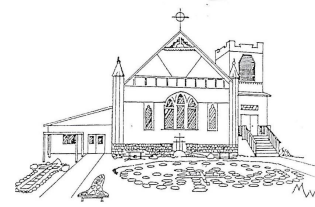


ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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St. John's Episcopal Church

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Senior Warden
Becky Foster



For many, many years, the month of September meant my return to school. Both as a student, and then as a teacher (for 33 years), this time of year always filled me with a unique kind of nervous excitement. But 2020—the year of the Coronavirus—has brought with it a set of circumstances that have put the re-opening of schools into a real dilemma. Parents, teachers, and school administrators face dangerous and uncharted waters. The beginning of this school year is rife with difficult decisions and many new and inconvenient protocols. I've had a few conversations with former students recently and they have all said the same thing; they don't want to wear masks.

And, as much as I hate to suggest it, the re-opening of schools will likely mean an inevitable increase in COVID-19 cases. What does this mean for us in the church? It means that we must continue to respect the virus. As we transition from summer to fall, it is crucial that we maintain protocols. Masks, social distancing, frequent hand sanitizing, etc. are necessary inconveniences. I know that I have been guilty of violating many of the simplest rules (I forget masks all the time). Now is the time for us—not to become careless—but to double down on

our commitment to keeping our church safe.

Can you imagine if a member of our church family contracted the disease at church? Not only would our hearts be broken for the individual, but it would result in terrible consequences, not only for our church, but for all churches. I firmly believe that we have to learn to live with the virus. This means that church must go on. But not as before. We must now be zealous in our safeguards in order to prevent one of our congregants from contracting the virus.

Since my ordination in July, I have been truly, truly blessed to celebrate Holy Communion with you. And I don't mind telling you that wearing a mask presents some real challenges for a rookie priest. My glasses fog up, my pronunciation gets garbled, and when I try to remove my mask, I usually yank my glasses off too. There have been some real awkward moments. But I wouldn't trade it for the world. Like you, I love The Episcopal Church. This makes it worth the masks, worth the distancing, and if the CDC said we had to have church standing on our heads, I'd do it.

Thank you all for your dedication to safety during this crazy year. May God bless, keep us safe, and keep us COVID-free.

A Note from Tom

-Tom

Website: www.stjohnschurchdryden.org
 Email: stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com
 Find us on Facebook!



St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for October, September 25th



Happy Birthday

Myron Petrie
Jon Steele
Teri Manney

Dear Friends,

It's still warm but the night crickets are singing more loudly – fall is on the way. In spite of the limitations due to the pandemic, we've had a very good summer. So far, all of our members are still healthy which is a huge blessing. We're able to worship together in our beloved church building. We've continued the general spruce-up that began with the carpet/painting project last summer. Jack and Ida Lynn Dodd have kept the grounds looking great. You should see how good the yards look! Bible study continues to thrive on Zoom thanks to Neil Hargrave and some loyal students. And Kitty Underwood is working wonders finding music for our worship services. Fr. Tom has reinvigorated our web site – check it out, it looks great – and has plans to enrich the content. We've managed to record our services for FaceBook live and I've finally figured out how to share the link with folks who are not FB savvy.

There were some unanticipated changes – Pastor Nancy formally retiring, Jim and Corinne Fry taking a breather from church work. But we've been blessed in having Fr. Tom join us through a generous diocesan program and Connie Ogg has filled the vacancy created when Jim resigned. I continue

to learn that I shouldn't fret when we experience an unexpected bump – somehow, the Lord keeps us rolling forward.



You may be wondering if Outreach Teen Relief is going to gather school supplies and winter clothes this year. As of now, the Dryden School District IS going to bring students back for in-person classes so the need IS there. We will arrange to have a collection point just inside the doors you enter for worship. You'll find a list of possible supplies in the newsletter. Also, although it's so warm it's hard to think about winter coats, keep an eye out for good deals on coats, hats, gloves, etc. for junior high and high school age students. There may be some back-to-school bargains!

Above all, I am grateful for the generous and faithful support from our church family. That is what has made us a church to return to again and again. Even though I'm not sure what might happen in the future, I am confident that, with God's help, we will find blessings as we move forward.

