

The Evangel

July/August 2009

Mid-summer Greetings!

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

A month ago many of you received my “Blue Moon” letter. In it, I described the precarious state of our parish finances, and urged you to prayerfully consider a “Blue Moon” or “13th Month” pledge.

At the end of April, our budget was over \$6,000 in the red. If that trend continued, we would be in serious financial difficulties by the end of the year – the vision of cutbacks in our ministries, however, was not acceptable to either your Vestry or me; thus our appeal to parishioners and friends.

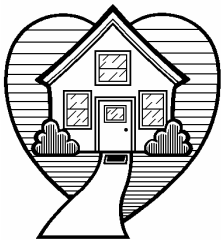
Whether this letter had anything to do with it or not, I am delighted to report to you (see inside for details) that at the end of June we are over \$3,000 *in the black!* This is fantastic news. While a large chunk of this excess of income over expenses is due to our successful rummage sale, it is clear that “Plate and Pledge” offerings are higher than we budgeted.

At Morning Prayer each day I give thanks for our parish – for our ministries, for our volunteers, for the sick and homebound... for birthdays and anniversaries, for our community friends serving our Country... and for the generosity which supports our programs, staff, buildings, and outreach. My prayers of thanksgiving were even more joyful when Harold delivered me this news.

We cannot afford to rest on our laurels, however – we need to continue to pursue new avenues of financial resources and to be careful stewards of the resources we have. Sandy Schrock and I will keep careful eyes on our expenses so that *ministry* – feeding the hungry, serving the community, leading and teaching – can remain “the main thing.” Leading others to life in Christ through service is the way to grow a church; witnessing to God’s abundant love by *sharing* that love causes people to pause and wonder, “What is it about these people?” – perhaps they will come and see.

Blessings upon you all – and my good wishes for a happy summer. May you find refreshment, rest, and fun – and good food at the Farmers’ Market!

In Christ,
Fr. Wayne +



Remember our Homebound Members

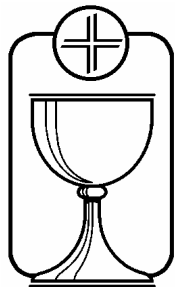
Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Verna Schurr

Applewood, 5775 West Isabella Road

Connie Smith,

1526 C Canterbury Trail, 772-4577



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.



Meijer Community Rewards Program
St. Johns' Account Number
972219



JULY 16-31

Sally Goodrow	16
Charles Sherwood	17
Joyce Baugh (a special BDay)	19
Claudette Shaffer	21
Ford Dingman	25
Al Neal	25
Ken Klumpp	26
Bob Cosan	28
Fr. Wayne Nicholson	31

AUGUST

Betty Timmon	4
Roger Hatch	5
Lance Ferden	6
Mary Lou Nowicki	12
Kyle Ferden	14
Christopher Benn	15
Mary Kiesgen	19
Debi Peterson	29

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY 15-31

Ara & Barbara Sheperdigian	23
Clancy & Pat DeLong	25

AUGUST

Dick & Sandy Wood	6
Eric & Jen Lovejoy	10
Aaron & Dawn Hall	30

Outside the Tent

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

The Rev. G. Corwin Stoppel, the rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Saugatuck, proclaims these words from Psalm 118 at the beginning of every Eucharist. I like this acclamation so much that I sing a song based on it at Lynnwood Home every Wednesday morning, accompanied by drums and tambourine, gifts from Nancy Hartshorne to one of the residents on his birthday last summer. As I write this, Henry and I have just returned from our annual two weeks at the beach in Douglas, just south of the Saugatuck city limits. These are days we celebrate what the Lord has made: dunes topped with towering trees; Lake Michigan glinting in the sun, its color changing with the fluctuations in sunlight, cloud, and wind; sailboats knifing through whitecaps; gulls pacing along the shore, bobbing on the waves, or screaming as they dip toward the water. We also celebrate endless hours to read, nap, shop for funky Christmas gifts for our children, or simply stare at the lake from the deck as we linger over meals.

