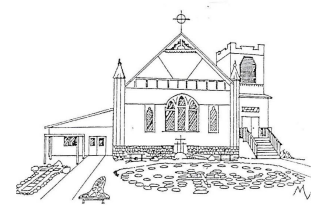


ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from Tom	1
Senior Warden	2
Celebrations	2
Ash Wednesday	3
Annual Meeting Recap	4
Ministry Schedule	4
"From Many, One"	5
On-line Giving	6-8
Inaugural Benediction	9

St. John's Episcopal Church

4074 S. Mill St.

PO Box 86

Dryden, MI 48428

(810)795.2371

Curate

Tom Manney

Senior Warden

Becky Foster



A Note from Tom

"O lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen." -Henri

Nouwen

If memory serves, it was shortly after Ash Wednesday last year when the COVID-19 virus was labeled a pandemic, and our churches were closed. Has it truly been a year? Have we been laboring with this terrible disease for 12 months?

Indeed it *has* been a year, and we are once again on the doorstep of Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. It feels like this entire *year* has been Lent, all of us making sacrifices for the good of our society. During Lent, we typically veil our crosses, and the closure of our churches has felt like a *giant* veil covering our entire church building.

But as Henri Nouwen reminds us, Lent is not really about sacrificing things and draping purple veils over our crosses.

Lent is about finding *God*. It really doesn't matter how you do it.

Whether you sacrifice food in the form of a fast, or commit yourself to a disciplined daily prayer, the point of anything we do is to find God. To reach out, to recognize our shortcomings, or to simply seek God's presence in our lives, Lent is about us and God.

So please bear this in mind as we prepare our spiritual selves for this most holy of liturgical seasons. To reflect the importance of the season of Lent, we will be using Rite I for our liturgies. The hope is that this itself might present us an opportunity for spiritual growth. We will surely have to pay careful attention to the words of our liturgy. I hope that you—like me—will find beauty in the Elizabethan language of Rite I. And if you were an Episcopalian before 1979, our Lenten services might be a nice trip down memory lane.

The Season of Lent is upon us. Prepare the way of the Lord.

+Tom

Website: www.stjohnschurchedryden.org

Email: stjohnschurchedryden@gmail.com

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 March is February 26th.



Happy Birthday...

Al Sievers
Ida Lynn Dodd
Kathy Wagester

Sr. Warden's Letter for February Newsletter



Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting on January 17th – although I really missed the pot-luck and the fellowship that is our normal practice. The turnout for the Zoom meeting was impressive. We had folks from down the road and from the warm state of Texas. It was good to see everyone. I'm hoping the day for in-person gathering is not too far off but, as we all know, that is hard to predict. Our members continue to be well and a few have actually gotten the vaccine – even both doses! Although each of us must make our own decision, I'm am hopeful that people who have completed the vaccination process (both doses and some time for "curing") will feel safe in returning to our Sunday services in the sanctuary. We'd still mask up and maintain safe seating but with the protection of the vaccine, I think risk of infection would be very low, almost nil. For now, we continue to rely on our live-stream service. We'll let everyone know when the church will be open for our vaccinated members.

Besides the new faces on the Vestry (specifics in an announcement later in newsletter), Mary Cameron, who has been our contact with Linked Hearts for several years, has decided to resign from that position. We are grateful to Mary for keeping St. John's active in this ministry. Historically, we've had clergy and lay representation on the Linked Hearts board but haven't been able to do that since

Rev. Sue was with us. Rev. Tom has said he will be glad to participate. And it would be GREAT if we had one more person from the congregation to join him. Linked Hearts is our best connection to the larger community of Dryden. Through them, we can reach out to people in need who are unknown to us. And we might learn of other opportunities to help. Please consider this ministry opportunity. Meetings are every other month on the 1st Tuesday of the month at noon. Mary says they are typically less than one hour. A little time and effort can provide blessings for you and for others.

Another Annual Meeting vote gave approval to the Vestry to proceed with replacing our old roof. We have some money set aside for this project and have been getting some estimates for the work from various contractors. Because some of the shingles are believed to be asbestos, we have been talking to contractors who are qualified to remove this hazardous substance. This adds to the project expense but if those shingles ARE really asbestos, we want to do what is needed to guard the safety of our neighbors and the workers as well. A sample of the roof material is in for testing. If it is not asbestos, we will be shouting Alleluia from the bell tower. Stay tuned.

