



The Evangel *August 2010*

God doesn't take a vacation.

Surely there are times when we might wish God would quietly absent Himself (or Herself) – moments when our weakness causes surrender to temptation, moments when a “little white lie” seems to serve best, moments when we'd like to just slip under God's Holy Radar.

And so, in many cases, we might turn to prayer. We might consider inviting God into community with us – and, because God is never absent, what we might actually be doing is asking God to allow us to enter into community with Him. Opening our hearts, pouring out our brokenness, praying for mercy, and receiving love.

No, God is never absent, even when we think the darkness will enshroud our hearts and our spirits – it's just that we can't always sense the presence of the Holy. And so we pray. And listen.

The Church doesn't take a vacation, either! Oh, yes, there are times through the liturgical year where we may be a bit more relaxed – we lack the penitential spirit of Lent, or the seasonal anticipation of Advent, the joy of Easter – but the Church and her ministers (that's all of us!) look ahead, plan, pray, worship, and give thanks.

Most of you know, for example, that Marcus Roll has accepted our offer (with great enthusiasm) to become our Interim Choirmaster and Director of Music. This is terrific news! And we are casting a wider net in our search for an organist – phone calls, flyers, brochures, “packages” to schools of music and professors of organ and to the American Guild of Organists. There is someone out there just *yearning* for a position at St. John's! This is all quite exciting, actually – not a cause for anxiety, for Jesus reminds us, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow.”

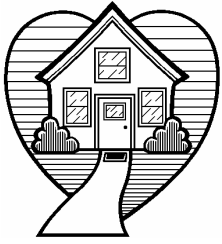
And I saw somewhere, “Do not worry. The God of today will be with you tomorrow.”

Our lives can be so full of anxious moments – money, position, jobs-to-be-done, relationships, and all the minor stuff: “We're out of milk.” “Did you pay the light bill?” “What time will you be home?” “Have the dogs been fed?” All of this “stuff” can turn us into anxiety-laden people – and we need to return to God. In prayer, in reflection, in mission, in worship, in voice and in song.

God is here. Do not be anxious. Trust. Listen. Give thanks.

May we all live more thankful lives, quieter lives, lives with a touch more serenity, knowing full well that God is never absent.

In Christ,
Wayne +



Remember our Homebound Members

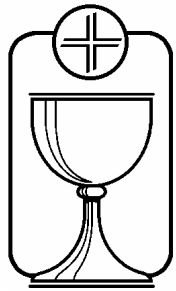
Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Stella Prybyla - Rosebush Manor,
4210 E. Rosebush Rd., 433-0150

Verna Schurr
Applewood, 5775 West Isabella Road

Connie Smith,
1526 C Canterbury Trail, 772-4577

George Injasoulian
Maplewood



Home Communion

Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive communion or a visit from either the clergy or a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

St. John's Prayer Group

The 16 members of the Prayer Group offer petitions daily for the church and for specific requests. All parishioners are welcome to become members of the Prayer Group or to submit requests by contacting Sandy Wood, 773-9326, Martha Rarick, 773-7510, or the church office, 773-7448.



Betty Timmons	4
Roger Hatch	5
Lance Ferden	6
Mary Lou Nowicki Kney	12
Kyle Ferden	14
Patricia Thurston	14
Christopher Benn	15
Mary Kiesgen	19
Cindy Seger	23
Richard Morrison	23
Gordon Bloem	27
Debi Peterson	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Patricia Thurston	5
Dick & Sandy Wood (50 th)	6
Eric & Jen Lovejoy	10
Aaron & Dawn (Dingman) Hall	30

Ongoing Rummage Sale Info:

The St. John's Rummage Sale Committee is accepting good used clothing all year long!

Please leave all contributions in the Parish Hall kitchen. Thank you!

Meijer Community Rewards Program
St. Johns' Account Number 972219

Outside the Tent

*How good and pleasant it is when the people of God
live together in unity. Psalm 133:1*

“We have to recivilise society,’ said Domenica quietly. ‘The whole of Britain: England, Scotland, the works, everything has to be recivilised. We have to rebuild. We have to re-create the civilization we have so casually destroyed.’” So says one of Alexander McCall Smith’s characters in *The Unbearable Lightness of Scones* (McCall Smith is also the author of the *No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency* series, where he frequently comments on manners and the lack thereof). I agree with Domenica—and McCall Smith—and not just for Britain, but for this nation, which has become increasingly brutal in its public discourse. From conservative talk-show host Glenn Beck, who said that Americans who speak out for social or economic justice are really proclaiming “Nazism” or “communism”; to the extreme hatred of the demonstrators from Westboro Baptist Church (they show up at funerals of men and women killed in action, proclaiming their deaths punishment for a government that tolerates gays); to the member of Congress who shouted “You lie!” at the President; to the candidates for public office who spend more time impugning the motives of their opponents than they do explaining their own platforms; to Mark Williams, ostracized by the Tea Party movement for vicious racist remarks (he called the President an “Indonesian Muslim turned welfare thug”), we have become a nation lacking in good manners. Perhaps it has always been this way, but it seems worse to me now than at any time in my memory. This lack of civility is harmful to us as children of God, and it very nearly destroys effective public discourse at a time when our nation is struggling to keep body and soul together.