It is time to cleanse, to clarify our lives, to step back from our hectic schedules and try to understand what matters most to us. I did this thinking best on my long daily walks on the beach. What I thought about was not always comfortable, especially my awareness of my own aging. Not only was walking on the soft wet sand hard on my lower back, hip, and knee, but the fine lines left on the sand as the waves retreated mirrored my aging hands, their veins more prominent, their skin puckered with wrinkles. The beach, from my childhood a symbol of summer, a place of optimism, of dreams, has become a place where I know that my time on this earth is certainly well past its halfway point. But it is also a place where I find contentment, knowing that I have been blessed with a happy marriage; interesting and loving children; a gift for writing and many opportunities to express it; a challenging, satisfying vocation.

You might say this is pretty serious reflection for a vacation, but I think that both the relaxation and the contemplation are essential elements of "vacating" from one's everyday existence. And so, emptied and refreshed, we returned from the lake. Henry is more relaxed when we first arrive home, but after a walk around our yard, I go into "hyperdrive": unpacking, doing two loads of laundry, sorting the mail, putting acquired treasures away (or setting them out so we can enjoy them), taking our next-door neighbors a small gift for keeping an eye on our plants that might need watering. This manic behavior comes in part from my intolerance of an untidy environment, in part from my realization that on Monday morning I go back to work, with all the pressures that hospice chaplaincy entails. This year, in addition to orienting myself to the changes that two weeks had wrought, and visiting several patients the first two days back, I also had a funeral to co-officiate on Tuesday.

So what happens to all that rest, the peeling off of layer after layer of weariness and stress? We both try to recapture the relaxation of the vacation by enjoying the long summer evenings, the warm breezes blowing through the house day and night, the meals outdoors, the conversations on our lawn with the neighbors' cats (and with the cats' owners). But the "real" world intrudes, and so the challenge is to get a balance between rest and work. I'm not sure in my sixty years I've learned to do that very well, and I expect I am not alone. Perhaps the answer is to rejoice in the day that the Lord has made—every day, no matter what that day might bring.

A good rest of the summer to you all,
Nancy

Some parishioners asked for the recipe for Baked Apple French Toast, which I brought to the brunch earlier in June, so here goes:

1-16 oz. loaf of French bread
8 eggs
3 cups milk
¾ cups sugar, divided
1 T. vanilla
5 Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced
2 t. cinnamon
2 T. margarine

YUM!

Heat oven to 400°. Cut bread into 1 ½ -inch slices. Arrange in a single layer in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Whisk eggs. Whisk in milk, ¼ cup sugar, and vanilla. Pour half of this mixture over the bread. Arrange apples over bread, then pour remaining liquid mixture over the apples. Mix ½ cup sugar and the cinnamon. Sprinkle on top. Dot with the margarine. Bake 30-35 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes. Serve with maple syrup. Serves 12.

Nancy Fulton (by way of my friend Ruth Magnell)



The Altar Guild Needs Volunteer

There is a need for more persons to serve on Altar Guild. Preparing elements for Communion, creating an environment for worship through decorating and beautifying the sanctuary, shining brass and silver so that untarnished vessels are used in setting the Lord's table. The Altar Guild performs this service. We work in teams of two or more. Each team serves every other month for two weeks. We will work with you and train you for this rewarding work. Please consider this ministry. If you are interested in joining us, please let anyone of the Altar Guild members know or contact me.

Thank you, Martha Rarick, 773-7510

Thank you to all who contributed items to be sold at The St. John's Annual Rummage Sale!

This year we raised \$2,802.11. WOW!

Remember that you can always leave any clothing items you wish to give away, in the kitchen of the Parish Hall.

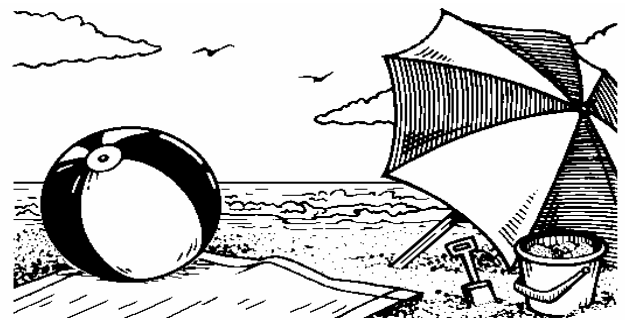
Also, thank you to all who made baked goods for The Goodrow Fund Bake Sale.

