



Saint John's Episcopal Church Plymouth, Michigan

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Mission Statement

**We are a community of pilgrims seeking to understand
the
heart of Christ and to make His presence felt through
our actions. Come walk with us.**

**Annual Meeting
January 20, 2008**

Dear People of St. John's:

This Annual Report is a narrative description of most of the ministry of St. John's during 2007. Despite the length and breadth of this report, it still does not cover everything that is happening at our church. It does, however, reflect the large number of parishioners who are engaged in the ministries of St. John's. The energy and commitment of the members of our church is a blessing and an inspiration. Reflecting on the past gives us guidance for the future. May the reading of this report be as heartening and encouraging for you as it has been for those of us who have been working on it.

Gracious and living God, surround us with your love and spirit. Strengthen us as a congregation through our common belief in you and the spreading of your word, through our actions and deeds as we press forward into 2008 and beyond.

In Christ,

Pastor Dorian

THE VESTRY OF ST. JOHN'S

Jennifer Towell, Sr. Warden (2008); Ed Couture, Jr. Warden (2010)

TERM 2008: Pat Delany, Barb Turnbull, Fred Sigmon,

TERM 2009: Sharon Byrd, Mark Goderis,
Cindy Wisniewski, Joseph Zambo

TERM 2010: Gwen Downs-Paradowski, Kenneth Skoug,
Susan Wainwright

Laurie Eissler, Parish Treasurer

Dee Fleming, Secretary

2007 Diocesan Convention Lay Delegates

June Cramer, Alex Mausolf, and Teresa Sasinowski

**ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2008
AGENDA**

Blessing of the Meal and Lunch

Welcome – Senior Warden

Acknowledgment of Outgoing Vestry Members

Election of Vestry Members for the Class of 2011

Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates

Senior Warden's Report

St. John's By-laws discussion and vote

Rector's Address

Recognition of Ministry Teams and Members

Saint John's Cross Awards

Closing Prayer

SAINT JOHN'S VISION STATEMENT:

**Through the grace of God and strengthened by the Holy Spirit,
we are a nurturing community whose vision is to...**

**Welcome people of all ages and backgrounds...
Celebrate Christ's presence through creative worship...
Explore, challenge and demonstrate our faith...
Share God's love with one another and with our neighbor...
Be faithful stewards of God's abundant gifts...**

So as to deepen our grounding in God's infinite and merciful love.

INTRODUCTORY BIOGRAPHIES FOR VESTRY NOMINEES

Vestry Class of 2011

We are pleased to present the following parishioners as your Vestry candidates. We have five well-qualified candidates this year for four three-year term positions and one two-year term position.

Dee Fleming

I have been a member of St. John's since 2005. I'm a widow and have two adult children, who are married. I have two grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.

I am a retiree from Amoco Oil Company where I worked for 30 years. In the past, my church involvement has included being President of the Episcopal Church Women on the local and deanery level and Vice-President of the ECW on the Diocesan level. I have also served on the Council Board of the Southern Ohio Diocese. I served as a vestry member at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Novi and All Saints Episcopal Church in Virginia.

When I lived in Ohio, I was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, for five years. I have many hobbies and interests. I am a decorative artist, so when I have time, I like to paint glass ornaments and other items. I like to play euchre, pinochle and bunko. I'm a secretary for my condo association and for the senior Pioneer Club at the Canton Summit.

Shirley E. Harden

Fifteen years ago I walked into a service at St. John's just to see what it was like. I knew when I left that day that this could be the church home I needed after serving as a professional church musician for 30 years. It has become that home and a place where I can worship, grow and serve.

I have served a three-year term on Vestry, been interim director of music several times, served on search committees for our Rector and Minister of Music, sung, played handbells, gone on four mission trips to the Dominican Republic, asked lots of questions and tried to help envision who and what we can be.

In addition to my relationship to St. John's and its people, other things also give joy to my life, including my three grown children and their spouses, six grandchildren (two grown, two in college and two still growing), a great-grandchild, music activities, dancing, reading, traveling and gardening.

I look forward to continuing serving the parish of St. John's.

Dave Mertz

Marnie and I have been members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Plymouth since 1994. Our family has grown to include David (age 14), Jonathan (10) and Andrew (8).

We have been fortunate to share in worship with the members of St. John's and it is important to us to give something back to the parish and community. I have been involved in a number of activities at St. John's, including Search Committee 2004-2005 (Secretary), Ushers (past chairman), Newcomer's committee, Greeters, and the Crossroads soup kitchen. I have also helped charitable organizations in our community; such as recently leading a food drive in our home area to the benefit of food banks in the metropolitan area.

Professionally, I work in the automotive industry as an account manager at Visteon Corp. For the past two years I have been assigned to Ford in the Automotive Components Holdings organization, helping several plants manage the service parts side of the business.

St. John's is important to our family as our home for worship. We would like to maintain and build upon

all the great things that St. John's offers to families.

Dave Vaughn

I am almost a life-long Episcopalian. I came to St. John's in 1989. I was attracted to St. John's because of its strong commitment to outreach ministry, and I joined the Outreach Commission soon after I arrived here. I continue to serve with this group, which I find most fulfilling. I have served on two previous vestries here; one when Fr. Shank was rector and the other during Fr. Lupfer's years here. I am currently active in the Lay Eucharistic Ministry and the Lay Eucharistic Visitor program. I have participated in four mission trips to the Dominican Republic and two mission trips to Appalachia. I am single, but have one daughter, one granddaughter, four step-children, three step-grandchildren and a cat named Sam.

Joan Besonen (two-year position)

My husband Gary and I have been members of St. John's since 1975 when we moved to Canton. Our two sons Nathan and Justin (now grown and moved out of state) were baptized and raised at St. John's. I have been active in the Outreach Ministry Team and have gone on two of the mission trips to the Dominican Republic and once on the Appalachian Mission trip. I also enjoy working at Crossroads and Gleaners. I am a Wedding Consultant at St. John's. I usher at the 9:00 service. I was on the Parish Search Committee and a recent Discernment Committee. I enjoyed my Listening Hearts training and currently enjoy our Bible Study group.

THE RECTOR'S REPORT

Two and a half years...in some ways a long time, in other ways we are just gearing up! The best part about 2007 is the number of new volunteers who have become engaged in ministries at St. John's. The office is humming with volunteers, the youth group has a great team of adult leaders, new folks are working on adult education, we have a couple of Befrienders, new ushers, and others have expressed an interest in being Eucharistic Ministers. The new IT Committee has done a great job. The new web site is stunning and many chronic computer problems are being addressed and updated. And then there is the team that has been working on the youth house renovation! ... This kind of involvement is happening at almost every level of ministry.

My primary role as rector is to enable people to grow in their faith, mature spiritually and develop a stronger more vital relationship with God. I do this through my own prayer life, preaching, teaching, spiritual direction, pastoral care and stewardship.

The summer of 2007 was one of the most difficult ones this church has endured as we experienced the heart-wrenching act of saying goodbye to ten active families that were deeply committed to St. John's. Almost every week we participated in prayers of departure as families moved to other states as well as to Japan and England. The difficulties of the local economy have been reflected in our congregation. At the same time we have been blessed with new members who bring different gifts and energy to this church.

Many of you know that one of the Episcopal churches I most admire is that of All Saints' located in Beverly Hills, CA. Each year All Saints' offers a conference entitled *Becoming a Great Church*. I have attended this conference twice. Many churches send teams to attend. While we are not yet financially able to do this, we are sending two people from St. John's to the 2008 conference: Fr. Peter and former Senior Warden Bill Brave. The development of lay leadership through some of the many outstanding national conferences is an important step in our spiritual growth as a church. I hope to be able to have two people from St. John's attend this conference every year.

2007 has given birth to a number of transformed lives. We have seen the emergence of people who are hungry for adult faith formation, people who desire to know God better both through prayer and study. Both of these areas are growing and enabling us to become stronger people of God. As people become

energized in their faith, the church will become more alive in the Spirit and more people will want to become closer to God through the ministries that St. John's has to offer.

Most of you realize by now that St. John's has a truly wonderful staff. A good portion of my work is with staff, enabling them to grow in their ministries. During the past year, Cynthia Leidal began to attend staff meetings both because of her extensive ministry in the area of pastoral care and also because of her status with regard to the ordination process. It is important for Cynthia to have a place of support as she goes through this process. In August we said goodbye to Sue Brandt and welcomed Elizabeth Wilhelm to the vital ministry of Parish Administrator. We also lost our Office Assistant Kathy Weinberg. As of January 1, Scott completed his first full year of inspiring music ministry at St. John's and, of course, I have continued to be blessed with Fr. Peter as my associate. In addition to the core team, I am grateful for the great work of the support staff: Kim Adams (bookkeeper) Eric Carter (sexton), Janet Sigmon and Debbie Chinitz (nursery).

