



OCTOBER 2011

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The time has come for my final article to you as your Rector. This seemed so far away when I announced my retirement to you back in February. Now the change in our lives is imminent, and I am not comfortable with last times. I have read articles which describe the ending of a pastoral relationship like a death---but no one is dying I say to myself. Yes, our relationship will be changed, but it is not ended. My love and care for each of you will continue—and I hope you feel the same.

Other articles describe such a parting as similar to a divorce---but there is no rancor or dissatisfaction on my part at least—so I reject that description.

As I reflect on this time, the description that I have come up with is that this time is more like a graduation. There is joy in our accomplishments but that is mixed with sorrow that things are changing. There is anticipation for a new future even as we wish things could remain as is. There are regrets and remembered disappointments, but they are far fewer than our successes and remembered joy. I find that I feel much like a parent who has guided, directed, encouraged and supported; but who now must trust and let go of the reins so that you may continue to grow and to flourish. I feel like a parent both proud and excited for your entering a new phase of living, yet worried whether I have given you the guidance and skills to send you out into the future.

But most of all, I feel thankful and grateful that I have been given the honor and trust to be your Rector for the past 17 years. It is you who have contributed more than any others in forming me as a priest. It is you who have supported and guided me in defining for myself what being a Priest looks and feels like. My love and gratitude is overwhelming and I am humbled that you have traveled with me

in my spiritual journey these many years. I thank-you and hold you in my prayers.

Retirement

what's that?? I am not sure, but my retired friends all tell me I will love it. They tell me that I will wonder when I had time to work. Some of you have been asking about my plans so I would like to share with you what I know right now. On October 16 in the afternoon, or October 17 in the morning I will be headed to Charlevoix to enjoy what should be the height of the color season in northern Michigan!! My nephew, Christopher, will also be in Charlevoix staying in his sister (my niece)'s condo. We have plans to enjoy at least one and probably more drives into Petoskey to eat at the Park City Grill (famous as a hangout of Ernest Hemmingway). I also plan to finish a project I started this summer at the quilt shop.

I will return to Pontiac on October 30th if there is a party a friend is thinking of having, but I will be home on the 31st to hand out candy to the 250 plus trick-or-treaters who will come to my door.

My plans while in Pontiac include painting my living room and dining room, removing the carpet from the living room, and restoring the hardwood floor I know is under the carpet. I will also be going to knitting and needlepoint classes each week as well as doing those crafts and reading at home. I also plan to "dig out" my basement and organize my craft materials. That will lead me to more stitching and knitting!! I also plan to find a place to exercise and "get with the program". Sam is planning on at least two daily walks of a mile each as well. In December I plan to get out all the Christmas decorations and use what I can to decorate my house and get rid of the rest!!

I also plan to actually cook and have the cookbooks lined up---I just need to find the dishes to cook in and I will be all set.

At some point I will return to Charlevoix to enjoy the northern Michigan winter—I think it would be fun to be snowed in for a couple of days-- and really look forward to not having to get home if there is a storm headed toward us.

After the first of the year I will see what I want to do serving the church. I have no idea as of now what that might be—I do know that it will be nothing full-time or an every Sunday sort of thing.

I am also curious about Ancestry.com; some on-line learning; or even taking a class or two---ever the student.

My e-mail and address will remain the same, so you can always let me know what is going on with you. However, I will not talk or comment on anything going on here at St. Mary's, so please don't ask for my opinion or advice. I cannot imagine a life where I don't what is going on with you all. After you call a new Rector I plan on congratulating him or her and wishing that person as wonderful a relationship with this parish as I have experienced.

Advent by Candlelight

Monday, November 28, 2011 ~ "Follow the Star"

A wonderful St. Mary's tradition is back! Women of the parish, and their invited guests will gather for an time of dining and companionship followed by a service of worship and contemplation of the Advent season.

A free will offering to support the Millennium Development Goals of the Episcopal Church women's projects will be gratefully accepted.

A highlight of the evening is hearing selected women speakers from the parish as well as a guest speaker from the diocese, making for an inspiration start to the Advent season.

For more information about the Advent by Candlelight service, please contact Donna Davis-Daisley, 248.391.2005 or Star5mom@aol.com

Fellowship Committee

Next meeting- Tuesday, Sept. 27th from 6:30- 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Our second event will be Saturday, November 12th- Euchre Night for the adults with a separate activity for the kids. More details to come please watch for more information.

