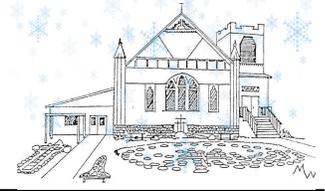


ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| A Note from Tom | 1 |
| A letter from Becky | 2 |
| Celebrations | 2 |
| Taste & See | 3 |
| St John's Year in Review | 4 |
| Diocesan Workshops | 7 |
| Graham Cracker Apple Crisp for Two | |
| Ministry Schedule | 8 |
| Welcoming of Bishop Prince Singh | 9 |
| Groundhog Day Revisited | 3 |



A Note from Tom

This year, in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, we are having an extra-special Groundhog's Day. On

February 2, 2022 **the Right Reverend Prince Singh** will be welcomed as bishop provisional of the dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan. The service will be broadcast only on the diocesan Facebook page (a Facebook account is not required to watch). The service begins at 7:00 PM and a bulletin will be available (and posted) prior to worship. Since the live service will be recorded, it also means that you can watch the service anytime if you're busy with extensive Groundhog Day festivities.

Episcopal leadership (the leadership of a bishop) has unfortunately been a challenge for the diocese of Eastern Michigan since the departure of Bishop Todd Ousley in September 2017. Indeed, Bishop Singh becomes the fourth bishop to serve the diocese in as many years. This has presented numerous challenges for our diocesan leadership team, particularly during this time of Covid. I therefore urge you to participate in this service of welcoming, and to offer prayers to God for the ministry of Bishop Singh.

And as we welcome Bishop Singh, we are also

saying goodbye to the **Reverend Canon Michael Spencer**. Canon Spencer, the Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, is departing for a new position in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Canon Spencer was instrumental in bringing me to St. Paul's and St. John's. His quiet and effective leadership in the diocese will be sorely missed!

Lastly, I would urge all of you to participate in one of the diocesan leadership classes:

- Parish Archives** - Monday, February 21st from 7-8:30pm
- Parish Finance 101** - Saturday, February 26th from 10am-Noon
- A Spiritual Practice of Generating and Sustaining Joy** - Monday, February 28th from 7-8:30pm
- Stewardship Planning** - Thursday, March 3rd from 7-8:30pm
- Building Blocks of Church Communications** - Monday, March 7th from 4-5:30pm

Classes are online and registration is required. More information is available on the diocesan website:

<https://eastmich.org/leadership-series/>

And so we have lots to do and lots to consider as our two dioceses move forward. Let us pray: Continued on page 3

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Editor: Becky Foster

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 February is January 29th..



Happy Birthday...

Al Sievers
Kathy Wagester
Ida Lynn Dodd



Senior Warden's Letter

Dear Friends,

We held our Annual Meeting on January 16th and managed to have a good time in spite of the Covid precautions in place. We took time throughout the meeting to thank all those who had made a difference to St. John's in this year and longer. The list includes SO many names but there are a few to highlight:

John Malinich – We thank him for all his help in many different projects and for his many years as Treasurer. John has quietly stepped in to help numerous times throughout the years. He has helped us to find resources to help with our financial software as well as other building projects. As an usher, he is a warm smile and an energetic bell ringer. We thank him for all of this.

Connie Ogg – We welcome Connie as our new Treasurer. We are grateful that she is willing to learn a new subject while trusting the Spirit to provide help (through all of us) when needed.

Jim Fry – Jim is our newest Vestry member. He brings a wealth of experience and a discerning eye to our group. Thank-you, Jim, for offering your time and talent.

Jack Dodd – Our church building and grounds look so much better this year thanks to Jack (and Ida Lynn's) constant efforts on our behalf. Jack is starting a second term as a Vestry member and was voted to continue as Jr. Warden this year. We are fortunate to have him on the team.

Kitty Underwood – Most of her work is behind the scenes – selecting hymns, updating the hymn board, changing the altar colors at the appropriate time, organizing flower donations, keeping the candles lit and in stock, directing the choir and operating the keyboard. This year she added Worship Leader to the list. If you've ever tried to write a speech, you might imagine what it takes to write a sermon! Thanks, Kitty for all you do

and for sharing your insights with us in your sermons.

Rev. Tom Manney – Tom has been with us for a year and a half now. Thanks to his energy and enthusiasm we have a stronger community, a richer worship experience, stimulating classes, a beautiful online presence AND a clean basement! We thank him for all he does for St. John's and look forward to another year in this partnership.

