



The St. John's Evangel

Lent... A time to give something up... or just give in? or give up?

International intrigues, fear centered on immigration and healthcare, misunderstandings at the highest levels, “alternative facts,” confused national leadership... “The World” outside our doors seems chaotic, lacking in focus.

Perhaps we all need a breather. Perhaps we need to turn off FaceBook, the Internet, and the television and simply take time to *breathe*.

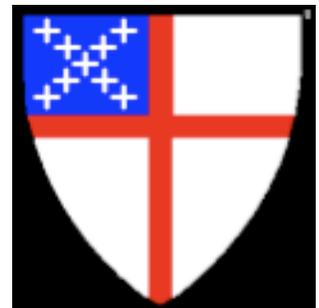
Lent offers us a season for self-reflection. Not navel-gazing, but self-reflection. Prayer, meditation, just taking time to be quiet can help us re-understand our place in the world as people of faith.

I encourage you this season: Take time for yourself and for the people you love. Make the phone call you've put off. Visit a shut-in. Write a letter – not an e-mail, but a *letter* – to someone you've been missing. Read and reflect and pray upon a poem. Write in a journal. Paint, draw, knit, weave, throw a pot. Stop by to chat with our homeless guests. Spend time in the church alone.

Take time this Lent to give up earthly anxieties and replace them with the assurance of God's immense mercy toward all humankind. Let your hearts be filled with love, not fear.

I love this parish!

In Christ,
Wayne+





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

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.



Jeanne Maxon	6
Richard Mower	6
David Kinney	9
Nancy Herman Kinney	20
Rayla Surfass	20
Chelsea Bloem	23
Stanley Beard	29
Diana Clapp	29
Moonyeen Albrecht	31

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.

The 2017 Altar Flower Calendar is now posted near the front door of the church. Please consider a Sunday that is a good date for you to honor or remember a loved one and sign up to provide flowers. Flowers are a wonderful addition to worship! Thank you!





Outside the Tent

Twelve years ago, in the midst of February cold and snow, Father Wayne's predecessor left this parish. Bishop Gepert asked for my resignation, as he believed in the corporate model of a clean slate. I agreed with his decision, because it is all too easy for the deacon to do too much, and for the parish to expect too much during a period of transition. It was, of course, a traumatic time for the parish, but they responded well to the challenges of healing. With the guidance of the Rev. William Spaid (Canon to the Ordinary) and the Rev. David Meyers (now a priest, but at that time a deacon who specialized in helping parishes in conflict) the parish grew stronger and eventually called Wayne as its rector.

The time was also traumatic for me. I had first come to St. John's on Easter in 1971, curious to know why Henry always went to church on Sunday. The church quickly became the center of our lives: Henry and I became Episcopalians in this parish; we were married here; our son was baptized here; and I was ordained deacon here. When I walked out the doors that winter day I felt I had lost my second home. I was in free-fall, and for the next six or eight weeks I sat home on Sunday morning, reading Morning Prayer and doing the *New York Times*' crossword puzzle. That Easter, I drove down to St. John's in Alma, where I was greeted by the rector and several parishioners I already knew. After the rector left that summer I began to assist the supply priests at Eucharist. When the Rev. Mary Delaney was called to the parish in the fall she asked me to stay, and I remained through Christmas of the following year.

The Bishop asked me to be his chaplain for diocesan visitation, but I declined the invitation as I was already driving every weekday for my job at Woodland Hospice. Shortly after I began worshiping in Alma, my friend and colleague Rev. Ron Vredevel, asked me to consider an expanded role with AIM's ministry to adults with cognitive impairments. That summer I spoke about AIM at a couple of churches. In September we settled on my leading worship at Lynnwood, a group home, which I continue weekly to this day.

When Wayne arrived at St. John's more than ten years ago, he asked to meet with me the first week, to talk about the possibility of my serving in the parish once again. He told me he wanted to be on his own for six months, to establish himself with the congregation. This proved to be wisdom: everyone understands that Wayne is the rector, the pastor for the parish, and I, as deacon, a servant who brings to the parish the needs of the world. The Bishop agreed, and I returned to the parish for Easter Vigil. I have to say it was an emotional event, standing before the congregation, chanting the Exsultet, with the Paschal candle gleaming and incense rising. I came back to the parish with mixed feelings—my leaving had left scars—but it has been good working with Wayne, who treats me with affection and respect, and gives me freedom to pursue what is essentially a ministry of writing: occasional preaching, monthly columns in "The Evangel," weekly Prayers of the People (as well as prayers for other liturgies from time to time).



