



April, 2024



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Vestry Notes	2
Stations of the Cross	3
Rev. Robert	3
Inclusion Center	4
Financial Report	5
Ministry Schedule	5
Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes	6-7
Remembering Dave Hernden	8

Pastor's Corner

Dear people of St. John's

My hope is that each and every one you enjoyed a happy and glorious Easter Day. I'm sure you also enjoyed your Lenten disciplines coming to an end. I'm sure some of you found your disciplines to be spiritually gratifying and plan to continue them for the immediate future. Whatever your situation, I'm happy so many of you attended the Lenten "taste and see". It was educational for me and I believe we all carried away a few interesting things which made Easter just a little more Holy. My thanks to everyone.

Easter isn't over yet! We still have five more weeks to celebrate our Lord's resurrection. Of course, we can't forget the crucifixion. Usual depictions of our crucified Christ include to wounds on his hands and side. It is believed the crucifixion nails were driven through the wrist, but this should not deter the symbolism of the palm. We all carry the mark of our risen Christ on our palm each time we receive the body of Christ at communion. In John 19:14, blood and water flow from the wound on Jesus'

side. Church tradition has seen this description as a proclamation that baptism and Eucharist flow from the death of Christ.



After the resurrection Jesus says, "Peace be with you" to his terrified disciples. Jesus proclaims this after each appearance, and then they all break bread together. Doing this he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. In each celebration of Holy Eucharist, we exchange the peace. When the bread is broken we proclaim, "Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." In the breaking of the bread and the exchange of the peace, Christ is revealed to us, and reminds us we are all connected.

In this Easter season may we all be at peace and know we are all connected with one another through the bread of life.

In God's Love,

Rev. Harold

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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 May is April 26th.



Happy Birthday!

Becky Foster
Connie Ogg
Sarah Underwood

Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this just before Holy Week. I suspect you won't have a chance to read it until after Easter Sunday. I hope we all have a meaningful week and a joyous Easter. And then maybe we'll rest a bit – we had a busy March, after all. We had a work day in Mio at the Inclusion Center, Taste & See classes, Dave HERNON's funeral, regular Sunday services (all of them wonderful and the Coffee Hours were fantastic) and then Holy Week and Easter! So, we'll have a "normal" April before we get busy again in May.

Remember that presentation Deacon Beckett made about LGBTQ+? Well, we have a copy of the slide show to share with anyone who is interested in reviewing the materials at a slightly slower pace. Look for a copy in the Parish Hall. The Vestry is working on what we might do next on this topic. Maybe a book study?

Beckett mentioned "Unclobber" as a good read. The author, Colby Martin, was a pastor at an evangelical megachurch until they fired him because of his stance on sexuality. One source describes the book thus: "The author reex-

amines what the Bible says (and does not say) about homosexuality in such a way that sheds divine light on outdated and inaccurate assumptions and interpretations." One reviewer says, "Funny, smart, and brilliantly paced! Colby has written *that* book – the one you give your friend – the friend who knows that inclusion is the only path forward but keeps getting told, "but the Bible says..." In his fresh and accessible way, he shows what the Bible actually says".



I have a copy and plan to read it right after Easter. If you would like to read it together, let me know. I'd enjoy discussing it with you. And a group discussion would be great.

This last week of March will have some "firsts" for us. We'll have our first Stations of the Cross (at least the first in a long time). We'll have our first Easter with Fr. Harold which will include Jason Foltz's baptism. And then we'll have a "last" – Easter will be our last Sunday with Beckett and Kay and Audrey. We're sad to see them go. But the new chapter they are writing is exciting – I know we'll hear good things about the venture as it unfolds. And hopefully we'll have good things to share about our unfolding story too.

Wishing all of you a Blessed Easter!

Becky



Happy Easter!

