



THE CHURCHMOUSE GAZETTE

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

June 2011

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CLERGY CORNER

Today's Clergy Corner is the Sermon that The Rev. Roger Derby gave on Sunday, February 27th when Walter was gone in Honduras. For those of you who missed it, Roger spoke to our congregation about our coming search process. Please take the time to read this wonderful & timely sermon.

St. Paul was a controversial figure in his own day. He was suspect by the Jewish converts who thought that Gentile converts should be subject to circumcision and the rest of the Jewish law. Many felt that his understanding of the Christian faith was wrong, and, as soon as he had gone on to another city, would start preaching another kind of faith. He was an itinerant preacher, never staying in one place at a time.

Indeed, some felt that his leadership was inadequate, and wanted to follow another leader. He was not an accomplished speaker. In addition, his appearance was hardly overpowering, and he had some kind of physical disability. Some were devoted to him, thought highly of him and wanted him to stay, while others did not think highly of him and were eager to see him go.

But Paul felt that people's feeling about him were besides the point. What mattered was that the Gospel be preached and followed. That the love of God through Jesus Christ be proclaimed. Namely, that it was not just his task to proclaim and practice, but it is the task of all, and all will be judged by this, not whether they followed Paul or not. We are all stewards.

It is indeed a happy coincidence that I am here this morning at this point in the history of St. George's Church because you are facing an

interim and search process, and I am trained and experienced in both!

Years ago, when the process was much simpler, I was a consultant to ten parishes who were searching for a new rector. When, like most men, I decided to receive training, I went to an event which trained both consultants and interim rectors. After eighteen years as a rector of All Saints', I was getting stale, and the parish needed new leadership. I felt a call to the interim ministry, resigned as rector of All Saints' and was interim rector in four diocesan parishes before retiring in 1998. I am currently in training under Lisa Gray to become a consultant to Search Committees.

The Epistle has great relevance to what you are facing. The focus now is NOT on Walt's ministry here, whether you are for or against him. This is irrelevant – the focus is on you. Because the responsibility for proclaiming and practicing the faith here in Milford and now in the year 2011 is yours! (As it always has).

Now there are four major tasks of the interim period. The first is to focus in on what is the ministry of St. George's – to have a new vision, to get excited about it, and to find someone to help you achieve that vision. Some parishes, if they approved of the former rector's ministry, will try to find a clone. Other parishes, if they disapproved of the former rector's ministry, will try to find someone quite the reverse. This is a mistake.

During the first half of the Search Process, as you will learn, your Search Committee will come up with a mission statement and priorities of ministry. That becomes the instrument to help you call the person God has in mind to help you in this ministry.

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These are changing times for the Episcopal Church in particular and mainline churches in general in the sense that fewer and fewer people are going to church, and they demand certain things of their churches – no brand name loyalty!

But, there is still a mission and people are eager to be a part of what we have to offer. We cannot just look back at the glory days, but look ahead in faith and trust to what God is calling us. Some members of a Search Committee with which I worked kept on commenting about the good old days when there was a huge Sunday School and lamenting the present small size of the parish. Finally one member, in exasperation, said, “We are here to look ahead, not backwards!”

The second task is to develop new leadership. I cannot recommend more strongly that you do not fall into the usual trap of WAITING to be asked before volunteering. Step up to the plate now...

At one of my interim parishes, many people came forward to volunteer, and we were able to establish new ministries. This was after a twenty-two year rectorate. A pastoral care committee was established with many volunteers. The Chair and I would meet every week to make assignments – whom the volunteers would visit and whom I would visit. I learned to delegate, and we developed strong lay leadership on establishing new ministries and executing them. It became a time of renewal.

The third task is to come to terms with past history. I do not know anything about St. George’s, but if there are any conflicts brewing or any past history still hurting, deal with it, or it will haunt you and inhibit the ministry of your new rector.

There was a large parish whose rector resigned after evidence of his misconduct. The Vestry did not see fit to have an adequate Interim Rector, even though they could have well paid for it, and the issues were never faced. It seriously compromised the ministry of that parish. The new rector, whether he intended it or not, became an Interim, and was forced out by resentments against the previous rector.

