

Journey Pages

CONNECTING, GROWING AND SERVING FOR GOD'S SAKE FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS

574 S. SHELDON ROAD, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170



YOU ARE WELCOME AND WANTED HERE TODAY!

Good morning and welcome to St. John's Plymouth! We are glad you are here and hope you have a great worship experience with us today.

Our faith tradition is known by a motto seen on signs in big cities and small towns across the country: "*The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.*" Our community takes that phrase to heart, opening our hearts and our worship to everyone, especially those who may have been turned off by or turned away from previous church experiences for any reason.

St. John's is a community built on varied backgrounds and faith experiences; we love our tradition and rituals, but we love people even more. We are committed to opening our doors as wide as possible because we pattern our lives after Jesus' teachings and his message of radical welcome and inclusive love.

If you are visiting for the first time, we are happy that God led you to this place and hope that you will return again. Again, welcome home. Open your heart today and let God do something wonderful.

SEVERAL OPENINGS FOR DEDICATIONS

There are several open dates for dedications of Aumbry Light and Altar Flowers throughout the rest of the year. An Aumbry Light is a \$5 donation; Altar Flower dedication is a \$50 donation (flowers may be taken after the 10am service).



TODAY'S AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATION

*In Celebration of
Bryan Klosterman's 22nd Birthday*

TRANSITION UPDATE

A TRANSITION UPDATE FROM YOUR VESTRY

Last week we shared the exciting news that Pastor Dana Runestad will be joining St. John's Plymouth as our interim rector, beginning on October 9. She will spend most of that week at an EDOMI clergy conference on Mackinaw, however, her plans include celebrating and preaching for the first time on October 15.

We are also happy to tell you that she is worshiping in the pews with us today. You can meet and greet her at a coffee hour between the 8 am and 10 am services.

Last week we also promised that you would hear more of Pastor Dana's story. This week we will start sharing just a small part of that story with you. Once Pastor Dana is onboard, we will encourage her to share much more about her experience, talents and gifts.

On a personal note, she and her husband Barry Rabe have lived in Plymouth since 1989. They have two grown sons, Matt and Andrew. She's very excited to explore ways that, together, we can reach out to the community she has called home for over 25 years.

Pastor Dana has been serving communities in faith since her ordination over 30 years ago, in 1986. She joins us from her most recent position as both Transitional Pastor at Lord of Light Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor and Acting Executive Director of Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Michigan. For the past two years, she accompanied this campus congregation at the University of Michigan through a process of discernment to clarify its purpose and discover a new paradigm for Lutheran campus ministry.

Prior to that role, in 2015, Pastor Dana took a sabbatical and embarked on a Post-Graduate Program at the Bowen/Georgetown Center for the Study of the Family in Washington, D.C. This program of study on human behavior is based upon the study of family systems and knowledge from the natural sciences. This program does not award degrees, nor does one complete the program. Participants are encouraged to attend for a minimum of

(continued on reverse side)

TRANSITION UPDATE (CONTINUED)

three years. With the support of the St. John's Vestry, Pastor Dana will continue her studies while she is our interim rector.

For 10 years, from 2004-2014, Pastor Dana served as the Senior Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia. Here she led the congregation through a process to clarify core values, mission, vision, re-structuring and re-staffing. During this time the congregation turned from looking inward to looking outward, built a Chartres-style eleven-circuit brick labyrinth, prayer garden and coffee house on the property as a "front porch" for the community, embarked on a mentoring program with at-risk children in a neighboring elementary school, and developed "hearts, hands and voices," a fine arts program for children of all backgrounds.

We are blessed to have Pastor Dana walk with us as we explore the ways to "be who you are, see what you have, and do what matters to God" during this interim period. Please join us in welcoming her to St. John's and take a moment to meet her today between the 8 and 10 am services in the Gathering.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

FAMILY DINNER NIGHT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 ~ 5:30PM

All Youth, families and those active in our Family Ministry programs are invited to our 2nd Family Dinner Night on Sunday October 15. We will have fellowship time, a pasta pot luck, group games, and an introduction to the Youth programs planned for this year for youth Pre-K through High School. Please sign up to bring a dish to share on the bulletin board in the hallway. We are also seeking 2 childcare volunteers for after dinner children's activities. Questions? Contact Jayne Watson at jwatson@stjohnsplymouth.org.



