

The Evangel



Dear people and friends of St. John's,

The season of Advent is upon us – a time when the days darken, and we light the candles of an Advent wreath as a way of *choosing* HOPE and light over darkness. But this year is so different than years past... The traditions that have carried us in Advents and Christmases past - the greening of the church, the services of Evensong and Lessons and Carols, singing “Silent Night” with only candlelight - all these are beyond our reach this year, at least in the ways we have always known them. Such a loss can make it seem that we no longer have “church” to cling to during these “high holy days” ... Ah, but while we may not all be able to gather IN church, we are still very much BEING church.

Yes, we continue to *be* the church. “How?” you might ask. I will let you reflect on that as you read the letter from Liz Brockman about *People Helping People*, read about the *families we’re adopting for Christmas*, reflect on all that the *Goodrow Fund* has done over the years, *send out cards* to folks you’ve neglected in the past, *light your Advent wreath* or a candle and “*hold*” *someone in the quiet of your prayer*...

We are church as we gather for *Church School on Wednesday mornings*, or enter into conversation with one another on *Wednesday evenings*. We are church as we pray *Compline together on Thursday evenings* and in our *services on Sunday mornings*.

We will be church together on *Christmas morning* – as we share in a celebration of Holy Communion “live-streamed” [yes, still not *in church*] and then have the opportunity to have *Holy Communion brought to our homes* to receive there in safety, mindful of being the Body of Christ together.

May we indeed prepare the way of the Lord during these days of Advent – by clearing away anything that might get in the way of His Coming. “Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen* (Book of Common Prayer, p 823)

Sr. Diane+



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

If you wish to add or remove names from the Prayer List, please call Sr. Diane Stier, 989-807-0215, Martha Rarick, 773-7510, the church office or email Pamela Dingman: padingman@hotmail.com. Thank you.



Pastoral Care

Just a reminder: you should let the parish office know if you are ill and wish to receive a visit from the Rector.



Lois Klump	2
Andy Brockman	4
Diane Benn	6
Marcia David	6
Jim Thurston	8
Elliott Parker	13
James Wilson	13
Mary Ellen Cochrane	19
Harriett White	24
Doris Sherwood	25
Patricia DeLong	30

Can't find your parish directory? It's on the parish website:
<https://www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com/>
under *About Us* –then *Members Only*.
sjec206

CHRISTMAS FAMILIES – You can help!

Check out the needs of the two families we're adopting this year, and join in that outreach [the Sign-up Genius is here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e49a9ad22a4fe3-christmas> or you can call Ella Jo Regan (603) 520-1932 to sign up.]

*People Helping People
A Nonprofit Organization in Loving Memory of Timothy A. Brockman*

December 1, 2020

The Reverend Diane Stier and St. John's Vestry
St. John's Episcopal Church
206 West Maple Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Sister Diane and St. John's Vestry:

On behalf of People Helping People (PHP), I'm writing to offer sincere thanks for your recent donation of \$305.27. This generous gift will provide more than sixty meals at Max & Emily's Eatery, where hungry people continue to come each and every Sunday afternoon for a fresh deli sandwich with all the trimmings.

However, the recent St. John's donation will actually accomplish even more than provide meals because it, along with a similar donation from our friends at Immanuel Lutheran, inspired an anonymous donation of \$1,000 specifically for a new PHP outreach: The 2020 Christmas Tree Project. Partnering with Vander Sys Christmas Tree Farm (a local family business), PHP is donating Christmas trees, along with the Vander Sys signature "miracle tree stand," to ten local families. Each family will receive a voucher allowing them to come to the Vander Sys Christmas Tree lot, where they can pick out the perfect Christmas Tree in terms of size and variety. The first three vouchers were gifted to families who are Sunday guests at Max & Emily's, and the second two vouchers were gifted to the St. John's Christmas families. With help from the Isabella County Food Pantry, I'm confident PHP will find good homes for the remaining five Christmas Tree vouchers!

Again, thank you for the recent generous donation, which helps to keep alive Tim's memory and legacy.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Brockman

In a PS, Liz added that PHP provided meals for nearly 100 people each week in November!



**Minutes for Vestry Meeting
November 15, 2020, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom**

Present are Adam Baker (clerk), Diane Stier, Ella Jo Regan, Sharon Bolton (guest), Tom Cochrane, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Pam Dingman (guest), Eric Vinciguerra, Alice Ciccu (guest), DJ Proctor, Ulana Klymyshyn, Clancy DeLong, Marcia David, David Shirley.

Diane opened with a prayer. Ella moved that Vestry approve minutes from the October meeting, Nancy seconded. Vestry approved.

