



The St. John's Evangel

My Brothers and Sisters,

This coming Sunday, April 30, offers to us the story of the travelers on the Emmaus road – how appropriate that The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Prioress of Emmaus Monastery, is the preacher!

But despite the fact that I'm not the preacher on Sunday, I find myself thinking more and more about the journey. The Emmaus journey, of course, but also other journeys we find ourselves upon. The road to recovery. An anticipated retirement. Heading toward graduation. New careers, new opportunities, new challenges.

And on each and every one of those journeys we have the opportunity to welcome the presence of the living Christ.

I have no doubt that the Spirit of God in Christ was with me in 1994, when I began my own journey toward sobriety. I absolutely know that I could not have done this myself, and I am so grateful to the people, inspired by the Spirit of all love (whether they knew it or not), who walked with me on that journey.

I think of my journey toward ordination. I had what St. Ignatius would call "ambivalence." That is, while I deeply felt the nudge of God toward Holy Orders, I was very happy in the work I was doing (corporate travel arrangements) and the lay ministries for which I volunteered at St. John's, San Francisco. In other words, I wasn't leaving, or running away from, an unhappy life. And so if the Diocese of California did not share my sense of call toward Priesthood, I would have been OK. I trusted that the Spirit would be with them and with me. And I felt the presence of Christ at every step along the way.

Think about journeys you have made. Perhaps you've gone through a time of discernment: Should I retire now? Should we downsize? Should we join Habitat for Humanity? Volunteer for the Goodrow Fund? Speak out more forcefully on social issues? Should I work on my physical health? Do I need a sabbatical? Should we start planning for children – or for our children's college years? Should we marry?

We all take journeys. Sometimes they're planned. Sometimes they're surprising – unanticipated financial changes, the health of a spouse or parent, the death of someone we love, downsizing of our employer. The road goes ever on and on...

And on that road we have so many opportunities to find Christ.

So... the next time you recognize your journey, say a short prayer: "Holy Spirit, Holy Christ, be with me on this journey."

Blessings this Eastertide, 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

Forrest Robinson

"Green Acres, 1807 W. Remus Rd.
Room #205. The Facility 772-3456

Verna Schurr

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

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.



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.



David Blackburn	5
Dick Wood	7
Jacob Hartshorne	10
Kathryn Wills	14
Patricia Claussen	16
Candy Henderson	17
Donald Schurr	18
Kate (Brockman) Hodgkins	19
Yvette Crandall	20
Verna Schurr	25
Ulana Klymyshyn	28
Emily Scott Shaffer	29
Joan Kadler	31



Rod Leslie & Marian Matyn	23
Robert & Olivia Ohler	28

The Altar Flower Calendar

is now posted in the Narthex, 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 altar flowers.



Thank you



Outside the Tent

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This passage, Acts 2:42-47, is the first reading on May 7, the fourth Sunday of the Easter season. It reminds me of the mantra I heard more than once a week from the Dominican sisters of Adrian who were our teachers in elementary school: "When you take care of the least of these, you take care of me" (Matthew 40:25). We've just emerged from a long season of tending to the needs of those less fortunate than we are. We've given through outreach at Christmas and Easter; we've hosted the homeless shelter; we've helped those who couldn't afford gas to go to a job interview.

But now spring is here: it is nearly 80 degrees as I write this column. Our garden is rampant with perennials of every color, and we look forward to summer travels and a broad sense of respite from the woes of the world. These days, when I go to the public library—at least once a week—I rarely run into any of the guests we hosted at the shelter, and I wonder how they are faring now that the cold weather has broken and their plans for housing are finally in place.

Yes, it seems a good time, but in this nation an official selfishness runs rampant. We have a proposal for drastic tax cuts that will serve the wealthy and harm those who cannot afford to be harmed. We are engaged in saber-rattling with North Korea, risky behavior that could threaten the world, at the worst, or destroy a nation whose people are already starving.

I find it hard to watch or read the news, and so I focus on needs that are closer to home. My prayer, as always, is to be in tune with "the least of these," and to follow the unequivocal command of Jesus to take care of them. In the laziness of summer, I hope that I will not forget this, and that you will join me in remembering our mission as followers of Jesus Christ.

