



The Evangel *September 2011*

My Brothers and Sisters,

We have a real month coming up, and I encourage you to be part of it!

Many remember exactly where they were and what they were doing the morning of September 11, 2001. The awful tragedies in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania will be forever seared upon our hearts, and on the heart of the nation. In the decade since many have tried to make sense of it. Many have attempted to speak of reconciliation. Many have spoken of retribution and some sort of “justice.” Many have spoken of God’s great desire for peace. Conflicting emotions, complex thoughts. Pain, bewilderment – where is the hope? Come gather for an Evensong of Remembrance, Hope, and Peace this Sunday, September 11, at 5:00 p.m.

Many, perhaps most, of us don’t realize that there is a contemplative monastery only twenty minutes away. On Saturday, September 24, we will spend an afternoon at Emmaus Monastery in Vestaberg with Sisters Linda Susan and Diane; the Center for Christian Spirituality will host our time (with their gracious hospitality), and we will spend the afternoon in reflection and quiet, bringing together our two communities for the first time as we think about vision: God’s vision for us as a community, our individual visions of deepening our relationship with God in Christ. A sign-up sheet will be available during Coffee Hour, or you may call the church office.

Finally, it is time for us all to re-think our concept of stewardship. *Stewardship is not about the pledge.* Stewardship is about a transformation of discipleship. You will be invited to a cottage meeting the week of September 19, to be held in various parishioner’s homes, where we will talk about St. Johns – how St. John’s can and will create stronger disciples and how each of us is called by God to be the hands of Christ in a broken world. The sharing of time, talent, and, yes, treasure is a stewardship of joyful giving. Please attend one of the meetings. I think you will be glad you did.

We are blessed!

In Christ,
Wayne+



Remember our Homebound Members

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

Jean Briggs (Alice Louisell's sister)
Tendercare, 1524 Portabella, Mt. P

Maribeth and George Injasoulian
Prestige Centre, 5785 E. Broadway, Mt. P
773-9421

Shirley Robinson (c/o her son, Richard)
1002 S. Brown St., Mt. P - 773-9743

Verna Schurr
Applewood Assisted Living
55775 W. Isabella Rd. (M20) Mt. P
772-1866

Connie Smith,
1526 C Canterbury Trail, Mt. P - 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. The Prayer Group meets for 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer and Coffee on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.



David Shirley	3
Matthew Blackburn	4
Lydia Bloem	4
Emma Dingman	4
Clancy DeLong	5
Meg (Shirley) Bennett	7
Nel (Shirley) Boose	7
Jennifer Lovejoy	16
Dawn (Dingman) Hall	17
Elizabeth Brockman	20
Emilie Lovejoy	24
Frank Benn	29



Charles & Doris Sherwood	6
Randi & Lynne L'Hommedieu	11
Gordon Bloem & Nancy Parshall	13
Chip & Jan Schurr	18
Rich & Connie Morrison	21

Ongoing Rummage Sale Info:

The St. John's Rummage Sale Committee is accepting good used clothing all year long! Please leave all contributions in the Parish Hall kitchen.

Thank you!



Meijer Community Rewards Program
St. Johns' Account Number 972219

Outside the Tent

Earlier this month, as Henry and I ate dinner during the evening news, we watched the usual round of ads for the medical woes that haunt the baby boomers' generation: Cialis (featuring bathtubs on a beach or under a tropical waterfall); something for atrial fibrillation; Prilosec for those of us who eat foods we can't digest. We also noted ads for a Pantene product that promises to heal damaged hair and for a Motorola phone that allows the user to multi-task. Somewhere, among all the ads, was a heart-rending account of Somali refugees in Kenya, driven out of their homeland by long-standing drought and famine, and by rebel forces that prevented them from receiving the aid sent by various nations and relief agencies.

