

St. George's Episcopal Church
801 East Commerce Street
Milford, MI 48381

February/March Newsletter

Adult Faith Formation

The Discipleship Series (6 parts)

(after the 10:30am liturgy – we will start after 15 minutes of fellowship at coffee hour)

February 19th – Spiritual/Religious Formation

February 26th – Acts of Mercy (Compassion)

March 4th – Long Term Commitment

March 11th – Pastoral Care and Fellowship

March 18th – Wise Use

March 25th – Witness



THE CHURCHMOUSE GAZETTE

Saint George's Episcopal Church, 801 E. Commerce St., Milford, MI 48381 **Feb/March 2012**

visit our website: stgeorgesmilford.org

e-mail us at: StGeoMilford@hotmail.com

THE PONDERINGS OF YOUR PRIEST

We can do Better

Blessings to all that read our newsletter. As I reflected and prayed about the year to come in our parish, I was struck by two seemingly opposing realities. First, the smallness of our budget for 2012. Parishioners consistently describe Saint George's as a "small church". Numerically speaking the size of the congregation fits into the low side of a Medium Church. By small I think we are including not just the numbers, but the feel. We feel like we know one another and we are known. We feel as though we are a warm and intimate congregation. And for the most part I agree. Visitors report to me (away from the congregants) the people have treated them well and they feel welcomed on Sunday morning and that our parish is hospitable. This is the same feeling I have about our people and Sianee has the same reaction. I think we do rather well, once a visitor reaches our doors. The sustained response to a visitor's initial interest in the parish/denomination or our faith, does need some sprucing up. This is largely a leadership task. We need to have a plan that evolves. And the coordination of our ministries so that we follow through with the contact we have with those that are curious about "us" and Jesus.

In a certain sense Saint George's has not changed much in the past 4 years. We have lost some significant people through death. Some have left our fellowship for common reasons. Our numbers have stayed about the

same. This is not good. Why? You might say, if we have lost some, and we are about the same, then that means we have gained some, right. Right. But Jesus did not ask us to maintain a "zero sum" church. He commanded us: "Go make disciples of all nations..." [Mt. 28:19, Mk. 16:15, Lk. 24:28] We spread the Gospel because it is central to the Jesus mission. But what seems to motivate people even more is the desire to grow the Church to keep the institution of over 60 years, alive. But the institution is here to keep the mission alive. We love the customers of Saint George's and our history, but those are marginal matters compared to continuing the ministry and mission of Salvation.

Now back to the question: why has our growth not happened? The first thing that was made clear to me, and your Vestry, is that a stagnant budget and a lack of a long term vision has led us to a "small-budget-for-a-small-church" mentality. The Vestry has confirmed my gut feeling, **I believe that Saint George's could do much better**. Our financials have shown us that if we keep the same level of donations, we will not have a full-time priest in 4 years. Is this the best we can do for God and His Church? A resounding No! **I believe we can do better**. The **Vestry believes we can do better**. Since we are addressing this future crisis now, it will be much easier to tackle. Therefore we are calling for a response of greater generosity, and a bolder appreciation of each one of our blessings; this is a theme we will return to throughout the year.

Our Vestry's first realization is that our pledging level is an obstacle to the health of

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our parish's mission and ministry. So, we ask you to reconsider your pledge. If you are already tithing 10%; then we thank you on behalf of God's ministry. If you are not tithing then we ask you to be grateful to God, and consider at least upping your after-tax % giving by **1%**. Figure the percentage in which you give presently (for most its 2-3%) and raise it to 3 or 4%, for example. It sounds silly, but just 1 percent increase in each household would wipeout our deficit. Another suggestion is to give just **\$5 a week** more in your pledge. This too would wipeout our deficit and give the leaders of our ministries the basic support they need to provide ministry to you, your families, and to those seeking a church home.
With gratitude for my blessings, Fr. Tom

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If there is an emergency or urgent pastoral care is needed (in less than 2 days), please contact Fr. Tom Hawkins at (248) 605-1040.

Please Contact the Church Office...

when you, a family member or a member of our parish family is in the hospital, ill, laid up at home or has had a death in the family.

when a new baby is born in your family, or in the family of a parishioner.

when your address, e-mail address, home or cell phone number changes so that our church records are accurate.

when your group plans to use the church for a meeting so that it can be added to our master church calendar.

