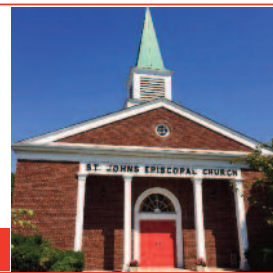




ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

The Red Door

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



January 2020 - Volume 6 Issue 1



New Year, New Eyes, New Stories, New Opportunities!

"Gracious God, we give you thanks for this day, and for your many blessings which we enjoy."

One of things that I loved about being a high school English teacher was the annual chance for a "do-over." Every school year was a new opportunity to teach the same or similar material in new ways, from new angles, and with new students!

A similar opportunity exists in lectionary-based churches, where we read and hear basically the same lessons from scripture every three years. In 2019 we heard and learned about Jesus as the evangelist Luke tells the good news. And we will hear the same stories from Luke again in 2022, when we will bring new experiences and new insights to the familiar words.

Matthew is our evangelist for 2020. So this year we will hear some of the same stories as we heard from Luke, but Matthew puts his own particular "spin" on them, telling them in ways and with words that his particular audience needed. For instance, Luke has Jesus giving us a sermon on a mountain. In Matthew, however, Jesus gives his famous sermon on a plain. Luke is very concerned that non-Jewish people feel included in the Good News. One of the Matthew's concerns is so show Jesus as standing in the mainstream and in complete continuity with Judaism.

We have yet another opportunity to approach our life in Christ from a new perspective and with new eyes at our Annual Meeting on January 19. We will thank Julie Jones and Cindy Fowler for their years of service on the Vestry. We will review the ministry of St. John's in 2019 and preview some ideas and plans for 2020. We will worship on the 19th all together in one service, which will begin at 9:30. I look forward to seeing you then – and here!

Peace and all blessings,
Henny+

Annual Parish Meeting January 19

Attending to the governance of our church is the primary task of our Annual Parish Meeting. This year it will take place on Sunday, January 19 following a single worship service which will begin at 9:30. Please bring a dish to share for a potluck brunch. We will elect members to the Vestry and delegates to our diocesan convention.

We will also hear of plans for ministries in 2020 and receive our Treasurer's report of 2019.

Worship Opportunities *All are Welcome* *Sunday Services*



- Jan. 5 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am
Celebrant Rev. Henny
- Jan. 12 Holy Eucharist and Baptism
8:30 am & 10:30 am
Celebrant Rev. Henny
John Buehner preaching
- Jan. 19 Holy Eucharist 9:30.
Celebrant Rev. Henny
(one service, followed by annual
Parish meeting & potluck)
- Jan. 26 Morning Prayer 9:30 am

Wednesday Bible Study & Eucharist

- Jan. 15, 22 & 29 Bible Study 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist 11:30 am

Monday Evening Bible Study

- Jan. 13 Bible Study 6:00 pm
With pizza; BYOB



We are all saddened by the passing of long time members Rae Kleinbrook and Ted Scott in December. Condolences to both of their families and all of our parish members who loved them dearly.

A Prayer for Our Dearly Departed

Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. +



How Can St. John's Be More Attractive and Inspiring to Both Members and Visitors?

At its December meeting the vestry considered a suggestion for 2020 from Rev. Henny, and that is to focus our attention on what happens at St. John's on Sunday mornings and in particular on our worship. Sunday morning worship is the most public and visible act of a Christian community, and how a church worships speaks volumes to any guest or visitor who walks in the doors. And St. John's does get visitors! Just in the last three months, four "new" people have visited on Sunday morning. Two returned and are becoming incorporated into the life of this community.

How can St. John's worship be even more attractive, inspiring, and uplifting for we who call St. John's our spiritual home, and for newcomers and visitors who walk in our doors on Sunday morning?

One observation that quickly arose at the vestry meeting was the rather depressing nature of worshipping in a large room with only a handful of people. A member of the vestry suggested that worship at St. John's would be more attractive and uplifting if we were to combine our two worshipping congregations into one. Others voiced their support of the idea, and ***the vestry made the decision for us to worship together as a single congregation at 9:30 starting on January 19, 2020. The Vestry also agreed to review this decision in September 2020 to evaluate to what extent it enhances the quality of our worship experience.***

For some this change will be welcomed and for others it might be difficult. We will all have to adjust, as in any marriage or other close relationship. By worshipping at 9:30, both congregations are asked "to give" or be flexible in the same amount: 1 hour. We will need to take turns in serving as Eucharistic Ministers and readers, so those who typically serve in those roles will get a break! We could call our Sunday morning breakfast "brunch," and have it afterward or keep it as breakfast before worship.

And as we begin a search for a new director of music, we can have conversation about what kind of music we find most uplifting. Our music could be a blend of old favorites and some contemporary songs.

