

APRIL 2013

St. Clare's  
Episcopal Church

*Saint Clarian*

*Worship with Joy, Grow in Faith, Act for Justice*

*monthly newsletter*

### **Reflection and summary of A people sharing Communion, chapter three of People of the Way**

Dear Ones,

I love the effect that full participation in our worship, service, learning, and prayer life as a parish has on the wonderful people who give themselves to our parish as a central commitment in life. I want that for everyone who walks in the door, and I want to remove any needless barrier or mistake that might prevent us from getting there. Our wonderful canvass-interview-survey process may give us new insights, with the help of those visiting, and those being visited. Sometimes I wonder how many pay attention to this monthly letter I write. I know that about two thirds of our active membership open a newsletter on any given month. How would we get more to engage in our life, or in reading our newsletter, or singing in our choir with a music minister we have been blessed with as a gift?

We have to desire the holy, and act on that desire, in order for the holy to keep us moving in a direction of deepening faith and encounter with God. Dwight Zschiele's describes how holy communion with God and one another around the table of the Lord can change how we view every table of meeting and dining we approach.

Many of our neighbors are hungry for peace and real community. Many want to feel a spiritual connection and sense of belonging. And in this context: "Every Sunday at ordinary Episcopal churches, something extraordinary takes place... Hearts are lifted." Brokenness comes into focus, and God's healing begins to pour through it. The presence of Jesus, felt and known through the Spirit, tasted in the bread and wine, invites all into community with God.

Zschiele summarizes beautifully the strong movement of Christian theology in the last twenty years away from our agency and desires, and towards renewed focus on an active, palpable God of mystery and revelation. "All churches exist because of God's life and love for the world." Reflecting anew on the nature of God's life and love, we rediscover who we are at the deepest level. Around the table of the Lord, we give thanks and remember how God drew us together, and how God took on suffering to show us a future of hope and renewal.

Calling is a responsibility, not a privilege, concludes Zschiele. In Jesus, God chose to participate fully in human life to enable humans to participate in God's life. The reconciliation of difference by loving neighbor is at the heart of the ministry of Jesus. God's reign is an expression of God's agency and ways, and cannot be built or controlled by us. We can "seek, enter, receive, or inherit" it. It is personal and communal, now, and yet to be fulfilled.

By dying on a cross, Jesus shares the place of the shunned, excluded, and condemned. Through his godforsaken death, Jesus shows that no human situation is godforsaken. Through cross and resurrection, God makes all things new. In the story of God's restoring love for the world, the church finds identity. We are called to cross boundaries between people. We are asked, as Easter people, to let the Holy Spirit draw, challenge, empower, and teach us.

The church exists to embody tangibly the good news announced by Jesus. Every member is gifted by the Holy Spirit to contribute to our life and witness and service to God. "God remains the primary actor in mission, and we join up with what God is doing." In humility, we accompany Jesus, which is literally, "to break bread with," to share the hospitality of others and to offer ours, "where God's presence comes alive between us."

Around the table of holy communion, we can find a new perspective on all the other tables of our lives. Who is hungry in some way? Who needs to belong to something meaningful?

"Through Christ God comes to us as the stranger, the guest, bearing the wounds of human vulnerability."

In Christ's love,



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Breakfast at St. Clare's Café

St. Clare's Café will serve breakfast again on April 7. Make a donation, enjoy a filling, buffet breakfast with fellow St. Clarians between 8:30 and 10:30, and proceeds will benefit the youth program. Mark your calendars for the remaining cafés: April 7 and May 5.



The May 5 café will be a brunch. Fuel up after church service before your afternoon of serving the community as part of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SOS (St. Clare's Outreach Sunday)!

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## Chili Cook-Off Results

St. Clare's Sixth Annual Chili Cook-Off was held on Sunday, March 10. About 85 people were on hand to taste 14 varieties of chili and 9 types of cornbread provided by parishioners! An auction of teen services was also held. The following families provided chili or cornbread that was voted the best in their category:

- Best Mildly-Spiced Chili: Mary Wright/Russ Olwell
- Best Moderately-Spiced Chili: Sara Armstrong/Will Spotts
- Best Spicy Chili: Molly Reynolds/Joel Ruhter
- Tie for Best Vegetarian Chili: Jayin Wavrik Marianne Vandenberg
- Best Chili Overall: The Millar Family
- Best Cornbread: Larry Vandenberg

## StC/TBE I-94 Highway Clean-Up

**Sunday, April 14**

Calling all Trash Pickers! Yes, the clocks have been advanced and so it is time to begin planning for our Spring Adopt-a-Highway pickup on **Sunday, April 15, between 1 and 3 p.m.**

Volunteers 13 years old and older can participate. We will meet in the Adult Lounge at 12:30 for pizza and soft drinks and a mandatory safety briefing prior to carpooling out to the section of I-94 that is our responsibility. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, gloves, and sunscreen. Please consider participating in this important ministry.

