



August, 2024



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Vestry Notes	2
Lectionary	2
Garden Delights	3
Happy Anniver-	3
Financial Report	4
Miracle Quilts	5
Snshine Service	5
Our Next Con-	6
cert	
Seeking a	6
Pen Pal	
Back to School	7
Ministry	
Schedule	

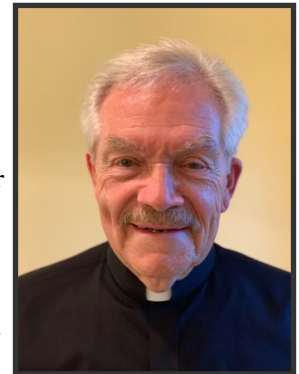
Dear people of St. John's,

Summer is fleeting by and I'm still mowing the lawn about every four to five days. It is still green and certainly not with envy. At this point the lawn has usually slowed in its growing and started to brown in places. The only grass that grows is the crab grass and weeds. I believe it may have something to do with the copious amounts of rain which seems to fall almost on a daily basis. For those of you who believe we are we are enduring too much rain and could use an Ark.....I Noah guy.....

The Pentateuch says the Israelites were nomads in the wilderness for forty years, which in the Bible's symbolic speech, means a very, very long time. These wilderness wanderings have become a traditional way for Christians to speak about the difficulties of their life's journey. God is praised for miraculously feeding those early travelers a strange food, manna. To show Christians the meaning of the manna, some depictions show this manna as communion hosts which the Israelites are gathering from the ground.

The wilderness is not a choice vacation spot, but rather a barren place without ready food or available water; inhospitable to communal life. Christians have often used the imagery of the wilderness to suggest human life is emptiness, unless it is transformed by God.

To live we need to eat. In an ideal world we eat when we are hungry, and we eat enough. For some, this ideal life has been distorted by not having access to enough food or by having a distorted relationship with food such as eating too much or too little. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," pointing to a life in Christ, using the comparison of our daily bread to the "bread of life." What does being nourished in Christ look like to you?



In John's Gospel, the feeding of the five thousand is one of seven signs meant to give onlookers and participants the ability to perceive something more significant than the miracle itself. It teaches us a new sense of who Jesus is. The crowds had eaten bread which satisfied their hunger, but they were so focused on being full they missed what was really happening in this great meal. Jesus uses the bread as an extended example of who he is; someone who is capable of sustaining life. Jesus and The Way of Love invites us to join him by considering how we can invite others to full and fulfilling lives.

Our world is filled with signs: road signs, protest signs, no smoking signs, which convey information. Have you ever looked for a sign from Jesus? (Continued on Page 2)

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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 September is August 30.



Happy Birthday!

Sherry Boyden
Randy McNary
Pat Schneider

Happy Anniversary!

Wes & Kathy
Wagester

Susan & Randy
McNary

Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

It's the heart of summer and I hope you are finding time to enjoy it. Even I found some time to travel and relax a bit. But it was so good to come back and see everyone again. I agree with Dorothy – there's no place like home.

In keeping with the season, our summer schedule is relaxed. We're holding Uncommon Prayer on Morning Prayer Sundays – a format that is easy and intimate. Fr. Harold is helping us experiment with a new approach to reading lessons on Eucharist Sundays – more on that in this newsletter. Work on repairing and painting the exterior of the church is due to start any day now but none of us have to get on a ladder! One area where some very hard work has occurred is in the gardens! You really need to take a look. Ida Lynn and Jack Dodd have done a

beautiful job.

We plan to hold our Sunshine Service on August 25 – but if the painting job is underway, we may need to move the location. We should be able to confirm in early August. But we will definitely have an outside service (unless it rains, sleets, snows...).

A big THANK-YOU to all the folks who keep us going behind the scenes. It's amazing how coffee hour seems to be there and then get cleaned up every week! And the sanctuary always looks so inviting for Sunday worship. We probably don't know who exactly does what – but we are all very grateful.

Have a lovely August. And I hope we see you on Sunday.

Blessings,

Becky



Some New Ideas to Try on Sundays



Fr. Harold wants us to try a new approach to reading the lessons on Eucharist Sundays. Rather than one person reading all the lessons and the Prayers of the People, each lesson (except the Gospel) would be read by a different person. He saw this used in other churches and folks liked it – different voices, more involvement, all good things. Interested? Just ask an usher for a reading when you get your bulletin. It's not difficult and you may find that you enjoy it.

Pastor's Corner... Throughout the Scriptures, signs from God have conveyed information. They were also meant to inspire action. The Israelites received manna and were nourished for their journey. Jesus inspired the disciples to proclaim the Good News throughout the world. What signs have you received? What action do they call you to do?

