



The Evangel

January 2010

My Brothers and Sisters – Rejoice! Our Savior is Born!

And it's nearly time for those ol' New Years' Resolutions... Sigh...

What can I do to improve my life – and the lives of others? OK, here's a start...

I can certainly exercise more – I feel better when I've been to Yoga at OM downtown.

I could eat healthier. In the summer it's easy – all that marvelous produce from our Farmers' Market; in the winter it's more of a challenge, but broccoli and Brussels sprouts always seem abundant when the weather's cold, and I know it's better for my health (if not my carbon footprint).

I promise to pay more attention to my family and friends – e-mail is so easy, and I'm delighted when I open my mail account first thing in the morning and see names of people who are dear to me. And then again, there's always "snailmail." And, too, it seems that as we (I) age, such deep connections become more and more important.

I'll do my best to sell a whole bunch of tickets to the Goodrow Annual Ball (*Mark your calendars for Friday, January 15th at the Comfort Inn!!*), the primary fundraiser of the John H. Goodrow Fund, which helps so many people who would otherwise fall through the cracks of social services.

I'll volunteer to help out at the Food Truck, assisting people who really need groceries without any strings attached. Jesus told us to care for the poor.

What can we do as a parish – for our own physical and spiritual health, and to the benefit of those who have less?

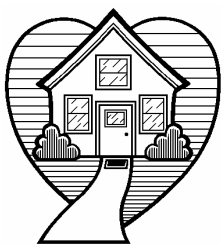
We can worship together. Sundays, midweek, Morning Prayer, Evensong – special times when we gather for spiritual refreshment and spiritual strength.

We can search for outreach opportunities. No, we will never solve the problem of world hunger – but we can certainly make a difference in our community. Mission and Outreach are priorities for our Vestry and all of us – what more can we do? St. John's is a generous community – "They will know we are Christians by our love."

And we can give thanks to God for God's great outpouring of love in the Incarnation of his Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ! *Thanks be to God.*

With deep gratitude and best wishes for happy holidays,
In Christ, Fr. 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

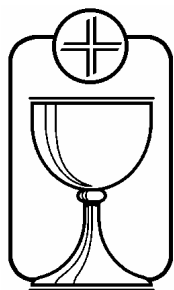
Judy Sweeney
1441 E. Broomfield #221, 779-9353



Truman Hall	1
Nancy Hartshorne	1
Barbara Sheperdigian	10
Shaun Smith	11
Martha Rarick	15
Linda Robinson	15
William Bulger	16
Ziggy Zygmuntowicz	18
Robert Ohler	20
Kip Cosan	21
Ron Sherwood	23

ANNIVERSARIES

Wayne Nicholson & Harry Kelley	5
Ford and Pamela Dingman	23



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.



St. John's 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!

Building & Grounds Policy

No items that belong to the Parish will be loaned out without the permission of the Building & Grounds Committee. If you wish to borrow any items, please call the church office.. If you have questions, call George Clapp, 773-33632

Meijer Community Rewards Program
St. Johns' Account Nmber 972219

Outside the Tent

As I write this column, it is December 13. A glaze of ice crusts the snow; the sky is sullen. I am thankful, as evening draws in, for the flicker of candles and the softness of the lights on our tree. Late last night, as Henry and I sat in the sunroom admiring the tree, we talked of our sadness that the tree will come down in just over three weeks, right after Epiphany. This season of burrowing in as we prepare for Christmas is all too short, and yet I know that come the new year, I will be ready to put Christmas away. Our house will return to its workaday self, though with some pictures and objects arranged in new ways. We will continue to light candles in the evening until we forget them in the lengthening days of February. And during the day, we will find solace watching the cardinals, juncos, woodpeckers, flickers, and sparrows that crowd our feeders. I especially like the sparrows—I call them “bunchy birds”—that flock in our bushes, because they bring life and warmth into an icy landscape.

