

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Plymouth, MI  
2020 Third Quarter Vestry Report  
(The Pulse)**

**MEETING WITH BISHOP BONNIE PERRY**

*You are cordially invited to attend a  
Zoom Town Hall Meeting with Bishop Perry and Vestry  
Oct. 20, 7 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (possibly slightly longer)*

**Zoom information coming soon**

**GENERAL**

**Church Services During the Time of COVID-19**

Our communal prayer and worship remain a priority. While we have been enjoying worshipping together in limited ways, we continue to work to find the best, most practical, and safest ways to bring more people together during the COVID pandemic.

- ✓ Outdoor church services began in July, as weather permitted.
- ✓ Online Zoom Compline on Sunday evenings began in June.
- ✓ Zoom church services began in September.
- ✓ Live streaming of services is being planned.
- ✓ Limited services in the building are being considered. There are many logistics to work out but we are moving in that direction.

**Rector Search**

Our rector search has officially begun! Vestry members are in the process of training to hold Holy Conversations with the congregation. Very soon, you will be invited to participate in these Holy Conversations to help direct our search. Bishop Perry is very supportive of St. John's and the role we have played in the Diocese; please be assured that we are getting excellent support in our rector search. Watch for regular updates in *The Pulse*.

**Budget and Stewardship Season**

Each Fall we begin to plan ahead for the coming year. This includes talking about Stewardship and pledges for 2021. Due to Covid-19 our budget is certainly under pressure, but stewardship is about so much more than money. It's also a time of reflection on what the faith community of St. John's has meant to us in the past, and what God is calling us to be and do in the near future.

St. John's has traditionally been an active and thriving parish in the Diocese, committed to serving God and others. We hope that will continue for decades to come. Therefore, please reflect on your roles of time and talent in the coming weeks. We have outlined a broad plan and will soon be reaching out to ask parishioners to participate in the campaign.

### **Parish Directory**

- A parish directory is being compiled.

### **Other**

- Dick Bass resigned from the Vestry in September; the Vestry will operate with 8 members until the Annual Meeting in January 2021.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS**

### **Finance**

- There is a serious decline in year-to-date revenues: \$10,000 less per month, each month.
- Over the summer, we made the switch to the Realm On-line giving platform to make Offerings easier. We will begin to add a donation link that will be included in *The Pulse*, the weekly bulletins, and our website to make it easier for parishioners to keep up with pledges during these unprecedented times.
- St. John's is grateful that Mark Miliotto from the Diocese will assist us with our internal audit. We hope this will take place mid-February or March 2021 after the Annual Meeting.

### **Property Commission**

- The church has contracted with a new cleaning service to begin when we open the building for worship and other activities.
- Shrubs have been trimmed in front of the church (contractor) and weeds have been removed (volunteer).
- New fire alarm lines were installed as required to meet code.

### **Miss Millie's Closet**

- Our volunteers are maintaining items coming into the Closet; however, there is a temporary restriction on what can go out.

### **Food Pantry**

- Requests have been lower than expected during the summer. We anticipate, and are already experiencing, an increase as the economic fallout from the pandemic increases.

### *What Can I Do?*

We have so much going on at St. John's and many of you have been asking, **"What can I do?"**

We are so glad you asked!

- **Transportation services for home-bound parishioners:** Contact Sandy Goga if you need transportation or if you are willing to offer rides. Sandy will do her best to match needs with volunteers.
- **Stewardship Team:** Say "Yes!" when you are asked to participate in the campaign.
- **Rector Search:** Volunteer to serve on the Search Committee.
- **Worship:** Actively participate in getting our live streaming and in-church services going.
  - **Live streaming:** We need folks with technical know-how to keep everything running smoothly while our clergy focus on officiating services.
  - **In-church services:** It takes a small team to ensure that we are meeting safety protocols: disinfecting our space before and after worship, setting up social distancing boundaries, etc. We have clear guidelines to follow, so accomplishing this task is easy.