

The Evangel

October 2009

My brothers and sisters,

It's hard to believe that we have *three* weddings coming up in October!!! Three couples presented themselves to me for Christian marriage, and all three have undergone the appropriate pre-marital counseling – and it is a joy to look forward to offering the blessing of God upon them.

It does bring to mind, though, thoughts of relationship – how we communicate with one another, how we argue and love, how we simply talk. Do we take time each day to catch up with each other? to ask, “How was your day” – and really listen? Do we take time to play? To sing a silly song? Do we share meals?

And how could our relationships be enriched? More time together? Going out on a “date” once in a while? Remembering special days besides birthdays and anniversaries (hopefully those are rather automatic!)? Do we pray with each other? Is going to church and sharing Christ's Body and Blood a part of our spiritual and relationship-building practice?

For me, officiating at weddings brings these questions to front and center. I've started to explore the possibility of some relationship-strengthening sessions using an amazing program by John and Julie Gottman. With half of American marriages ending in divorce, it is clear that we could all use some help! Since 1973, Dr. John Gottman has studied what he calls the "masters and disasters" of marriage. Ordinary people from the general public took part in long-term studies, and Dr. Gottman learned what makes marriages fail, what makes them succeed, and what can make marriages a source of great meaning. I've begun conversation with a Chicago Gottman-certified “trainer” and look forward to bringing him here this winter.

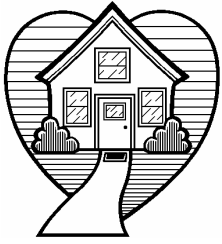
But in the meantime, I think we could all use some of the Gottmans' advice, and I offer a couple of pointers here:

Edit yourself. Couples who avoid saying every critical thought when discussing touchy topics are consistently the happiest.

Focus on the bright side. In a happy marriage, while discussing problems, couples make at least five times as many positive statements to and about each other and their relationship as negative ones. For example, "We laugh a lot;" not, "We never have any fun". A good marriage must have a rich climate of positivity. Make deposits to your emotional bank account.

I would add: **Pray together.** Couples who thank God for the presence of The Other ground themselves in Christian charity – you might consider starting out by renewing the practice of Grace before meals. Yes, it can be awkward at first – but the results can be quite happily surprising and grace-ful.

In Christ,
Wayne +



Remember our Homebound Members

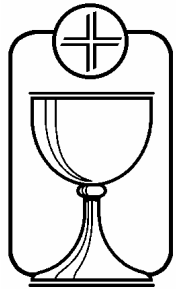
Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Verna Schurr

Applewood, 5775 West Isabella Road

Connie Smith,

1526 C Canterbury Trail, 772-4577



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



Elizabeth Ferden	
Brandon DeLong	2
Alice Louisell	4
Pete L'Hommedieu	4
Spencer Kelly	t 7
Paul Rojas	9
Ryan Kantak	14
Rod Leslie	16
Sandy Wood	21
Tim Brockman	24
Amy Redman	26
John Rousseau	26
Aaron Hartshorne	27

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Betty Timmons	2
Frank & Diane Benn	10

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!

A New 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

Outside the Tent

*Would that all the Lord's people were prophets,
and that the Lord would put
his spirit on them! (Numbers 11:29)*

I was pleased when the University of Washington football team defeated Southern Cal on September 19. Mind you: I think Southern Cal is a fine university, and I have no grudge against the coach or the players. But they are always so powerful—and, as we know, power breeds more power in college football—that I breathe a sigh of relief when a hopeful underdog manages to win the game. This championing of the underdog goes way back with me: when you grow up in the UP, you recognize quickly that your part of the state, though very beautiful and peaceful, is a poor relation. Add to that the social Gospel message of the Dominican sisters who taught in my elementary school, and you will know why I stand on the sidelines pulling for those who live on the margins of our society.

