

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



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## St. John's Episcopal Church

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Curate

Tom Manney

Senior Warden

Becky Foster

### A Note from Tom



I love small churches. Since I was a kid I have always had a fondness for small, cozy, intimate church settings. It's probably because I grew up in a very large church, and as we all know, we

tend want the things we don't have. So it came to be that I really loved small churches.

My first exposure to a small church was the church we attended when I was a child on vacation with my family. We used to spend our summer vacations in Windermere, Ontario, and on



Sundays we attended services at the local Anglican church, Christ Church. As you can see

from this picture, it is as small today as it was in the 1960's when we visited:

To this day I remember the musical way in which the priest would deliver communion saying, "... preserve thy body and *soul* unto everlasting life." I have never forgotten that little church.

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mat 28:19). Our commissioning, as members of Christ's holy, universal church is to spread the good news of Christ's death and resurrection.

And it is through small churches around the world where that work is done. And let's face it, we *love* our small church!

But small churches have unique challenges. We are limited in manpower (but never in enthusiasm) and frequently it seems like the same folks are saddled with too much responsibility. And thus we arrive at central theme of this month's newsletter article: **volunteerism**! We are always in need of folks who are willing to serve the church in any way possible. As the season of stewardship draws near, please prayerfully consider ways in which you would be willing to offer your service to the church. We are always in need of lay readers, eucharistic ministers, preachers, singers, ushers, the list goes on and on!

I consulted my mom for help in remembering our summer Sunday mornings at Christ Church, Windermere. She told me that the priest in the church was very much by himself at the altar during services. She remembered suggesting that my older brothers offer their services as acolytes. Since they were not too keen on even *going* to church while on vacation, they weren't too thrilled with my mom's suggestion.

Small churches touch lives, just as my summer vacation church touched mine and my mom's. As a team of Christian disciples, we have the power to change lives and make a real difference in our world. Please consider increasing your level of involvement. Our small churches give us so much! Let us give back. -Tom

Website: [www.stjohnschurchdryden.org](http://www.stjohnschurchdryden.org)

Email: [stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com](mailto: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,

October 30th



### Happy Birthday

Colleen Carr

Karen Cisco

Yvonne Malinich

Sherry Petrie

Russ Underwood

Tom Manney

### Happy Anniversary

Jack & Ida Lynn Dodd

Darlene Hernden

Dear Friends,

- OK – so September was a bit of a blur. I was out of town for a few weeks and still feel like I'm catching up. Watched our services on Facebook while I was away – thanks to Ida Lynn Dodd, Ina Dockham and Terri Manney for making that possible. During my trip, Ida Lynn and Jack Dodd painted the parking lot sign frame a lovely shade of Episcopal red. Love it! And some of the black wrought iron in the front yard got spruced up as well. Looking good! You'll see pics later in the newsletter. Other things to celebrate:
  - Even with the Covid restrictions, we are still gathering every Sunday. Tim Wright returned as Worship Leader – his first Morning Prayer since March! And now the choir plans to sing in joyful and SAFE manner once or twice a month.
  - Rev. Tom is creating a pictorial directory. I remember one from years ago and it cost quite a bit. Now, with cell phones and computers, it's relatively easy. I hope he has your picture. We may have to resort to historic pictures as stand-ins for any no-shows. Do you really want to be seen with big hair or long side-burns?
  - Ina Dockham and Connie Ogg purchased a lovely set of wise-men for our Christmas scene. (pix to follow). Thanks to Connie's diligence, they found a set that normally costs more than we could imagine for an almost reasonable price on EBay. Memorial funds for Don Smith and Earl Boyden covered most of the cost and an anonymous donor covered the rest. Whoever you are, we sincerely thank you.
  - Jack Dodd has continued to work with the contractor for the tower re-
- pair. We just heard that the necessary lumber is available and the work will start in early October, weather permitting. In the meantime, a pest control person has assured us there are no bats up there, or other critters at the moment. Once the repairs are made, it should be extremely difficult for critters to enter (and leave various deposits behind).
- We have found a sign maker to work with us on replacing the signs in front and back of the church. We're starting with the sign by the parking lot since that is relatively simple. The sign in the front is more complicated but we want to keep the shape and size. Stay tuned – hoping to get this done in the next few weeks.
  - Whew! That's a lot of good stuff for a small church like ours. The Vestry is starting to think about Christmas and next year. We know this year has been difficult and different in so many ways. But we've been blessed with a caring and giving congregation which has made all the difference.
  - Peace Always,



Becky

# Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

## *The 26<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention*

For delegates, there are some pre-convention training sessions for the online program that will be used. Also, there's some news for folks wanting to attend the convention as Visitors.