What I have recorded here is a "fabulous reality," a term from Ken McCrorie's *Telling Writing*, a textbook on the teaching of composition that was my bible when I was an English 101 instructor at CMU back in the 70's. He defines "fabulous reality" as something that surprises us—that creates a tension—like seeing an extremely pregnant woman walking up a steep hill carrying a globe in front of her. That whole half hour of the news was for me a fabulous reality, though much more serious than McCrorie's typically light-hearted examples. Here were a people starving to death, walking for weeks to safety across the border of Somalia, and we sat in front of our TV eating more food than we needed—having, of course, taken our Prilosec first thing in the morning so that we wouldn't have heartburn—watching ads for fancy shampoos and phones that we don't need.

Some days everything about our culture in this nation seems to me a fabulous reality. Yes, we have enormous problems, but we are without question a rich nation. Every one of us has wealth beyond the imagination of the refugees who stream into Kenya, hoping for food, medicine, shelter from the sun. They don't know what atrial fibrillation is, and they would be grateful to eat enough to cause heartburn. And glossy, swiny hair? Just a bath and some clean clothes would be more to the point. Cialis or Viagra? Most of the refugees are widowed, their mates victim of decades of violence.

I've carried these refugees in my head and heart this month. And I've placed them in our Sunday prayers, so that we don't forget their plight. The other day I wrote a check to Episcopal Relief and Development, and I encourage you to think about doing the same thing. Every dollar they receive goes to relief, because the national church underwrites the overhead for the agency (that's where some of our parish's contribution to the diocese eventually ends up). You can donate online at www.er-d.org, or you can mail a check to PO Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Our fields are rich with the season, the corn towering above our cars as we drive down country roads. The weekly farmers' markets are a cornucopia, a feast for the eyes and the tongue. It's good that we enjoy them, but I pray that we won't forget the poorest of our brothers and sisters.

Peace, Nancy

OUR PEANUT BUTTER MINISTRY

The other day, I went to the pantry to get some peanut butter for my breakfast toast. I had grown tired of my usual Havarti on toast and thought peanut butter with homemade strawberry jam would be a treat. But, I found no peanut butter in my pantry – seems the kids had finished it without telling me to replace it. So, I went to the “downstairs pantry” we keep in the basement, certain I would find some there. I was once again disappointed to find no peanut butter. And then I realized something. Having a jar of peanut butter was no big deal to me – until it wasn’t there. What if my peanut butter wasn’t there most of the time? What if having peanut butter in my pantry was not only a treat, but a way to feed my children a small amount of the protein that they need?

For the last several months, parishioners at St. John’s have been donating jars of peanut butter to be given to the Red Cross Food Pantry. The original idea was to have a monthly collection of food items that were needed at the Food Pantry. But, when I asked them what they needed, they told me “peanut butter - always peanut butter.” Unlike some other food items, one jar of peanut butter can feed many people and it has the added benefit of the protein that we all need. Additionally, the purchase of one extra jar of peanut butter is a miniscule addition to the monthly grocery shopping for many of the parishioners at St. John’s.

When I think of outreach at St. John’s, I think about sharing our gifts with those who have less. Our gifts do not always have to be large financial contributions (though admittedly those are nice). Gifts come in so many types of packages: participation in an outreach project, serving on church committees, maintaining the physical appearance of our Church, listening to the concerns and fears of

someone less fortunate – or a small jar of peanut butter.

As we look at the outreach projects here at St. John’s, I encourage us all to think about the jar of peanut butter as a metaphor for spreading God’s love. Don’t think that a small act is not worth the effort. Rather, remember that even seemingly insignificant measures might mean the difference between someone knowing God’s love and someone wondering where it is. Remember that all of our gifts are important to someone. Remember that “it is tragedy to do nothing because we can do so little.”

Sacred Music of Moonyeen Albrecht to be featured in Steven Egler’s Annual Faculty Recital

**Sunday, September 18 at 4:00 p.m.
Staples Family Concert Hall**

**Tickets may be purchased at the Central
Box Office or by calling 774-3000
\$5.00 admission for the public
\$3.00 for students and seniors**

Dr. Egler’s recital will feature the organ and choral music of Dr. Moonyeen Albrecht, CMU Emerita Professor of Theory and Composition and celebrating her 75th birthday year.

Performing with Dr. Egler will be the Exultate Deu Choir under the direction of Robert Sabourin, flute soloist, Robert Hart of Midland, and a CMU faculty and student brass ensemble will perform.

