

The Evangel

June/July 2009

My Brothers and Sisters, we are coming “of age.” No, not in the larger, Kingdom of God, sort of way, but it is time for us to look forward and explore new ways to communicate with one another.

One method has been our weekly E-News, which highlights upcoming events, gives the “proprs” (the readings) for the coming Sunday, reminds Lectors when they’re on call, and provides information about events beyond our church doors. Although we have 87 e-mail addresses on the E-News distribution list, I am actually quite surprised that only about half of us are even opening (much less perusing) the weekly missive. Why is that? To be honest, I’m clueless... Help me out here? Feedback?

To be more timely and to save approximately \$600 from our belt-tightening budget, we also will be switching to electronic distribution of our Evangel for the summer (we’ll see how it goes). For June, July, and August the Evangel will be e-mailed to everyone we have e-addresses for and will also be available on our website (www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org). There you’ll find the month’s Lay Ministry schedule, a page highlighting upcoming events, and columns from our Deacon and other regular contributors.

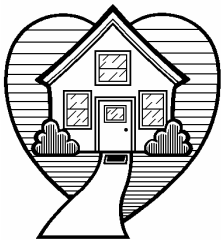
As I noted above, our budget is in a precarious position. To work toward avoiding cuts in program, ministries, and outreach, we will be praying for (and working toward) increasing our financial base. A letter will be sent to you next week proposing more generous stewardship (and again, to save a few dollars, it will go out by e-mail to all who have e-mail capability). I am fully aware that all of you give generously to St. John’s – and I am sensitive to the fact that many of you are giving “to the max” especially during the current larger economic environment. We are blessed by your generosity and hope you will consider digging a bit deeper in your financial pockets.

We’ve also adopted the Amazon.com Associates program to generate a bit more income. While you know that I am a firm believer in (and supporter of) shopping locally, there are times when purchasing books and other products through Amazon.com makes perfect sense. If you visit our website, click on the “A Store” link (lower left) you will be directed to our own Home Page Store with a few books we’re currently reading – and then if you click on the Amazon.com button (upper right) you’ll go into the full Amazon site. When you make purchases this way a portion of the sale price is refunded directly to St. John’s Episcopal Church.

These economic times are tough. It is challenging to keep to our stewardship plan for the year. God provides – but it is up to us to be the hands of Christ. And so we attempt as best we can to be faithful stewards of our resources.

I love this parish! And I thank God that you have called me here. And no, we have *no* plan to install an electronic Power Point screen for our liturgy. Thanks be to God.

In Christ,
Fr. Wayne +



Remember our Homebound Members

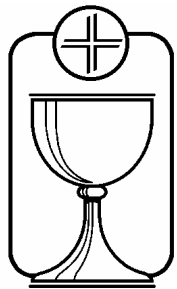
Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

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



Jacob Tarrant	2
Noah Tarrant	2
Erica Schurr	3
Anna Babcock	6
Logan Seger	7
Doug Mower	13
Elaine Smith	17
Lynne L'Hommedieu	19
Melissa Jackson	29

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Carrie Blackburn	10
Tim & Nancy Hartshorne	13
Ken & Lois Klumpp	16
Tim & Elizabeth Brockman	18
Dick & Marlene Shinn	25
Forrest & Linda Robinson	26
John & Lee Wirth	29

Save The Date!

The Goodrow Fund is Honoring Sally!

A reception honoring Sally Goodrow's longtime leadership of the John H. Goodrow Fund will be held on June 12th. . Although Sally will be involved in some way, she is retiring as Chair. The Board of Directors will host a reception and dinner for Sally.

**We begin our
Summer Worship Schedule
Sunday, JUNE 7th
With ONE Service
at 9:00 a.m.**

Outside the Tent

I spend a lot of my life with men and women who are on the margins: those who are dying and those who live with developmental disabilities. Of course, we are all, in some sense, on the margins, because we live with our own disabilities, whether they be physical or cognitive. I am no exception: I have inherited my mother's arthritis, which has settled into my neck and hands, so that carrying a shoulder bag, or picking up change or separating sheets of papers, is frustrating and painful; I have developed bursitis in my right hip; and I have memory lapses that terrify me (some days, in our house, "we don't do nouns," as Henry says). When I talk to my mother, who has Alzheimer's, I am keenly aware of what may lie in my future.