Other highlights:

Current Vestry positions are:

Sr. Warden – Becky Foster

Jr. Warden – Jack Dodd

Clerk – Neil Hargrave

Members at large:

Jim Fry

Ina Dockham

Wes Wagester

Treasurer: Connie Ogg

Delegates for Diocesan Convention – Oct. 28th & 29th, 2022

Neil Hargrave

Becky Foster

Corinne Fry

Russ Underwood

Alternates for Diocesan Convention

Jack Dodd

Ida Lynn Dodd

Jim Fry

Mary Cameron

Next Steps for the Bell

Safety concerns have been addressed and bell is now "ringable".

Discuss about fitting the bell for automatic ringing during services and during the week resulted in the following:

- More information is needed before proceeding with the automatic ringing install. Are there local regulations? What are the costs? Vestry will investigate and update congregation on progress.
- Connie Ogg volunteered to purchase some small sanctus bells to be used on a trial basis. This is in line with the original suggestion years ago.

Continued page 3

Continued from page 2

Financial Status for 2021

St. John's was in the black by \$16,122

Although the Diocese is currently paying for Tom's salary, the Vestry is planning for the time when we will need to cover that cost on our own. If St. John's was paying for clergy salary, we would be \$4,000 in the red. The Curacy Program continues through mid-2023. We need to use the time to find the funds to cover those costs.

Proposed Budget for 2022

- Similar to the budget for 2021 with some small adjustments
- A Salary Allocation Account was included to mimic the expense of half-time clergy salary. The budgeted amount was \$15,000 which is still lower than the \$20,000 needed but it represents a small improvement over 2021.
- A 4% raise for Roxanne Todd was included. Roxanne has been such a blessing for our church. Not only does she manage our books and clerical needs, she has "found" money for us several times and shares info about marketing and communications from her Oxford congregation. She will help us with Marketing in 2022.
- Shifting support for community outreach
- Outreach Teen Relief has a healthy balance in Restricted Accounts. Monthly budget allocation is not needed at this time. This will be reviewed should a need arise.
- Linked Hearts -has a healthy cash reserve at the moment. We will shift our support to provide food and other donations that they highlight on their FB page. This will also be reviewed should circumstances change.
- Projected bottom line – in the black by \$563. This is a tight budget but do-able if we all follow through with our pledge donations. Thanks to all who support St. John's and the work this budget represents.

Investing in Our Future

St. John's Vestry has reviewed options for creating additional funding sources and decided that it would be advisable to invest some of our cash reserve with Vanguard Investments.

Our checking account is over \$90,000 with no interest available. Other savings options offer low interest rates and require funds be unavailable for long periods of time

Vanguard is rated as one of the most reputable investment companies with online tools to allow ease of fund allocation and withdrawal.

Vestry has taken these steps:

1. Created an Investment Policy defining key responsibilities and safeguards
2. Checking account funds must cover three months of expenses plus any Restricted Fund balances.
3. An account has been opened with Vanguard and \$65,000 transferred for investment.

The goal of this investment is to increase our balance to the point that dividends and interest might support salary requirements for clergy (initially), and other needs as approved by the Vestry. Funds will not be withdrawn in reaction to market volatility – history has shown that it is better to ride it out and take a long term perspective.

With the Annual Meeting in the rear-view mirror, we turn our attention to planning 2022. I pray that we can get beyond the Covid-two-step but I believe we've proven that we are strong enough and innovative enough that we will not only endure but we will ensure a blessed year for all.

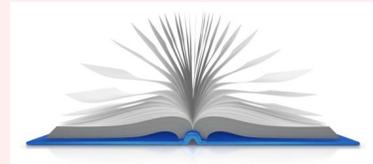
Blessings,

Becky

Continued from Page 1

Almighty Father, we pray that Bishop Singh may be to us an effective example in word and action, in love and patience, and in holiness of life. Grant that we, with him, may serve you now, and always rejoice in your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

With every blessing... **Tom+**



Taste and See Classes

Dates: **Monday, February 21**

Monday, March 7 & 21

Monday, April 4 & 18

Monday, May 2 & 16

All classes begin at 5:30 pm Location: St. John's Parish Hall Course materials will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

