



July, 2024



ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

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Dear people of St. John's,

The end of June and the start of July; does it feel excessively warm to you? Have you ever been confronted with winds which seem to blow branches from the trees immediately after you have retrieved the branches from the previous heavy wind? Does grass appear to be growing faster and in need of mowing more often because we have had more rain? If you are experiencing these things, you are not alone. Is it climate change?

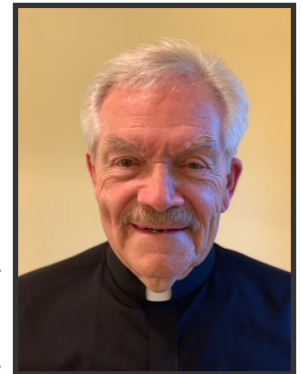
We have been moving nicely into the season of Pentecost; only about 17 more Sunday's to go. As we travel through this season we will hear many stories about Jesus and his disciples. Christianity is a missionary religion, infused with the commission to spread the word of repentance and healing everywhere. Jesus sent his disciples out two by two to spread the word which is an image which is characteristic of the church.

Jesus clearly calls his disciples to tell the story with words as well as actions. Many of us would not know where to start if someone would ask us to share our faith. This should not always be the case. If you need a prompt, think about the Nicene

Creed. What do you believe about God? Jesus? The Holy Spirit? The church? Forgiveness? Resurrection?

We will also hear about the beheading of John the Baptist which should paint an image of this cruel and unjust world. John's voice has survived for centuries and we continue to hear his preaching. John preached the truth and was arrested for his truth telling. There are many times in our lives when standing up for the truth and speaking up for the rights of others and calling for justice seem too risky. However, the implications of our baptism, call for us to do just that.

The story of John's death is not a pleasant story. It is violent and ugly. It serves a painful reminder not all stories have a happy ending. Sometimes the movies we watch, the books we read, the news we hear and the stories we live do not offer a fairy-tale ending. It is important to live within this reality. It is also important to remember the stories we encounter are often incomplete. *Continued on pg 2*



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## 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 July is June 28th.



## Happy Birthday!

Jim Fry  
John Malinich  
Kitty Underwood  
Wes Wagester  
Nikolai Wagner  
Jack Dodd

## Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

We made it to summer! Which means we relax a little, right? Father Harold is enjoying a well earned vacation up north. I suspect many of us have similar plans at various locations. This month's newsletter is not as long as others – which seems in tune with the season.

Of course, not everyone is kicking back to relax. The Episcopal Church General Convention has just concluded. We now have a new Presiding Bishop – a little more about him in this edition. And the decision about joining Eastern and Western Michigan Diocese has been made....and the results are....later in the newsletter! It looks like our state was well represented at Louisville. I wonder if anyone sampled the local bourbon?

I like to make a mid-year review about this time. And I think we're doing quite well. The first half of the year was very active on both the worship and community fronts. Fr. Harold has enriched

our Sunday practice as well as our Lenten experience. Kitty continues to make our music and our choir sound great. All of you are pitching in to help when you see something that needs doing. Myron is back making coffee most Sundays so we know it's the BEST!



We want to experiment with some small changes in our liturgy this summer. Nothing tricky – but maybe ways to deepen our experience. And we plan to have a Sunshine Service in August. Let's hope the weather works with us.

The big item on the to-do list is painting the church building. There's an article with details later on in this issue. We don't have all the funding yet but we are SO CLOSE! And that's saying a lot for a small church. And the end result will be impressive.

Enjoy the summer and the upcoming holiday. I am so grateful for this country and this congregation.

Blessings,

*Becky*

*Continued from page 1...We should at times look outside the frame of the story to find the grace of God.*

I sincerely hope we all enjoy a bliss filled summer and Pentecost. Don't forget your church and live up to Jesus call. Invite, invite, invite someone, a friend or relative, or even someone you don't know, to come to church with you. We are a friendly church, they may like it here.

In God's Love,


*Rev. Harold*

## Further adventures of Rocky Racoon!



**We thought we had it all figured out.** But then the bell rope was partially pulled up **again**. So the stealth cam was back in action. This time we found Rocky in the crawl space part of the basement. Jack heard noises in the wall in the Narthex so it appears Rocky is climbing up to the tower that way. Thanks to Jack Dodd's persistence and John Malinich's live trap, Rocky found himself on his way to a new home FAR-FAR AWAY. Let's hope he didn't recommend our church as a home to his friends.







### Freya Gilbert's Visit was Encouraging

*Freya Gilbert, Becky Foster and Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe during Coffee Hour*

We invited Freya Gilbert to preach at St. John's during our June 23<sup>rd</sup> service. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, she had agreed to answer questions during our coffee

hour as well. The message that emerged was that a warm welcome, invitations to participate in congregational activities, and treating all members with love and acceptance is what our LGBTQ+ friends hope for. And that's what we at St. John's do so well. May we share love and hope with everyone who comes through our doors – with God's help.



# This is NOT Tom Sawyer's Paint Project!

We're not asking folks to pick up a brush and climb ladders. None of us are up to that, right? But we could use some help with funding.

