



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE, UNITED IN FAITH, LED BY LOVE



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Tom Manney

Senior Warden
Becky Foster

Junior Warden
Jack Dodd

A Note from Tom

The heavens declare the glory of God, *
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
-Psalm 19:1

I'd say I have a number of strong theologies—religious beliefs that I really believe in—but the strongest of them all is my belief in a creator God.

By this I mean that, the reason I believe in the existence of God, is because of what I perceive as the

beauty of the world in which we live. When I look at the world, I see a beautiful creation. Now I know there are aspects of our planet that are not particularly beautiful—deserts come to mind—but when I look at the world, when I really stop to look at the planet that we call home, I am struck by one overarching thought; this world is too perfect to have just happened.

And this is the feeling I get each fall in Michigan. As I watch the leaves on the trees begin to change color, as I feel the cool breeze blow across my face, I am once again filled with a sense of awe at the perfection of the world. I love Autumn. And

every year it serves as a reminder to me that God's in his heaven and all's right with the world.

I know that there are scientific explanations for everything. And I also understand that we have today in 2022, a much stronger understanding of the universe in which we live. But I also know that our world, our universe, and our planet possess a perfect harmony of life and beauty which seems unlikely to have just happened. Have you seen any of the pictures taken by the James Webb Space Telescope this summer? They are stunningly beautiful.



When I see these images, I see God. When I see the fall colors in Michigan, I see God. And when I feel that cool autumn breeze (even though I know what's coming!) I know that God is responsible for all of it. And I believe in God. Our life-giving, omnipresent, creator God.

With every blessing...
Tom+

Don Smith Memorial Canadian Thanksgiving on Monday, October 10

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 sing "Oh, Canada" too! Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.



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 November is October 28th.



Happy Birthday

**Ina Dockham
Yvonne Malinich
Sherry Petrie
Russ Underwood
Tom Manney**

Happy Anniversary

**Dave & Darlene Hernden
Jack & Ida Lynn Dodd**

Dear Friends,

This last Friday, we had a lovely concert at church featuring the Strickler Brothers. Since I was sick, I watched the concert on FaceBook. Great concert. And wonderful to be able to see it online. This is the first time I've been in a position where that was my only way to connect with St. John's. I have a great appreciation for the benefit it provides us home bound folks. Thanks to the people who take the time to do the video work. It is appreciated.

We had a busy month – as you will see later in the newsletter. And October looks almost as busy. We have Canadian Thanksgiving and Halloween coming up. Then there's an opportunity to join in some spiritual direction for the whole congregation. Rev. Tom will celebrate Eucharist on Sunday, Oct. 30 – might he play something spooky on his kazoo?

As I mentioned, I've been sick – with a mild case of Covid. First, many thanks to all who have called, texted and offered to help with

food or whatever. And also to those who pitched in to make the concert such a success when I couldn't be there to answer questions or help the way I wanted. But second – it's a reminder that Covid is still with us. Please keep your shots current. And, if you start feeling cold or flu symptoms, please stay home. Wear masks in crowded places or in situations where you think it

might be wise. We may not be able to totally avoid exposure or getting sick (I had all shots except the latest and was planning on getting that this week), but we can take steps to protect ourselves and others.

I hope all of us enjoy this lovely time of year.

Peace & Blessings,

Becky



On the last Monday 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 snowsuit?). 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.



Miss the concert? Check out the video on our Facebook Page!

Financial Report

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

August 2022	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Over (+) or Under (-) Budget
Income	\$5,250	\$3,891	-\$1,359	\$42,000	\$44,027	+ \$2,027
Expenses	\$5,179	\$3,573	-\$1,606	\$41,434	\$38,553	- \$1,275
Net Profit	\$90	\$318	+ \$210	\$635	\$5,611	+ \$4,885

Once more, the monthly pledge income fell below budget expectations. Thankfully, our monthly expenses were also lower than budget amounts. That kept us in the black for the month. With the weather turning colder, I'm hoping that, after lovely summer travels and vacations, we all remember to send in our pledge donations. I'm also expecting expenses to increase (with the current cold weather, I'm bracing for higher utility bills). Whatever you can do to help is most appreciated.

