

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.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION

*In Memory of
Henry T. Rison, Jr.*



TODAY'S AUMBRY LIGHT DEDICATION

*In Thanksgiving of
Scarlet Synowiec's Guardian Angel*

WELCOME PASTOR Dana!

Welcome Pastor Dana! This week Pastor Dana Runestad
begins her tenure as the Interim Rector at St. John's
Plymouth.

An experienced leader of congregations in transition, Pastor
Dana will walk with us as together we look inward at the
character, strengths and aspirations of our congregation,
and outward at the needs of the community and the world
we serve.

This season of transition, which usually lasts one to two
years, will eventually lead to St. John's extending a call to a
new Rector. As Pastor Dana herself says, together we will
strive to *"be who we are, see what we have, and do what matters
to God."*

We are blessed to have you with us, Pastor Dana, and
excited about writing the next chapter in our story together.

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR Dana!

Greetings from Mackinac Island! (AMEN Conference October 9-12)

I write this first message as your Interim Rector from the
biennial AMEN conference here (All Michigan Episcopal
Network Clergy Community Gathering). What a wonderful
opportunity to re-engage the Episcopal Church by "rubbing
shoulders," worshipping, learning and re-connecting with
clergy colleagues in this beautiful setting. My plan is to be
in the office on Friday October 13 and begin getting
oriented, filling out forms, obtaining keys, and all that sort
of stuff. For the month of October, my sabbath day will be
Monday. Come November, that will shift to Friday. Next
week Tuesday I'll start to settle in and we can begin to have
some face time. I so look forward to that!

I give thanks to God for you and for the opportunity to
serve with and among you as we discover together what
God has in store for St. John's future. I am so very grateful!
Here at the conference I've been hearing what I already
know: what a great congregation St. John's Plymouth is,
what great leaders are there. I nod and grin. I find such joy
and satisfaction in walking with congregations as they
discover a path to the future. I'm so glad we get to walk

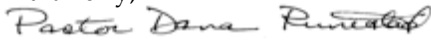
(continued on reverse side)

GREETINGS (CONTINUED)

together again for this leg of your journey and mine.

I especially want to thank the vestry for their diligence and faithfulness during this challenging time of transition. This is not what they signed up for. The interview committee did their homework. Junior Warden Liz Covey-Dwyer has been the "face of St. John's" for me during the interview process and I give thanks for her patience, attentiveness to detail and warmth. Senior Warden Shelley Zalewski has been keeping so many balls in the air both with St. John's and in her personal life. She is also overseeing her father's transition out of his home in Jackson; just last week her mother-in-law Marguerite Zalewski died. The funeral was this past Monday. Please remember Phil and Shelley and the Zalewski family in your prayers even as you give thanks for Shelley's leadership. Thanks also to St. John's treasurer Beth Frolick whose workload has also expanded during this transition. Transitions like this also present anxious challenges for the staff. Thank you Phyllis, Liza and Jane for "holding the fort." Thanks be to God for such leadership. You are so blessed. We are so blessed. Blessed to be a blessing.

Faithfully,



Pastor Dana Runestad
Interim Rector

P.S. Dana rhymes with "banana." If you need a visual to help you remember, ask me about my tattoo!

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Interested in helping with Pipes Spooktacular?

Planning for the Pipes Spooktacular is underway and you are invited to participate. There are a variety of ways to help: spoken readings, singing, volunteering to help during the rehearsals & concert. **There are the only two rehearsals - October 22 after the 10am service and Sunday, October 29 from 5:00 - 6:00pm. Hope to see you there!**

BAPTISM SUNDAY

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 ~ 10am



St. John's next baptism Sunday will be on All Saints Sunday at the 10:00am service. If you would like to learn more about baptism, contact Pastor Dana at 734-765-1141 or pastordana@stjohnsplymouth.org.

NAMES FOR THE NECROLOGY

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Do you have loved ones that passed this year that you would like to be added to this year's list of people remembered on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 5? Email them to pikegami@stjohnsplymouth.org or sign up on the Sign-Me-Up board **no later than Tuesday, Oct. 31.**



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.**

VOLUNTEER TO BE A SJP BLOOD DRIVE HOST!



We need a volunteer (or two) to be a friendly face and check-in host for our Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, Nov. 27.

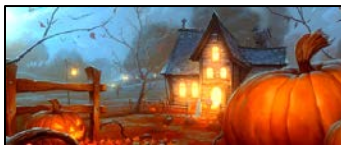
- One person - full day 9:45am-4:30pm, or
- Two people - half day 9:45am-1:00pm and 1:00-4:30pm

Those interested should contact Phyllis in the office at 734-453-0190 or email her at pikegami@stjohnsplymouth.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

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

All youth, families and those active in our Family Ministry programs are invited to our 2nd Family Dinner Night tonight. 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.



