

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY

LIVING IN HOPE † UNITED IN FAITH † LED BY LOVE

September, 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Corner	1
Vestry Notes	2
Remembering Connie Jones	3
St. John's gets a facelift!	4
Diocesan News	5-6
We have a Winner!	6
Ministry Schedule	6
Sonshine Service	7
Financial News	8
Mustard's Retreat	9

Dear people of St. John's,

Fall is fast approaching! Faster than most of us would like and probably you, like me, have been wondering where the summer has gone. Fall is my favorite time of year. The grass doesn't seem to grow as fast. The colors God paints the trees and forests are true works of art. The children in our communities are returning to school and hopefully the adults will return to their pre-summer routines. I hope and pray one of your routines will include your church.

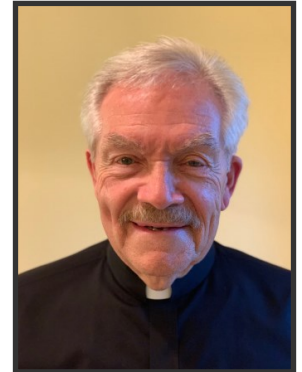
Our Gospel readings will shift from John to Mark and we will be treated to an array from parables from proper hand washing to avoiding toxic people and situations. We should find new habits like healthy eating and avoid habits which drag other people down. Don't make it harder for someone else to love God, love themselves, and love their neighbor.

We all have family traditions,

school traditions, and church traditions. What traditions do you hold dear? Maybe it's a special food during

Christmas, running an annual 5K race, or a family vacation. What happens when someone interrupts a tradition? A family member develops a food allergy, or a close friend breaks a leg, or your work schedule prevents travel. Traditions matter, but we are reminded by Jesus that loving God and our neighbor is more important than traditions. Traditions should be flexible so we do not abandon commandments to uphold tradition.

Jesus never promised the life of Christian discipleship would be easy. He actually foretells the opposite. "If any want to become my follower, let them take up their cross. Jesus knows his proclamation will become a *continued on page 2...*



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

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 October is September 27.



Happy Birthday!

Myron Petrie
Rev. Harold
Schneider

Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

August was a busy month at St. John's. Our church got a facelift and it looks MAHVELOUS! We held our outdoor service – lots of pix from that – and had a fabulous pot luck! A real diet buster! Our basket raffle has a winner. We've gathered some supplies for our local schools. And it looks like our grant request was approved! So much to celebrate.

On a sadder note, we will also celebrate the life of Connie Jones on Saturday, August 31st. As you will see in this issue, she was an accomplished and well traveled woman. We didn't know her very long. But I especially remember one Christmas Eve when she joined our choir and did an

outstanding job with the shortest amount of rehearsal. She will be missed. Yet we rejoice that she is with God and we will see her again.



September brings cooler temps (I hope! It's 90 plus today) AND our fall music concert. Info is in this issue. I hope you can come. And I hope you will help us get the word out – we'll supply fliers and small hand-outs to anyone who wants to share the word. This is going to be another really enjoyable evening.

So enjoy the coming month. Fall is lovely but we know what comes next.

Peace & Blessings,

Becky Foster

Symbol of suffering. Symbols often have more than one meaning. Sacrifice is part of the Christian life, so is resurrection. A cross can symbolize both the discomfort we encounter for the sake of the Gospel and the new life it brings.

I pray you all have a wonderful start to a season of fall color and that all of your traditions include a huge dose of "the Way of Love."

In God's Love,

Rev. Harold

Connie Jones – We Were Blessed to Know Her

Kitty Underwood's mom, Connie Jones, passed away this month. Although she had been in decline for a while, it is always hard to lose someone special. A memorial service will be held at St. John's on Saturday, August 31st at 1PM. If you can come, I know the family would appreciate your support. An excerpt from the obituary follows. Did you know she had been such a traveler? Or that Kitty was a Buckeye?