The day after my ordination as deacon (September 27, 1997), I preached at the Sunday Eucharist. To my delight, the Old Testament reading was from Numbers 11, the wonderful story of Moses asking his assistants to round up seventy elders to help him with the burdensome work of leading an increasingly cranky Israelite people. In the tent of meeting, the Lord took some of the spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders. Two of the men, Eldad and Medad, who had not made it into the tent of meeting, also received a portion of the spirit and began to prophesy. Joshua, an assistant to Moses, complained that they had not played by the rules. The response of Moses was the passage that begins this column. In my sermon that day, my first as a deacon, I said that, yes, I had received God's spirit when the bishop laid his hands on me. But then I reminded those gathered that the spirit rested on them as well, that they were to stand with me on the sidelines, calling out the injustices in our society and bringing them to the attention of the Church. I wasn't going to do this alone: I was going to remind them over and over that they were to work with me.

My favorite contemporary champion of the underdog was Senator Ted Kennedy. In the week following his death, someone on the CBS Evening News reported a time he walked with Kennedy, talking about issues of social justice. He asked the senator where he had gotten his strong social conscience. Kennedy's response was, "Haven't you read the Gospels?" Of course, we know as well that Kennedy's parents instilled in their children the understanding that they were given much, and that they were to give much in return. The Kennedy family, for the most part, take seriously the warning of Jesus that it is difficult for a rich man to get into heaven. That was the message burned into

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

October

- 4 David and Jennifer Dingman and family
- 11 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 18 Jane Gilmore/Cindy Seger and family
- 25 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh

November

- 1 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 8 Lynne and Pete L'Hommedieu
- 15 Marian Matyn, Rod and Zachary Leslie
- 22 Tom and Betty Timmons
- 29 Will Westerfield and Sandy Wood

December

- 6 Babcock/Zygmontowicz family
- 13 Ralph Baber and Karen Varanauskas
- 20 David and Carrie Blackburn and family
- 27 Tim Brockman and Harold Cook

January 2010

- 3 Bob Cosan and Henry Fulton
- 10 David and Jennifer Dingman and family
- 17 Ford and Pam Dingman
- 24 Jane Gilmore/Cindy Seger family
- 31 Joyce Baugh and Roger Hatch

Coffee Hour Rotation

October

- 4 David and Carrie Blackburn and family
- 11 Tim and Elizabeth Brockman
- 18 Harold and Mary Cook
- 25 Bob and Kip Cosan

November

- 1 David and Jennifer Dingman and family
- 8 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 15 Henry and Nancy Fulton
- 22 Jane Gilmore/Cindy Seger and family
- 29 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh

December

- 6 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 13 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Jo Redman
- 20 Marian Matyn, Rod and Zachary Leslie
- 27 David and Paula Shirley

January 2010

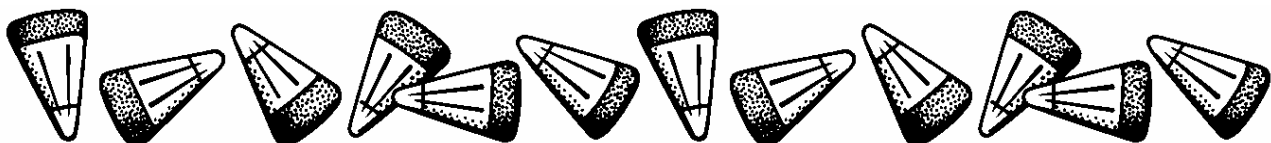
- 3 Tom and Betty Timmons
- 10 Harriett White and Sandy Wood
- 17 Babcock/Zygmontowicz family
- 24 Ralph Baber and Karen Varanauskas
- 31 David and Carrie Blackburn and family