The fourth task is to strengthen relationships with the Diocese. Use its resources to help you in the interim period and your search. Lisa Gray, our diocesan deployment officer, will be very helpful. She is very competent and a very loving person.

As you make plans to say goodbye to Walt, begin to think about what you can do, what the opportunities are in the interim period. Develop new understanding of what Christ is calling St. George’s to be and to do. Strengthen your spiritual life. Pray daily for St. George’s and the new rector whom God has in mind. Trust that God is faithful to you as you are faithful to you. And remember, you will not be hiring a new Rector – you will be calling someone to assist you in your mission.

I am a crossword puzzle freak. The last puzzle I did yesterday made me think of you. It has this definition “Have in the interim.” The answer was, “Snack on.”

The Rev. Roger Derby

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If there is an emergency or urgent pastoral care is needed, please contact Senior Warden, Mike Fanfair at (248) 880-8495.

Please keep Michelle in the office informed of any pastoral care needs. Please keep her updated on any illnesses, surgeries, deaths, etc. You may list them on the Prayer List Form, call the office at 248-684-0495 or e-mail them to stgeomilford@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in helping out to visit some of our parishioners in the hospital or those who need pastoral care, please see Lynn Surmann or call her at 248-360-6471.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Please note that the Church office hours have changed to Monday thru Friday from 9:00am – 11:30am.

VESTRY UPDATE

-Lynn Surmann

The vestry has been very busy celebrating Father Dawson's years of leadership and preparing for his retirement, while continuing our normal tasks. We met on separate occasions with Stacey Salles, the Dean of Deanery, Lisa Gray, the Canon to the Bishop and Bishop Gibbs himself. They gave us guidance and instruction on:

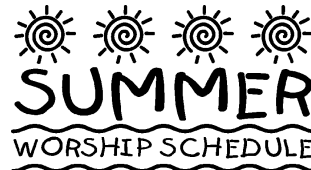
- How to celebrate Father Walter's leadership and life in the parish.
- How we prepare for his departure and allow for grieving.
- Maintaining and running the parish and Sunday services over the summer.
- Taking stock of who we are today as a parish and assembling a search committee to find our new pastor.

We put together a schedule of worship for the spring and summer; dividing it between supply priests and Morning Prayer. We have only a few more dates to fill with supply priests. We are working on putting together a list volunteers to help us look after our shut-ins, visit hospitalized parishioners and make phone calls to those we are concerned about. We are continuing to learn about functions and tasks that Walter had a part in and making sure St. George's continues to run smoothly and flourish in this time of transition. Finally we celebrated the last days of Walter's leadership with an evening celebrating and honoring Walter and Laura at Bakers in Milford.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- CONTINUE TO COME TO CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE SPRING AND SUMMER.
- Wear your name tags and make a point of talking to and learning about your fellow parishioners.
- Make sure the office has your current mailing and email addresses and phone numbers.

- Look out for each other. If you notice someone has not been to church, call them to make sure they are OK or let the office know so we can contact them.
- Continue to bring your friends and family to church – we want to continue to grow
- Look inside yourself for ways you can help St. George flourish.
- Watch for updates and let us know your needs and ideas.



Just a reminder that Sunday Services begin at 8:00am and 10:00am for the summer months.

Below is a schedule indicating Morning Prayer or Supply Priest through the summer.