We owe it to one another to find a better way. In a recent issue of *Sojourners*, Jim Wallis, its editor-in-chief, described “A Covenant for Civility,” drafted and signed by a group of “Christian pastors and leaders with diverse theological and political beliefs” who hope to heal the political divisions in our nation. This covenant asks that its signers commit to the following:

1. “. . . that our dialogue with each other will reflect the spirit of the Scriptures”
2. that “we believe that each of us [is] created in the image of God” and that we reflect that understanding in the way we speak to one another.
3. that “. . . when we disagree, we will do so respectfully”

4. that “we will be . . . mindful of the language we use in expressing our disagreements”
5. that we will be “mindful of how we treat each other in pursuit of the common life we share:”
6. that “we commit to pray for our political leaders”
7. that we will remember that “it is more difficult to hate others . . . when we are praying for them.”

I have signed this Covenant, because I know that my own lack of tolerance needs healing. If you are interested in reading the full text—and possibly signing on—you may do so at www.go.sojo.net/campaign/civilitypledge. We can, as the people of God, remove ourselves from divisive discourse by holding fast to the ideals of our faith, as Paul says in the Letter to the Ephesians, by putting away “all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander . . . [by being] kind to one another . . . forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven [us]” (4:32-32).

Peace, Nancy

Many thanks

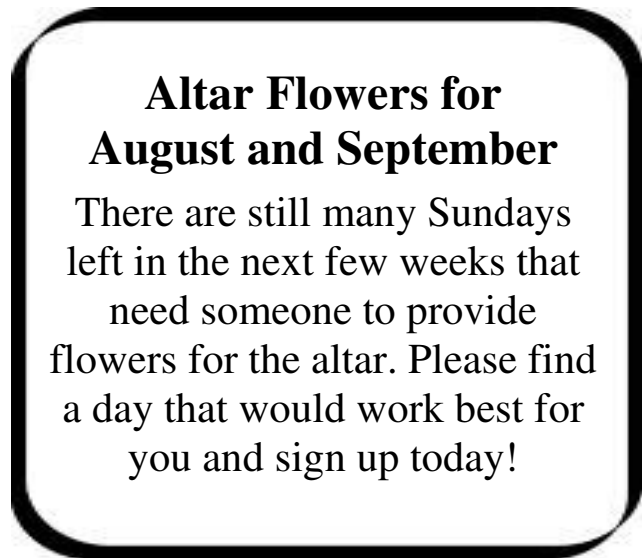
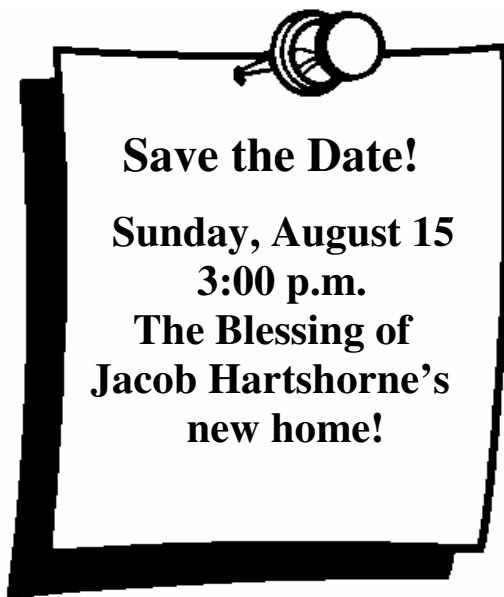
to the women of the parish who made the beautiful collection of prayer shawls which Wayne blessed during Eucharist early in July, and which I will use in my work at Woodland Hospice. --Nancy

Education for Ministry is coming to St. John’s this fall!

EFM is for everyone – and anyone! Bible study, theological refreshment, fellowship – the program meets weekly at a time to be determined by the mentor and group, and is an outstanding way to grow into a deeper relationship with God and a fuller understanding of Scripture and our many ministries. For information, please phone (989-317-0240) or e-mail (daeberk@yahoo.com) Steve Berkshire, who has volunteered to be our mentor, or speak to Fr. Wayne.

