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# *The Evangel*

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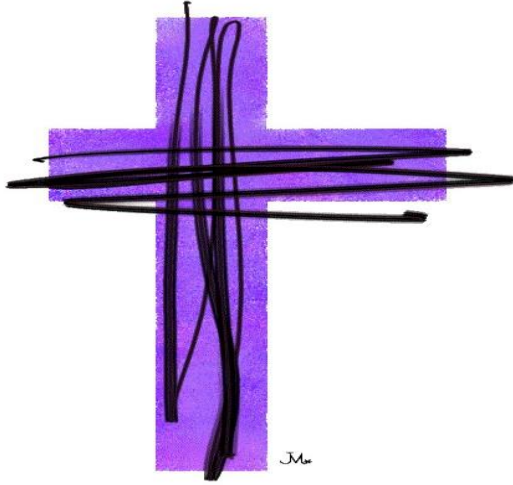
Dear people and friends of St. John's,

## *HOLY COMMUNION*

On Christmas morning, we celebrated Holy Communion livestreamed from church. While no one (other than those participating) could be *in* church, people could drive to church at the end of the service and have communion brought to their car at the curb. Several people then helped to take communion to others at their homes. Based on how well this was 'received', we have decided to continue the practice.

Beginning on the first Sunday of February, February 7th, we will celebrate Holy Communion livestreamed from church on the first Sunday of every month. At the end of the service, you can drive up at the entrance to church and I will bring communion to your car, or someone will bring communion to you at your home. (They would arrive around 11:30, give or take, depending on how far you live from church!) In other words, we're going to do what we did on Christmas morning. For February, at least, Ella Jo Regan has volunteered to provide some "coffee hour" cookies, as well! **Please contact the office to let us know if you would like to come to church to get communion or would like communion brought to your home. Call 989-773-7448 or email [saintjohnsmp@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnsmp@gmail.com)**

*Sr. Diane+*



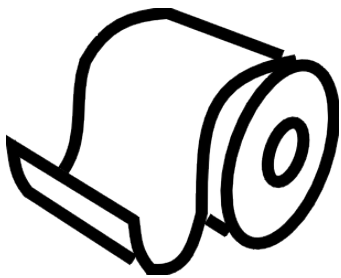
Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>. We are not permitted to distribute ashes in the usual way, but we will send ashes and a Living Compass booklet for Lent (like the one you received for Advent) out to everyone on the parish roster so that you can use the ashes as part of our Ash Wednesday service that evening or on your own. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM on [Zoom](#).

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84765345700?pwd=YkI4RDERVTNlcXV1NkZjZ2M1N1kyQT09>

You can also CALL IN BY PHONE to hear the service – by dialing: +1 646 558 8656. Then Enter the MEETING ID 847 6534 5700 and the PASSCODE 920340.

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**Things we can do** – During the pandemic, we have had to curtail many of our usual outreach ministries. But there are some things we *can* do!



**Isabella County Restoration House** needs toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates, etc. They are located at 120 S Pine St, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858. You could drop off paper products there, or you could order online and have them delivered!

We'll be growing cherry or grape tomatoes in our **Good News Garden** this summer, and could use pint containers when we harvest them – so you could start saving them, perhaps, as you buy berries or cherry tomatoes now!



## Meet our new Administrative Assistant

*Hello,*

My name is Alexis Robinson-Dear, I am the new Administrative Assistant here at St. John's Episcopal Church. I am originally from the South Suburbs of Chicago and I am 22 years young! I am a recent graduate from Central Michigan University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Science. I plan to pursue a career in the medical field as a Physician's Assistant. My life goal is to open a women's health clinic in a predominately low-income neighborhood to ensure all women have access to health care.



I have only been working at St. John's for a short period of time, but I have already met so many wonderful people. Thank you to everyone who has been coming in to help me adjust to my new position by answering questions, or just giving me much needed advice. Although I am busy working to complete my daily tasks, I am never too busy to say hello. I will be in the office Monday through Thursday 9AM-1PM; if you need anything or would just like to stop by, please feel free to do so.

Hope to meet you all soon,  
*Alexis*

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***Rev. Sr Diane – doing her happy dance at having Alexis on board!***





## A Better Way to Give

We now have our own *Giving Tools* account instead of going through the diocese. This will allow a lot more control for our members who want to direct their giving as well as save us time and money. <https://stjohnsmtpleasantmi.gvts.com>

For all giving – pledges, building fund, flowers, organ, People Helping People, etc. – just use this link to give securely online. You can make a one-time donation, or set up a recurring donation, either from your credit card or bank account. The *Giving Tools* link is available on our website and Facebook page as well.

Donating through this link will be a wonderful way for individuals to continue their contributions to **People Helping People** – which served **381 meals in December, and 7304 meals in 2020!** This is the level of need they are meeting – with help from all of us!

