

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from Tom	1
Vestry Notes	2
Celebrations	2
Longest Night	3
Advent Classes	3
Christmas Eve	4
Amazing Peace	5
Girls Night Out	6
Wisdom of Charlie	7
Ministry Schedule	
Red Door	7
Calendar	8

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,

What a difference a month makes. Last month we were enjoying an almost balmy Indian summer and our church services were in-person. But now on the verge of December our weather has turned cold and dreary and we have again been “shut down” due to the raging COVID numbers throughout our nation, state, and county.

And despite our weariness with the COVID pandemic—now in its 10th month—I continue to look for positives related to this, our second shut-down. One positive is that we have improved our technology skills. Another is that we are spending more time with our family members. The pandemic has also forced us to reimagine our relationships with God as well as our approaches to things like education and our jobs. Many people have reported decluttering the house, and we have all enjoyed the benefits of an empty schedule. And there is one more...

As we approach the season of Advent, we begin our preparations for the coming of the Christ child and the celebration of the Holy Nativity. Advent has traditionally been a season of quiet contemplation, sort of a solemn, spiritual centering as we reflect on God's great gift to us, the gift of his

son our savior. And throughout my life, there has always been a tension during the Advent season. It is the tension brought on by the stress and pressure of holiday preparations and the commercial urgency created by the retail industry. It is this very tension that is the theme of my favorite Christmas movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. And so my hope and prayer for this Advent is this; that the forced shut-down of our church, along with the quarantine and cancelled travel plans we are required to endure, can result in the kind of spiritual unity with God and Christ that is the purpose of Advent. If we can find that—if this shut-down helps us get closer to God—then that is another, most definite positive.

I know we all look forward to Christmas. We look forward to that quiet, holy moment when the stars are shining, the animals are still, and the babe lies sleeping in a manger. And we look forward to sharing in the moment, captured so eloquently by Luke: “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”



Have a blessed and peaceful Advent.

+Tom

Website: www.stjohnschurchdryden.org

Email: stjohnschurchdryden@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 December, November 27th.



Happy Birthday...

- Kathleen Buszek
- Jane Harlow
- Sherry Wagner
- Mary Cameron

... & Happy Anniversary

Kitty & Russ Underwood

Vestry Notes:



Dear Friends,

It's the week of Thanksgiving and I'm grateful that I got out of Meijer's before the actual

holiday! The check-out lines were incredible. But most folks were in good spirits through it all. Somehow the holidays, even during this difficult year, seem to help us find a little more patience and cheer. Maybe we, like the Grinch, find that our hearts grow a few sizes bigger as we prepare to share our love with family and friends.

Going through Advent and possibly Christmas without physically gathering at church saddens me. You too?

But, when I think about it, this isn't my first time that holiday plans had to be radically changed. There was that year when my mom had a stroke the week before Christmas. This was totally unexpected and none of us kids had any idea what to expect. Initially, she was in pretty bad shape but after a couple of days, she started to talk again – we thought it was a small miracle although the doctors weren't as impressed. At any rate, we needed to find a nursing home for her quickly and then help her get settled in. The best place available was clean and the staff was nice but it was still bleak. It broke my heart to think of her without her family, especially during Christmas. We arranged

to reserve a conference room for Christmas evening. Then my sister and I did our best to cook some family favorites and transport it to the room which my brother and his wife had dressed up with some holiday decorations. It wasn't the Christmas we had planned– it was better than we had planned. Mom was still with us, we could share the evening and laugh together, and we knew our love for each other would carry us through future challenges.

For all the good work we've done on the church building this year, the most important thing about St. John's is the people who make this community a family. Your generosity and faithfulness keep us going. In this last month of the year, I'm challenging you to find ways to stay connected with other members of our church. It can be a phone call, a letter, a secret Santa surprise, baked goods or little mementos shared with friends. Schedule a time for multiple households to watch a favorite holiday movie together and then keep the cell phone on speaker so you can share your reactions to the best parts. I bet you can think of other fun ways to connect.

We will do our bit to share the liturgy, the music and the beauty of the season through the internet.