Interim Choirmaster/Director of Music

Marcus Roll has accepted the position of Interim Choirmaster and Director of Music, effective September 1st! I am very excited that Marcus is willing to take this on -- and it will be a terrific experience for him. Please extend your welcome and appreciation to him.—Fr. Wayne

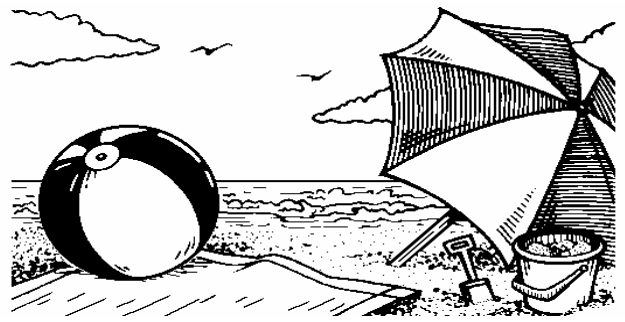


Coming this fall from
The Center for Christian Spirituality

“Music and Liturgy”

A historical, theological, social, and musical exploration of The Eucharist: The Gloria, The Sanctus, Requiem, and who knows what else we'll delve into?!? Wednesday evenings in September
Led by Mary Kiesgen and Wayne Nicholson

August 2010 Sunday Lay Ministry



DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
August 1 10 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Ralph Baber	9:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	David and Jennifer Dingman	Sandy and Dick Wood	Kendall Klumpp	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary:	Hosea 11:1-11 Psalm 107:1-9, 43 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21					
August 8 11 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Gordon Bloem	9:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Kendall and Lois Klumpp	John Rousseau	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary:	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40					
August 15 12 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Kendall and Lois Klumpp	Betsey Richard and Barbara Sheperdigian	Sandy Wood	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary:	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 Hebrews 11:29-12:2 Luke 12:49-56					
August 22 13 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire	9:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart	Alice Louisell and Susan Paton	Susan Paton and Martha Rarick	Seth Hartshorne	Sally Goodrow and Martha Rarick
Lectionary:	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17					
August 29 14 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	Sean Novak and John Rousseau	Forrest and Linda Robinson	Kendall Klumpp	Sally Goodrow and Martha Rarick
Lectionary:	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Psalm 81:1, 10-16 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14					
September 5 15 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian	9:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Martha Rarick and Sandy Wood	Laura Cochrane and Alice Louisell	Sandy Wood	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary:	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5, 13-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33					

August 2010—St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Ordinary Time, Proper 13</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist <i>Special Coffee Hour in Honor of Dick and Sandy Wood's 50th Anniversary!!</i>	2 Noon Daughters of the King	3 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends	4 Noon Eucharist	5	6 <i>The Transfiguration</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	7 <i>John Mason Neal, Priest</i>
8 <i>Ordinary Time, Proper 14</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	9	10 <i>Laurence, Deacon and Martyr</i>	11 <i>Clare, Abbess</i> Noon Eucharist 5pm Vestry	12 <i>Florence Nightingale</i> 9:30 a.m. Staff	13 <i>Jeremy Taylor, Bishop</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	14 <i>Jonathan Myrick Daniels</i>
15 <i>Ordinary Time, Proper 15</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist <i>Kenya Mission Trip Presentation during Coffee Hour!!</i>	16 <i>St. Mary the Virgin (transferred)</i>	17	18 <i>William Porcher Dubose, Priest</i>	19	20 <i>Bernard, Abbot</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	21
22 <i>Ordinary Time, Proper 16</i> 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: The Rev. Dn. Nancy Casey Fulton, Officiant and Homilist	23	24 <i>St. Bartholomew</i>	25 <i>Louis, King of France</i>	26	27 <i>Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syle</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Augustine, Bishop of Hippo</i>
Fr. Wayne Away						
29 <i>Ordinary Time, Proper 17</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	30	31 <i>Aidan, Bishop</i>	September 1 <i>David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon</i> Noon Eucharist	2 <i>Martyrs of New Guinea</i>	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4 <i>Paul Jones, Bishop</i>

Monday through Friday - Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m.
For updates, visit the Parish Website and click on "Calendar"

This is our Greeter/Coffee Hour Host Schedule—If you cannot serve on the date you were given, please exchange dates with someone else on the list and call the Parish Secretary at 773-7448

Greeter Rotation

August

- 1 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 8 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 15 Kendall and Lois Klumpp
- 22 Alice Louisell and Susan Paton
- 29 Sean Novak and John Rousseau