**Pick of the Litter** - During the September pickup, a volunteer with the St. Mary Catholic Church in Bay City found an 8-week old kitten meowing and shivering in the tall grass along M-13. The volunteer brought the kitten back to the group's rendezvous point. There another volunteer, who had recently lost her calico cat, adopted the kitten and promptly named it "Highway".



Any questions, please contact Linda Klimach at 995-2114 or [lklimach@comcast.net](mailto:lklimach@comcast.net).

—Linda Klimach

## Genesis Work Days

**Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28**

For more information, contact Marv Wagner, Genesis Administrator: 734-665-8883 or [genesis7890@yahoo.com](mailto:genesis7890@yahoo.com).



## Genesis Grounds Spring Clean-Up

**Sunday, April 28, 1–4 p.m.**

Help Wanted! Only an hour to spare? Perfect!

—Your Genesis Grounds Committee: Linda Annesley, Leonore Gerstein and Penny Griffith



## Funding of Special Projects

The Endowment Fund Board invites proposals for the funding of special projects: a one-time project or event, the start-up of a new project, or a specific aspect of an ongoing program or ministry. Applications are welcome from anyone in the congregation. You can find more details at

[www.saintclareschurch.org/endowment](http://www.saintclareschurch.org/endowment) or from any board member: Robert Blackburn (chair), Ken Cook, Barry Fuller, Mary Margaret Hatt, Margaret Petersen or Ann Putallaz. Applications are due May 10 and can be emailed to the church office ([office@saintclareschurch.org](mailto:office@saintclareschurch.org)).

## ***Narnia: The Musical***

**7 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 & Saturday, May 18**

A few dozen St. Clarians—youth, children, and adults—have begun work on a production of *Narnia: The Musical*, a musical adaptation of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Besides the obvious lion and witch, characters include a faun, stag, bull, leopard, dwarf, unicorn, dryad, squirrel, wolves, beavers, children, and Father Christmas. Mark your calendars and make plans to come to one of the two performances.

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **Thank You**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who made the Palm Sunday Party a success! There is nothing like gathering with your church family to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection.



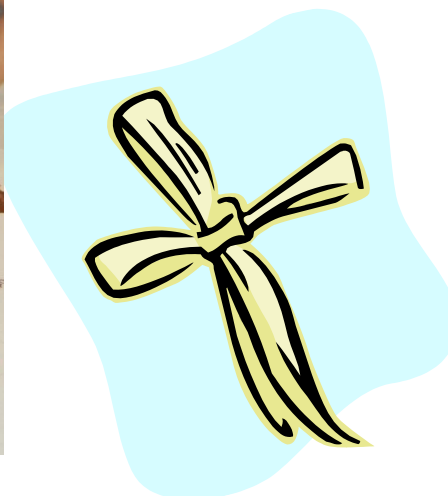
### **Nursery for Children 3 Years and Younger**

It's time to remodel the nursery – how it works and its location. In mid-April, the nursery will be relocated to the middle level (room 3). This new spot will meet our needs better in various ways and will be for children who are three years of age and younger. Paul Cook will be renovating the space as his Eagle Scout project over the next year. Some toys will be available in the Family Room, which will become a space for parents to supervise their children when needed. I am excited to move forward on this vision I've had for awhile. Let me know if you have any questions.

*–Xan Morgan*

### **HELP WANTED: Vacation Bible School Volunteers**

Calling all adults and teenagers who want to have some fun while blessing the kids of St. Clare's! There are many opportunities to help in various ways at VBS each year – helping with crafts or games, leading a small group, providing childcare, etc. We also have a new position as of last year of a junior counselor. All 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to think about joining us in this new way; a great chance to develop and use your leadership skills. VBS is only 3 mornings, Tuesday, June 18 through Thursday, June 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Please chat with Xan Morgan or Danielle LaMoreaux if you can serve God and the kids in this way.