This has been a challenging year for the Vestry. The outstanding leadership of our Senior Warden Jennifer Towell and our Junior Warden Ed Couture as well as all of the vestry members has kept us moving forward. Praise God for their faithfulness!

At the end of the day, as I pray through and reflect upon all of the activity, I give thanks for the many wonderful people in this congregation. You are the reason that my call to the ministry of being rector of this church remains strong. Thank you for your support, your prayers, your many thoughtful comments, and most importantly your trust. Life is as good as we make it. Let us continue to grow in the Spirit and live life to its fullest.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Although on a smaller scale, Saint John's once again faced some transition in 2007. In January, Saint John's welcomed Scott Elsholz as the new music director. More than simply welcoming a new member to staff this transition brought all of the music groups under the direction of a single person.

In August, after five years of faithful service as Parish Administrator Sue Brandt resigned to move with her husband to Colorado. Additionally, we said good-bye to Kathy Weinberg our part time Office Assistant. In hiring a new Parish Administrator the decision was made to outsource the financial portion of this position. In August, Saint John's welcomed Elizabeth Wilhelm as our new Parish Administrator. Kim Adams of Linville and Company, PLLC was retained to handle the financial portion of the position.

The 2007 vestry year began at the annual meeting in January when we said good-bye to our distinguished leader, Senior Warden Bill Brave. In taking on the job of Senior Warden I felt very fortunate to have had such a strong mentor in Bill and to have him as a continued source of counsel throughout this year. The parish then confirmed the slate of vestry members including 2010 members Ken Skoug, Gwen Downs-Paradowski, Susan Wainwright, and Ed Couture. Also joining us was Barb Turnball filling a 2007 term vacancy. Ed Couture graciously accepted the role of Junior Warden. It was a privilege to work with Ed throughout this year. At our first official meeting in February we would welcome Dee Fleming as vestry secretary.

In early February the 2007 Vestry met at Manresa Retreat House for a weekend of spiritual sharing, team building and general business. Although many general business decisions were made throughout the year, four major decisions, which began at the retreat, would be the main focus of the 2007 vestry year; the By-Laws, the youth house, visioning, and the budget / stewardship.

In late 2006 it was determined that Saint John's had never established a formal set of By-Laws. Vestry members Sharon Byrd, Fred Sigmon and Cindy Wisnewski volunteered to begin work on the By-Laws. At

the retreat, our diligent committee presented their initial draft of the by laws. Although much of this document was standard several key issues needed to be decided before the document could be finalized. These issues included; 1) how the by-laws could/would be amended or changed, 2) composition of the vestry including a decision on a youth representative, 3) Election and voting procedures, 4) Clergy qualifications, and 5) Corporate officers and responsibilities.

Of these issues, the majority of time was spent discerning who could serve on the vestry and whether or not to have a youth representative. In March, as reflected in the final copy of the by-laws vestry voted to include the option for a youth representative to serve as a 13th member of vestry for a one year term.

Following the March vestry meeting, with all other decisions affirmed the by-laws were presented to Jack Cousins and subsequently Canon Keidel of the diocese for review. After consideration of all comments, the vestry voted to post the finalized By-Laws for review by the parish in early December.

The task of constructing By-Laws for an organization already in operation was not an easy one. Many issues concerning traditions and precedents served to make this process somewhat more difficult. A special thank you needs to go to our By-laws committee, Sharon Byrd, Fred Sigmon, and Cindy Wisniewski who spent countless hours researching the vestry's questions, wading through old Saint John's documents, and revising, revising, revising.

The second major decision facing the vestry was whether or not to approve the renovation of the rectory to become a youth house. This was also a multi-phased decision process. In late 2006, in order to determine the feasibility of the project as well as the estimated cost of the project, vestry approved the use of funds to hire an architect to generate plans for the renovation. Plans were submitted to the township for approval and bids for specialized contractors were obtained. On September 11, 2007 at a special meeting of the vestry, vestry approved the use of \$21,000 from the building fund for the Youth House Project. A remarkable team headed by Bill White and Joseph Cospito has now been working for several months to complete this project.

In March, Saint John's held a Visioning Day hosted by Kristine Miller from the diocese. The purpose of this day was to open up discussions among parishioners on what their vision is for Saint John's and ideas on achieving these visions. Subsequently a Visioning Team was formed to explore those ideas discussed and further discern where God may be calling Saint John's. Many of the ideas of the day fell under three areas; community involvement / exposure, outreach opportunities, and communications. Key issues included: prioritizing actions, identifying leaders, identifying resources, communicating opportunities, and determining time frames. The committee met for six consecutive weeks to prioritize and discern the vision. Current plans are to provide the parish with a more focused survey to ascertain how parishioners align with these ideas. Thank you to all who attended the visioning day and to the dedicated committee of Nick Evanoff, Ken Skoug, Gwen Downs-Paradowski, Cynthia Hector, Teresa Sasinowski, Betsy Sole, and Cindy Wisniewski.

The final decision or rather discussion that seemed to be a primary focus of our vestry was finances. For several reasons, Saint John's has faced some significant financial set backs this past year. Last year as a vestry we presented the parish with a faith based budget which required a \$25,000 increase in giving throughout the year through either new members or increased giving. With a history of being markedly under pledged and the current state of Michigan's economy; which has resulted in both the loss of members who have moved and a reduction in giving; we were not able to meet this goal. Saint John's has moved from a cash position of nearly \$60,000 to roughly \$22,000.

I know the topic of finances more than any other has weighed heavily on this vestry. Saint John's is blessed with a very talented and enthusiastic staff. Additionally, in my three years on vestry I have been fortunate to work with many talented and devoted lay leaders on vestry, on ministry teams, and

throughout the parish. I know that you can never fully do away with the topic of finances. However, the energy in this parish is amazing and it is difficult to see this energy and talent consistently expended on the discussion of money. I am not sure how we make the changes necessary but we would all be graced if our staff and vestry could focus less on finances and more on vision.

Looking back on my three years on vestry has been somewhat humbling. I am so excited about the accomplishments of this vestry and this parish. I am blessed to have worked with so many outstanding individuals. I open a little gift every time I open the door into Saint John's. It is the gift of Jesus Christ found in all of you. In His name, let us go forth into 2008 and continue on this genuine path of growth.

Jen Towell,
Senior Warden 2007

ASSISTANT RECTOR

The past year has been full of blessings, challenges and new opportunities for growth and ministry. My job description at St. John's involves over-sight of children's ministries, youth ministries, newcomer welcoming and education, mission and outreach, and shared liturgical and pastoral duties. In addition to these areas of ministries, my personal goal has been to grow into my role as priest in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church ever since my ordination in February.

Work with the Christian Formation Ministry Team (CFMT), which oversees all children's ministries at St. John's, has been a blessing. In the past year this team has developed into an ever-stronger team of ministers who overseeing a wide variety of programs and activities. This group of ministers is an incredible support to me in my ministry and deserves many thanks from the entire parish. It has been a joyful year of welcoming new members into our ministries. We have begun to discuss new strategies to welcome more people and share the Good News of God in Christ with children. As we enter into this New Year, I, along with the rest of the CFMT, are excited to consider new programs, re-invigorate old ones, and continue our mission.

I am pleased to report that the St. John's Youth Group (SYG) continues to grow and develop in new and exciting ways. Along with a core team of five adults, this ministry has grown to an average attendance of 15 youth per week with some events drawing as many as 25 youth. Even more exciting is the deepening of faith and relationships that have occurred. We have been working to introduce J2A (a nationally recognized youth group curriculum) into our weekly meetings while offering special events which provide synergy with our goal of growing SYG in faith, relationship with each other, connection to the Parish Community, and in numbers of attending youth. I am pleased to say that growth; both spiritual and numeric has been occurring. The current renovation of the old Rectory into a new Youth Center/Coffee House will add even more energy to this program, as youth will visibly see the incredible commitment of the parish to their presence and full participation at St. John's. As a result of this project, I hope to be able to report even more exciting things in the year to come. In addition to parish-wide activities I have been working to connect SYG members with Diocesan events such as Happening (for High Schoolers) and Middle School events. These events provide needed statewide interaction with other Christian youth and programming that is simply too complicated for a parish to offer on its own.

In the past year I have worked along with Sherry Bass to implement and run two Newcomer Classes, which run in conjunction with Congregational Life's Newcomer Brunch. These classes are led by numerous lay people at St. John's and have been an important part of welcoming newcomers into an active life of fellowship at St. John's. We have also worked to implement new greeters and mug delivery programs. The more we can do to make St. John's a welcoming Christian community the more we will be able to receive God's gifts brought to us through new members.

