



The Evangel

A Pastoral Directive from the Episcopal Bishops of Michigan

Dear Friends,

With heavy hearts and hope-filled spirits, we are compelled to offer a new Pastoral Directive in response to COVID-19. These new directives are in line with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

In addition to continuing to forgo all public, in-person worship services, we direct you to cease all other Sunday, Saturday and weekday in-person gatherings, including weddings, funerals, memorial services, and non-emergency baptisms, and place all of the groups that gather at your congregation on hiatus for the CDC's recommended eight weeks, or until May 10th, including both Holy Week and Easter. We encourage you to make arrangements to offer your education classes or other meetings by video or phone conference call as you are able. Food pantries and feeding programs should operate in a "curbside only" capacity.

As Bishops, we make these directives so that the Episcopal Church across Michigan may lead our state in caring for our communities by embodying pastorally sensitive physical distancing practices. The more physical distance we place between ourselves and our neighbors, the more we help to mitigate the spread and impact of this virus. At the same time, we are called to reach out to each other in love, so that while we are physically separated, we are spiritually and relationally connected. The Body of Christ is more than what happens inside of our buildings - it is a people living the Way of Love wherever we may be.

God of Life, you give us life and hope. Be with us in the chaos of this time. Calm our fears, be the light for our path, and strengthen our trust in your promise never to leave or forsake us. We pray through Christ, in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

- A Prayer for Chaotic Times, Enriching Our Worship

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.

Bishop, The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Bonnie A. Perry

Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray

Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan



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.

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.



Adam Baker	3
Ezra Hart	5
Seth Hartshorne	7
Ralph Baber	8
Tom Cochrane	12
Jennifer Dingman	14
Henry Fulton	16
Ardent Hart	16
Megan Blackburn	22
Jaclynn Cosan	24
Alex DeLong	24
Chris DeLong	24
Pamela Dingman	29

The 2020 Altar Flower Calendar is posted near the back 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. Flowers are a wonderful addition to worshiip! Thank you!



Outside the Tent

During this time of concern, crisis, inconvenience, and fear we are reminded to pray in the manner reflective of our faith and practices. The following is a prayer is from an Anglican (Episcopal) priest serving New Zealand that I have found helpful in shaping my prayer thoughts. I share it hoping that it may be of use to others.

A Litany for Use During the COVID-19 Crisis

The Reverend Jemma Allen - Anglican Priest - New Zealand and Polynesia

For those who are sick
and those who care for them,
that they might be restored to health
and receive all that they need this day:
Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For those who have died
and those who mourn,
that they might know consolation:
Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For nurses and doctors,
and all who work in hospitals and medical care,
that they might be sustained with energy for their work,
and might have all that they need for good patient care:
Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For public health experts,
for scientists and bioengineers
working to understand the virus and to find treatment and prevention
that they might have insight and success:
Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For the World Health Organisation,
for government officials,
that policy and practice might be wise and effective:
Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For those in quarantine,
that their spirits might be sustained,
and for those separated from people they love



by the circumstances of this illness:

Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For those who are afraid,
that they might know peace:

Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For those who are being harassed or persecuted
as racism is expressed around this illness,
that they might be protected:

Gracious God, receive our prayer.

For those whose sin of racism clouds their eyes, minds and hearts,
that they might repent and love their neighbour:

Gracious God, receive our prayer.

Gracious God, receive our prayers,
those made with these words
and those made in the murmurs of our hearts.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

During this period when St. John's is closed, your financial support gifts may be sent in the following ways:

- 1 Mail to the church office.
206 W. Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
2. Drop off through the mail slot at the church office door.
3. Pay by credit card. Call Clancy DeLong at (989) 400-6546 to provide card information.



Search Committee Update

March 10, 2020

Hi Everyone,

Following diocesan protocol, on Feb. 17th the Search Committee submitted the final copies of the rector, community and parish profiles to Rev. Canon Anne Hallmark and the Bishop to approve. She approved them after making a few, small editorial changes, which I accepted on behalf of the committee.

On the same day, again following protocol, we also submitted for her and the Bishop's approval, our responses to the diocese's OTM (Office of Transition Ministry) questionnaire. There is one questionnaire for rector candidates, and a similar one for the Search Committee to fill out. The Vestry supplied statistical information and benefit information, and we answered questions based on our parish and rector profiles. I especially commend the Search Committee for their work on the OTM which we found out we had to submit with the rector profile on Feb. 10th.

Finally, on March 10th the Bishop approved both our rector profile and our OTM questionnaire answers. Words are insufficient to express my relief that we've reached this point!! Alice created a new section on the updated St. John's website where the rector, community and parish profiles reside. The rector profile was also added into the national church database by their staff, and I also added the rector profile on March 10th to the Episcopal News, as recommended by the diocese.