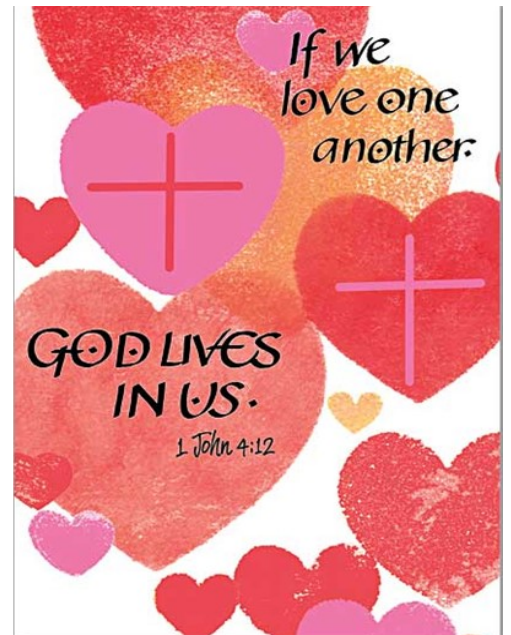
Groundhog Day is on us and Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday are fast approaching. Praying you stay healthy, happy and warm in the coming month.

Becky Foster

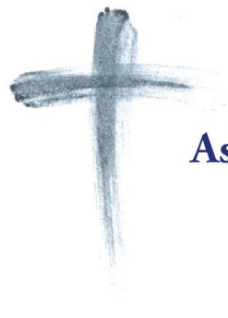




Happy Groundhog's Day!



Happy Valentine's Day!



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins



**Wednesday, February 17,
2021**

Face Book Live Service with
Rev. Tom @ 6PM

Ashes-to-Go in the Parking Lot
4:30 to 5:30PM



St. John's 2021 Annual Meeting Recap

We have a great Annual Meeting on January 17th. Zoom attendance was strong – we even got to see the Petries from Texas! Or we got to see their silhouettes – the sun was so strong down there that it cast them in the shade. We were all so envious. Several members were not able to attend but had provided paper ballots with their votes on motions under consideration. The first order of business was to approve including these ballots as a one-time pandemic exception – and it passed as we had hoped.

Results from the other items up for approval:

Proposed changes to our By-Laws were approved

- Vestry received approval to proceed with Roof Replacement project and to award business to contractors after appropriate reviews of contractors and bids
- Adding on-line donation platforms as an option to giving physical checks was approved
- Using the net profit from 2020 of \$9,500 as an addition to the Roof Replacement restricted fund was approved
- Making a monthly deposit of \$1,167 (\$14,000 for the year) to the Restricted Fund was also approved. This money was freed up thanks to the Diocese's Curacy Program which covers Rev. Tom's salary.
- The proposed budget for 2021 was also approved.

Vestry Positions – Both Wes Wagester and Lelia Wagner were elected to replace Tim Wright and Ina Dockham who were rotating off the Vestry.

Diocesan Convention Delegates:

1. Neil Hargrave
2. Mary Cameron
3. Corinne Fry
4. Becky Foster

Diocesan Convention Alternates

1. Sherry Boyden
2. Tim Wright

Thanks to all who contributed to the meeting. We sincerely hope that we can gather in person next year and have a FAN-TABULOUS Pot Luck as well as good fellowship.

Ministry Schedule				Counting Schedule	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Vestry Member 1</u>	<u>Vestry Member 2</u>
Feb 7, 2021	Kathy Wagester	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Feb 14, 2021	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Feb 17, 2021	Wes Wagester		Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Feb 21, 2021	Neil Hargrave	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Becky Foster	Ina Dockham
Feb 28, 2021	Mary Cameron		Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd
Mar 7, 2021	Ina Dockham	Sherry Boynden	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Mar 14, 2021	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Mar 21, 2021	Lelia Wagner	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Mar 28, 2021	Margaret Smith		Becky Foster	Becky Foster	Ina Dockham

FROM MANY, ONE

FÈ LADIVÈSITE TOUNEN DE LA PLURALITÉ, DE MUCHOS, UNO
 LINITE L'UNITÉ DE MUITOS, UM E PLURIBUS UNUM
 合众为一

CONVERSATIONS ACROSS DIFFERENCE

Episcopal Church's 'From Many, One' aims to heal America's deep divisions one conversation at a time
Excerpts from article by David Paulsen
Posted Jan 11, 2021 on Episcopal News Site

The Episcopal Church is launching a campaign, "From Many, One," to promote a new spiritual framework for Episcopalians to engage in tough conversations with family, friends and neighbors, bridging the intense divisions that threaten to tear apart communities in the United States and beyond.

Starting Jan. 18, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Episcopalians will be encouraged to invite others to join them in "conversations across difference" guided by four questions:

Who do you love?

What have you lost?

Where does it hurt?

And what do you dream?

The campaign, which rejects retribution, punishment and "othering," is inspired by the Latin phrase on the U.S. seal: E Pluribus Unum. Although it was developed before the mob of Trump supporters took over the Capitol for several hours on Jan. 6, the church campaign is launching at a time when many Americans are reeling from recent events. The goal is to celebrate difference and promote healing by emphasizing listening and curiosity.