Nancy gave her report on the Diocesan Convention. Following up on the discussion of BLM from the October Vestry meeting, it was noted that the following joint resolution was passed at Convention:

RESOLUTION 2 -

A Joint Resolution Calling for Racial Healing and Equity

The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan resolve and affirm that Black Lives Matter.

Rationale:

Genesis 1:26-27 states that God created all of humanity in the divine image and bestows dignity upon all. God promises to redeem, reconcile, and restore the whole creation through Christ. When Black lives are treated as though they don't matter, Christians everywhere should be able to stand up and assert without hesitation that Black lives certainly do matter, have dignity, worth, and value. God created Black people in God's image. God redeems Black lives in Christ. Black lives matter to God.

Clancy completed his financial report. Tom moved that Vestry approve the following motion:

The vestry on the 15 Day of November 2020, after discussing the amount to be paid to the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier as a parsonage allowance, on motion duly made and seconded, adopted the following resolution: Whereas the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier is employed as a priest of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, which does not provide a residence for her, the vestry resolves that of the total annual(12 month) compensation of \$79,840 to be paid to the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier during the final two months of 2020 and for all of 2021, that \$24,000 annually be designated as parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

Adam seconded, and the Vestry approved.

Diane moved on to the issue of reentry plans. The consensus was to continue doing things as we have been, and Diane recommended Alice and Eric continue working on technical issues to improve the sound.

Ulana mentioned that because of the COVID pandemic, there has not been a formal installation ceremony. David pointed out that because a formal installation ceremony needs a Bishop, it would be difficult to do before we can meet for in-person services. Ulana will head a committee to find a way to formally recognize the Search Committee and the retirements that have happened this year, and to celebrate calling Diane as Rector.

Sharon discussed the records of the Goodrow Fund, which are kept in the Goodrow Office in the Church. Ulana moved that all Goodrow Fund documents and historical records be kept in the St. John's office for a period of 3 years, during which the Rector and Vestry will be responsible for them. Ella seconded, and the Vestry approved.

Ella moved that one washer and dryer be donated to Restoration House; Nancy seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Ella moved that \$50 be kept in the Clean and Bright fund to pay for laundry detergent at St. John's, and the remainder in the fund will be donated to the People Helping People fund in memory of Tim Brockman.

Nancy seconded, and Vestry approved.

Tom moved that Vestry adjourn, Ella seconded. Vestry adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Baker, Clerk

Minutes for Special Vestry Meeting November 22, 2020, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

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

Diane opened with a prayer.

Diane announced that our Parish Secretary, Sandy Schrock, announced her retirement. Diane requested a motion to give Sandy a retirement gift after her years of service.

Tome moved that ST. John's give Sandy a departing gift in the amount equal to the amount she would have earned if she worked through the end of the year 2020 (including holiday pay). Clancy indicated the amount would be around \$795. Ella seconded the motion. Vestry approved.

Vestry discussed the job description for an Administrative Assistant that was drafted in 2017. At that time it was decided that the job should not be filled by a parishioner.

Diane closed with a prayer. Vestry adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Baker, Clerk

Some of our Members have moved or have a winter address! Here are their new addresses!

(NOTE: Sally Goodrow's address was incorrect in last month's Evangel.)

**Sally Goodrow
3500 Faulkner Drive, Apt. D-202
Lincoln, NE 68516**

**Olivia Ohler
2721 Eland Ct.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**



**Chase and Victoria Simpson
2600 Chandler Dr. Apt. 216
Bowling Green, KY 42104**

**Sandy Wood
(Has not moved, but is spending the winter with
her daughter)
6240 Hilltop Ct.
Bath, MI 48808**

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.

NO CONTACT METHOD OF GIVING

The Western Michigan Diocese has contracted with an online giving platform to assist parishes during this crisis. This is a safe, paperless way of giving through direct debit or credit card. To take advantage of this program, please click on the following link:

<https://givingtools.com/give/1276/2180>

October 2020 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of October (83.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts	\$ 130,191.49 (76.40% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures	<u>132,144.92</u> (77.55% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ (1,953.43)

Through October, total income is now 7% below budget. Please confirm that your pledge is up to date.

