



The Evangel

August 201

My brothers and sisters,

What does it mean to you personally in your daily life to be a follower of Jesus Christ? Who do you feel accountable to for that life? What do you need from your congregation to help you live that life?

My classmate, The Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, is exploring these issues as she travels around the country on sabbatical – visiting small and mid-size churches, she is exploring the role Jesus plays in our lives. Think about these questions, then come to a special coffee hour August 7th to talk about your experience with one another and with Gretchen.

In the meantime...

For me, being a follower of Jesus Christ means listening well to what he asks of us: Love God, love your neighbor. According to the Gospels' traditions, Jesus said that these are the first and greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27). Everything – my relationship with God in Christ, my moral and ethical decisions, my sense of stewardship, my politics, my relationships with others, the way I spend money – *everything* can be reduced to this commandment.

I need from you (that's the generic "you" – all of you, each of you) a sense of a supportive community. People I can trust, people with whom I can share, people with whom I can work out "issues" and find answers to questions, people who will support me in my own journey toward the divine. I need from you a sense that the Kingdom of God is, indeed, right here, right now, if only I (we) will take the time to recognize it. Take time to recognize the Christ in The Other. Take time to see God at work and take time to be God's hands and feet in a broken world.

Love God, love your neighbor. It doesn't get any simpler – nor more challenging – than this. I believe that Jesus was and is the unique child of God, and that these words are true.

In Christ,
Wayne



Remember our Homebound Members

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

Verna Schurr

Applewood, 5775 West Isabella Road

Connie Smith,

1526 C Canterbury Trail, 772-4577

Maribeth and George Injasoulian

Prestige Centre, 5785 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant



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. The Prayer Group meets for 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Coffee on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Roger Hatch | 5 |
| Lance Ferden | 6 |
| Mary Lou Nowicki | 12 |
| Kyle Ferden | 14 |
| Patricia Thurston | 14 |
| Christopher Benn | 15 |
| Mary Kiesgen | 19 |
| Richard Morrison | 23 |
| Cincy Segerr | 23 |
| Gordon Bloem | 27 |
| Debi Peterson | 29 |



| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Jim & Patricia Thurston | 5 |
| Dick & Sandy Wood | 6 |
| Eric & Jennifer 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

I'm taking a vacation from writing this month, as melting weather and visiting children have forced me to take a break from my routines. I would only ask that you also rest in this final month of summer, and that you keep in mind the beautiful words of Micah (6:8): “. . . and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Blessings,

Nancy



Fishing Tips: A New Approach to the “S” Word

Do you recall the story in John (21:1-11) when Peter and some of the others spent the night fishing? Jesus called out to them in the morning, and asked if they'd caught anything. No—not a single fish. So Jesus told them to cast their net on the *other* side of the boat. They did, and caught almost more than their net would hold.

Think about it: these were professional fishermen, yet they caught nothing. But when they followed some advice from a carpenter's son, and did something different from the usual, they were successful. Huh.

Of course, taking Christ's suggestions seriously is bound to pay off. But I think the other key to the story is that instead of doing the same ol' thing, (that had brought only moderate success even when it worked) they tried a different approach, and—literally—made a haul.

My hope is that taking a different approach to stewardship will also prove hugely successful. Sure, lots of fish (or in this case, dollars) would be lovely, but like the fellas in the boat, I think a new vision of an old occupation will also increase our faith.

Since our treasurer, Harold Cook, told us this spring that we were getting a poorer than expected catch in the plates on Sundays, I've been worried about what to do to be sure our financial ends would meet. It seems that every year we go through a period of worry, and usually manage by year's end to squeak by. But that is not a good way to run a household or a business, and we are God's household, conducting His holy business.

We needed some advice. We need a new understanding of what it is to give to the church.

We need to cast our nets on the other side.

In April and in June, I attended intensive workshops on stewardship. Now don't

roll your eyes! What I learned was exciting, and will give us the tools we need to usher in a new era of loving generosity at our beloved St. John's. We have been casting the net for years looking for money to pay the heating bill and the rector's salary and the various financial obligations of the building. We were looking with small purpose for small fish.