### **Tech Training Dates for Delegates**

The following trainings will be offered for all delegates:

- Tuesday, October 13 at 2pm
- Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm
- Friday, October 16 at 2pm
- Saturday, October 17 at 10am
- Tuesday, October 20 at 2pm
- Tuesday, October 20 at 7pm
- Thursday, October 22 at 10am

Thursday, October 22 at 7pm

To keep the trainings as small as possible, each session is limited to 40 participants and requires signing up ahead of time. Visit the Diocesan Web page at this address to register:

<https://mailchi.mp/67f858bbb7a4/call-to-the-26th-diocesan-convention>

### **Attending the 26<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention as a Visitor**

This year's convention is entirely online.

**UNASSIGNED CLERGY** and **VISITORS** may register individually, regardless of congregational affiliation at no cost.

**A note about visitors** -- Technology permitting, to widen the number of people with access to the convention and to lessen the demand on our webinar software capacity, *the online convention will also be live streamed to the diocesan Facebook pages including the opening worship and keynote address. Participation in the livestream on Facebook does not require registration for the convention.* We encourage visitors who would like to watch the convention, especially the Presiding Bishop's offerings, to choose the livestream offering.

Registration must be submitted by October 15th.

If you cannot use FaceBook, you may register at this link:

[https://theepiscopaldioceseofeasternmichigan.formstack.com/forms/emwm2020\\_registration](https://theepiscopaldioceseofeasternmichigan.formstack.com/forms/emwm2020_registration)

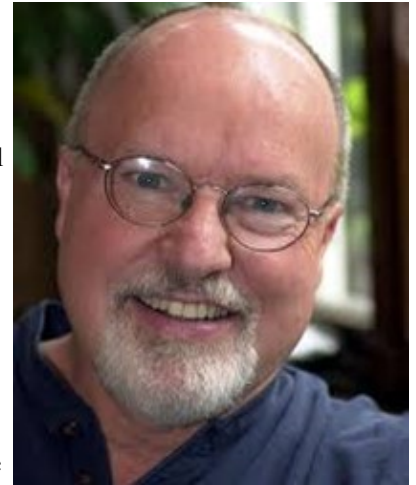
# Staying Sane as the Madness Gets Louder

Robo Calls, Attack Ads, “Stop the World! I want to Get Off!” We might all feel this way more and more as the next few months unfold. Fr. Richard Rohr, a noted author and spiritual advisor, sent this out to his mailing list recently. I thought we could all use this approach.

**From Fr. Richard Rohr:**

**Some simple but urgent guidance to get us through these next months.**

I awoke on Saturday, September 19, with three sources in my mind for guidance: Etty Hillesum (1914 – 1943), the young Jewish woman who suffered much more injustice in the concentration camp than we are suffering now; Psalm 62, which must have been written in a time of a major oppression of the Jewish people; and the Irish Poet, W.B. Yeats (1895 – 1939), who wrote his “Second Coming” during the horrors of the World War I and the Spanish Flu pandemic.



These three sources form the core of my invitation. Read each one slowly as your first practice. Let us begin with Etty:

*There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there, too ... And that is all we can manage these days and also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves.*

—Etty Hillesum, Westerbork transit camp

Note her second-person usage, talking to “You, God” quite directly and personally. There is a Presence with her, even as she is surrounded by so much suffering.

Then, the perennial classic wisdom of the Psalms:

*In God alone is my soul at rest.  
God is the source of my hope.  
In God I find shelter, my rock, and my safety.  
Men are but a puff of wind,  
Men who think themselves important are a delusion.  
Put them on a scale,  
They are gone in a puff of wind.*

—Psalm 62:5–9

What could it mean to find rest like this in a world such as ours? Every day more and more people are facing the catastrophe of extreme weather. The neurotic news cycle is increasingly driven by a single narcissistic leader whose words and deeds incite hatred, sow discord, and amplify the daily chaos. The pandemic that seems to be returning in waves continues to wreak suffering and disorder with no end in sight, and there is no guarantee of the future in an economy designed to protect the rich and powerful at the expense of the poor and those subsisting at the margins of society.

It’s no wonder the mental and emotional health among a large portion of the American population is in tangible decline! We have wholesale abandoned any sense of truth, objectivity, science or religion in civil conversation; we now recognize we are living with the catastrophic results of several centuries of what philosophers call *nihilism* or *post-modernism* (nothing means anything, there are no universal patterns).

We are without doubt in an apocalyptic time (the Latin word *apocalypsis* refers to an urgent unveiling of an ultimate state of affairs). Yeats' oft-quoted poem "The Second Coming" then feels like a direct prophecy. See if you do not agree:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre  
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.*

Somehow our occupation and vocation as believers in this sad time must be to first restore the Divine Center by holding it and fully occupying it ourselves. If contemplation means anything, it means that we can "safeguard that little piece of You, God," as Etty Hillesum describes it. What other power do we have now? All else is tearing us apart, inside and out, no matter who wins the election or who is on the Supreme Court. We cannot abide in such a place for any length of time or it will become our prison.

