



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

The Red Door

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME
*Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of
St. John's Episcopal Church*



FEBRUARY 2018 - Volume 4 Issue 2



ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Once a year we gather as a parish community to worship together, share a meal, engage in thoughtful conversation, elect people to fill various positions within our parish and make decisions that will have direct bearing on our communal life. We call this the Annual Meeting and we recently completed this event on the 28th of January. Thanks to all who brought food and those who helped with set-up and cleanup, it was truly a day to remember!

We elected four new members to our vestry: Neil Barbu, Sharon Scott, Don Streeter and Mary Vellardita. In addition, Sande and Jim Godbout along with Geoff Smereck were voted in as our diocesan convention delegates and Erin Downey-Tarnowski, Don Streeter and Geoff Smereck were reaffirmed as the officers for St. John's Non-profit Board. Jim Godbout was also ratified as our representative to Trinity Deanery.

Of course, no annual meeting would be complete without a report from the treasurer on the financial status of the parish. Erin Downey-Tarnowski presented the completed 2017 budget and the newly approved 2018 budget. We were pleased that we did not have to draw down any money from our endowment in 2017 to cover operating expenses. In fact, our endowment grew by \$16,000 and is now worth just over \$107,000.

Looking ahead to 2018, our budget projects a deficit of \$11,500. This is due to the loss of income from the following: our tenant who no longer leases space from us; a decline of 5 pledging parishioners due to death or moving to another parish; and an increase in health care cost once Fr. Steve is married in April. To prepare for this projected deficit, a motion was made and approved to allow our treasurer to draw down money from the endowment only if needed to cover a lack of funds. This approval allows for a possible draw up to \$11,500. If any money is transferred the parish community will be notified. We made a similar motion at last year's annual meeting and we did not have to draw down or borrow any money, so hopefully we will not have to use this measure this year either.

Fr. Steve talked about the Priest-in-Charge time. We are currently 20 months into his second contract and we only have 15 months to go when it ends on April 30, 2019. This coming year will be a time for discerning and preparing for what comes next. Fr. Steve will be working diligently with the vestry during 2018 to develop two plans: one that allows him to stay on permanently and the other that will focus on what comes next if he does not stay here. It is the intention that one of these plans will be presented at next year's annual meeting. These plans are important because we have to focus on growth – numerical and spiritual. We want to maintain our faith community and provide a solid financial foundation. Remember, that any plan to keep him here also depends on Nativity's ability to develop a plan for him to remain there as well. The reality seems to be that neither St. John's nor Nativity will be able to call Fr. Steve full-time so he would have to continue with this part-time status. Whichever plan is implemented there will undoubtedly be some changes to our programs, ministries and the way we do things.

We invite you to give us feedback or suggestions at any time, please talk to Fr. Steve or any vestry member. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we begin this time of discernment.

*Blessings,
Fr. Steve*

Worship Opportunities All are Welcome



Sunday Services

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 4 | Morning Prayer 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Feb. 11 | Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Feb. 18 | Morning Prayer 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Feb. 25 | Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am |

Tuesday Worship

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 13 | Holy Eucharist at Hope Health Care at 10:30 am |
| Feb. 27 | Holy Eucharist at Hope Health Care at 10:30 am |

Wednesday Worship

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 7 | No Bible Study or Holy Eucharist this day. |
| Feb. 14 | Bible Study 10:00 am
ASH WEDNESDAY Service 11:30 am |
| Feb. 21 | Bible Study 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist 11:45 am |
| Feb. 28 | No services or Bible Study |