I am always ready for a fresh start, though I’m not one for New Year’s resolutions, which I’ve never managed to keep. After breakfast at Big Boy on New Year’s morning, before we settle down to watch way too many football games, I write into my planner the birthdays for the coming year, and I purge files in preparation for doing the income tax returns. These are mundane tasks that make me feel better, ready to launch out into winter. But the real start of the new year is Epiphany, the day we remember the Magi, who traveled across the desert many miles to learn what the new star in the sky meant. They were not a part of the Jewish world, and so they were the first Gentiles to witness the arrival of God’s son. The Magi worshipped the child Jesus, gave him prophetic gifts, then returned to their homes. Were they changed by their experience? Did they tell their friends and neighbors about the wonder they had seen? No one knows.

On Epiphany, we also bend a knee to the infant Jesus. Then we too head back into our ordinary lives, wondering what we are to do with the vision we have seen in this season of Christmas, wondering how we are to reflect the glory that Jesus brought into the world. I believe that we must be patient as the answer evolves in the most unlikely ways. My spiritual director reminds me of this when he asks me—as spiritual directors are wont to do—“where do you see God in this?” Of course, I see God in those “bunchy” birds that warm my heart, and in the neighbor’s cats, who delight me with their grace and self-containment. More seriously, I see God in the faces of the men and women who teach me how to die with grace. I see God in mentally and physically challenged men and women who show me the depth of God’s love for every one of us, no matter the gifts we have been given..

Of course, we must pay attention if we are to see God at work. Barbara Brown Taylor (in *An Altar in the World*) says that we must not look “through things, or around them, toward the next thing, which will become see-through in its turn. . . . [We must give ourselves] entirely to what is right in front of [us].” I am happiest on the days that I manage to do this. Recently, as I arrived at the Hospice House, I saw a pale, almost watery, sun dog in the eastern sky. Later in the day, I took my two-foot Christmas tree down to a resident’s room and saw her joy when I plugged in the lights. Jesus came into the world so we would learn to pay attention to these simple gifts, to know that God is in everything, that the whole world is sacramental. Our challenge, as we trek on into the winter when the twelve days of Christmas are over, is to remember that.

Peace in the New Year,
Nancy

*Mark Your Calendars!
St. John's Annual Meeting
will take place on
Sunday, January 17, 2010.
Your attendance is
most important!*

The Goodrow Fund 2010 Benefit Ball

**Friday, January 15, 2010 at Comfort Inn Conference Center
2424 South Mission St. Mt. Pleasant**

**Social Hour at 6:00 p.m., Buffet Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
Silent auction and Raffles, Entertainment by the Nichol Quartet**

Individual Tickets are \$30

A block of eight tickets with a reserved table is \$240

Sponsored table of eight with donor recognition is \$300

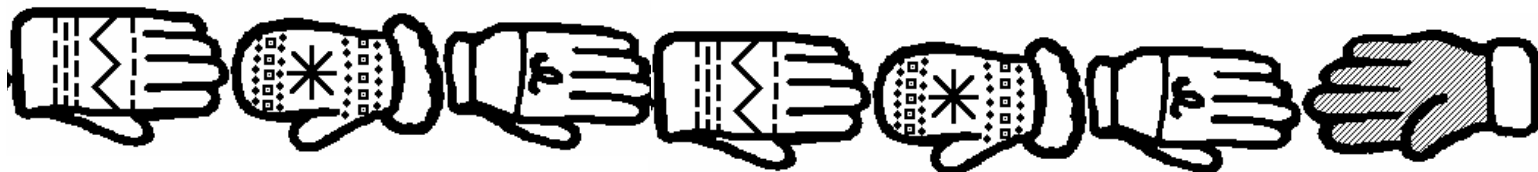
**100% of Proceeds are used to provide services needed for the
Goodrow Fund**

