



THE EVANGEL

The official publication of St. John's Episcopal Church

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

St. John's Spotlight-3

Vestry Meeting Minutes- 8

Anglican Worthy- 11

Dear people and friends of St. John's,

We begin this month by returning to worship in church – as if dipping our toes into the lake water to see if it's “okay.” We will still wear masks, but we will be able to sing (if we could sing before, that is!). We will have coffee hour – with snacks brought from home. We will be continuing to create a “new normal” – not going “back” – but moving forward into whatever the Spirit is bringing to life in us now.

The month is also full of reminders to “see” those around us – our sisters and brothers – as parts of the wonderful diversity of God's creation.

- June is PRIDE month – let us see one another and celebrate the rainbow of inclusion.
- The month began with commemoration of the Tulsa race massacre that occurred on May 31-June 1, 1921; let us remember and see one another's pain; let us pray and act for healing.
- We celebrate Juneteenth – the day when – two years AFTER the Emancipation Proclamation – the abolition of slavery in Texas was ordered on June 19th, 1865.
- June brings celebrations of graduations and marriages and fathers; let us celebrate our families – those into which we were born, and those we have chosen.

As we celebrate and remember this month, may we keep the Way of Love uppermost in our minds and hearts, recommitting ourselves to seeing Christ in all persons, to being Christ to all we meet.

Remember that you are loved.

Sr. Diane+

Prayer for Juneteenth

We pray, O Lord, for change.

Jesus you revealed God through your wise words and loving deeds,

and we encounter you still today in the faces of those whom society has pushed to the margins

Guide us, through the love you revealed,

to establish the justice you proclaimed,

that all peoples might dwell in harmony and peace,

united by that one love that binds us to each other, and to you.

And most of all, Lord, change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with you and our better selves so that our lives will be changed for the good of all.

Amen

Prayer adapted from Racial Healing and Liturgical Resources.
found at this page.



GOOD NEWS GARDEN

The Good News Garden has started! We have tilled, unfurled the irrigation lines, laid plastic, started planting the many seedlings we have, and started fencing in the veggies. Throughout the summer, we will be working every Friday morning 9am-noon, and we would love anyone who is interested to stop by during that time. No experience necessary, just gardening gloves, a bottle of water, a hat, and yourself. Volunteering anytime would be great, though, whether you want to join in just once or regularly. Please contact Laura (cochr1ll@cmich.edu) or Diane (diane.stier@gmail.com) for more information.

ST. JOHN'S SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATION EDITION



Matthew Alton is a recent graduate of Mt. Pleasant High School with Summa Cum Laude. He plans to attend Oberlin College where he will major in Math and possibly music. Due to Matthew's outstanding work ethic in high school, he has received two scholarships from Oberlin College. Matthew is looking forward to letting his passion for math flourish and mingling with others. Congratulations and good luck on all your future endeavors!!

ST. JOHN'S SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATION EDITION



Matthew Michael Kinney graduated from Sacred Heart Academy with a GPA of 4.0 on an unweighted scale, having taken several AP classes and completing 20 college credits. He was chosen Salutatorian of his graduating class. Matthew has been very involved in making a difference and giving back to the community. During high school, he completed almost 300 hours of community service through his involvement with the Youth Advisory Council of the Mount Pleasant Area Community Foundation where he was involved in grant reviews, surveys of local youth, and fundraising activities.

ST. JOHN'S SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATION EDITION

Moreover, Matthew regularly participated in Christmas Outreach, The Lions Club Annual Chicken BBQ, and served as a Acolyte at St. John's for several years among other volunteer activities.

During high school Matthew has been involved in the following extracurricular activities: Model UN, Robotics Club, Science Olympiad, Pre-Med Club, National Honor Society, varsity baseball and golf.

Matthew has received a number of awards for his academic success and athletic activities including the following: as an Honors student throughout high school, he has received many departmental awards in Geometry, Calculus, Theology, English, Chemistry and Anatomy. He also received the American Chemistry Society, Midland Section, Outstanding High School Student, The Lions Club Student of the Month, The Rotary Student Citizen of the Month (November 2020), and most recently, received The Rotary Student Citizen of the Year (2020-2021). In addition, Matthew was named to the Academic All-State Varsity Baseball Team by the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association (MHSBCA) Executive Board in 2020 and the Mid-State Activities Conference Academic Athletic All-Conference Teams in baseball and golf.

Matthew applied to several colleges and was very blessed to have received a number of acceptances and scholarships. He was awarded the Centralis Scholar Award and has made the decision to attend Central Michigan University, where he will begin his studies in the CMU Honors Program in the Fall. In addition, he also received the McLaren Medical Staff Scholarship Award and the Rotary Club Citizen of the Year Scholarship to support his college endeavors. He is looking forward to meeting new Honors students from diverse backgrounds and continuing his volunteer work through various registered student organizations. Matthew is also looking forward to taking courses in biology, anatomy and other pre-med classes. His long-term goal is to become a physician or physician assistant specializing in psychiatry and serving rural and underserved populations.



