



St. John's Episcopal Church
 Washington at Kidd
 P. O. Box 307
 Ionia, Michigan 48846-0307
 Office Telephone: (616) 527-2290

Non-Profit Org.
 U. S. Postage
 P A I D
 Ionia, MI 48846
 Permit No. 396

Address Service Requested

THE EPISTLE

June, 2008

Services & Meetings:

EVERY SUNDAY

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist
 and/or
 Morning Prayer
 9:30 AM Sunday School

EVERY TUESDAY

9:30 AM Morning Prayer
 and Low Mass in
 the Lady Chapel

THIRD THURSDAY – June 19; July 17; August 21

9:30 AM St. Helen's Altar
 Guild Mtg.

FOURTH SUNDAY - June 22; July 27; August 24

Pot luck dinner following the 9:30 AM
 service.

VESTRY MEETING – TBA

6:00-8:00 PM

John's Jottings "Ordinary Time" June 2008

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

My trip to England and Scotland was wonderful in April. Unfortunately, no May *EPISTLE* got published. So if you were thinking you might have misplaced it, you didn't. I just did not get around to it. Our goal is to publish every month. We may revise that a bit in future, but for now I will try to get it out to you every month.

This season of the church year is called "ordinary time." That means, it is kind of business-as-usual: no Advent, Lent, Christmas, Easter or other special season in focus. It is the time after Pentecost (May 11th this year) when we celebrate for a very long time (till December) the action of the Holy Spirit among us. Jesus did not "leave us comfortless," after his Ascension. He promised to and did send us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in a certain sense is the "ordinary" person of the Blessed Trinity—the usual and customary presence of God to look after us most of the time (up to 29 weeks a year!)

Continued on next page.

John's Jottings (Continued):

And so the focus shifts for us now with the approach of summer—if it ever comes to Michigan—and we can concentrate on the varied, diverse gifts and blessings that Spirit brings us. We need to hunt for those nuggets of wisdom teaching the Spirit reveals each and every Sunday. Remember, in ordinary time, the theme is not focused on any one event (Christmas, Resurrection, etc.) but includes the widest possible range of the Holy Spirit's action in the world. That is why it is "ordinary." That word has a poor connotation in English. For us, *ordinary* really means *special*. And having the Holy Spirit surprise us each week with a new teaching is most special indeed; and yet it is ordinary as well: it is the way things are *supposed to be* most of the time.

The Holy Spirit is beginning to move powerfully in Ionia, at least that's what we local ministers think. Renewal, revival, reconciliation—these are all words buzzing around the table as we meet each first Tuesday. This year there will be a **Prayer Booth** at the Ionia Free Fair, with local pastors and people participating. Look for it. We have been concentrating on prayer for inner healing, but any kind of prayer will be available in the **Prayer Booth**. Stop by and check it out. I don't know much more right now, but the Holy Spirit will reveal to us how it will go. I think we will be present together as Christians from various churches, rather than just having "Episcopal" day or "Baptist" day, etc. I do enjoy worshipping with the other clergy and people, and sense a desire to come together, to venture forth, in the power of the Spirit. Want to come be a *pray-er* with me?

I hope the rest of your summer will be joyful in many ways both *ordinary* and *special*, not the least of which means taking some time off, some R&R! St. John's continues to be blessed, and I hope we all make every effort to come together regularly over the summer. Every Sunday and Tuesday at 9:30 AM. See you there? As Bishop Sheen used to say, "God love you!"

Father John+**Praise the Lord for the gift of humor:**

**The Most Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori,
Ph.D., D.D.**

Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

The Reverend John E. Crean, Jr., Ph.D.

Rector of St. John's

The Reverend David C. Meyers, Ed.D.

Deacon of St. John's

Mission Statement: Our mission is to build upon our base as a strong church family by providing a friendly, comfortable place to worship our Lord, Jesus Christ.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PARISH ...