**For Tickets, see Sally Goodrow, Marvin Lett, or Fr. Wayne
Nicholson.**

**For more information, please contact
Jim or Pat Hathaway, 772-4182 or Nel Boose at 774-2818.**

January 2010 Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
January 3 Christmas 2	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Harry Kelley	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Bob and Kip Cosan	Tom and Betty Timmons	Megan Blackburn and Brandon Gilmore	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalms 84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:1-12		
January 10 Epiphany 1	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Jo Redman	David and Jennifer Dingman and family	Harriett White and Jo Redman	Matthew Blackburn and John Rousseau	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary:	Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22		
January 17 Epiphany 2	10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	Ford and Pamela Dingman	The Babcock/Zygmuntowicz family	Brandon Gilmore and Seth Hartshorne	Peg Hicks and Karen Varanauskas
ONE Service followed by The Annual Meeting						
Lectionary:	Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 36:5-10	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11		
January 24 Epiphany 3	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	8:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger and family	Ralph Baber and Karen Varanauskas	Megan Blackburn and John Rousseau	Peg Hicks and Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary:	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21		
January 31 Epiphany 4	8:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Jo Redman	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Joyce Baugh and Roger Hatch	David and Carrie Blackburn and family	Matthew Blackburn and Seth Hartshorne	Peg Hicks and Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary:	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Psalms 71:1-6	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30		
February 7 Epiphany 5	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	Tim and Elizabeth Brockman	Brandon Gilmore and John Rousseau	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary:	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11		





January, 2010 at St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 27, <i>St. John the Evangelist</i> 10:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist for Our Patronal Feast Day Holiday "Leftovers" Potluck! 8:00 pm AA	28 <i>Holy Innocents</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	29 <i>Thomas Becket</i>	30 Noon Eucharist and Bible Study	31	January 1, 2010 <i>The Holy Name of Jesus</i> <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 <i>Christmas 2</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 8:00 pm AA	4 Noon Daughters of the King	5 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends	6 <i>The Epiphany</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study	7	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9 <i>Julia Chester Emery</i> Sophia Circle
10 <i>Epiphany 1</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer with Hymns in Honor of our Founders 8:00 p.m. AA	11 <i>Rievaulx</i>	12 <i>Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx</i> 6:30 p.m. Community Group in the Undercroft	13 <i>Hilary, Bishop</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Vestry 7:00 p.m. CCS: Addiction and Grace	14 5:30 p.m. Choir	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16
17 <i>Epiphany 2</i> 8:45 a.m. Choir 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist Annual Parish Meeting 8:00 p.m. AA	18 <i>The Confession of St. Peter</i>	19 <i>Wulfstan, Bishop</i>	20 <i>Fabian, Bishop</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. CCS: Addiction and Grace	21 <i>Agnes, Martyr</i> 5:30 p.m. Choir	22 <i>Vincent, Deacon</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	23 <i>Phillips Brooks, Bishop</i>
24 <i>Epiphany 3</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 8:45 a.m. Choir 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 8:00 p.m. AA	25 <i>Conversion of St. Paul</i>	26 <i>Timothy and Titus</i>	27 <i>John Chrysostom</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. CCS: Addiction and Grace	28 <i>Thomas Aquinas</i> 5:30 p.m. Choir	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, MORNING PRAYER AT 9:00 A.M.
FOR UPDATES: VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE AND CLICK ON "CALENDAR"

Gratitude, Information, and a Request

This morning I was asked to answer survey questions over the phone for a researcher regarding how faith communities support people with disabilities. I was surprised, and the researcher awed, by my answers regarding Jacob's experiences at St. John's.

The questions centered around how well Jacob is included and supported at church. I was dumbfounded when attempting to answer some of these, as here at St. John's, it has never really been an issue. When asked how folks have reacted to his disability, I realized that people really don't, to my knowledge. This is very unlike others she had interviewed, who have had very negative reactions, including intolerance, exclusion, and non-accommodation.

Jacob began attending here at 3 months of age (he is now 20 years old!), and was always accepted, even as his diagnoses and disabilities became more severe. Pastoral leadership has always been supportive of his inclusion in all aspects of programs here. At one time, I asked Ron Vredevelde if Jacob should be included in the AIM Sunday school classes. He replied, "Why? He has a fantastic community of faith right here. He knows he is loved and included and cared for. What more does anyone need from church?"

I realize that the congregation changes here in ebbs and flows constantly. I have been remiss to explain his abilities. So, here I am, providing a quick rundown for those of you who may wonder.