## Nightwatch: Detroit

### Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14

Nightwatch: Detroit is adventure, community, worship and mystery all rolled up into one fantastic overnight experience. This annual event is held at the Episcopal cathedral in Detroit and was conceived to show participants just a tiny bit of the grand and awesome nature of the God who loves us completely, constantly and unconditionally. Nightwatch: Detroit is open to junior and senior high youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders). More information and registration forms at <http://edomi.org/nightwatchdetroit.html>. Cost: \$25 (scholarships available).

## Happening

### Friday-Sunday, April 26-28, St. Paul's, Brighton

Happening is more than a Youth Event. It's an experience. You'll find yourself telling your friends, family, and complete strangers of the things that happened at Happening! Happening is a retreat program for high school youth used throughout the Episcopal Church. We do everything from praying to playing, and from singing to sleeping. There are talks, small groups, free time and fun. We come together to praise God in an amazing environment, and hope you will join us this year too! Happening begins on Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m., and continues through Sunday, April 28, at 5:30 p.m. Happening is for students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## April Youth Calendar

Date	Time	Event
Thursday, April 4	4:45-6:00 pm	Ypsi Salvation Army – meet there
Friday-Saturday, April 5-6	7 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday	Happening team prep Trinity, Belleville
Sunday, April 7	8:30-10:30 am	St. Clare's Café
	3:45-5:45 pm	Youth Group
Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14	Overnight event	Nightwatch: Detroit @ the Cathedral
Sunday, April 14	3:45-5:45 pm	Youth Group
Friday-Saturday, April 19-20	7 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday	Happening team prep St. Paul's, Brighton
Sunday, April 21	3:45-5:45 pm	Youth Group
Friday-Sunday, April 26-28	7 pm Friday to 5:30 pm Sunday	Happening, St. Paul's, Brighton
Sunday, April 28	3:45-5:45 pm	Youth Group



## Summer Opportunities for Children and Youth

Some of us make summer plans for our kids in January....some of us in April... We want to make sure you caught all these great summer opportunities for your kids! They're listed in chronological order with target age group noted in the description.

### **Vacation Bible School: June 18-20**

St. Clare's, St. Andrew's, and First Presbyterian join to offer a fabulous VBS. The children "travel" back to Bible times and experience what it was like to be one of first followers of Jesus. *VBS is for kids who have completed grades K-5.*

### **Day Camp, June 24-28**

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor will sponsor a fantastic day camp the week of June 24. The camp is run by staff from Living Waters Ministries, so it feels a lot like Camp MichiLuCa! Cost is \$70 for those who register before June 1. *Day Camp runs 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is for 5- to 12-year-old kids.*

### **Jr./Sr. High Mission Trip, June 23-28**

This year's community service mission trip participants will go to Grand Rapids, MI. A terrific way to help people in real need while having a great time with new friends from across the country. *The trip is open to kids who have completed grades 6-12. Contact Karen Slagell for details.*

### **Camp MichiLuCa: July 14-19 (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) OR July 21-26 (high school special programs)**

Campers will learn about God and themselves by exploring the wonders of nature, trying new activities at camp (such as swimming, arts & crafts, nature walks), and participating in a fun Bible study time. Campers sing around the campfire, learn about themselves, and worship daily. It will truly be an experience they'll never forget! *Camps are available for kids who have finished 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; check camp materials for details [<http://www.elcalivingwater.com/summer/summer-programs/>].*

### **Bass Lake Festival: July 26-29**

Bass Lake is a Christian Music Festival for High School aged youth which provides an "outside the box," grace-filled experience of the Christian faith. Through great music, unique learning opportunities, and a relaxed, community-building atmosphere, this event shares the Gospel with youth from all backgrounds and levels of maturity in a beautiful outdoor setting. *For youth who have completed grades 8-12.*

### **Music Theater Church Camp: August 26-31, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with before/after care)**

Eighth annual Music Theater Church Camp at St. Clare's. A great way to spend the last week of summer for kids and parents alike! Join us for a week of singing, acting, swimming, and growing in our faith. *MTCC is for kids who have completed grades 1-7. Teens who have completed grades 9-11 can apply to be counselors or interns.*

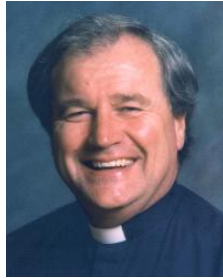


## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

### Rob Voyle Presents A Brief Introduction to Appreciative Inquiry and Discernment

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 20, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor

A workshop for lay leaders and clergy, sponsored by Huron Valley Episcopal churches and organized by James Rhodenhiser, will be held on April 20. Rob Voyle, an Episcopal priest, psychologist, and



executive coach, will present a brief introduction to appreciative inquiry and discernment. This positive way of being in the world and engaging in organizational and individual development is in dramatic contrast to many of the current problem-solving approaches to change management, that, despite their best intentions, often lead to increasing levels of negativity, blame, frustration, and poor performance.