Now is the Time to Give

For all giving – pledges, building fund, flowers, organ, People Helping People, etc. – use the [Giving Tools link](#) to give securely online. A one-time donation can be made, or you can set up recurring donations from a credit card or bank account. The link is available on our website and Facebook page.

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.
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.



June Birthdays

Jessica Hart	14
Lynnee L'Hommedieu	19
Steven Berkshire	25



June Anniversaries

- Colin and Anne Alton
6/2/1990
- David and Carrie Blackburn
6/10
- Tim and Nancy Hartshorne
6/13/1987
- Kendall and Lois Klumpp
6/16/2001
- Elliot and Emelia Parker
6/19/1970

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

Minutes for Vestry Meeting

May 16th, 2021

Present are Adam Baker(clerk), Diane Stier, Ella Jo Regan, Alice Ciccu(guest), Jerry May, Tom Cochrane, Olivia Ohler, Marcia David, Pam Dingman(guest), DJ Proctor, Ulana Klymyshyn, Clancy DeLong.

Olivia and Ella opened with a prayer.

Ella moved that Vestry approve the minutes as submitted from April's meeting, Olivia seconded. Vestry approved.

Diane reported that there were holes spotted in the foundation of the old rectory and that Buildings and Grounds needed to look into it.

Clancy completed his financial report. Marcia moved that Vestry approve Clancy's budget, Tom seconded. Vestry approved.

Tom and Ulana reported on Education, Formation and Christian Spirituality. Ulana reported that the MPADG is in the planning stage for activities on June 17th to celebrate Juneteenth, the day enslaved people in Texas learned of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Ella reported that People Helping People would be the charity most in need of donation at this moment if people wished to donate.

Diane reported that Greentree has a free food refrigerator that excess food from the Good News Garden or parishioner's gardens can be stored in.

Adam completed his Buildings and Grounds report. Adam proposed that Vestry hire Toto to do the lawn care for \$37 per session, Marcia seconded. Vestry approved the motion.

Diane reported that we will get an estimate within the next week to install a permanent microphone and camera to stream services online.

Vestry discussed plans for reentry in light of the CDC's revised guidelines. Diane suggested that starting with Pentecost Sunday, we do two services, one with a limited congregation present in church following Diocesan guidelines without music, and one streamed online with music.

Vestry expressed approval for this tentative plan.

Alice reported that she and Alexis were working on the Building Use Form and how cleaning guidelines relate to it. Vestry expressed approval to allow Tai Chi classes to resume.

Diane shared a PowerPoint presentation on the United Thank Offering that Pat Thurston had prepared. We will plan to take part in the October campaign.

Olivia moved that Vestry adjourn, Tom seconded. Vestry adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for the second Sunday of June at 11:30.

Coffee Hour Schedule:

June 6th	Pam Dingman	Ford Dingman *****
June 13th	Elizabeth Brockman	
June 20th	Christi Brooks	DJ Proctor
June 27th	Lynne L'Hommedieu	Marcia David *****
July 4th	Barbara Shepherdigian	Jennifer Dingman
July 11th	David Dingman	Lois Klumpp
July 18th	Ken Klumpp	Lynne L'Hommedieu
July 25th	Sharon Bolton	

Weekly Schedule:

Sunday 10AM: Ante-Communication live on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#)
Wednesday 10AM: [Church School by Zoom](#)
Wednesday 7PM: [Connections Conversations by Zoom](#)
Thursday 8PM: [Compline \(Night Prayer\) by Zoom](#)

June 2021 Financial Report

Below is a summary of operating fund activity through the end of April (33.33%).

Unrestricted operating fund receipts.....	\$ 54,386.43 (29.84% of budget)
Unrestricted operating fund expenditures.....	60,540.74 (29.76% of budget)
Operating fund receipts over (under) expenditures.....	\$ (6,154.31)

Through April, pledges are down 4%. Please verify that your pledge is up-to-date.

Please report your gifts in kind to Pamela Dingman. Not reporting a gift leads to financial budgeting difficulties. For instance, I as a parishioner pay for snow removal in the amount of \$3000 yearly and don't report it as a gift-in-kind. Then, I leave St. John's for whatever reason. Because I didn't turn in my gift-in-kind receipts, this expense was not incorporated into the current budget, thus creating a budget shortage. At this point, I feel the budget will be impacted by \$5000 in unanticipated expenses from this scenario.

Cash Balances		
Cash in Checking Account	53,984.48	
Savings	26,761.06	
Certificates of Deposit	16,048.57	
Endowment Fund	96,442.56	
Total	193,236.67	
Cash Sources This Month		
Traditional Giving	15,474.14	78.26%
Online Giving	3,270.70	16.54%
Grants & Credit	1,028.70	5.20%
Total	19,773.54	100.00%

Clancy



Anglican Worthies

371. Brooks, Phillips (1835-1895)

Bishop of Massachusetts.