Jacob is deafblind. He is completely deaf, and legally blind. He wears a cochlear implant on his left ear, which allows him to hear all sounds at a normal level. He got this about 6 years ago, and since then has been enjoying church, including the music, more than ever before. He calms when it is placed on his head and there is music playing,

His visual field is best on the lower left side. He sees nothing above a certain point, and his right eye sees almost nothing. It is as if he is always wearing a baseball cap. In order to connect with him visually and get his attention, it's important to get down to his visual level on the left side, and be within about 1 foot of his face.

Jacob has CHARGE syndrome, a genetic syndrome causing all kinds of sensory impairments. So, not only is he deaf and legally blind, he also has no sense of smell, has difficulty eating (does not chew) and has severe balance problems. In terms of actual intellect, we suspect that although Jacob is very delayed, it is more likely due to his sensory impairments than actual mental retardation. He proves this every day with the things he does and how quickly he learns new routines.

Balance is a huge factor. It affects how you see, move, and the stability of your head when learning. When on uneven or unfamiliar ground, Jacob will take your hand or arm to help with his balance. Feel free to offer it to him.

Sensory stuff is huge to Jacob. He loves lights (lying on the floor of the dark library during coffee hour so he can see the light streaming in underneath), vibration (the floor and pews vibrate significantly when the organ plays), and water. He'd spend all day in the bathtub or a warm pool if he could!

Communication is his greatest barrier. Jacob communicates through gestures, a few signs, and mostly pictures. If you saw him at home, school, or work, you would see a very different person than you see at church. You would see someone capable of formal communication, following and engaging in meaningful routines and work, and many other skills.

Jacob is quite adaptable, which is unusual for folks with his impairments. He remembers where things are in a place he has only visited once several years ago. He adapts to new environments and situations quite easily, and follows routines once he understands them.

Jacob goes to Mount Pleasant High School, where the focus is on vocational training. He shreds paper and waters plants at the CMU Psych Department twice per week, feeds the cats at the animal shelter, and has a job at the Recycling Center.

Jacob has some autistic-like tendencies. It takes a while to get him to accept someone in his space. However, with persistence, he will welcome you in, perhaps explore the unique things about you, your hair, a tie, a bracelet or ring, and he will remember who you are based on these things, the next time he interacts with you. Please feel free to spend some time getting to this point!

Last week, we purchased a home for Jacob. It is a small home next door to ours. We will be fixing it up, redecorating, remodeling, just for Jacob. He will live there, feasibly, for the rest of his life, with one-on-one support. . Jacob has no idea, but the transition will be done such that he will understand. We want to make it as appealing and Jacob-friendly as possible. We are hoping that in the tradition of our wonderful faith community, we may call upon parishioners to give thoughtful prayer, input, and even physical support to this process.

I was overwhelmed with gratitude to you all this morning when I completed the phone survey. As the researcher stated, what I described about St. John's stands out as an example of the love and support of folks who are "different" above and beyond any she had heard of. We gave her the other side of the story....the side that described how things should be for all people. Jacob has been blessed to be a part of this at St. John's.

Nancy Hartshorne

Anglican Worthies

230. Ravenscroft, John Stark (1772-1830)
Bishop

How did a Virginia planter who claimed that during his early adulthood he “never bent his knees in prayer, nor did he once open a Bible” become a priest and eventually a bishop? He underwent a “conversion experience,” but why? This we do not know.

John Stark Ravenscroft was born in Prince George County, Virginia (south of Richmond) in 1772. His family was nominally Anglican. Most of his childhood, however, was spent in Scotland where his father studied at the great medical school at the University of Edinburgh and established practice there. Upon the death of his father, his mother brought him back to her family in Virginia. He became a planter and a slave-holder, and there is nothing known about these years to portend the remarkable changes that would eventually occur in his life. He was a sociable bachelor, called “mad Jack” by his friends. His marriage to Anne Spotswood Burrell, however, seemed to moderate his spirits. In 1800 he went to the College of William & Mary, the second oldest seat of higher education in the new republic, to study law under George Wythe, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1810 occurred the most remarkable event in his life, his “conversion.” It did not occur with any connection with his Anglican/Episcopal roots, rather he associated himself with a group called the Republican Methodists and became a lay preacher. We are told, however, that from the start Ravenscroft had serious doubts whether this and other “reformational” denominations were “authorized” by scripture and whether, therefore, they could validly distribute the sacraments. (He rejected Presbyterianism because he could find no evidence that John Calvin had been ordained.) What we are seeing here is a fundamental rejection of some of the basic tenets of the Reformation. He felt a call to holy orders, but he needed the legitimacy of apostolic succession, so he chose the Episcopal Church. He was ordained in 1816 by Richard Channing *Moore, Bishop of Virginia.