Compositions will include music commissioned by Steven Egler—*Variations on Engelberg* for Organ (1998) and *Four Psalms for Flute and Organ* (1986); and the premier of Dr. Albrecht’s *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* for choir and organ.



September 2011 Sunday Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
September 4 12 Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Karen Varanauskas	9:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem	Barbara Sheperdigian and Harriett White	Zach Dearing	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary: Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20						
September 11 13 Pentecost Evensong 5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen 5:00 p.m. Karen V.	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Rod and Zach Leslie, and Marian Matyn	David and Paula Shirley	John Rousseau and Zach Dearing	Pamela Dingman and Paula Shirley
Lectionary: Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35						
September 18 14 Pentecost	8:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Anne Hiebert Alton	8:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart 10:00 a.m. Jo Redman	Renee Babcock and Ziggy Zygmontowicz	Joyce Baugh and Roger Hatch	Ken Klumpp and Zach Dearing	Peg Hicks and Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary: Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16						
September 25 15 Pentecost	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Gordon Bloem	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	David and Carrie Blackburn	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	Seth Hartshorne and Zach Dearing	Peg Hicks and Karen Varanauskas
Lectionary: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32						
October 2 16 Pentecost	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Ralph Baber	8:00 a.m. Eileen Swinehart 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	Gordon Bloem and Nancy Parshall	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Jo Redman	Sandy Wood and Zach Dearing	Alice Louisell, Cindy Seger, Harriett White
Lectionary: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46						



>>>>>>>> **Back to School** >>>>>>>>

September 2011 at St. John's Episcopal Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 28 <i>Pentecost 11</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	29	30	31 <i>Aidan of Lindisfarne</i> Noon Eucharist	September 1 <i>David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon</i> 5:30 p.m. Choir	2 <i>Martyrs of New Guinea</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	3
4 <i>Pentecost 12</i> 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist <i>LOOSE CHANGE SUNDAY BENEFITTING THE GOODROW FUND</i>	5 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	6 7:00 p.m. Compassionate Friends	7 Noon Eucharist	8 5:30 p.m. Choir	9 <i>Constance, Nun</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	10 <i>Alexander Crummell, 1898</i>
11 <i>Pentecost 13</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 5:00 p.m. Evensong of Remembrance, Hope, and Peace	12 <i>John Henry Hobart, Bishop</i>	13 <i>Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr</i> 5:30 p.m. Vestry	14 <i>Holy Cross Day</i> Noon Eucharist	15 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Choir	16 <i>Ninian, Bishop</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	17 <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18 <i>Pentecost 14</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist	19 <i>Theodore of Tarsus, Bishop</i>	20 <i>John Coleridge Patteson</i>	21 <i>St. Matthew, Apostle</i> Noon Eucharist	22 <i>Philander Chase, Bishop</i>	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24 Afternoon Quiet Day
COTTAGE GATHERINGS THIS WEEK						
25 <i>Pentecost 15</i> 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist	26 <i>Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop</i>	27	28 Noon Eucharist 5:30 p.m. EFM	29 <i>St. Michael and All Angels</i> 5:30 p.m. Choir	30 <i>Jerome, Priest</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	October 1

Morning Prayer is held Monday-Thursday, at 9:00 a.m. For Updates: Visit the Parish Website and Click on "Calendar"

This is our Greeter/Coffee Hour Host Schedule—If you cannot serve on the date you were given, please exchange dates with someone else on the list and call the Parish Secretary at 773-7448

Greeter Rotation



September

- 4 Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem
- 11 The Leslie/Matyn Family
- 18 Renee Babcock and Ziggy Zygmuntowicz
- 25 David and Carrie Blackburn

October

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

November

- 6 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 13 Lynne L'Hommedieu & Sandy Wood
- 20 Rod & Zach Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 27 Betsy Richard and Jim Eikrem

Coffee Hour Rotation



September

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

October

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

November

- 6 Colin, Anne and Matthew Alton
- 13 Renee Babcock and Ziggy Zygmuntowicz
- 20 Ralph Baber and Karen Varanauskas
- 27 David and Carrie Blackburn