On Sunday March 15th Anne will meet with the Search Committee regarding drafting interview questions, conducting interviews with and evaluating clergy candidates. She will meet with us again the Sunday after Easter, April 19th, when she will bring us the names of candidates. We may also have to reach out to other potential candidates. We still hope to interview candidates in May and to conclude this process by or in early June.

The Search Committee worked hard to get to this point. I am very grateful for all they do.

Please continue to pray for all involved in the search. We appreciate your support and prayers.

Thank you,

Marian Matyn



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

- 10 David, Nancy and Matthew Kinney
- 17 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 24 Lynne L'Hommedieu and Sandy Wood
- 31 Colin, Anne, and Matthew Alton

May

- 10 Mary Kiesgen and Lynne L'Hommedieu
- 17 D.J. Proctor and Christi Brookes
- 24 Rod Leslie and Marian Matyn
- 31 Harriett White and Sandy Wood

June

- 7 Sharon Bolton and Marcia David
- 14 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 21 David and Jennifer Dingman
- 28 Ford and Pamela Dingman

June

- 7 Colin, Anne and Matthew Alton
- 14 Sharon Bolton and Elizabeth Brockman
- 20 Tom and Mary Ellen Cochrane
- 28 Clancy and Pat DeLong



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St. John's Vestry Minutes March 8, 2020

Present are Adam Baker(clerk), Ulana Klymyshyn, Ella Jo Regan, David Shirley, Diane Stier, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Marcia David, Harriett White, Clancy DeLong, DJ Proctor, Tom Cochrane.

Diane opened with a prayer and David told Adam that Eric will not be in attendance because he had a rehearsal. Marcia moved that Vestry approve minutes from the February meeting, Nancy seconded. Vestry approved.

Diane reported that Leadership Day will be held on March 28 in Gaylord. She highly suggested Vestry members, especially ones involved in Finance Committees, attend.

David reported that we submitted all of the Search Committee paperwork and Canon Missioner Hallmark approved it with some very minor changes. The paperwork will be submitted to Bill Spade who will refer names of candidates to Search Committee.

David reported that there was still an anonymous donor who offered to pay for a screen for the parish hall. Vestry decided to defer until we have a better usage policy for the Parish Hall. David will put this on the agenda for next month's meeting.

David also reported that we have to submit a copy of our bylaws to the Chancellor for review as part of the search process.

Ulana reported 14 people attended the cottage meeting last Sunday.

Nancy reported that she put hand sanitizer in the pews and disinfected the Sanctuary each week. David reported that the second Sunday in April is Palm Sunday, and the third is Easter. Vestry decided not to meet in April unless necessary business arises.

Clancy completed his Treasurer's report. Most budget items are tracking just fine so far. There was \$500 left in the Noise Dampening Fund. David will take the cost for re-voicing the piano out of that fund.

Ulana requested that Vestry discuss a Diversity/Anti-Racism committee at the next meeting. Next vestry meeting is scheduled for May 17th.

Marcia moved Vestry adjourn, Tom seconded. Vestry adjourned.



February 2020 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of February (16.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 23,485.92 (13.78% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	<u>25,307.16</u> (14.85% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (1,821.24)

Through the first two months, operating income is down close to three percent. Please verify that your operating fund pledge is up to date.

Cash balances on February 29, 2020 are as follows:

Checking Account	\$ 68,132.58
Savings.....	\$ 26,744.38
Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ 15,884.55
Endowment Fund Investment Account	\$ 78,394.52

Capital Campaign funds balance on February 1, 2020.....\$ 23,826.01

Capital Campaign funds balance on February 29, 2020...\$ 22,610.32

Capital Fund Activity For February:

Capital Fund Receipts.....	\$ 3,453.00
Interest Income	0.00
Bank/Credit Card Fees.....	0.00
Mortgage Principle	(4,259.72)
Mortgage Interest.....	(408.97)
Net Activity	\$ (1,215.69)

BUILDING PROJECT

Total Capitalized Expenses	\$ 442,345.71
Non-Capitalized Expenses (Bank Fees/Interest)	26,711.76
Subtotal.....	\$ 469,057.47

Anticipated Expenses:	
Mortgage Interest.....	\$ 6,753.45
Bank Fees/Credit Card.....	100.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST.....\$ 475,910.92

Outstanding mortgage balance as of February 29, 2020 \$ 109,868.10

Clancy



ANGLICAN WORTHIES

355. Rosetti, Christina Georgiana (1830-1894)

Poet

Elizabeth Barret Browning (1806-1861) has traditionally been regarded as the greatest woman poet of the Victorian period, but in this post-modern age the honor goes to Christina Rosetti, sister of the Pre-Raphaelite painter, Dante Gabriel Rosetti (1828-1882). But she has paid a price. Much of her life she was ill, and recent biographies have suggested several causes, but no one is really sure. One has suggested her melancholy was due to an unrequited passion for the painter William Bell Scott (1811-1890), a friend of the family, who may be referenced in a poem “An Apple-Gathering” (1857), but one cannot be sure. In 1849 a member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, John Collinson (1825-1881), engaged her affections, but she ultimately refused him because he converted to Catholicism, and as a devout Anglican, she could not live with him. She received two other proposals, regarding one of which (John Brett) she turned lightly poetic, saying, “I never said I loved you, John: why will you teave me day by day?” To her credit—or not: much of Christina’s life remains a mystery.

