

September 2025



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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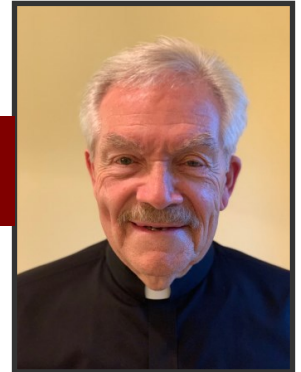
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St John's Episcopal Church
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PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. Harold Schneider



September 2025

Dear people of St. John's

We had a terrifically warm (hot) summer, lots of rain, and it seems my grass is still growing a springtime clip. In case you haven't noticed, the trees are starting to change into wonderful colors assisted by God's paint brush.

We must give Becky a huge thank you for welcoming us to her private retreat. The service was great, the food was delicious, and what an appropriate way to spend a Sunday morning and afternoon in God's Sanctuary.

Most worshipping Christians are like us, Gentiles. The early church had several debates on whether non-Jews should be in-

cluded in God's salvation. In recent centuries the question has been broadened to ask who is the outsider.

Jesus always responded well to women. Most people and cultures in most times and places, including those which claim to be Christian, have been terrible at responding to women and their needs. We need to use good judgement as we apply the Gospel to everyone who gathers to hear the word of God.

Use of the term "the poor" should raise concerns. We should not categorize persons as "the poor," but we as Christians should not gloss over the radical disparity in most nations of the world between those with and those without the necessities of life.
(Continued on page 2)



**Editor: Beth Ann
Tesluk**

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 is September 29.



August Birthdays

Myron Petrie

Bruce Fedewa

**Fr. Harold
Schneider**

There is harmful false teaching in the childhood refrain: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Compare the tongue to fire, something small which can cause extensive damage. Words do hurt and can even destroy! In an era of fires which can burn down cities and viral words on social media which can destroy the dignity of others, we know this to be true. Encour-

aging words can help build someone up. Healthy fire can also renew ecosystems and provide heat and light. How does our speech become a spiritual practice of renewal and not destruction?

I pray you all have a colorful fall season, filled with warmth and relaxation.

In God's Love,
Rev. Harold

Vestry Notes BECKY FOSTER

Dear Friends,

I thought August would be quiet. Well, not exactly.

The repair of the cracked plaster in the sanctuary has started. It's quite a process. They masked all the pews and covered all the carpet, brought in scaffolding and decided they needed to fix some of the cracks that we hadn't noticed before.



Then, they had to undo all of the coverings so we could hold Richard Buszek's funeral that

weekend. Which meant they would need to redo most of that work the follow-

ing week. They have been very understanding about this. And I'm sure the result will make a huge difference.

Sadly, Richard Buszek passed away. Having his funeral at St. John's, even though they had moved to Indiana a few years back, was a sign of how important our little church was to him. There were four generations present at the funeral. It was pretty close to a full house. We were blessed to know him and pray for Kathleen and the family as they mourn their loss. (Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2) Dryden High School's grant requests were approved! See the article for more details.

The Sonshine Service was a gift. Mild temps, clear skies and an extra special service with Fr. Harold. And we got to celebrate Wes & Kathy's 61st anniversary and Pat Schneider's birthday (no numbers on that one)! The potluck was awesome. Folks sat by the food or ventured down to the patio to watch the lake while they ate. It was a very good time. John & Yvonne have offered to host next year's gathering. I'm looking forward to it.

Finally, August is "time for the Fair" around here. Several of our members participated in

various judged events. Beth Ann's daughter, Ella, won first prize for a lamb she had been raising. And Mary Cameron entered a number of lovely drawings and hand work that also won prizes. Oh, and Beth Ann won first prize for a cake! I hope she puts the recipe in this edition. It looked mouth-watering.



So, what's up for September? Well, the Vestry is having a working session later in the month. And we may have some new doors for the side and office entrances. But mostly, I think it will be a quiet month. Let's see if I guessed better

Dryden High School Grant Requests Approved!