Preparing for Lent

Lent originated in the early days of the Christian Church as a time to prepare for Easter when the faithful rededicated themselves and when catechumens (converts) were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. There are traditionally forty days of Lent (not counting Sundays) that are marked by prayer, fasting, self-denial and almsgiving. Many people give something up for Lent. Whether this is a food, behavior or some other pleasurable past time, embracing this type of fasting is an excellent discipline to help us control our body and mind. Others, however, add something into their lives that will bring them closer to God, e.g., prayer, journaling, bible study, spiritual reading or practices of piety. And there is always the option of doing something like donating money to charity or performing acts of service to help out those in need. Lent is our liturgical season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a time for reflection and taking an inventory of our lives, our faith and our relationships, especially with God. Throughout this time of preparation we admit that we all have faults. We confess our failings to live up to the promises we have made to our spouses, families, friends and God – then we seek ways to bring healing, forgiveness and reconciliation into these situations. This season of the church year is a perfect time to explore various ways of growing in our Christian faith. We may set out to discover new spiritual paths or reconnect to prior practices that have sustained us in the past. During Lent we pause to evaluate our individual and corporate spiritual health. How are we living out the gospel in our families, parish schools, places of work and broader community? In what areas should we celebrate our efforts? Which places need attention? I invite you to enter into this holy season of Lent with open hearts and minds. May God bless you and keep you during this time of spiritual exploration and renewal as we await the coming of Easter.

Ash
Wednesday
at St. John's



**Our season of Lent begins on
Wednesday, February 14th.**

Our Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 14th. On this day we come together to pray and have ashes smudged on our foreheads to remind us of our mortality and our need for forgiveness. We acknowledge our regret and sadness for those things we have done or left undone that have hurt others and ourselves. We understand that sin is a reality in our individual lives and in our corporate humanity because we are all part of a fallen creation that does not always practice love the way that God intends. Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 11:30 am which follows our bible study that begins at 10:00 am. You are certainly welcome to attend both or just one of these!

Shrove
Tuesday Pancake
Supper

One of the favorite traditions that many Episcopal congregations embrace is the annual pancake supper on the Tuesday evening preceding Ash Wednesday. We will observe this custom on Tuesday, February 13th from 5:00 – 7:30 pm. Please join us for great food and excellent company as we celebrate this fun day!



Welcome to Our New 2018 Vestry Members!

Sharon Scott, Mary Vellardita, Don Streeter and Neil Barbu were elected at the annual meeting. The vestry met afterwards to select the officers for 2018. Our co-Sr. wardens are Nick Hamblin and Sharon Scott, Jr. Warden is Don Streeter and our co-Clerks are Sande Godbout and Mary Vellardita. We look forward to a great year, thank you for being willing to undertake this important ministry.

Thank you also to our outgoing vestry members: Ken Coyne, Jim Godbout and Cheryl Montgomery. Your service to our parish is greatly appreciated!



Sharon Scott



Neil Barbu



Don Streeter



Mary Vellardita

Thank You to Our 2018 Diocesan Convention Delegates:



Sande Godbout



Jim Godbout



Geoff Smereck

Geoff Smereck along with Sande and Jim Godbout were chosen to be our representatives at diocesan convention next October.

Jim Godbout was also voted in to be our representative in the Trinity Deanery. Thanks to all of you for serving!

Here are some photos from our January 28 Annual Meeting. More photos on next page.



The Annual Meeting Potluck was Enjoyed by All!



Believe
in Miracles*

Please Share
Your Stories
With Us!

FOOD PANTRY OPEN
Thursday, Feb. 8,
New Hours: Noon-2 pm
*Please bring donations in
by Sunday, Feb. 4



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St. John's Episcopal Church - Westland MI

FEBRUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Feb. 4 Breakfast at 9:30 am
Daughters of the King at 12:00 pm
- Feb. 11 Vestry Meeting at 12:00 pm
- Feb. 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5:00 - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 14 ASH WEDNESDAY Service 11:30 am
- Feb. 17 Vestry Retreat at Cathedral 9:00-4:00 pm
- Feb. 18 Breakfast at 9:30 am

WEDNESDAYS:

Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28
Senior Exercise Class 9 am (free will donation)

St. John's Episcopal Church STAFF

Rev. Steve Domienik, *Priest-in-Charge*
FrSteve@stjohnswestland.com

Rev. DeaconCarolynn E. Johnson
[Cell: 248 705 9695](tel:2487059695)

Charmaine Wells, *Parish Secretary*
stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Dana Hull, *Music Director* Bill & Kim Goeman, *Sextons*

2018 OFFICERS

Nick Hamblin & Sharon Scott, *Senior Co-Wardens*
Don Streeter, *Junior Warden*
Sande Godbout & Mary Vellardita, *Co-Clerks*
Erin Downey-Tarnowski, *Treasurer*

2018 VESTRY MEMBERS

Neil Barbu, Sue Daniel, Cindy Fowler and Julie Jones