



# SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MOUNT PLEASANT, MICHIGAN

## PARISH PROFILE



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## Welcome

Thank you for your interest in St. John's Episcopal Church. We are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan and the Episcopal Church of the United States. We are an historic church located on West Maple Street in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

## Our Mission

We hope you will become familiar with the warm community atmosphere of the church. Many of our members have been life-long parishioners and newer members have found a real home here. 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.

## Our Vision

St. John's, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will be a dynamic fellowship of Christian worshipers seeking greater understanding of faith and service through programs of spiritual growth, education and the arts.

## About Us

St. John's Episcopal Church is a diverse community of people. We are university faculty, staff, and students, social workers, retired people, librarians, electricians, plumbers, psychologists, tech specialists, hospice caregivers, nurses, public school faculty and staff, elementary, middle school and high-school students, high-end earners and people on the financial margin. We are "cradle Episcopalians" and we come from other traditions. We are traditional and progressive. We are hetero, gay, non-binary, single and married or partnered, widowed and divorced. While we have a very few who are persons of color we hope to increase the diversity of the congregation. We are citizens of Mount Pleasant, other cities and towns, other states and countries. We are a community and we'd like you to join us.

## Parish History

Saint John's was originally started as a mission in 1872 (This date is in question). The church was built in 1882, making it the oldest Mount Pleasant church building still used today.

The land was donated in 1879 by Brig. General Dwight May, a resident of Kalamazoo, and the church was built in 1883 by attorney William Nathaniel Brown as a gift to the church community. The Browns also paid for the consecration festivities that followed. The church was designed in Elizabethan Gothic style. The bricks were made by William Brown's Yard and the lumber was cut at his mill. The church was consecrated on January 10, 1884, by Bishop George DeNormandie Gillespie, first Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan.



The Rev. James A. McGlone was appointed missionary of the church on 15 June 1884. It became apparent that the rapidly growing congregation needed a rectory. The new rectory was dedicated on 28 February 1886 by Bishop George Gillespie.

The Ladies' Guild was also established that same year and ran much of the business related to the church. They also paid off the mortgage left on the rectory and owned it for more than a half a century.

In 1908 the church building was enlarged to its present size. Most of the mortgage was paid off at that time with the remaining paid by the Women's Guild (formerly Ladies' Guild), who used the rectory as collateral for the original loan.

A choir first appeared at the church in 1910. In 1911 St. John's began using eucharistic vestments and was one of the first parishes in the diocese to do so. The traditional service with holy communion each Sunday was already a custom by this time.

Lean years followed 1918 and World War I (1918-1936). There was no resident priest or vestry. The Women's Guild kept the church going during this time, but the building became in need of repair. After repairs were made, services were held about once a month when a visiting priest could come.

In 1938 a new parish hall was built. It was a gift from C.L. Maguire, senior warden of the newly created vestry and president of the Roosevelt Oil Company. The building was a memorial to Leslie Remington Maguire, who had died in 1907 as a small child.

In 1939 a Boys' Choir was formed under the leadership of Bernard Stone. The choir was encouraged by Father John Vincer, who was rector from 1947-1951.

There were various rectors after Father Vincer until 1962 when John H. Goodrow took over. Rev. John H. Goodrow was rector from 1962 until his death in 1985. He was well loved by all who knew him. Rev. Goodrow was well-known for his community outreach projects, which provided emergency relief to the residents of Isabella County. The John H. Goodrow Fund is still going strong today.

In January 1989 the Rev. Gordon F. Weller accepted the call of the parish to become its rector. Rev. Weller left in 1999. Nancy Casey Fulton became the first deacon of the church in 1997 and remains so today. The first female rector was Rev. Patricia Greene, 1998-2003.

In 2006 Rev. Wayne Nicholson was hired. Under his leadership, the congregation remodeled the church's back entrance, connecting it and the church to Maguire Memorial Parish Hall. The Old Rectory, which houses the church offices and a meeting area was also improved. Less than a year after his retirement in 2018, Rev. Nicholson was killed in a tragic automobile accident. His death rocked our small church community.