Pipes Spooktacular & Trunk or Treat SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 ~ 6:30PM

Join us for a Halloween-themed concert for children of all ages, featuring spooky and just plain silly music using the organ and other instruments, performed by our own SJP Department of Music. Suggested admission donation is \$5 for individuals, \$15 for families. *Trunk or Treat* in the church parking lot after. **Sign up on the bulletin board to host a trunk!**

WE NEED THE CONGREGATIONS HELP! FOR PROPERTY CLEAN-UP



We are in need of a leader and volunteers for fall property clean-up day! If you are willing to lead or volunteer for this half day event, please contact Phyllis in the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Gleaners service Saturday SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 ~ 8:15AM-12:00PM



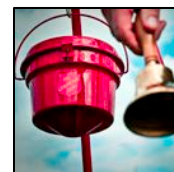
We need more volunteers to travel to Gleaners Food Bank Distribution Center in Detroit next Saturday to sort and pack non-perishable food and fresh produce into boxes. For more information, contact Irene Jarrell at jarrelli@yahoo.com. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the office at 734-453-0190.

NEED VOLUNTEER(S) TO WRITE PRAYER NOTES

Do you have a few moments each week to write a few short notes to members of our community in need prayers of healing and/or support? Contact the church office if you are willing to help.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS

We are in need of a new organizer to work with the Salvation Army scheduling bell ringers for the holidays. If you are interested, please contact the church office.



LIFELINE SCREENING COMING TO ST. JOHN'S



Life Line Screening will be at St John's on **Monday, November 13**, offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. **One of SJP's own had these life-saving tests last year and proved to be actually LIFE-SAVING!** Appointments are limited, so please sign up now by calling 1-800-690-6495 and receive a \$10 discount off the package or text the word circle to 797979 or visit their website at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle. **Four complimentary screening certificates (first come, first serve), along with more information are on the bulletin board in the hallway.**

ENJOY DETROIT CONCERT CHOIR IN CONCERT TODAY ~ 4PM ~ SS. PETER & PAUL CHURCH, DETROIT

Detroit Concert Choir will perform *American Journey* with selections from "A World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass" on Sunday, Oct. 8 at 4pm at Ss. Peter & Paul Jesuit Church, 629 East Jefferson Ave. in Detroit. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For more info, visit detroitconcertchoir.org.

08 OCTOBER 2017

Living within a vision of God's justice

THE REV. WINNIE VARGHESE

"The kingdom of God will be taken away from you."

— MATTHEW 21:43

When I hear these words about tenant farmers, stewards, scheming to get more than their fair, legal share, I can't help but think of sharecroppers, serfs, peasants, landless laborers, migrants on every continent through the ages, wondering what it might take to create some security and stability in their lives. Surely the first people who heard this story were more likely to be like the tenants than a landowner.

Where is the kingdom of God in that? And what is this kingdom of God that we have already that can be taken from us?

In this reading from Matthew, and in all of the readings, it is clear that there is a law and also a parallel or critique, a law from the tradition, that is the way of the kingdom of God, the world as God intends it.

What does the Bible tell us are the attributes of a society living within a vision of God's justice?

In your context, does the law support you if you wish to live within that vision?

The virtues of the reign of God's justice, the world as God intends it to be, are clear in the Hebrew Scripture: The love and awe of God are illustrated by a just society. A just society has God at the center. A just society is marked by law that enshrine fairness toward one another; compassion and generosity to those who cannot fend for themselves; and right stewardship of the earth.

These are clearly difficult values to apply in real

For reflection...

- What might it mean that even in the time of Jesus the ways of the powerful seem arbitrary, and laborers resisted?
- Is there a difference between an owner and a creator/maker?

living. In 2017, as in the time of the Hebrew prophets, we can feel like wackos at the gates of the palace as we try to proclaim these values.

As Christians, living as though the law of God is the law of our hearts is the work of our lives. We listen and bring the breadth of our experience to these texts, and we are convicted by them.



The Rev. Winnie Varghese is the Director of Community Outreach for Trinity Church, Wall Street. She has been a priest for 17 years in parishes and as a college chaplain. Before joining Trinity, Winnie served as rector of St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery, a vibrant and diverse church in Manhattan that tripled in size under her leadership.



During the month of October, St. John's is holding our Annual Giving Campaign. It is a time when everyone is asked to prayerfully consider making a financial commitment to St. John's for the coming year. For those new to St. John's the concept of a giving campaign may be new to you. Here are some common questions asked about pledging and the Annual Giving Campaign.

What is a pledge?

Pledging is simply promising to give a certain amount of money to the operating fund of St. John's next year. Your pledge commitment is instrumental in the creation of our annual budget supporting all expenses necessary to live out the ministries at St. John's. Each year, we strive for 100% participation from our community. No pledge amount is too great or small.

Does my individual pledge make a difference?

Absolutely! St. John's relies on the generosity of our community to fund 98% of our budget. Your pledge commitment is vital to the creation of our annual budget supporting all expenses necessary for the ministries at St. John's. Each year, we strive for 100% participation from our parishioners. No pledge amount is too great or small.

What if I can't give or can't estimate my giving for next year?

Pledging is NOT a prerequisite for participating in the common life of St. John's. We welcome all to share in the celebration of our faith and community regardless of your financial situation.

