



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE



October 2023

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Dear Friends,

The big news this month is that we have a candidate interested in a part time clergy position at St. John's! His name is Fr. Harold Schneider (he says we can just call him Harold). He was ordained about 3 years ago and has been serving in various capacities at St. John's Otter Lake and at St. John's Sandusky. His time at Otter Lake has come to a close and he is very interested in our congregation. You may have seen him at our Saturday Concert on Sept. 23rd. The Vestry met with Harold earlier this month. We found him to be personable, forthright, and fun. We think this has potential but we need your input as well. Harold will be leading our Eucharist on October 8th. We'll spend some time during Coffee Hour letting you get to know him – maybe a Q&A period would be a good idea. You'll find an article about him from the Diocesan newsletter reprinted later in this edition. Not only does he walk the walk, but he knows his hardware – a man of many talents. Please come on the 8th

– we need your thoughts.

Meanwhile, we had a wonderful concert on September 23rd. Folks are coming to expect a good time at St. John's – I hope we continue to deliver. Many thanks to all the folks who volunteered for various tasks related to this event. And the food was amazing – I was a little worried Friday afternoon when there wasn't much on the table. Silly me – we had a true groaning board by Saturday night.



Check announcements for updates on events and people. And one very special newcomer that Wes found outside the front door.

The weather seems to say that Fall is here. Let's enjoy this lovely season together.

Blessings

Becky



Meet Fr. Harold Schneider

Oct. 8th Eucharist and Coffee Hour

Fr. Harold will join us on Sunday, October 8th for Eucharist and Coffee Hour. This is a great opportunity to get to know him a little and help the Vestry understand your impressions and questions. And let's have a Super Coffee Hour too!

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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 November is October 27th



Happy Birthday!

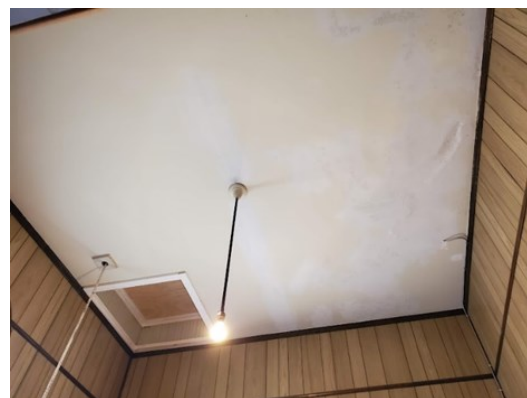
Ina Dockham
Yvonne Mallinich
Sherry Petrie
Russ Underwood
Susan McNary

Happy Anniversary!

Jack & Ida Lynn Dodd

Our Own Michaelangelo

It's a long way up there but Jack has been replastering the ceiling in the Narthex. It was damaged some time ago from a leak in



the bell tower roof. The roof is all fixed and the ceiling is coming along nicely. AND Ida Lynn and Yvonne picked out a new light fixture. This will be worth more than an upward glance. Great work, everyone.

Caught in the Act



Ida Lynn cleaning our front sign and the sign holder before adding a fresh coat of paint – Episcopal Red of course. The church and gardens are looking great. Thanks, Ida Lynn and Jack. Would you please let us know what brand of vitamins you take?

Remember St. John's in your will:

Please consider helping the mission and ministry of St. John's by remembering the church in your will. You can do so by using the following wording:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to St. John's Episcopal Church, a non-profit church, with the current address of 4074 S. Mill St., Dryden, MI 48428, and its successor, the greater of \$ _____, or _____ percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its vestry."

An Introduction to Fr. Harold Schneider

“Gospel, Aisle Five”

This article was originally printed in the Diocesan Newsletter “The Feast”. An interesting read about an interesting

“I heard the words as I was driving along the freeway, ‘Witness. You must be a witness,’ reflects the Rev. Harold Schneider, priest serving on the ministry team at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Otter Lake.

As he began the ordination process in 2015, Harold said his family and friends were noticing a difference in him – that they had a sense that he was closer now to God than ever before. People began to come seeking his prayer and words of insight at Ace Hardware, where he has worked as a store associate since 2006.

“I have what you would call a ‘hardware ministry,’” he explains, “I would always talk to anybody about God, and I still do.”