Thanks to your excellent baking skills, this year we raised \$455.00 to help those in need!

**Great!
JOB!**

July/August 2009

Sunday Lay Ministry



DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
July 19 7 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire	9:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Sally Goodrow and Susan Paton	Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh	Kendall Klumpp	Peg Hicks, Harriett White, Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56						
July 26 8 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	9:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	Seth Hartshorne	Peg Hicks, Harriett White, Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary: 2 Samuel 11:1-15 Psalm 14 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21						
August 2 9 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	9:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	Sally Goodrow and Harriett White	John Rousseau	Alice Louisell
Lectionary: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a Psalm 51:1-13 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35						
August 9 10 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	9:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Kendall and Lois Klumpp	Martha Rarick and Jo Redman	Sandy Wood	Alice Louisell
Lectionary: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 Psalm 130 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35, 41-51						
August 16 11 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	Lynne and Pete L'Hommedieu	Forrest and Linda Robinson	Kendall Klumpp	Martha Rarick, Sally Goodrow
Lectionary: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 Psalm 111 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58						
August 23 12 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Harry Kelley	9:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart	Marian Matyn, Rod and Zachary Leslie	Barbara Sheperdigian and Sandy Wood	Seth Hartshorne	Martha Rarick, Sally Goodrow
Lectionary: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43 Psalm 84:1-6 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69						
August 30 13 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Jo Redman	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Martha Rarick and Barbara Sheperdigian	David and Paula Shirley	John Rousseau	Martha Rarick, Sally Goodrow
Lectionary: Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23						

Things You Need To Know...

Sunday, September 13th

Welcome Home! "Homecoming" Dinner

Saturday October 10

Parish Retreat -- *Be sure to put this on your calendar!*

Camp Coast Care

300 volunteers needed for the months of Sept., Oct., Nov. 2009!
Be a part of this vital Ministry and help Camp Coast Care fulfill its
7 year pledge to the communities of the Gulf Coast.
The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan has two mission trips:
Camp Coast Care (Mississippi) the last week of October
New Orleans in December.
For details, contact Terry Dorcy

October 24th - St. John's Old Fashioned Church Bazaar!!!

Crafters, Artists, and Cooks: To your Bazaar stations!
Do you know a craftsperson who might be interested in having a
table at the Bazaar? Please tell Elizabeth Brockman!
We have five tables reserved already!

Save the Date! Wednesday, September 16, 7:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, at 400 S. Main Street, will host a
concert featuring **The African Children's Choir**.
This choir is made up of children from east Africa; mainly Kenya,
Rwanda and Uganda, who are orphans due to violence in their
home countries. The African Children's Choir is a full program
designed to create order out of chaos, and rebuild the lives of these
children. It has operated since 1984, and over seven hundred
children have been through the program. The touring choirs tell
the story of the love of God and how God has worked for good in the
midst of violence and evil. For more information about the choir,
you can go to www.africanchildrenschoir.com

