



December, 2022



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE + UNITED IN FAITH + LED BY LOVE

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St. John's Episcopal Church
4074 S. Mill St.
PO Box 86
Dryden, MI 48428
(810)795.2371

Priest
Tom Manney

Senior Warden
Becky Foster

Junior Warden
Jack Dodd

A Note from Tom

I will never, ever forget Christmas morning, 2014. It was the first Christmas after my divorce, and, for the first time in my life, I woke up alone on Christmas morning. I felt a sadness that day that was among the worst in my life. No presents, no fellowship, no joy. Just a strong feeling of loneliness.

What brought me out of it (and I have told this story many times) was a small Christmas Day service organized by the Rev. Lydia Speller, the priest at Grace Episcopal, Port Huron. We had never had Christmas Day services before. But we had one that morning in 2014, and I will forever be indebted to Lydia for conducting the service.

Although I about crawled into church that

morning, I walked out feeling much inspired. Being reminded of the hope that comes with the birth of the Savior was enough to renew my spirits. Not only that, but a church service gave me something to do—and having something to do is a great way to combat loneliness.

Perhaps this Christmas we can all make an effort to reach out to those who are alone. A phone call or a visit go a long way in lifting the spirits of those who are by themselves during the holidays. What a generous present that would be.

With every blessing...

Tom+



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Dec 21, 7:00 pm Longest Night Worship
Saturday, Dec 24, 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday, Dec 25, 10:00 am Christmas Day worship

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



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 January is December 30th.



Happy Birthday!
Sherry Wagner
Kathleen Buszek

Happy Anniversary
Russ & Kitty
Underwood

Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

This may be the last newsletter in 2022 but the year is not done yet – and neither are we at St. John's. You will see that there's plenty going on in December. We have our annual Christmas Bazaar, a Taste & See class, a special Sunday with Rev. Barb Cavin and our traditional gatherings for Advent and the Christmas season. Be sure to have your calendar handy to note what and when you'll want to join us.

It may seem a long way off, but the Vestry has already started planning for the **Annual Meeting. We will hold the meeting on Sunday, January 15th** after Eucharist. The agenda is not finalized but there is a part that you might be able to play. Each year, two Vestry positions open up. And each year, you have an opportunity to offer your time and talent

to St. John's as a Vestry member. Here is your chance to join a friendly group of people who want to see St. John's prosper. None of us have all the answers – you don't need to worry if all you have are questions. That's how new ideas get started. Tim Wright used to say that all of us at St. John's are on Vestry regardless – and he was right in that all of us pitch in when we see a need (for which I am so grateful). But we DO need "official" Vestry members too. If you have any questions or are interested, please see me. And thank you for your consideration.

Have an insightful Advent and a lovely Christmas.

Becky Foster



Financial Updates

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

October 2022	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget
Income	\$5,270	\$4,241	-\$1,009	\$52,700	\$53,234	+ \$555
Expenses	\$5,179	\$6,384	\$1,205	\$51,792	\$40,527	- \$2,266
Net Profit	\$91	-\$2,101	-\$2,192	\$908	\$3,707	+ \$2,799

Once more, the monthly pledge income fell below budget expectations. And our monthly expenses were above budgeted amounts – much of this was due to our insurance bill (over \$800 which was expected) and some unexpected computer issues that required an office visit by an official GEEK. Our YTD figures continue to be in the black but it looks like it will be a close race to stay there by year's end.

Post-Thanksgiving Coffee Hour – Happy Faces

The Sunday after Thanksgiving had a lovely coffee hour and warmth to spare. Here are some of the folks who make our time together so special. If we haven't seen you in a while, all of us would love to see you here.



OTR Coat Drive – Maybe We Need a Bigger Box



Thank
you ❤️

Thanks to all those who contributed to our annual coat drive for Outreach Teen Relief. Many of us did some shopping before Thanksgiving. Russ Underwood, taking his life in his hands, made a trip to Meijer's on Black Friday and found a Santa's Helper who gathered up the really good bargains to add to our collection. Now we take them to Dryden

Ministry 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>
Dec 4		Mary	Rev. Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Wes	Russ
Dec 11	Neil	Tammy	Rev Cavin	Becky Foster	Russ	Becky
Dec 18	Kathy	Neil	Rev Manney	Sherry Wagner	Jack	Neil
Dec 24	Wes	Neil	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Ina	Wes
Dec 25	Neil		Neil	Wes Wagester	Becky	Jack
Jan 1	Neil	Jack	Rev Manney	Ina Dockham	Neil	Ina
Jan 8			Kitty	Ida Lynn Dodd	Wes	Russ
Jan 15	Jack	Mary	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Russ	Becky
Jan 22			Becky	Sherry Wagner	Jack	Neil
Jan 29			Neil	Wes Wagester	Ina	Wes

Joint Diocesan Convention 2022

Once in a while, there is a chance to understand that we are part of a much larger community. Annual Convention is one of those opportunities. We heard from other churches, large and small. We learned our shared challenges and shared hopes. Rev. Nurya Love Parrish was recognized for her work to create and grow the Plainsong Farm ministry. We witnessed the ordination of several new priests and deacons. You should have seen the procession of all the church banners that opened up Saturday's Eucharist! Our own Neil Hargrave was elected to the Eastern Diocese Standing Committee. Rev. Tom was also elected as a deputy to the next General Convention which will be held in 2024 in Louisville, KY.