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes—Tuesday, August 9, 2011

1. In attendance were Laura Cochrane, Gordon Bloem, John Rousseau, Father Wayne, David Dingman, Karen Varanauskas, Jane Gilmore, Rod Leslie. Also in attendance was Pam Dingman
2. Jane moved the minutes of the July meeting be accepted as presented; John seconded the motion. The motion was carried
3. Mission and Outreach: Goodrow Fund. Pat Hathaway has resigned as the director of the Goodrow Fund. There are two very viable candidates that will be interviewed.
4. Building and Grounds. David presented a detailed report of the Building and Grounds committee meeting. Vestry was very pleased with the work of the committee. Eileen moved that up to \$1500 be approved for the replacement of the back doors. Karen seconded the motion. The motion was carried
5. Liturgy and Music – Upcoming
 - a. Guest musician on Sunday 14 August; Mary Lou playing the organ
 - b. Morning Prayer on Sunday 21 August; Mina's last Sunday
 - c. Welcome Home Sunday - 11 September
 - d. Evensong of Remembrance – 11 September
 - e. Baptism – 18 September –Alice Louisell's most recent great grandchild
6. Stewardship – John Gork will be here on 22 August at 2 PM to talk to us about starting a successful stewardship campaign. All are invited.
7. Finances – Current financials were reviewed. Fr. Wayne will remind people about the Meijer rewards program and Amazon rewards.
8. Upcoming – Father Wayne away 15 – 21 August
9. Adjournment – Eileen moved and Karen seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Eileen M. Swinehart,
Substitute Clerk of the Vestry

Don't hurt If you can't help them.



Part I of Jim Thurston's reflections from his mission trip to the Dakotas

If you can't help them then don't hurt them.

Journaling of my Pine Ridge Reservation trip
July 2, through July 8, 2011

3 months prior to the trip I noticed a volunteer call for mission trips in our church bulletin. Three trips in total: New Orleans - several openings, Appalachian mountain area – several openings and Pine Ridge 4 openings. Pine Ridge in July and during time new residents arrive can't go. The others I'm not interested in.

A few weeks later, a repeat call for volunteers appeared in the church bulletin. Same 3 trips open, same 4 openings for Pine Ridge. Pat called & pointed out the Pine Ridge trip - said it had my name written all over it. I know - I'm being called. That day I e-mailed the trip coordinator. Few days later he said I was on a waiting list. My personal deadline of May 25 was set; if I didn't get a call for Pine Ridge trip, I was not going. May 24 I got my call, on the list if I still want to go - let him know. I needed approval from my boss. Boss reminded me he does not let management staff off during July 1 during new resident orientation. I indicated what the trip was about and he again reminded me no one off during this time. We continued to talk he said convince me, I said I want to go - he said okay.

E-mailed the coordinator, filled out the 3-page application, got clergy approval letter and sent my \$390.00 fee. July 1, 2011 I depart for the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota - home of the Oglala Lakota Indian Tribe. I'm answering the call.

2 weeks before departure - carpools and accommodations were arranged for the 2-day trip from Michigan to S. Dakota. Following the travel recommendations I packed light for hot weather and old clothes for dirty working conditions - temperatures will be 90 plus degrees and humid. I'm ready to paint, haul, dig, tear down, pick up trash and do whatever our native relatives need done.

The day before I left Pat and I argued and tempers soared. I'm having issues with home life circumstances and I'm not sure what to expect during the trip. I'm anxious and being called to help. I need to let shit go.

July 1, 4:45am I'm up, car packed, GPS programmed; I'm gone. The departure was quiet and lonely.

6:05am arrived at first pick up point. Parked the car unloaded my gear and meet my travel / bunk mates for next 2 travel days. 2 teenagers a same age as me female, and me. We traveled to another location to pick up a priest and his grandson, 6 of us traveling in a van to S. Dakota. I'll be 1,000 miles from the farm. I'm anxious.

