



The Evangel



Dear people and friends of St. John's,

A blessed Christmastide to you! Yes – we're still celebrating Christmas – at least until the feast of Epiphany on January 6. Some traditions, though, continue their celebration of the Christmas-Epiphany season for 40 days, until February 2, the *Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple*. So – if you feel like you need the decorations and lights to help you through a time closer to spring, just tell folks you're observing the Christmas-Epiphany season in its entirety.

There has been no word from the Episcopal Bishops of Michigan to say when we might move into a phase of the re-entry process that would allow us to be in church together. My prayer is that as the vaccine becomes available and the rate of infections and hospitalizations from COVID decline, we might be able to move in that direction.

Until then, we remain *church* – outside the building! 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*. And we were church as we celebrated Holy Communion together on Christmas morning, with Eucharist (and Christmas goodies!) taken to folks in their homes after the service.

Ours is a faith in the Incarnation – so let us be carriers of the Presence of God to the world. That is our vocation as *church*.

Sr. Diane+

Sanctuary Light



1 Sanctuary lamp hanging

Etched into your visual memory of the interior of St. John's should be a candle burning high above the altar suspended from the ceiling by a chain. There was a pulley and counterweight system that allowed the Sanctuary Light to be pulled down so that the candle could be changed.

In August the chain broke, and the Sanctuary Light fell. There was actually very little damage to the fixture itself. Looking at records suggest that the pulley system and counterweight had lasted about 75 years.

It was suggested that we should not put it back up overhead. It is quite heavy, and we were lucky that no one was under it pulling it down to replace the candle when the chain failed. The pandemic probably saved someone an injury.



2 After it fell - note the color...



4 RESTORED - and with a wall bracket

Rob Vinande, who runs Log Cabin Forge in Brown City, was contacted to design and build a wall bracket from which to hang the Sanctuary Light in the future. Mr. Vinande also repaired what damage there was and cleaned up the fixture.

Since the Sanctuary Light will protrude out from the wall it will be necessary to evaluate where it will be hung so that it does not interfere with people moving around the Altar. If no satisfactory location is found near the Altar, it can be displayed elsewhere. We will still be able to appreciate its beauty wherever it finds a home and the history will be preserved at the same time that we are planning for the safety of those who will follow us.



3 Finial broken from the bottom

Thanks to Ford Dingman for making all things new again....

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.

OR



A Better Way to Give

Starting January 7, we 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.gvtls.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 will be 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!



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 call from the Rector.



Nancy Hartshorne	1
Christi Brooks	4
Barbara Sheperdigian	10
Martha Rarick	15
Kip Cosan	21
Matthew Kinney	22



Ford & Pamela Dingman 23

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 DID help!

This year we were able to help three families during the Christmas season so that they had food for the table and gifts under the tree, especially for the children. Thanks to all of you who stepped up to provide specific gifts or who provided the funds for us to do so. YOUR GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Minutes for Vestry Meeting December 13, 2020, 11:30 a.m. via Zoom

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

Diane and Ella Jo led Vestry with the opening prayer.

Diane moved that Vestry approve the minutes from the November meeting, Tom seconded. Vestry approved the minutes.

Ford updated Vestry on the work on the Altar Lamp. It has been polished and is looking beautiful, and has a new wall mount. [*NOTE: SEE ARTICLE IN THIS ISSUE OF EVANGEL above.*]

Ulana updated Vestry on the plans to recognize our new Rector, the Search Committee and our retirements. She showed Vestry her plan for all the people we would be recognizing. Vestry thanked her for her plans. [*NOTE: SEE SCHEDULE ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE.*]

Pam and Clancy complete the financial report. Pam reported that total pledges are at \$89,000, and urged everyone to submit their pledge cards. Clancy reported that income and expenses are both down. The 2021 housing allowance was determined in the November meeting.