### **If you prefer, 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.



**Remember Our Homebound Members**

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](mailto: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 call from the Rector.



Beth Boman	10
Rex Dingman	16
Eric Vinciguerra	18
Jonathan Korpi	22
Marian Matyn	22
David Dingman	25
Peg Hicks	27

Can't find your parish directory? It's on the parish website:

<https://www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com/> under *About Us* –then *Members Only*. *sjec206*

***EACH ONE REACH ONE***

Traditionally during Lent, we adopt the practices of *prayer, fasting, and alms-giving*. This year, why not *pray* for a fellow parishioner, *fast* from TV one evening, and give the *alms* of your time, attention and care by sending a card or note to that person? (Info on finding the parish directory is above.)



## **Minutes for Vestry Meeting January 10th, 2021**

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

Tom and Adam opened with a prayer.

Marcia moved that Vestry approve minutes from the December meeting, Ella seconded. Vestry approved the minutes.

Ella reported Olivia Ohler was running for Vestry and Jerry May was considering. Nancy and Clancy were going to volunteer to be delegates for the Diocesan convention.

Marcia moved that for purposes of determining in-person presence at official meetings (such as the church annual meeting, Vestry meetings or any other meetings), electronic presence through digital means be considered in-person presence. Ella seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Diane discussed the issues surrounding conducting the Annual Meeting on Zoom, especially with voting.

Adam moved that for the purposes of the 2021 Annual Meeting, the requirement of signature will be waived so the meeting can be held electronically. The presence of a screen name will determine presence at the meeting. Tom seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Clancy completed his Financial Report. He detailed an app that parishioners can use to give to St. John's.

Marcia proposed that Vestry approve Clancy's idea to pay off the mortgage by taking about \$6,500 from our checking account. Ella seconded. Vestry approved.

Diane reported that we have hired a new administrative assistant. She also reported that the drive-up and home delivery of Eucharist on Christmas was a big success and she would like to do it again on a monthly basis. David suggested the first Sunday of each month.

Tom led the closing prayer. David moved Vestry adjourn, Ella seconded. Vestry adjourned.

Next meeting is after the Annual Meeting on January 17th, 2021 and then on February 14th at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Baker, Clerk

## **Minutes for Annual Meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church for the year 2020 January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The following meeting was conducted over Zoom because of the ongoing pandemic.

Alice Ciccu explained technical details of using zoom for the meeting.

Diane opened by leading Vestry in a prayer.

By acclamation, Adam Baker was elected to be clerk of the meeting.

Eric moved that we accept minutes from last year's meeting, Marcia seconded. Motion was approved.

Diane recognized several people for their service to St. John's. Diane read a statement recognizing Sandy Schrock's retirement as Parish Secretary and thanking her for her years of service to St. John's.

Diane introduced Alexis Robinson-Dear, St. John's new Administrative Assistant. Alexis introduced herself.

Diane recognized everyone who served on the Search Committee. She thanked them for their work.

Diane thanked the Hartshornes for making a home space for Harry to live in Mt. Pleasant and for Harry for returning to Mt. Pleasant.

Diane recognized our Deacon Nancy Fulton for her retirement and for her years of service to St. John's.

Diane thanked David Shirley and Harriet White who are retiring from Vestry.

Diane read the rules for who is eligible to vote in Parish elections.

Ella reported that Olivia Ohler and Jerry May were willing to stand for election to Vestry.

Barbara Sheperdigian moved that we accept Olivia and Jerry to Vestry, Sharon Bolton seconded. Motion was approved by acclamation.

Nancy Herman-Kinney and David Shirley described going to the Diocesan Convention.

Pat Thurston and Nancy Herman-Kinney nominated themselves as delegates to the Diocesan Convention and Clancy DeLong and David Shirley nominated themselves to be alternates.

Dereck Rivard moved that we accept the nominations and Liz Brockman seconded. Motion was approved by acclamation.

David explained the chart from the bulletin with statistics about services and attendance. He explained how the pandemic affected the records for Sunday services and how online services and attendance were reported. David thanked Sr. Diane and Deacon Nancy for their pastoral care and leadership during the pandemic as well as the Vestry, musicians and Choral Scholars. He gave a special thank you to Alice Ciccu for her work enabling St. John's to conduct services and activities online.



Clancy completed his Financial Report. He reported that overall, St. John's is healthy.

Liz Brockman proposed that we edit our Vision Statement to read "St. John's, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will be a dynamic fellowship of Christians seeking greater understanding of faith and service through programs of spiritual growth, worship, education and the arts." Ella Jo Regan seconded. Motion was approved by acclamation.

David Shirley moved that we approve the 2020 budget as submitted by Clancy DeLong, Nancy Herman-Kinney seconded. Motion was approved by acclamation.

Annual Meeting for 2021 is scheduled for January 16th, 2022.