Sr. Home Ministries at The Bells in Almont

Sometimes a small request opens a door that is a blessing to enter. Several months ago, Connie Jones asked Fr. Harold if he would consider holding a small bible study at the Bells Assisted Living in Almont, where she lives. Fr. Harold was delighted to accept the invitation. It turns out there were several folks who were interested in gathering for a conversation about the bible and other faith related topics. So, now Fr. Harold is a regular face at the Bells – usually around 11AM on Mondays – to discuss a reading from the bible with anyone who wishes to attend. And he brings bread and wine for communion too. The sessions are popular – he ran out of wafers one week. The sessions are open to residents of The Bells and others too – even folks from St. John’s like Wes and Kathy Wagester. Please pray that this new ministry continues to grow. It will be a blessing to all involved.



Stations of the Cross Ready for Good Friday

The Stations of the Cross from St. Bart’s Mio have found their new home location at St. John’s just in time for Good Friday. Many thanks to Jack (and Ida Lynn too) for the careful measuring and placement. I could never get a series like this hung on a straight line. We have our first prayer service with these stations on Good Friday. I hope you can make it.



Rev. Robert Jones
Saturday, May 11
7:00 pm

St. John’s
Episcopal Church
Concert Series Presents.

St. John’s Music Concert Series presents Rev. Robert Jones
Gospel/blues musician and storyteller. Mark your calendars and spread the word!

A Work Day at the Inclusion Center in Mio

Deacon Beckett had put out the word – Help wanted for clean-up, paint-up and fix-up at the Inclusion Center in Mio on March 2nd. And, boy!, did people respond. There must have been over 20 people there! Some of us painted, some of us helped move furniture or assemble furniture. And some used their skills in carpentry and electrical work. It was barely controlled chaos but then I suspect that’s how God roles anyway. There is still



work to do but we made a substantial start. Thanks to all who volunteered their time that day – and to those who added a prayer for us too. We’re looking forward to seeing how it looks when it’s finished. Maybe there’ll be a “Grand Opening”?

St. Bart’s on it’s way to becoming the Inclusion Center. Note the snow on the ground.... even though temps were in the 60’s!

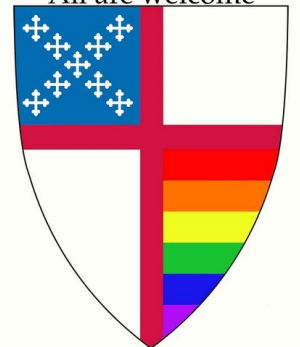


Jason and Jack working with plywood – do you think that wall was square? If not, it was when they finished with it.

Mary Cameron puts her artistic talents to work creating a mural for the entry way. It was so cool to see it coming together. And the way the colors blended together was a lovely message.



The Episcopal Church
All are welcome



February Financial Report

February 2024	Feb Budget	Feb Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,530	\$7,475	\$1,945	\$11,030	\$13,627	\$2,597
Expenses	\$5,388	\$5,835	\$448	\$5,387	\$5,712	\$ 325
Net Profit	\$142	\$1,640	\$1,497	\$5,643	\$7,915	\$2,272

Our monthly pledge donations were higher than budget expectations again so we're off to a good start.

Expenses balanced out from a rocky start in January that were due to some bundling of invoices by a contractor and late invoices from Xmas print ads. Over budget this month:

- The Music Event account shows activity due to down-payment for upcoming concerts. Still within annual budget allocation.
- Lawn/Snow/Trash is over budget – T&N still clearing invoices from last year
- Maintenance Account shows activity due to furnace maintenance.
- Utilities are up but should smooth out in warmer weather.

Vanguard Funds:

Total Stock Fund Balance as of 02/29/2024 \$74,114 – over \$14,000 increase above our initial investment

CD re-investment completed.

Matures 02/28/2025 with 5.41% interest

Expected income of \$1,188.

CD at Oxford Bank –

- \$10,000 CD at 5.65% maturing in August 2024
- \$10,000 CD at 5.27% maturing in May of 2024.



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>
04/07/2024	Wes			Becky	Ina	Mary	Becky
04/14/2024	Beth Ann	Jack	Jason	Fr. Schneider	Sherry	Jack	Neil
04/21/2024	Tammy			Neil	Ida Lynn	Neil	Russ
04/28/2024	Mary	Neil	Jack	Fr Schneider	Wes	Connie	Mary
05/05/2024	Ina	Rev LeClaire	5	Kitty	Ina	Russ	Jack

Eastern and Western Michigan's Special Joint Convention Votes to Seek Juncture

The dioceses to become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes in October

From the Diocesan Newsletter, "The Feast"

Last Saturday, gathered as a special joint convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, our elected delegates and clergy voted to approve "juncture," or the creation of one, new diocese from the two existing bodies.

