



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
1200 Post Drive NE. Belmont, Mi 49306



SPIRITUS

MARCH - APRIL 2010

FROM DEACON DAVE,

Our adult forum, “Kernels of Truth” is a vibrant group of about twelve individuals that meet each Sunday morning at 9:15. We meet in the upstairs parish hall and everyone is invited to attend. Although we usually have a theme, occasional drop-ins are welcome, too. I particularly enjoy the discussion as it gets my day off to a good start.

Recently, the group discussed factors that made a successful church. This is how the group ranked Holy Spirit on a scale from one (low) to ten (high).

- Acceptance (of each other and new people) – 9
- Mission (adopting and following the Gospel) – 8
- Leadership (all working under for a common direction) - 8
- Vibrancy (excitement and activity) – 6
- Empowerment (using each person’s talents) – 6 (scores ranged 2 to 9)
- Flexibility (willing to try new things) – 6 (scores ranged 2 to 9)
- Evangelism (inviting newcomers) – 4
- Draw (attractive setting and appealing activities) – 3

The results indicated that Holy Spirit as a group is cohesive, enjoys good leadership, and is clear on their mission. It was suggested that we could be somewhat more exciting, encouraging new ideas and drawing on everyone’s talents. The age-old problem, however, is we do not know how to get more people in church. This is common for Episcopalians and, I admit, I do not have any magic formulas. In my experience, family sized Episcopal churches grow slowly but solidly over time. For example, if we had a ten percent annual growth rate, we should adopt and incorporate three new people over the course of 2010. At the ten percent rate, the church could double in eight years.

Correlated with our low evangelism rate is the parish’s overall ‘draw’. These two factors are probably connected and should command our attention. We all admit that Holy Spirit has a peculiar look and may not attract people looking for a traditional structure. Nevertheless, we need to maximize what we have and look as appealing as possible. For me, that means making the first impression of being neat, tidy, in good repair, well equipped, and comfortable. You may have additional ideas. Please share them. This year, let’s all work on ways to increase our attractiveness and draw as a way of tackling the evangelism challenge.

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The people of Holy Spirit gather for a round table discussion after the service on the third Sunday of the month. Ideas flow freely at these meetings. News from the diocese, plans for our future, criticism perhaps, and the freedom to express your opinion and ideas about Holy Spirit. The Rev. Anne Reed was with us on two of these Sundays and has offered much insight. She is leaving the Diocese. We will miss her..

FROM THE REV. ANNE L. REED

Thank you for your encouragement and prayers during this transition time in my life and in the life of the Diocese of Western Michigan. I have been in discernment for some time, and am delighted to tell you that as of April 1, 2010, I will be serving in the Diocese of Southern Ohio as the Canon for Mission. Giff and I will be moving to Cincinnati some time in late March or early April.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve among you, and you will continue in my prayers, as I hope you will continue to pray for us during this new adventure. You have taught me a great deal; thank you.

Sincerely,

Anne

(The Ven.) Anne L. Reed

Bishop's Assistant for Congregational Development
and Transition Ministry, Diocese of Western Michigan



SUMMER FARMER’S MARKET

As a community service agency, we have been invited to sponsor a booth at the Rockford Farmer’s Market. We can sign up for three Saturdays and sell all sorts of things such as crafts, baked goods, vegetables, fruits, preserves, etc. What a wonderful way to be seen by the community! I am excited about

the prospects and suggest we choose a Saturday in mid-June, mid-August, and mid-Sept. I will pledge to work on a “knock out” booth, bake some treats, be there to shake hands, and pass out our information. Who would like to work with me Dear Friends in Christ,? **Let’s talk soon as we have to pick our dates in early March.**

HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, February 28 The Rev. Mike Fedewa was with us to celebrate Holy Communion and to Baptize little Zoe Marie Jeanne Benn, daughter of David (D.J.) and Heather Benn.

Heather and little Zoe will stay here for a while so we will be able to see her grow, start talking and walking. Dad David, reports to the Navy in Chicago this week



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DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Diocesan Convention will be held in Traverse City on April 23 and 24 Our delegates, elected at our annual meeting are the Rev. David Meyers, Marsha Hirt and Donna Scott. Amy Zimmerman will be the alternate.

At the last Advisory Committee meeting Amy Zimmerman resigned the position of Bishop’s Warden due to health problems. Donna Scott was appointed to fill the position (pending confirmation of her appointment by the Bishop).

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS - WOW

During Wednesdays in Lent we have incorporated our Lenten studies with WOW. We join together at 5:30 for a great soup supper. Followed at 6:00 by Evening Prayer conducted by WOW. From 6:30 to 7:30 Deacon Dave host a study on the book Healing in the Landscape of Prayer by Avery Brooke.



PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER - The Reverend Val Ambrose from St. Andrews will be with us for Eucharist. We extend our thanks and prayers to her and to Father Fedewa for the blessings they have brought us.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - The people of St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids, have invited the people of Holy Spirit to their Maundy Thursday worship and dinner. More detail will be coming so hold the date. A sign up sheet will be on the kiosk

EASTER BREAKFAST - All Saint's Guild will serve breakfast before the Easter service. They will start serving breakfast at 8:45. Everyone is invited—bring your friends, neighbors, relatives and let them sample our good food and stay for the joyous Easter Eucharist.

FLOWERS FOR EASTER - If you would like to help decorate the church for Easter with beautiful spring flowers there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Flowers can be given in memory of loved ones, for special times in your life, to celebrate a birthday or wadding anniversary or just because you want to help brighten the church up for this wonderful day. Money (any amount) for the flowers should be given to Helen Little or Linda Gerrard. Be sure to put your names on the sheet so Ruth can print them in the Easter bulletin.



SUNDAY ADULT FORUM - At 9:15 on Sunday Morning a group of Holy Spirit people gather in the upstairs class room for a spirited discussion led by Rev David. The session are rightfully named "Kernels of Truth." for you can't leave the session without new thoughts or ideas. We feel very fortunate to be led through this series by Rev. David Meyers.. Everyone is welcome.



PRAYER LIST

as of February 28, 2010
We ask your prayers for

Hazel Trampler	Gerri Schihi
Helen Andree	Arlyka Kamor
Sandra Usher	Meghan Haan
Andrew Lietard	Robin & Beth Gehman
Marissa Thomas	Betty Smith
Barb David	June Erwin
Pam Breakey	Andi Ream
Amy Zimmerman	Mark
Dick Olsen	William
Karlene	John DeRoy
Marcia Duval	

Pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble. For those who minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy. Pray for the Church of the Holy Spirit.

DISCIPLES BIBLE STUDY

The Disciples Bible Study is still going strong. We are presently finishing up our rousing study on the Gospel of Matthew. We will be rounding up this year with a study on the Epistles of 1 & 2 Thessalonians. We are still looking for more of those who wish to share their knowledge and experience with us and of the very heart of God that beats with in them. We still meet on Tuesday nights between 6:30 and 8:00 PM for any who are interested. We joyfully look forward to your presence and insight. If further information is required you can speak to me, Wes Miller, in person or contact me by phone 784-5472 home or 389-4859 cell. I am also available via e-mail at either sogwapwpm@msn.com or w.miller@usa-

ALL SAINT'S GUILD

Linda Gerrard and Ruth Smith were elected as Co-Chairpersons of the Guild. Pearl Buyers undertook the job of secretary and Helen Little will be treasurer. One of their first tasks was to have a cake made for Zoe's baptism. They will meet on March 6th at 9:30 and start planning for Breakfast before the Easter Service..

CHRISTIAN ED

In Sunday school, we are reading parables. We have read *The Good Samaritan*, and *The Good Shepherd*. Jesus told these stories to help us know about God and what God expects of us. This will continue until Palm Sunday. Thanks go out to Linda and Heather for volunteering to help in the nursery. Congratulations on the baptism of Zoe!

YET Reading Club

We have very exciting news! Students will be arriving to reading club via the school bus! Comstock Park will be busing children from both Stony Creek (1st & 2nd graders) and Pine Island (3rd graders). This will increase our enrollment by 10 students. We have a couple new volunteers, (thanks Don Usher!) but can still use more. If you know anyone who would like to spend one or two afternoons listening to readers, let Mary Macomber know.

The children already enrolled in reading club are making wonderful progress. One student has hit the 100 step milestone! Each step is 15 minutes, so that is more that 24 hours of reading practice. There are others coming up on that milestone very soon.

We are also having a lot of fun! Last month, we went sliding on the hill in back of church, had meatballs for snack (after reading Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs), and went camping inside! This month we will be doing author studies to celebrate reading month. I see Green Eggs and Ham in our future!

Please note special request from YET leaders: came in late and is on last page.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

EFM meets on Thursday evening from 6 to 9 at St. Andrews Church. They are headed by Mentors Amy Zimmerman and Stan Hone. This is a four year course. Years one, two and three meet together. Year 1 studies the Old Testament, year 2 the New Testament and the third year is on Church History. Year 4 is on

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar will meet the Saturday before Palm Sunday to make crosses and crowns from the palms. These come to us in a large bunch. Jim Byers is generally the one that saws off the heavy end so we can get at the individual strands. They also will be polishing all the silver and brass in preparation for Easter.

Linda is still looking for a few more women or men to service on the Altar Guild so if you think this is a way you would like to serve the church just tell Linda.