A new dimension of my work has been the creation of a Young Adults Ministry for people age 18-30's (without children). We meet monthly and have formed a small, cohesive group that will develop as our meetings continue. To be able to commit time to planning and programs I have stepped away from SYG once a month to lead the Young Adult program. St. John's has also submitted a grant request to Trinity Church, New York for further funding of this program and added support for the Mom's Group.

Pastoral Care, Liturgical Leadership, Preaching, Funerals, Weddings, Pre-marital Counseling, and administrative work have also been an important part of my job this past year. In particular I have worked with our IT Committee and Robin Janning to create a new website. Additionally I have worked with the Vestry, Pastor Dorian and the Diocesan Stewardship Committee (of which I am a member) to create a budget for 2008 and begin planning new stewardship programs. I am excited to be taking part in St. John's ministry. I look forward to what God has in store for us as we strive to be faithful stewards of the bounty that God has gifted to this parish.

In Christ,
Fr. Peter Swarr

MUSIC MINISTRY

2007 began with much change in the music ministry at St. John's. January 7 marked the final Sunday for the faithful directors of the Parish Choir, SonShine, the Handbell Choir and the Youth Choir. I am indebted to Kim Manz, Mark Waldbauer, Carol Fernandez, and Shirley Harden for their ministry at St. John's, and for their work and dedication in ensuring a smooth transition to new leadership. I also cannot thank June Waldbauer (Children's Choir Director) enough for her continued ministry and her constant support of the entire music program. She is an enthusiastic leader who has worked wonders with our little ones!

The music ministry's primary function is to support and enhance the Word of God through the gift of song. As such, we have worked toward greater unification of the Word and music in our liturgies. The music functions as a meditation on, or expression of, the readings for each particular Sunday, not too dissimilar from one of the many functions of the homily. With this stated goal, we have necessarily expanded the repertoire of the ensembles and the congregation, and while it is not always easy to present new music on Sunday morning, we are called to continually "sing a new song unto the Lord!"

All of our ensembles, from the Children's Choir through SonShine, involve many committed members who are the strength of our music programs. With nearly 60 volunteers, St. John's has a vibrant music ministry that supports and uplifts our weekly liturgies. Members give countless hours in the service of the church, and our volunteers continue to be the backbone of the music ministry. We have even seen growth in the membership of all of our ensembles. Every group has had new members join, and I look forward to continuing this expansion of parish involvement. I am particularly pleased with the increase in membership in the Youth Choir from 5 to 11 members. These children have responded enthusiastically to our new *Voice for Life* curriculum, and I am confident that this is only the beginning of what will become a fully graded children's choral program!

In addition to supporting our weekly services, the music ministry also plays an important role in community and spiritual outreach. Particularly notable in 2007 was the creation of the Concert Series "Music at St. John's: Resounding Art in a Sacred Space." From the exquisite early music kick-off concert to the enormously successful "Pipes Spooktacular," this series has welcomed many into the doors of the St. John's, and I am pleased that each event has had over 100 people in attendance. We have many more exciting events planned for 2008, and we anticipate continued growth in this area.

Equally important in outreach is the ability of our music groups to go beyond the walls of St. John's. In

December, the Youth Choir gave a holiday concert for the residents of Independence Village Retirement Community in Plymouth, an event that brought great joy to the hearts of all present. Also, the Handbell Choir traveled to Crossroads Soup Kitchen on December 23 to share their gifts with those less fortunate during the holiday season. I intend to continue this outreach ministry in 2008 and plans are currently underway to take SonShine and the Parish Choir "on the road."

With the music ministry under the leadership of one person, we are able to experience more collaboration among the various ensembles. The first opportunity for this came shortly after my arrival with Fr. Peter Swarr's Ordination service. During this service, SonShine, the Parish Choir, and the Handbell Choir came together to celebrate this incredible moment in the life and ministry of Fr. Peter. All of the groups also collaborated for our first Music Ministry Sunday on June 10, a tradition that I hope to continue in the years to come. And finally, our Advent Service of Lessons and Carols on December 2 was a unique and truly eclectic worship experience, with all of our groups joining forces to express the excitement and anticipation of the Advent season.

We have also seen increased participation in the presentation of musical gifts by individual members of the congregation. Particularly during the summer months, we were blessed to have a flautist, two oboists, a recorder quartet, singers, guitarists, and even a barbershop quartet support our worship! It is exciting to work with so many talented individuals who are readily willing to share their gifts for the glory of God.

I am ever grateful for the support of our staff, the Vestry, June Waldbauer, members of the music ministry, and the congregation. I look forward to continuing our team ministry in 2008, and may we continue to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Scott M. Elsholz

ST. JOHN'S MUSICIANS

Parish Choir

Bev Cavallaro
Jack Couzens
Evelyn DeLiso
Melissa Elsholz
Shirley Harden
Carolyn Jacobs
David Klipp
Carolyn Liebau
Sally Lindroth
Carole Maxwell
Ken Merrill
Hadyn Notestine
Rhea Olivaccé
Steven Tompkins
Cindy White
Bob Wolf

SonShine

Dennis Bodrie
Susan Bodrie
Chuck Bodgon
Ed Brunner
Mary Alice Brunner
Kevin Bush
Melinda Bush
Cate Campeau
Bill Erwin
Beth Hilton
Martha James
Bruce Leidal
Don Liebau
Candice Potts
Jesse Vivian
June Waldbauer

Handbell Choir

Sharon Byrd

Bev Cavallaro
Linda Courtney
Melanie Draper

John Kapusky
Paul Kapusky
Carolyn Liebau
Lisa Nelson
Hadyn Notestine
Margaret Pawloski
Cindy White

Youth Choir

Amelia Brave
Kaylee Cospito
Lee-Joan Cospito
Emily Good
Sydney Good
John Hoenig
Jonathan Mertz
Jacob Miller
Emerson Taylor
Joey Towell

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

We have had another fabulous year with the Children's Choir. As always, I think I have the most fun and rewarding ministry in the church. What greater blessing can there be than to have the opportunity to sing, dance, play and do sign language with a group of incredible children and then be able to share that joy with the congregation.

Many thanks go to my talented husband, Mark, who accompanied our group this year. Thanks also to all of the parents – without your support there would be no choir. A special thanks also goes to the awesome choir moms (especially Susan Johnson, Tami Curtis and Ann Willis) whose presence alone is enormously helpful. Of course the greatest thanks go to the children who are willing to work and rehearse and share their gifts with the congregation.

The Children's Choir has continued to sing at the 9:00 and 11:00 services about once a month. We have also participated in special services such as the "Lessons and Carols" and the Christmas pageant. One special activity we did this past year was to go to all of the Church School rooms and teach the Lord's Prayer in sign language set to music. We then had a special Sunday when they were all invited to present what they had learned to the congregation. Putting the Lord's Prayer into signs helped all of us really think about each word and its meaning and importance.

Although my group is a bit smaller this year, it is a good thing. We have finally reached a point where a solid group moved up from the Children's Choir to the Youth Choir. It is my hope that the bonds they are building in these groups now will stay with them as they grow in the church.

The Children's Choir performs a great ministry in our church. Not only does it provide a way for some of our youngest members to share their talents and participate in the services, they touch people's hearts. One Sunday this year, a teenage boy came up to me after church and thanked me for teaching the children the song we had sung that morning. He told me that the message was one that he really needed to hear that day. I hope that the words, actions and joy of the Children's Choir may touch each of your hearts as well.

June Waldbauer

Gabrielle Boileau
Erin Boyle-Levy
Lukas Brave
Rachel Chestnut
Shannon Chestnut
Jenna Curtis
Amelia Dowswell
Derek Goderis

Janie Hepp
Lizzie Johnson
Molly Johnson
Kyle Klosterman
Carson Miller
Scarlet Synowiec
Meganne Skoug
Marlee Taylor

CONLIFE MINISTRY TEAM

We seek to promote and support fellowship in the parish by love, action and involvement.

Newcomer Programs

- Welcome notes
- Mugs with literature about St John's
- St John's office mailing information packet
- Newcomer Brunches – 2x/year
- Newcomer Classes led by Clergy and laity

Hospitality

- Greeters
- Kitchen Ministry
- Coffee Hour

Social Events

- Picnic – 6/10/07
- Whalers Hockey/Ignition Soccer Game
- Homecoming Brunch – 2x/year
- Mother's Day Tea – 5/13/07
- Lobster Fest – 9/29/07
- Holiday Cookie Exchange – 12/8/07
- Hanging of the Greens – 12/23/07

ConLife Team Members:

Krista Miller, Team Leader	Cami Buckley
Frank Gonda	Laura Good
Bill White	Jennifer Taylor

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM YOUTH FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM

2007 has been a year of building on the strong groundwork laid by the Christian Formation Ministry Team (CFMT) in the past, and the planning and implementing of new programs for the future. We have continued to offer multiple Church School curricula on Sunday mornings. We offer age appropriate courses for tots (2-3 year olds), preschoolers and kindergarteners; Episcopal Children's Curriculum for 1st-5th graders, a movie based curriculum for Middle Schoolers and a High School class. In continuing our ministry the CFMT has been faced with challenges in the past year. We said goodbye to 8 dedicated volunteers and we welcomed 10 new teachers and volunteers to our ministries!