June 5 th	Supply Priest/Tom Hawkins
June 12 th	Supply Priest/Tom Hawkins
June 19 th	Supply Priest/Wayne Knockel
June 26 th	Morning Prayer
July 3 rd	Morning Prayer
July 10 th	Supply Priest/Tom Hawkins
July 17 th	Morning Prayer
July 24 th	Supply Priest/TBD
July 31 st	Morning Prayer
August 7 th	Morning Prayer
August 14 th	Supply Priest/Wayne Knockel
August 21 st	Morning Prayer
August 28 th	Supply Priest/Wayne Knockel
Sept. 4 th	Supply Priest/TBD

STEWARDSHIP

The 2011 Stewardship Theme that was chosen is "Honor the Lord with your wealth, and with the first fruits of all your increase." (*Proverbs 3:9*) God's very nature is giving. All throughout scripture we see that giving is a demonstration of His love. When you are a giver, you are displaying who He is and reflecting His character. Notice that when you give to God first, it opens the door to God's overflowing blessings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 2 – 4TH

-Sandy Scott

We are getting ready for the rummage sale and are accepting items now through May 31. Items can be placed in the church hall in the back. If anyone has some racks we can use please bring them and mark your name on the rack. Also, please bring in any paper or plastic bags you have and any wire hangers that you will not need back.

Sale volunteers can come in anytime (if you have a key) to sort items. We need someone to make pricing charts and price misc. items. I want this to be a nice shopping experience for those in need. The less clutter the better it will be. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this a success. Please consider any amount of time you can give. For those of you who would like to help but cannot be on your feet please let me know and you can work the registers.

The sale dates are June 2, 3 and 4th. Hours of the sale are: Thursday 9 to 5, Friday 9 to 6 and Saturday 9 to 12. A sign-up sheet is in the entryway. We will also need lots of help after the sale to pack and get rid all of the stuff that is left and to get the church hall back together.

Items that we will take are: non torn, dirty or stained clothes, kitchen items, knickknacks, books, linens (please keep in a set by tying a ribbon around the set and mark size on a piece of paper pinned to the set), light small furniture items, lamps, jewelry, toys, etc.

Items we will not accept are: No TV's, electronics, encyclopedias, manuals, text books, novelty t-shirts, underwear, no car seats and no entertainment centers.

If you have any questions, please call Sandy Scott at 248-684-6586. Thanks for your help.

Vacation Bible School

Registration begins on June 5th. This year's theme is 'Panda Mania' and runs August 1st – 5th. There is a registration form included in this newsletter. There are two sessions available 9-11:30am and 6-8:30pm. *Pre-school sessions are available for 4-5 year olds (no 3 year olds) and the morning spots fill fast.* If you are interested in signing up, Kelly Bause will be here on June 5th to collect Registration Forms. If you cannot make it to church on June 5th, you may register in person at Milford United Methodist Church (located by post office) beginning June 5th.

Youth Group Activities

June week of the 27th Baseball Game
Lugnuts in Lansing or Mudhens in Toledo
July week of the 11th Canoe & Kayak
Heavner's Canoe in Milford

For all these events, please call Wendy Loncar at (248) 330-2492.

Ladies of the Knight

-Sheila Shuler

Join us for our planning session for the 2011-2012 year on Tuesday, June 28, 7:00pm at Sheila Shuler's House (2890 Debbiwood Court, Milford, MI - 248-684-5854) Bring a picnic food or dessert...hot dogs provided! Also bring a favorite garment, and we'll tell the stories behind the thing we brought!

Diocesan Picnic

The Diocesan Picnic is on Saturday, July 9th from 11am – 4pm at the Emrich Retreat Center in Brighton, MI. There will be games for the kids, music, food and fun. Bring your own lawn chair. Cost is \$5/person with a \$20 maximum per family. Please RSVP on the enclosed form. Questions, call Sue McCune at (313) 833-4435.

Community Sharing Golf Outing

-David Dickey

The 7th annual Community Sharing Golf Outing is Wednesday, July 13th, at Dunham Hills Golf Club. Format is best ball scramble. Entry fee is \$100 and includes continental breakfast, hot dog, chips and pop at the turn, and luncheon afterward. If you are interested, contact Dave Dickey at 248-684-6857. We'd like to have at least one foursome represent St. George's.

*Camp *Chickagami*

Camp Chick is located near Presque Isle between Alpena and Rogers City. Campers enjoy swimming, boating, hiking, fishing, crafts, nature exploration, Bible study, music, campfires and much, much more. Two sessions are offered this year: Senior Camp (ages 12-16) / July 17-23 and Junior Camp (ages 8-12) / July 24-30. The cost for each camp session is \$250. Scholarship money is available! If you are interested, Michelle in the office has registration forms and brochures. All forms are due by June 15th.