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DRUM SET FOR SALE

The drum set in the corner of the sanctuary is for sale to the highest bidder. One bid has already been received. If you are interested, please see David Meyers or Donna Scott.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU (HELP)

Where were you born?

Where did you grow up?

Schooling - where and favorite subject?

Married - who and when?

Children—grandchildren?

What is your favorite pastime?

What brought you to this church?

what ways do you participate at Church of the Holy Spirit?

You get the idea - our newsletter comes out every other month.

Standard questions that tell us a little about a person. A friend or someone you would like to know better. See me at church or call me at 866-9809 if you would like to help with this.

Helen L.

LOAVES AND FISHES PANTRY

In January we elected new officers.

Mary Zarheck from Church of The Assumption is the new President
Rob Tafestski is recording secretary. Ruth Kommer is the correspondence secretary.
Don Usher remain treasurer.

We continue to spend between \$700 and \$900 for food each month. We need the donations of food and money from both congregations. In January we did receive our check from the CROP WALK.

Most welcome.

We continue to make plans for our move to the new pantry which should occur within the next 4 to 6 weeks.

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FROM OUR TREASURER

Our collections and expenses thru February were very close to budget. In February we received the Bishop Whittemore grant of \$10,000 for finishing work on the pantry addition. To date \$43,800 has been spent for the project. All the funds came from grants and special gifts.

In March we will be able to pay the final balance of the Jarvis Fund loan to the Diocese. Please let me know if you would like a copy of our financial statements.

Don Usher

NEW ADDRESS

Becky Carlson has moved - Her new address is 3855 Dunlop Lake NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Phone 301-2780

This is a big change for her - please keep her in your prayers.

David and Rhonda Flentje announced that they have closed on a home and will be moving soon. Zeke is picking out color schemes—bright yellow seems to be his favorite. This time of the year who doesn't want bright yellow sunshine





MARCH

4 - Amy Rinck
6 - Jacob Tyler
(Cindi Andriachie son)
13 - Art Dibell
20 - Mark Aben
29 - Phyllis Caulkins

APRIL

7 - Susan White
12 - Brian Macomber
13 - Don Usher
14 - Kelly Benn
17 - Ron Boekeloo
18 - Jean Dibell
19 - David Flentje
20 - Becky Carlson
23 - Helen Little
23 - Becky Rugg
28 - Corrie Benham

ANNIVERSARIES

March 6
Brenda and Doug Benham
April 24
Laurie and Bob Nissen

The above birthdays and anniversaries come from our picture directory. Some of you are not listed in it and others have no dates. Please, we would like to recognize your special day, so drop a note in the office with your and your families special dates.

We all enjoy coffee and a treat after Sunday service. Would you to like to help by taking a turn at making the coffee and bringing a treat? Please see Amy Zimmerman or just put your name on the list by the coffee machine. Cookies, donuts, cheese and crackers - any thing you would like to serve. Just keep it simple.

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NOTES OF BEING A GRANDPARENT

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old", he replied.

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa", he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read".

YET is having 20 to 25 children every day. Mary and Sue are requesting help with snacks. Individual drinks, granola bars, cheese or peanut butter crackers, any cookies, Teddy grahams, and so on. The drinks need to be individual but cookies or crackers can be divided among the group. Baby carrots have been successful and apples, when in season, work well. If you are at the grocery and see a sale, name brand or store brand, whichever is less, please put a package or two in your cart. Don't worry if there is enough for the whole group. Sue says they have a mix up day when they don't all get the same thing.

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The following on MONEY, TITHING came from Perfect Illustrations compiled by the editors of Preaching Today. com.

A preacher paid a visit to a farmer and asked, "If you had two hundred dollars, would you give one hundred dollars to the Lord.?" "Sure would," said the farmer.

"If you had two cows, would give one cow to the Lord?". "Yeah, I would."

"If you had two pigs, would you give one of them to the Lord?." The farmer replied, "That's not fair. You know I have two pigs."

There is no other time for giving but now. It will never be easy.

HOLY SPIRIT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1200 Post Dr. NE, Belmont MI 49306

Phone 616 784-1111 fax: 616 784-1335

belmontmichichurch@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Worship—10:00 am

(Childcare provided)

Sunday Adult Forum - 9:00 am

Worship on Wed. (WOW) - 5:30

The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert - Bishop of Western Michigan

Rev. David Meyers , Vicar

Home 616 754-3557

meyers_david@sbcglobal.net

Director of Christian Formation

Mary Macomber

Parish Secretary

Ruth Smith

Advisory Council

Donna Scott - Bishops Warden

Jim Byers - Peoples Warden

Susan White, Jean Dibell

Ted Gerrard, Carli Noffsinger

Don Usher—Treasurer

Betty Patterson - Secretary