



The St. John's Evangel

My brothers and sisters,

The following letter was sent electronically to the Parish, but is printed here in case you didn't receive it.

We are an extraordinary parish. We are all but devoid of the petty squabbles that plague many, if not most, parishes. We treat each other not only with respect, but with kindness. We are good humored and humorous. We do good liturgy and we do good works. In the ten years I have been your rector, we have not had any major political or parochial crises. Instead, we have embraced the worldly lives of each of us in a spiritual context—through the profound sacraments of baptizing, marrying, burying, but also through gathering to break bread on Sundays and drink tea in each others' homes on marvelous afternoons. We have celebrated the seasons in their regular turn, and we have mourned together, facing at least once an unspeakable grief after the death of Carolyn Cosan. Harry and I were married here in a service that neither of us can speak about without laughter and, perhaps sentimental, tears.

Remarkably, we do not agonize about our budget. We face it with as much seriousness as our treasurer asks of us, but we do not let fear of debt keep us from dreaming. Still, when our dreams aren't financially feasible, we downshift with grace. Perhaps one of the hardest things I've had to do as Rector was come to the parish to say we could not proceed with my "legacy" plan of moving the old rectory and completing the Under One Roof plan the way we wanted to. It was also one of my proudest moments. We all put our elbows on the table and figured out what we could do. There was no agony expressed, but mostly relief and then, I think, joy, as we proceeded to do what we could. Which turns out to be extraordinary.

One of the things that I really hate seeing my colleagues do, over and over, is get up one Sunday in church and announce out of the blue that they have been "called" to a new parish, retirement, or a new and entirely different kind of life. And they'll be gone in three months.

When I initially panicked after seeing a scan of Harry's brain while the doctor pointed out the shrinking, I thought "We're going to have to find a place for Harry to live that is safe, and I ought to retire immediately and get him to safety where we can plan for whatever is coming down the pike." After I got over the initial shock, we came to realize that, in fact, we don't know what is going to happen—exactly. The neurologist at the ataxia clinic in Ann Arbor says, "The best predictor of the future is the past," meaning that since Harry's cerebellum is



shrinking, it will probably continue to do so. But there is no discernible prognosis. In a year he could be in a wheel chair. But in ten years he might be running a 5K. Opening up to the many possibilities gave me a breather. I thought, "I need to open up to a myriad of possibilities, but I need to do that in the context of my parish and what we do together, including, when the time comes, saying goodbye."

I came to St. John's in 2006. One aspect of the parish that impressed me (and continues to impress me) was transparency, lack of rumor or gossip. The parish was hurting: My predecessor's tenure was ended with a dissolution of pastoral relationship. It was an unhappy time, but the parish was hopeful and ready to move on. I discerned that my first job was to just love this parish. That was easy to do, and I believe the parish healed fairly quickly.

I would hate for this parish to experience yet another time of trauma.

The question of my retirement, though, has become more pressing recently. Harry's diagnosis of the neurodegenerative condition indicated by cerebral ataxia means, as I said, that his cerebellum is shrinking. The cerebellum is that part of the brain most responsible for coordination of his vision, his balance, his manual coordination, his speech, swallowing, just to name a few. It's changed how I'm thinking about my time here.

There's really no accurate prognosis, but we must prepare for a degeneration of his neurological faculties. And so it is time to prepare also for my retirement.

One of the things I love so much about my Episcopal Church and being a priest in it is it has allowed me to be a priest in a church which says, over and over, "Your marriage comes first." One of the things I love about my marriage is that my husband says, over and over, "The church comes first."

In a recent discussion in which I expressed to Harry my concern that we couldn't plan to live in our house indefinitely, since the stairs are becoming difficult for him to navigate, and in which I said, "Maybe I have to retire sooner rather than later," Harry and I realized that we were starting to think in a very either/or way about the future. What we realized is that neither the church nor the marriage came first, that Christian life is about the life of the community, and the question really is, "How do we support the parish and the parish us as we look at inevitable change?"

In other words, I'm not announcing my retirement date, but you should know that it is time to prepare for it. I ask you now to enter into a discernment process with me so that we may end our time together in God's time, not just yours or mine.

So where does the Spirit guide us?



How do we want to close this chapter of our life together? What I'd like to do is spend time with all of you figuring out as Harry says "what wants to happen." What's the Next Big Thing we can work on together? How can we best prepare the parish for transition? And what sort of timeline can we create together?