St. John's Dryden – 2021 Year in Review

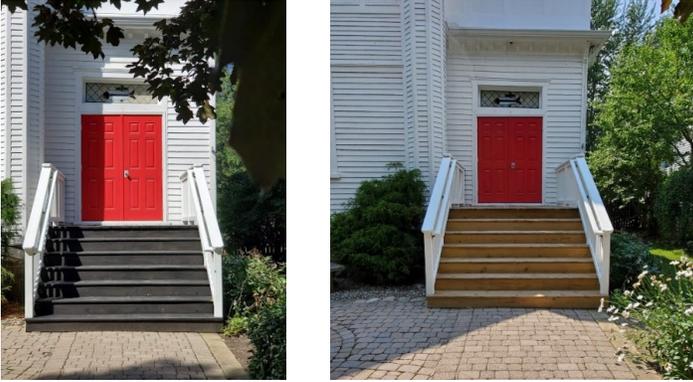
Obviously this was another Busy Year for our Junior Warden

June, 2021

Invitation to Attend the Blessing of our New Roof!

Date: June 6th

The Mystery of the Door



July Through September

Continuing Saga of Our Church Bell – well used and in need of attention



Just to give you an idea of the size. Here's the clapper – flattened by decades of use



October and December, 2021

The old shed had issues. We started gathering donations in October and by December we had a new shed with a cement pad! Lots of storage and a much drier spot for entry and exit.

Remembering Those who have Gone Before Us



Tim Wright



Donna Lou Haynes



Harold Prouse



Pentecost! In Person and Full of Spirit!

Coming Together in Worship and Sharing Smiles

November & December, 2021



A new stable and a new cradle for Baby Jesus. Not only does it look much better. The stable folds up flat for easy storage in our new shed.

ever so

**Sunshine Service Eucharist and Potluck –
Maybe the start of a tradition?**



Other Moments to Remember....



Sherry Petrie made a quilted wall hanging. Beautiful!

We rediscovered St. John's History with a walk down the timeline.



Just Having FUN!



The Don Smith Memorial Harvest Dinner – we even sang “O Canada”.

Gift Basket Raffles – Sherry Petrie and Ina were among the winners. Were Dave & Ina in cahoots?



Let your light shine before men, that. they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.



Christmas Bazaar!

Lots of good stuff on the tables and a good turnout. Thanks to all who worked on this project!



Diocesan Workshops for February & March

A series of free workshops on various topics are being offered as Zoom sessions during February and March. Session hosts include topic experts from both Eastern and Western Diocese, the Diocese of Ohio. The Feb. 28th session on Spirituality is led by our new provisional bishop, Bishop Singh. Interested? You can sign up on the Diocesan website under News & Events – Leadership Workshops.

Parish Archives - Monday, February 21st from 7-8:30pm

Hosted by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, Archivist for the Diocese of Ohio

History is a prologue to the Future! Join the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Archivist for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, for a “how to” workshop exploring the value and necessity of setting up and maintaining a parish archive. We’ll explore questions like: What should be kept? What gets thrown away? Paper versus Electronic imaging? What to do with parish record books and photographs? There will be time for Q&A.

Parish Finance 101 - Saturday, February 26th from 10am-Noon

Hosted by Sara Philo, Financial Manager for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and Tammy Mazure, CFO & Benefits Administrator for Western Michigan

Join our diocesan financial officers for an overview of parish financial leadership, including basics of accounting, reporting, audits, available loans and grants, and available resources. This workshop may be especially beneficial for those newly elected as parish treasurers, parish administrators, and all those involved in the oversight of parish finances and administration.

A Spiritual Practice of Generating and Sustaining Joy - Monday, February 28th from 7-8:30pm

Hosted by the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh, Bishop Provisional of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan

Joy in Christ is at the core of our faithfulness and confidence as followers of Jesus. Joy transcends challenging circumstances, and when we practice it, we develop muscle memory to help us generate joy! When two or three gather and generate joy we create a culture that sustains it and leads to blessing the world around us. So, while we can generate joy as individuals we can only sustain joy as a communal practice or a team sport.