Connie (Nank) (Reebel) Morehead Jones, 91 of Almont, passed away Saturday August 17, 2024. Connie was born on August 12, 1933 in Cleveland Ohio to Harold and Pauline Nank. She graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1951. Connie then attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where she joined Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She met her future husband Walter Reebel while in college. Connie graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Elementary Education in 1955. Walter and Connie married shortly after graduation. They moved to Columbus, OH, where Walter attended law school at Ohio State University. Their daughter Kitty was born in 1957. Following Walter's graduation, they moved to back to Cleveland where in 1959, their son John was born. In 1963, the family moved to Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Connie took a teaching position at Brookside School, Cranbrook. Walter and Connie divorced in 1973. Connie went on to earn a Master's Degree in Elementary Education at Oakland University. She married W. Allen Moorhead in 1978 and moved to New Cannan Connecticut. Connie and Al moved to several different homes during their marriage, eventually retiring in Savannah, GA. Connie and Al loved to travel, and visited every continent except Antarctica. Connie was widowed in 1998 and a year later married Edward Jones. Connie and Ed enjoyed their years together traveling, entertaining and spending time with their families. A few years after Ed's death in 2012, Connie moved to a senior facility in Hilton Head South Carolina. Connie returned to Michigan in 2020 to be nearer her children.

Connie passed away peacefully in her sleep August 17, 2024, in her home at The Bells in Almont, Michigan.

May God bless and keep her and her family.



Blessed

*are they that mourn
for they shall be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

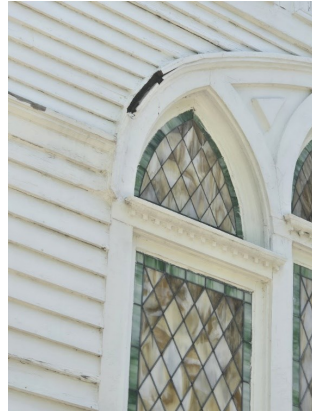
St. John's Church Gets a Face Lift

The work to repair and repaint the church building was completed this month. Many thanks to Jack Dodd and the contractor's team. They did a great job.

You may have noticed the improvement in other pictures in this issue but just in case you haven't seen it yet, here is a sample. Swing by the front of the church to see it in person – it looks great.



Where we started.



Work underway



Finished Product

And the sides and back look just as good as the front. Thank-you to all our members who prayed and donated funds to make this possible. This should last for many, many years.



News from the Diocese – Planning for a new Era

Neil Hargrave has been our ear to the ground regarding discussions at the Diocesan level in preparation for the formal merging of Eastern & Western Dioceses. There's a lot of information and many decisions that need to be considered before the first joint Diocesan Convention in mid-October. Recently Neil shared copies of meeting minutes for Budget Planning and the Transition Leadership Team. These reports are available in their entirety to anyone who requests it. However, I've highlighted some areas that I think you might find interesting. Keep in mind, these are ongoing discussions. New ideas and decisions may very well occur between now and October. But this seems to be what they're considering.

Draft Budget Committee Items

Income:

A commitment that all parish assessments in 2025 will be frozen at their 2024 level.

Funding for Diocesan budget consists of “apportionment” funding from tithes and from “endowment” funding from bequests in both Eastern and Western dioceses. For 2025, “there is larger apportionment finding in Western Michigan and larger endowment funding from Eastern. However, put together, we see a healthy and shared income stream for ministry in the future Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.”

Expense:

Funds for an assisting bishop sufficient to call a full-time bishop are allocated. There is consideration of increasing it to include housing assistance to encourage an on-site bishop rather than a “Zoom” bishop.

Some new positions have been proposed

- An Interim Chief of Staff to assist with coordinating management of the merged diocese and facilitate decision making if bishop is not available.

- Director of Lifelong Learning & Formation to oversee the Academy and other formation needs for clergy and laity.

- Database & Office Support which is an expansion of a prior position focused on the Dismantling Racism & Special Projects

The addition of these new positions is not funded at the moment. Recommendations are being considered that include deleting or adjusting some or all of these positions to maintain a balanced budget.

The annual Convention is subsidized by the Diocese at roughly 50% and costs are increasing. The Budget Committee recommended against increasing costs to individual parishes as current costs are a stretch for small parishes.

While the Diocese has previously covered the copyright licensing service One License for all congregations, the recommendation is to discontinue this and let parishes pursue their own licensing agreements.