Sharing ideas with others.



Bishop Singh with the newly ordained clergy.



What a cutie!



Procession of church banners.



Good thing Neil is so tall....



Clergy prior to processing for Saturday's Eucharist and Ordination.

Halloween Fun

These pix were taken after the last newsletter was published and I wanted to be sure to share them with you. We had fun hanging out together and the costumes were so cool. It's something to look forward to every year.



Sorta look like dinosaurs wearing Star Wars Imperial Army!



This is like those machines you used to see in restaurants where you tried to retrieve stuffed toys with a big, temperamental claw. The lights around the display really worked! Maybe Dad helped a little bit? Mom too? It's either a Martian or the Grinch making an early appearance.



Look out! There are some VERY SCARY Ladies handing out candy in front of the church! Beware! You might walk away with way more candy than you expected! Love the costumes. Sherry Wagner's costume (and mustache) was so fun. And so was Sherry Petrie's pointy hat. The late evening drizzle wilted the pointy part of the hat, but it was still outstanding.

Wishing Rev. Barb Cavin a Happy Retirement.

Rev. Barb Cavin is retiring at the end of this year and we plan to give her a memorable send-off. Mark your calendars –

Sunday, December 11 after Eucharist with Rev. Barb

Coffee Hour Extravaganza! Bring your favorite breakfast/brunch treats. Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

Surprise Gift Presentation! What could it be????

Please come to thank Rev. Barb for all she has done for St. John's these many years. And wish you bon voyage! She and her brother are going on a global cruise in 2023!



Christmas Bazaar

St John's Episcopal Church

Saturday, Dec 10th

9:30 am to 4 pm

For more information, visit:
www.stjohnschurchedryden.org



Taste and See Classes

Fr. Tom is holding an Advent Taste & See Class this month.

Date: **Friday, December 16, 2022**

Time: **5:30**

Location: **St. John's Parish Hall**

Course materials will be provided.

Bringing a simple dish to pass is welcomed but not required. Hope to see you there!

Dreamy Turkey Pasta Casserole

From Connie Ogg

Thanks, Connie!

Yields 6 servings

Ingredients

4 tbsp olive oil, divided, plus more for dish
8 oz Messe rigatoni
1 large onion
1 lb. cremini mushrooms, quartered
2 large cloves garlic, finely chopped
2 tbsp fresh thyme
4 c spinach
1/2 c fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
3 tbsp all-purpose flour
3 c whole milk
8 oz Gruyere cheese, coarsely grated
1/4 tsp cayenne
Kosher salt & pepper
3 c shredded leftover cooked turkey or chicken

Directions

1. Heat oven to 400°F. Oil 3-quart or 9 x 13" casserole dish. Cook pasta per package directions
2. Meanwhile, heat 2 tablespoons oil in large skillet on medium. Add onion and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Add mushroom and cook, tossing occasionally, until tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in garlic and thyme and cook 1 minute. Transfer to large bowl and toss with spinach and parsley.
3. Wipe out skillet and heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil on medium. Sprinkle flour over top and cook, stirring 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk. Simmer, whisking often, until thickened, 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat and add Gruyere, cayenne, 3/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper; stir until cheese melts and sauce is just smooth.
4. Fold turkey and pasta into cheese mixture and toss to coat. Fold in spinach mixture.
5. Transfer to prepared dish. Bake until heated through, 10 to 12 minutes.



Merry
Christmas

An Advent Practice that takes it One Word at a Time

Forward Movement has announced the 2022 reflection words for AdventWord, a global online advent calendar and community of disciples. For nearly a decade AdventWord has inspired followers of Jesus who wish to add an accessible prayer practice to their daily routine during this holy season.

Daily meditations and images—inspired by a prompt word selected from the daily lectionary readings—were released at adventword.org, on Sunday, November 27.

Participants can sign up to receive this daily message, in English and Spanish, by email or by following AdventWord on social media.

Many followers join the creativity each year by sharing their own personal reflections across social media using #AdventWord. Participants respond with photos, written responses, crafts, drawings, poems, found art, and other creative expressions inspired by the day's selected word.

“This year we enlisted volunteer community members to help with the selection of prompt words from the daily lectionary readings,” said Richelle Thompson, managing editor at Forward Movement. “The online gathering of dozens of AdventWord community members was an inspiring way to kick off the planning for 2022 and a strong reminder that AdventWord is community-driven.”

This year’s list of words for daily reflection..... Where might this lead you?

AdventWord

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 25
2022

27	WALK	12	WILDERNESS
28	TOGETHER	13	STRANGER
29	TEACH	14	BELOVED
30	MOUNTAINS	15	THIRSTY
1	MAKE	16	TRAVELER
2	READY	17	MAJESTY
3	UNITY	18	PURIFY
4	DELIGHT	19	SIGN
5	RAIN	20	HEAR
6	WELCOME	21	OBEDIENCE
7	WINNOWING	22	CHOOSE
8	BREATHE	23	RESTORE
9	FIRE	24	BIRTH
10	FLOURISH	25	EMMANUEL
11	MESSENGER		

adventword.org

Forward Movement



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