The coming months should be seen as a time of deep gratitude and great joy. Yes, partings are sweet sorrows; but I believe that with God's grace we can begin to part with great affection for one another and with a sense of optimism.

Our Vestry will gather with me, and with perhaps a couple other parish leaders, on a visioning retreat at Emmaus on Saturday, March 4. It will be a time to explore an intentional writing – and closing – of this chapter.

I offer you my profound gratitude for your continued support of both Harry and me, and for our ministries among and to each other, and to the larger Mount Pleasant community.

I love this parish.

In Christ,
Wayne+

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Rector
12th February 2017
The Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany



Remember Our Homebound Members

Stop by to visit or drop a card to our parish members who are homebound.

Alma Dickerson

461 E. Wing Rd., Mt. Pleasant
772-2516.

Al Neal

Maplewood, 1945 Churchill Blvd.
Mt. P - 773-6172

Verna Schurr

Green Acres Memory Care Unit
1805 E. Remus Rd.
Mt. P. Green Acre's # 772-3456

Cynthia Withers

312 Pine, Apartment E, Mt. P
989-317-3281

St. John's Prayer Group

The 16 members of the Prayer Group offer petitions daily for the church and for specific requests. All parishioners are welcome to become members of the Prayer Group or to submit requests by calling Sandy Wood, 773-9326, Martha Rarick, 773-7510, or the church office at 773-7448.



Home Communion

Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive communion or a visit from either the clergy or a Lay Eucharistic Minister.



Beth Boman	10
Thomas Mower	12
Nancy Parshall	124
Rex Dingman	16
Eric Vinciguerra	18
Marian Matyn	22
David Dingman	25
Peg Hicks	27



Brad & Debi Peterson	19
Steven Berkshire & Eileen Swinehart	30

St. John's Mission:
St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's help and in the Anglican tradition, lives to proclaim the Gospel of Christ by ministering through worship, outreach, fellowship and education. We welcome all who enter our doors, and we support the diverse callings of each member as we seek to serve Christ in every person.



Outside the Tent

*Christ is born in us,
and so we are reborn into our own lives.*

The Daughters of the King have been reading and discussing Barbara Cawthorne Crafton's *Let Every Heart Prepare*, an excellent set of reflections for the days of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. As I've pondered the second half of her book, preparing to lead discussion at our next meeting, this observation hit me hard, because I never really entered into the spirit of Christmas this year. I meant to; by early December I had made donations in honor of family and friends ("alternative gifts"), and I had bought and wrapped a gift for one of our "adopted" families. I was doing my share of our annual Christmas letter, and I had finished wrapping gifts. By December 16 I had decorated most of the house: greens festooned the windows and the mantel; the crèche looked very Asian beneath a small bamboo plant; the tree twinkled with lights, waiting for Henry and me to hang ornaments the following day. But I was tired, out of sorts, in part because Henry was under the weather with a bone-rattling cough. Then on December 17, running a temperature, I also began to cough. Eventually I lost my voice. Our kids all arrived as scheduled: Charley and Liz early in the week before Christmas, Jenny and Max at noontime Christmas eve day. Max hadn't been in the house very long when he asked for a thermometer because he felt hot and ill. And he was, with influenza B. He spent most of the following week in bed, while Henry and I continued to cough, and Jenny, Liz, and Charley kept the house running.

I am happy to report that we are all well, but it was a strange Christmas, or lack thereof. And yet I know that Christ was born into my life as I laid around feeling sorry for myself. I believe that Christ is born into my life every day of the year, especially when I'm not paying attention. This morning, as I led worship at Lynnwood Home after a long hiatus, I experienced one of those moments of knowing that Christ lives in me, and in those around me. I had not been to the home since early December, and so it was a joy simply to see everyone. Mostly they were "grumpy," as one of the caregivers said. But "Beth," who is often asleep, awakened to my touch, smiled at me, and held her arms out to give me a hug, a healing hug that made up for the sadness of missing the sweetness of Christmas eve. I had grieved not being able to give the children's homily, especially as I thought back on last year, lifting up Jess's son Ari so he could hang the star over the stable as we concluded the telling of the story from Luke. I missed sorely processing into church, singing the exquisite harmonies of "O Come All Ye Faithful." I still drank a glass of port with my son Charley as we sat by the fire, but it tasted off and I could barely speak to wish him good night.