Transition Leadership Team

Branding Team – New brand logo to include lighthouse imagery, a Latin translation of our motto and various colors

Constitution and Cannons – Two late August feedback sessions will be held to review the draft of the new documents. They are on track to submit a resolution to the convention by the Sept. 18th deadline.


Convention Planning – Location was inspected. Draft workshop lineup and schedule were reviewed. Working with the Liturgy Team to plan worship. *Continued on page 6...*

...continued from page 5. Joint Finance Committee – Draft Transition Budget to be sent to the Joint Councils for each Diocese for their review on August 17th. Hoping to make a final presentation on Sept. 21st. *Continued on page 6*

Ministry of the Episcopate – In early stages of discussions about calling a full time bishop to the new Diocese of the Great Lakes. Expressed some concern about one person trying to visit each parish within a 3 year timeframe as is currently required by the canons. Currently considering ways the connection could be made without scheduling problems while being practical for the bishop too.


Personnel Committee – reviewing Policies & Procedures for coordinating past practices and possible new requirements.

Regional Design – The committee is gathering information on how regions are working and what needs are not being met.



We have a Winner!

Mary Cameron created a basket with lots of goodies including Blakes Hard Cider in multiple flavors, preserves and muffin mix which was the prize for a raffle that concluded on August 25th. Pat Schneider drew the name and the winner was....Connie Ogg. Thank-you, Mary, for this fun event. And congratulations to Connie – any chance you might share your winnings?



<u>Ministry Schedule</u>							
<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>
9/1/24				Neil	Becky	Russ	Mary
9/8/24	Jack	Mary	Neil	Fr. Schneider	Ida Lynn	Mary	Jack
9/15/24				Kitty	Sherry	Jack	Becky
9/22/24	Margaret	Jack	John	Fr Schneider	Wes	Becky	Neil
9/29/2024				Becky	Ina	Neil	Connie



We gathered in front of our newly painted church to celebrate and worship together. Several members wore their new and stylish St. John's T-shirts. There were even matching his-her shirts! We celebrated Pat Schneider's birthday (she wouldn't say how old she is and neither would Harold). We also celebrated Wes & Kathy's 60th wedding anniversary – and they showed us that they still know how to smooch! Thanks to all the folks who helped with set-up and clean-up. And to all the wonderful cooks who made the pot-luck amazing. Let's plan on doing this again next year.

A Sunny Sonshine Service



Gathering before the service. The building seemed to glow!



During the service



Rev. Harold with Pat during the Birthday blessing. May there be many more to come.

Wes and Kathy – 60 years together and going strong.

And the prize for most coordinated t-shirts goes to.... Mark and Sherry!



July Financial Report

2024	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,547	\$3,737	(\$1,810)	\$ 38,829	\$ 47,902	\$ 9,073
Expenses	\$5,449	\$4,408	(\$1,041)	\$ 38,144	\$ 37,466	\$ (679)
Net Profit	\$98	(\$671)	(\$769)	\$685	\$10,436	\$ 9,752

As in previous months, the monthly is off due to the generous donation of the annual pledge all at once. YTD is looking robust. Expenses are looking controlled.

Funding for the Painting Project is **STRONG** Thanks to YOU

We started the year with \$10,000 in Restricted Funds and a \$10,000 CD allocated for this project. The approved bid came in at \$43,000+. So we had \$23,000 to cover. That seemed like a big step for our church to take. But thanks to your support and the Lord’s help (through the Diocese), we’re going to make it! Not only have our members contributed in large and small amounts, but Neil says the Diocese has approved our grant application which adds \$5,000 to the tally. We will need to use some of our General Fund to cover roughly \$12,000



but we have room in that account to cover this without creating financial stress. That is because each of us has been contributing monthly to maintain a strong financial base. Thanks to Jack Dodd for managing this project so well. And thanks to all of you. We can all be proud of the result!

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS

MUSTARD'S RETREAT

Sat. September 14th

7:00 PM

Free Will Offering to benefit

Outreach Teen Relief

Supporting Dryden & Almont High School Students



MUSIC TO CURE WHAT AILS YOU!



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



Living in Hope
United in Faith
Led by Love

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