Church office hours are Monday thru Friday from 9:00am – 11:30am, and by appointment Sunday – Thursday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

-Wendy Loncar

What an exciting time we are having at St. Georges Episcopal Church. Reverend

Hawkins is really bringing the tradition of our church to the front of our thoughts. We have a new family at church. Mrs. Zolman is an artist and she is really helping to make some fun activities to go along with the church school lessons. For example for the first 3 weeks of February we will have a large canvas with black out line coat shapes on it. We will be studying Joseph and his life. The kids will choose which paints or crayon oil based paints to use to color their coat shape. All the kids who attend church those weeks will color a coat. This is going to be so cool!

February 12 the kids are hosting coffee hour during the 10:30 a.m. service and we need **EVERYONE** to help. The kids will be bringing in all the goodies for the coffee hour. You can bring fruit, cheese, crackers, cookies, juice or any other food items you would like to bring. We do need quite a bit of food because we do seem to be having well attended services.

Lent is fast approaching, it lasts 40 days. We will be having Lenten activities for approximately 7 weeks. February 29, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1 and 8 is Easter. Reverend Hawkins found these great Olive Wood Crosses that we can offer the kids for attending the church school program. When the kids attend 4 of the Lenten church school lessons they will receive their cross. They will be able to put the cross on a ribbon or you could get a chain for the cross. They look very nice.

Several of you expressed interest in having your kids train as acolytes'. Reverend Hawkins is looking for kids who would like to learn the duties of acolytes'. He will train the kids so they are comfortable with their duties before they perform them during a service. This would be perfect for kids in 5th grade or older. Just let he or I know when they are available to learn the tasks ahead of time.

As always if you have ideas or suggestions for the Sunday school please let me hear them. Email or call anytime.
wendyloncar26@comcast.net
248-330-2492

ECW

Greetings from ECW. Thanks to all of you ECW was able to purchase 3 new chairs (and to throw 3 'bad' ones away). In light of this we hope you will take extra care with all of our nice (and not so nice) chairs by brushing off crumbs and clean any spots from spills, etc. when they happen.

We also ask everyone to please do not put the glass coffee pots in the dishwasher, but either rinse well or with suds by hand and dump the used coffee grounds on the same day you use them. Very soon we will put up Coffee Making Instructions and suggestions for coffee hour. Thank you – ECW.

P.S. Please pick up your dishes left in the kitchen.

STEWARDSHIP

-Tom Herbst

Stewardship Is A Way Of Life

“Stewardship is more than Time, Talent and Treasure.

Stewardship is all that we do, with all that we have, all of the time.

It is coming to know that absolutely everything good we have in this life has come to us from God's overwhelming bounty.

It is being willing to care for all of that as faithful stewards of God's abundance.

Stewardship is a way of life.”

...Rt. Rev Catherine Waynick
Bishop of Indianapolis

ALTAR GUILD

The flower calendar is up in Parish Hall on the bulletin board outside the office door. In just a few short weeks you will notice that there are no flowers on the Altar. This is because we do not place flowers on the Altar during Lent (just like Advent). Please help our Altar Guild decorate the Altar for Easter by signing up for Easter Flowers. This is a perfect opportunity to remember a loved one or give thanks for your many blessings. You can even call Michelle in the office and she will add you to the list.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discovery of our Faith

-Father Hawkins

Looking forward to the spiritual and religious riches that await us in the year to come. We had a meaningful Advent season and a Holy Christmas season. Our Vestry has a day of retreat (Feb. 18) keep us in your prayers as we discern God's will for the parish. While we are in Ordinary season now, soon it will change in the middle of the week, Ash Wednesday (Feb.22) with services at Noon and 6:30pm. Literally marking us for a season of repentance, solemn reflection and spiritual renewal. If you're not getting much out of your faith experience, if you feel like Church is more an obligation than a source of inspiration, and strength; **then LENT was custom made for you!** Throughout the centuries Christians have sought greater meaning, and depth out of their religion. And for short periods of more intense focus; they were able to reconnect, and access new passions; heal old wounds; thaw the numbness of the soul, and become whole out of the brokenness of one's moral character. Lent is a time when we as a people kneel together and say out loud our