The Ace Hardware in downtown Davison, where Harold exercises his unofficial chaplaincy, looks like just about any other Ace Hardware in the state. Nestled amongst other storefronts on the main drag of town, the store is spacious and filled with aisles containing everything one needs for home improvement. And over the last sixteen years, it has become a place of prayer and comfort for the busy customers and friendly employees.

Harold tells the story of one man who approached him for prayer -- a recovering alcoholic looking to turn his life around. The man accepted Harold’s invitation to come hear him preach at St. John’s. The man later went on to get baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Harold journeyed with him as he explored his relationship with God. Proud of him, Harold reflects, “He eventually built a bell tower cross; it’s really a work of art, such a sight to behold.”

This cross, entirely made of metal, was built as a representation of his spirituality. The man ended up giving it to the church as a gift where it now remains.

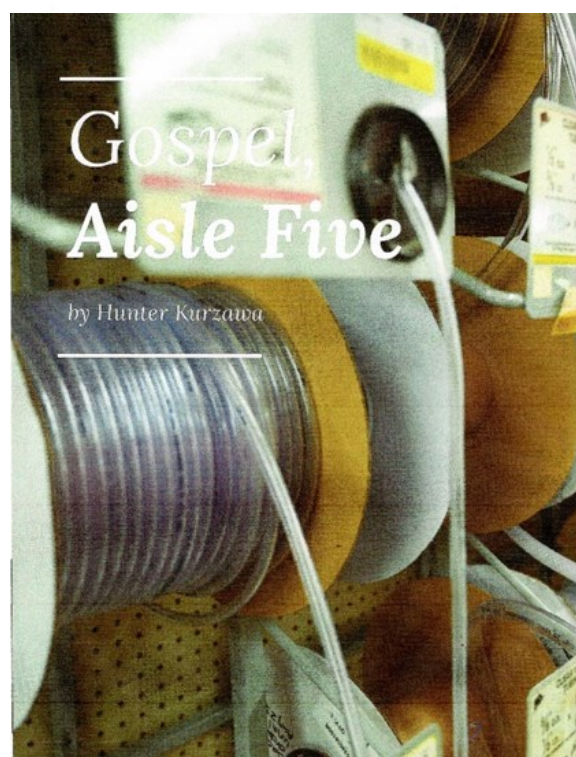
“He grew up his whole life struggling with dyslexia, yet he is an amazing artist. He probably saved the church \$3-4,000 in purchasing a cross with his generous gift,” Harold explains.

Another person that stands out to him was a “cranky old man looking for a three-way light switch.” As he tried to help this man find what he was looking for, Harold kept pulling out the wrong product from the shelf of disorganized boxes. Eventually he found the correct switch but not before the man grew quite frustrated with the process. When Harold asked the customer why he seemed so troubled, the man reported that he had just left the hospital after visiting a family member. “I’m just a little bit depressed,” the customer said.

“I put my hand on his shoulder and I asked if he wanted me to pray for him and his family.” The old man was shocked that this stranger would do something so kind and prayed with him.

When asked how he comes across these people in need of prayer, Harold says, “People that know me come in and pull me to the side for prayer. Other people, God leads to me. I’ve learned that God will provide you with people and you will recognize them. There’s no putting a handle on the need, the need is always there.”

The aisles of this Ace Hardware have also been full of miracles. Joe Robideau, one of



Harold's co-workers, has a young grandson named Drake who had been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer and was not expected to survive. Harold began to pray regularly over his coworker and his grandson, also adding his name to the prayer list at St. John's, Otter Lake. The boy just turned four and is now completely cancer-free.

"When the news was announced to the church, everyone stood up and cheered. I said, 'that's the power of prayer.'"

Harold has begun broadcasting services live from the hardware store on occasional Sundays, sometimes preaching live from the store. One Sunday, he asked if a customer was comfortable with the Zoom service playing aloud and the customer replied, "it doesn't do any harm to have a little session with God every now and then." Recognizing the impact of these broadcasts, Harold reports that customers are often appreciative to have prayer in such an unexpected place.

Harold has no plans for concluding his ministry and presence anytime soon, saying, "I feel that I will continue what I'm doing until I can't do it anymore." +



Our New Treasurer Is....

Andrea Carstens! Even though she is very busy with work and big project at home, Andrea volunteered to be Treasurer and are we grateful! She has experience in financial management so our reports and processes won't be too difficult for her. We bless her for her generosity.