Have a wonderful and safe finish for the balance of our summer and try to stay dry and out of the wilderness.

In God's Love,

Rev. Harold



Garden of Church-ly Delights

If you haven't seen our front yard lately, take a few minutes to walk around. It has been transformed. It's lovely AND easier to maintain! Many thanks to Ida Lynn and Jack Dodd for this. And they've worked their magic on the back garden area too. This is such a blessing!



**69 Years
and
Going
Strong**

Dave & Joyce Moss are long time members of St. John's who shared their 69th wedding anniversary with us this July. We are grateful for the time shared over the years and wish them both many more happy years.

June Financial Report

June 2024	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,547	\$3,537	\$2,010	\$33,283	\$44,165	\$10,882
Adjusted Income		\$4,620	\$927		\$37,665	\$4,382
Expenses	\$5,449	\$5,054	\$758	\$32,695	\$33,057	\$362
Adjusted Net Profit	\$98	-\$434	\$532	\$587	\$4,608	\$4,021

June is the last month available for Vestry review.

Income:

Once adjusted for the amount of the annual donation made earlier this year, this is \$970 lower than budget.

Expenses:

Several accounts over budget this month were due to large, occasional activity. Generally, the inactive months balance this out.

Accounts such as: Music Events, Altar Guild,.

Two new accounts were added this month: Clergy Mileage (to reimburse Fr. Harold for pastoral visit trips), and Clergy Professional Development (to cover retreats and classes) Monthly budget for both is modest and does not pose a problem for the yearly budget.

YTD Income: Due to early donations, this will look great for quite a while

YTD Expenses: We are over by a modest number but many of the over budget accounts are leveling out should help. This month's number is better than last month's by \$1,000.

Net Profit: Looks wonderful! Even backing out the annual payment, we are still well in the black.

Restricted Funds:

We set aside \$487 from the recent concert to

cover advertising expenses. Some payments have already been made.

Outreach Teen Relief received \$514 from our recent fund raisers. We had already recorded the Oxford Bank CD of \$10,000 for the Paint Project. The interest from that CD which matured in May has been added to the fund. We also received a \$10,000 donation which brings the Paint Project funds up to \$20,348.96 with an additional \$10,000 plus interest available in August when the next CD matures.

Vestry voted to use the \$89 from the recent Coffee Hour raffle to help offset Clergy Professional Development costs.

Vanguard Funds:

- Total Stock Fund Balance as of 05/31/2024 - \$78,806 – Almost \$14,000 increase above our initial investment of \$65,000
- CD of \$22,000 Matures 02/28/2025 at 5.41% interest

CD at Oxford Bank – \$10,000 CD at 5.65% maturing in August 2024



The other \$10,000 CD matured in May with interest of \$348.96. This has been added to the Restricted Account for the Paint Project.

Miracle Quilts looking for Quilters, Sewers & Supplies

This project started as a memorial to the service and sacrifice PFC Joseph Miracle, Ortonville, MI. He gave his life in Afghanistan defending our freedom. He will never be forgotten. We have delivered quilts all over the country.

Mission: To create handmade quilts for our military veterans that are hospitalized. We want to thank them for their service to our country.

Colors: Any colors or themes are suitable. Bright, patriotic colors are a good choice but other palettes are also good.



of



Size: We suggest the quilt be at least **54: x 60"**. Quilts can be either rectangular or square

Where: Independence Village – Waterstone

701 Market Street Oxford, Mi 48371

When: We meet the **2nd Saturday of every month from 10AM to 3PM.** Sewers can join us or work on quilts at home. If you join us, please bring your sewing machine, extension cord and basic sewing notions.

Questions? Call 248.321.8669 or email MiracleQuilts@att.net.



Sunshine Service on August 25th – Bring your lawn chair!

We'll hold our third Sunshine Service this August 25 at 10AM. We are planning on gathering in the front yard of the church for our service with a pot luck to follow. There is a potential wrinkle – if the painters are busy working on that part of the exterior, we may need to use another location (not the parking lot!). So get your lawn chair ready to go, think of something nice to bring for the pot luck, pray for good weather and watch for any announcements about possible location changes. Wherever this happens, it's always a good service and potluck.

September 14 – Our Next Music Concert

Performers: Mustard's Retreat

It's not as far away as you think.

The basics:

Date: **Sunday, September 14th**

Time: **7PM**

Location: **St. John's Episcopal Church**

Mustard's Retreat has been delighting audiences by telling stories for 40 years- they are witty, insightful, fun, and profound, as well as accomplished songwriters and musician (guitars, dulcimer, electric bass, mandolin, harmonica, pennywhistle). In addition to being raconteurs and storytellers, they will give you things to laugh about for days to come and remember for years. Tales of stupid frogs, wandering cadavers, haunted bridges and techno-nerds, memories of small towns and high school, first loves and last...and places we've been or maybe just dreamed of.