I know that I idealize Christmas, as we all tend to do, and so Beth's affection this morning was significant, for it reminded me that the joy of Christmas can be with me all the year round—when I'm paying attention, and even when I'm not. As I write this we are still in the season of Epiphany, a transition from the stunning arrival of Christ in the manger into the rest of the year, with its many small epiphanies, humble sightings of Jesus with no trumpets and angel choirs. Every day, in ways we sometimes don't even notice, "Christ is born in us, and so we are reborn into our own lives."

Peace of the season,
Nancy

**For THIS Month...
The Financial Report from
The Annual Meeting
is found as a separate
attachment with this e-mail.**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**The John H. Goodrow Fund
13th Annual Fundraiser
February 17, 2017 at Buck's Run
Social Hour 5:30 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.**



Tickets \$50

Tables:

- **Reserved table for 8, \$400**
- **RED table for 8, (includes 2 bottles of wine), \$500**
- **BLACK table for 8, (includes 2 bottles of champagne), \$600**

**To reserve or sponsor a table, contact Carol Lauffer at
calauffer@charter.net or 772-0718 after January 1, 2017**



FEBRUARY 2017 Sunday Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
February 5	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	Marcia David and Candy Henderson	Clancy and Pat DeLong	Adam Baker	Pamela Dingman and Peg Hicks
5 Epiphany	10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton				
Lectionary: Isaiah 58:1-9, Psalm 112:1-9 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 Matthew 5:13-20						
February 12	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick	David and Jennifer Dingman	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Emma Dingman	Pamela Dingman and Peg Hicks
6 Epiphany	10:00 a.m. Carol Lauffer	10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne				
Lectionary: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37						
February 19	8:00 a.m. Steven Berkshire	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane	Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh	Matthew Kinney	Ella Jo Regan and David Shirley
7 Epiphany	10:00 a.m. Karen V.	10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler				
Lectionary: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23 Matthew 5:38-48						
February 26	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick	Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	Adam Baker	Ella Jo Regan and David Shirley
Last Epiphany	10:00 a.m. Jessica Vinciguerra	10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen				
Lectionary: Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9						
March 5	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney	/Emma Dingman	Pamela Dingman and Harriett White
1 Lent	10:00 a.m. Anne Hiebert Alton	10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton				
Lectionary: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11						





FEBRUARY 2017 at St. John's Episcopal Church. For updates, visit the Parish Website and click on "Calendar"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 EPIPHANY V</p> <p>8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Office Closed Noon: Daughters of the King</i></p> <p>4pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM</p>	<p>7</p> <p>5:30 pm Yoga 7pm Compassionate Friends</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon Eucharist 1-3 Guided Autobiography Class</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 EPIPHANY VI</p> <p>8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist 11:30 am Vestry</p>	<p>13</p> <p>4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 pm Yoga</p>	<p>15</p> <p><i>January Evangel Deadline</i></p> <p>Noon Eucharist 1-3 GAB</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 am Staff Meeting</p> <p>1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 EPIPHANY VII</p> <p>8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>Presidents' Day Office Closed</i></p> <p>5:30 pm EfM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 pm Yoga</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Noon Eucharist 1-3 GAB</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY</p> <p>8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist</p> <p>5pm Potluck and Eucharist at Emmaus</p>	<p>27</p> <p>4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 pm Yoga</p>	<p>MARCH 1 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>7 am Eucharist Noon Eucharist 1-3 GAB 7 pm Eucharist <i>Imposition of Ashes at All Services</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 LENT I</p> <p>8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist 5 pm Movie Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Noon: Daughters of the King</p>	<p>7 5:30 pm Yoga 7pm Compassionate Friends</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Noon Eucharist 1-3 GAB</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>	<p>11</p>



This is our Greeter/Coffee Hour Host Schedule—If you cannot serve on the date you were given, please exchange dates with someone else on the list and call the Parish Secretary at 773-74

Greeters



February

- 5 Marcia David and Candy Henderson
- 12 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 19 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 26 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh

March

- 5 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 12 David, Nancy, and Matthew Kinney
- 19 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood
- 26 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn

April

- 2 Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton
- 9 Renee Babcock and Leah Wolf
- 16 Sharon Bolton and Laura Cochrane
- 23 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 30 Marcia David and Candy Henderson