We have reviewed three different bids – one for over \$70,000, one for \$43,000 and one for \$25,000. The first was just too high. The lowest did not include siding repair so we settled on the middle option. The Vestry had allocated \$20,000 in CD's toward this project before we knew what it would cost. And we have received some donations that put us over the \$30,000 mark. We've applied to the Diocese for a \$5,000 grant but that's not a sure thing. That's why it has a different color on the graph. So that brings us to roughly



\$36,000 if the grant is approved.

Can you help us fill in the rest of the boxes? Any amount is appreciated. Just include a memo or a note indicating the money is for the Paint Project and we'll see it get's in the right slot. And thanks for your support – this is a lot of money for a small church to raise and we're almost there! I can't wait to see how the church looks in its "after" picture!

## Paint Project

### Funding Level

	\$43,000
	\$40,000
	\$35,000
	\$30,000
	\$25,000
	\$20,000
	\$15,000
	\$10,000
	\$5,000

## Bible Study at The Bells Growing



Fr. Harold started a weekly Bible Study at the Bells Senior Living facility earlier this year. It has a growing number of participants – some of whom are not residents but we know well. The gathering happens on Mondays at 11AM and runs for a little more than an hour. If you are in the neighborhood and interested, give it a try. You can count on good conversations and good company.



### From Roxanne

Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 pm, Immanuel Congregational Church, 1 Hovey St., Oxford, MI is having an open house to thank all those who donated to the restoration of their bell tower, especially our friends at St. Johns! Please come join us for refreshments, music and the opportunity to ring our Bell!



## From the General Convention of the Episcopal Church 2024 -

### Sean Rowe elected 28th presiding bishop



[Episcopal News Service – Louisville, Kentucky]

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of Northwest Pennsylvania and bishop provisional of Western New York, was elected June 26 by the House of Bishops to serve as the 28th presiding bishop, and his election was confirmed by the House of Deputies at the 81st General Convention.

Rowe's election was announced by House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris on the house's afternoon session, and the deputies proceeded to confirm him with a nearly unanimous majority, 95% in favor. After the confirmation vote, all

rose in applause.

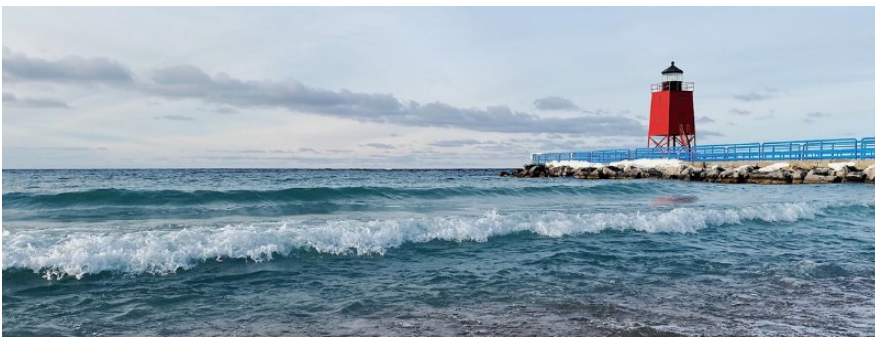
Rowe will begin his nine-year term as the public face and voice of The Episcopal Church and its chief pastor on Nov. 1, succeeding Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

The House of Bishops met in a closed session at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Louisville for the election. Rowe was elected by bishops on the first ballot, a result that was announced publicly in the House of Deputies and greeted by cheers from the standing-room-only crowd on the floor of the convention hall at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

Rowe was elected from a slate of five nominees chosen through a process led by the [Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop](#), which is made up of 20 bishops, clergy and lay leaders – 15 elected by General Convention and five appointed by the church's presiding officers.

Rowe, 49, has [led the Erie-based Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania since 2007](#), and he also serves as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York through a partnership the dioceses established in 2019. He previously served as bishop provisional of the Diocese of Bethlehem from 2014 to 2018.

He becomes the youngest bishop ever elected to serve as the church's presiding bishop.



### And the Results are In!!!!

The Episcopal Church General Convention voted on June 28<sup>th</sup> to approve the joining of the Eastern & Western Michigan Diocese creating the Diocese of the Great Lakes. There's still a lot of work to complete the process but this is great news. Let us pray that the unfolding of this new dio-

### 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 in such manner as determined by its vestry."

# May Financial Report

May 2024	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,500	\$3,447	<b>\$2,053</b>	\$27,640	\$40,628	<b>\$12,988</b>
Expenses	\$5,449	\$4,691	<b>\$758</b>	\$27,246	\$28,004	<b>\$758</b>
Net Profit	\$51	-\$1,244	<b>\$1,295</b>	\$394	\$12,624	<b>\$12,230</b>

May 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.





**Ministry  
Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Lector</u></b>	<b><u>Eucharistic Minister</u></b>	<b><u>Crucifer</u></b>	<b><u>Worship Leader</u></b>	<b><u>Video</u></b>	<b><u>Counting Member 1</u></b>	<b><u>Counting Member 2</u></b>
07/07/24				Kitty	Ida Lynn	Neil	Connie
07/14/24	Wes	Jack	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Sherry	Connie	Russ
07/21/24				Becky	Ina	Russ	Mary
07/28/24	Mary	Neil	John	Fr. Schneider	Wes	Mary	Jack
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

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