Our Associate Priest, The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, with Deacon Nancy Casey Fulton is conducting services until we hire a new Rector.

We are known as the church "with the red doors," indicating all are welcome here. St. John's was registered in 1972 with the State of Michigan's Historical Marker Program and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Saint John's with Old Rectory on the left.

# Our Diocese

## The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan



The Diocese is headquartered near Grand Rapids, Michigan and covers a 33-county area that stretches from the Straits of Mackinac southward to the Indiana border and from Lake Michigan to approximately the middle of the state.

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan is located at 5347 Clyde Park SW, Wyoming, Michigan, 49506, a suburb of Grand Rapids.



Diocese Area of Coverage

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



[www.edwm.edu](http://www.edwm.edu)

## Our Vestry

Senior Warden, David Shirley (2021)

David Proctor (2022)  
Eric Vinciguerra (2022)

Junior Warden, Nancy Herman Kinney, (2023)

Tom Cochrane (2023)  
Harriett White (2021)

Clerk of Vestry, Adam Baker, (2022)

Marcia David (2023)

Treasurer, Clancy DeLong, (2021)

Ulana Klymyshyn (2023)  
Ella Jo Regan (2021)

## Our Staff

Associate Priest, The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, ec

Deacon, The Rev. Nancy Casey Fulton

Organist, Dennis Flynn

Choirmaster, Chase Simpson



# Sacramental Services

## Sunday Services

- ❖ Holy Eucharist - 8 AM
- ❖ Choral Eucharist, Rite 2 - 10 AM

### Attendance Statistics

Number of Services	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Holy Eucharist, Morning Prayer, Evensong	91	93	98	89	97	94
Holy Eucharist Sundays/Saturday Evening	86	86	87	77	78	73
Daily Office Sat. and Sun. Evenings	2	7	11	12	19	21
Daily office Weekdays	3	4	2	3	5	61
Holy Eucharist Weekdays	9	8	43	30	34	33
Private Eucharist/Home Communion	42	43	49	67	69	61
<b>Total Attendance/Year</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>3,002</b>	<b>3,793</b>	<b>4,647</b>	<b>3,986</b>	<b>3,840</b>
Average Sunday Attendance	55	58	73	89	77	74
Marriages	0	0	0	4	2	0
Burials	5	2	4	5	5	2
Baptisms	2	3	2	2	4	2

Parishioners contribute to St. John's through the Altar Guild, Daughters of the King and a Prayer Group. Lay Eucharistic Ministers provide for homebound members. We have a choir that is superb and includes choral scholars from Central Michigan University.

### **Adult Sunday School**

Adult Sunday School is led by a volunteer most Sundays at 9 AM in the Old Rectory.

### **Children's Sunday School**

We do not have a children's Christian education program at present.

### **Lay Ministry**

Volunteer Lay Eucharistic Ministers visit our homebound members once a week to offer home communion and visit with each parishioner. Lay ministers also serve as readers at eucharist and morning prayer and several assist as LEMs as well as leading the prayers of the people at all eucharists.

### **Daughters of the King**

Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. By reaffirmation of the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. The order meets monthly for worship and fellowship. Some members of this order also serve as the Altar Guild.

### **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.

## **Outreach**    **Choral Scholars**

### **Ministries**

The Choral Scholar ministry is our primary outreach to the Central Michigan University community. This year, four students from the School of Music are singing in our choir with our "volunteers" - we love them, we embrace them, and they, too, become part of our community.

### **Clean & Bright**

This ongoing service of St. John's allows referred community residents, who don't have access to laundry facilities, free use of laundry equipment and supplies. The washing machines and dryers are housed in our old rectory. Users are screened prior to use by The Listening Ear Crisis Center, Inc. located in Mt. Pleasant. Volunteers from the church supervise the use of the equipment and provide laundry supplies and snacks.

### **Creative Arts**

Since its incorporation and consecration in 1884, St. John's has had an interest in the arts as they inspire worship and one's personal spiritual growth. From the commissioning of our stained glass windows to our latest musical, theatrical, and visual creative endeavors, and our support of students and programs at the CMU School of Music and Department of Musical Theatre, we are always on the lookout for new artistic ways to express our faith, our spirituality, our sense of who we are. During the fall 2019, *The Icon Retreat* with the Rev. Peter Pearson, Instructor, Monk & Priest, took place at St. John's.