Peace, Nancy

Sunday School for Everybody!!

Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane have volunteered to lead *Sunday School for Everybody* starting Sunday, June 4, after Coffee Hour – two groups, one for young people (of any age) and one for adults (of any age) will gather in the Library (kids) and the Chapel (adults). Tom and Mary Ellen will primarily use "Lesson Plans That Work," which are based on the Lectionary (readings of the day) – Mary Ellen, an amazing story teller, hopes to introduce (or re-introduce) young people to the Bible; Tom's desire is for conversational gatherings – reflections on the day's readings, the sermon, and how they relate to one another – and to the lives we live. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex beginning mid-May – you don't have to attend *every* session, but we'd like to have a rough idea about how many might join. Come gather! *Reflect, learn, listen, explore.*



MAY 2017 Sunday Lay Ministry

DATE	LESSONS	PRAYERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	ACOLYTES	ALTAR GUILD
May 7 4 Easter	8:00 a.m. Barbara Sheperdigian 10:00 a.m. Jessica Vinciguerra	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Joan Kadler	David and Jennifer Dingman	Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane	Matthew Kinney	Pamela Dingman and Harriett White
Lectionary: Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10						
May 14 5 Easter Mothers' Day	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Ralph Baber	8:00 a.m. Peg Hicks 10:00 a.m. Mary Kiesgen	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Ford and Pamela Dingman	Kendall Klumpp	Pamela Dingman and Harriett White
Lectionary: Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14						
May 21 6 Easter	8:00 a.m. Steve Berkshire 10:00 a.m. Anne Alton	8:00 a.m. Martha Rarick 10:00 a.m. Sandy Wood	Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen	David and Jennifer Dingman	Emma Dingman	Sally Goodrow Lynne L'Hommedieu Martha Rarick
Lectionary: Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:7-18 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21						
May 28 7 Easter	9:00 a.m. Jim Thurston	9:00 a.m. Jim Thurston	David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney	Clancy and Pat DeLong	Adam Baker	Sally Goodrow Lynne L'Hommedieu Martha Rarick
Lectionary: Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 John 17:1-11						
June 4 The Day of Pentecost	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	9:00 a.m. Nancy Hartshorne	Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood	Candy Henderson and Carol Lauffer	Matthew Kinney	Pamela Dingman and Peg Hicks
Lectionary: Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:25-35, 37 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 John 20:19-23						

MOM

 Happy Mother's Day



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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
APRIL 30, EASTER 3 8 am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist <i>The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Preaching</i> 5 pm Potluck and Eucharist at Emmaus	MAY 1 Noon: Daughters of the King 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	2 10 am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga 7 pm Compassionate Friends	3 Noon Eucharist 6 pm T'ai Chi	4 10 am T'ai Chi 12:30pm Construction Mtg 3pm Prayer Shawls 5:30 pm Choir	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6
7 EASTER 4 8am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist <i>St. John's 101 After Coffee Hour</i> 5 pm Evensong for Eastertide	8 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	9 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga	10 Noon Eucharist 6 pm T'ai Chi	11 10am T'ai Chi 12:30pm Construction 3pm Prayer Shawls 5:30 pm Choir	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13
14 EASTER 5 8am Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist <i>Vestry After Coffee Hour</i> <i>St. John's 101 After Coffee Hour</i>	15 <i>Office Closed</i> 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	16 10am T'ai Chi 5 pm League of Women Voters 5:30 pm Yoga	17 Noon Eucharist 6 pm T'ai Chi	18 9:30 am Staff Meeting 10am T'ai Chi 12:30pm Construction 3 pm Prayer Shawls 5:30 pm Choir	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20
21 EASTER 6 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Choral Eucharist <i>St. John's 101 After Coffee Hour</i>	22 <i>Evangel Deadlne</i> 4 pm Music Meeting 5:30 pm EfM	23 10am T'ai Chi 5:30 pm Yoga	24 Noon Eucharist 6 pm T'ai Chi	25 10am T'ai Chi 12:30pm Construction 5:30 pm Choir	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 2 pm The Ordination of The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier



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 773-7448.