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human frailties, and personal sins. Lent is a season when we commit ourselves to just 40 days of strictness, and a period of changing of our inner gears, to down shift into the speed of what is truly, fundamentally, important. Lent is a group "Gestalt" when we all try to **allow God** to yank us out of our self-made; self-concerned; dangerously comfortable, ruts! So, we may hear without hearts, and see with the eyes of faith, again. If you have not heard me invite you before. This is your invitation to join us beginning with **February 19th after the 10:30am Eucharist for Adult Faith Development.** After 15 minutes of fellowship we begin the Discipleship Series: (6 parts). Each segment is on Discipleship (45 mins). Each Sunday in Lent will explore one of the six major areas Jesus taught us to follow.

In addition we will have many special opportunities including Palm Sunday and a Maundy Thursday 6:30pm liturgy (April 5). Where we will remember Jesus' last supper and our "first Eucharist", and his dramatic arrest. Then we commemorate the sacrifice of love Jesus gave us on the cross. Good Friday (April 6) we will share a 1pm service at the United Methodist Church (1200 Atlantic Street/next to the Post Office in Milford) with the Presbyterians. And an additional liturgy at Saint George's liturgy 6:30pm Good Friday.

Lastly, I want to welcome those who are *seeking Saint George's as their Church home*. We have 12 + who will begin their exploration of the Episcopal Church in February. This is a great time for Episcopalians to refresh the basics of the Church and all are welcome to join us. Scheduling will take place after the 10:30 Eucharist (Feb.5) in a brief meeting with all concerned. If you're interested and will not be at that liturgy, then email or voicemail the office to let us know your top 3 time slots and days of the week. We'll take your schedule into consideration.

This is an exciting time at Saint George's. How you commit yourself, and the decisions you make in the months to come will

determine the future of the parish's ministry for years to come. God be with you in your discernment.

In the Lord's service,

Fr. Tom

Ladies of the Knight

Come celebrate Mardi Gras with a dinner out. Join us on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:45pm at Hector & Jimmy's (Milford). H & J has a great menu and Tuesday is '\$5.00 Burger and Fries' day. The Ladies of the Knight is a social group of parishioners who enjoy fun and fellowship and is open to ALL LADIES in our parish. At this meeting we will be discussing what to do at our April meeting so please come with some ideas. RSVP to Sandy Scott (248-684-6586) by February 19th.

Lend your Time/Talents to St. George's Liturgical Ministries

Please read the descriptions of the "liturgical ministries" below. If you are interested in learning more you can sign up and attend a training session. After your training you can decide if the ministry is right for you. Sign-up sheets will be available at Sunday's service or you can call Michelle in the office and she will add your name to the list.

Acolytes: (12 years and older) Lighting and extinguishing the candles. Assisting the priest (washing hands; carrying the cross; holding a book; etc.) Must be at St. George's at least 15 minutes before liturgy. *

Eucharistic Minister: Assisting the priest and distributing the communion cup. It has been noted that many of the EM robes are soiled and/or are in need of minor repairs. Please see that the robe you wear is washed and ironed before the next service (if required). Reimbursement is given. *

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Bible Study

'The Thawing Theologians'

-Gary Kughn

Eucharistic Visitor: Trained for 1 day from Diocese and also in the parish to bring and share communion and prayers with those physically unable to come to St. George's. *

Greeters: 15 minutes before liturgy. You will welcome each person, and especially take the time to help visitors with a name tag, bulletin, rest rooms, coat hooks and someone to be with them during the liturgy. *

Leaders of the Prayers of the People: Read the format for the prayers and, if needed, add last minute new concerns (e.g. death, birth, sickness or very important event) to the prayers. *

Offertory: Process with bread bowl and cruet of wine. A second person brings forward the collection plate. This can be done through a sign-up in advance or right before liturgy.

Reader: Prepared to read from the Bible (including leading the Psalm). *

Tellers: Record the pledges and other donations collected at a liturgy and prepare the bank deposit. *

Usher: Welcomes and distributes the bulletin to all that arrive. Organize those for offertory. Pass the collection plate. Help direct the communion logistics and other duties. *

*Time commitment: minimum of at least 1 liturgy/service per 3 months. Individualized hands-on training will be provided to all and no one will serve until they are comfortable with their duties. Once the schedule for each ministry is completed; we ask that you honor your commitment. If you find that you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute from the provided list of all people serving in your ministry. DVD will be available and summary booklet for referral in between your scheduled activity.