September

- 5 Martha Rarick and Sandy Wood
- 12 Tom and Betty Timmons
- 19 Babcock/Zygmontowicz family
- 26 David and Carrie Blackburn

October

- 3 Gordon Bloem and Nancy Parshall
- 10 Christine Brooks and Laura Cochrane
- 17 Tim Brockman and Harold Cook
- 24 Bob Cosan and Henry Fulton
- 31 David and Jennifer Dingman

November

- 7 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 14 Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger
- 21 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh
- 28 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen

Coffee Hour Rotation

August

- 1 Sandy and Dick Wood
- 8 Kendall and Lois Klumpp
- 15 Susan Paton and Martha Rarick
- 22 Betsey Richard & Barbara Sheperdigian
- 29 Forrest and Linda Robinson

September

- 5 Laura Cochrane and Alice Louisell
- 12 Harold and Mary Cook
- 19 Bob and Kip Cosan
- 26 David and Jennifer Dingman

October

- 3 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 10 Henry and Nancy Fulton
- 17 Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger
- 24 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh
- 31 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen

November

- 7 Lynne L'Hommedieu
- 14 Marian Matyn and Rod Leslie
- 21 Betsey Richard and Jim Eikrem
- 28 Forrest and Linda Robinson

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 7 July 2010

1. Father Wayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members present: David Dingman, Gordon Bloem, Harold Cook, Paula Shirley, Fr. Wayne, Eileen Swinehart, Karen Varanauskas, Jo Redman, Sean Novak and Jane Gilmore.
2. The minutes of the June vestry meeting were accepted as written
3. Building and Grounds
 - a. There is a work bee planned at the church on Saturday, 10 July from 9 till noon. Breakfast treats and water will be provided. The majority of the work is painting but there is some schlepping of items and clearing of weeds and brush from the north side of Parish Hall. George Clapp and Kendall Klumpp will be coordinating jobs and supplies
4. Music & Liturgy: Committee is meeting weekly. Surveys have been trickling in slowly.
 - a. A good return on the surveys is helping to guide the committee on the direction to take. Option 1 received 35% of the votes; Option 2 received 49% of the votes; Option 3 received 9 % of the votes; and Option 4 received 4% of the votes
 - b. Fr. Wayne has two candidates to whom he is considering offering the music director and organist position. He will work with the committee to make sure these people will be able to fulfill the needs of the parish.
5. Upcoming:
 - a. Saturday, 10 July – Parish Work Day
 - b. Wednesday’s in July—CCS Spirituality in Short Stories Program
6. Mission and Outreach:
 - a. Report from Renee Babcock at next meeting
 - b. “Helpful Bytes” ministry proposal. Vestry liked the idea of this ministry but was concerned that there is no place for this to be done in our current building. It was moved and approved that this ministry be put on hold until we have a new education building and then can have dedicated space for it.
7. Goodrow Update. The vestry heartily endorsed the desire of the Goodrow Fund to seek and become a separate 501(c) (3) entity.
8. Financial Report and Budgetary Items: A number of items were discussed. A separate line item will be created for the columbarium. There is \$4800 set aside for it and the church will accept a generous gift for the balance of the funds from Kendall Klumpp with many thanks and grateful hearts. The initial phase of the columbarium will be a 24 niche one which can be expanded as needed. It was moved and approved to move forward with this project as soon as possible.
9. The meeting was adjourned
10. The next meeting of the vestry is scheduled for 11 August.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart, Clerk of the Vestry

Anglican Worthies

237. Austen, Jane (1775-1817)
Novelist (pt. ii)

Jane Austen was born 16 December 1775 in the rectory of Steventon, Hampshire, where her father was priest. She was the seventh of eight children but only the second daughter. Five of her brothers married well, two served in the navy. (One brother was developmentally disabled.) Steventon would be her home for her first twenty-five years.

There are no fetching childhood anecdotes to record. Jane was sent with her sister Cassandra to a school in Oxford when she was seven because her home was so full and her mother was too busy to teach her herself. The young girl caught diphtheria and nearly died. She was brought home in 1784; she was nine. The following year she was sent to the Abbey School in Reading for another two years. When she came home, her schooling finished, there was her father's capacious library at her disposal. She found all the classics of the age--*Johnson, *Goldsmith, Thomson, etc. as well as a selection of contemporary novels good and bad, poetry, philosophy, and religious polemics. In the evening the family gathered for conversation and the sharing of neighborhood gossip-- who was marrying whom, who had recently come into property, what everyone in the house was reading, and what relatives had recently written. By this time she was apparently ready to contribute to the evening routine with her own stories, which she read aloud, stories that satirized the recent novels of romantic sentiment, overblown feelings, and the vapid hopes of young women dreaming of marriage. This was much to the merriment of everyone, who were familiar with the romances she sent up. These "Juvenilia," which were saved and treasured by her descendents, were clever and amusingly silly.