7:15am leaving final pick up point and heading to Chicago. Major storm hit within 15 minutes of departure thought we were on a tornado-infested road. Wipers full steam but of little value, wind increased, driver had both hands on steering wheel, I prayed for safe travel. 45 minutes later, conditions better heard laughing and some snoring. I lost the next 60 minutes to the sandman. Traveled far west and crossed the mighty Mississippi and stopped for lunch. The rest stop was nice, quiet; picnic table filled where we ate a pre packed lunch compliments of my female travel companion. She's nice, thought we might have some issues, felt she and I had control issues and we might not match up. So far no issues I'm going with the flow. Made conversation with everyone – we're feeling each other out. Kids in the van are high school age, into music, gaming, and sleeping. The ear buds and their 4 hours naps provided for a quiet trip. My turn to drive - mirrors adjusted, seat moved back and straightened - ready to move on. Looking for Mobil or Marathon gas station none thus far had 100 miles left in tank before we needed to really stop. Pressed on while others slept kids still out with ear buds in; very quiet drive.

We crossed over the state line into Iowa, never been to Iowa. OMG.... The farm fields, acres of corn, hills galore with terraced farm fields. Never seen terraced fields - been told it helps prevent soil erosion. Another fascinating sight was the wind turbine fields' miles and miles and miles of 100 plus feet tall windmills. Iowa went on forever and it seemed that way because of flood related detours. Sioux City Iowa just east of Nebraska, we stayed at a Comfort Inn for the night. My teenage roommate wants to stay with his brother and other younger male. I had the room all to myself what a relief. A group of us went to Applebee's for supper. Got free appetizer per individual guest check, I had the boneless Buffalo wings. Little did I know buffalo would be an important part of my week.

Another traveler who was new to our group of 6 joined us for dinner. I asked why he was coming out. He'd been on an Appalachian trip and he helped do mission type work and was amazed at the poverty conditions there. He ask me why I was going - all I could say was I don't know why - I'm being called. Why here? I said perhaps it's a way to give back to what we've done to them in the past. He looked at me with semi-pierced eyes I felt his disapproval. Ever since 1492 we've done our native friends bad and they deserve better. He tensed up and referred back to his previous trip. Our relationship was not how I wanted it to be. God help me with him. After a few beers, good food and conversation I was ready to get to the room and really relax. Finally, I could scratch and be gross; felt good.

To be continued...

Fishing Tips: We Need to Cast our Nets on the Other Side

From several sources, I have recently learned that the Bible contains 40 verses on ‘baptism’; 275 verses on ‘prayer’; 350 on ‘faith’; 650 verses on ‘love’—and 2,350 verses that relate to “finances, generosity, and material possessions”.* Clearly, this is an important topic. Yet Episcopalians tend to get nervous when people start batting around the ‘S-word’—stewardship. We seem to associate stewardship with arguments over budget documents, debates over how much to pay the janitorial service or the price of a new Xerox machine. We get lost in small worries and lose sight of the fact that the Church is in the business of transforming lives. And that is something we do well.

Who among us at St. John’s has not been transformed?

When we get too short-sighted, we end up short-changed—in the plate on Sunday, in our ability to serve and love our neighbors, and in our individual opportunities to joyfully give our money (which is indeed God’s anyway) to the place where our heart is.

If I say “Stewardship”, and your eyes glaze as you imagine yet another debate over where we can cut costs, or fear that I am about to start whining about needing more money to meet the year’s budget, you are not going to happily dig out your checkbook and start writing big numbers.

Stewardship has become a drag.

Somewhere along the line, churches lost sight of the fact that the money issues are not really about paying for furnace repairs; the money is what lets congregations like ours do God’s business. The furnace, the copier, the janitor, the candles and linen and wages and insurance—all of it is the necessary background to what we do: transform lives.

It is vital that we look at stewardship as an opportunity. The money we give St. John’s is carefully and prayerfully allocated. When we are able to get past the bills and worries, we can see the outreach: love in action. I pray that we can create more of that love in action.

Last month I wrote about the advantage of learning to cast our nets on the other side.

We need to take a larger view of stewardship, and let our dollars (and time and talent) follow our hearts. If we want St. John’s to grow and prosper, we must act—joyfully and intentionally. Paul asked the Corinthians to “see also that you excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians, 8:7).