If we cast our nets on the *other* side, we will catch what we need to fulfill our church's mission and vision. Money, yes. And more. Best of all, you will begin to see your offering in a new way.

Stay tuned. There are more fishing tips coming. Within a few months, you will no longer cringe at the "S" word. In fact, you will be ready and eager to help St. John's cast her nets on the other side.

Karen Varanauskas, Senior Warden



Altar Flowers

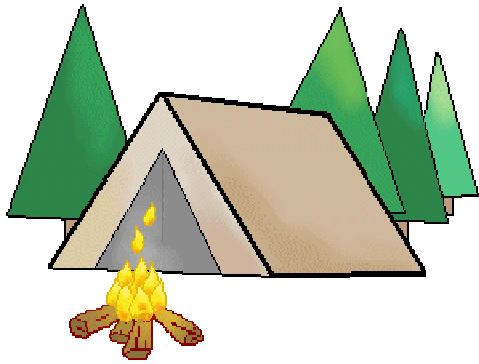
Thank you to all who provided flowers for the past month. There are only a few dates left for the rest of the year. In August we have openings on the 7th, 21st and 28th; for September there are openings on the 18th and the 25th, for October, the 16th and 31st are open and finally November 6th is open for members to place flowers on the altar in honor of anniversaries, birthdays or other special occasions or in memory of a lost one. There are various options to having flowers placed on the altar. Flowers can be brought in from your gardens, purchased at stores such as Meijer or Kroger and arranged by the member or they can be ordered from a florist in town and they will do the arranging according to your wishes. The flower sign up chart is in the parish hall so one can sign up during coffee hour. If you would like a Sunday and do not get to the parish hall call or email the office and see what is available. Let us decorate the church.



The Altar Guild

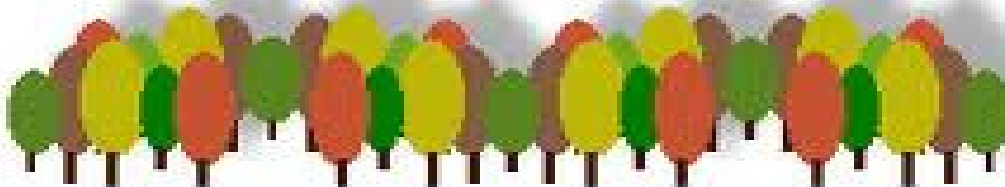
Education for Ministry

September is just around the corner, believe it or not, and applications for the EFM program need to be sent to Sewanee in August. If you have been thinking of starting the Education for Ministry (EFM) Program, please let Steve Berkshire know soon so he can send you the application form. The tuition cost is \$350 for the year; limited scholarship funds are available. Steve can be reached at daeberk@yahoo.com or by phone at 989-317-0240



August 2011 Sunday Lay Ministry

| DATE | LESSONS | PRAYERS | GREETERS | COFFEE HOUR HOSTS | ACOLYTES | ALTAR GUILD |
|---|--|---|---|--|--------------------|---|
| August 7 8 Pentecost | 9:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen | 9:00 a.m. Jo Redman | Sally Goodrow and Lynne L'Hommedieu | Forrest and Linda Robinson | Seth Hartshorne | Alice Louisell Cindy Seger and Harriett White |
| Lectionary: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33 | | | | | | |
| August 14 9 Pentecost | 9:00 a.m. Martha Rarick | 9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne | Kendall and Lois Klumpp | Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger | Sandy Wood | Alice Louisell Cindy Seger and Harriett White |
| Lectionary: Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: 21-28 | | | | | | |
| August 21 Morning Prayer 10 Pentecost | 9:00 a.m. Karen Varanauskas | 9:00 a.m. Martha Rarick | Alice Louisell and Martha Rarick | Kendall and Lois Klumpp | Zach Dearing | Sally Goodrow, Lynne L'Hommedieu, Martha Rarick |
| Lectionary: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20 | | | | | | |
| August 28 11 Pentecost | 9:00 a.m. Harry Kelley | 9:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart | Rod and Zach Leslie and Marian Matyn | Alice Louisell and Martha Rarick | Zach Dearing | Sally Goodrow, Lynne L'Hommedieu, Martha Rarick |
| Lectionary: Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28 | | | | | | |
| September 4 12 Pentecost | 9:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire | 9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler | Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem | Barbara Sheperdigian and Harriett White | Zach Dearing | Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley |
| Lectionary: Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20 | | | | | | |