Her favorite novelist was Samuel *Richardson, her favorite novel, Sir Charles Grandison (1753), a dreary and moralistic narrative that only scholars can bear to read. As one of her biographers declares, "By the time she was in her 'teens her literary taste was set." As an adolescent she possessed the judgment of someone ten years older. Conscious of her status and the future of her sex as a dependent, she nevertheless viewed the manners and customs for females of her age with a very eye. She instinctively recognized false feeling and unrealistic expectations, in others and certainly in herself. The unstated foundation of her "Juvenilia" was, as in her mature work, common sense. And her tone was ironic, perhaps more strongly in these youthful works than in her published pieces. The

material of these early pieces, albeit thin in plot, is always the same: love, courtship, some sibling rivalries, and the risks of marriage. Marriage was one of just two options for women of her class; the other was "Miss Bates" of Emma (1816).

In "Love and Freindship," one of these early pieces, two young females share the habit of fainting when confronting an emotional crisis. Eventually one overdoes it and expires in the other's arms. Her final words: "Beware of feinting fits. . . though at the time they may be refreshing and agreeable yet believe me they will in the end, if too often repeated and at improper seasons, prove destructive to your Constitution." Her family must have roared. Jane was fourteen when she wrote that.

In 1795 Jane was twenty with no prospects. She undoubtedly felt the pressure to be married; many girls of her class were married at eighteen. One would prefer to marry for love, but lacking that, a young female was wise to marry for security. This is why the marriage theme is so dominant in her fiction; it was real enough. Add to that the relative shortage of eligible bachelors. England was at war with France; the Reign of Terror had ended, and a young Corsican had risen to the rank of General. (Jane hated France.) All Jane's novels feature heroines who marry for love; that is perhaps the only strain of idealism they possess.

Jane began to write in earnest in 1795. The manuscript we call "Elinor and Marianne" she started this year; its form was a series of letters. It dealt with two impoverished sisters, different in temperament and expectations; it also dealt with money, inheritance, entails, and primogeniture, serious concerns. The following year, in August, she began a story we term "First Impressions." This she worked at steadily and finished in draft in August 1797. Then she started a third work, initially entitled "Catherine" This and "Elinor and Marianne," completely recast, she finished in 1799. So between 1795 and 1799 she finished drafts of what we now know as Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, and Northanger Abbey. She was not yet twenty-five. --hlf

End of June Financial Report

The following is a summary report for the first six months, or 50%, of 2010:

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$83,941	(about 50.0% of year's budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>88,818</u>	(about 51.4% of year's budget)
Excess of operating expenditures over receipts...	\$ 4,877	(5.8% above the receipts)
Transfers from Endowment Fund for Operations....	<u>5,400</u>	
Increase in Operating Funds.....	523	
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2010	<u>26,189</u>	
June 30, 2010 operating fund balance	\$26,712	

Receipts are almost equal to the amount budgeted for the first six months. Rummage sale receipts were about \$2,650 above the budgeted amount. This fantastic result offset the lower pledge receipts that were about 3 per cent below the budgeted amount. Expenditures are about three per cent higher than the budgeted amount. The withdrawal of \$5,400 from the endowment fund was approved by the Vestry to cover \$2,000 of the costs of the Center for Christian Spirituality and \$3,400 for an architect's study for the possible removal of the Education Building and the construction of an addition to the church.

A significant decline in receipts and a significant increase in expenses for the first one-half of July point toward a possible significant increase in the deficit during July. More will be said about that next month.

Questions about details of the church's finances may be directed to Pam Dingman or Harold Cook.

St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

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E-mail: stjohnsmp@chartermi.net - Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Our Mission:

St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Anglican tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person

Rector:

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, 772-1203

St. John's Vestry Officers:

Senior Warden, Paula Shirley, 773-3463

Junior Warden, Harriett White, 773-3880

Clerk, Eileen Swinehart, 989-773-9961

Treasurer: Harold Cook, 773-9781

Deacon:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

St. John's Vestry Members:

Renee Babcock, 773-6936

Gordon Bloem, 773-5480

David Dingman, 989-633-8413

Jane Gilmore, 989-317-0343

Pete L'Hommedieu, 773-8340

Sean Novak, 989-400-2772

Joann Redman, 772-2326

Karen Varanauskas, 989-506-3750