Craft Fair Update

The 2nd Annual St. George's Craft Fair is on Saturday, September 17th from 9am – 5pm. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR CRAFTERS OR VENDORS!** There are still inside spaces available and plenty of outdoor space. If you, or a friend, relative or neighbor who would be interested, please have them contact Liz at 248-685-0413 to request a registration packet.

Parish Picnic

Our Annual Picnic at Milford Central Park is on Sunday, August 7th at 10am. There will be fun, food and fellowship. More information to come.

ALTAR GUILD

-Vickie Kett

The Altar Guild wishes to thank each and every one of our parishioners who donated to purchase Easter flowers. Your generosity made our Church look beautiful for Easter, as well as the Bishop's visit. Thank you so very much.

Also, my personal thank you to all the people who worked so hard to make the Church ready and uplifting for Easter Morning. Thank you all for your dedication.

Please remember we are always looking for flower donors. This is a great way to remember or honor someone special. The flower poster and envelopes are located by the office door and envelopes are also in the pews.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This past Sunday was the end to our Sunday School year. Thank you to all the teachers! During the summer months activity packets will be available in the entryway. There are two age groups, please check the tag on the bag to make sure you grab an age appropriate pack. The copied pages are yours to keep. All we ask is that you please return the bag with supplies at the end of the service. **Please note the Nursery is still "open for business" during the Summer.**

PARISH NEWS

Bob & Mary Walberg celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Ken Hathaway celebrated his 90th Birthday.

Chris & Joe Lisuzzo have returned from visiting their son in Alaska.

Katie Moore is expecting a baby any day now.

(Parish news continued)

We received an update on Walter's surgery. The cyst was from his ear to his chin and was sent out to be tested. Results should be back in a week and the surgeon felt it was benign. In the process of removing the cyst, another tooth was removed (not expected). Walter remains on "soft" food and is feeling better. Keep him and Laura in your thoughts and prayers this week.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group continues to meet every Monday at 1:00pm at the Church. All parishioners are welcome to join & previous meeting attendance is not necessary.

Community Sharing Donations

-Chris Lisuzzo

We are a small parish but we continue to donate about a grocery cart full of non-perishables each month to Community Sharing to help those in need. Thanks to all of you who remember to bring something in to help. Sometimes it's just one item, others a bagful...all is appreciated. Thank you! And let's keep it going!

St. George's Garden

-Chris Lisuzzo

I will soon be working on our small veggie patch to grow fresh vegetables for Community Sharing to give out to those in need. We are in need of a couple hoses as it takes about 3 to reach the garden from the outdoor water outlet. I can bring in one. If anyone has an extra one that still works, we could put it to good use. I am also going to try to put up a new fence. If you would like to help with this veggie garden or the flower beds, I can always use help. I just go over when I get time each week, you could do that too or we could try to work out a certain time to meet and work. Please contact Chris Lisuzzo.

Blanket News

-Chris Lisuzzo

Shirley Ryscamp and Chris Lisuzzo with the help of others in ECW have made another batch, about 30 "comfort" blankets to be delivered to the Huron Valley Hospital in May for cancer and pediatric patients. Anyone interested in cutting, sewing, or adding yarn ties...contact us.

THANK YOU'S TO:

Sandy, Mike, Joan, Kathy & St. George's Team:

On behalf of Crossroads (40 Years in 2011) and the many served on today 5/15/2011, we THANK YOU for a delicious, hearty meal and great Spirit. You made a difference in the lives of many people (680 meals served).

We are grateful for a total of 25 volunteers for 134 volunteer hrs plus the hours of shopping and planning. We look forward to your return in 2012 or before. In the meantime you can come on your own to volunteer or to be a Soup Kitchen Manager. Just let me know. If your youth or other groups would like to make condiment packets for community service hours, let me know. We provide all the supplies. We also welcome hygiene kits at any time to pass out on Sundays or during the week as well as food and clothing.

