit

This update is on those who are either 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, too, 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 (new)

Green Acres
2554 Commerce Lane, Apt. 203
Ionia, MI 48846
616-527-2715

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

Afternoon Book Discussion

We will be having an afternoon book discussion using the first book of the Mitford Series about a small parish, the priest, Fr. Tim Kavanagh and a cast of townspeople you'll come to know and love. (Or at least, tolerate!)

We plan to meet st 4:00 to 5:00 PM each Tuesday starting September 23rd in the parish house. We hope to continue until the start of advent. Fr. John is checking the internet for a good price on the book. Anyone interested please let Fr. John or Bonnie Pierce know.

Who's Where 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 likewise 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 his study after the 9:30 Masses on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** and available from about 10:30 AM—around noon. Open office hours then; or you may book an appointment at another time on Tuesday or Thursday.

From our Floral Coordinator

Reminder: Many Sundays are still 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.

Contact Persons

If you have any notes for the *Sunday Bulletin*, or for the *Epistle*, call or e-mail Father John (616-682-7810; jnepigr@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:

Then on that Thursday, September 18th we begin a new venture. Our newest member, Mr. Glenn Vos, is offering a course on Church History featuring DVD's and discussion. That series will commence on Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm, and continue till just before Christmas. Glen has had a great deal of theological education and is anxious to share that with us. Deacon Dave and I will also be participating.

The following Sunday, September 21st, Canon Bill Spaid will be with us to preach, and afterwards during Coffee Hour make a few remarks and then entertain questions. The Canon is the Bishop's right-hand man, and in our diocese we are visited alternatively by the Bishop and Canon in successive years. Do plan on being here in full force that Sunday, please. We want to share our Good News with Father Bill and welcome him again to our hallowed halls!

That week also, we start up our Book Discussion Group again. It will take place every Tuesday from 4-5 pm in the parish house under the capable leadership of Bonnie Pierce. As you might have guessed from the "teasers" in the Sunday bulletins, we are doing the Mitford series, beginning with Jan Karon's first book, *At Home in Mitford*. Some of us have already read some or all of this series, I for one. But I am so interested in re-reading the books and discussing them with our faith community. Consider coming. You can drop in and out from week to week as you wish; this is not a whole-series commitment.

On the next Sunday, being the last in the month, September 28th, I have invited the Reverend Nurya Love Parish to preach. Nurya was ordained in the Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) and has recently been confirmed in the Episcopal Church. She is a member of our sister parish, St. Paul's, Greenville. Last year, she and her husband David completed the Vocational Discernment Program which I direct. Nurya is in ongoing discernment about becoming an Episcopal priest (which we hope she will). I am confident you will love meeting her and be uplifted by her sermon. Again, please, put this on your "must be there" list for September. Let us welcome Nurya, David and their children warmly to St. John's.

So you can see why I am so excited, enthused and delighted about the direction we are journeying together as a faith community. I again want to applaud each and every one of you (you know who you are) who are helping so mightily to make a renewed St. John's a reality.

As Bishop Sheen used to say, "God love you!"

John+

Trier

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