Diane concluded the meeting with the closing prayer.

### **Minutes for Vestry Meeting January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

Ella moved that Jerry and Olivia be recognized as new members, Nancy seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Ella nominated Nancy to be Senior Warden, DJ seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Adam indicated willingness to serve as Junior Warden. Ella nominated Adam to be Junior Warden, Nancy seconded. Vestry approved.

Ella moved Vestry adjourn, Tom seconded. Vestry adjourned.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 14th, 2021.

### **Minutes for Special Vestry Meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Present are Adam Baker(clerk), Diane Stier, Ella Jo Regan, David Shirley, Marcia David, Nancy Herman-Kinney, Jerry May, Clancy DeLong, Ulana Klymyshyn.

Diane opened with a prayer.

Adam moved that Ella be appointed to another 3-year term on Vestry. It will be her second term. Nancy seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Vestry adjourned.





## Treasurer's Report St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting January 2021

The detailed financial report for 2020 and the budget for 2021 is shown on the following pages, concluding with the restricted funds activities and balances for 2020. I am please to announce that we have paid off the building mortgage one year early. This was accomplished by borrowing money from our accounts, thus saving over \$3,000 in remaining interest.

We have adopted a new company for processing credit cards and ACH payments. A brief demo will be given at the annual meeting. The Finance Committee is seeking committee volunteers and money counters. Please contact me or Pamela Dingman if you are interested.

Below are some key areas of interest.

### Capital Fund (prior to payoff)

Fund Balance, January 1, 2020 .....		\$ 25,197.75
Income		
Cash Receipts .....	\$92,276.34	
Interest .....	13.38	92,289.72
Funds Available .....		\$ 117,487.47
Expenses		
Mortgage Principle .....	\$ 51,750.30	
Mortgage Interest .....	4,273.98	56,796.46
Fund Balance, December 31, 2020 .....		<u>\$ 60,691.01</u>

### Cash Balances

Cash balances on December 31, 2020 are as follows:

Checking Account.....	\$ 95,316.66
Savings .....	\$ 26,757.76
Certificate of Deposit .....	\$ 16,016.31
Endowment Fund Investment Account .....	\$ 91,447.75

### Construction Loan/Mortgage – Isabella Bank & Trust (prior to payoff)

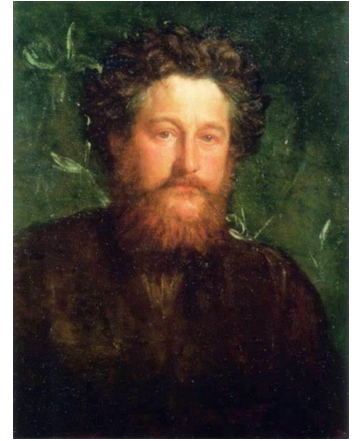
Loan Balance, January 1, 2020 .....	\$ 118,345.27
Activity	
Principle Payments.....	(51,750.30)
Outstanding Balance, December 31, 2020 .....	<u>\$ 66,594.97</u>



## ANGLICAN WORTHIES

365. Morris, William (1834-1896)  
Artist & designer (pt. ii)

Once he graduated from Exeter College, Morris began his campaign to “live his life in art” with an apprenticeship with an architect whose taste in neo-Gothic design was similar to Morris’s. Morris settled in London but, as Fiona McCarthy says, he was “dismayed at the pollution and rapid expansion into the neighboring countryside, describing it as ‘the spreading sore,’” that is, the London of \*Dickens and Sherlock Holmes. He became more attracted to the idealism of the \*Pre-Raphaelite painters, especially Dante Gabriel \*Rossetti. Through Rossetti Morris got to know Robert Browning. But Morris was getting weary of architecture and tried his hand at painting. He joined Burne-Jones and Rossetti who were painting Arthurian murals at the Oxford Union, but it soon became evident that his contributions were inferior to theirs!



What follows here is an almost dizzying account of one man’s career—a life—in the arts, or as one to experience every mode of craft, with almost endless exploration. For example, he kept up with his poetry and began to design illuminated manuscripts in the style of medieval monks. His best-known achievement in this dated genre was his long poem, *The Defense of Guinevere* (1857), which he underwrote financially—as he did nearly every one of his ventures. In the current study of Victorian literature, attention is paid to this, but the public thought not, nor the critics. It was eight years before he tried to publish anything further.

In October of 1858 Morris met Jane Burden, a beautiful figure from a working-class background, and immediately wanted to paint her. So did Rossetti. What was her mind? She got involved with Morris and married him in April 1859. The honeymooned in Belgium before settling down in London. Of this union there were two children. Yet later in life she got involved with someone else and admitted that she never loved her husband.