One of our most basic goals as the CFMT is to teach and invite children into a deeper relationship with God by being grounded in the Christian faith. This year, Fr. Peter sent out a questionnaire to Church School Teachers. He wanted to hear back from them on what their service and ministry has meant and

what God has been doing in their lives. Below you will find a few responses:

Tots Teacher: “What a gift these children all are! How lucky I am to be in the midst of these precious gifts.”

Godly Play Teacher: “I have absolutely loved watching the children’s faces and hearing their comments as they listen to the Bible stories... I love the accessibility of the Godly Play curriculum in that it really brings the Bible stories to the kids in a way they can relate to and understand...It has helped me grow spiritually to hear the stories again in a new way. There have been a few times when I have understood a Bible story from a new, helpful angle because of the way it is presented...I really love teaching Church School.”

1st-2nd Grade Teacher: “I am the designated “storyteller” in our class and I bring in a concrete clue to the story to be told...it never ceases to amaze me how I can find some object for the story, even at the last minute! It might sound corny, but I do believe that I have divine guidance in making associations between the story and what I have around the house!...I continue to further my education when it comes to the Bible, too!”

3rd Grade Teacher: “It is clear to me that we are able to build from year to year on our kids’ knowledge...the kids recall highlights of Bible stories. They recall some “big picture” stuff, especially if it is repeated...Church School is a venue for me to give service to the church...I have been stumbling through this way of giving service since about 1996...I am a soldier in the army of Jesus, and church school is my station.”

4th-5th Grade Teacher: “The children in my class have an exceptional knowledge of the Bible stories and scripture... I have experienced God in my ministry because I have decided that there is no way I could have survived the fall without Him!”

Middle School Teacher: “Sometimes the discussion is great and other times it’s like pulling teeth with them staring at us. That’s part of the age group, and I am not at all discouraged.”

Multiple special activities occurred this year that enhance and strengthen our common life together in Christ. Fr. Peter offered *Families at the Rail* in the fall, which attracted six students and their families. St. John’s continued to offer its intergenerational *Hands on Holy Week* program on Palm Sunday where children are able to learn through a multi-sensory experience about the events of Holy Week. This Easter Season St. John’s offered a reinvigorated Easter Egg hunt that featured a visit by the Easter Bunny; attendance was much increased as a result. The Vacation Bible School was a stunning success with high attendance from church and community members alike. Additionally, an intergenerational Wednesday Church Night was spent caroling in the neighborhood and there was fantastic attendance. Sunday, December 23rd the CFMT was pleased to offer a book reading by local author Jann Martin about the Christmas story. In addition to this book reading children were invited to decorate the Church for Christmas. The Church School also produced a wonderful Christmas Pageant that attracted a large group of St. John’s youth and families. Fr. Peter is offering a Confirmation Class that started January 10 for youth age 15 or older and has 7 youth enrolled.

Programs such as these are a joy to offer and are only possible through YOUR support and willingness to plan, staff, and lead events. Please consider joining the CFMT or volunteering to teach in Church School or Wednesday Church night. Similarly, consider planning, staffing, or organizing special events that are offered throughout the year.

Ministry Team Members

Sue Dowswell, Chair; Fr. Peter Swarr, Staff Contact

Mary Alice Brunner, Amy Hepp, Gwen Downs-Paradowski, Becky Skoug

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM ADULT FORMATION MINISTRY TEAM

An annual report can list the programs and activities for the past year, but their effect on the growth and change in individuals because of them is much more difficult to assess. It is our prayer that every member of St. John's will find a place at church where his or her knowledge of Scripture, faith in Christ and fellowship with other Christians continues to grow.

An issue of concern is the pattern of erratic attendance in the Adult forums this year. The numbers have ranged from 6-8 to 35-40. We would like to see consistent attendance as this confirms that the topics are of interest and meeting real needs. It is our goal to focus on providing Sunday adult forum topics that provide interesting and engaging learning opportunities for adults to develop their Christian faith. Following are the speakers and programs we offered in 2007.

Series

Easter Vigil Scriptures (Fr. Ron Spann)
Evil and the Justice of God (DVD with Bishop N.T. Wright)
Evangelism/Sharing our Faith (Pastor Dorian, Beth Wideman, Betsy Sole, Ann Beyerlein)
Church music (Scott Elsholz)
Walking the Bible (DVD)
Celtic Christianity (Pastor Dorian)

Mission Outreach

Crossroads ministry
Appalachian mission trip (Jeff Blaine)
Dominican Republic mission trip (Fr. Peter Swarr and participants)
Mariner's Inn

Individual topics

St. John's Day of Visioning (Kristine Miller)
Day of Visioning Report (Teresa Sasinowski)
Budget presentation (Bill Brave, Laurie Eissler)
Stewardship (Teresa Sasinowski)
St. John's Library (Judithanne Smith)
Mother's Day panel (Trish Applegate, Nan Cooper, Betsy Sole)
Tapestry of Life (Cynthia Leidel)
Vestry Opportunities (Jen Towell, Mark Goderis, Joe Zambo)
Suburban Christian panel (Beth Wideman, Betsy Sole, Pat Robinson)

In addition to Sunday adult forums, other individuals are contributing by leading small groups on Sundays and during the week. The Suburban Christian and Fireweed Evangelism was led by Beth Wideman, "Reinventing Your Life" was initiated by Pastor Dorian and led by Carol Dowdy, Discovery Series is facilitated by Pastor Dorian and Teresa Sasinowski, Newcomer's Class by Fr. Peter and Sherry Bass. Pat Delany leads the Wednesday Women's Bible study.

2007 Team Members: Fred and Betsy Sole, Beth Wideman, Ken Skoug, Glenn King, Pastor Dorian

WEDNESDAY CHURCH NIGHT - FIREWEED EVANGELISM

In her book, Fireweed Evangelism, author Elizabeth Geity, an Episcopal priest from the Diocese of New Jersey, inspires and motivates us in welcoming both neighbors and strangers. Hospitality and Evangelism become the same! "Let your brotherly love continue. Do not forget hospitality, for through it some, unknown to themselves, entertained angels." Hebrews 3:1-2.

Exchanging stories of faith and healing, learning to become an open hearted listener, to honor the validity of others beliefs gives us the opportunity to share what is so unique and amazing about Christ. Fireweed – a plant that blooms in burned-out areas becomes a metaphor for a new way of looking at evangelism in new Light.

In a small group setting, we explored Geity's ideas and asked ourselves what may be affecting our own role as evangelists, how we might extend Christ's grace more fully to all people.

The book, Fireweed Evangelism, is available for sign-out in St. John's Library. Group members, Cynthia Blaine, Pat Delany, April Dobbs, Carolyn Notestine, Mike and Nancy Robinson, Judithanne Smith, Fred and Betsy Sole, David Vaughn and Beth Wideman would be happy to share their impressions with you.

Submitted Beth Wideman

WEDNESDAY CHURCH NIGHT - THE SUBURBAN CHRISTIAN

In his compelling book, The Suburban Christian, author Albert Y. Hsu asks a disturbing question: "How can people tell that I'm a Christian? Can someone observe my Christian faith through my practice of generosity? Are my words filled with grace and truth? Is my life evidencing a heart of peace, contentment, love and joy? Are my actions filled with compassion and mercy? Am I an active member of a worshipping community, living out a life of service, ministry and social justice?" A study of Hsu's book has revealed to our small group very clearly that life today in suburbia powerfully impacts our lives as Christians, and may be holding us back from fully living life as God has intended.

"Largely disconnected from the natural world of God's good creation", we are too dependent on the automobile, depleted from multi-tasking gone too far or the long commute, entrapped by consumerism and consumption, weak in our experience of neighborliness, leading to isolation and feelings of anonymity. But all is not lost!

Hsu helps us reclaim "spiritual vitality in the land of plenty" in easy, engaging ways. We learn that when God asks us to "seek the welfare of the suburbs", in doing so we seek the welfare of the world and find peace, joy and happiness for ourselves.

Why not sign out a copy of The Suburban Christian, in our St. John's Library? The book was so popular in our group, that a panel was formed to present it to our congregation at a Forum. Group members, Cindy Blaine, Pat Delany, Pastor Dorian, Carolyn and Hadyn Notestine, Nancy Robinson, Judithanne Smith, Betsy Sole and Beth Wideman will be happy to share highlights with you.