God cannot abide with us in a place of fear.  
God cannot abide with us in a place of ill will or hatred.  
God cannot abide with us inside a nonstop volley of claim and counterclaim.  
God cannot abide with us in an endless flow of online punditry and analysis.  
God cannot speak inside of so much angry noise and conscious deceit.  
God cannot be found when all sides are so far from "the Falconer."  
God cannot be born except in a womb of Love.  
So offer God that womb.

Stand as a sentry at the door of your senses for these coming months, so "the blood-dimmed tide" cannot make its way into your soul.

If you allow it for too long, it will become who you are, and you will no longer have natural access to the "really deep well" that Etty Hillesum returned to so often and that held so much vitality and freedom for her.

**If you will allow, I recommend for your spiritual practice for the next four months that you impose a moratorium on exactly how much news you are subject to—hopefully not more than an hour a day of television, social media, internet news, magazine and newspaper commentary, and/or political discussions. It will only tear you apart and pull you into the dualistic world of opinion and counter-opinion, not Divine Truth, which is always found in a bigger place.**

**Instead, I suggest that you use this time for some form of public service, volunteerism, mystical reading from the masters, prayer—or, preferably, all of the above.**

**You have much to gain now and nothing to lose. Nothing at all.  
And the world—with you as a stable center—has nothing to lose.  
And everything to gain.**

Richard Rohr, September 19, 2020



## Squash Soup

### Ingredients

3 to 3 1/2 pounds butternut squash, approximately 2, seeded and quartered  
Unsalted butter, melted, for brushing  
1 tablespoon kosher salt, plus 1 teaspoon  
1 teaspoon freshly ground white pepper, plus 1/2 teaspoon  
3 cups chicken or vegetable broth  
1/4 cup honey  
1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
1/4 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg

### Directions:

Heat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Place the quartered squash onto a half sheet pan, brush the flesh of the squash with a little butter and season with 1 tablespoon of the salt and 1 teaspoon of the white pepper. Place in the oven and roast for 30 to 35 minutes or until the flesh is soft and tender.

Scoop the flesh from the skin into a 6-quart pot. Add the broth, honey and ginger. Place over medium heat and bring to a simmer, approximately 7 to 8 minutes. Using a stick blender, puree the mixture until smooth\*. Stir in the heavy cream and return to a low simmer. Season with the remaining salt, pepper, and nutmeg.

\*When blending hot liquids: Remove liquid from the heat and allow to cool for at least 5 minutes. Transfer liquid to a blender or food processor and fill it no more than halfway. If using a blender, release one corner of the lid. This prevents the vacuum effect that creates heat explosions. Place a towel over the top of the machine, pulse a few times then process on high speed until smooth.

*Level: Intermediate*

*Total: 50 min*

*Prep: 10 min*

*Cook: 40 min*

*Yield: 6 to 8 servings*



Doesn't the red framing look great?  
And the cross is painted gold. Thanks  
to Ida Lynn and Jack Dodd for making  
a fresh color choice.

Can't wait to see the new sign in this  
setting



## THIS OLD ROOF

You probably haven't looked at the roof of the church lately, but several of us on Vestry have. Shingles and gutters are in really bad shape. Usually, contractors sell roofing with a max of 20 years of service. This roof is WAY past that. There are two layers – the first is some kind of wooden shingles (we think) attached to boards, not sheets of plywood, and the second layer is asbestos shingles. It's time to think about replacing it – before we start having any real problems. I'm praying we'll be OK through the winter and possibly get the work done next year. But we can use the time this winter to plan. I am asking for your help in investigating



replacement options and ways of funding the replacement. The Roof Replacement Team will look into roofing contractors, asbestos removal contractors, costs and timing. Please contact me (Becky Foster) or

any member of the Vestry if you are willing to help in this project. We would like to have our first organizing discussion in November. Thank you.



