



Nov



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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Pastor's Corner

Dear people of St. John's Dryden,

Yes, I do believe this appointment was a miracle. It was a long time coming. I always say, sometimes God gets our attention in strange ways.

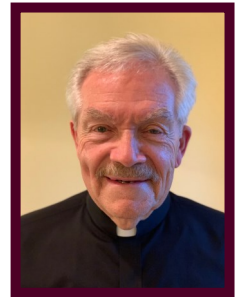
I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Becky Foster, the vestry, and the congregation of St. John's for the time, energy, and love you have put into the ministry at St. John's.

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who look out for me. You have given me family, church family, and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions.

Thanks again.

In God's love,

Rev. Harold †



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You Won't Want to Miss the Service on Nov. 5th!

Some of us may remember Tom & Marie Smith's granddaughter, Natalie's, baptism. That was 10 years ago! On Sunday, November 5th, Natalie, Tom and Marie will join us to celebrate the anniversary in a very special way. Natalie has become quite a dancer and will perform an interpretive dance during the Offertory. This is going to be VERY special. Please join us on November 5th and bring something to share during coffee hour. This is going to be memorable!

Website: www.stjohnschurchdryden.org
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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 December is November 24.



Happy Anniversary!

Sherry & Myron Petrie

A Note from Becky

I have great news to share! Fr. Harold Schneider has accepted the call to come to St. John's as Priest-in-Charge. Many of you attended the recent service where Harold presided. Your feedback was positive and the Vestry and Harold agreed on a financial offer that was good for all involved. It will be a part time position – much like we had with Fr. Tom – only we'll have Eucharist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays starting November 12th. We're still working out office hours but will keep you posted. The best part is Harold is just as excited as we are! I know you will join me in giving Fr. Harold a very warm welcome. I'm sure the Holy Spirit is in action here.

Do I hear some of you asking about Rev. Mary Jo? She has been a wonderful presence in our services this spring and summer. We certainly want to do something to express our love and gratitude for her time with us. She will preside at our All Saint's service on November 5th (and we'll

have a special Offertory that day too). Let's make that coffee hour extra special. And we'll have a little something for her



too. And we hope to have her as a "special guest" on some of those months that have 5 Sundays in 2024. BTW – I hear Rev. Barb Cavin is also thinking of visiting us in 2024. How great is that?

This month is also our time to consider our annual pledges for St. John's. With all these good things happening, I hope you feel inspired to keep supporting our little faith family. We truly appreciate your generosity.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. When I think of my blessings, you are at the top of my list.

Blessings,

Becky

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."

THE FOUR COMMITMENTS

First of all, this is not about a Motown group. This is from a talk that Bishop Loya from Minnesota gave at our Diocesan Convention. In his early days as Bishop, he engaged members of his congregations in a conversation about what is needed to be a church that looks and acts like Jesus. When so many people look at Christian organizations with dismay or contempt, this is particularly intriguing. What do you think? How is St. John's doing with these?

Transformative Encounters with Jesus



We worship to encounter the living God and to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship.

- We teach spiritual practices and invite all into creating and keeping an intentional Rule of Life.
- We preach to help people ground their own lives in God's story and live faithfully.
- We share the stories of our faith journeys, seeking courage to rely on God's promises.

Building a Community with the Poor & Marginalized

- We serve Jesus in the form of our neighbors, especially our neighbors who are poor, suffering, or marginalized.
- We seek God's healing in relationships across differences – especially differences of race, class and religion.

Justice



- We share what we have – money, space, skills, time – to serve the world and mend broken relationships with God, neighbor, and Creation.
- We strive, through our words and our actions, to be known as a force for love and justice in our community.

A Culture of Experimentation

- We continually discern the unique identity and gifts of our congregation.
- We listen attentively to neighbors and news, trusting that the Holy Spirit is acting around us.
- We continually look for new opportunities and fresh ways to proclaim the Good News in our neighborhoods.
- We try new things and intentionally learn from success and failure, watching for God to make all things new.

Sharing Lift Together Deeply

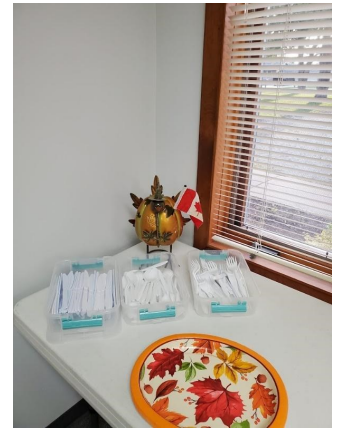
- We gather in small groups to support each others' discipleship.
- Our relationships at church become some of the most important relationships in our lives.
- We ground our leadership and ministry gatherings in prayer and Scripture.
- We trust that times of conflict and change are an opportunity to hear the holy Spirit's guidance in new ways.



Canadian Thanksgiving 2023 – Don would have enjoyed it too



Don Smith is the founder of our Canadian themed feast. He and his sister, Margaret, were born in Canada. Don wanted to share the holiday with his St. John's family. We remember him and our Canadian friends every year. Thanks, Don.



Here's our mascot with the Canadian flag to get folks started down the buffet line. And it was a groaning board for sure!



Dianne Bishop brought a Canadian flag for our festivities. We even sang "O, Canada"! (but not in French).