Care Packages for Our Troops

Suzanne Carter has started a care package for our troops serving overseas in Iraq and Afganastan. She has called several churches in the Ionia area and they have all volunteered to collect items for this worthy cause. Some of the most requested items are:

- # Snacks and non-perishable food items, particularly tuna kits, beef jerkey, canned fruit, dried fruit, nuts and other healthy snacks
- # Undershirts (white, short sleeve)
- # Socks (bootcut, black, green, or white)
- # Cigarettes, Copenhagen and Skoal
- # Single-use cameras (disposable style)
- # Pre-sweetened flavored beverage mixes
- # Letters of support (letters from you, from children, or from your business, office, school, or other organization in support of our troops)

The above list is by no means complete. Please visit <http://www.carepackageproject.com/carepkg-project-needs-list.asp> for more good suggestions regarding what to donate. The plan is to gather up all of the donations so that they can be delivered to the drop-off point August 23, 2008.

The donation box is located under the bulletin board to the left of the church office. Please give generously!

Prayers for the Armed Forces

Please set aside a few minutes each evening before bedtime to pray for women and men in the military. They need and deserve our prayers for their generous and faithful service. Pray for peace. Pray for God's love to reach around the world.

Booked Up

The book discussion group continues to meet Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 PM. We are on our sequel to the first book by David Gregory, entitled *A day with a Perfect Stranger*. Please join us.

Milestones:

Birthdays:

- Jun 06 - Ted Burdo II
- 10 - Julie (Renucci) Wing
- 13 - June Truswell, Gregory Lyons
- 17 - Jamie Parker, Jeanne Burdo, Robert E. Renucci
- 20 - Julianne Jones
- 21 - Mildred Kirby
- 26 - Angie Mallison
- 28 - Alice Marie Geiger
- Jul 02 - Vincent Miller
- 11 - Bill Adams
- 13 - Robert S. Renucci
- 15 - Pat Stowell, Lori Symanski
- 20 - Kathy Davis

Anniversaries:

- Jun 06 - Jim and Kathy Davis
- 19 - Vern and Elaine Warnes
- 20 - Lorrie and Timothy Thompson
- Jul 07 - June and Ted Truswell

Outreach Committee News

The Outreach Committee held an inside treasure (a. k. a. "rummage") sale May 17th. Coordinators were: Chris Travis (616-527-0102) and Jennifer Jorgensen (616)-522-0120), with many other helpers. The balance of proceeds so far: \$581 (and counting!). Thanks to all! Many will be helped by these funds.

Diocesan Mission Trip

Parishioners John and Kaye Lepien were in New Orleans with our diocesan group to help with hurricane rebuilding and relief. Each parish has been asked to contribute \$500 to cover volunteers. Keep all in your prayers. We are looking forward to a progress report soon.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE PARISH ...

Newly Baptized Members

Congratulations to the newly baptized on Sunday, 18 May, 2008. It was so nice to have over 80 in church! If any of your family or anyone you know is in need of Baptism, please just ask me. I will be happy to administer the sacrament during one of our Sunday Masses.

The newly baptized:

Sara Jean Postle	(12-20-05)
Chloe Josephine Young	(12-19-03)
Kaylee Nicole Walkington	(11-13-07)
Nathan Keefer Hawley	(05-26-02)

Youth Ministries

Thanks to all who participated in the Children's Christian Education (CCE) this past year, especially Joyce Renucci, the coordinator, and those who helped her. Sunday School is in recess until fall.

When Someone is Ill

Please let the Rector know first (616-682-7810; jnepigrr@att.net). Then feel free to contact one of our licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) who will bring you Holy Communion: Carol Hawley 527-1345; Mildred Kirby 527-2718; Kaye Lepien 642-9033; or Justin Gregory (616-754-3557; meyers_david@sbcglobal.net).

Altar Guild

St. Helen's Altar Guild generally meets the third Thursday at 9:30 AM. New members are always needed and interested persons should contact Carol Hawley (527-1345). The Altar Guild is an indispensable part of Episcopal worship. Consider it.

Enriching our Worship

The Episcopal Church has published a supplement to the Book of Common Prayer entitled *Enriching our Worship*. It contains, among other things, additional, fresh Eucharistic Prayers. Our 1979 BCP has only four such prayers in modern English (A-B-C-D), and so these three new Eucharistic Prayers give us some variety.