Phillips Brooks, memorialized in Lesser Feast and Fasts for January 23, is remembered today as the author of “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” but in his day he was probably the most celebrated preacher of the denomination and an innovator in church architecture. Visitors to Boston who find themselves in Copley Square are almost overwhelmed by the massive red stone building of Trinity, which he designed in the Romanesque style and had built by the famous American architect, Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). The stained-glass windows were designed by William *Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, who, as we know, were the best-known artists for this kind of work. It is an incredible building, this city parish church in downtown Boston, one of the great sites of the city, among so many fine historical sites; it should not be missed.

Books was an incredible-looking man. Clean-shaven, with piercing eyes, he stood six feet tall. He was perhaps more admired for his speaking voice, especially in sermons, which drew enormous crowds and were published in several volumes in the 1880s. Brooks was Broad Church and, instead of the high, permanent pulpit of his day, which he left out of his design, delivered from a modest lectern below.

Extremely handsome, he never married. Of five brothers, four of whom entered the Episcopal priesthood, he followed the traditional New England educational path, Boston Latin School and Harvard, where he graduated in 1865. He was twenty years old and uncertain about career. He first taught at his alma mater Boston Latin, but completely at odds with sturdy moral character we associate with him, he was fired! Thus was devastating. He said, "I do not know what will become of me and I do not care much. . . . I wish I were fifteen years old again I believe I might become a stunning man: but something or other I do not seem in the way to come to much now."

Possibly following the example of his brothers, in 1866 he enrolled in Virginia Theological Seminary. In retrospect this seems an odd move; VTS the days is known for its emphasis on scriptural studies, quite "Low Church." He was ordained in 1879 by Bishop William Meade of Virginia and called to Church of the Advent in Philadelphia—a promising beginning. He was now twenty-five.

Brooks began to develop a reputation as a Broad, liberal churchman while at Advent and Holy Trinity in Philadelphia. During the horrors of the Civil War he espoused the cause of the North; while, as we know, some Episcopal clergy in the South had slaves. (It took incredible diplomacy to keep the denomination from splitting.) His sermon on the death of Lincoln increased his fame. His sermon at Harvard in commemoration of the Civil War dead brought him fame throughout the country—especially in the Boston area. Four years later he was called to be rector of Trinity Church Boston, with which we commonly associate him.

Brooks modestly declared that all he really desired in his life "was to be a good parish priest [nothing more] and, though not much of one, would as a college president be much less." He undertook to remodel Trinity, which still stands as a monument to his name. With the help of Richardson, he transformed the entire edifice within and without. First within was a free-standing altar, moved out from the wall, allowing him to face the congregation as he celebrated. This was the first example of this kind in the country. Next was a synthronon behind the altar, that is, below the apse or back wall, where typically were seats only for bishops, Brooks seated all priests participating in the liturgy, "elevating" them to the level of their superiors. There was no pulpit until 1888; Brooks preached from a lectern or from the steps of the choir. No one had ever seen anything like it. One contemporary called the remodeled Trinity "an American Hagia Sophia."

Brooks did not ape Anglo-Catholicism but he loved Anglo-Catholic music and some rituals, their assistance to the liturgy. He encouraged congregational singing during liturgy. He preached in a simple black gown with white surplice and stole.

Brookes; reputation was basically due to his preaching. In his novel scheme for the interior of the chancel at Trinity, he seemed to eschew the traditional structure which de-emphasized the prominence and authority of the speaking clergyman. Yet it is obvious that he needed little assistance. Several collections of his sermons came out in the 1880s; popular reading for those family Sundays for the righteous of the eastern seaboard. My volume of his sermons is a collection of his more famous ones, published the year after his death by Ticknor & Fields, Boston's leading house. His texts, spoken, run about twenty-five minutes, standard for the time. They are "ethical" rather theological; they tend to stress moral accountability. I like to think that they are partly rooted in that dreadful experience when he was dismissed from his teaching post and the anguish before he settled on seminary. They are characterized by a good deal of anxious pleading; they are poor reading for the modern believer, as they are fraught with virtuous generalities, which sound more profound when spoken. Indeed, Brooks' sermons must be heard, rather than read, to experience that effect that made him so popular. A considerable number of sentences or phrases deliberately end on "God," increasing the depth of their audibility and conviction. I detect in his sermons a likely influence of another famous Bostonian, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), whose lectures in the 1840s on Nature, Poetry, etc. captivated crowds of adoring disciples.

Brooks is best known, however, not for his ministry and his building, but for the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Most people in this country know the "American" tune. The Episcopal Hymnal prints Brooks' words with "Forest Green," a more rugged, musically, English setting.

The remodeled exterior of the church was completed in 1877, not all the interior. Some parts of the sanctuary were not finished until the last century. But Brooks' sermons drew huge crowds every Sunday. Besides sermons he wrote *The Purpose and Use of Comfort* (1872), which was very popular. He was an "overseer" for Harvard, and preached on campus. (He was offered the position as sole preacher on campus, which he declined.)

It should not surprise us that he was offered the assistant bishop in Pennsylvania, which he declined. Five years later he was elected Bishop of Massachusetts. Fifteen months later he was dead. This was a shock too the city of Boston. One woman recalled that "they buried him like a king. Harvard students carried his body on their shoulders. All barriers of denomination were down. Roman Catholics and Unitarians felt that a great man had fallen in Israel."

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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