Rev. Henny would like to meet with the parents of our young children to consider what kind of worship experiences are most appropriate for young children, such as a children's "chapel" in another room during the sermon and Prayers of the People. They would rejoin their parents at the Peace.

Unity among Christians been debated over the centuries. Just witness the myriad of Protestant denominations. Even The Episcopal Church is far from monolithic with parishes running the gamut from highly traditional to highly innovative. At the heart of every idea of church is the love of Jesus Christ.

Unity of the body of Christ is an important and exciting thing for a Christian community. St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called . . . bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit . . ."

The vestry took up this very discussion – are we as a community expressing our best version of Jesus' love and the unity of the Spirit? The answer was no. The vestry is aware that worshipping at 9:30 will also bring with it changes in how we experience fellowship and community before and after we worship. We can balance that challenge with the joy of worshipping together and seeing everyone that we know and love at St. John's.

*Reaching Out to
The Community:
Christmas Tea
At the
Wayne County
Family Center*



December 15, Noel Day Celebration



**More Noel Day
Pictures on
Page 5!**

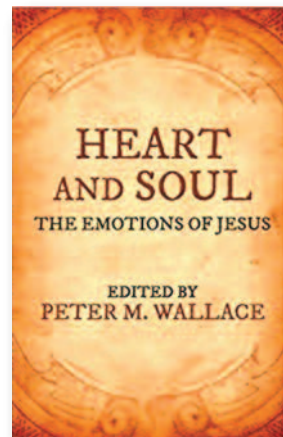


*Bible Study for
January & February*

What was Jesus of Nazareth like as a person? What and how did he feel about his life, his mission, and his ministry to proclaim the Good News? What was life like for those first students and disciples who left friends, family, and livelihood to follow him to Jerusalem, to Calvary, and then met him again back on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and on a road to Emmaus?

Heart and Soul the Emotions of Jesus edited by Peter Wallace, an Episcopal priest, and Day1 producer and host, will be our guide to bible study starting at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 13 and at 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 15. Based on seven sermons preached by a nineteenth-century Presbyterian pastor, Heart and Soul considers Jesus' joy, compassion, anger, wonder and determination.

Participants need to have read the Introduction, both prefaces, and Chapter One prior to their first session. Copies of Heart and Soul are available for \$12.95 from Church Publishing, Inc. (www.churchpublishing.org and 800-242-1918) as well as other online stores.



**Study Days &
Times**

Wednesday,
Starts Jan. 15: 10 am

Monday,
Starts Jan. 13: 6 pm
(with pizza & beverage of
your choice - BYOB!)

January Birthdays

01	John Buehner	15	Rev. Henny Grossoehme
02	Brian Clayton	17	Jill Shork
04	Nick Hamblin	20	Vicki Furman
07	Cyndy Fowler	24	Bill Goeman
12	Margaret Zimmerman	26	Cheryl Montgomery
15	John Omaweng		

Note: from the office: If anyone's name has been left off the list please let us know!



FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, January 9,
Hours: Noon-2 pm

Donation always welcome!
(no expired foods please)



Vestry to Meet January 12 & 19

The final meeting of the 2019 Vestry will take place on January 12, at which time the financial plan for ministry in 2020 will be adopted.

The first meeting of the new 2020 Vestry will take place on **January 19 immediately following the Annual Parish meeting.** At this meeting the Vestry will elect its officers and set some important calendar dates, e.g. the date of the Spring Bazaar and the Fall Festival.

St. John's Episcopal Church

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon-Fri. 11 am-3pm

www.stjohnswestland.com

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com



We're on Facebook:

St. John's Episcopal Church - Westland MI

JANUARY EVENTS & MEETINGS

SUNDAYS:

Sunday, Jan. 5*	Breakfast, 9:30 am
Sunday, Jan. 12	Vestry meeting at 12 pm
Sunday, Jan. 19	Annual Parish Meeting & Potluck (following 9:30 service)

WEDNESDAYS:

Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29)	Senior Exercise Class 9 am (free will donation)
---------------------	--

(*Daughters of the King - does not meet in January)

St. John's Episcopal Church Staff

Rev. Henny Grossoehme, *Priest-in-Charge*

RevHenny@stjohnswestland.com

Charmaine Wells, *Parish Secretary*

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Rae Barbu, *Sexton*

2019 OFFICERS

Sharon Scott & Mary Vellardita, *Co-Senior Wardens*

Don Streeter, *Junior Warden*

Cindy Fowler & Julie Jones, *Co-Clerks*

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, *Treasurer*

2019 VESTRY MEMBERS

Rod Aston, John Buehner, Jory King

More Noel Day Pictures

(these pics are not included in printed edition)



Thank you to Violet Streeter for all of these wonderful pictures of this special Christmas celebration!