Coffee Hour Hosts



February

- 5 Clancy and Pat DeLong
- 12 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 19 Roger Hatch and Joyce Baugh
- 26 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen

March

- 5 David, Nancy, and Matthew Kinney
- 12 Carol Lauffer and Lynne L'Hommedieu
- 19 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 26 D.J. and Misha Proctor and Christi Brooks

April

- 2 Harriett White and Sandy Wood
- 9 Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton
- 16 Ralph Baber and Karen Varanauskas
- 23 Sharon Bolton and Bernice Cole
- 30 Tim and Elizabeth Brockman



**St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes, 15th January 2017 Vestry Meeting**

Present: Renee Babcock, Adam Baker, Sharon Bolton, Laura Cochrane, Bernice Cole, Clancy DeLong, Rod Leslie, Rev. Wayne Nicholson, David Shirley, Eric Vinciguerra

Wayne led a prayer for the Parish at 12pm, in the newly renovated Parish Hall.

Construction update – David reports fast progress on the building project. The kitchen is mostly functional, with all the appliances, countertops, and electricity in. The Parish Hall lighting and registers are in, and the floor will be washed and waxed after construction, and must be waxed once a year. The built-in bookshelves and window trim are still to be completed.

The connector building (unnamed as yet) has a foundation and also put in a plastic sleeve so that if we want to have one set of gas and electric meters instead of two. One of the last steps after construction is finished will be a drainage system under the small parking area.

The Vestry thanks the building committee for their continued work, and all the construction and carpentry workers for their beautiful work.

Outreach – Sharon reported that the Goodrow Fund winter fundraiser is February 17. She has sent out invitation letters to businesses and past attendees. Sharon has written grants to more foundations, and is following up with them on reporting financial information.

Laura reported that the shelter during January 2-8 was full, and challenging because of the three buildings. We will host during two more weeks of the rotating shelter starting on March 5 and April 2, and look forward to a joined space.

Vestry Retreat – Both old and new Vestry should attend. It will be held in March.

Finances –Clancy moves that we approve Wayne's housing allowance of \$25,000 for 2017. It was an item for last month's Vestry meeting, but we neglected to approve it. Sharon seconded the motion. All approved.

Clancy presented a balanced budget for 2017.

Thanks – The Vestry thanks Pam, Clancy, and the Finance Committee for their continuing work on finances.



The All-Parish Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29 after a combined service at 9am.

The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 12 after coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Cochrane
Vestry Clerk

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes, 23 January 2017 Vestry Meeting**

Present: Renee Babcock, Sharon Bolton, Laura Cochrane, Tom Cochrane, Bernice Cole, Clancy DeLong, Ford Dingman, Pam Dingman, Rod Leslie, Lynne L'Hommedieu, Rev. Wayne Nicholson, David Shirley, Karen Varanauskas

Wayne led a prayer for the Parish at 5:30pm.

Building Construction Project finances –

Wayne presented a spreadsheet of the costs of the construction project. The original contract amount was \$300,266.00. The available funds from the monies raised during the Under One Roof Campaign is \$297,587 (\$335,000 minus the architect fee and promotional materials). That's a \$47,675 overage, about 14% over cost.

Rod said that we knew there was a risk of going over in costs, up to 26% over.

Much of the costs were because of deferred maintenance, including asbestos removal and re-roofing the old rectory.

Suggestions on raising the remaining funds: Rod said we need to present suggestions about how to raise the money. Ford suggested that we extend pledges to a sixth year, instead of five years, if we consider asking people to increase their gift.

Finishing details: Clancy pointed out that there are a number of small, finishing details that are not on the current budget, such as boxing in the Parish Hall windows, and the bookshelves and cabinets in the main part of the Parish Hall. Discussion about whether to do those finishing details now, or leave them until we pay off what we owe right now. Discussion about getting a second quote for the finishing details, versus maintaining a good relationship with the person who has built the cabinets and table. Several people suggested we could do both, to be fiscally responsible.



The faster we pay down the loan, the better to avoid interest costs.

Thanks – The Vestry thanks Pam, Clancy, Lynne, and the Finance Committee for their continuing work on finances, especially during this finance meeting. Thanks also to Karen for chairing the Building committee, and to David for co-chairing the Under One Roof Campaign. The Vestry Clerk also thanks Bernice for bringing a snack to the meeting.

The All-Parish Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 29 after a combined service at 9am. Following that will be a parish meeting to be creative in fundraising ideas.