Cash balances on October 31, 2020 are as follows:

Checking Account.....	\$ 80,397.15
Savings	\$ 26,754.40
Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ 15,976.75
Endowment Fund Investment Account.....	\$ 82,064.72

Capital Campaign funds balance on October 1, 2020\$ 13,103.33

Capital Campaign funds balance on October 31, 2020\$ 10,337.64

Capital Fund Activity For October:

Capital Fund Receipts	\$ 1,903.00
Interest Income.....	3.36
Bank/Credit Card Fees.....	0.00
Mortgage Principle.....	(4,364.02)
Mortgage Interest.....	(304.67)

Net Activity \$ (2,765.69)



BUILDING PROJECT

Total Capitalized Expenses.....\$ 442,345.71
Non-Capitalized Expenses (Bank Fees/Interest) ...29,577.59

Subtotal\$ 471,923.30

Anticipated Expenses:

Mortgage Interest.....\$ 3,887.62
Bank Fees/Credit Card.....100.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST\$ 475,910.92

Outstanding mortgage balance as of October 31, 2020\$ 75,384.41

ANGLICAN WORTHIES

364. Hankey, Arabella-Katherine (1834-1911)
Missionary

Katherine Hankey, who wrote the words of the popular hymn, "I love to tell the story," was born in London to a wealthy banker, a member of the Clapham Sect., a neighborhood (literally) of worthy Londoners who had been allied with the Evangelical wing of the Anglican communion. Their most famous member was William *Wilberforce, Member of Parliament, who began in the late eighteenth century to campaign against slavery in all parts of the British Empire. He was successful in 1834, a year after his death. His son was Bishop Wilberforce, one of the leaders of the High Church party in the nineteenth century.

Warre Cornish stated a century ago that "among the forces which constituted the late evangelical movement one of the most powerful was that notable brotherhood in the Clapham neighborhood. . . commonly known as the Clapham sect." We must admire their independence and courage, these zealous in philanthropy, though Cornish faults them for certain aspects of their theology, their "upholding personal religion to the neglect of united Church action and authority, which subjected them too much to leaders whom they idealized and flattered, but there is no cavilling the good that they did." Among their members besides the elder Wilberforce was Hannah *More (1743-1826), the author of the Cheap Repository Tracts, designed to make poor folk law-abiding Christians. Next door was the home of the brewer Henry Thrale, husband of Mrs. Thrale, the great Friend of Dr. *Johnson (1709-1784).

Next to Wilberforce lived the statesman Granville Sharp (1735-1813), adjoining gardens. The leader responsible for much of their prominence was Zachery Macaulay (1768-1835), "the author and silent Father of the greatest talker," he said, "the world has ever known." I think this may be meant as a compliment to his brilliant son, Thomas Babington Macaulay (1800-1859), famous for his lengthy reviews in history and literature for the *Edinburgh Review* and author of *The History of England*, five volumes (1849-1861). Wilberforce could not have succeeded in his initial efforts to abolish slavery without the support of Zachery Macaulay. My anonymous source says that these cheerful neighbors lived south of London in handsome homes, kept horses and carriages, bought and sold, planted and builded, and thanked God for their good things. . . . They gave half of their goods to the poor."



Katherine Hankey, a nineteenth-century daughter of the "Holy Village," fell seriously ill in 1864 on a mission in Africa. During her lengthy convalescence she wrote a biography in verse about the life of Jesus, in the 2nd part of which she composed the words of her famous hymn, the first stanza of which goes like this (from memory):

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love,
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longing, as nothing else can do.
I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story, of Jesus and his love.

The original composition had fifty stanzas, so she must have been ill a long time. It was set to music by William G. Fisher and published in Philadelphia in a Methodist hymnal, which may explain why it cannot be found in ours. Popular among evangelical congregations, there are recordings by popular singers including Pat Boone, Jo Stafford and other country folk.

My mother was raised in an Evangelical and Reformed household but became Presbyterian when she married my father. She died ecumenically in a Baptist nursing home. The chaplain who held the service proclaimed enthusiastically that "I love to tell the story" was my mother's favorite hymn. I winced quietly, remembering that my mother was a conservatory graduate and certainly had different tastes. It was also possible that the pianist at the home had a limited repertoire, so Hankey's may have become the favorite of others. It certainly was not my father's. The son of a church organist, he had a curious view of hymnology, i.e., it was understandable that the hymn whose verse contained the line, "Who follows in his train" was "the railroad hymn," just as "From Greenland's icy mountains" was "the geography hymn," and so forth. Bless his heart! "I love to tell the story" would have been "the library hymn." --hlf

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Sunday 10 AM: Ante-Communion live on Facebook or YouTube

Wednesday 10 AM: Church School by Zoom

Wednesday 7 PM: Connections Conversations by Zoom

Thursday 8 PM: Compline (Night Prayer) by Zoom

CHRISTMAS DAY

Celebration of Holy Communion Live-Streamed from church – 10 AM – on Facebook or YouTube.

Contact Sr. Diane or the office (preferably by email) if you would like to receive Holy Communion after the service. Watch for further details.

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 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.

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

Deacon Emeritus, 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:

Choirmaster pro tempore:



Dennis Flynn, 231-460-6000

Eric Vinciguerra, 517-652-9196