The votes were conducted following Episcopal Church canons and the canons of each respective diocese, resulting in an overall approval rate of 83%. The results of the decision were as follows:



Eastern Michigan combined: 126 votes yes, 22 votes no - 85% to approve

Western Michigan combined: 137 votes yes, 31 votes no - 82% to approve

These votes were taken at the culmination of several years of discernment to determine strategic structural, financial, and other support for the mission and ministry of the dioceses. The process began in 2017, when the former bishop of Eastern Michigan, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, resigned to accept a position on

the staff of The Episcopal Church. Through multiple iterations of conversation and approvals to begin a formal partnership, the discernment process officially began in 2020 with the sharing of a bishop and the appointment of a committee to facilitate and make a recommendation. Over the last four years, the Building Bridges Steering Committee led multiple iterations of listening sessions, conduct-



Bishop Skip and others preparing for Eucharist



ed

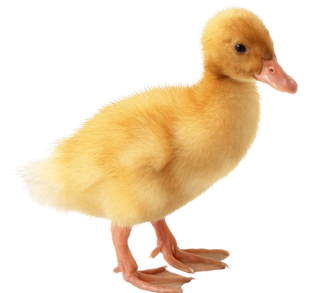
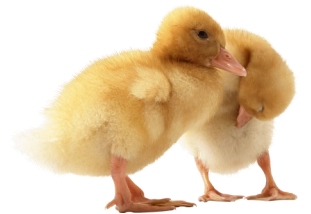
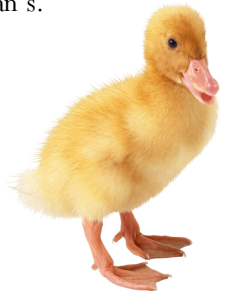


Some familiar faces from St. Dunstan's.

research, interviews, and more to discern and advise the Standing Committees and ecclesiastical authorities of the dioceses regarding “opportunities for collaboration and proposed canonical changes to the structure, governance, and episcopal oversight of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.



.Having completed the convention vote, the dioceses will submit the prepared “Agreement of Union” for ratification by the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church meeting this June in Louisville, Kentucky. Our dioceses will share details about how to join the livestream from Kentucky for the historic moment, once we know when we might expect it to be on the agenda. Following the anticipated affirmation of the new diocese, the primary convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will take place in Mount Pleasant, Michigan in October 2024 and is expected to include the adoption of a new constitution and canons and elections to leadership bodies. Not until this "Primary Convention" do our bodies officially transition from being the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan to the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.”



Saying Farewell to Dave Herndon

Friday, March 8th, several of us gathered at the Great Lakes Military Cemetary in Holly, Mi to pay our respects to Dave and to support his wife and our friend, Darlene. Although we haven't seen them in a while, they were both regular faces at St. John's for many years. Dave, who had a real talent for putting things together and making things work, was always happy to help out when we had a project in the works. And, based on the stories people were sharing, he didn't stop there. His time in the



service was very important to him as you can see in the display below. And his handiwork was also there to see – those walking for instance. The writing on the handle of the turned and polished piece says

“Dave Herndon SGT – SVC Co. 17th Inf. Regt. 7th Div – Korea. Active Service 27 Sept 51 – 27 June 53. That's only a partial statement – Dave was in active service to his Lord much longer than that. We hope to see Darlene on Easter Sunday. And let's keep her in our prayers – this is a big adjustment to make.



Dave's military mementoes



Remember St. John's in your will:

Please consider helping the mission and ministry of St. John's by remembering the church in your will. You can do so by using the following wording:

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to St. John's Episcopal Church, a non-profit church, with the current address of 4074 S. Mill St., Dryden, MI 48428, and its successor, the greater of \$_____, or _____percentage of my gross estate, to be used insuch manner as determined by its vestry.”

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