On Saturday, we will begin to:

- Learn the appreciative way of thinking and being in the world.
- Learn appreciative ways of creating change and transformation.
- Learn the core elements of appreciative thinking.
- Discover positive alternatives to viewing the church as dysfunctional.
- Learn appreciative strategies to plan and create sustainable change.
- Learn how to appreciatively seek solutions in the midst of problems.
- Learn how to ensure change is a sustainable blessing and not a curse.

While focused on congregational life and development, the strategies taught in this class will be equally applicable and beneficial in business and other organizational settings.

This program is designed for church leaders of these types of churches:

- Churches wanting to discover their purpose and grow their sense of mission
- Churches that need to embrace the future rather than run from the past
- Churches that want to grow in the love and joy of being Children of God

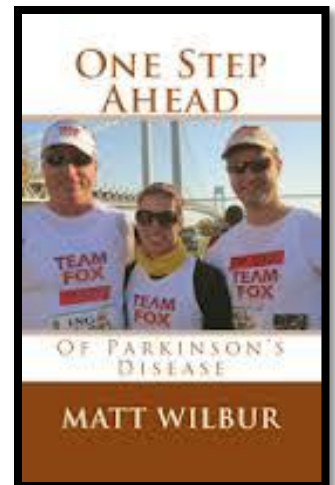
A 90-minute audio introduction by Rob Voyle can be accessed here: <http://www.clergyleader.com/teleseminars/tele-recordings.cfm?recording=ai-way>

Please register for the workshop at [www.saintclareschurch.org/voyle](http://www.saintclareschurch.org/voyle).

### One Step Ahead

Saturday, April 20, 10–11:30 a.m.  
Westminster Presbyterian Church  
1500 Scio Church Road

Matt Wilbur, a retired high school teacher and coach from Cincinnati, speaks about living with Parkinson's disease and about facing any hardship that comes our way. A recreational runner and seasoned marathoner, Matt found his life changed in 2002 when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.



Suddenly running took on new meaning, and it has helped Matt stay one step ahead of the illness. In 2009, he stopped thinking about the "progressive and degenerative" nature of Parkinson's disease and instead began focusing on the blessings in his life. Knowing he could never pay back all those who have helped and encouraged him, he began looking for ways to "pay it forward." He joined Team Fox, a group committed to raising awareness and funds for the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, and ran the New York City Marathon in 2009–2011. Matt's

involvement with Team Fox has provided him with a platform for speaking with others about not only how to live with Parkinson's but how to remain positive when any "bad" things happen in life. Matt will also speak at Westminster on Sunday, April 21, during worship at 8:45 and 11:15 am, and at the 10 am adult education hour. All are invited.

Matt's book, *One Step Ahead of Parkinson's Disease*, is available in paperback or Kindle format on Amazon.com. Read more here about Matt and his recent marathons:

<http://ucneuroscience.com/blog/runners-roll-out-a-26-2-mile-red-carpet-for-a-friend-with-parkinsons/>

### **Richard W. Bailey Speaker: Anne Curzan**

**5 p.m., Saturday, April 27**

In 2011, we lost a beloved parishioner, Richard Bailey. To us he was "Richard." To the academic world, he was "Dr. Bailey," of The University of Michigan Department of English and the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees: a professor, linguistic authority, and author of many books. Richard was faithful and smart and witty. He loved nothing better than intelligent conversations about ideas. In his honor, we have established a speaker's fund, to sponsor recognized authorities

about faith who would help us grow as persons of faith and service in all potential varieties.



Anne Curzan, who was Richard's protégé, will be our first Richard W. Bailey Fund speaker. Professor Curzan's research interests include the history of English, language and gender, corpus linguistics, historical sociolinguistics, pedagogy, and lexicography. The title of her presentation will be *Local Language Choices, Broader Social Change*. A reception will follow.

## **FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Tending the Holy**

Many times there have been discussions on what is the best way to describe/define Spiritual Direction. Is it specifically directing, guiding, teaching, or counseling? If so, then why is it also referred to as Holy Listening (which perhaps many people do not have the opportunity to experience). Another way to describe Spiritual Direction is COMPANIONING as written by Alan Wolfelt, PhD.