The bible study group was formed early in 2011. The purpose of the group is to have the opportunity to grow closer to God through His Son, Jesus Christ; in terms of Christ's life and God's word spoken by his son. Also, to grow closer spiritually as members of our congregation and to one another through this form of fellowship. The group meets every Monday from 1pm-3pm. Our group includes; Betty Anderson, Joan Basil, Jenny and Tim Cox, Bill Floyd, Virginia Gardner, Helen Germaine, Ken and Ruth Hathaway, Delight Hutton, Gary Kughn, Liz LaMoreaux and Tracie Zolman.

The first session, led by Father Walter Dawson, was reading and discussing a book titled, Stories Jesus Still Tells, The Parables, by John Claypool. The first session ran over a period of ten weeks. We read aloud the assigned reading for each lesson and discussed the content and meaning of each parable. This time allowed us to get to know one another and to develop an ease of sharing reflections and prayer.

The second session was studying from a book titled, Growing Strong in God's Family. This book was book one of a series of bible study texts from the Ministry of the Navigators, an international Christian organization and leader in personal spiritual development. This course work walked us through approaches to reading the bible, scripture memory, relationship with God, the Church, the Holy Spirit, fellowship and much more. This course work required reading and written homework as preparation for each bible study lesson. As with the first session, the group continued to grow closer through fellowship and spiritually to God through Jesus Christ. This session ran over a period of ten weeks.

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We, (the group), decided for the third and final session of the year to read the first book of the Gospel; Matthew. We used a book by Barbara E. Reid titled, *The Gospel According to Matthew*. As with the course work for the second session, this text book and an accompanied study and question book provided the requirement for preparation prior to each group meeting. We all found this session to be particularly rewarding as it was our first opportunity to read, and more specifically, about Christ's life as written by one of the Apostles.

Our group has grown tremendously in the ways as described before and also in an excited manner in wanting to learn more. There is a genuine excitement about our individual and personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and a looking forward to our time together to more deeply explore and appreciate the infinite grace and glory of God and share it with one another through and in our fellowship.

We are continuing in 2012 in a similar manner and are studying the book of Acts. We invite all who are interested to join us as we continue in our walk toward God thru Christ.

Have you Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will host a preventive health screening event on for residents in and around Milford on **Monday, March 26, 2012** at Milford Senior Center. Life Line Screening will perform screenings for:

- 1) Carotid artery blockage (stroke)
- 2) Atrial fibrillation
- 3) Abdominal aortic aneurysm
- 4) Peripheral arterial disease
- 5) Osteoporosis (bone loss)

These screenings are recommended for anyone 50 and older, or 40 and over with cardiovascular risk factors. They are non-invasive, painless, and take 60-90 minutes to

complete. The results, which are mailed directly to you, will help you and your doctor protect your health. Stroke, Vascular and Heart Rhythm Package ranges from \$129.00 to \$159.00. Call 1-800-690-0323 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to schedule your appointment.

PARISH NEWS

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 29th. Thank you to all who attended this informative meeting. Three new vestry members were elected at this meeting: *Gary Kughn, Jim Pashturro and Carol Rosenberger*. They join members Mike Fanfair (Sr. Warden), Jeff Sheridan (Jr. Warden), Mary Ellen Brown (who filled Jim Scott's spot on the Vestry for the balance of his term), Elizabeth LaMoreaux, Rick Lesnew and Fred Ryskamp. Extra copies of the Annual Meeting Packet are located in the entryway.

Following our Annual Meeting we welcomed Fr. Hawkins, Sianee & George. Thank you to Tracie Zolman, Sandy Scott, Sue Bowen, Gabi Pashturro, Liz LaMoreaux, Sam Daher, Mike Fanfair & Jeff Sheridan for setting up, cleaning and/or providing food.

Blanket Ministry

-Chris Lisuzzo

Shirley Ryscamp and Chris Lisuzzo delivered 30 plus handmade comfort blankets in December to Huron Valley Hospital for cancer and pediatrics patients. The hospital was very grateful to receive them. Anyone wishing to help make blankets please contact Shirley (10:30am) or Chris (8am).