Submitted Beth Wideman

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM

The Prayer Chain

"...you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." BCP 828

The St. John's Parish Prayer Chain of dedicated parishioners prays for members and their loved ones. The requests for prayers have been for those who are ill or seeking God's guidance and/or healing for body, mind and spirit, relationships and/or employment.

To pray for one another is to practice our Baptismal vows and love one another in the power of the Spirit. Parishioners commit to this ministry of intercession when someone requests prayer. He or she may call the

church or submit a prayer request in the binder located with the vigil candles in the narthex. This year there were many prayer requests. This team of prayer warriors is grateful for God's grace seen and unseen. They sincerely believe that prayer is essential in community and invite others to discern their call to join them in caring for the Body of Christ.

Prayer Intercessory Leader: Bob Wolf

Prayer Chapel Wednesdays

Evening 6:30-7:30pm

"Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen." BCP p. 308

Parishioners meet to experience a contemplative reading of a single verse of scripture that will be in the liturgy the following Sunday. We practice "listening with our heart" to await the movement of the Spirit to reveal reflection and meaning between us all. This method of prayer is mostly silent and quite delightful as we grow in our relationship with God, self, and others. The first Wednesdays of August through November were open walks on the Garden Labyrinth at St. John's Retreat Center. A brief introduction of this tool of prayer began prior to "walking the path." The evening concluded with listening and sharing in the garden room of the retreat center.

Contemplative Prayer Leader: Cynthia Leidal

Meals Ministry

Submitted by Helen Goderis

"Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." BCP 829

2007 was another busy and wonderful year for the Meals Ministry. We were able to do so much this year thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers that are willing to give of themselves for fellow parishioners. We were able to provide meals for families with newborn children, those recovering from surgery, or struggling with illness. I know that the home-cooked meals delivered by our Meals Ministry were a blessing to many. Our team of volunteers provided 30 meals throughout this year to 5 different families. I would again like to thank everyone who has helped out this year- you are all so very special. If you are interested in helping us out next year please contact Helen Goderis at 983-9087 or email me at hgoderis@wowway.com.

Eucharistic Visitors

Submitted by Howard Zuckerman, EV Scheduler

"...you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen." BCP 365

In 2007 our team of Eucharistic ministers visited four homebound dear friends on a bi-weekly basis. Visits were held in homes, hospitals, rehabilitation centers and in hospice. Visits were typically made on Sundays, but often to accommodate the schedule of our homebound friends or the Eucharistic Visitors (EV) some visits took place during the week. At times, personal requests were made for EVS to maintain regular weekly visits with certain homebound friends and we accommodated such requests. In addition to visits to our regularly scheduled friends we had occasional requests to visit parishioners who were temporarily incapacitated and we often accommodated these requests.

Cynthia Leidal, the Lay Leader of the St. John's Pastoral Care Ministry team was a strong and dedicated leader. She made numerous visits to homebound and hospital bound people that were not on the EV regular schedule but who requested visits due to temporary illnesses and conditions that made parishioners

and friends unable to attend church.

Our current active EV team of dedicated and caring ministers is made up of Bob Wolf, Hadyn Notestine, Becky Nickels, and David Vaughn. David is new to our team but is an active, dedicated member. Although we added a wonderful TEAM member in David, we also lost Ed Gantzer. Ed contributed to the EV ministry in many ways and we truly miss the dedication, care and support that he brought to this ministry. I cannot say enough about the tremendous care and dedication of our current EV ministers. This group of people continues to be some of the most caring and thoughtful people that I ever had the privilege to know and share service with. Our ministry team is currently without a Team Leader. I serve as a scheduler and it is through the dedication of our EV ministers and Cynthia's support that we are able to serve the people that we visit.

I believe that I speak for all of our EVS when I say that visiting the people that we do continues to be a privilege and a blessing to the EV ministers. This is a special and meaningful ministry. I invite anyone potentially interested in this ministry to contact a current EV or Cynthia to learn more about this rewarding opportunity for service. God bless our EV team members, the people that we are privileged to visit and the people of St. Johns.

BeFrienders

Trained Coordinators/Ministers: Judith Brosnan and Cynthia Leidal

This leadership team trains lay people to respond in the name of Christ to the emotional and spiritual needs of individuals by bringing a caring presence and a living reminder of God's love. To become a BeFriender Minister at St. John's includes 30 + hours of training in a group setting of 6-10. Next training is Sat., Feb. 9th, 16th & 23rd: 8:30-2pm

Ten parishioners were trained in 2007 and now serve in professional, personal and parish ministry environments with the skills and compassion of BeFrienders Ministry.

THE MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Mission Statement

The purpose of Mission Outreach is to represent Christ and his kingdom to the world outside of St. John's by sharing our time, talent and material blessings with the needy, and by supporting the missionary efforts of the church.

Narrative Overview of 2007

The Mission Outreach Commission continued in 2007 to promote opportunities for members of St. John's to do service to the world and to our Lord, Jesus Christ. A number of parishioners participated in one or more of our volunteer activities for the first time. These activities included:

Three Sunday soup kitchens at Crossroads: More than 1800 meals were served altogether. The annual Christmas Dinner was served on December 23. Parishioners purchased and baked 55 turkeys. A group assembled on Dec. 22 to make a delicious stuffing. Fifteen to twenty people from St. John's accompanied by almost twenty employees from CVS served the meal. Thanks to the participation of the CVS volunteers.

Three Gleaners Food Bank workdays -- Our volunteers sorted and packed surplus foodstuffs for distribution to local agencies that feed the poor.

Three days of bell ringing for the Plymouth/ Canton/ Northville Salvation Army -- We raised

approx. \$1,200 for the work they do among the needy in our community. The Youth Group also participated in the bell ringing again this year by working for 4 hours one Saturday.

Participating in the annual Church World Services Crop Walk to raise money for overseas projects and to support the local Salvation Army.

Three Red Cross Blood Drives -- Approximately 100 pints of blood were collected.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip – In July 12 members of the Parish went to San Pedro de Macoris to teach Vacation Bible School and help build a new school for St. Stephen’s Church. We plan on returning to the Dominican Republic in 2009 to continue our work with the Dohn family and the church.

Appalachian mountain ministry -- In August six members of the parish went into the Appalachian mountains in western Virginia to work for a week with Episcopal Appalachian Ministries repairing homes of local people who did not have means to do it themselves. We are already planning this year’s trip for the fourth week of July. We have 8 spots reserved.

In October the choir from the Mariner’s Inn again visited the parish and sang for us at our two main services as well as the Adult Forum. We continue to support the work of Mariner’s Inn.

Non-financial giving to the needy continued to be well supported by parishioners. The clothing box for Crossroads overflowed with donations nearly every week.

We collected \$1591 from walkers at the CROP Walk, and we raised another \$365 through electronic donations making us the largest contributor to the total of \$4,485 for Plymouth.

We still warmly welcome people who would like to join us in planning and organizing our activities as well as those who wish to participate in the activities.

Mission Outreach - Giving of Treasure

Recipient	Amount from Mission Outreach Budget	Amount from Outreach Sunday and Other Donations
Alternatives for Girls	500	
CESA	2,200	1,568
Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS)	500	445
Corner Health Center	830	
Crossroads Capital Campaign	1,500	2,654
Crossroad General Fund	500	
Crossroads Soup Kitchen	1,206	
Detroit Rescue Mission	830	
Dohn Family	3,000	
Episcopal Relief and Development		535
Episcopal Appalachian Ministries	1,000	302
First Step	455	375
Gleaners Food Bank	500	244
Growth Works	830	
Habitat for Humanity	830	
Incarcerated Youth Ministries	830	

Mariner's Inn	191	554
Plymouth Opportunity House	830	
Sabeel Institute Israel		1,447
Salvation Army		685
SAMS	830	
Senders' Fund – Appalachia	535	
United Thank Offering		168
<u>Total</u>	<u>17,897</u>	<u>8,977</u>

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP (SYG)

SYG has had an incredible 2007. We started the year holding meetings in the pre-construction Youth House. In the early fall of 2007 we relocated to the church for meetings so that renovations, funded through the very generous donations of the parish, could commence. This relocation has been a mixed blessing. While excitement continues to grow about the new building, there have been challenges in returning to the Church for our meetings for both the youth and the parish. In the short time we occupied the Youth House earlier this year, the youth had made it their own and come to look forward to our meetings and lock-ins there. All the Wednesday night groups have been **VERY** patient with us, and we all want to say **THANK YOU VERY MUCH**, and **WE ARE SORRY WE HAVE BEEN SO LOUD**.