But all of this is nothing to the challenges that face the disabled men and women who live in the Mt. Pleasant Center, in group homes, in assisted apartments, or with their families. They struggle with minds and bodies that have never worked properly, and, in many cases, they know that they are different, that they are regarded by others as frightening. Through the last thirty years, because of the ministry of AIM (the Association for Interfaith Ministries, brainchild of Immanuel Lutheran Church in its early years), this population on the margins has heard week after week that they are children of God, that they are loved, that they have value in this world, and that they will live in God's everlasting peace in the life to come.

Now that message of love and hope is in danger of being silenced. A few months ago, the governor announced that the Mt. Pleasant Center would close this year, in the state's effort to save money on services in mental health. For those who have long wished for this to happen, this is a happy time. Indeed, for many years now the Center has discharged residents into group homes and assisted apartments in an effort to provide everyone under its charge the opportunity to live and work in the community. In other words, to lead a normal life.

But this closure of the Center brings with it tremendous pain. Not every resident will move into the community; because of the nature of their disabilities, they will be transferred to yet another institution, whether in Caro or Kalamazoo. The staff, many of whom have worked at the Center for years, face either unemployment or transfer to another facility, with all of the disruption to home and family that such a change entails. And for AIM, the closure of the Center means the loss of a large portion of its income, for the State of Michigan has provided AIM with office space, secretarial help, postage and office supplies these past thirty years. Even worse, because of budget cuts, Community Mental Health no longer believes that they can afford to make substantial outlays to AIM's ministry. What is left for funding is contributions from member churches, and that simply won't support a full-time Coordinator for Ministry.

As soon as our students at AIM's weekly Friendship Class learned that the Center was closing, many of them asked "what about AIM?" What indeed. The mental health code requires that persons with developmental disabilities have the right to worship. I

cannot image this happening with any consistency in group homes around the county. Group home staff are already overloaded with the needs of those in their care. It would be difficult to deliver two or three residents to two or three churches of their choice .

The AIM Board, along with the Rev. Ron Vredeveld and Tom Shepherd, Coordinators of Ministry (Tom covers Gratiot County, which will continue to fund his ministry), are wrestling with a solution to this problem, I don't know what will happen to AIM. I am saddened that we may lose this valuable resource in our community. What I do know is that my commitment to Lynnwood Home will continue, and I hope that you will work with me to expand our involvement with the staff and residents there.

I recently read an interview with Jean Vanier, the founder of L'Arche, an international organization of Christian communities where persons with developmental disabilities live with caregivers "in a spirit of mutual dependence," and Stanley Hauerwas, an Episcopal theologian and professor of theological ethics at Duke University (*Sojourners*, April 2009). The interviewer asked what L'Arche had to say to the church. Hauerwas responded that L'Arche "*is the church.*" This is what we tell our congregation every week at AIM's Friendship Class, especially when we sing "I Am the Church":

*I am the Church, you are the Church,
we are the Church together.
All who follow Jesus all around the world,
Yes, we're the Church together.*

I hope that in the weeks and months to come, whatever happens with mental health services in our community, we can continue to take that message to Lynnwood Home. I hope we can continue to do things for the residents and staff of Lynnwood Home, but I would also like to see us learn to be *with* those who live and work in the home.

For Jesus, the church was always the people on the margins. It should be for us as well.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Nancy



The Altar Guild Needs Volunteers

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

**Summer Worship begins Sunday,
JUNE 7th with ONE Service at 9:00 a.m.**

St. John's Annual Rummage Sale

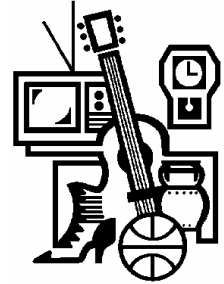
Friday, June 5th and Saturday, June 6th, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

If you haven't already brought in your best selling treasures that you no longer need, please bring them to the Parish Hall kitchen ASAP!!