Greeters



Coffee Hour Hosts



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 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 14 Ford and Pamela Dingman
- 21 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 28 Clancy and Pat DeLong

June

- 7 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood
- 14 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 21 Kendall and Lois Klumpp
- 28 Sally Goodrow and Barbara Sheperdigian

June

- 7 Candy Henderson and Carol Lauffer
- 14 Joan Kadler and Mary Kiesgen
- 21 David, Nancy, and Matthew Kinney
- 28 Kendall and Lois Klumpp

July

- 2 Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton
- 9 Sharon Bolton and Laura Cochrane
- 16 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 23 Marcia David and Candy Henderson
- 30 David and Jennifer Dingman and family

July

- 2 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood
- 9 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 16 Christi Brooks, D.J. and Misha Proctor
- 23 Barbara Sheperdigian and Harriett White
- 30 Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton



St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
April 9, 2017 Vestry Minutes

Present: Adam Baker, David Shirley, Clancy DeLong, Eric Vinciguerra, Tom Cochrane, Wayne Nicholson, Bernice Cole, Marsha David, and Ulana Klymyshyn

Vestry approves minutes from March meeting.

Wayne notes that all of our "What wants to happen" goals could probably be gotten underway by the fall/end of this year. Wayne also decided that it would be in his interest and also for the good of the congregation that he decides on a tentative date for his retirement.

After Clancy finishes with budget report, Bernice moves to approve budget. Ulana seconds, budget is approved.

Tom moves to adjourn, Marcia seconds. Vestry adjourns.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Baker
St. John's Vestry

April 2017 Financial Report

With the building project nearly completed, we are in need of an active Finance Committee. Currently, only Pam Dingman and I are on the committee. As treasurer, my role should be in the advisory capacity. We are for looking volunteers to serve on the committee as well a parishioner to lead the committee. Please contact Wayne or Clancy if you are interested.

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of March (25.00%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 45,789 (23.77% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	<u>47,479</u> (24.64% of budget)

Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures \$ (1,690)

We have a total of 42 parishioners who pledged in 2017. This is 11 fewer pledging units than in 2016. Income is \$3,000 down from where it should be at this time. If you have not turned in a pledge card and wish to do so, please contact our pledge secretary, Pam Dingman.



Cash balances on March 31, 2017 are as follows:

Checking Account \$ 25,308.13
 Capital Campaign Savings \$ 36,700.82
 Certificate of Deposit \$ 15,531.88
 Endowment Fund Investment Account \$ 60,897.03

Capital Campaign funds balance on March 1, 2017 19,016.10
Capital Campaign funds balance on March 31, 2017 18,068.45

Capital Fund Activity during March:

Capital Fund Receipts 3,944.00
 Interest on Savings 4.62
 Credit Card Fees (3.32)
 Mortgage Interest (788.79)
 Building Renovations - Percha (46.79)
 Building Renovations - Cent MI Surveying (4,057.37)

Net Activity (947.65)

Total Building Expenses Through March:

Loan Proceeds/Contractor Draw 205,583.40
 Non-Loan Expenses 178,859.00

Sub-Total 384,442.00

Anticipated Expenses:

Mortgage Balance Due Contractor 44,417.00
 Mortgage Interest (future estimate) 32,013.52
 Bank Fees/Credit Card 5,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST 465,872.52

Clancy



Anglican Worthies

317. Bronte, Charlotte (1815-1856) Novelist (pt. ii)

But this precious fellowship could not continue. The family had to part and assume separate responsibilities. In 1831 Charlotte began her second start in institutional education, a school at Roe Head run by Margaret Wooler, who would prove instrumental in Charlotte's career development. Emily, 17, went too, but did not last long. "Liberty was the breath of Emily's nostrils. The change from her own home to a school. . . to one of disciplined routine. . . was what she failed in enduring. Her nature proved here too strong for her fortitude," Charlotte said. Anne took her place.