Peace Always,

Becky Foster

Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Call to Convention

To the Delegates, Clergy, and People of The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan:

In accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan (Title 1, Canon 3, Sec. 2b), you are hereby notified of the 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan to take place on Saturday, October 31, 2020.

This year's convention will be held jointly with our partner diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, and, due to the ongoing pandemic, will take place in an online format.

For information, please read below and visit the convention page of our diocesan website, www.eastmich.org/convention.

This notice is being emailed to all clergy, senior wardens, and convention delegates and alternates that we have emails for, as well as all those on our subscriber list. If there are delegates from your congregation that may not have received this notice, please share this information with them.

Peace,



Angela Krueger
Secretary of Convention
Assistant to the Bishop



SEEN
AROUND
THE
CHURCH
OUR VOLUN-
TEERS ROCK!!
THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU
DO!



Days of Uncertainty by Nancy Bieber

In the midst of these days of uncertainty, I have turned to things that remain constant. I bake, knowing I can depend on yeast to create a well-risen, delicious loaf of bread. I plant seeds in my garden that will grow into lettuce and beans and cucumbers. The turn of the seasons is unchanging, and it is springtime. On my ancient sewing machine where I made children's clothing many years ago, I make masks for my family. Sewing is the same as always though I've never sewn masks before.

Engaging in small certainties brings me comfort. My family has been fortunate in many ways. We continue to have work. We have known some who have been ill or died, but we have lived in good health. I know this could change at any time.

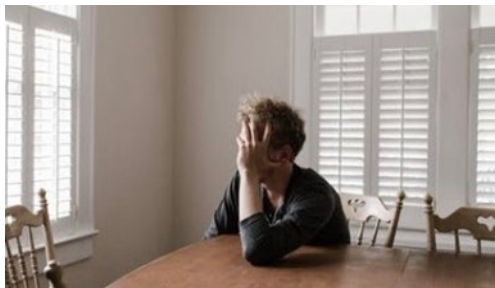
The reality of uncertainty, of not knowing what lies ahead, has touched us all, and created much anxiety and fear. We have lived in the illusion of certainty, the security of believing that we knew what tomorrow would bring. I never fully appreciated that blessing. Now I realize that I know less than ever before. Now I recognize certainty was always an illusion even when I trusted it.

Then I could say, "Of course I'll meet with my book group on Mondays and my writing group on Tuesdays. Of course we'll take a trip somewhere this summer. We want to visit our family in Seattle, and perhaps plan a vacation to my beloved England." Then I could say, "Of course my worshipping community gathers together at 10:00 on Sunday mornings." Then I could say, "I'll be glad to meet with you for spiritual direction. My little office is on Columbia Ave."



Now what do I know? Not much. The public discussion is focused on opening up, but no one really knows what we're opening into—or how to do it well. While some make predictions confidently, the forecasts show little agreement. How do we live with such uncertainty? How do we live with the insecurity of such unknowing?

It's natural to want to see further ahead. There is wisdom in planning for the future, but if we focus too much on peering through the fog of confusion, we may miss the certainties that we have. We may miss living fully alive now.



I remember Quaker George Fox's words from the 17th century: *Look not back, nor too forward. . . .For you have no time but this present time. All I have is this present time.* To look not *too forward* means I have to accept living with a lot of uncertainty. I have to find a stable footing within the world's instability.

A friend said recently, "So how do I live the rest of my life—COVID and all?" That's the big question. We begin living the rest of our lives here and now in the middle of all the confusion and uncertainty. *Now* is the only certainty we have.

Wendell Berry wrote that *It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work.* Real work, real living, he says, *begins* with not knowing. This is where we are, confused and uncertain, so let us begin.

What do I know now? I know that seeds grow into fruit, that yeast expands into bread. I know that online visits with those I love encourage all of us even if we can't hug. I know that laughter is healing, and so are tears. Perhaps my real work is planting seeds, baking bread, and loving my neighbors. Perhaps my real living is walking with others on the path of unknowing amid the angst of uncertainty.

This is our now. May we find gratitude and love on this path. May the Spirit guide us in our real work, the work of living fully alive in this present time.

Nancy Bieber is a member of Lancaster (Pa.) Meeting; a spiritual director, teacher and retreat leader; and author of Decision Making and Spiritual Discernment. Her website is nancybieber.com. She approved sharing this article in our newsletter. She invites us all to receive a monthly spiritual reflection email – nothing being sold, just some quiet thoughts that might enrich our journey.