August 2011 at St. John's Episcopal Church

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| July 31 Pentecost 7, <i>Ignatius of Loyola</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist | August 1 <i>Joseph of Arimathera</i> | 2 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends | 3 Noon Eucharist | 4 | 5 <i>Office Closed</i> | 6 <i>The Transfiguration</i> |
| 7 Pentecost 8 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist <i>The Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, Guest Preacher</i> <i>Special Coffee Hour Following the Service</i> | 8 <i>Dominic, Priest and Friar</i> | 9 5:30 p.m. VESTRY | 10 <i>Laurence, Deacon and Martyr</i> Noon Eucharist | 11 <i>Clare, Abbess</i> 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting | 12 <i>Florence Nightingale</i> <i>Office Closed</i> | 13 <i>Jeremy Taylor, Bishop</i> |
| 14 Pentecost 9 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist | 15 <i>The Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | 16 | 17 <i>No Noon Eucharist Today</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Office Closed</i> | 20 |
| Fr. Wayne on Vacation August 15-21 | | | | | | |
| 21 Pentecost 10 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer <i>The Rev. Nancy Fulton, Officiant and Homilist</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> Noon Eucharist | 25 <i>Louis, King of France</i> | 26 <i>Mary and Martha of Bethany</i> <i>Office Closed</i> | 27 <i>Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syle</i> |
| 28 Pentecost 11 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne</i> Noon Eucharist | September 1 | 2 <i>Office Closed</i> | 3 <i>NB: Last One-service Sunday for the Summer is Tomorrow, 9:00 a.m.</i> |

Morning Prayer is held Monday-Thursday, 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

- 7 Sally Goodrow and Lynn L'Hommedieu
- 14 Kendall and Lois Klumpp
- 21 Alice Louisell and Martha Rarick
- 28 Rod and Zach Leslie and Marian Matyn

September

- 4 Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem
- 11 Colin, Anne and Matthew Alton
- 18 Renee Babcock and Ziggy Zygmuntowicz
- 25 David and Carrie Blackburn

October

- 2 Gordon Bloem and Nancy Parshall
- 9 Tim Brockman and Harold Cook
- 16 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 23 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 30 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh

Coffee Hour Rotation



August

- 7 Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger
- 14 Forrest and Linda Robinson
- 21 Kendall and Lois Klumpp
- 28 Alice Louisell and Martha Rarick

September

- 4 Barbara Sheperdigian and Harriett White
- 11 David and Paula Shirley
- 18 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh
- 25 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen

October

- 2 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Jo Redman
- 9 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 16 Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem
- 23 David and Paula Shirley
- 30 Harriet White and Sandy Wood

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes—Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Next Regular Meeting: August 9th, 5:30pm

Present: Gordon Bloem, Laura Cochrane, Harold Cook, David Dingman, Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Betsy Richard, John Rousseau, Eileen Swinehart, and Karen Varanauskas.

Rev. Wayne Nicholson called the meeting to order at 5:30pm with an opening prayer for the Parish.

The minutes were approved from June 14th.

1) Mission/Outreach: Wayne offered an update.

2) Building and grounds:

***The Bathroom** in the parish house is not working; there is a leak between the upstairs and the downstairs toilet. The toilet has been moved out, the floor needs to be repaired and a new toilet will be reinstalled.

***Estimates** for the replacement of the basement carpeting will be forthcoming.

***The Building and grounds committee** will meet soon.

3) Liturgy and Music:

***Several parishioners** have reported that they are enjoying the new liturgy.

***Mina** will be leaving us through the end of August. Mary Lou Nowicki and Moonyeen Albrecht have accepted the position of “shared” organ responsibilities for the 2011-2012 academic year with Jeremy Meyers as Choirmaster for the same period.