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 10 June 2009

1. Father Wayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members absent: Jane Gilmore and Jo Redman.
2. Approval of minutes of the 20 May 2009 vestry as written.
3. Old Business
 - a. Center for Christian Spirituality
 - i. A series on Christian poetry will be offered from 7 – 9 PM on Thursdays in July. They will focus on the Psalms, hymns, 17th Century poetry and 20th Century women poets.
 - ii. There will be a summer workshop on Friday evening, 17 July and Saturday morning, 18 July on Native American Spirituality.
 - b. Parish retreat
 - i. Will be held on Saturday, 10 October 2009
 - c. New member dinner will now be in June
 - d. Photo directory is almost complete
 - e. Cookbook should go to printer very soon and be ready in plenty of time for the bazaar
4. New Business
 - a. July 5th Eucharist will be a quiet one—no music, much like the 8 AM service during the academic year
 - b. Music for August has been arranged with a variety of formats planned
 - c. Goodrow Fund
 - i. The director will now work three days a week. A job description is being developed.
 - ii. The fund is taking the necessary steps to become an independent 501(c)(3) organization. Father Wayne will notify the diocese of this development.
5. Upcoming events and services
 - a. A reception at the Commission on Aging and a dinner will be held at Buck's Run on 12 June for Sally Goodrow.
 - b. A church bazaar will be held on 24 October.
6. Father Wayne away time
 - a. June 23-25
 - b. August 8-18
 - c. October 23-25
 - d. November 9-13
7. Finances
 - a. Vestry provided input to the "Blue Moon" letter – it will be sent out this week.
 - b. No comments have been received about the electronic Evangel.
 - c. The coffee donation basket generates enough revenue to pay for the cost of the coffee.
 - d. Giving was up significantly last month but this does not represent a trend.
8. The next meeting of the Vestry will be 8 July at 4:00 PM.
9. Father Wayne thanked Ana Babcock for her service as the youth representative to the vestry.
10. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart
Clerk of the Vestry

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 8 July 2009

11. Father Wayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members absent: Renee Babcock, Jo Redman, Harriet White and Harold Cook.
12. Approval of minutes of the 10 June 2009 vestry as written.
13. Old Business
 - a. Center for Christian Spirituality
 - i. A series on Christian poetry is currently being held from 7 – 9 PM on Thursdays. They will focus on the Psalms, hymns, 17th Century poetry and 20th Century women poets.
 - ii. There will be a summer workshop on Friday evening, 17 July and Saturday morning, 18 July on Native American Spirituality.
 - iii. Fall programs include a Clergy Quiet Day, a Parish Quiet Day and a program on John Wesley (led by John Boley)
 - b. Goodrow Fund updates
 - i. The fund has hired Pat Hathaway to be the executive director and signed an employment agreement with her outlining compensation and benefits and the support provided by St. John's Episcopal
 - ii. The fund is 100% responsible for compensation due the executive director.
 - iii. Paperwork is in process to set the fund up as an independent 501(c)(3) organization, independent of the church. The diocese has offered no input on the planned change in status
 - c. 125th Update
 - i. Photo directory is in process and should be ready in a month or so.
 - ii. Cookbook is at the printer and will be available for the bazaar.
14. New Business
 - a. Prayer C will be used for the next two months
 - b. Music for August has been arranged with a variety of formats planned
 - c. A discussion on the continued used of the parish hall by YTN concluded that Father Wayne needed to get some answers from the YTN organizers and clarify some usage issues.
 - d. Paula Shirley requested permission to have the church lawn fertilized. The vestry approved her request.
 - e. A discussion of the process involved in moving the historical sign resulted in Fr. Wayne asking various members to research aspects of having it moved so it can be seen on a year round basis.
15. Upcoming events and services
 - a. A welcome home dinner will be held on 13 September—details will be forthcoming.
 - b. A church bazaar will be held on 24 October.
16. Father Wayne away time
 - a. August 8-18
 - b. October 23-25
 - c. November 9-13

17. Finances

- a. Operating receipts exceeded expenditures. Pledge receipts were above those budgeted. Parishioners seem to have responded favorably to Fr. Wayne’s “Blue Moon” letter.
- b. Rummage sale receipts exceeded budget.
- c. The elevator needs to have some work done in order to meet state safety standards.

18. The next meeting of the Vestry will be 5 August at 4:30 PM if needed.

19. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart
Clerk of the Vestry



June 30 Financial Report

The following is the summary financial report for the first six months, or 50%, of 2009:

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$80,091	(about 52.8% of year’s budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>77,010</u>	(about 46.8% of year’s budget)
Excess of operating receipts over expenditures...	\$ 3,081	(3.8% of the receipts)
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2009	<u>19,910</u>	
June 30 operating cash balance	\$22,991	

The treasurer is pleased to report that receipts exceeded expenditures during the first one-half of the year. Parishioners have responded very generously to the special appeal from the rector. The rummage sale was very successful, and Vestry has been able to reduce some expenses. All of these have turned a deficit of \$6,136 at the end of April into a surplus of \$3,081 at the end of June.