### **Isabella County "Restoration House"**

In 2012, a program was started in the county to provide shelter and meals in churches of the community for the homeless of the district. St. John's was one of the first churches to participate in this program providing accommodation for several weeks for as many as thirty men, women, and children each night. Most of the guests need short-term stays because of family or personal emergencies or unexpected layoffs. Many former guests have found permanent jobs and housing in the area and are valued members of the community.

The shelter is made possible through the work of dozens of people from St. John's, the Unitarian Universalists, other churches, community members and student volunteers. Shelter guests help with dishes, cleanup, raking and snow shoveling whenever needed. Former guests are regular volunteers at the shelter. St. John's has hosted the shelter 2-3 weeks in the Parish Hall each cold-weather season since its inception.

### **Outreach Committee**

Each year parishioners donate items and money to provide Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter meals and gifts to families in need in the greater community. In 2019 six Easter and Thanksgiving baskets were donated to the local Women's Shelter. Christmas baskets were delivered to one local family and two single women in need in 2019. The generosity of the people of St. John' continues to enrich the lives of others in our community.

### **People Helping People Initiative (PHP)**

In 2015, Tim Brockman, a long-time parishioner and owner of a popular deli downtown created "People Helping People" (PHP), a special initiative that identifies Soup Kitchen and Restoration House guests who need a hot meal on Sunday afternoon when other social service agencies can't provide for them. On any given Sunday, Tim and his staff served 80-100 meals, transforming local eatery Max & Emily's from an ordinary deli into a clean, well-lit place where people were welcomed and served respectfully. PHP has served more than 8,000 meals since 2015. The Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church authorized a quarterly loose change offering to support the PHP initiative. The offering is collected on the third Sunday of the month.

# 2019 Financials

In 2019 we were able to pay for unforeseen expenses (new roof) and apply funds toward the outstanding balance on our Under One Roof project. We did complete the funding for the New Rector Moving Expenses (\$15,000) and New Rector Search Expenses (\$5,000).

## Capital Fund

Fund Balance, January 1, 2019.....	\$ 16,235.68
Income	
Cash Receipts.....	\$64,977.24
Interest.....	<u>13.36</u> <u>64,990.60</u>
Funds Available.....	\$ 81,226.28
Expenses	
Mortgage Principal.....	.\$49,458.52
Mortgage Interest.....	...6,565.76
Interest & Credit Card Fees.....	<u>4.25</u> <u>\$56,028.53</u>
 Fund Balance, December 31, 2019.....	 \$ 25,197.75*

## Cash Balances

Cash balances on December 31, 2019 are as follows:

Checking Account.....	\$ 111,180.32
Savings.....	\$ 26,744.38
Certificate of Deposit.....	\$ 15,857.73
Endowment Fund Investment Account.....	\$ 82,779.37

## Construction Loan/Mortgage – Isabella Bank & Trust

Loan Balance, January 1, 2019.....	\$ 167,803.79
Activity	
Principal Payments.....	\$ (49,458.52)
 Outstanding Balance, December 31, 2019.....	 \$118,345.27*

\*[Unaudited Figures]

## Parishioner Data

Year	Parishioners*
2019	126
2017	132
2016	134

## Community Profile

St. John's Episcopal Church is in the community of Mount Pleasant, Isabella County, Michigan. The population is approximately 26,000. Mount Pleasant is centrally located off US-127 and M20 (east/west), making it easy to travel to other parts of the state. Driving times to larger cities in Michigan include: Midland (about 30 minutes to the east); Bay City (about 50 minutes east); Saginaw (approximately 45 minutes southeast); Lansing (about 70 minutes south); Grand Rapids (90 minutes southwest); Traverse City (about 2 hours northwest); Ann Arbor (about 2 and a quarter hours southeast); and Detroit (about 2 and a half hours southeast). The Mount Pleasant Airport allows commercial flights and private aircraft easy access to and from greater distances.