A few months ago, Dryden High School approached us with a proposal for some new technology for their students. They proposed to enhance their STEM lab with a laser cutting machine, start a fabric arts studio and a photo studio – all to give students hands-on experience that would support future study and work opportunities. The price tag was around \$24,000.

The congregation of St. John's agreed to help with \$10,000. The high school then submitted grant requests to the Four County Foundation Fund and the Lapeer County Community Foundation Fund requesting their assistance for the balance. The requests were submitted in early July.



And they were approved! Both foundations emphasized that having a coalition that included local community support was very important to their decision process. Without St. John's participation, this probably would not have been approved. Our relationships help keep us relevant in the community, and we can be proud of this one. This is something we can feel very good about.

Mary Finnigan, the principal of Dryden High School, is thrilled to be able to bring this plan to fruition. She promises to have a "grand unveiling" for all involved in the project once all the equipment is set up and running. I'm sure we'll have some great pix for the newsletter when that happens.

Meanwhile, we at St. John's can give thanks that we were able to help. We don't have to wait for the party – we already have something to celebrate. As Paul says in Hebrews, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." That is our true reward.

Richard Buszek – Called to Walk with God in Nature

Richard Buszek, a long time member of St. John's, passed away on August 14th. Although he and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Fort Wayne several years ago, we still considered them members and have been praying for both of them every Sunday ever since. They were a wonderful couple. Did you know that Kathleen was the head of the Altar Guild before Kitty? Richard was a Vestry Veteran having served several times over the years. And he gave our landscaping his special attention – even providing an in-ground sprinkler system! It was not unusual to come to church during the week and find Richard and his work crew doing some work on the grounds. I remember one cold spring morning, seeing him planting “johnny jump-ups” by the kitchen door, just to bring some spring color to our church. It was his gift to all of us.



Many will remember how he loved to tell stories. And he often commented on how blessed he was to have Kathleen by his side. They met at a dentist's office where Kathleen worked! He was determined to impress and win her hand. It sounds like it was a little iffy at first, but they fell in love and made a wonderful marriage. He

loved working in nature and was always searching for new and better answers to questions about helping plants grow. If you were fortunate enough to visit their home in Dryden, you would see an example of Richard doing his homework and putting in the work to create a beautiful and unique log home. He worked with a crew he brought in from Canada – he thought they were the best at the craft. And the grounds were stunning as well. Kathleen also has a knack for growing things. The two of them made that property a little Eden.



Unfortunately, Richard developed dementia a few years ago. He and Kathleen decided to sell their Dryden home and move to another property they owned in the Fort Wayne area. It was sad to see them go. But it brought them closer to family, which was bound to be a comfort, especially in these last days.

At some point in the process of planting, one must get on their knees. I'm sure Richard and God had many conversations while he was working with plants. Now, he's with THE MASTER GARDENER. Imagine the conversations they're having now.

May he rest in light eternal.



IN HARMONY'S WAY

October 18th

Save the date! Our fall concert will be on October 18th, with special guests In Harmony's Way.

You can check out some of their work on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/InHarmonysWay/videos>

Pastoral Moments this Summer



Fr. Harold spends much of his time making pastoral calls to parishioners and other members of the St. John's community.

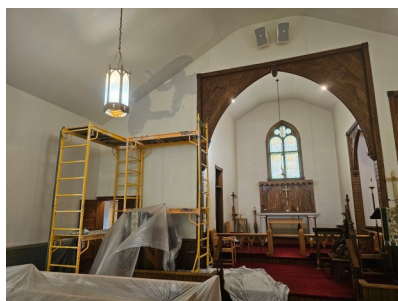
Fr. Harold visiting with Margaret Smith.



Communion and fellowship at the Bells.



Fr. Harold gives Neil Hargrave a blessing and a beautiful prayer shawl, made by Roxanne.



St. John's sanctuary gets a face life! Aging plaster and candle smoke-tinged paint called for some professional help! Here are some before and after photos of our sanctuary after Clay and Kristen worked their magic!