So how will "From Many, One" help Episcopalians respond faithfully to today's divisions? The campaign offers steps for facilitating one-on-one conversations that allow open expression of dif-

ferences without judgment. Before setting up those conversations, participants can review the guide developed by the church (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/from-many-one/>). Engaging in "the spiritual practice of conversation across difference can help to knit us all into a diverse, more perfect union," the guide says. Conversation partners can be anyone in a person's social circle, from relatives to co-workers — "many of them are eager for respectful, mutual conversation," the guide says. Although the conversations are intended for individuals, congregations may choose to host events that encourage the practice, such as Zoom meetings with breakout rooms for the one-on-one talks. "We all are wonderfully and diversely made in God's image," the Rev. Shannon Kelly, the church's director of faith formation, told ENS. "Engaging in conversation with someone who differs from us on any topic, hearing their experiences and sharing your own understanding is one way to start to build relationships and break down the walls between us."

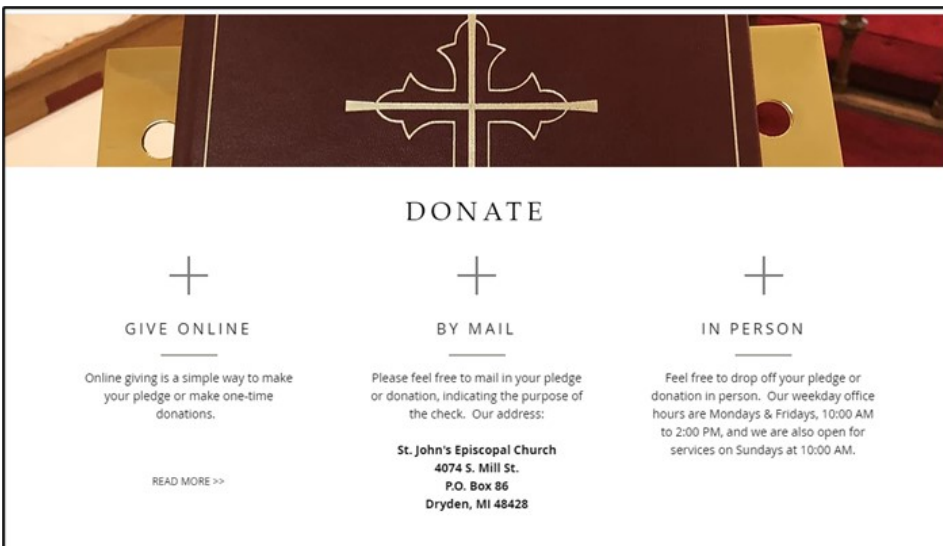
After completing these conversations, participants then are asked to pray for their conversation partners and, if they wish, to share the story of their experiences online through the "From Many, One" campaign.

On-Line Giving Now Available at St. John's

During our annual meeting, we discussed the benefits of having an option for on-line giving on our website and on our Facebook page. This will make it easier for people who sometimes forget to send in their pledge or for those who are wintering (or summering) away from home and would like to avoid using the sometimes-unpredictable postal system. For those who wish to continue personally donating via mail or in the plate, both of those options continue along with our gratitude for your generosity. To get started, bring up the church's website, www.stjohnschurchdryden.org. You'll see something like this...



Click on the **Donate** tab on the far right.



You see the three ways of donating to St. John's – Click on "Read More" to proceed to the online option.

If you click on the Tithe.ly option this is what you will see.

This is the top portion of the screen. Here you fill in the

Amount

Leave General Fund as the destination. If we have a special fund raiser, there will be other accounts available but for now, we just have this option

Recurring Giving – you can select Weekly, Every 2 Weeks, Monthly, or the 1st and 15th of the month. This is where the time/effort savings are for regular donors.

You can choose to have the donation made from a Credit Card OR from your bank account. Note: Bank Account ACH is less expensive for St. John's. But

chose whichever option is best for you.

If you use a credit card, the number, exp. date, and security code are needed. If you chose to withdraw from your bank account, you will need information found on the bottom line of a physical check – the routing number and the account number.

Cover Fees box – this is an opportunity for you to add the transaction fee to your gift to St. John's. The fee charges are:

For Credit Cards – 2.9% + \$.30

For Bank Transactions – 1% + \$.30

THIS IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR YOU TO USE THIS PROGRAM! You can choose to leave this box unchecked.

Remember Me – this is a handy way to be able to return to the program to change your donation amount in the future. You will be

asked to create a password and an PIN for security purposes.

NOW CLICK ON THE GIVE BUTTON!

If you want to use PayPal instead, this is what you'll see.