The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, February 12 after coffee hour, with a new Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Cochrane
Vestry Clerk

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Minutes, 29th January 2017 All-Parish Annual Meeting**

Wayne opened the meeting with a prayer for the Parish at 10:40am.

Tim Hartshorne nominated Laura Cochrane to be clerk of the meeting. Ralph Baber seconded. All approved.

Motion to approve the minutes

Nancy Casey Fulton moved to approve the minutes. Liz Brockman seconded. All approved.

Thank you

Wayne thanked Nancy Casey Fulton and Sr. Diane for their work as Deacons and for their spiritual support; David Shirley for being a faithful Verger; for the Altar Guild; for the musicians; for the financial advisors; for lay readers and those who offer prayers; for Eucharistic visitors; for the outreach committees and volunteers; for the homeless shelter volunteers; for the Goodrow Fund volunteers; for the Under One Roof and building teams; for the contractors; for the Clean and Bright volunteers; and for the current and new Vestry.

Among the joys of the past year is the progress on the building. It is close to completion and we are meeting in the remodeled Parish Hall. Looking ahead in the new year are more opportunities to serve people and be involved in our community.



Senior Warden Remarks

Rod Leslie followed up on the comments on the building, saying that the building will help us grow. Rod thanked the congregation and the Vestry for their support over the past year. Wayne, the Vestry, and the congregation thank him right back for his leadership.

Nominations for Vestry

Tom Cochrane, Marcia David, Nancy Herman Kinney, and Ulana Klymyshyn were asked to be members of the Vestry. Karen Varanauskas moved that we elect these four nominees by acclamation. David Shirley seconded. The motion was approved. The congregation approved the nominees.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

David Shirley and Karen Varanauskas volunteered to be delegates. Lynne L'Hommedieu and Eric Vinciguerra volunteered to be alternates. Nancy Casey Fulton moved to approve these delegates and alternates; Barbara Sheperdigian seconded. All approved.

Financial Report

Clancy DeLong, Lynne L'Hommedieu, and the financial committee prepared the financial report for discussion.

Building Project: The building project has gone over budget about \$47,000, which is about 14% over budget. We had been warned that it might go over 20% because we have old buildings. One idea is to ask people to continue their pledge one more year. For example, if someone pledged \$300 over 3 years, then that person would add one more year, totaling \$400. Wayne encouraged those who have ideas about figuring this out should stay after the meeting and decide when they could meet to brainstorm.

Annual Pledges: Pam Dingman reported that there are 43 pledges turned in. Wayne encouraged everyone to turn their pledges in for this year so that we can accurately judge the year's budget.

The budget: Clancy walked the congregation through the budget. The congregation thanks Clancy and the financial team for creating a balanced budget. There are several items, including Building and Grounds and Choral Scholars Fund, which we need to watch and increase if possible.

Wayne called the meeting to a close at 11:35am.

The next annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Cochrane
Vestry Clerk



Anglican Worthies

314. Stanley, Arthur Penrhyn (1815-1881)
Dean of Westminster (pt. ii)

In December of 1856 Stanley was named Regius Professor Ecclesiastical History at Oxford. To this he applied with vigor; he loved the history of the Christian Church, not because of the development and refinement of doctrine, but for what he called its “moral instruction.” He was a stimulating lecturer. More than that, he loved to write, and several books came out of this tenure: *Three Introductory Lectures on the Study of Ecclesiastical History* (1857), *Lectures on the History of the Eastern Church* (1861), and *Lectures in the History of the Jewish Church* (1863-1876). These show an admirable breadth of interest, but would never be consulted by scholars today. As Warre Cornish, who may have known him, said, Stanley “contributed little to the learning of his time. . . . He was a layman in intellect, a Churchman by temperament and sentiment.” When that controversial book, *Essays and Reviews*, edited by Benjamin Jowett, came out in 1860, and was savagely attacked by the church’s conservatives, Stanley defended it. (It will be dealt with when we get to Jowett.)

In 1862 Stanley accompanied the Prince of Wales on a tour of the Middle East, a position for which he was probably better qualified than anyone else at the time, clergy or lay. The prince wanted to hunt; his tutor wanted to visit ancient monuments. Nevertheless, this gig brought him into Victoria’s sphere of Useful Persons to know and the acquaintance of Lady Augusta Bruce (1822-1876), daughter of the Earl of Elgin and lady in waiting to the queen. (As woman of the bedchamber, she helped the queen dress, looked after the wardrobe, etc. Exhausting work. On the other hand, one “heard everything.”) They were married in 1863. At first the queen was wroth to lose her, but she soon accepted the inevitable. There were no children of this marriage, but in time the Stanleys and the queen became good friends, taking tea at the each other’s residence.