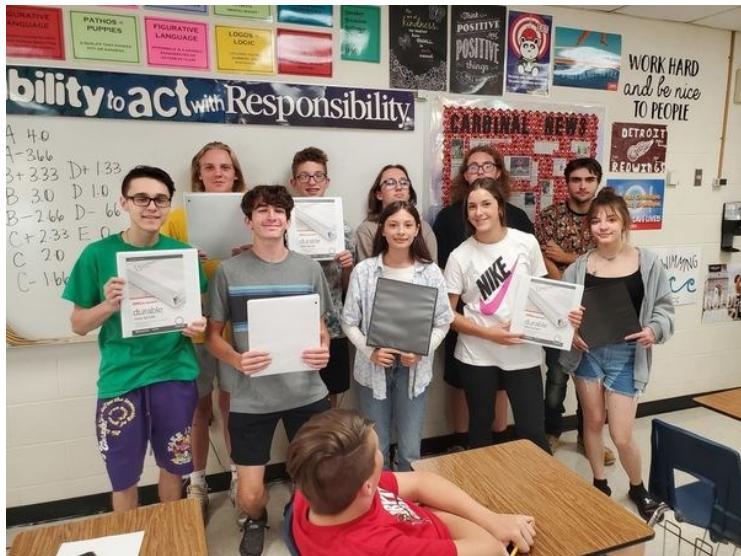
Second Concert at St. John's with the Strickler Brothers A Fun Night!



Our second concert on Sept. 23rd featured the Strickler Brothers (and a special appearance by a Strickler sister, Judy). These folks are accomplished musicians on the guitar and the piano. Their repertoire is extensive. And they kept us smiling and tapping our toes throughout the evening. Rev. Tom did a masterful job as MC. During the intermission, he described the importance of the Outreach Teen Relief mission and introduced Russ Underwood as the founder. There were roughly 60 people in the audience and they donated over \$600 in the free-will offering. Our next concert is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, 2023 when we will welcome a Michigan folk-music treasure – Matt Wratroba. More on that in the new year.

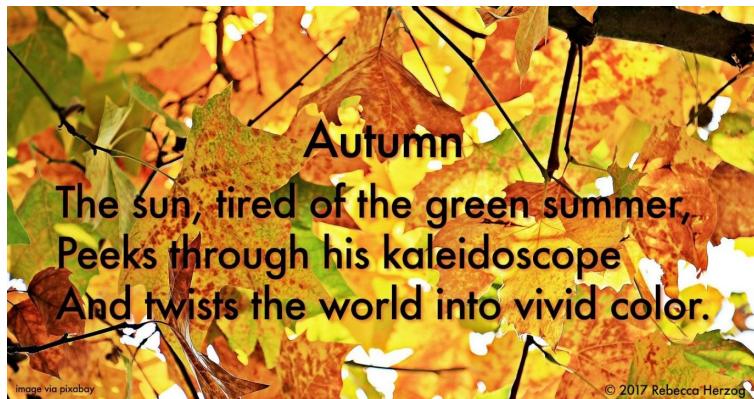


Outreach Teen Relief Get's a Thank-You from Dryden High Students



This was posted on the Dryden Community Schools Facebook page

A huge [#proudcardinal](#) thank you to St. John's Episcopal Church in Dryden for the donation of school supplies, including these binders that our English 11 students will use to organize their career portfolios! It's good to see our young people excited about their futures – and we were able to help!



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>
Oct 2	Rachel	Neil	Rev Manney	Becky Foster	Ina	Wes
Oct 9			Kitty	Sherry Wagner	Becky	Jack
Oct 16	Kathy	Mary	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Neil	Ina
Oct 23			Becky	Ina Dockham	Wes	Russ
Oct 30	Jack	Tammy	Rev Manney	Ida Lynn Dodd	Russ	Becky
Nov 6			Neil	Sherry Wagner	Jack	Neil
Nov 13			Kitty	Becky Foster	Ina	Wes
Nov 20	Ina	Jack	Rev Manney	Wes Wagester	Becky	Jack
Nov 27	Margaret		Becky	Ina Dockham	Neil	Ina



Spiritual DIRECTION

St. John's has a Spiritual Director – and You're Invited to Join

This year, the Thriving Bivocational Congregations program is providing each participating church with a Spiritual Director and multiple opportunities for all of us to participate in conversations with other churches about how we can enrich our spiritual lives individually and as a community. Typically, a spiritual director helps us to

- Become more aware of the presence of the Holy in our daily lives
- Reflect on that awareness and deepen our relationship with God
- Discern where God is leading
- Share our spiritual gifts with the world

A goal of this process is to help churches move from awareness to action – an action aligned with God's call for us and St. John's, one that energizes and fulfills.

Our spiritual director's name is Anne Province and our initial introduction was a comfortable and easy conversation. It will be a pleasure to take this journey with her. A small team meets with Anne once a month. And there's still room for additional members. The next meeting is October 18 on zoom at 11AM. There are also monthly Community Conversations (on zoom) that include anyone from the participating congregations in a larger, zoom, discussion of their experiences along the way.