Corn Salad (6 servings)

by **LENA ABRAHAM** (Delish web-site)

JUN 20, 2019

With all the fresh corn available, this seemed inviting – especially during a hot day.

INGREDIENTS

4 c. fresh or frozen corn, defrosted
1 c. cherry tomatoes, halved
1/3 c. crumbled feta
1/4 red onion, finely chopped
1/4 c. basil, thinly sliced
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
Juice of 1 lime
Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper



DIRECTIONS

Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl, then season with salt and pepper.

Notes and Comments

Do I need to cook the corn?

No need! Corn kernels are fine to eat raw and to keep this salad as simple as possible we skipped it. If you would rather cook your corn first, you can heat over the stove with a little butter until lightly charred or boil in water until tender.

Can this be made ahead of time?

Absolutely! It's the perfect make ahead dish and will hold in the fridge overnight and even helps the flavor as it sits. We like to hold on adding the feta until ready to serve!



"OK. If it's a boy, we'll call him 'Cain' or 'Abel.' If it's a girl... I like 'Shirley.'"

Here are some ideas for back-to-school supplies for Outreach Teen Relief

High School Supplies

#2 Pencils

Colored Pencils

Pencil Sharpener

Pens: Red, Blue, Black

Highlighters

Markers

12 inch Ruler

Pocket Folders

Single-Subject Spiral Notebooks

Sticky Notes/Sticky Flags

College Ruled Loose Leaf 3 Hole Paper

Computer Paper

Tabbed Dividers

3-Ring Binder

USB Flash Drives



Congratulations Barb Cavin on 40 years of ordained ministry!



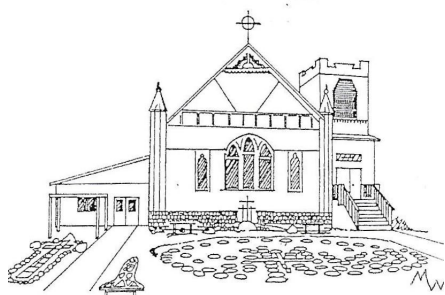
Barb Cavin was ordained to the deaconate on August 18, 1980 at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. A year later she was ordained to the priesthood on April 4th at St. Aidan's

Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor. In the 40 years of her ministry, Barb has served at St. Andrew's Ann Arbor, Holy Cross Saline (where she celebrated both Episcopal and Lutheran services), Holy Spirit Livonia, St. Paul's Flint, Grace Lapeer, Christ Church Owosso, Trinity Flushing, and of course, St. John's Episcopal Church Dryden! Prior to ordination, Barb served in the Peace Corps in Congo from 1972-1973 where she taught the diagnosis of tropical diseases in French. Barb also has extensive experience as a hospital chaplain. Congratulations to our own Barb Cavin!

Ministry Schedule				Counting Schedule	
Date	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Worship Leader	Vestry Member 1	Vestry Member 2
Sep 6, 2020	Mary Cameron	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Connie Ogg	Ina Dockham
Sep 13, 2020	Ina Dockham		Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Sep 20, 2020	Margaret Smith	Sue Thornton	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Sep 27, 2020	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Oct 4, 2020	Darlene Herndon	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Connie Ogg
Oct 11, 2020	Kathy Wagester		Becky Foster	Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave
Oct 18, 2020	Wes Wagester	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Connie Ogg	Ina Dockham
Oct 25, 2020	Neil Hargrave		Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd

September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30  8am Morning Prayer 10am Morning Prayer	31 Labor Day	Sep 1 10am Office Hours	2 8pm AA	3 	4 10am Office Hours	5
6 8am Eucharist 10am Worship-Rev Tor	7 Labor Day	8 10am Office Hours	9 8pm AA	10 	11 10am Office Hours	12
13 8am Eucharist 10am Worship-Rev Bar	14 	15 10am Office Hours	16 8pm AA	17 	18 10am Office Hours	19
20 8am Eucharist 10am Worship-Rev Tor	21 	22 10am Office Hours	23 8pm AA	24 	25 Newsletter deadline 10am Office Hours	26
27 8am Morning Prayer 10am Morning Prayer	28 	29 10am Office Hours	30 8pm AA	Oct 1 Happy October	2 10am Office Hours	3



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