***Pam Dingman** will be installed as the new Alter Guild Chair on Sunday, July 24.

4) Stewardship: possible chairs for the fall stewardship pledge campaign were discussed.

5) Upcoming:

*Funeral for Elizabeth (“Betty”) Timmons will be Thursday, July 14th @ 11:00am.

*Sunday, July 17th will be Morning Prayer with our Deacon officiating as Wayne will be at a music workshop.

*Sunday, August 7th will see a visit from The Rev. Gretchen Rehberg.

6) Finances: Harold presented the state of the Church's finances and stressed the importance of the stewardship campaigns for the next two years. Despite the success of the two rummage sales, our deficit will continue to grow. Discussion followed. Gordon pointed out that there are really no places to cut, which brings us back to the importance of the Stewardship Campaign.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth (Betsy) Richard, Vestry Clerk

Anglican Worthies

249. Irving, Washington (1783-1859)
Historian (pt. ii)

When Irving returned to England in 1815, he little suspected he would not see his homeland for seventeen years. He proved an inveterate traveler, visiting each country's historic and "romantic" sites and, because of the success of his youthful satire, *Knickerbocker's History of New York* (1809), the door of European celebrities was open to him. The *History* was published in Great Britain. *Coleridge encountered it in an inn and stayed up all night with it. Byron read it, as did Sir Walter Scott. Irving witnessed the celebration in London of the victory at Waterloo, and for two years toured the British countryside, visiting Burns's birthplace in Ayrshire and spending several days as guest of Scott at Abbotsford, where the celebrated author introduced him to the "gothic" qualities of German legend. Irving just soaked everything up. Van Wyck Brooks declared that Irving wanted "to give his own country a colour of romance and tradition" as Scott had done for the Scottish Borders. Even though his country had just concluded a war with Great Britain, England retained a special appeal for many Americans, who still considered it their "homeland."

Irving would capitalize on this with the publication in 1819 of *The Sketch Book of Sir Geoffrey Crayon*. This, his most famous publication, is a collection of sketches and short stories set in Germany, England, and the Hudson River Valley! The tales of "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (which he wrote in London) appear in this volume, as well as his wonderful accounts of an old-fashioned Christmas at an English country estate. This book made Irving's reputation as the leading American writer. (Until now the model for school boys was *Addison and *Steele's *Spectator* papers. These were gradually replaced by *The Sketch Book*. As Brooks wrote, "That style, so elegant and so simple, was to mark all of Irving's works, the sign of his cheerful good nature and transparent good taste.") This was followed in 1822 by *Bracebridge Hall*, a generous collection of short essays on traditional English customs, which found a ready public on both sides of the water. His English publisher paid him £1050 for this; it was also translated into German.

Always restless, Irving continued to travel--The Netherlands, Germany, eastern Europe. Dresden received him enthusiastically. Everywhere he went, however, his writer's mind was at work, recording observations and collecting tales, which eventually he would use. His brothers' business had failed, but Irving now had sufficient personal resources. He could demand from publishers what he wished. He had become a master story-teller as well as essayist.

His next venture was *Tales of a Traveller* (1824), a collection of more than thirty pieces of short fiction, whose modest reception implied that Irving had finally produced too much of a good thing. Nevertheless, they are continuing evidence of his astonishing productivity.

"An incorrigible bachelor, he was everybody's uncle," it was said of him, yet he fell in love again, this time with Emily Foster, twenty-two years his junior, the daughter of English friends in Dresden. In Germany he saw plays by Kleist and Schiller; he heard the music of Mozart and Beethoven. He frequented the court of Frederick Augustus I, King of Saxony. It is

impossible to record all the connections Irving made, but he was famous and essentially likeable. (He met Mary Shelley in London in 1825, a woman about his age. She found him attractive after her stormy years with Shelley, and he was "free" as Emily Foster married someone else the year before.)