October 2009

Sunday Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
October 4 St. Francis	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Andy Brockman	8:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	David and Jennifer Dingman and family	David and Carrie Blackburn and family	Matthew Blackburn and John Rousseau	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary: Genesis 1:20-25 Psalm 148:7-14 Galatians 6:14-18 Matthew 11:25-30						
October 11 19 Pentecost 5:00 p.m. Evensong	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Sandy Wood 5:00 p.m. Ralph Baber	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Tim and Elizabeth Brockman and family	Seth Hartshorne and Sandy Wood 5:00 p.m. Seth Hartshorne	Alice Louisell and Harriett White
Lectionary: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31						
October 18 20 Pentecost	8:00 a.m. Martha Raiick 10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh	Harold and Mary Cook	Megan Blackburn and Brandon Gilmore	Sally Goodrow and Martha Rarick
Lectionary: Job 38:1-7 Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37c Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45						
October 25 21 Pentecost	8:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	8:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Jane Gilmore/Cindy Seger and family	Bob and Kip Cosan	Matthew Blackburn and John Rousseau	Sally Goodrow and Martha Rarick
Lectionary: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52						
Saturday, October 31 Daylight Savings Time SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!						
November 1 All Saints' Day	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Harry Kelley	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	David and Jennifer Dingman and family	Seth Hartshorne and Sandy Wood	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary: Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44						



Sunday, October 4

The Annual Blessing
of Our Animal
Companions

10:00 a.m.

Tell your friends and
neighbors!

*Special Animal Treats
during Coffee Hour!*

Mark Your Calendar!

*Sunday, November 1, 5:00 p.m.
Festal Evensong for the
Feast of All Saints
The Choir of St. John's,
Saginaw*

The Center for Christian
Spirituality

Quiet Day
Saturday, November 7
Emmanuel Lutheran
Church

Facilitators:

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson and
The Rev. Mark Behenna


Take time to *breathe* and *pray*
before the holidays are upon us!

Register through the Church
office by October 25th

*The Center for Christian Spirituality is a
nondenominational community resource,
seeking 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.*

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

October 2009 at St. John's

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 27, <i>Pentecost XVII</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite 2 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 8:00 pm AA	28	29 <i>St. Michael and All Angels</i>	30 <i>Jerome, Priest and Monk</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. <i>Thinking and Praying</i>	October 1 <i>Remegius, Bishop of Rheims</i> 5:30 p.m. Choir	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 4:00 p.m. Nowicki-Kney Wedding and Reception
4 <i>Pentecost XVIII and St. Francis of Assisi</i>  8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist with Blessing of the Animals CROP Walk 8:00 p.m. AA	5 Noon Daughters of the King	6 <i>William Tyndale, Priest</i> 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends	7 Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 6:00 p.m. CCS Committee 7:00 p.m. <i>Thinking and Praying</i>	8 5:00 p.m. Scouts in Parish Hall 5:30 p.m. Choir	9 <i>Robert Grosseteste, Bishop</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	10 Noon: Pidkorytova-Stanek Wedding
11 <i>Pentecost XIX</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 5:00 p.m. Evensong in Thanksgiving for the Goodrow Fund 8:00 p.m. AA	12 <i>Matthew Shepherd</i>	13 6:00 p.m. Community Group, Parish Hall	14 <i>Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop</i> Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Vestry 7:00 p.m. <i>Thinking and Praying</i>	15 <i>Teresa of Avila</i> 9:30 a.m. Staff 5:30 p.m. Choir 6:00 p.m. Scouts in Parish Hall	16 <i>Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomoas Cranmer</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	17 <i>Ignatius of Antioch</i> 10:00 a.m. St. Demetrios worships at St. John's 4:00 p.m. Ryan-Church Wedding
18 <i>Pentecost XX, St. Luke</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 8:00 p.m. AA	19 <i>Henry Martyn, Priest and Missionary</i>	20	21 Noon Eucharist and Bible Study 7:00 p.m. <i>Thinking and Praying</i>	22 5:30 p.m. Choir	23 <i>St. James of Jerusalem</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	24 Holiday Bazaar!
25 <i>Pentecost XXI</i> Rev. Dn. Nancy Casey Fulton, Officiant and Preacher 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 8:00 p.m. AA	26 <i>Alfred the Great</i>	27	28 <i>St. Simon and St. Jude</i> 7:00 p.m. <i>Thinking and Praying</i>	29 <i>James Hanington, Bishop</i> 6:00 p.m. Scouts in Parish Hall	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 <i>All Hallows' Eve</i> 5:30 p.m. Blessing of Ghosties and Ghoulies

Morning Prayer is said Monday-Thursday at 9:00 a.m.