What next, you might ask? I can assure you that Bishop Houghland has been supportive of all the deacons in the diocese, whatever their ministries might be. Bishop Gepert wanted a “one size fits all” approach to our work; Bishop Houghland respects our gifts and encourages the raising up of deacons in every parish. So I don't expect any upheaval with Wayne's retirement, but believe we will have an orderly transition, led by our priest in consultation with our vestry, Sister Diane, and me. I am, of course, sorry that Wayne and Harry will be leaving much sooner than they had anticipated, but I think their move is wise. In the words of Julian of Norwich, I believe that “all will be well, and all manner of thing will be well” as we walk together through this transition.

Peace, Nancy



We will be working on Prayer Shawls again this year. We will be meeting every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

I'm asking everyone that has been given the gift from God of needle and yarn to come join us. You are more than welcome to come and just sit with us, just the joy of the love and laughter will go into our work. Your silent prayer will be part of your shawls. Thank you. Marcia David



Time to Spring Ahead

**Daylight Savings time begins on Sunday, March 12!
Please set your clocks FORWARD ONE Hour before
bed on Saturday night, (March 11th) to ensure you will
arrive at Church at the proper time! Thank you!**



Easter Baskets

Each year we hope to provide Easter Baskets for six needy families and twelve candy baskets for children. Parishioners who would like to help may leave donations of canned or boxed foods in the narthex of the Church. Monetary donations should be clearly marked "Easter Baskets" and may be placed in the collection plate. Questions? See Renee Babcock.

Food items needed for each family:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Ham | Bread | Oleo | Milk |
| Canned Vegetables | Canned Fruit | Oil | Eggs |
| Cake Mix | Frosting | Cereal | Jam/Jelly |
| Peanut Butter | Crackers | Cookies | Jell-O |



12 Easter Baskets
Candy & Easter Grass



Please have ALL donations in by MONDAY, APRIL 10th!



Easter Flowers and Music

For those who would like to contribute money to provide flowers and/or special music for Easter Sunday, please use this form to designate your contribution. The donations may be made in memory of loved ones, in thanksgiving, or to honor a special blessing. Contributions will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Contributions may be placed in the Sunday offering plate and must be in the church office on or before **MONDAY, APRIL 10!**



I would like to contribute Easter flowers _____ or to help fund Special Easter Music _____.

I do so in honor _____ or thanksgiving _____ or in memory _____ of:
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Contribution given by:



MARCH 2017 Sunday Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
March 5 1 Lent	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Anne Hiebert Alton	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney	Matthew Kinney	Pamela Dingman and Harriett White
Lectionary: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11						
March 12 2 Lent	8:00 a.m. Steve Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Ralph Baber	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney	Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn	Emma Dingman	Pamela Dingman and Harriett White
Lectionary: Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17						
March 19 3 Lent	8:00 a.m. Steve Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood	Carol Lauffer and Lynne L'Hommedieu	Adam Baker	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Martha Rarick
Lectionary: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42						
March 26 4 Lent	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Sandy Wood	Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn	D.J. and Misha Proctor and Christi Brooks	Matthew Kinney	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Martha Rarick
Lectionary: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41						
April 2 5 Lent	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Candy Henderson	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Henry Fulton	Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton	Harriett White and Sandy Wood	Emma Dingman	Pamela Dingman and Peg Hicks
Lectionary: Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45						





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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Last Sunday After Epiphany 8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist 5pm Potluck and Eucharist at Emmaus	27 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	28 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!!	March 1 Ash Wednesday 7 am Eucharist Noon Eucharist 7 pm Eucharist <i>Imposition of Ashes at All Services</i>	2 10am T'ai Chi 1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4 10am St. Demetrios Worships Here 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Vestry Retreat at Emmaus Monastery
5 Lent I 8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist	6 Noon: Daughters of the King 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	7 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga 7pm Compassionate Friends	8 Noon Eucharist	9 10am T'ai Chi 1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
Restoration House Guests at St. John's March 5-12						
12 Lent II 8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist 11:30am Vestry 5pm Movie Night	13 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	14 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga	15 Noon Eucharist	16 10am T'ai Chi 1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	17 <i>Office Closed</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; color: blue; font-weight: bold;">Fr. Wayne Away until Monday</div>	18
19 Lent III 8 am Morning Prayer 10 am Morning Prayer 5:00 p.m. Evensong	20 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	21 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga	22 Noon Eucharist	23 10am T'ai Chi 1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	24	25
26 Lent IV 8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist 5pm Potluck and Eucharist at Emmaus	27 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	28 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga	29 Noon Eucharist	30 10am T'ai Chi 1pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	31	April 1