I, Joan Davis, have personally experienced Spiritual Direction as Companioning. How do you Companion others as well as your own awareness of being?

#### **COMPANIONING**

Companioning is about honoring the spirit;  
it is not about focusing on the intellect.

Companioning is about curiosity;  
It is not about teaching them.

Companioning is about walking along side;  
It is not about leading or being led.

Companioning is about being still;  
it is not about frantic movement forward.

Companioning is about discovering the gifts of sacred  
silence;

It is not about filling every pitiful moment with talk.

Companioning is about listening with the heart;  
it is not about analyzing with the head.

Companioning is about bearing witness to the struggle of  
others;

it is not about judging or directing their struggles.

Companioning is about being present to another person's  
pain;

it is not about taking away or relieving pain.

Companioning is about respecting disorder and confusion;  
it is not about imposing order or logic.

Companioning is about going to the wilderness of the soul  
with another human being;

it is not about thinking you are responsible for the finding  
the way out.

—Alan Wolfelt, PhD.

—Joan Davis

## Writing as a Spiritual Exercise

At noon on Sunday, April 14, Dave Jibson and Bill Feiser will convene an organizing discussion of those interested in a Writing as a Spiritual Exercise group. A number of years ago a group like this was very meaningful to those who shared their creative process work with one another around a commonly chosen text for reflection. We hope that similarly the Spirit will move in us as co-creators and interpreters of the human condition.

—Dave Jibson & Bill Feiser



## PARISH COMMUNITY

### April Birthdays

1	Riley Jackson, Winnie Sathe
3	Travis Millar
5	Brian Jodon
6	Leah Casper
7	Matthew Coolidge, Gabriel Walters
9	Jim Etzkorn, Dora Scoville
11	Fred Wallace
12	Andrew Burns, Maddie Curtis, Elena Jodon
13	Stephen Brown
14	Judie Erb
15	Laura Kozminski, James Rhodenhiser, Rick Rodems
16	Linda Klimach
18	Sydney Weissinger
20	Mary Margaret Hatt, Loren Jackson, Thana Millar
21	Janie Little
22	Mary McGuire
23	Julia Cooper, Taylor Marcel
26	Abigale LaMoreaux, Sofi St. John
27	Emmanuel Morgan

### April Anniversaries

6	Cathy & Rob Stone
7	Patti & Rodger Wolff
23	Barbara Beaton & Steven Dykstra
24	Colleen Flanagan & Rob Scoville, Liz & Rick Rodems

Is your birthday or anniversary missing (or, heaven forbid, wrong)? Contact the church office to update St. Clare's database! (662-2449 or [office@saintclareschurch.org](mailto:office@saintclareschurch.org))



Use the St. Clare's Mobile ready response number!

**CALL: 734-358-5141**

This number will not be published to the public, but will allow any member or visitor to contact any member of the staff or office ministry team Tuesday – Friday 9am to 5pm. It will ring the landlines in the office, and every staff and office servant volunteer mobile phone able to answer. It will also allow you to leave a message if all of us are unavailable to speak.

Visit the Church Calendar online at:

[www.saintclareschurch.org/calendar](http://www.saintclareschurch.org/calendar)

In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact James Rhodenhiser or Beth Scriven. If you would like us to share personal support requests with the parish, please tell us, and any "where," "when," and "how" information. If you are hospitalized or want prayer, please contact the church office.

### **St. Clare's Staff**

James C. Rhodenhiser, *Rector*

Beth Scriven, *Associate Rector*

John Goodell, *Director of Music*

Xan Morgan, *Director of Children's Ministries*

Karen Slagell, *Parish Administrative Coordinator*

#### **e-mail contact:**

[firstname@saintclareschurch.org](mailto:firstname@saintclareschurch.org)

#### **Church Office:**

[office@saintclareschurch.org](mailto:office@saintclareschurch.org)



### **St. Clare's Vestry**

Christine Modey, *Senior Warden*

Mark Davis-Craig, *Junior Warden*

Phoebe Gelzer-Govatos, *Junior Warden*

Christian Casper

Christine Cook

Kathy Daly

Linda Klimach

Rob LaMoreaux

Adam Lowen

Ilene Smith

Mary Wright

Karen Slagell, *Clerk*

The St. Clarian is published monthly. Contributions are welcomed; send by e-mail (to the editor at [editor@saintclareschurch.org](mailto:editor@saintclareschurch.org)), U.S. mail, or drop off at the church office. The deadline for the May 2013 issue of the St. Clarian is Monday, April 15.