Volunteers to help with the set-up and the sale are always needed.

If you can help or have questions, call Diana Clapp at 773-3632.

Thanks for helping to make this successful fundraiser possible!



Also, on Saturday, June 6th

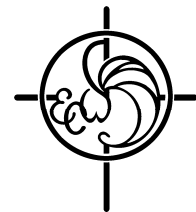
The Goodrow Fund Annual Bake Sale

Volunteers are greatly needed to bake items for the sale, and also to work at the sale from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you can help in any way, please contact Joan Kadler at 772-2803.

128th E. C. W. Annual Meeting

Sally Goodrow, Katie Bussineau, and Sandy Wood attended the E.C.W. Annual Meeting at St. David's Episcopal Church in Lansing on May 9, 2009.



The day's activities included The Eucharist, A Celebration of Women's Ministry, workshops on Centering Prayers, U.T. O., Altar Guild and Intentional Communication. A Mother's Day craft workshop was also given.

Fellowship with women from various deaneries of the Diocese at a lovely luncheon and afternoon "High Tea" was a special part of the day.

Excellent entertainment was provided by "Pure and Simple", composed of four sisters-13, 11, 9, and 6 years of age, whose harmonies both acapella and accompanied were "pure gold"!

The E.C.W.'s outreach continues through support of C.P.C. (Church Periodical Club). Mary Powers Fund, and Mission Outreach.

Anyone wishing more information about E.C.W. may contact Sandy Wood at 989-773-9326.



June/July 2009

Sunday Lay Ministry



DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
June 7 Trinity Sunday	9:00 a.m. Sandy Wood	9:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Tim and Elizabeth Brockman and family	George and Diana Clapp	John Rousseau	Alice Louisell
Lectionary:	Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 29 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17					
June 14 2 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Harry Kelley	9:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	George and Diana Clapp	Harold and Mary Cook	Brandon Gilmore	Alice Louisell
Lectionary:	1 Samuel 15::34-16:13 Psalm 20 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 Mark 4:26-34					
June 21 3 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Ralph Baber	9:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart	Harold and Mary Cook	Bob and Kip Cosan	Sandy Wood	Martha Rarick and Sally Goodrow
Lectionary:	1 Samuel 17:32-49 Psalm 9:9-20 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Mark 4:35-41					
June 28 4 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Gordon Bloem	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	David and Jennifer Dingman and family	Henry and Nancy Fulton	Ken Klumpp	Martha Rarick and Sally Goodrow
Lectionary:	2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27 Psalm 130 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Mark 5:21-43					
July 5 5 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Andy Brockman	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger and family	Seth Hartshorne	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary:	2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 Psalm 48 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 Mark 6:1-13					
July 12 6 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	9:00 a.m. Martha Rarick	Jane Gilmore and Cindy Seger and family	Sally Goodrow and Harriett White	John Rousseau	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary:	2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 Psalm 24 Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29					



SPECIAL EVENTS COMING UP

*One Lord, One Faith,
One Baptism...
and One Service*

Summer Sundays
Beginning
June 7

We gather at 9:00 a.m.

One Congregation:
All-Parish Brunch
following the June 14th
9:00 a.m. service

People Change, Calendars Change... Keep
up with St. John's programs by visiting
our Website,
www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org and
clicking on the Calendar Button!

Shop Locally or Buy from Amazon.com!
Link to Amazon by going to our website
and clicking on "A Store" on the lower left
of the home page side bar. St. John's
receives a portion of anything you buy but
ONLY if you visit Amazon.com from our
website.

The Center for Christian
Spirituality

Native American
Spirituality

Friday, July 17th-
Saturday, July 18th

Led by Mico Slattery,
Professor of Native American Studies
at
Saginaw Chippewa
Tribal College

Watch for Details!