Share the Crossroads Soup Kitchen 2010 data that's also on the web page with your email list so they will have a greater awareness of our numbers. Look for your pictures on the Crossroads web site, www.crossroadsofmichigan.org and click on the soup kitchen page. You'll also find add'l information for Crossroads Social Services during the week. This is Crossroads 40th Year!

We thank all who prepared the meal, served, provided the resources and upheld us in prayer. Thank you for everything! Continue to keep Crossroads in your prayers. Together, we make a difference in Southeast Michigan.

*-The Rev. Canon Sandra D. Richardson
Crossroads Soup Kitchen Coordinator*

(Thank you's continued)

The Vestry wishes to thank everyone involved in planning and executing Walter's two parties. Thank you so much.
-Liz LaMoreaux

Thank-you for praying for our son Scott. He is safe and has no life-threatening injuries. He was in the tornado in Joplin, Missouri.

-Helen & Earl Germaine

Dear Members of the St. George's Parish Family:

We write to send you our sincere gratitude for the wonderful celebration you provided us over this past weekend.

Retiring on Monday, looking back over thirty-eight years of ministry, there has been much to digest. I haven't even begun to do so. I remember, when I began this journey, it was not without a sense of apprehension and unknowing. Little did I understand then, it was going to be quite a ride. Being a parish priest is not so much a job as it is a "life." That life is contained for the most part within a parish family where God places people before you, commending them to your care. Hopefully He works His will through you with them. At times, this can be an awesome responsibility and it is your continuing prayer that helps you bear its weight. When you do this well, you realize how much of it is due to God's grace.

You learn in the midst of this too that you will be challenged and will need to say "Yes" to Him. And as the author Michel Quoist wrote in his book called Prayers, each time you do so, it will entail more "yeses."

As this journey moves forward, you also experience the bumps and potholes that are inevitable along the way. You learn quickly about your own limitations. When years ago I became Vicar of St. Francis, Grayling, not long afterwards some people left for other congregations. Soon after, thank goodness, newcomers came to visit, often liked what they saw, and decided to stay. It hurt to realize it, but I wasn't going to be all things to all people. This same thing has happened here at St. George's. Its taken all this awhile to sift through. For the last fourteen years, we lived through the utter agony of the Twin Towers, the significant flood in our building, the economic downturn, a sudden sabbatical, not to mention the day to day challenges of our own lives.

Yet through them, interspersed with many festive times, each, I think, has brought us closer together.

And it is with all this in mind that we offer our thanks. My special partner too has been so blessed by this congregation and this past weekend. The festive dinner filled with fellowship and laughter on Friday, the greeting cards and your many personal sentiments, the outdoor set and jovial gifts you gave us that night, the meal and kind words on Sunday, Kelly Surmann's songs for us, the generous "Bon Voyage" financial gift you offered and so much more. All this has helped me realize again that God knew what He was doing when He called me to serve, and how in doing so, you have repaid the favors ten times over!

-Faithfully, Walter and Laura



Congratulations Graduates

Tara Lesnew graduated from OCC with an RN degree and is working at MediLodge.

Miesque McCandless graduated from Cornell.

Tony Lisuzzo, the oldest son of Joe & Chris Lisuzzo graduated from Oakland University with a biology degree. He is now working as a surgical tech. on a cardio team and Beaumont while he awaits being accepted into a PA program for next year.



My very dear friend Walter:

It really is a pleasure to salute you! I desire to share my best with Laura and the rest of your family. We are sufficiently well here while living with the financial difficulties in this country and in the Diocese. I wanted you to know the Good News! At long last we are beginning to remove the cement and rubble from the earthquake from the church property at the Church of Jesus our Savior in Puerta Cortes!! We are hoping one day in the future maybe to begin to build a new Temple! The Bishop shared that at this time he has no money to help. One step at a time, little by little, however. We have hopes for the future! I send you a great hug! Please extend our sincere greetings to the family of St. George!

-Francisco Pena+