Community Sharing

-Dave Dickey and Chris Lisuzzo

St. George's is still collecting non-perishables for Community Sharing. Please consider bringing at least one item each Sunday to help replenish their shelves to help those in need. They are delivered once a month. Thanks to all of you who have been donating!

Clothing is also welcome. Currently medium and large women's tops and size 4-7 boy's shirts are especially needed.

Winter Snow Blowing

Thank you to those who have been shoveling our sidewalks when it snows. If you stop by the church and shovel the walks, please give Fred Ryskamp a call and let him know so he does not send out someone else. His cell number is 248-891-3640.

Thank You

Dear Fellow Parishioners and Friends,
We would like to thank everyone who supported us in our time of need while my Dear Mother was hospitalized, in her time of death and thereafter.

Your prayers have been a great support to us, The cards of sympathy and encouragement have been a tremendous comfort not only to us but also my Dear Father. They are a treasure when one is lonely; your words of love and comfort soothe our aching souls. For every phone call, every conversation I thank you for your patience in letting me unburden my worries.

Your compassion has given us strength. Please continue to keep us close in your hearts as we are still fragile.

We as a family feel we are truly blessed to belong to such a loving and caring church as St. George's.

Sincerely, Jenny, Tim and Karl Cox

OUR PARISH FAMILY

Birthday Wishes to:

Feb 2: Jim Pashturro; **Feb 3:** Carl McKee; **Feb 4:** Sawyer Chmiel; **Feb 5:** Connor Wheeker, Bob Hutchison & Edwina McKee; **Feb 6:** Anne Gatland; **Feb 7:** Jenny Cox; **Feb 10:** Mike Mathis Jr. & Sandy Kadar; **Feb 11:** Thomas Loncar; **Feb 14:** Jessica Kunder; **Feb 16:** Betty Stewart; **Feb 17:** Delight Hutton; **Feb 18:** Keegan Matthews & Leon Shuler; **Feb 20:** Fran Magner, Jacob Gardynik & Dominick Hanson; **Feb 21:** Tara Lesnew; **Feb 23:** Madison Campagna; **Feb 25:** Nancy Gerrard; **Feb 26:** Nick Campagna.

Mar 4: Gabriela Pashturro; **Mar 11:** Nancy Pearson; **Mar 13:** Megan McQuillan & Brendan Cloutier; **Mar 14:** Gary Kughn & Mike Bause; **Mar 14:** Sunaina Isaac; **Mar 15:** Glen Grimm; **Mar 16:** Jackie Forkner; **Mar 18:** Alan Reichenbach; **Mar 19:** Curt Behnke; **Mar 20:** Rob Campagna & Joan Basil; **Mar 22:** Donna Falsey; **Mar 24:** Brian Hutton & Matthew Metry; **Mar 25:** Olivia Iavasile; **Mar 26:** Luciana Pashturro & Julia Pashturro; **Mar 28:** Anthony Robinson; **Mar 29:** Rebecca Wheeker.

Celebrations:

Jennifer Matthews was named Employee of the Month at Huron Valley Hospital and honored with a great celebration.

Prayer List:

Kari Allcorn, Betty Anderson, Joan Basil, John Brake, Carolee Brower, Carole Brown, Cindy Dault, Kelly Dicho, Scott Doot, Ruth Hathaway, Bob Hutchison, Bill Hutton, Kalie Ives, Stephanie Kirchner, Keith Mausner, Kristie McNulty, Judy Mehoke, Megan Moore, B & A Morales, Nancy, Betty Lou Neidigh, Merle Neidigh, Walter Olson, Patricia Platt, Bruce Preston, J & A Revers, Sandy Scott, Kristen Smith, Russ Spletzer, Sue Stevens, Lenore Stewart, Cheryl Takesian, Margaret Trich, Clark Waters, Jackie Williams, Scott Woosley, Scott & Dawn.

Our Homebound:

Anne Bjorkman, Jeanne Chapman, Margaret Coakley, Bill Hutton, Hank McCandless, Holly Smith, Edgar Warthen, Dorothy Welsman..

In The Military:

Ben Boyce, Tony Gomez, Peter Mason, Mike Polycyn Jr., Andrew Sears, Phillip Tesolin.