With the skills and experience of his apprenticeship Morris designed a large house for his family in Upton, Kent. It is, as one would expect, quite unconventional. Unlike equally pretentious dwellings of his class, it is L-shaped and constructed entirely of red brick and tiles. The exterior was designed by Philip Webb (1831-1915), whom Morris knew from his architectural apprenticeship. Upon completion, Morris invited his artistic circle to finish the interior with decorations drawn from medieval literature—painting murals and designs on the furniture, walls, and ceilings, much in the spirit in Charleston, the country home where Virginia Woolf’s sister Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant lived the last century. Rossetti and his wife Elizabeth Siddal (1829-1862) lived there several months; she was recovering from a miscarriage. (She was addicted to laudanum and died from an overdose the following year. (Both the Red House and Charleston are owned by the National Trust and open for viewing.)

The next step for Morris was to go commercial, with all these ideas and his disciples. In April 1861 Morris founded a decorative arts company, Morris, Marshall, Faulkener & Co. with six additional partners—Burne-Jones, Rossetti, of course, Philip Webb and others. They planned to follow Ruskin’s recommendation for domestic manufacture and design. Furniture was to be totally neo-Gothic. Besides furniture, design and decoration included carving, metalwork, stained-glass windows, and murals. Honored at an exhibition at an exhibition in 1862 and supported by the press, the firm became extremely popular. Apprentices were recruited from the Industrial Home for Destitute Boys. Morris gave up painting and devoted his talents to wallpaper design. This year his first daughter, Jane, was born; the next child, May, came in 1882. In later years both girls remembered an idyllic



childhood, especially with their father. Their mother was frequently observed in the company of Rossetti, her early admirer.

Morris was involved in other ventures; he seemed unable to decide what he wanted to do about the Red House. He dreamed of a kind of artistic colony for Burne-Jones and his wife, a house next door. But when Burne-Jones's son died of scarlet fever, this was given up, and weary of the almost daily trek into London, Morris sold the house. (The building is owned by the National Trust and is open to visitors.) Morris and his family moved back to London and lived directly above the office of the company. More changes: Peter Marshall left the company, and in his place they hired a business manager, Warrington Taylor, a god-send, who put the finances in better order and stopped Morris from spending too much. This was necessary because even though the company, "The Firm," as they called it, was attracting some high-end commissions--St. James's Palace and the Green Dining Room of the South Kensington Museum, and a growing interest in the county. Morris was, as always, improvident.

He continued with poetry. Prominent among his efforts was an epic, *The Life and Death of Jason*, the figure from Greek myth who captured the Golden Fleece. From 1865 to 1870, Morris worked on another ambitious project, *The Earthly Paradise*, a poetic homage to Chaucer consisting of twenty-four stories, each of them involving a group of Norsemen who discover an island where inhabitants worship the divinities of the ancient Greeks. This was commercially published and, according to Mackail and others, "it soon gained a cult following and established Morris as a major poet." It is not read now.

By 1870 Morris was a significant figure in the artistic and fashionable public. The press hounded him for photographs, which he tried to avoid. But it should be obvious by now that he had "arrived," that his gifts expanded into various genres, and he was hardly finished. The next project, the one that first brought him to this writer's attention, was his new interest in Icelandic literature, especially the sagas. This grew out of his acquaintance with Eriker Magnusson, the first literary figure of that name. Magnusson and he translated the Eddas and sagas into English for the London bookshops. At the same time, or perhaps earlier, Morris became interested again in the art of the illuminated manuscript and hand composed books, a craft which reached a peak in the late Middle Ages before the invention of moveable type. Between 1870 and 1875 he produced eighteen hand-written books, mostly of Norse narratives. One thing led to another, as always in his life. He taught himself calligraphy, including gilded letters. Taking a story from the Welsh epic, the *Mabinogian*, he composed a poetic drama illustrated with wood-cuts Burne-Jones supplied. Not surprisingly, no one purchased it. The following year he tried his hand on a novel about a contemporary love-triangle! He never finished it. Just as well. --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](#)

## 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](mailto:saintjohnsmp@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohnsmtpleasantmi.com](http://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, 989-807-0215

**Deacon Emeritus:** The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton, 773-7193

### **2021 Vestry Officers**

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

Jr. Warden: Adam Baker: 989-492-1626

Treasurer: Clancy DeLong, 989-400-6546

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

Vestry Clerk: Adam Baker: 989-492-1626

### **2021 Vestry Members**

Tom Cochrane, 989-317-3561

Marcia David, 775-8086

Ulana Klymyshyn, 772-5616

Gerald May, 989-506-0373

Olivia Ohler, 989-386-0755

David Proctor, 772-7715

Ella Jo Regan, 772-3587

Eric Vinciguerra, 989-289-6301

### **Organist:**

Dennis Flynn, 231-460-6000

### **Choirmaster pro tempore:**

Eric Vinciguerra, 989-289-6301