If your situation is such that you are unable to pledge or unable to estimate your giving we encourage you to participate in this year's campaign. Please return a pledge card or simply indicate you will give as you are able.

I put money in the offering plate. Why should I pledge?

Loose offerings in the plate are appreciated and help to support St. John's. But pledging helps transform giving into a spiritual practice. You make a commitment and fulfilling it becomes a regular practice just like worship and prayer. When you write down an estimate, you are making a purposeful decision to put God first instead of giving based on what happens to be in your wallet.

How do I make my pledge?

You can fill out the pledge card provided in the service bulletin (or pick up one from the table in the hallway) and return it to one of the pledge collection baskets or place it in the offering plate during service. You also can mail it directly to St. John's, 574 S. Shelton Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170.

New this year!! For those that prefer to submit their pledge electronically you now can use SecureGive, our online giving platform. Simply log into SecureGive, select "Pledges" from the top menu and enter the total amount of your pledge for 2018. If you're new to SecureGive, please create an account linked to your phone number and then submit your annual pledge amount.

Questions?

The wardens and vestry are always available to answer any questions you may have regarding pledging. Please contact them through the church office by calling 734-453-0190 or sending an e-mail to pikegami@stjohnsplymouth.org.

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

We offer prayers today for those who have requested inclusion on our prayer list. Add names at our prayer station in the Narthex. Prayers continue for 30 days.

Chick	Gretchen
Lexy	Cheryl Crouse
Jeff Holland	Janis Kljun
Susan Lutz	Justin Rush
Pat Sonntag	The Taylor Dalian Family
The Baldwin Family	The Carl Spradlin Family

For those in uniform

Matthew J. Mitchell - U.S. Navy Chief
Thomas Dolce - U.S. Air Force
Carly Bair - U.S. Navy
Joe James - U.S. Army
Ian Smith - U.S. Navy
Dylan Racine - U.S. Army
David Peraino - U.S. Army
Taylor Blair - U.S. Army



SERVING TODAY - OCTOBER 8

Preacher Rev. Reid Hamilton
Altar Guild Rita Smith,
Vicki Pratt/Irene Jarrell
Dawn Florkowski/

Danisa Saltarelli

Lay Ministers

8:00 Ralph Reeves
10:00 Dick Bass, Patricia Ponte, Penny Striegel
Becky Nickels, Krista Dessin

Acolytes

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse
10:00 Jocelyn Dessin, Ella Binder, Clare Binder

Ushers

8:00 Dee Fleming
10:00 Patricia Ponte, Jane Libbing, Alan Taracuk

SERVING NEXT WEEK - OCTOBER 15

Preacher Rev. Dana Runestad
Altar Guild Beth Wideman, Nancy Mitchell,
Penny Striegel

Lay Ministers

8:00 Susan Wainwright
10:00 Sally Lindroth, Tracy McCord, Valerie Sanders
Richard Dessin, Ken Sanders

Acolytes

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse
10:00 Meganne Skoug, Amelia Dowswell

Ushers

8:00 Dee Fleming
10:00 Dave Smith, Carolyn Setty, Martha James



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Office Hours ~ Monday – Friday ~ 8:30am – 4:30pm

SUNDAY, October 8

Sunday Holy Eucharist8:00 & 10:00am
Coffee Hour Reception – Gathering.....8:45am
Nursery (infant-3yrs)9:45-11:45am
Sunday School.....9:45am
Coffee Hour Reception – Gathering.....11:15am
Choir Practice.....11:15am
Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am
Parent Small Group.....11:15am
PFLAG Meeting.....3:00pm

MONDAY, October 9

BeFriender's Meeting.....9:30am-12:00pm
Narcotics Anonymous.....7:00pm

TUESDAY, October 10

Women's Bible Study.....9:30am
Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

WEDNESDAY, October 11

Wednesday Women's Study.....9:00am
Midweek Prayer Service.....10:30am
Prayers & Squares Quilters.....12:00pm
Houseband Rehearsal.....6:00pm
Handbell Rehearsal.....6:30pm

THURSDAY, October 12

OA Meeting.....8:30am
Men's Group10:00am
Food Pantry.....2:00-4:00pm

FRIDAY, October 13

SATURDAY, October 14

Men's Bible Sunday.....7:30am
Al Anon Meeting8:00am
Gleaners Service Saturday.....8:15am

SUNDAY, October 15

Sunday Holy Eucharist8:00 & 10:00am
Nursery (infant-3yrs)9:45-11:45am
Sunday School.....9:45am
Coffee Hour – Gathering.....11:15am
Choir Practice.....11:15am
Joyful Noise Youth Choir.....11:15am
Parent Small Group.....11:15am



Dates to Remember

Stock Club.....Monday, Oct. 16
Diocese Convention.....Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28