Compared to the Cowan Bridge School for Clergy Daughters, Roe Head was healthy and rational, but anyone perusing the accounts of the Bronte children comes to realize—by now, I should think—that any time one of the children went away from home on some mission of responsibility invariably created a crisis. First it was Branwell, who was sent to London to study but simply could not hack it. He was not admitted to the Academy Schools; he did not present his letter on introduction. Viewing the canvasses at the National Gallery he felt such discouragement that what money of his father he had he drank up, telling his father he had been robbed! Then he wrote to *Blackwood's Magazine*, the dominant periodical in England, and demanded a job! His older sister, who perhaps more than anyone else in the family had such admiration for his talents, was stunned. His moral failure provoked in her "a mental depression for which she became not only physically ill but spiritually scarred for years," our biographer says. "What she was [in attending school for preparation] was no longer a voluntary gesture promoted by love, but an obligation to earn a living in place of others."

Under such conditions the Bronte sisters became quite despondent. This is where Ellen Nussey's influence became more dominant in Charlotte's life, though not always helpfully. Ellen tended to recommend "acceptance of the will of God." This would not do for Charlotte, whose doubts of personal virtue did not make her feel particularly receptive to Ellen's conventional counsel.

Don't deceive your-self [Charlotte said] by imagining that I have a bit of goodness in me. . . . My Darling, if I were like you, I should turn my face Zionward [check]. . . But I am not like you. If you knew my thoughts; the dreams that absorb me; and the fiery imagination that at times eats me up and makes me feel society, as it is, wretched insipid, you would pity and I dare say despise me.

What was sinful about her "fiery imagination"? We do not know, but I suggests that Charlotte refers to dreams of passionate love and desire, which were thought conventionally sinful and



which were expressed in the juvenilia the Bronte sisters shared. From this point Charlotte shared many thoughts with Ellen of her misery and her doubts that she could ever reconcile herself with a plan of conventional faith. She became what Gérin called “an uneasy penitent.” She was torn between the desire to create, to write, and the determination as a teacher in preparation to do her duty. I call attention to this because the desire to free herself from society and the obligations of her position—and to write about this—was always in conflict with the need, as oldest child, to help support that family, especially as Emily and Branwell seemed in capable of doing so. But she had poor self-esteem:

I have some qualities which make me very miserable. . . . My eyes fill with tears when I contrast the bliss of a saintly life. . . with the melancholy state I now live in; uncertain that I have ever felt true contrition. . . long for holiness which I shall never, never attain, smitten at times to the heart with the conviction that ---'s ghastly Calvinistic doctrines are true. . . . If Christian perfection be necessary to Salvation, I shall never be saved. . . . I keep trying to do right, checking wrong feelings, repressing wrong thoughts—but still feel myself going astray.

The coming of spring and warmer weather proved particularly trying. She felt creative; she wanted to write. She was able to do little more than keep a journal. But her mind was much alive with dreams and imaginings.

By this time Miss Wooler had made her an instructor at Roe Head. One of her decisions doing the Christmas holiday of 1836 was to write the popular poet Robert Southey on what he thought were the prospects for success for a woman writer. He replied to following spring. He was not sympathetic. Women's place was in the home. Meanwhile Anne fell ill at school with consumption. Charlotte blamed Miss Wooler for the conditions that had brought this on. That fall Charlotte resumed her schooling alone, quite depressed. So sunken was her state of mind that she needed medical attention.

She came home. Branwell, making a fresh start, set up in nearby Bradford as a portrait painter. Charlotte felt hopeful for her feckless brother; she began to write, starting several short novels (not preserved). And she began to ask herself what a young adult (she was twenty-three) should be writing about; specifically the “woman question.” She was not interested in religious concerns. As an Anglican, she viewed with disdain the current distinctions between High and Low Church, as well as the popularity of chapel (the Methodists), Quakers and Dissenters. Roman Catholics were the most contemptible, a bias that would last her life. Moreover, she did not like Pharisaical exhibitions of piety; as the eldest surviving daughter of the local rector, she was very circumspect in her profession of faith. (Ellen Nussey tried to interest her in her brother Henry, a young clergyman, who eventually proposed. Hardly knowing him, she turned him down. This was followed by another proposal, from her father's curate. He was not to her taste either. She began to think she would die an old maid. Both men fell short of the Byronic ideal that she and her sisters had written about for years; they were too “nice.”) --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: Marcia David, 989-775-8086

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