Stewardship Planning - Thursday, March 3rd from 7-8:30pm

Hosted by the Rev. Canon Alan James, Canon Missioner for Western Michigan’s Southern Region

Stewardship and pledge drives usually take place in October. We want to carve out time to think creatively about engaging our parish in stewardship, but too often this important goal is pushed aside by more urgent needs. In the Spring or summer, any thought of stewardship becomes the thing we will get to “next week.” All of the sudden it is September, and we are deep in the details of launching a new program year. Join the Rev. Canon Alan James as he discusses the fundamentals of spiritually grounded stewardship and a few easy steps to take this summer to build a comprehensive program for your fall stewardship season.

Building Blocks of Church Communications - Monday, March 7th from 4-5:30pm

Hosted by Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism & Networking for the Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

Join our diocesan communicator for a workshop on the basics of parish communications, including an overview of websites, social media, newsletters, and more. How do we define our audiences? How do we articulate our messages? What tools are necessary (and not necessary) to meet our communications goals? This workshop open to all and may be especially helpful to those exercising staff and volunteer communications functions, both lay and ordained.

Graham Cracker Apple Crisp for Two

From *Connie Ogg*

This recipe originated in *Reminisce Extra* put out by *Taste of Home Magazine* in October 2000. You may recall that publication focuses on nostalgic "reminiscences" of earlier times when life seemed more...

This simple recipe seems like the perfect way to celebrate a Hallmark inspired holiday. Enjoy and Happy Valentine's Day.

2 medium apples peeled and sliced

3T water or cider if you're lucky enough to have that on hand

3T graham cracker crumbs

3T sugar - brown is best but not required

1/4t cinnamon or your favorite apple pie spice

2T melted butter

Place apples in a greased 1qt baking dish; pour water over. Combine crumbs, sugar and cinnamon with melted butter - fork works best. Sprinkle over apples. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes or until apples are tender. This is also fun to bake in 2 individual oven safe bowls. Top with your favorite ice cream or cool whip or heavy cream and more cinnamon if you like. A few toasted walnuts are also a fine topper.



Ministry & Counting Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Eucharistic Minister</u> | <u>Worship Leader</u> | <u>Videographer</u> | <u>Counting Member 1</u> | <u>Counting Member 2</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Feb 6, 2022 | Margaret | Tammy | Rev Manney | Becky Foster | Ina | Neil |
| Feb 13, 2022 | Tammy | | Neil | Sherry Wagner | Becky | Wes |
| Feb 20, 2022 | Darlene | Corinne | Rev Manney | Ina Dockham | Neil | Jack |
| Feb 27, 2022 | Kathy | | Becky | Wes Wagester | Wes | Ina |
| Mar 6, 2022 | Wes | Mary | Rev Manney | Ida Lynn Dodd | Jack | Becky |
| Mar 13 2022 | Jim | | Kitty | Becky Foster | Ina | Neil |
| Mar 20,2022 | Neil | Neil | Rev Manney | Mary Cameron | Becky | Wes |
| Mar 27, 2022 | Tammy | | Neil | Becky Foster | Neil | Jack |

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 AT 7 PM

Service of Evensong and Welcoming of Bishop Prince Singh

The Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan invite all in our dioceses to participate in a special service of Evensong and Welcome for our new bishop provisional, the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh. The service takes place on February 2, 2022 at 7pm on our diocesan Facebook pages.



Bishop Singh was elected as our bi-diocesan bishop provisional at our joint convention in late October and begins officially in this role on February 1st. Together, we will mark this new beginning with a special service of welcoming. Bishop Singh will preach.

Due to the ongoing pandemic and current surge, in-person participants are limited to those necessary to the liturgy and all others are asked to participate via livestream. We are hopeful that pandemic precautions will allow us to safely invite the dioceses to regional in-person gatherings with the Bishop in the spring, beyond

those visits in his regular visitation schedule.---

LIVESTREAM DETAILS

The service takes place on February 2, 2022 at 7pm on our Diocesan Facebook pages. A bulletin will be available and posted prior to worship.

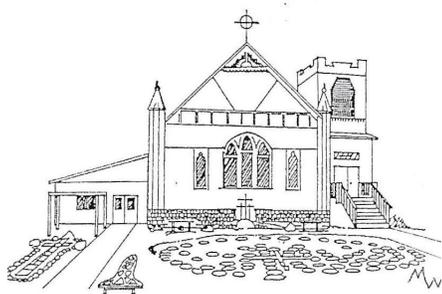


First Year of Covid

Last Year of Covid?

Happy Groundhog Day!





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