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

ANGLICAN WORTHIES

225. Wordsworth, William (1770-1850)
Poet (pt. vi)

Reacting to the criticism of the first volume of the Lyrical Ballads (1797) and the apparent misunderstanding of what he was trying accomplish in his poetry, Wordsworth issued a second edition in 1800 to which he added a Preface, setting out his poetic principles. The “Preface” to the Lyrical Ballads remains one of the major critical documents in the study and understanding of poetry written in English, and at the risk of telling the reader more than he or she wants to know, I will summarize its major points.

The “principle object” of these poems, he said, was “to choose incidents and situations from common life,” that is, the events that occur to ordinary men and women, rather than heroic and historical deeds or the responsibilities that befell “privileged” people, as was characteristic of much of eighteenth-century poetry. The second objective he claimed for himself was to present these events “in a selection of language really used by men,” not the elevated and artificial, Latinate “poetic diction” we associate with Milton, whose diction strongly overlay the poems of the preceding century. Whether Wordsworth’s poetry actually imitated “the language of men” is, I think, debatable; one could argue that Robert Burns (1759-1796) beat him to it. A more arguable example, albeit of a later age, would be the poems of Robert Browning (1812-1889), but Wordsworth represents an initial step toward the inevitable modernization of poetic language, a step that was not appreciated by some of the literary establishment.

A third innovation Wordsworth claimed was “to throw over” these incidents “a certain colouring of imagination” so that these poems might reveal “the primary laws of our nature,” by which he meant the love and compassion that binds all people together, the moral ethos all persons live under in natural community with one another, and our shared belief in a divinity that shapes all things to his good purposes. “Humble and rustic life was generally chosen, because in that condition the essential passions of the heart. . . are less under [social] restraint, and speak a plainer and more emphatic language.”

“What is a poet?” Wordsworth asked. “He is a man speaking to men, a man. . . endowed with more lively sensibility, more enthusiasm and tenderness, who has a greater knowledge of human nature. . . and who rejoices more than other men in the spirit of life that is in him.” “Poetry is the image of man and nature,” not of books, not of philosophy. Other aspects of the Preface take up technical matters such as prosody, which is designed to convey common feelings in a manner that yields pleasure to the reader. There is more in the Preface than this, but this will give one a general idea.

Wordsworth was still in a very creative period. In 1802 he produced quite a number of pieces we still remember—“My heart leaps up when I behold,” “Resolution and Independence” (“The Leech-Gatherer”), and a series of sonnets, mostly composed when Dorothy and he were in London. During the Peace of Amiens, which was little more than a truce to give Napoleon time to “reload,” so to speak, Dorothy and her brother went to Calais to see Annette Vallon, his daughter Caroline, and to make some permanent financial arrangements. In writing sonnets Wordsworth chose a form the eighteenth century had eschewed and brought it back into the mainstream of English poetry. “I grieved for Bounaparté,” “London, 1802” (which begins “Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour”), “Composed upon Westminster Bridge” (“Earth has not anything to show more fair”), and “It is a beauteous evening, calm and free,” composed on the beach near Calais. These are all wonderful pieces, and Coleridge, among others, was hopeful that these were a sign that more ambitious work was under way.

Wordsworth’s marriage to Mary Hutchinson was very happy. In 1803 Dorothy and he went north to visit Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford. The respect and affection that formed from this visit was mutual, and Wordsworth received new strains of inspiration for future poems.

--hlf

St. John's Episcopal Church

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E-mail: stjohnsmp@chartermi.net

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Summer Worship: Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

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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:

Anna Babcock, 773-6936

Renee Babcock, 773-6936

David Dingman, 989-633-8413

Jane Gilmore, 989-317-0343

Pete L'Hommedieu, 773-8340

Joann Redman, 772-2326