*The Center for Christian Spirituality seeks
to strengthen the relationship of all
Christians with God our Creator, Christ our
Savior, and the Holy Spirit through
programs of study, discussion, reflection,
and prayer.*

Rummage Sale!
Friday-Saturday June 5-6th
In the Parish Hall

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 20 May 2009

1. Father Wayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members absent: Harold Cook, Jane Gilmore, and Pete L’Hommedieu. Forrest Robinson was present to present a report of the finance committee. The vestry thanked Forrest and the finance committee for all their hard work.
2. Approval of minutes of the 15 April 2009 vestry as written.
3. Old Business
 - a. Center for Christian Spirituality
 - i. Spirituality In and Out of the Workplace is ongoing. The anticipated attendance is lower than hoped but the program is excellent.
 - 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, 3 October 2009
 - ii. Location will be Neithercutt Woodland.
 - iii. Father Wayne will be the facilitator.
 - c. New member dinner will now be in June
 - d. Parish workday will be rescheduled
4. New Business
 - a. Mary Lou will not be available to provide music for 5 July services and the month of August.
5. Upcoming events and services
 - a. The church rummage sale is 5 & 6 June. Ten percent of the receipts will be earmarked for community outreach.
 - b. 7 June—one service on Sunday for the summer will begin. A request was made to consider holding two services for June and July and have just one in August. Fr. Wayne will consider it for 2010.
 - c. Parish brunch will be held following services on 14 June.
 - d. A reception and dinner will be held at Pohl Cat on 12 July for Sally Goodrow.
 - e. A church bazaar will be held on 24 October.
6. Finances – In order to meet anticipated shortfalls a number of steps will be taken:
 - a. Father Wayne will draft a letter to the parish to encourage a 13th month of giving. This has the potential to erase this year’s anticipated budget deficit.
 - b. The print version of the Evangel will be suspended at least for the summer for a potential savings of \$600. Depending on reaction by the parish, it may be discontinued and replaced with the E-news on a permanent basis.
 - c. A basket will be placed in the parish hall to collect donations to offset the cost of coffee.

- d. Father Wayne will embark on a series of measures intended to educate parishioners of the importance of stewardship.
- 7. The next meeting of the Vestry will be on 10 June at 1:00 PM (bring a brown bag lunch) and the following one will be 8 July at 4:30 PM.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart
 Clerk of the Vestry



April 30 Financial Report

The following is the summary financial report for the first four months, or 33.3%, of 2009:

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$48,613	(about 32.1% of year's budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>54,749</u>	(about 33.3% of year's budget)
Excess of operating expenditures over receipts...	\$ 6,136	(12.6% above the receipts)
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2009	<u>19,910</u>	
April 30 operating cash balance	\$13,774	

Because of large quarterly expenses in April, the year-to-date deficit rose back above \$6,000 to \$6,136. A deficit of about \$4,603 was budgeted for the quarter. Since the deficit is not going away and because the operating cash balance is near the minimum amount needed to cover contingencies such as equipment failures and late pledge payments, the Vestry will soon be deciding if actions are needed to bring receipts and expenditures into balance. You will hear more as decisions are made.

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

ANGLICAN WORTHIES

224 Wordsworth, William (1770-1850)
Poet (pt. v)

Perhaps the greatest production of the years 1797-98 was “Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey.” “No poem of mine was composed under circumstances more pleasant for me to remember than this,” the poet remarked. The occasion was a return to the River Wye in Wales five years after discovering the peaceful site in 1793. This is a deeply personal narrative about the joys—and strengths—of recollection and what recall can mean.

These beauteous forms,
Through a long absence, have not been to me
As is a landscape to a blind man’s eye;
But oft, in lonely rooms, and ‘mid the din
Of towns and cities, I have owed to them
In hours of weariness, sensations sweet,
Felt in the blood, and felt along the heart;
And passing even into my purer mind,
With tranquil restoration.

But more than that, the memories provide a spiritual strength beyond the specific images.

To them I may have owed another gift,
Of aspect more sublime; that blessed mood
In which the burden of the mystery,
In which the heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world,
Is lightened. . .
While with an eye made quiet by the power
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.
. . . For I have learned
To look on nature, not as in the hour
Of thoughtless youth; but hearing oftentimes
The still, sad music of humanity,
Nor harsh nor grating, though of ample power
To chasten and subdue.