St. John’s has all the money it needs. It is in our pockets.

Cast your nets on the other side.

Karen Varanauskas
Senior Warden

*Copied here from a message by John Gork, quoting Brian Kluth, in Maximum Generosity.

Anglican Worthies

250. Irving, Washington (1783-1859)
Historian (pt. iii)

Irving's fourth period of literary activity began with his triumphant return to the states in 1832 after seventeen years in Europe. He was greeted in New York with a mayor's banquet, in Boston with an honorary degree from Harvard, and in Washington as dinner-guest of President Andrew Jackson. Other invitations he turned down. Boating up the Hudson, he spied a cottage next to the home of a nephew, which he decided to purchase as a permanent home. This was the beginning of Sunnyside, his famous home.

But his traveling days were not done. In September he and some friends were invited to accompany Henry Ellsworth, Commissioner for Indian Affairs, west of the Mississippi to arrange the "settlement" of some Native American tribes. Irving spent more than a month in Oklahoma riding horseback, living off freshly killed game, and sleeping on the ground. He loved it. Then in the company of Audubon, the naturalist, he took the steamboat to New Orleans and traveled in the south. The tour of Oklahoma led to his first "western" narrative, *A Tour of the Prairies* (1835); also this year he published a memoir, *Abbotsford and Newstead Abbey* and another "Spanish" work, *Legends of the Conquest of Spain*.

Then a wealthy friend, John Jacob Astor, approached Irving about writing an account of Astor's attempt to carve out a commercial trail to the northwest, following the exploration of Lewis and Clark. Astor had founded the American Fur Company in 1819 and wished to establish a trading post on the Columbia River. It turned out to be a grim venture. Astor made all his company's papers and reports available; the author took up temporary residence at the Astor estate outside the city. Written quickly, the result was a hair-raising account of the unsuccessful attempts of Astor's agents to conquer the wilderness, establish an overland trail, and reach the Pacific. *Astoria* (1836) was followed by *The Adventures of Captain Bonneville* (1837), the western experiences of an ex-patriot of the French Revolution. This concluded Irving's "western" trilogy.

Although Irving was never partial to any political party, he was asked to run for mayor of New York; Martin van Buren, now president, approached him about serving as Secretary of the Navy. Both offers he declined; he wanted to remain free to write. He had begun to collect material for his last major work.

Back in New York he edited a *Life and Works of Oliver *Goldsmith* (1840), an author of the preceding age whose work he most admired. He was not entirely rid of his interest in Spain however; he was about to begin a history of Cortez's conquest of Mexico when he learned that William Henry Prescott (1796-1859) in Boston had planned a comparable work. Irving generously gave way to the younger historian and provided him

access to needed materials. At fifty years old he had to be careful with what remained of his time; nevertheless, when Daniel Webster, now Secretary of State, offered him in 1842 the post of ambassador to Spain, he could not refuse. En route to Madrid he was presented to Queen Victoria and spent time in London as American representative to settle a dispute with Great Britain about Oregon. (A recent study of Irving's life by Brian Jay Jones has much to say about Irving's unusual diplomatic career. But in Spain he fell ill. He contracted an herpetic infection and by 1847 he was suffering from an inflammation in his eyes; his ankles swelled. He had to cut short his tenure and return home.

The last decade of his life was busy and stressful. As always there were constant demands on his time. When Astor died, Irving was named executor of his vast estate. He formed friendships with Presidents Fillmore and Pierce. His sibs and their children, whom he loved, required his attention and guidance. Yet he found time to read the new publications of Poe, Hawthorne, and Melville. And he published another narrative from his years in Spain, *Mahomet and his Successors* (1849).

But he was weakened with chronic illness, with his last project to complete, *The Life of George Washington*. (He was named after the "father" of our country and had met Washington as a child in New York.) Confining himself to his expanded home, Sunnyside, he brought out the first volume in 1855, his nephew Pierre working at his side. The fourth volume came out two years later; thereafter it was a serious question whether he had enough strength to finish. Oliver Wendell Holmes came to visit the end of 1858.