Tom and Ulana updated Vestry on Church School and Weekly Connection. Church School is going well, and Weekly Connection is focusing on themes of hope for Advent.

Ella completed her report on Christmas Outreach. The gift drive has been very successful.

Ulana completed her report on the Restoration House. The shelter is continuing at churches with the space to house people in accordance with COVID guidelines. Ulana reported that fewer people than expected are using the shelter.

Nancy completed her buildings and grounds report. Her main issue is with re-keying the locks to improve Church security. Marcia and Alice volunteered to help her explore the issue. Vestry will look into the issue again in January.

Alice updated Vestry on the search for the Administrative Assistant. Several candidates are being considered.

Alice will look into ways to conduct the Annual Meeting virtually. New Business is tabled until the next meeting.

Ulana led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Baker, Clerk

November 2020 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of November (91.67%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 146,277.07 (85.84% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	149,134.58 (87.52%% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures	\$ (2,857.51)

Through November, total income is 6% below budget. Some great news. We had some generous gifts to the Capital Fund in November. Our Capital Fund Balance is \$55K and the mortgage balance is \$71K. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

If you haven't yet turned in your 2021 operating pledge card, please contact Pamela Dingman at (989)772-4814.

Cash balances on November 30, 2020 are as follows:

Checking Account	\$ 112,812.27
Savings.....	\$ 26,754.40
Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ 16,003.26
Endowment Fund Investment Account	\$ 88,723.36

Capital Campaign funds balance on November 1, 2020\$ 10,337.64

Capital Campaign funds balance on November 30, 2020\$ 55,040.64

Capital Fund Activity for November:

Capital Fund Receipts.....	\$ 49,371.69
Interest Income	0.00
Bank/Credit Card Fees.....	0.00
Mortgage Principle	(4,393.09)
Mortgage Interest.....	(275.60)

Net Activity\$ 44,703.00

BUILDING PROJECT

Total Capitalized Expenses	\$ 442,621.31
Non-Capitalized Expenses (Bank Fees/Interest) ...	29,577.59

Subtotal.....\$ 472,198.90

Anticipated Expenses:

Mortgage Interest.....	\$ 3,612.02
Bank Fees/Credit Card.....	100.00

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

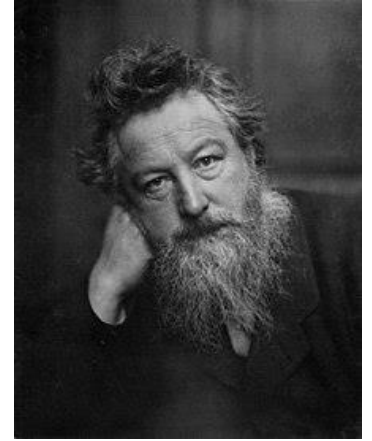
Outstanding mortgage balance as of November 30, 2020\$ 70,991.32



ANGLICAN WORTHIES

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

Morris was perhaps the greatest genius of the Victorian period, John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) excepted, and any account of his activities can hardly do him justice without visual assistance. (He reminds one of Thomas Edison, who roamed from one invention to another.) Morris was outstanding in every artistic medium with the exception of music. He belongs in this series of Anglican and Episcopal Worthies because of the impact of Anglo-Catholicism upon the middle period of his work.



He was raised in an evangelical household but embraced ritualism and the paintings of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood his brief years in college. By the final years of his life, when he was a disciple of socialism, he was an atheist. It is a challenge to do justice to his countless artistic and political ventures, but such was the influence of his life that even now, more than a century after his death, reproductions and imitations of his designs are still current. (I have put a packet of masks with his designs in my daughter's stocking.)

There seems to be nothing in his family background to account for his incredible accomplishments. There was some wealth; he was one of ten children. His early childhood in rural Essex was largely unsupervised; he roamed the countryside of the family estate. His initial artistic interest were the rural churches in his county. His father took him to Canterbury Cathedral and the Chiswick Horticultural Gardens. Finally, at nine, he was sent to school. At first he rode a pony every day to Misses Arundals' Academy for Young Gentlemen; later he boarded.