The Center for Christian Spirituality



Fall 2009 Schedule

The Spirituality of John Wesley
November 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Leader: The Rev. John Boley
Registration Deadline: October 15

Community Quiet Day
Saturday, November 7, 10:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Registration Deadline: October 25

Meeting Mary: Mother of Wisdom
An Advent time of Prayer and Reflection for Women
December 4th, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
December 5th, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Leader: The Rev. Dare Cox
Registration Deadline: November 20

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – 7 September 2009

1. Father Wayne welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer. Members present: Harriet White, Paula Shirley, David Dingman, Jo Redman, Harold Cook, Eileen Swinehart, Father Wayne, Pete L’Hommiedieu and Renee Babcock.
2. Approval of minutes of the 5 August 2009 vestry as written.
3. Old Business
 - a. Center for Christian Spirituality. Clergy Quiet Day was cancelled for lack of sign-ups; the program on prayer has a number of people signed up and the prayer group is going to be encouraged to participate.
 - b. 125th Update
 - i. Photo directory should be available on October 1st.
 - ii. Cookbook sales have been brisk.
4. New Business
 - a. September 13 worship
 - i. 8:00 AM Said Service
 - ii. 10:00 AM “Welcome Home” festal Eucharist, welcome to new members
 - iii. 3 PM picnic
 - iv. 5:00 PM festal Evensong with retired choir boys followed by dessert. Doug Evett will deliver the homily.
 - b. Weddings to be held October 3rd, 10th, and 17th.
 - c. Special liturgy to be used on 13 September to welcome new members
 - d. Communications issues. Coffee hour hosts should receive a telephone call the week they will be serving to remind them.
 - e. Parish retreat has been cancelled due to conflict with other community events.
5. Long Range Thinking: All vestry members were tasked with thinking of ways to attract new people to St. John’s and bring it to the next vestry meeting
6. Father Wayne away time
 - a. October 25-30 for clergy Leadership Project (Deacon Nancy officiating 10/25)
 - b. November 9-13 for vacation
 - c. November 30 – December 4 Mission trip to New Orleans (not missing Sunday)
7. Finances appear to be close to being on target for the year. A motion was made and approved to have an audit conducted on the books of St. John’s.
8. The next meeting of the Vestry will be 14 October at 4:30 PM.
9. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart
Clerk of the Vestry

ANGLICAN WORTHIES

227. Wordsworth, William (1770-1850)
Poet (pt. viii)

As the war with France neared its dramatic conclusion on the field at Waterloo, Wordsworth had begun to change in temperament and in politics. He became more conservative. This would cost him dearly in reputation.

But he was hardly the only radical of the 1790's to do so. Two Scottish figures come to mind. One was Sir James Mackintosh (1765-1832) who attacked Burke in 1791 for his early assault on the French Revolution; the other was the Earl of Lauderdale (1759-1839), a peer who alone in the House of Lords defended the original principles of the revolution. Both men became more conservative later in their careers. Similarly, we all know persons who, as they matured, grew more liberal and tolerant in their general views. But no one those days was willing to cut Wordsworth much slack.

One of his greatest needs, always, was to support his family and dependents. It was not impossible at that time to earn enough as a poet. This was an age, the age of Jane Austen, when the English reader craved the new poetry. Byron and Scott earned unprecedented sums for their volumes. Wordsworth was not so fortunate. In 1813 he sought through his well-placed friends a government post that would provide financial security. By the end of the year he was offered work as Distributor of Stamps for Westmoreland and Penrith, a government sinecure worth £400; he was responsible for the collection of income from taxed paper used in legal documents. As Stephen Gill puts it, "Wordsworth became an agent of the national revenue-gathering service," adding, "Certainly no act of Wordsworth's did his reputation more lasting harm." About as bad as that Scottish poet twenty years before deigning to collect the excise, because he could not support his family on his farm. The position did not bring in £400, but it was income nevertheless.