But he was tired of travelling. Brooks states that he was "depressed and out of health, weary of wandering, middle-aged; he was losing all heart for his vocation." He feared he was becoming little more than a hack-writer. While in Paris he started to study Spanish as a "distraction"; Spain, a reluctant ally of Napoleon, suffered with his fall and was experiencing civil unrest. Nevertheless, Irving decided to visit this country and wrote to the American ambassador for a passport. He received in reply an invitation to serve as attaché to the legation in Madrid with no official responsibilities. (It should be understood that few Americans at that time had as much experience with governments in Europe as he; the appointment was felicitous for all parties.) This sojourn marked the beginning of his third literary period--and perhaps his most productive.

Initially Irving was asked to translate a collection of original narratives about Columbus's voyages edited by one Martín Fernandez de Navarrete. After reading through these pieces Irving decided to compose a biography of the discoverer, and began work in 1826. This was the first of a series Irving would compose on early modern Spanish history. But while working on Columbus, he began another piece on the campaign in Granada (1492) that finally drove the Moors out of southern Spain, where they had lived in conquest since the eleventh century.

The Life and Voyages of Columbus (1828) is an ambitious work, with numerous appendices, running to more than seven hundred pages, which Irving wrote in just one year! It is quite readable, drawing on materials in several languages. His publisher in London paid him £3150 for just the English rights. Irving was entranced with Spanish history and legend. In 1828 he toured southern Spain and even attended bullfights! The following year he was given residence in the Alhambra, the famous pleasure-garden and palace of the departed Moors. It had not yet been restored; it was partly in ruins, and various nondescript persons also lived within its walls, with their stories to tell. Irving lived there long enough to absorb the dreamy atmosphere and record their stories and legends of its romantic past. He also published a sequel to the preceding volume, *The Voyages and Discoveries of the Companions of Columbus*.

As much as he hated to leave Granada, he returned to London with a position in the American consulate waiting and a portfolio of manuscripts. Oxford awarded him an honorary degree, and Scott dined with him in town. The next "Spanish" volume was *The Alhambra* (1832), a mixture of Moorish and Gothic tales and essays, romantically colored. It was a huge commercial success.

--hlf

June 30, 2011 Financial Report

The following is a financial report for the first six months of 2011, or 50 per cent of the year.

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Unrestricted operating fund receipts..... | \$85,652 | (about 51.2% of year's budget) |
| Unrestricted operating fund expenditures..... | <u>89,907</u> | (about 50.8% of year's budget) |
| Excess of operating expenditures over receipts..... | \$ 4,255 | (5.0% above the receipts) |
| Operating cash balance on January 1, 2011. | <u>28,075</u> | |
| June 30, 2011 operating fund balance | \$23,820 | |

Total receipts and expenditures are very close to the budgeted amounts. With the receipts of just under \$6,000 from the auction and rummage sale in June, the year-to-date deficit has been reduced from \$11,408 at the end of May to \$4,255 at the end of June. Hopefully, contributions for July and August will continue to improve if everyone remains current with his/her pledge. If not, the deficit at the end of August will likely be close to \$10,000.

Another way of looking at our finances is to compare the average weekly year-to-date receipts with the expected average weekly expenditures for the year. These two numbers are as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Year-to-date weekly average receipts (includes rummage sale)..... | \$3,295 |
| Budgeted weekly average expenses..... | <u>3,387</u> |
| Weekly year-to-date deficit..... | \$ 93 |

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



Please remember to keep your Pledge Contributions up-to-date during the summer months!

St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989 773-7448

Fax: 989-772-3480

E-mail: stjohnsmp@chartermi.net

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org

Beginning Sunday, September 11, 2011

Fall Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2 (said)

10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist Rite 2

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

Deacon:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

2011 St. John's Vestry Officers:

Senior Warden: Karen Varanauskas, 506-3750

Junior Warden: David Dingman, 633-8413

Vestry Clerk: Betsy Richard, 772-2369

Treasurer: Harold Cook, 773-9781

Vestry Members:

Gordon Bloem, 773-5480

Laura Cochrane, 493-5885

Jane Gilmore, 317-0343

Rod Leslie, 386-8131

John Rousseau, 630-6798

Eileen Swinehart, 773-9961