Don Smith Memorial Canadian Thanksgiving On Monday, October 9th at 6PM



Join us for a pot-luck to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving. Don and Margaret Smith started this tradition and it's so much fun, we look forward to it every year. Always good food and good company. And we get to sign "Oh, Canada" too! Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

Halloween Coming Fast!

On the last Tuesday in October, youngsters in the area let their imaginations explore many SCARY possibilities for costumes. Please join us as we distribute candy in front of St. John's. Dress warm, bring an umbrella (maybe a snow-suit?). It's always fun to see the little ghouls and goblins stopping by. And some of the parents get into the act too! The fun begins around sunset (6:30). See you there.



How to Avoid Mixing Your Metaphors

by Brian Bilston

It's not rocket surgery.
First, get all your ducks on the same page.
After all, you can't make an omelet without breaking stride.

Be sure to watch what you write with a fine-tuned comb.
Check and re-check until the cows turn blue. 4

It's as easy as falling cake.

Don't worry about a whole hill of beans you can always burn you come to it, if you follow where I'm coming from.

Concentrate! Keep your door closed and your enemies closer.
Finally, don't take the moral high horse:
if the metaphor fits, walk a mile in it.





Financial Updates for Financials through August 2023

August is the most recent month to be reviewed by the Vestry. The basic figures (full numbers only, rounded up) are below:

August 2023	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$4,933	\$16,042	\$11,109	\$39,467	\$58,668	\$19,201
Expenses	\$5,008	\$5,008	\$2,232	\$39,720	\$34,805	\$4,914
Net Profit	-\$74	\$13,267	\$13,342	-\$253	\$23,862	\$24,115

Pledge donations for August were \$16,402 – quite a bit above budgeted amounts for the month. This includes a generous donation of \$10,000 which is currently in General Funds. The Vestry decided to put these funds in a CD that will mature in spring of 2024. We expect to use the funds to help finance painting the exterior of the church. YTD continues to look strong.

Looking at YTD Expenses, most accounts are under budget with a few exceptions.

- Advertising & Web Expense (60000) is above budget due to expenditures for our upcoming concert. This will smooth out some by year’s end but will probably still be over budget. We will try to do a better job at setting the budget for 2024.
- Education – Adult (62500) is over budget because it reflects the expense for the College for Congregational Development expense of \$900. We did not learn about this class until after the budget was already approved for 2023. We will include it in 2024 budget calculations
- Supply Priest costs are slightly above expectations but should continue to smooth out over the rest of the year.

The YTD Net Profit number continue to be great.

Vanguard Investment Account – as of August 31, 2023

Vanguard Total Stock ETF – Current value \$64,859. Down slightly from last month
 CD - \$21,000. This will remain stable until next year when interest is added to the amount.
 Total value of account is \$85,674.



New CDs at Oxford Bank

As decided in last month’s Vestry meeting, we have invested \$10,000 in a 12 month CD at Oxford Bank at a rate of 5.65%. This is in addition to the partial year CD mentioned earlier. We now have a total of 3 CD’s – 2 at Oxford Bank and one at Vanguard.

A Fun Evening at St. John's Fall Concert



The Fall Concert of our bi-annual concert series featured Bob Holt on the guitar. He had us singing along and several of us were tempted to get up and dance in the aisles. 65 people attended and donations were over \$600. After the performance, we all had a chance to satisfy any sugar cravings while chatting with each other. I met several folks who said they had been to prior concerts and just knew they would have a good time at future performances. We don't have an artist for the spring – suggestions are welcomed. If you missed this night, be sure to watch for announcements for the spring concert. It's bound to be lots of fun!

This ad That... From Here and There



Pray Without Ceasing

With the best of ushering instincts, Wes Wagester opened the front door to find this little fellow already at prayer. It must have measured 6 inches in length! We told him/her that most folks come in through the kitchen – so keep an eye open!

And then there was light

Someone figured out that this light post just needed a new bulb! Duh! Now if we could just find the light switch...



Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Video</u>	<u>Counting Member 1</u>	<u>Counting Member 2</u>
October 1	Margaret	Mary	Jack	Rev. Mary jo Schueta	Sherry	Ina	Wes
October 8				Neil	Wes	Connie	Ina
October 15	Ina	Jack	Neil	Rev Schuetz	Becky	Wes	Russ
October 22				Kitty	Ina	Russ	Becky
October 29				Beckett	Ida Lynn	Neil	Jack

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