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 and readings performed by the 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!**

JOURNEY TO GENEROSITY



15 OCTOBER 2017

'What are you going to do with this?'

THE REV. EDWARD GOMEZ

Many years ago, when I was studying for the priesthood, we were called to help on Sundays at some of the local parishes. That semester I was called to serve at St. Thomas More Church. New to the area, I was unaware that this church was one of the most affluent churches in the diocese. I entered the sacristy that Sunday and met the rector. He turned to me impeccably dressed in a black suit and with an extended hand and a broad welcoming smile, introduced himself saying, "Hi! Welcome to our church!" Then, almost immediately, from behind came another priest who did not fit the dress code of this marble-laden English castle, who gave me a surprising I've known you all my life embrace! I smiled — actually laughed — and said, Hi! He was a missionary in Africa and the guest preacher that day.

His sermon was moving as he shared his experience with the poor. I felt like I got hit in the chest with God asking me, "So what are you going to do with this?" The collection that day was for the missions. After the service I was invited to lunch with the rector, the missionary preacher and other guests of the rector. During lunch, a man entered handed a small envelope to the rector saying, "What shall I do with this?" The envelope contained a set of earrings and a note saying, "Take these and have them appraised, and whatever that amount is, I will sell them and give the money to the missions."

We were all taken aback by this act of giving. But

it was not until almost a month later that we learned the earrings were valued at \$175,000!

In our reading from Exodus this Sunday we hear that Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." Of course, where they gathered them to make a golden idol, the woman at St. Thomas More ripped hers off in a spontaneous act of compassion when she realized the needs of the

For reflection...

- Was there a time you or someone you know was moved to respond to a need with greater generosity than you thought possible?
- How do stories of such generosity touch you?

poor. But I also suspect that she took them off because she could no longer bear the weight of them.

When you encounter God's call, the almost immediate reaction is to let go of everything you thought important so that you can be free to love. Giving generously becomes easy because at some level you realize that what you have is not yours — but God's. And if wealth or privilege has been entrusted to you, then you know — with certainty — that you must share it.

I don't know who this woman was, or her life circumstances. I just know that when she ripped off those earrings, she responded to God's question, "So now what are you going to do with this?" She acted and gave far more than expensive earrings; she gave of herself honestly, freely and out of pure love.



Edward Gomez is Vicar of St. Paul's/San Pablo Episcopal Church in Houston. His ministry has led him from the Lancandonan jungle of Mexico to the Peruvian province of Madre de Dios as a missionary, to the nonprofit world, where he has served in various leadership roles, including as the Executive Director of El Buen Samaritano Episcopal Mission in Austin. He is married to Denise Trevino-Gomez; they have three children and one adorable granddaughter.



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.

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 and 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 bullet (or pick up one from the Narthex) 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. Sheldon Road, 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
Roger Schlee	Pat Sonntag
Scarlet Synowiec	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 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

SERVING NEXT WEEK - OCTOBER 22

Preacher Rev. Dana Runestad

Altar Guild Beth Wideman, Maribeth Sala-Gietzen

Lay Ministers

8:00 Ralph Reeves
10:00 Bev Cavallaro, Amy Higgins, Howard Zuckerman,
James Boileau

Acolytes

8:00 Maya Crouse, Ryan Crouse
10:00 Casey McCord, Maria McCord, TJ Rapson

Ushers

8:00 Dee Fleming
10:00 Patricia Ponte, Sal Cavallaro, Sue Skaggs



THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

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

SUNDAY, October 15

Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 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

MONDAY, October 16

Detroit Concert Choir Rehearsal.....6:00pm
Narcotics Anonymous.....7:00pm
Stock Club.....7:00pm

TUESDAY, October 17

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

WEDNESDAY, October 18

Wednesday Women's Study.....9:00am
Midweek Prayer Service.....10:30am

THURSDAY, October 19

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

FRIDAY, October 20

SATURDAY, October 21

Men's Bible Sunday.....7:30am
Al Anon Meeting8:00am

SUNDAY, October 22

Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 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

Vestry Meeting.....Tuesday, Oct 24
Diocese Convention.....Friday-Saturday, Oct. 27-28
Pipes Spooktacular Concert.....Sunday, Oct. 29
Trunk or Treat.....Sunday, Oct. 29
Safeguard Training.....Saturday, Nov. 4