We are now in "Ordinary Time" during the very long season of Pentecost, and so it will be good to hear something refreshing once in a while. For now, just listen. Put the Prayerbook aside, and focus on the action at the altar. Perhaps later, we will have some seasonal booklets.

For the time being, we will start with (you guessed it!) Eucharistic Prayer I. Hope you enjoy it. Stop, look, and listen.

Junior Camp

Episcopal Youth Camp for children entering grades 3-8 will be held August 10-16 at Camp Newaygo. The tuition is \$290. For children in our parish wishing to go, we have the new *Maury and Dorothy Weiers Memorial Camp Fund*.

Rather than deplete the entire fund the first year, Vestry asks that parishioners consider a gift to this fund to help families with camp tuition. Please identify your check with a notation indicating that it is for our *Memorial Camp Fund*. Thanks so much!

Partridge in a Pear Tree?

Junior Warden Cindy Cotter has replaced the old, dead tree out front with a special pear tree, the cost of which is \$250. We are most grateful for donations toward this new tree. With Christmas right around the corner, you might consider writing a check to St. John's towards the tree.

Contact Persons

If you have any notes for the *Sunday Bulletin*, or for the *Epistle*, call or e-mail Father John (616-682-7810; jnepigrr@att.net). Please submit material for the *Epistle* by the 15th of the month before the issue is published. (e.g., March 15th for April issue). If you have information for publication in the *Sentinel Standard*, please call Mildred Kirby (527-2718).

Special Church Events

A Special Invitation from St. Paul's in Greenville

The clergy and people from St. John's, Ionia have been invited to share in the annual Outdoor Service that the Greenville parish has on **Sunday, July 27** at the home of Paul and Sue Hoeflinger. They will send details later, however, the Eucharist is at 10:30, and potluck will follow. Please reserve this date as an excursion Sunday. We will worship with St. Paul's, Greenville that Sunday, and no Episcopal services will be held at St. John's, Ionia.

What a lovely invitation! Hopefully, this can be the beginning of a closer association between our two parishes. Already we have benefited from the gracious gift of Fr. Kirkman, St. Paul's rector, who comes to us once a month *gratis* as our organist.

It is a wonderful thing when we get together with other and share. Please make every effort to plan on going to Greenville. Invite friends and family who might not regularly attend, too. This will be a fun time. Both Fathers John will concelebrate, and Deacon Dave will be the deacon of the Mass. Details will follow!

In the Planning

Vestry wants to share with the wider parish that we are currently in the planning stages to add another later service on Sundays. Our regular worship will remain as is: classical, prayerbook catholic, traditional, high church worship. But we feel called to offer something radically different, for a potentially new target group, in a later time slot, probably 11:00 AM. If you would be interested in helping us plan a very contemporary communion service, let me know. We will be using musical instruments other than the pipe organ, such as: digital piano; guitar; drums; flutes; clarinets; bass; violins; triangles (!); or just about anything that "makes a joyful noise unto the Lord."

I would like about one or two additional people to volunteer to help us put this together. Kaye Lepien and Justin Gregory have already volunteered from Vestry. It will be an hour service, we will be done by noon, with message and communion, and we can structure it just about any way we want. (Since it is not the "principal service," the rubrics give us a very free hand.) I have loads of music and other resources. I would like our kids involved, too. This could be very much their Mass, and their friends' as well.

For now, please, everybody—pray about it. And ask God if you may be called to help us get this new service off the ground. We have the whole summer to work on it so we could be ready to start this fall. Speak to me if you are interested. And traditionalists: no fear, our earlier service will remain as is in its integrity. I really like both styles, and am comfortable working in either idiom. I do not believe in mixing them in what is sometimes called a "blended service." Each service must have its own integrity.

By the way, if you see the choir pews being removed, that's where our little "instrumental ensemble" (or "praise band") will be located at the later service. That space outfitted with comfortable folding chairs could also be used for a choir, if we have one, or for any other small group. Thanks for your prayers and support.