Critics detected a change in his poems as well. If less memorable, they became more "moral" and abstract, lacking that personal specificity that made his earlier work unique. Shelley was disappointed; Wordsworth had abandoned "the cause." Hazlitt, who idolized him in younger years, believed that both Wordsworth and Coleridge wrote best as "Jacobins." In 1817 Coleridge published his Biographia Literaria, in which he gave an account of his own development as an author, laid down certain critical principles about poetry (which doctoral students in English literature still must read today), and assessed what he felt was great in his famous friend's poetry—and what was not. His analysis was accurate, almost too much. Wordsworth felt betrayed. Still more damaging was Coleridge's statement that Wordsworth was still expected to write "the first genuine philosophical poem."

Writers often “dry up”; they run out of inspiration and cannot write anymore. This was not true of Wordsworth—not yet. Smarting under criticism, he determined to make his poems more specific and autobiographical, but in the opinion of nearly everyone, then and now, the results were not that successful.

Wordsworth met Keats in London in 1817; the young poet had sent him a copy of his first volume. He also encountered Coleridge, who only irritated him. In 1819 he published “Peter Bell,” a lengthy poem he had written in Alfoxden days. In this writer’s view it is a very silly poem. The reviewers clobbered it.

But his reputation improved in 1820 with the publication of a sequence entitled the River Dudden sonnets. These consist of thirty-four meditations on the river, quite descriptive, not lofty nor full of vision but workmanlike. The reviewers were quite enthusiastic. The seventeenth of this series memorialized the country parson, the Reverend Robert *Walker, treated earlier in our series. They show the poet looking back to his youth, and to history.

In this year Wordsworth took his wife to France and Switzerland. Mary met the mother of her husband’s first child, Annette, their daughter—and their daughter’s fiancé.

At this point one might admit that Wordsworth was religious, but was he Christian, to say nothing of being Anglican? Yes, living rurally, he may never have been a faithful Anglican, and there is some evidence that he may not have been convinced of the necessity of the Atonement, but as he grew older, he became more conventionally so. His brother Christopher was a priest and the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. Perhaps he began to influence his more famous brother.

In 1820 Wordsworth made several visits, one to the parsonage of his old walking mate of 1790, Robert Jones; the second to his brother, and the third to the estate of Sir George Beaumont to discuss the site of a new church. These visits were the inspiration for a series of reflective sonnets on the history of Christianity in England, the Ecclesiastical Sketches. It is A huge project, 102 sonnets, beginning with the introduction of Christianity into Britain during Roman times and concluding with reflections on the present time, with pieces devoted to particular sites and practices of the faith. In the Preface Wordsworth commented on the importance of “civilized, refined, comfortably endowed clergymen who in many parts of England have been. . . the principal bulwarks against barbarism and the link which unites the sequestered Peasantry with the intellectual advancement of the age.” In Stephen Gill’s words, the poems bring together images of the Church as an evolving power in history, as a visible emblem of faith, and as a community of people, lay and ordained. “By 1822 he had become committed to the Church of England, and the necessity of defending it as the safeguard against anarchy and social retrogression.”

-hlf

August 31 Financial Report

The following is the summary financial report for the first eight months, or 66.7%, of 2009:

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$103,643	(about 68.3% of year's budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>103,193</u>	(about 62.7% of year's budget)
Excess of operating receipts over expenditures...	\$ 450	(.004% of the receipts)
Transfer from endowment fund.....	1,967	
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2009	<u>19,910</u>	
August 31 operating cash balance	\$22,327	

The treasurer is pleased to report that receipts and expenditures were almost equal for the first eight months of the year. There is a small surplus of \$450. At this time last year, there was a deficit of \$5,853.

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



Saturday, October 31
Daylight Savings Time Begins
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989 773-7448

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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