Mark your calendars and spread the word!



Looking for a Pen-Pal



We recently received a letter from a fellow who is hoping to find a pen-pal. He lives at a correctional facility in Dallas, TX. His letter includes these words,

"I am in search of a Christian who would be willing to correspond with me as a pen-pal. The Bible says, "to have no fellowship with the works of darkness" thus my quest is imperative because all those around me want to lie, cheat, gossip, and practice many forms of evil in this den of iniquity. My incarceration causes me a limitation in access to those I can have inspirational, uplifting conversations with. So my search is, in essence, for someone who will accept me as their brother and friend.

In my 34 years in this life I have learned that there will be times when I will need the value of

a friend. There will also be times when I could offer kind words and prayers for others. God designed us to love and have compassion. I would like to share mine with others. I have tried numerous methods for prisoners to obtain pen-pals, but I have been discouraged because the replies I have received have not been from the type of people I am looking for.

If your church has a bulletin or prayer request board, would you please post this letter on it? I would love to include a photo so y'all could see the face behind my words, but unfortunately I have a very limited supply. However, if someone does bless me with a letter, I will send them one with my reply so they can post it with this letter.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter of request. May god bless you and peace be unto you.

Christopher Murphy"

Please see Fr. Harold for the further information and the address if you would like to correspond with Christopher. And



It's that time of year again! We are collecting supplies for Susan McNary's 1st grade class AND for Dryden High students. Put your donations in the box labeled "1st Grade Supplies" or the Outreach Teen Relief box for the Highschool supplies. And thank you for supporting our teachers and students!

1st Grade Supplies

1. 12 - # 2 Pencils
2. 24 - Crayons
3. 2 - Glue Sticks
4. 1 - Box of Tissues
5. 1 - Pink Eraser
6. 8 - Broad Tip Markers (washable)
7. 1 - Pair of Fiskar round tip Scissors
8. 1 - Pencil Case
9. 1 - Wide-Ruled Spiral Bound Notebook
10. 3 - Pocket Folders
11. 12 - Pencil Crayons
12. **Play-doh.** I give one can to each student 4x a year. We use it for both math and literacy (we roll it out and use golf tees to write our spelling words, it's so fun). And it's good for their fine-motor development.. Susan McNary uses Play Dough to help her "firsties" learn their numbers and letters by making the shapes. She's always thankful for getting help with this item.

Grades 2 through 6 use much the same items with these additions...

1. Package of Washable Markers (8/pack)
2. Package of wide-ruled loose leaf paper
3. Pocket Folders
4. Blue Pens/Red Pens

5. 12 inch ruler
6. Wide-ruled **spiral notebooks.**
7. **Glue sticks**
8. **Tissues**
9. **Clorox wipes**
10. I could use a **new checkers game** for indoor recess, or **other board games for ages 6-8.**

Here are some ideas for back-to-school supplies for Outreach Teen Relief

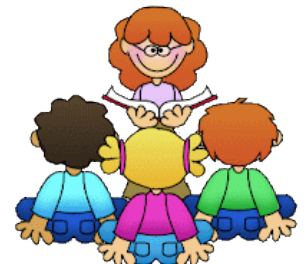
High School Supplies

1. #2 Pencils
2. Colored Pencils
3. Pencil Sharpener
4. Pens: Red, Blue, Black
5. Highlighters
6. Markers
7. 12 inch Ruler
8. Pocket Folders
9. Single-Subject Spiral Notebooks
10. Sticky Notes
11. Sticky Flags
12. College Ruled Loose Leaf 3 Hole Paper
13. Computer Paper
14. Tabbed Dividers
15. 3-Ring Binder
16. USB Flash Drives

Kim Fleming, our contact at Dryden High, told us students sometimes ask her for other, more personal use items. Let's help her and them out...

For female students:

Black Leggings – sizes Sm/Med
and Large/X Large
Cotton Bikini Briefs – sizes
Med, Large, X Large



For all students – Disposable
travel toothbrushes

**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>
08/4/24				Neil	Ida Lynn	Jack	Becky
08/11/24				Kitty	Sherry	Becky	Neil
08/18/24				Becky	Ina	Neil	Connie
08/25/24	Ina	Tammy	Jason	Fr. Schneider	Wes	Connie	Russ
9/1/24				Neil	Becky	Russ	Mary
9/8/24	Jack	Mary	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Mary	Jack
9/15/24				Kitty	Sherry	Jack	Becky
9/22/24	Margaret	Jack	John	Fr Schneider	Wes	Becky	Neil
9/29/2024				Becky	Ina	Neil	Connie

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