Morris never really liked any structured form of education; he particularly resented boarding. In 1847 his father died; from that period the family supported itself (and Morris's artistic endeavors) from shares of the copper mines of Devon. The following year Morris was enrolled in Marlborough College in Wiltshire, another preparatory institution. According to his earliest biographer, J. W. Mackail, who certainly knew him, Morris despised his time there, "being bullied, bored, and homesick." He did take time visiting pre-historical sites there, of which there many, including Stonehenge and Avebury. However, he was confirmed in the Anglican chapel; hence he inclined toward High Church, Anglo-Catholicism, as suited to his growing artistic taste.

After another brief period of private tutoring, Morris matriculated in June 1852 to Exeter College, Oxford, not far from home. Again, Mackail tells us that Morris disliked college life; he was interested in classical literature but despised how it was taught. But he fell in love with medieval architecture—all those college buildings of the university, still in use by students to this day. "This interest," says Mackail, "was tied to Britain's growing Medievalist movement, a force of Romanticism that rejected many of the values of Victorian industrial capitalism. For Morris, the Middle Ages represented an era with strong chivalric values and an organic pre-capitalist sense of community." This can be said of all of Morris's beliefs and the efforts that followed. Thomas Carlyle was saying much the same in his social study, *Past and Present* (1848). I should add that Morris's dislike of capitalism was shared by two significant contemporaries, the novelist, Charles Kingsley (1819-1875) and Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-1872), the leader of the Christian socialist movement.

Despite his dislike of college life, he became a friend of one of the most important figures of his fruitful career, Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898). Different in background, they shared interests in Anglo-Catholicism and



Arthurian literature, as did the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. With other undergraduates they formed the Birmingham Set, a group of like-minded esthetes who admired the poetry of *Tennyson and met together to recite the plays of Shakespeare.

Morris was also influenced by the essays in artistic criticism of John Ruskin (1819-1900), who has not been included among the Victorian century of Worthies because his Anglicanism is uncertain. Morris called Ruskin's essay, "On the Nature of Gothic Architecture" in the second volume of *The Stones of Venice* (1851-53), "one of the very few necessary and inviolable utterances of the century." Like Ruskin, Morris deplored the industrial manufacture of furniture and decoration and advocated hand-crafted furniture, work individually designed. The "Arts and Crafts Movement" is still acknowledged this past century, but it has its roots in the writings of Ruskin and his most noted disciples, Morris and Burne-Jones. It should not surprise us that Morris and Burne-Jones were attracted to the oeuvre of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood in London. Morris began to write poetry like Keats, the Romantic poet Tennyson preferred from the preceding age.

Still involved with the intent to nourish themselves in the Anglo-Catholic Movement, which drew its lingering strength from ritualism and the ideals of the *Oxford Movement, Morris and Burne-Jones decided to take Holy Orders and found a monastery, "where they could live a life of chastity and dedication to artistic pursuits." Nothing came of ordination. It was modified by a vow to dedicate themselves to "a life of art." Morris's family were dismayed by his decision. Mackail says that Morris's family expected him to choose either the church or a career in business, though one thinks they would have known by now that this was a hopeless expectation on their part. Morris had discovered by this time the beauties and ideals of Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*, which inspired him as well as Holman *Hunt and the Pre-Raphaelites with models of heroism and sacrifice. The two men founded a journal, *The Oxford and Cambridge Magazine*, which lasted only twelve issues, but drew the praise of Tennyson and Ruskin. (Morris underwrote this ambitious venture, as he did nearly all their activities.) --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

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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, 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, 989-289-6301

Harriett White, 773-3880

Organist:

Dennis Flynn, 231-460-6000

Choirmaster pro tempore:

Eric Vinciguerra, 517-652-9196