She was peculiar in her heritage and upbringing, the fourth child of Gabriel Rosetti (1783-1851), a “Neapolitan patriot” who came to England in 1824 and married Frances, the daughter Gaetano Polidori. Christina’s father was a professor of Italian studies at King’s College, London. Christian’s sibs, to whom she was very close, were Maria, Dante Gabriel, and William Micheal, who lived to 1919 and became the historian of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, and to whom we owe so much information about his distinguished family.

Her home was the meeting-place for Italian ex-patriots, revolutionaries, and artists. The children were given every opportunity to develop their interests. In those days our subject vacillated between moods of vivacity and dispiritedness. Her biographer, Lindsay Duquid, says that as a teenager “she became neurotically self-aware, always on guard against the sins of vanity and idleness,” cautious of her father’s expectations, and showing the natural quality of frustrated genius. In 1845, only fifteen years old, she suffered a nervous breakdown, and was advised to vacation on the English coast. Duguid suggests it is likely that her deep religious convictions were formed when she came under the direction of the Puseyite priest of Christ Church, Albany Street. Whoever this was, Christina, Maria, and their mother were devout and faithful Anglicans all their lives—and they were ritualists.

It seems as though our subject was rarely well, physically or mentally. In 1847 she became seriously ill; eight years later she seems to have experienced a major religious crisis. She refused the sacraments. Biographers have struggled to explain precisely what was happening; the only “evidence” is a narrative, *Maud* (named after *Tennyson’s poem?), about a woman who has lost all interest in life and eventually dies. Christina was obviously depressed; her father’s death, which left the family destitute, must have aggravated the condition of the household. But prohibiting herself the sacraments sounds like a “crisis of worthiness,” a



common affliction of Christians, who have come to believe they are no longer sufficiently deserving of God's mercy.

Her depression was doubtless relieved in the years to follow when she became involved with her brother in the formation of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood. She visited their studios and sat for the likeness of the virgin in her brother's "Girlhood of Mary Virgin" as well the canvasses of others.

There is something nun-like in her portrait and in her poetry. Her biographer, looking at likenesses in the 1850s, notices how she was "pale, narrow-jawed, with large-lidded eyes and long, uncurled hair," Pre-Raphaelite, perhaps. While the family struggled to make ends meet, there was occasional income from her brother's paintings, William worked at the excise office, and Christina began to write.

Christina's first volume of poems, "Goblin Market and other Poems," appeared in 1862, including drawings by her brother. Reviews were good, sales not. "The Prince's Progress and other Poems" appeared in 1866, followed by a book for children. *Collected Poems* appeared in 1875; a sonnet sequence in 1881. Her books were also published in this country, increasing her reputation. Her work after 1866 were mainly devotional, and her meager income was donated to charities.

Her health continued to plague her. In 1872 she was diagnosed with Graves Disease, a hyperthyroid disorder. She was putting on weight and looking more "matronly." She wrote, "I am weak and less ornamental than society may justly demand." She had little social life, especially among writers. She knew Lewis Dodgson and possibly Swinburne, who admired her work, but she avoided Tennyson and Whitman. Her sister Maria became a nun after William married; Dante Gabriel died in 1882, their mother in 1886. Christina died in 1895 after two very uncomfortable years with cancer.

Parishioners may remember Christina's poem, "In the bleak mid-winter" from those Christmas Eve services when our choir used to sing a medley of English carols before the service. There are two settings, by Gustave Holst (1874-1934) and Harold Darke (1888-1976).

First verse:

In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter,
Long ago.

Last Verse:

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
What can I give him?
Give my heart.

--hlf



Saint John's Episcopal Church

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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 Episcopal Church 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.

Associate Priest, The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec 989-807-0215

Deacon, The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

2020 Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: David Shirley: 773-3463

Jr. Warden: Nancy Herman Kinney: 989-546-5424

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong, 989-400-6546

Co-Treasurer: Lynne L'Hommedieu, 772-8340

Vestry Clerk: Adam Baker: 989-492-1626

2020 Vestry Members

Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

Marcia David, 775-8086

Ulana Klymyshyn, 772-5 616

David Proctor, 772-7715

Ella Jo Regan: 772-3587

Eric Vinciguerra, 517-657-9196

Harriett White, 773-3880

Organist:

Dennis Flynn, 231-460-6000

Choirmaster:

Chase Simpson, 248-302-0532