The Mount Pleasant area offers quality medical care, good schools, Central Michigan University, MidMichigan Community College, more than a dozen hotels, a radio and television station and more than 60 places of worship. Housing is affordable and diverse. There are several city and county parks in the area.

Central Michigan University provides quality education to approximately 23,000 students. It also houses the Clark Historical Library, Museum of Cultural and Natural History, Park Library and the University Theatre. Multiple music concerts and events are available year-round.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal community features the Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, a waterpark, tribal museum, RV park, golf course and campgrounds.

The following community diversity groups are active in Mount Pleasant: Mount Pleasant Area Diversity Group, the Isabella County Human Rights Committee and the Isabella County Commission on Aging.

\*According to Church Directories

## Groups Who Share Our Space

**Association of Interfaith Ministries (AIM)** The Association for Interfaith Ministries is a religious organization focused on interfaith issues that provides religious support to adults with developmental disabilities.

### **Center for Christian Spirituality**

This faith-based organization offers contemplative spirituality in the form of retreats, spiritual direction, courses and events with a social consciousness. This group has been reactivated at St. John's after several years. It offered *The Icon Retreat* last fall at St. John's.

### **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

This program of theological education at a distance has been a part of our offerings at St. John's for several years. It provides a comprehensive and experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith.

### **John H. Goodrow Fund**

The Rev. John H. Goodrow was rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, from 1962 to 1985. During his tenure, he strongly supported "Food with Friends," a Commission on Aging program providing lunches in the parish hall.

When Father Goodrow died, the community established The John H. Goodrow Fund (JHGF) in tribute to him. The church provides office space for the volunteer-administered outreach program.

On the first Sunday of each month, loose coins and bills from the offering plate are given to the John H. Goodrow Fund for emergency assistance to those in need in our area.

Today the John H. Goodrow Fund is an independent 501 (c) 3 charitable organization and a United Way affiliate agency partner.

### **Pine River Friends**

The Pine River Friends is a local Quaker group that meets most Sundays at 10 AM.

### **St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church**

The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Saginaw, Michigan, comes to Mount Pleasant one Saturday each month to serve the local Greek Orthodox community.

### **The Compassionate Friends**

The Compassionate Friends is a worldwide support group for bereaved parents and siblings that was founded in 1969 in England. Our Mid-Michigan Chapter was formed about 1986. Meetings began at St. John's in 2003. The group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM and holds a candle lighting memorial ceremony on the second Sunday of December.

### **Yoga and Tai Chi**

Each week there are two Yoga and two Tai Chi classes held in the Parish Hall at St. John's.

## **Parish Survey Results**

76 people participated in a survey distributed to parishioners. After the survey was returned parishioners were given the opportunity to participate in focus groups. Thirty-two participated in focus groups led by an independent contractor. In addition, two people were interviewed one-on-one and four submitted comments by email. The results are summarized below.

## **Blessings**

- ◆ Ambience of Church Community
- ◆ Support of Community Outreach
- ◆ Musical and Episcopal Liturgies
- ◆ Spirituality

## Challenges

- ◆ Aging Membership
- ◆ Lack of Youth Participation
- ◆ Retiring Parish Hall Mortgage
- ◆ Diversification of Membership

## Hopes

- ◆ A spiritual leader who values pastoral care.
- ◆ One willing to be active in the surrounding community.
- ◆ One who communicates well, welcoming all people.
- ◆ Someone willing to work on diversifying the membership, focusing on young families and children from all racial groups in the community at large.

## What We Love About St. John's

- ◆ A sense of community even when we do not completely agree with one another...
- ◆ The warm welcome parishioners extend to newcomers...
- ◆ The security of knowing that worship will be consistent from week to week...
- ◆ The uplifting choral music...
- ◆ Weekly communion...
- ◆ Sermons that leave me feeling that all will be well...
- ◆ Emotional support in times of need...
- ◆ Learning more each week through the sermons, Sunday school, and Education for Ministry...
- ◆ Our Mission and all the outreach we do...
- ◆ The beauty of our church with the red door...