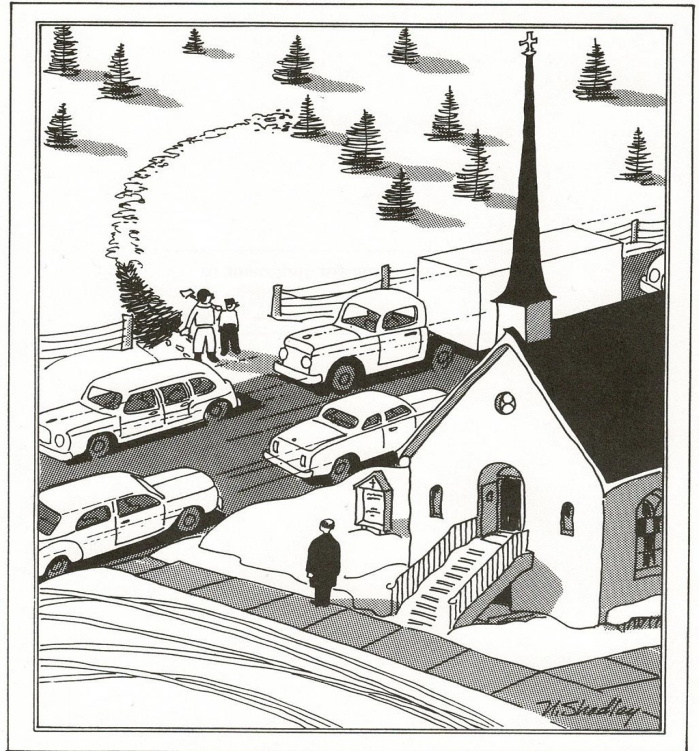
continued on page 3

Senior Warden, cont. —from page 2

We're even working on arranging a Longest Night service that I hope will be as touching as it would be in person. Whatever the future brings, I trust that the Lord will bring us through this and we will be wiser and stronger from the lessons we have learned. I've always loved the quote from Jeremiah – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future."

Wishing you a holy Advent and a blessed Christmas,

Becky



When: **Monday, December 21st**

Time: **7PM**

How: This will be a **Facebook Live** broadcast

You can find our church Facebook page by clicking on this link (or entering it in your Internet address bar at the top of the screen). You **DO NOT NEED TO BE A FACEBOOK USER.**

Please join us for a special service of comfort and peace during the darkest night of the year. For all of us who feel the absence of family members and friends during the holidays. And for those who struggle with loss of health, jobs or other trials.

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchdryden>
If you plan to participate, please **email the names** of those you would like to include in the memorial portion of the service **to heisler-becky52@gmail.com.**



Advent Class on Zoom!

Tuesdays at 4:00 PM.

Dec 1 through Dec 22 (four sessions)

The class is focused on the book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, by Marcus Borg.

Zoom Meeting: # **812 4353 1640**





Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ on

Thursday, December 24th

At 8:30 PM

We pray that we can gather at St. John's but are prepared to use the internet.

Will share details the week of December 20th .



Amazing Peace: A Christmas Poem

By Dr. Maya Angelou

Thunder rumbles in the mountain passes
And lightning rattles the eaves of our houses.
Flood waters await us in our avenues.

Snow falls upon snow, falls upon snow to avalanche
Over unprotected villages.
The sky slips low and grey and threatening.

We question ourselves.
What have we done to so affront nature?
We worry God.
Are you there? Are you there really?
Does the covenant you made with us still hold?

Into this climate of fear and apprehension, Christmas enters,
Streaming lights of joy, ringing bells of hope
And singing carols of forgiveness high up in the bright air.
The world is encouraged to come away from rancor,
Come the way of friendship.

It is the Glad Season.
Thunder ebbs to silence and lightning sleeps quietly in the corner.
Flood waters recede into memory.
Snow becomes a yielding cushion to aid us
As we make our way to higher ground.

Hope is born again in the faces of children
It rides on the shoulders of our aged as they walk into their sunsets.
Hope spreads around the earth. Brightening all things,
Even hate which crouches breeding in dark corridors.

In our joy, we think we hear a whisper.
At first it is too soft. Then only half heard.
We listen carefully as it gathers strength.
We hear a sweetness.
The word is Peace.
It is loud now. It is louder.
Louder than the explosion of bombs.

We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence.
It is what we have hungered for.
Not just the absence of war. But, true Peace.
A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies.
Security for our beloveds and their beloveds.

We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Christmas.
We beckon this good season to wait a while with us.
We, Baptist and Buddhist, Methodist and Muslim, say
come.
Peace.
Come and fill us and our world with your majesty.
We, the Jew and the Jainist, the Catholic and the Confucian,
Implore you, to stay a while with us.
So we may learn by your shimmering light
How to look beyond complexion and see community.

It is Christmas time, a halting of hate time.

On this platform of peace, we can create a language
To translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other.

At this Holy Instant, we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ
Into the great religions of the world.
We jubilate the precious advent of trust.
We shout with glorious tongues at the coming of hope.
All the earth's tribes loosen their voices
To celebrate the promise of Peace.