The transition from the 2006-2007 year to the current 2007-2008 year has seen many other changes. During the 2006-2007 year we were averaging 13 youth weekly between middle school & high school. We are averaging 15 youth weekly. We continue to pick up new youth in both the middle school & high school groups. This growth is certainly due in part to the continuing efforts of Fr. Peter. His dedication to the youth of St. John's is to be applauded. In addition to growing our numbers, cramming into a smaller than small youth room and ongoing monthly "fun" activities Fr. Peter and Paul Buckley attended a training class in early August on J2A – Journey to Adulthood. This is an Episcopal based youth program specifically for middle & high school youth that many churches have been using since the late 70's. What interested both Fr. Peter & Paul about the program was the lesson plans and guidance for the adults working with the youth. This program is not only good for the youth, it gives the leaders lessons you can read ahead of time, a list of materials, recommended scripture and explanations of the scripture. For adults with no formal training with youth this program is invaluable. We have started using the materials on a limited basis this fall and the youth of St. John's seem to really like it. It is our goal to further implement the use of the materials in the future.

The 2007-2008 year has seen some changes to the schedule for SYG. Every first Wednesday of the month we have an offsite outing and do something fun with the combined High School and Middle School youth. So far we have played Laser Tag, had a bonfire and hot dog cookout at a parishioner's home, and we also went to a rock-climbing wall at the Livonia Rec. Center. We have been blessed with new adult supervision this year, and we thank Paul Buckley, Sharon Byrd, Merrilee Zawadzki, Geoff Ryan, and Michele Jayne for all their help. We had our 1st Annual Ski & Snow Board Trip in February. We had a full group of 15 youth and all had a great time. We frolicked in the snow at the cabin; generously donated by a parishioner; and on the mountain. Even though we had 4 youth that were novices and needed lessons we didn't break anything (although some of the MS-SYG members tried to give Paul more gray hair and age Fr. Peter a couple of years). We already have our dates for this coming February for our 2nd Annual trip. We had an evening hayride and went through the Corn Maze at Mayberry Park this October. This event attracted 25 youth and 5-6 adults from St. Johns. This was one of the most enjoyable events of the year. Everyone had a great time, and we are all looking forward to doing this again next year. Along with implementing the J2A materials, we continue to cover topics from the headlines that are important to the youth of St. John's.

We have also worked at getting involved in the community again this year. We worked during the Plymouth Fall Festival carrying trash & garbage along with the choir. We also helped with the 1st Annual St. John's Rummage Sale. And once again, we rang bells for the Salvation Army. The diocese held its annual Happening, a weekend retreat for high school youth in October. We had a second youth attend this year and one other youth who served on the team of teens that ran the event. Paul also attended Happening and hopes to make this an annual event for himself.

It hasn't all been fun and games. We've had some serious discussions with the youth this year about respect, both for each other and the adult leaders. We've talked with them about their spiritual journey and peer pressures and all the challenges facing youth today. We've been tough when we need to be, but in the end, we are always there for them.

We continue to see growth in attendance at the weekly meetings, lock-ins and special events. We are continuing to look for ways to challenge the youth of St. John's spiritually and physically and look forward to getting into the newly renovated Youth House sometime early in 2008. Thank you to everyone at St. John's that has donated their time, talent and treasure to the youth. They are truly the future of St. John's, and they are most grateful for what you do for them.

ST. JOHN'S YOUNG ADULTS

St. John's has a history of reaching out to young adults. One of the incredibly important ministries that St. John's has hosted is the Moms' Group that has provided invaluable support for the many mothers at St. John's. There is a need for an additional outreach group to meet the needs of another segment of the St. John's and Plymouth's population, a young adults group.

Throughout its recent history St. John's has had a strong youth program. As a result, there are numerous young adults attending local colleges and universities who have had a long-term connection with St. John's, but who no longer find their needs met through programs or groups offered at the Church. Similarly, as St. John's has strengthened its newcomer programs, we have welcomed new young adults. While St. John's offers a wealth of ministries and groups, there was little that engages adults, age 18-30's without children, at our parish. As a result St. John's has created this new ministry aimed at this specific age group.

This newly formed group has been meeting and discerning what it is called to be. They have met in local restaurants, traveled to Detroit for Mexican food, and met at Fr. Peter and Angela Swarr's home for dinner and a movie. The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month, and between meetings they carry on community via email, the internet social utility tool, *Facebook*, and Sunday worship services.

In 2007 Amy Mianowski, Pastor Dorian, and Fr. Peter drafted and submitted a grant request to Trinity Church, New York City for financial support for this group and the Moms' Group. A response is expected from Trinity Church in the next three months. In the next year there is hope to further grow this emerging Christian Community and find new ways of reaching out to other young adults in the Plymouth area while expanding programming, and interaction with the St. John's Parish.

If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, or finding ways to support it, please contact Fr. Peter Swarr.

USHERS

The ushers serve at the 7:45, 9:00 and 11:00 services each week, as well as for several funerals. Randy Byrd prepared the schedules. Schedules went out every 2-3 months with the ushers picking the Sundays

that worked best for them. 11:00 ushers also processed the offerings for approximately one hour after the service.

As of December 15:

The 7:45 usher is Don Fleming.

The 9:00 ushers are: Dick Bass, Gary & Joan Besonen, Mark Brown, Dave Mertz, Michael Mikula, Hadyn Notestine, and Roger Schlee.

The 11:00 ushers are: Randy & Sharon Byrd, Sal Cavallaro, Linda Courtney, John Kapusky, Frank Paciero, Lee Rushing, Fred Sole, Virginia Warden, and Bill White.

We are always happy to welcome new members. In the last couple of weeks, we have some additions to our 11:00 usher group that will be starting in the New Year: Jeff Blaine, Dawn Florkowski, and Dave Smith.

Submitted by: Linda Courtney, Usher Coordinator

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS—LECTORS—INTERCESSORS

The Eucharistic Minister (EM) ministry for the calendar year 2007 has been somewhat self-sustaining. We started the year with the loss of long time member and ministry team leader Ed Gantzer. We finished out the final schedule created by Ed. Paul Buckley then volunteered to take over the scheduling of Eucharistic Ministers.

We have lost several EMs this year. In spite of the loss, everyone else has stepped up to fill the voids in the schedule. Our two service summer schedule gave all of us an opportunity to take some time off from reading and chalice and “recharge” our batteries. The Eucharistic Minister ministry team continues to be a strong and active ministry team at St. Johns. Thank you all for blessed and fulfilling 2007.

ALTAR GUILD

“O Loving Savior – give us thy grace that we may be loyal to thy Holy Church and faithful in our care of holy things. Grant that as we adorn and make ready thy Altar, we may learn greater love and reverence for all that belongs to thy service – and through all outward symbols, come to a clearer vision of the inward and spiritual truth taught by them.”

During our hushed and quiet time by the Cross, the Altar Guild members, in loving ministry, offer this prayer. We share joy and the Light through our service. In thanksgiving, we present God’s amazing gifts, offering His blessings and comfort to all. We are St. John’s Altar Guild and we have been a very special part of St. John’s for many generations.

The year 2007 was one of many new beginnings. During a potluck supper meeting held in January, we reviewed our newly revised Altar Guild Handbook. Many thanks to Sue Brandt and Kathy Weinberg for their help!

February brought all the excitement, wonder, and welcome of Father Peter’s ordination. We will never forget our joy in celebration of this beautiful holy service.

In April we received a stunning gift from within our group. Two sterling silver chalices and patens, wrought by the esteemed J. Wippell and Co. Ltd., arrived all the way from Exeter, England to grace our Altar. In addition, Pastor Dorian ordered and presented to us, from the Memorial Fund, a set of lovely brown pottery for Lent. It has indeed been a time of new beginnings for us – even a new key system and

with the blessing, two new members – Karen Horton and Cynthia Blaine. We welcome these sisters with grateful hearts.

St. John's Altar Guild stands always ready in the ebb and flow of parish life, in times of joy and sorrow. We are greatly saddened this year to have lost our beloved member, Clifford McClumpha.

In preparation of Holy Eucharist, during Baptism, at weddings, memorial services or for special events, an Altar Guild member will be there with you, ready to offer comfort and support during all the seasons of the Church year and life.

With exciting plans for 2008, our year has once again closed in fellowship. Following Pastor Dorian's offering of Eucharist for All Saints, we shared a potluck supper complete with Nan Cooper's Italian Wedding Soup, stories of our loved ones, and prayers. Father Lew Towler was our honored guest.

We give special thanks to Pastor Dorian and Father Peter for their continued guidance, inspiration and leadership, to Eric Carter and Elizabeth Wilhelm for so much help and kindness. Thank you, thank you, always, Hadyn! Special thanks goes to Jan MacLeod, for generously sharing both the new and the old with us. We love you all!