Altering a Closet for the Altar Guild

When the Altar Guild realized that the pulley system used for hanging and storing the altar linens was no longer up to the task, they knew there had to be a better way to protect them.

Jack Dodd to the rescue! Jack installed shelving in the Sacristy to store the linens in a way that will help prolong their usefulness and keep them safe from unnecessary wear and tear.

The Blessing Jar

Every Sunday after Eucharist, Fr. Harold asks us if we have any blessings to share. One or two folks might volunteer - but it takes a while. In that quiet pause, we're all trying to remember blessings from the past week. Actually, we might even be trying to remember whatever we *did* this past week. We know we've been blessed but can't put our finger on it.

Some very well-organized folks keep a gratitude journal. But for the rest of us, harried through the day by things to do (and maybe things to undo), journaling just isn't an option.

How about this? **A Blessings Jar.** It's straightforward - place a simple jar on the table along with small pieces of paper and a pen. At dinner (we all need to eat, right?), jot down one blessing from the day. It might be "Time to eat dinner". Or it might be "Blessed to be able to help a friend". Or whatever is moving your heart. At the end of the week, take a look at what you've written. It might be surprising to see all the blessings heaped up throughout the week. And you'll have something to share when Fr. Harold asks, "Does anyone have any blessings to share today?"





SonShine Worship Service

Some photos of our outdoor worship service. From left to right: Mary & Fr. Harold celebrating the Eucharist, Fr. Harold with a birthday blessing for his wife Pat, and Fr. Harold with anniversary blessing for Wes & Kathy (and one big wet smoochie!)



BANANA CAKE WITH CARAMEL ICING

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs, separated
- 2 bananas, crushed
- 1/2 cup sour milk
- 1 ⅔ cup pastry flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Icing

- 1/2 cup salted butter
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 ¾ cup powdered sugar (up to 2 cups)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cream together the butter and sugar, then one at a time, mix in the egg yolks, bananas, and sour milk, stirring after each addition until combined.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients. Add them to the wet ingredients, and stir to combine. Beat the egg whites into soft peaks, then fold into the batter until just combined.

Divide batter into two 8 inch baking pans (buttered & floured) and bake for 25-30 minutes. The layers will be on the thin side, so it's very easy to over-bake! Cool completely before icing.

Icing

Melt butter over low heat and stir in the brown sugar. Cook for two minutes, stirring constantly. Add the milk, raise the heat, and cook until mixture boils. Remove from heat and let cool to lukewarm.

Stir in the powdered sugar until fully combined. Beat with a hand mixer until mixture has doubled.

July 2025 Financial Report

This is the most recent month for review

July 2025	This Month	The Year So Far
Income	\$5,227	\$41,296
Expenses	\$4,684	\$39,826
Cash Flow Balance	\$543	\$1,469

Overview: Still looking good. Monthly income was down roughly \$550 but that is not unusual for mid-summer. The YTD Income is still above Budget by over \$600. Expenses this month were almost uniformly under budget with a few exceptions. And most of those have been over budget for a few months but are gradually coming back in line.

Restricted Funds had some activity in July. The Lugnuts outing netted \$460! Congratulations Fr. Harold for making it fun and profitable. A donor contributed over \$12,000 for Building Improvement. This should cover the new doors and any extra needed for plaster repair (it seems more spots show up weekly).

Vanguard Funds:

Total Stock Fund Balance as of June 30, 2025 is \$93,065 - up roughly \$2,356 from end of June.

One CD of \$22,000 at 3.9% will mature in **April of 2026**.

Oxford Bank CD: \$10,000 matures in August



			<u>Ministry Schedule</u>				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Reader</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>
09/07/2025				Becky	Sherry	Becky	Mary
09/14/2025	Beth Ann	Jack	Jason	Fr. Schneider	Becky	Connie	Russ
09/21/2025				Kitty	Wes	Russ	Mary
09/28/2025	Jack	Jason	Jack	Fr. Schneider	Ina	Mary	Beth Ann

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