We, Angels and Mortal's, Believers and Non-Believers,
Look heavenward and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at our world and speak the word aloud.
Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves
And we say without shyness or apology or hesitation.

Peace, My Brother.
Peace, My Sister.
Peace, My Soul.



Let's Have a Girl's Night with Mom!

Sherry Wagner shared these pix of her, her mom (Donna Lou Hayes) and her sister Bonnie having a blast at an overnight stay-over. Donna Lou hasn't been able to have many visitors since March so this was a lovely treat for her and her daughters. Sherry says they talked, ate and watched Shirley Temple movies. I wonder if they watched "The Little Princess" where Shirley meets Queen Victoria – that was one of my favorites.

There's a story about the quilt in the second picture. Sherry's great-grandmother made the top and had her daughter, Donna Lou, put one button in the middle. The quilt top was completed but not the quilting process. Our own Sherry Petrie did the quilting to make it a warm memory of love. Sherry Wagner is taking it further by having every woman in her family add one button to their favorite square. This quilt will have a story of love to tell that will warm heart as well as body. Can't you just see a little girl touching a button and asking, "Who put that one on?"



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY
 Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-20-2001
 SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY 12-07-2012
 I WANT TO GET GOD SOMETHING AWESOME FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR, BUT WHAT DO YOU GET THE GUY WHO MADE EVERYTHING?





Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years.

He left us four statements:

- 1) Nothing is forever in this world, not even our problems.
- (2) I love walking in the rain, because no one can see my tears.
- (3) The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh.
- (4) Six best doctors in the world are ...

1. The sun
2. Rest
3. Exercise
4. Diet
5. Self-respect
6. Friends

Stick to them at all stages of your life and enjoy a healthy life.

Submitted by Ida Lynn Dodd – Thanks!



Perfect for This Season and Beyond

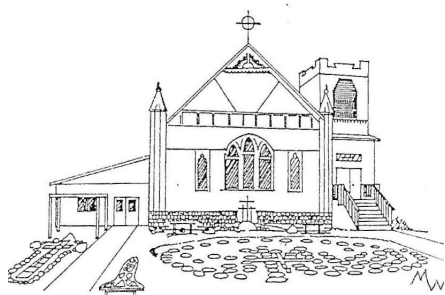
Once again, Jack and Ida Lynn Dodd saw an opportunity to beautify our church and ran with it. As you may know, Epis-

copal churches often have red doors. There are several variations of the story behind it. Some say it is meant to symbolize the blood of Christ and remind of us of the source of our salvation. Others say it is meant to symbolize the tongues of fire from Pentecost. Others say it means the mortgage is paid off. I think our doors just say “Welcome”. And we thank Jack and Ida Lynn for their thoughtful gift of imagination and time. Can’t you just see a Christ-



<u>Ministry Schedule</u>				<u>Counting Schedule</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>	<u>Vestry Member 1</u>	<u>Vestry Member 2</u>
Dec 6, 2020	Darlene Herndon	Sherry Boyden	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Dec 13, 2020	Kathy Wagester		Becky Foster	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Dec 20, 2020	Wes Wagester	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Dec 24, 2020	Neil Hargrave	Neil Hargrave	Rev Tom Manney		
Dec 25, 2020			Rev Tom Manney		
Dec 27, 2020	Ina Dockham		Tim Wright	Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave
Jan 3, 2021	Ina Dockham	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Ina Dockham	Tim Wright
Jan 10, 2021	Lelia Wagner	Neil Hargrave	Rev Barb Cavin	Jack Dodd	Becky Foster
Jan 17, 2021	Margaret Smith	Mary Cameron	Rev Tom Manney	Tim Wright	Neil Hargrave
Jan 24, 2021	Tammy Turnipseed		Neil Hargrave	Becky Foster	Ina Dockham
Jan 31, 2021	Darlene Herndon		Becky Foster	Neil Hargrave	Jack Dodd

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am - Morning	30	1 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Advent Class	2 8pm - AA	3	4 10am - Office Hours	5
6 10am - Worship-Rev	7	8 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Advent Class	9 8pm - AA	10	11 10am - Office Hours	12
13 8:30am - Morning 4pm - Vestry	14	15 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Advent Class	15 8pm - AA	17	18 10am - Office Hours	19
20 Worship-Rev Tom	21 7pm - Blue	22 10am - Office Hours 4pm - Advent Class	23 8pm - AA	24 Christmas Eve 8:30pm - Christmas	25 Christmas Day Newsletter deadline 10am - Christmas	26
27 10am - Morning	28	29 10am - Office Hours	30 8pm - AA	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day 10am - Office Hours	2



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