Our members include:

Cynthia Blaine
Judithanne and David Smith
Rita Smith
Pat and Dick Sonntag
Jan Wargo
Beth Wideman
Jo Wilson
Cate and Rick Campeau

Nan and Bob Cooper
Kathy and Ed Couture
Dawn Florkowski
Karen Horton
Jan MacLeod
Faith Mbanugo
Rita McClumpha

You are very welcome to become a part of St. John's Altar Guild. Just call Beth Wideman.
Submitted by Beth Wideman, Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF SAINT LUKE (IOSL) THE PHYSICIAN—STUDY GROUP

Early in 2006 a group of our parishioners; Ed Gantzer, Bob Wolf, April Dobbs, Judithanne Smith, Nancy Robinson, Elizabeth Hayes, Mary Reid, and Pastor Dana got together because they were feeling a calling for a healing ministry to be active at St. John's.

In May of 2007, we decided to join the International Order of St. Luke the Physician Organization, which is an Ecumenical healing organization committed to healing. It required considerable study for over a year before we were eligible to become full-fledged members. A short time later we became a chapter. Our chapter's name is "The Holy Spirit Among Us". Ed Gantzer was our Convener and Pastor Dorian was our Chaplain. When Ed left, Bob Wolf became the new Convener.

We all have a very strong feeling that Christ wants the best for all His people and that through the power of the Holy Spirit we can do His work here at St. John's. We have been conducting healing services on the second Sunday of each month since September of this year in the Chapel next to the Sacristy.

We invite any that are having any kind of difficulty to come for healing prayers. Everything is held in the strictest confidence. We invite anyone that feels they have a calling to join us in this ministry. The Holy Spirit is at work in St. John's.

God Bless, Bob Wolf

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

This year we completed a 6-week series on prayer and have completed several chapters from the Serendipity Bible. We are currently concentrating on the readings for the Sunday following our Thursday meeting.

We continue to grow in knowledge and appreciation of the Bible and each other. We look forward to more spiritual growth in 2008.

The group includes June Cramer, Carol Kapusky, Becky Nickels, Cate Campeau, Donna King, and Joan Besonen.

Respectfully submitted,
June Cramer

PRAYERS AND SQUARES

Our Mission Statement

To provide prayer quilts to parish members and extended family and friends who are facing a health crisis and could use spiritual comfort.

Our outreach seems to grow every year. We also continue to give out our Baptismal Bears as keepsakes. We started this ministry intending to be self-supporting through our fundraisers and donations. We are pleased at how well this is working. We are blessed by having a very supportive congregation. We have had several generous donations come in.

Included in our expenses are: fabric, fabric pens, cards, postage, labels, misc. office supplies for scrapbook, quilt ties, batting, and thread. We have 9 women called to serve with their heart and their hands in this ministry: Nancy Robinson, Judithanne Smith, Lucille Wolf, Joy Hansen, Arlene McGarry, Jackie Binder, Sharon Etue, and Cynthia Blaine. In addition we are excited to have newcomer Terry Allor. The response to our quilts continues to amaze us. We are so blessed by this ministry and look forward to serving for another year.

Yours truly,
Cynthia Blaine
Prayers and Squares, The Quilt Ministry

FUNERAL MEAL MINISTRY

The Funeral Meal Ministry was expanded and reorganized, under the Kitchen Ministry, in June of 2005 co-chaired by Carol Kapusky and June Cramer.

This allowed Kitchen Ministry to be clearly organized to meet the specific needs for a funeral meal request. Kitchen Ministry, in its entirety, is a part of the Congregational Life Ministry Team. The Kitchen Ministry includes three sections: Church Function Meals, Funeral Meals and Pastoral Needs Meals.

June and I thank all who have helped in some way with the three funeral receptions St. John's has arranged for families of our parish in 2007. This meal allows the grieving family to spend time with friends, family and co-workers who share their grief.

One of our goals for 2006 was met with creating and updating our manual, housed in the parish office, as a usable guide for anyone.

A special “thanks” to our staff for their continued support to help things run smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted By Carol Kapusky

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mission Statement:

Form a committee of parishioners that are IT professionals with the following objectives:

- Review current technologies in use, understand the needs and create a plan for technology improvements.
- Implement technology changes through newly establish contracts with IT service providers.
- Monitor the performance of services and modify as needed to improve service while reducing cost.

2007 Results:

In late May of 2007, Bruce Leidal approached the Staff with a proposal to establish a Commission on Information Technology. The Staff agreed that such a Commission was needed and asked for a narrative for the Announcement Pages. The following is the list of objectives/activities originally published for the Information Technology Committee:

- Assess the current Information Technology (IT) infrastructure and applications to gain an understanding of the current situation. Including the web site.
- Review the contracts for services provided by current suppliers.
- Consolidate the budget information that supports IT.
- Ensure understanding of the legal/regulator issues that need to be addressed (HIPPA, tax filing, etc.)
- Establish infrastructure and application architecture for the future.
- Create a budget and investment plan for what is needed.
- Re-negotiate/establish new agreements with suppliers, including measurable service levels with penalties.
- Monitor and enforce Service Levels with the suppliers.
- Determine if there are members that may be able and willing to provide some level of support and monitor their activity.
- Establish key measurements and monitor monthly.
- Produce a monthly report out to the Staff/Vestry.

There are five experienced IT professionals in the parish that volunteered to participate with the team. The first meeting was in June. We reviewed the objectives and took on various assignments to understand the current situation and develop a plan.

In July we identified the current services and future needs. By September we had established a list of future service providers with a cost model. By October we had a plan and were beginning to execute against it.

Major Accomplishments:

- Web-site redesign. Robin Janning volunteered to be the Web Minister with the responsibility to

redesign the web site and keep it current. The new web site may be seen at www.stjohnsplymouth.org. Thank you to Robin for her dedication.

- Established new contracts for Internet, phone, web-hosting and on-site services.
- Determined standards for setting up PCs, server and printers. By using the same setup for each PC the on-going support cost will be lower and reliability will increase.

The full implementation of the IT plan will not be realized until first quarter 2008. The implementation of the plan will result in improved services and savings of \$4,000 annually to the church budget.
Submitted by Bruce Leidal (Chair)

Team Members:

Ed Brunner; Paul Buckley; Andy Doswell; Bruce Leidal; June Waldbauer

Web Minister:

Robin Janning

MOMS' GROUP

St. John's Moms' Group is comprised of several women with diverse career backgrounds that gather for fellowship, support, and book or Bible discussions. We meet on the first Friday of every month during the school year. We also hold monthly "moms' nights out" with food/lively discussion at members' homes or at local eating establishments. The group provides service to the church by hosting occasional coffee hours, providing meals to moms after undergoing medical procedures (giving birth, etc.), supporting the St. John's egg hunt, and planting flowers around the church in springtime. We support the Salvation Army by adopting a family for Christmas. We always look forward to adding new moms/friends to our group! Please join us for fun and fellowship!

St. John's Moms' Group has been under the leadership of several people in 2007. Sue Dowswell and Amy Mianowski for January - June and Becky Skoug September - December. Other moms currently on the email distribution list include: Amy Chestnut, Stephanie Doroba, Melanie Draper, Kelly Evanoff, Helen Goderis, Karen Gonda, Laura Good, Amy Hepp, Stacy Wells, Elaina Kielbaso, Kelly Krawczyk, Nancy Levy, Krista Miller, Gwen Downs-Paradowski, Lisa Sanders, Jillynne Shaheen, Julie Smith, Sarah Synowiec, Jennifer Taylor, Jennifer Towell, Karrie Zambo, Rebecca Zultowski.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Skoug

SAINT JOHN'S LEAGUE

Strengthen us O Father, in the work which we have undertaken. May we be guided by the spirit of the Master in all our efforts. Stir up within us more life and zeal and devotion to Thee. Give to each the spirit of prayer without which we cannot serve Thee truly. Assist us, according to her power and calling to do the work Thou wouldst have done. Preserve each of us from luke-warmness and half-heartedness and build us up more and more in faith, love, unity and holiness. For the sake of JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. Amen.

St. John's League, formed in 1942, is currently a Guild for women that meet the second Wednesday of the month from September through June. The group meets at noon and includes prayer, lunch, devotion and fellowship as well as gathering items to support our current outreach ministry, *First Step*. We welcome those, of all ages, who can meet during the day.

The year brought continued growth and we currently have 21 members of various ages. We remember fondly two of our past members, Marion Breed and Patricia Robinson, who passed away in 2007.

In keeping with one of our 2007 goals of having more speakers, we looked within the staff and members for presentations. Our presentation for March was given by Pastor Dorian who provided details and answers to questions about "Planned Giving" at St. John's. In November June Cramer and Alex Mausolf, League members, who were delegates for the 173rd Convention of the Diocese of Michigan in October, shared details of their Convention experience.

We continued the tradition of the *Mitten Tree* in the month of December for *First Step*. Our December Potluck meeting included making out Christmas cards to recovering soldiers that were distributed with the help of the American Red Cross.

The League does maintain a small checking account with money generated by passing "Stanley", our Penguin bank, for a collection at some of the meetings. The co-treasurers are Louise Kohut and Carol Kapusky.