Old habits die hard. His character problem, his “besetting sin,” he called it, was “an impatient and passionate temper, with a most sinful and hateful habit of profane swearing,” a problem all denominations at that time took more seriously than we do now. He became “convinced of my own helplessness, of my native

depravity, and that to spiritual things I was incompetent. . . . Then did it please the Lord to point my bewildered view to Him who is the Lord our righteousness. Then was I enabled in another strength to commit myself into His way.” This was only the beginning of his new journey. The choice of his new career was socially painful; his friends scoffed.

From 1817 to 1823 he served in a number of parishes in Virginia until he was called by Channing Moore to assist him in Richmond. But before he could accept that, he was called to be the first Bishop of North Carolina. He was incredulous but declared it had to be the will of God, “and with His help I will endeavour to go where He calls me.” North Carolina was small and poor. There were only twenty-five parishes and eight priests. They began to form a constitution, and Channing Moore was asked to provide oversight. More churches were planted. Ravenscroft had to serve as rector of Christ Church, Raleigh because there was not enough money to pay him full salary as bishop. Christ Church had only thirty-five members and was meeting in a museum. (A new wooden church was consecrated in 1829.)

Like many converts, Ravenscroft was High Church and set a tone for the diocese that lasted beyond his lifetime. He was stentorious in speech and could be rude. To one man who persisted in swearing at him he said, “Utter another oath, sir, if you dare, and I will throw you under the wheels of this coach!” He got into a notorious argument with a Baptist member of the Bible Society of North Carolina by asserting that the Bible “could not be properly studied without a qualified teacher”—an essentially Roman Catholic position. An early biographer stated that “in his manner there was an apparent austerity, which sprang. . . from the strength of his mental conceptions and the forcible language in which he expressed them.” He disdained works as essential to salvation.

He was a faithful bishop, visiting his parishes regularly and supporting his priests as though they were his children. Several went on to be bishops. He worked to create a diocese in Tennessee. But his travels took their toll; at fifty-seven he was infirm and virtually penniless. On his deathbed he declined the holy sacrament because, after years of dedication and sacrifice to the kingdom of God, he felt he was not worthy! --hlf

November 30 Financial Report for January Evangel

The following is the summary financial report for the first eleven months, or 91.7%, of 2009:

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$143,230	(about 94.0% of year's budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>142,920</u>	(about 87.3% of year's budget)
Excess of operating receipts over expenditures \$	310	(.22% of the receipts)
Transfer from endowment fund.....	1,967	
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2009	<u>19,910</u>	
November 30 operating cash balance.....	\$22,187	

We have good news on all fronts this month. Last month I indicated that it was anticipated that the deficit would shrink or even disappear by the end of the year. Receipts in November exceeded expenditures by almost \$5,000. As a result, we now have a small surplus of \$310. On this date last year, we had a deficit of \$9,375.

Almost all of the anticipated pledge cards for 2010 have been received. At this time, total pledges are predicted to be about \$152,000, an increase of about \$17,000 over the amount pledged last year. Vestry will use this information at its December meeting to set a budget for 2010.

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

2010 Contribution Envelopes

Please find your 2010 contribution envelopes in the narthex of the church. If you still have ones left from previous years, DO NOT use them. You may not get the proper credit if you do so. If you would like to have a set of envelopes and if you do not have a box designated for you, please see Pam Dingman or call the church office, 773-7448.



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

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

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

Deacon:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

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

St. John's Vestry Members:

Renee Babcock, 773-6936

David Dingman, 989-633-8413

Jane Gilmore, 989-317-0343

Pete L'Hommedieu, 773-8340

Joann Redman, 772-2326