Sometimes, we work so hard at DOING church, that we forget who we are and why we are working so hard. This process invites us to take a breath and reconnect with our Source. There's no downside here – give it a try.

Say "Hi, Grandpa (and Grandma)!"



Rev. Tom and Terri became grandparents this last month. A beautiful baby boy with the name of Thomas and a nickname of Tiger (since there are several Toms in the family). All doing well. St. John's sent a few gifts for the new arrival along with prayers and praise for a new life in the world.

After the Curacy Program ends, then what?

For the last two and a half years, the diocese has paid for Rev. Tom's salary through the Curacy Program. This program will be over in June of 2023 and, if we want to continue to engage Rev. Tom or another member of clergy at St. John's, we will be responsible for that expense. Having Rev. Tom here on a part-time basis has been wonderful and I'm sure you join me in wanting to continue this partnership. The Vestry has been preparing for this transition and we wanted you to feel confident that we are in good shape for the funding changes.

Over this last year, we have been using a budget that included an account to mimic what we would need to pay clergy salary ourselves. The budgeted amount isn't quite enough to cover a full year – that would have put us in a negative budget situation from the start. But we're actually pretty close – within \$5,000 for the year. However, we've been accumulating those funds in a "kitty", called the Salary Allocation Account, that we can use in the coming years to help us cover the shortfall if needed. The table below tries to demonstrate how it will work.

Possible Methods for Paying Clergy Salary after Curacy Program Subsidy is Complete					
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Curacy Program Salary Grant	\$20,383.00	\$10,191.00			
Salary Allocation Account	\$15,000.00				
- the funds from 2022 held to help					
-cover the salary needs in later years					
Clergy Salary Account					
- Salary to be paid (assuming cola increases)		\$10,191.00	\$22,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$24,000.00
- Funds drawn from pledges		\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Projected difference					
- add to/subtract from Allocation account		\$4,809.00	-\$7,000.00	-\$8,000.00	-\$9,000.00
Allocation Account Balance at year end		\$19,809.00	\$12,809.00	\$4,809.00	-\$4,191.00

In 2023, the Curacy Program will cover salary for half of the year. We will continue to accumulate funds in our salary "kitty" (Salary Allocation Account) and use those funds to pay for the last half of the year. Funds remaining year-end 2023 will be carried over for the following years. Assuming COLA increases in salary but NO increases in our budget ability for this account, we should be good through 2025. After that? Well, one hopes that we grow as a congregation and that we don't need to draw on our little nest-egg that long. We still have money that we can draw on if no other options are available. Personally, life is full of the unexpected – looking ahead more than one year is pretty ambitious. But you should take some comfort in knowing that we do have a way forward. And join us in praying that we continue to prosper with Rev. Tom in the future.

Roasted Butternut Squash

With thanks to Connie Ogg!

Roasted Butternut Squash

This quick and easy recipe is perfect for weeknights or holiday gatherings. Easy to make ahead and microwave at meal time.

Although the emphasis here is on easy prep the "dress up" options are endless. Think shaved parmesan, toasted pine nuts or walnuts, cinnamon, rosemary, cayenne, honey or maple syrup, red pepper flakes. You are limited only by your own imaginative taste buds!



Today it is easy to find precut squash cubes in the produce or freezer sections of the grocery store. If you decide to go the whole squash route remember peeling is not required! - 1/2" to 1" inch cubes are the goal. 4 cups are optimum for this recipe.

Combine the cubes with 2T olive oil, 1t garlic powder, salt and pepper. Now is your chance to be creative with other flavor options. Arrange cubes in a single layer on a baking sheet.

Roast in a preheated 400 degree oven for 25 to 35 minutes. Squash should be lightly browned and tender when pierced with a sharp knife.

As Summer makes way for Fall turning on the oven can be a welcome activity. Hope you find many ways to enjoy nature's bounty!

CALL TO A JOINT CONVENTION

**To the Delegates, Clergy, and People of
The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and
Western Michigan:**

**Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Michigan**

In accordance with the Canons of Eastern Michigan (Title 1, Canon 3, Sec. 2b) and the Canons of Western Michigan (Title 1, Canon 3, Sec. 3), you are hereby notified of the 3rd Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan to take place October 28-29, 2022 in Lansing, Michigan.

On July 31, 2022, a notice was sent to all clergy, senior wardens, and general subscribers as well as to delegates and alternates. Please communicate with your delegation to ensure that all people received this notice.

**Peace,
Angela Krueger
Secretary of Convention
Assistant to the Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan**

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