Giving Thanks and Planning Ahead – Making our Annual Pledges

This past year may have had some bumpy moments but, on the whole, we have been so blessed. Fr. Tom's time with us came to an end, true. But his time with us was positive and we are still seeing benefits of his leadership. Worries about who might lead our worship were quickly dispelled. Not only do we continue to enjoy a team of outstanding lay leaders, but Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz has become a member of our St. John's family. We've always enjoyed having her with us. And now Fr. Harold Schneider is coming to St. John's as our Priest-in-Charge! Our building and grounds are looking fantastic. Our music concert series continues to grow. Our partnership with local schools is growing. And our coffee hours continue to be the stuff of legend.

With so many blessings, we can feel good about offering continued support for the special faith family that is St. John's. You will receive a letter requesting your pledge for 2024 soon – it may already be in your mailbox. Please fill it out and return it by November 19th either by mail or in our collection plate. All pledges will be placed on the altar the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 19th). Our congregation has been so faithful and generous. Pledge what you think is right for you and for us. And bless you for your generosity.



Diocesan Convention 2023 – and Deacon Beckett’s Big Reveal

Our delegates to Diocesan Convention (minus the photographer). From the left – Russ Underwood, Deacon Beckett LeClaire, Mary Cameron, Neil Hargrave and behind the camera, Becky Foster.

We had an amazing couple of days in Saginaw this weekend for our Fourth Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan!

Throughout our convention, we participated in learning through our workshops and excellent keynote from the Rt. Rev. Craig Loya on the diverse ecology of church. We heard about opportunities and ministries happening throughout our dioceses through reports. And we conducted some business, too!

During Eastern Michigan's business session, they heard a financial report from our diocesan treasurer and CFO, had a moment to recognize the ministry of Camp Chickagami and how they responded to a crisis within the camp family this year, and conducted



elections.

There will be a special Bi-Diocesan Convention in March of 2024 in Grand Blanc to vote on the proposed merger of the Eastern and Western Diocese. There will be multiple opportunities prior to the convention to review the details of the merger



and changes to diocesan practices. We will be sure to inform everyone when any sessions are scheduled close by.

The BIG Reveal!

Deacon Beckett finally took the wraps off his big project – the Ausable Inclusion Center in Mio. Beckett has been laying the groundwork to transform the building that formerly was St. Bartholomew’s Church, closed in 2022, into a place where people marginalized by their sexual orientation, gender or socio-economic status can find safety and support for their needs. The Center will focus on four pillars – Social/Emotional Support, Material Support, Spiritual Support and Education and Advocacy.



Though the building itself is in good shape, there’s much to do. And it’s not practical to manage it from afar. SOOOO.... the LeClaire family will be moving north in 2024. St. John’s will miss them but we’re also excited for them and for the people in northern Michigan.

Beckett LeClaire’s two exhibit booths – one for Holy Hikes and one for the Ausable Inclusion Center. Hand crocheted stoles were raffled off – love the quality work and the colors!

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.
It’s as easy as falling off a piece of cake.

- Don’t worry about opening up a whole hill of beans;
you can always burn that bridge when 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 September 2023

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

| September 2023 | Monthly Budget | Monthly Actual | Better or Worse than Budget | YTD Budget | YTD Actual | Better or Worse than Budget |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| Income | \$4,933 | \$5,275 | \$342 | \$44,400 | \$53,943 | \$9,543 |
| | | | | | | |
| Expenses | \$5,008 | \$4,596 | \$412 | \$44,727 | \$40,179 | \$4,549 |
| | | | | | | |
| Net Profit | -\$74 | \$679 | \$754 | -\$327 | \$13,764 | \$14,092 |
| | | | | | | |

Pledge donations for September were \$4,642 which was under expected amounts by \$291. The YTD donations look much better due to some generous donations made over the year. All in all, we're doing well here.

Expenses continue to run under budget but the heating season has started so it's good to have a cushion for higher bills.

The YTD Net Profit number continue to be great.

The Restricted Funds –

Since the Bell Project is completed, Vestry decided to take the remaining funds (roughly \$2,200) and add them to our Building Improvement restricted amount. This covers some of the smaller building projects. Our Jr. Warden anticipates we may need to paint the outside of the church next year – if there's anything left here, we may need it then.

Vanguard Investment Account – as of September, 2023

- Vanguard Total Stock ETF – Current value \$62,066. Down 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 \$83,066.

New CD at Oxford Bank

As decided in last month's Vestry meeting, we have invested \$10,000 in an 8 month CD at Oxford Bank at a rate of 5.27%. This is listed on the Balance Sheet as CD-Painting Project, along with our checking account funds.

Apple Dumplings

From Ina Dockham

2 Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored, cut in 8 pieces

2 cans crescent rolls

1c butter

1c sugar

1t vanilla

cinnamon

1 can mountain dew



Roll each apple slice in one crescent triangle.

Put bundles in buttered 9x13 pan

Melt butter; add sugar and vanilla

Pour over apple bundles

Pour soda pop around edges of the pan

Sprinkle with cinnamon



Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 40 minutes

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> |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nov 5 | Tammy | Neil | John | Rev. Mary jo Schuetz | Sherry | Jack | Connie |
| Nov 12 | TBD | TBD | TBD | Rev. Harold Schneider | Wes | Wes | Ina |
| Nov 17 | Kay | Tammy | Jack | TBD | Becky | Connie | Ina |
| Nov 26 | TBD | TBD | TBD | Rev. Harold Schneider | Ina | Wes | Russ |

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