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



Coffee Hour Hosts



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

March

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

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

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

May

- 7 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 14 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 21 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 28 David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney

May

- 7 Laura Cochrane and Bernice Cole
- 14 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 21 Clancy and Pat DeLong
- 28 David and Jennifer Dingman



**St. John's Episcopal Church
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Vestry Minutes, February 12, 2017**

Present: Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Clancy DeLong, Sharon Bolton, Eric Vinciguerra, Renee Babcock, Bernice Cole, Adam Baker, Ulana Klymyshyn, Marcia David, Nancy Herman-Kinney. Guests: David Shirley, Karen Varanauskas, Sr. Diane Stier, Pamela Dingman.

Father Wayne convened the meeting with a prayer at 11:30 A.M. He gave a brief explanation of the vestry's purpose.

Elections

It was moved by Sharon and seconded by Marcia to elect Eric Vinciguerra as Senior Warden; motion passed.

It was moved by Sharon and seconded by Marcia to elect Tom Cochrane as Junior Warden; motion passed.

It was moved by Bernice and seconded by Marcia to elect Sharon Bolton as Clerk; motion passed.

It was moved by Wayne and seconded by Adam to elect Clancy DeLong as Treasurer; motion passed.

Finances

For the first time in many years, we are starting the year in the black!

Clancy went over the financials for the building project noting that we will need to raise money for the added expenses incurred. A committee (Renee, Sharon, Bernice, and Marcia) was created to brainstorm fundraising ideas and implementation.

Endorsement

The vestry voted unanimously to endorse The Rev. Diane Stier for ordination as priest.

Construction Project

The lantern has been closed in, the window trim has been paid for, and the internet will be connected in the Old Rectory. The drainage required by the city will be addressed after the completion of the lantern, Parish Hall, and ramp.

Rector's Time

See addendum - next page

Adjournment

Moved by Marcia and seconded Adam, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30

The next vestry meeting will be Sunday, March 12, 2017 after church coffee hour.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bolton



Addendum

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 cerebellar 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.

I now ask you to gather with me, and with perhaps a couple other parish leaders, on a visioning retreat at Emmaus on Saturday, March 4, if that date works for us. 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+



February 2017 Financial Report

I apologize for this report being late. Tax season has begun for accountants.

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of January (8.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts \$ 18,792 (9.75% of budget)
 Unrestricted operating fund expenditures 16,711 (8.67% of budget)
 Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ 2,081

We have a total of 42 parishioners who pledged in 2017. Of this number, 37 pledging units are within one month of their pledged amount. A special thank you goes out to everyone for keeping their pledges up-to-date. If you should ever need to adjust your pledge amount, please contact our pledge secretary, Pam Dingman.

Cash balances on January 31, 2017 are as follows:

Checking Account \$ 30,709.50
 Capital Campaign Savings \$ 36,696.20*
 Certificate of Deposit \$ 15,518.16
 Endowment Fund Investment Account \$ 59,504.13

Capital Campaign funds balance on January 1, 2017 34,097.24
 Capital Campaign funds balance on January 31, 2017 21,534.21*

* Some funds from the operating fund account do reside in the capital campaign savings account.

Capital Fund Activity during January:

Capital Fund Receipts \$ 9,026.00
 Bank Fees (9.53)
 Mortgage Interest (568.59)
 Building Renovations - Rectory (2,634.47)
 Building Renovations - Kitchen Cabinets (9,199.54)
 Building Renovations - Project Add-ons (9,176.90)
 Net Activity \$ (\$12,563.03)

Building Loan Activity To Date:

Title Company Costs/Loan Fees 2,215.61
 Contractor Draw 10/12/16 61,600.00
 Contractor Draw 12/02/16 82,918.39
 Contractor Draw 01/27/17 17,896.00
 Balance 164,630.00

Clancy



Anglican Worthies

314. Church, R.W. (1815-1891)
Dean of St. Paul's

A few years ago I devoted about six essays to the *Oxford Movement, 1833-to 1845, one of the most influential revolutions in the history of the Anglican and Episcopal Church. In contrast to the liberal Broad Church Party, which stretched out its arms to embrace Non-Anglican Christian faiths as well as recent developments in the world of science, and the Evangelicals, who clung desperately to the liturgical practices of the preceding century as well as post-Calvinist theology, the leading figures of the *Oxford Movement--*Keble, *Pusey, *Hurrell Froude, and John Henry *Newman—sought to strengthen their denomination with references to its history as a “Catholic” church, and as a denomination which defined itself as a divine institution, not as a church that owed its support to the Crown. I used several sources to compose that series, the chiefest of which being that which has become a classic in English church history, *The Oxford Movement* (1890), by a man who lived through it and was friends with most of the leaders. This was Richard William Church.