We look to 2008 in the hope of continued growth in membership, fellowship and activities. As our prayer says "May we be guided by the spirit of the Master in all our efforts."

Respectfully Submitted By Carol Kapusky, Coordinator

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Mission Statement

The mission of Buildings and Grounds is to plan and provide repair, maintenance, and improvements of St. John's building and grounds beyond that of the normal Sexton duties. Major expense items are reviewed with the Administration & Finance Ministry Team before proceeding.

2007 Actions

- **New indoor keys** – Thanks to Haydn Notestine for handling.
- **Replaced electrical outlets** with GFCI where required.
- **Repaired siding** on south side of Church.
- **Improved heat control** for Narthex switches.
- **Repaired Delfield freezer.**
- **Prepped room** as Prayer Chapel.
- **Repaired fence** on s/w part of property.
- **Prepped office** on s/e corner of Parish Hall.
- **Replaced roof a/c unit.**
- **Replacing Nave furnace** (in process).
- **D & G now has contracted** to monitor heating & a/c units.
- **Improved sound insulation** on Father Peter's office.
- **GARDEN CARE – Judithanne Smith** leads the "St. John's Gardeners" after starting the group in 2005. The group has worked faithfully during the summer and fall to care for the gardens.

Team Members

Elizabeth Wilhelm, Parish Administrator; Eric Carter, Sexton; Haydn Notestine all the members of St. John's Gardeners, especially Judithanne and Dave Smith; and all the people who participate in fall and spring clean up and interior painting work sessions.

Submitted by Tom Mausolf

WEDDING COORDINATORS

Our mission is to see that the bridal couple's wedding plans reflect their wishes and follow the doctrines and policies of the church.

Our responsibilities include meeting with the bridal couple to:

*Help the couple plan the wedding arrangements within the context of the St. John's policies

*Complete and process the necessary forms as required and provided by the office

*Assist the clergy at rehearsal with the wedding service format

*Attend the wedding, supporting and guiding the wedding guests and bridal party so that the marriage ceremony flows smoothly and everything is ready at the appointed time.

The consultant has several meetings as well as phone and email conversations with the bride until she feels comfortable with the arrangements. The coordinator sends a personal note-card to the bride at the time of her commitment.

There is a Wedding Consultant Handbook that includes the forms and necessary information for processing. We are in the process of updating this document. We meet once a year with all consultants and staff to inform and update on all processes.

Wedding Consultants:

Cami Buckley

Joan Besonen

Lucille Wolf

Betsy Sole

Mary Alice Brunner

Sherry Bass

Joy Hansen, Coordinator

RECTORY RENOVATION REPORT

As you are reading this year-end report, we are nearing completion of the rectory renovations and hope to see the youth groups using the house soon, following approval by the Township.

The renovations include:

- Handicap accessible ramp entrance
- Handicap accessible bathroom
- Revised second story
- Youth activities room
- Study area
- Storage area
- Reinforced floors
- Doors
- And last but not least—an exciting coffee house theme for the main floor!

The ramp, electric, and plumbing contracts were purchased from professional construction companies. Parishioners did all of the demolition, carpentry, tile and painting. (The "Retiree Team" worked 3-4 days each week!) Thank you to all of our volunteers. This project could never have happened without you!

Budget constraints were met through our volunteers and the generosity of our parish family. NO operating funds were used in the renovation. Rather; gifts and some portions of the building fund were used for this very important facility. All work was accomplished for less than \$35,000.

Look for the open house in the near future.

Your Rectory Renovation Team

Bill White

Joseph Cospito

Joe Sabo

Jeff Blaine

Frank Paciero

Frank Gonda

Haydn Notestine

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mission Statement

To support, enhance, and assist the ministries of Saint John's Episcopal Church.

After six months as part of the St. John's family, I am starting to feel as though I have settled in. I know that until I have complete a full year here every season will bring a new learning experience. I am eternally grateful to all who have offered their patient support, suggestions and assistance as I come into my own.

I have been blessed with 3 wonderful volunteers, Dee Fleming, Connie McNutt, and Linda Reeves who come in four days a week and help around the office with everything from phones to bulletins. They have certainly made the office a sunnier place!

Eric continues in his position as Sexton, he works approximately 21 hours per week cleaning 8 classrooms, 5 hallways, 5 offices, 5 restrooms, and the library, gathering, narthex, kitchen, and the parish hall. He is also responsible for keeping our many windows clean and does room set-up/tear down. Eric also did a major kitchen cleaning this fall.

I look forward to growing and learning here at St. John's and appreciate how welcome I have been made to feel.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This was my first full year as Treasurer of St. John's and it has been an honor to serve this vestry and the parish.

It has been a very eventful year for me, including:

- Presenting the 2007 budget to the congregation in January, 2007
- Facilitating a financial audit of St. John's books by an outside CPA firm (there were no issues to report)
- Sadly, seeing Sue Brandt depart

- But, happily, having our new accountant Kim Adams join us as an outside consultant to help with the books – Kim’s accounting knowledge and expertise has been invaluable
- In addition volunteers – including Beth Hilton and Linda Courtney, have been indispensable. This has also helped keep our accounting costs down

The normal duties of the treasurer include:

- Attend monthly Vestry meetings and present financials statements
- Attend monthly Administration and Finance committee meetings
- Prepare the annual budget
- Prepare periodic reports for the newsletter or weekly announcements on financial results of St. John’s

Unfortunately, our expenses were more than the funds/revenues brought in, so we ended the year with a net operating deficit of \$38,577. We started the year with approximately \$62,000 in operating cash, so therefore have ended the year with approximately \$23,000 in operating cash.

A summary of our operating fund is shown below shown below:

Total Revenues		\$ 493,644
Personnel Expenses	\$ 349,921	
Repair, Improvement, Maintenance	58,009	
Insurance	11,759	
Office Expense	14,382	
Christian Formation Ministry	6,291	
Congregational Life Ministry	3,287	
Lay Leadership Ministry	208	
Diocesan Outreach	45,904	
Mission Outreach	22,751	
Music Ministry	10,928	
Pastoral Care Ministry	749	
Stewardship Ministry	1,859	
Worship Ministry	6,174	
Total Expenses		532,222
Net Spending Deficit		\$ (38,578)

The results for the building fund for the year are as follows:

Building Fund Revenue	\$ 17,563
Building Fund Expenditures	10,700
Net Total	6,863

The available balance in the building fund is approximately \$45,000.

Detailed financial statements are available upon request.

PARISH STATISTICS

	YEAR 2005	YEAR 2006	YEAR 2007
Households	283	290	258
Households Removed from Membership	22	46	32
New Members	36	42	31

Baptisms	15	9	8
Confirmations/Receptions/Reaffirmations	4/0/0	8/8/0	8/1/0
Weddings	3	6	4
Funerals and Memorial Services	13	7	8

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Attendance Comparison:

Looking at numbers is always daunting. There is no question that the loss of 10 active families totaling 27 people who moved out of the area has hit us hard in terms of attendance. These were people who were here nearly every week and were active on a variety of levels. The average is down about 16 people per week. However, such things can also throw off attendance figures as the blizzard on week 50 in 2007. As we welcome and incorporate new people into our community, we will recover this loss in terms of numbers but the actual people represented by those numbers is a different story. We will always remember the parishioners who moved for who they were and what they brought to this community.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CHART

	2006	2007			2006	2007
Week 1	87	279		Week 27	184	146
Week 2	269	264		Week 28	172	178
Week 3	245	262		Week 29	189	173
Week 4	288	253		Week 30	188	135
Week 5	273	248		Week 31	174	130
Week 6	251	260		Week 32	179	174
Week 7	243	227		Week 33	156	137
Week 8	234	144		Week 34	153	132
Week 9	203	257		Week 35	261	172
Week 10	267	219		Week 36	190	222
Week 11	260	265		Week 37	244	245
Week 12	230	266		Week 38	287	240
Week 13	234	343 (Palm Sunday)		Week 39	220	246
Week 14	283	496 (Easter)		Week 40	223	223
Week 15	368 (Palm Sunday)	232		Week 41	265	241
Week 16	472 (Easter)	266		Week 42	262	253
Week 17	213	253		Week 43	282	235
Week 18	256	224		Week 44	261	279
Week 19	298	296		Week 45	278	238
Week 20	291	220		Week 46	275	246
Week 21	197	231		Week 47	277	172
Week 22	183	227		Week 48	224	188
Week 23	262	209		Week 49	251	242
Week 24	203	201		Week 50	285	90
Week 25	167	171		Week 51	289	225
Week 26	149	136		Christmas	608	524
				Week 52	165	202

	2006	2007
Totals excluding Easter and Christmas	11,888	11,117
Average Sunday Attendance	233	217