The fifth and final volume of the biography of Washington was published in April of 1859, after which he traveled down to the city with his older brother, Ebenezer. That was virtually his last journey. Old friends came to Sunnyside as his health declined. Pierre read to him Alexander Slidell's *A Year in Spain*, as memories of a much beloved land comforted him. On 28 December he suffered a heart attack and died. He was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Irving is not easy to characterize as a writer because of the volume of his work. The best explanation of his interests can be found in his "Author's Preface" to *Bracebridge Hall*, the collection of essays about landed gentry in England. He could be "romantic" because he was inspired by the associations he felt about places, people, and customs, but in nearly everything he wrote of value he was an historian, inspired by the past, especially in the cultures of England, Spain, and his own young country.

Sunnyside, in Tarrytown, NY has been preserved and is listed as one of the more attractive "writers' houses" in this country. It is open to the public. The Library of America has issued three omnibus volumes of Irving so far, keeping nine of his works in print. The most readable to start with are *The Sketch Book* and *Astoria*. --hlf

August 31, 2011 Financial Report

The following is a financial report for the first eight months of 2011, or 66.7 per cent of the year.

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$109,982	(about 65.7% of year's budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>120,529</u>	(about 68.2% of year's budget)
Excess of operating expenditures over receipts.....	\$ 10,547	(9.6% above the receipts)
Operating cash balance on January 1, 2011.....	<u>28,075</u>	
August 31, 2011 operating fund balance	\$17,528	

The year-to-date total receipts are a little less than the budgeted amounts, and expenditures are a little above the budgeted amounts. The year-to-date deficit has grown to \$10,547. The weekly analysis shown below indicates that the actual weekly receipts are about \$302 less than the actual weekly expenses. While we have had the cash to cover these differences, they obviously cannot be sustained.

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

Actual average year-to-date weekly receipts (includes rummage sale).....	\$3,142
Actual average weekly expenses.....	<u>3,444</u>
Actual weekly deficit.....	\$ 302

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



Please remember to keep your Pledge Contributions up-to-date! Thank you!

Meijer Community Rewards Program

An easy way to support the church if you shop at Meijer, is to be part of the Meijer Community Rewards program. The following is more information about the program.

Enrolled members shop Meijer, simply paying with cash, PIN-based debit card or linked Meijer Credit Card. Purchases made with a linked Meijer Credit Card earn 1%. Purchases made with cash or PIN-based debit card and a swiped Meijer 1 CardSM earn 0.5%.

Each year, at least 6% of Meijer net profits go toward overall community giving - one of the highest percentages in the retail industry!

Benefits

- Receive rewards for all your Meijer shopping, including gas and convenience store purchases!
- No minimum or maximum spending amount.
- Purchases can be made with cash, PIN-debit card or a Meijer Credit Card.
- Receive exclusive savings periodically!
- Your account is accessible anytime online at Meijer.com/rewards.

While this is not a big money maker so far, we have received over \$200 this year with only 6 members participating. If you wish to participate, there are enrollment forms in the undercroft or you can go online at www.meijer.com/rewards and enroll there. The church's number to link your rewards to St. John's is **972219**.

If you have any questions please contact Pamela Dingman at church, call me at home or email me at tooldawgs@hotmail.com.

Earn Rewards Whenever You Shop at



St. John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989 773-7448

Fax: 989-772-3480

E-mail: stjohnsmp@chartermi.net

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.org

Beginning Sunday, September 11, 2011

Fall Worship Schedule

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

10:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist Rite 2

Our Mission:

St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Anglican tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person

Rector:

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, 772-1203

Deacon:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

2011 St. John's Vestry Officers:

Senior Warden: Karen Varanauskas, 506-3750

Junior Warden: David Dingman, 633-8413

Vestry Clerk: Betsy Richard, 772-2369

Treasurer: Harold Cook, 773-9781

Vestry Members:

Gordon Bloem, 773-5480

Laura Cochrane, 493-5885

Jane Gilmore, 317-0343

Rod Leslie, 386-8131

John Rousseau, 630-6798

Eileen Swinehart, 773-9961