It is curious that Church never “belonged” to the movement. He was born in Lisbon, the son of a wine merchant, whose background was Quaker. As a child Church attended school in Florence. G. Martin Murphy says that the ten years in that city “left a permanent mark on Richard Church’s imagination and inspired a lifelong affection for Italy.” When his father died in 1826, the boy’s mother brought him to England, where he finished his schoolboy education in an Evangelical institution. His choice of college, Wadham, Oxford, was also Evangelical. Yet in spite of this, Church began to choose his friends and associates from Oriel College, where many of the Tractarians resided.

In 1838 he won a fellowship at Oriel where he was described as “the very type of the Oriel fellow;” another singled out Church for his “moral beauty,” so Oriel “could not help taking him.” At this time Church “came under the spell” of Newman, whose Sunday afternoon sermons at St. Mary’s Chapel drew so many young students into Newman’s sphere. The sermon, “Ventures of Life,” was. . . a turning point in his life. “From 1828 he was one of Newman’s closest allies and confidants.” But he was ordained deacon in 1839 along with a friend, Arthur Penrhyn *Stanley, who was certainly not part of Newman’s circle. When in college there was the motion to censure Newman’s controversial Tract 90, which implied close parallels between the Anglicanism and the Roman Catholics, Church declined to censure his friend. But he did not follow Newman to Rome.



Church had a strong interest in Christian history, due perhaps to his interest in matters Italian. In 1843 he published an account of Anselm, the first of several historical and biographical essays that would be re-issued after his death. Two years later came the event that shocked the English church, the defection of Newman to Roman Catholicism. Church was crushed. Nevertheless, he and other clergy, “saw the crisis as a call to self-examination, readjustment, and the practice of the art of the possible.” By this I think was meant to accept the Anglican Church as it was and not continue the movement in order to change it. One gets the sense that by the mid-1840s the Anglican clergy were spiritually exhausted. Church was not alone in his feelings. Murphy says that “though [Church’s] personal affection for Newman was unaltered, he emerged from his shock with greater maturity and discernment, more critical of party spirit and the cult of personality.” He seems to have become more tolerant of ecclesiastical differences, like Stanley. He was more interested in history, less in theology and doctrine.

In 1847 Church toured France, his beloved Italy, Greece, and Turkey. In Athens he was hosted by his uncle. When he returned in 1852, he accepted the charge of Whatley, a remote village in Somerset. Here he was finally ordained priest. The following year he married Helen Bennett, daughter of the rector of a parish nearby. He continued to publish essays in the popular church periodicals, and became interested in the work of the Harvard botanist Asa Gray and Darwin. He was intrigued with the controversial essays in *Essays and Reviews* (1860), edited by Benjamin Jowett. Church was definitely more broad-minded than his famous Tractarian friends. Nevertheless, while Newman was composing his famous *Apologia*, he consulted with Church, whose memory he considered reliable. (Newman visited Whatley in 1870, and Church’s children read him bits from *Alice in Wonderland*.)

Church’s merits caught the attention of *Gladstone, who tried to promote him to a more influential and better paying place in the church, but for various reasons, some of them political, Church declined. In 1871, however, he accepted the deanery of St. Paul’s in London. Murphy says that he “continued the policy of modernization initiated by his predecessor, restoring the fabric of the cathedral, enhancing the dignity of the liturgy, and opening it up as a center of spiritual life and pastoral care.” John Stainer (1840-1901) was hired as organist in 1873. At the time the Archbishop, Archibald Tait, was waging a campaign against excessive ritualism, the remnant influence of the Oxford Movement. Like Stanley, Church opposed the Public Worship Regulation Act of 1874, “as a dangerous attempt to enforce liturgical conformity.” Gladstone often consulted Church on ecclesiastical appointments.

Church’s last years were marked by illness among his family and friends and his own physical exhaustion. By this time he must have begun work on his most influential opus, for which he continues to be read this day, *The Oxford Movement: Twelve Years, 1833-1845*, published after his death. This work, in Murphy’s words, depicts Oxford as a kind of isolated Italian city-state, in which its hero, Newman, is “a lost leader, driven out of Oxford by lesser men.” (Alas, it was far more complicated than that!) Church died in December 1890 and was buried, not at St. Paul’s, but at his former parish, Whatley.

-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



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.

Rector:

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, 772-1203

2017 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden: Eric Vinciguerra, 989-317-0238

Junior Warden: Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

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

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