The second half of Stanley’s active life began in January 1864, when he was installed as Dean of Westminster (Abbey). J.C. Hammond says that one of the prayers offered at his instillation reiterated Stanley’s desire “to encourage the enlargement of the Christian church,” i.e., to “broaden” the Establishment to include denominations besides Anglicanism. The old Tractarians, *Pusey and *Keble, needless to say, would not hear of it. In Convocation Stanley argued unsuccessfully to have the Athanasian Creed removed as a liturgical option. (See BCP, Historical Documents, pp. 864-65.) In 1868 he published yet another book, *Historical Memorials of Westminster Abbey*, a commentary on all the clutter of statues and monuments.



In 1866, when *Gladstone and his family vacationed in Rome, Stanley and his wife rented in the same building; they dined together every evening. Both men were attracted to “the ramshackle glamour of the Papal States,” in David Edwards’ words. Stanley liked to imagine himself as pope! (He acted like one in 1867 when he refused to allow the abbey to be used by the bishops of the first Lambeth Conference because the gathering had not been summoned by secular authority, i.e., the crown. In other words, he objected to the request because it appeared to him to be a favor to a particular “party” of the Church.)

In 1877 Stanley went to this country without his wife, who had died the previous year. She had taken ill after they had returned from a trip to Moscow where Stanley had participated in an Orthodox service of marriage between Alfred, Victoria’s second son, and Prince Marie, only daughter of the tsar. He mourned her passing deeply. In America Stanley visited the eastern cities and Canada, and stayed with Emerson in Concord before sailing home.

The dean died in the summer of 1881 while preaching on the Beatitudes at the abbey. The queen was much distressed. As P.C. Hammond noted, “The queen lamented the passing of her beloved Dean Stanley, who was more to her than any bishop or archbishop.” Matthew Arnold commemorated his death with his poem “Westminster Abbey.”

Physically Stanley was “under-gifted,” we might say, for a figure of his eminence and influence. He was short, and his nose was pinched. For someone who introduced Bach’s *Passion According to St. John* in an Anglican service, Stanley was almost entirely tone-deaf—and color-blind to boot. He had no sense of taste or smell so apparently he had no problem w/ a heavy thurible. His eyesight was so defective that could not always button his collar and tie. And despite all his published “lectures,” he did not like to preach. It is difficult to understand the success of his career.

With his death and that of Archbishop Tait, the period of conflict in the Victorian Church. Which I have discussed frequently in this series, came to an end. Warre Cornish sums up Stanley’s achievement:

Of Stanley it may be said that the marked influence which he exercised upon his time was due to his strong personal character more than to his literary or theological work. There was nothing strikingly original in his thought; he was not a man of great learning, still less of accurate knowledge. But his vivid and brilliant genius made everything new that he touched.

It was mostly his tolerance of differing views and practices that guided the Church. He said, “If the heart of a man be full of love and peace, whatsoever be his outward act of division, he is not guilty of schism. . . . He is a schismatic, and he only, who creates feuds and scandals in the Church of Christ.”

--hlf



Saint John's Episcopal Church

206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Phone: 989 773-7448

Fax: 989-772-3480

E-mail: saintjohnsmp@gmail.com

Website: www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com



Monday, February 20, 2017

Rector:

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, 772-1203

2017 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden: Eric Vinciguerra, 989-317-0238

Junior Warden: TBA

Vestry Clerk: Sharon Bolton, 989-828-5475

Treasurer: Clarence DeLong 773-9829

Co Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu, 773-8340

Organists:

Dr. Moonyeen Albrecht, 828-5286

Dr. Mary Lou Nowicki, 644-2558

Deacons:

The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec 989-368-5494

2017 Vestry Members

Renee Babcock, 773-6936

Adam Baker, 989-492-1626

Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

Bernice Cole, 989-317-8066

Marcia David, 989-775-8086

Nancy Herman Kinney, 989-546-5424

Ulana Klymyshyn, 989-772-5616

Choirmaster:

Chase Simpson, 248-302-0532