This is not the final word in Wordsworth’s comprehensive understanding of nature, yet many of his significant ideas are present here: nature’s healing power, the greater strength that pertains to recollection than to immediate sensation, the capacity of sense impressions to teach us morally how to live, and the spiritual potential of nature to show us the mind of God. It is a beautiful poem and rewards re-reading. It is also one of those poems that benefited from Wordsworth’s friendship with Coleridge.

This was Wordsworth’s major contribution to the Lyrical Ballads (1797), the two volume collaboration with Coleridge in which about two-thirds of the pieces were by our poet. (Coleridge’s

major contribution was his “Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” While an extremely appealing narrative, it was unlike all the other pieces in the collection, for which reason Wordsworth disapproved of it.)

We are in the midst of one of Wordsworth’s most fertile periods. He was always at work on a draft of “The Ruined Cottage,” a lengthy poetic narrative on how the war with France had displaced and ultimately destroyed a rural family. (Nowadays we have become very conscious of the devastating effect military duty has on family life; in retrospect it seems to me that Wordsworth was the first writer to speak to his generation regarding this.) But in 1799 Wordsworth also produced that small series of lyrics we know as the “Lucy poems,” about the impact the death of a young girl upon a poet’s sensitive consciousness. These are “Lucy Gray,” “Strange fits of passion I have known,” “She dwelt among untrodden ways,” “Three years she grew in sun and shower,” and “A slumber did my spirit steal.” One of the curses of Wordsworth’s poetic career was the abuse he had to tolerate from influential critics who claimed that his lyrics were so simple and unaffected, they were not really “poetry.” The reviews of the Lyrical Ballads were the first serious attack on the accomplishment of these rather novel pieces. Any attempt to ground the “Lucy poems” in some biographical experience will prove vain—it has been often tried—yet here we are, two hundred years later, still reading these simple pieces with interest and pleasure.

By 1800 Wordsworth and his sister had moved back to the Lake District, to the first of what would prove to be permanent residences. This was Grassmere. (Coleridge eventually moved his family to Keswick, some miles away.) Though Wordsworth had no settled employment and felt responsibility for an illegitimate child living in a country with whom England was at war, he was engaged in several projects. He began The Recluse (finally) with a long introduction in blank verse called “Home at Grassmere.” He also composed one of his finest narratives, “Michael.” Set in the rugged hills of the Lake District, this is about an elderly man and his wife who eke out a tenuous living tending sheep on a hillside. “It is in truth an utter solitude.” Michael has labored all his life to provide for his two sons. During the war the family falls upon hard times; they lose their elder son. Family survival requires sending the remaining son to the city to work and remit his wages. The separation is painful and poses some element of risk. The night before the young boy is to depart, his aging father proposes to him a “covenant” of sorts: that they begin to build together a sheepfold of stone, to be completed once the lad returns. The pen remains deliberately unfinished, as a tangible promise that the son will come back to complete it. But the son goes to a strange environment where

in the dissolute city [he] gave himself
To Evil courses; ignominy and shame
Fall on him, so that he is driven at last
To seek a hiding place beyond the seas.

Michael, bereft, all his hopes and expectations shattered, continues in the love of his lost son to work the farm and occasionally to lay stones in the sheepfold. But he is unable to finish, and the poet remarks that all that remains of this simple, isolated homestead is that unfinished work. This is a poem that in its stark detail reminds one of the early Robert Frost; its language is so simple and yet so full of feeling! There are few of us who have not experienced even the threat of disappointment in our offspring!

Wordsworth also began work on The Prelude, a lengthy account of the growth of his own mind, which was not published until after his death in 1850. But of that in its place. --hlf

St. John's Episcopal Church

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Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org

We are happy to send you our newsletter but if you prefer that we don't, please contact us and we will remove you from our mailing list.

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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

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, 989-317-3020

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, 772-8340

Joann Redman, 772-2326