Donate to
St. John's Episcopal Church Dryden MI ✓

\$0.00
USD

☐ Make this a monthly donation ?

Donate with PayPal

Donate with a Debit or Credit Card

Cancel and return to St. John's Episcopal Church Dryden MI

Feedback

If you want to use PayPal instead, this is what you'll see.

If you already have a PayPal account, you can click on the blue bar and sign-in that way. If you do not have a PayPal account, click on the white bar to donate with a debit or credit card. There is no ACH option with PayPal.

Donate to
St. John's Episcopal Church Dryden MI ✓

\$1.00
USD

☐ Make this a monthly donation ?

Write a note (Optional)

Donate with a debit or credit card

Country/Region
United States

Card number

Expires Security code

First name Last name

This is the top half of the donation screen.

Be sure to scroll down to complete the form.

Billing address

Street address

Apt., ste., bldg. (optional)

City

State ZIP code

Contact Information

Phone type Mobile Phone number

Email

☐ Save this information for next time.

View PayPal policies and your payment method rights.

Donate Now

This is the lower portion of the screen.

PayPal does offer a chance to schedule a monthly donation – Tithe.ly provides other options and has a better reporting menu for tracking donations which is why we recommend Tithe.ly for pledge donations.

You will also have a chance to register for PayPal ([Save this Information for next time](#)). This will allow your credit card info to be kept on file (they have very strong cyber-security) which will make future donations easier.

When you're done, click "**Donate Now**" and you're done!

That's all there is to it. If you have any questions, give Tom or Becky a call and we'll try to find the answers. And, finally, no matter which giving option you chose, we thank you for your on-going support of St. John's.



There were many notable moments in the recent inauguration but this AME minister was an impressive prayer warrior pleading for the soul of a nation. If you missed it, here is his prayer.

As a nation and people of faith gathered in this historic moment, let us unite in prayer.

God, we gather under the beauty of your holiness and the holiness of your beauty.

We seek your face, your smile, your warm embrace.

We petition you once more in this celebration.

We pray for divine favor upon our president, Joseph R. Biden, and our first lady, Dr. Jill Biden and their family.

We further ask that you would extend the same favor upon our Vice President, Kamala D. Harris, and our second gentleman, Doug Emhoff, and their family. More than ever, they and our nation need You.

We need You - for in you we discover our common humanity. In our common humanity we will seek out the wounded and bind their wounds.

We will seek healing from those who are sick and diseased.

We will mourn our dead.

We will befriend the lonely, the least, and the left out.

We will share our abundance with those who are hungry.

We will give justice to the oppressed.

Acknowledge sin, and seek forgiveness, thus grasping reconciliation.

In discovering our humanity, we will seek the good in and for all our neighbors.

We will love the unlovable. Remove the stigma of the so-called untouchables.

We will care for our most vulnerable, our children, the elderly, the emotionally challenged, and the poor.

We will seek rehabilitation beyond correction.

We will extend opportunity to those locked out of opportunity.

We will make friends of our enemies. We will make friends of our enemies.

People, Your people shall no longer raise up weapons against one another.

We will rather use our resources for the national good and become a beacon of life and goodwill to the world.

Neither shall we learn hatred anymore.

We will lie down in peace, and not make our neighbors afraid.

In You, oh God, we discover our humanity. In our humanity we discover our commonness. Beyond the difference of color, creed, origin, political party, ideology, geography and personal preferences.

We'll become greater stewards of your environment, preserving the land, reaping from it a sustainable harvest, and securing its wonder and miracle giving power for generations to come.

*This is our benediction. That from these hallowed grounds, where slaves labored to build this shrine to liberty and democracy, let us all acknowledge from the indigenous Native American to those who recently received their citizenship, from the African-American to those whose fore-parents came from Europe and every corner of the globe, from the wealthy to those struggling to make it, from every human being regardless of their choices, **that this is our country.***

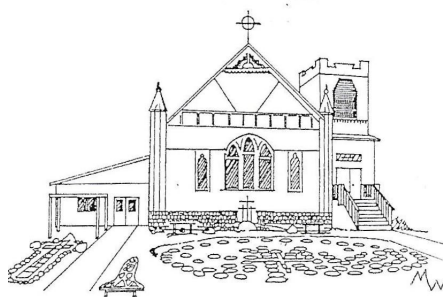
As such, teach us, oh God.

Teach us to live in it, love in it, be healed in it, and reconciled to one another in it, lest we miss kingdom's goal.

To Your glory, majesty, dominion and power forever.

Hallelujah. Glory, Hallelujah.

In the strong name of our collective faith, Amen.



St. John's Episcopal Church
PO Box 86
4074 S Mill St.
Dryden, MI 48428