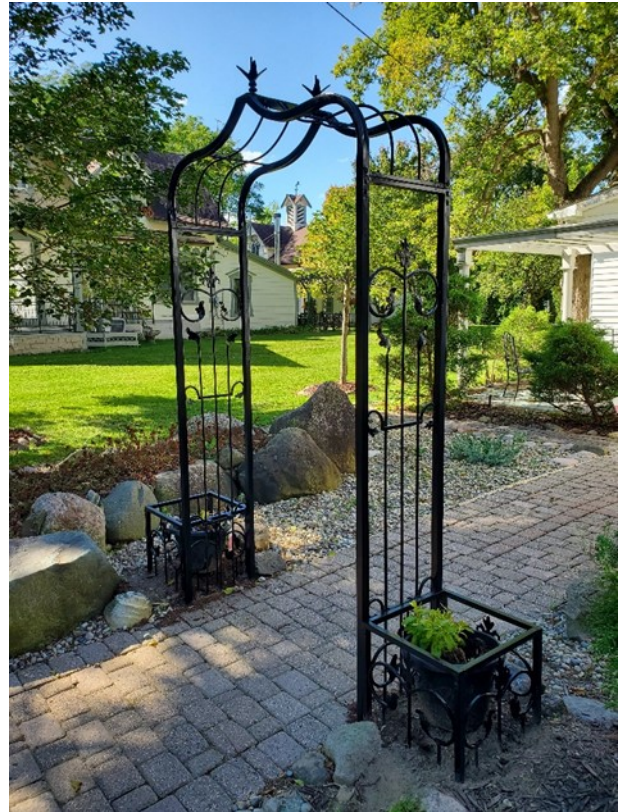
*The newest addition to our outdoor Christmas creche. Thanks to Connie Ogg and Ina Dockham, it will be even better this year.*

<u>Ministry Schedule</u>				<u>Counting Schedule</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Vestry Member 1</u>	<u>Vestry Member 2</u>
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
Nov. 1, 2020	Mary Cameron	Sherry Boyden	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Nov. 8, 2020	Ina Dockham		Neil Hargrave/ Rev Barb Cavin	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Nov. 15, 2020	Margaret Smith	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Connie Ogg
Nov. 22, 2020	Darlene Herdon		Tim Wright	Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave
Nov 29, 2020	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Connie Ogg	Ina Dockham





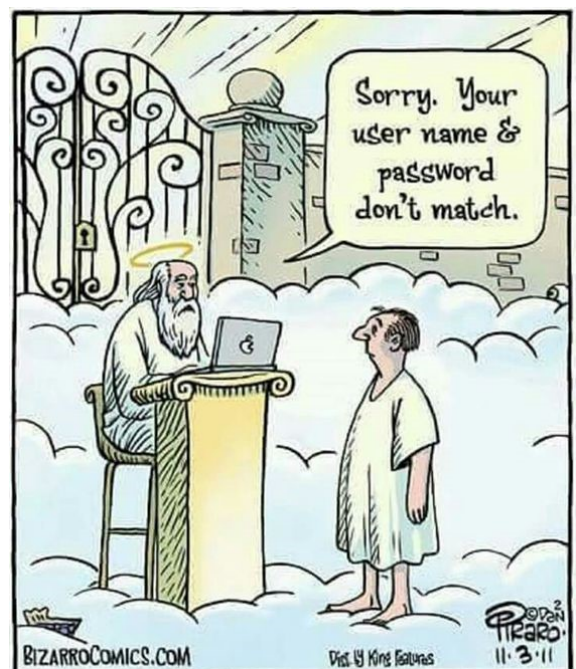
On September 20<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated a milestone with Neil Hargrave. After a year of study and toil, he has been recognized by the Diocese as completing the Preaching Course and is now an official Preacher. We always knew Neil had the gift. Congratulations, Neil!



Look what a new coat of paint can do! And the seating arrangement in the gazebo was repainted. Thanks to Keagan (John & Yvonne Malinich's grandson) who donated his time as part of his honors activities.

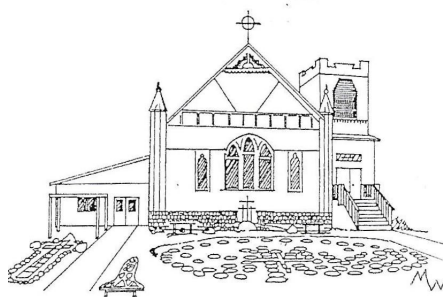
### No Bats in our Belfry!

The work of our pest control service concluded last week, and they graciously took some pictures of our church bell. And lo & behold, turns out there is also a crucifix in the bell tower. One wonders about the person who hung that crucifix; who was it and how long has it been up there. Thank you Wells Pest Control!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 8:30am - Morning 10am - Morning	28	29 10am - Office Hours	30 8pm - AA	1 Happy October	2 10am - Office Hours	3
4 8:30am - Eucharist 10am - Worship-Rev	5	6 10am - Office Hours	7 8pm - AA	8	9 10am - Office Hours	10
11 8:30am - Eucharist 4pm - Vestry	12 Columbus Day	13 10am - Office Hours	14 8pm - AA	15	16 10am - Office Hours	17
18 8:30am - Eucharist 10am - Worship-Rev	19	20 10am - Office Hours	21 8pm - AA	22	23 10am - Office Hours	24
25 8:30am - Morning 10am - Morning	26	27 10am - Office Hours	28 8pm - AA	29	30 Newletter Reading 10am - Office Hours	31 Diocese Convention Halloween



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