Future Events include:

Friday, December 2nd -Holiday Movie Night Friday

January 27th –Open Mic Night Saturday

February 11th- Dinner and a Movie

Saturday, March 17th- Square Dancing Friday, April 20th - Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Movie Night

Sunday, May 13th- Bike Ride to Ice Cream Store

Stewardship Drive

Faith, Family, and Future

St. Mary's 2011 Stewardship Drive has officially begun and there will be many opportunities to learn about giving to St. Mary's in the weeks ahead.

As we begin the process of searching for a new pastor for our church it is important to represent St. Mary's as a vibrant and growing church community. While we will represent our church's health in a variety of ways, such as our involvement in community outreach, our strong christian education programs, an active choir, etc., it is also important to show our prospective pastor that we are

strong financially. To do this, our goal is to collect \$200,000 worth of pledges for 2012. This is 15% increase from the amount we will collect in 2011. This means that if each of us increases our pledges by 15% we will reach our goal.

During the week of Sept. 19th you should have received a Stewardship letter as well as a pledge card. Pledge cards can be mailed, dropped in the collection plate any Sunday or turned in on Pledge Collection Sunday, Oct. 16th. If you are unable to make a pledge at this time please return the pledge card with your name and a gift of \$0. Those individuals that do not return their pledge cards will be contacted by our Stewardship Committee. All pledge cards should be returned by Oct. 16th.

All parish members should have also received an invitation to a Cottage Dinner/Lunch, either at St. Mary's or a parishioner's home. If you have not RSVPed for this event please do so as soon as possible. These Cottage Dinners will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a chance to discuss our hopes and dreams for the future of our church.

We will also be reflecting on Stewardship during services on:
Sunday, Sept 25th- Pastor Chris will speak to the parish about Stewardship
Sunday, Oct. 2nd- The children will learn about Stewardship during the the 10:00 service's children's sermon
Sunday, Oct. 9th- The young adults will share their thoughts about giving

Stewardship is not only giving of your treasures. It is also about giving of your time and talents. On Sunday, November 13th you're invited to attend a St. Mary's Ministry Fair during both coffee hours.

During this time, you will be able to sign up for involvement in St. Mary's ministries such as Fellowship Committee, nursery, coffee hour hosts, etc.

If you did not receive a Cottage Dinner invitation or if you have any questions regarding stewardship, please contact Peter Trumbore, Stacy Tines or Brad Spear.

Book Group

The Book Group met at the end of August and we made our reading selections through February 2012. We will be reading:

September 20

The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak

October 11

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot

November 15

The Little Bee, by Chris Cleve

December 13

Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Story of Surprising Second Chances,
by Amy Dickinson

January 17 2012

Still Alice, by Lisa Genova

February 21

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, by Helen Simonson

Please bring your lunch and join us in the church's Bell Tower Room at 12:30 pm
on these dates.

If you have any questions contact Susan Suter at 248-620-6524.

Blessing of the Pets

As autumn arrives, people may notice something odd.

A procession of animals, everything from dogs and cats to hamsters and even horses, is held at churches for a special ceremony called the Blessing of Pets.

And St. Mary's in the Hills will be no exception.

On Sunday, October 2nd, at 2:00 pm, please join us, with your pet(s) in tow, at our newly renovated outdoor chapel to celebrate this annual tradition

This custom is in honor of the feast day of St Francis of Assisi who loved all of God's creatures. He wrote, "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures."

As many of you experience, the bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.

Mark your calendars! Join us for this special event! Please note that all Pets must on a leash, harness, or in a cage/container.

Sam Humphrey and Mickey Tretheway

Sunday School Closet Has a New Look!!!

Check it out! The closet is organized and everything is labeled and easy to find. Many thanks to Sheila Thomason and Showey Howey for their outstanding work. If you use anything, please put it back where it belongs. If you have any items that you believe we can use, please place them in the Donation Box. It is labeled as such and located to your left when you walk in the closet. Thank you.

Back To Sunday School!

Sunday School officially began on September 11th. This years curriculum is called, "Weaving Gods Promises". It is an Episcopalian based with lots of creative ideas for preschool through 5th Grade. We are in desperate need of volunteers to work with the children one Sunday a month. The children will be divided into three groups; preschool and Kindergarten, 1st – 3rd and 4th - 5th. Please contact Cathy Flanders if you are interested at flandersc@aol.com or 248-860-0860.

Let's Celebrate Pastor Chris!!!

On October 8th, Saturday, from 5-9pm, we will come together to celebrate the ministry and coming retirement of Pastor Christine Humphrey!

All are invited and we hope you have already done the "rsvp" that you and your family are coming. If not, please contact Patti Lee (ablaze222@comcast.net or 248-391-4455) or Deb Lunney (alliecatfun@sbcglobal.net or 248-391-0852) - we want you there!

Concert

October 23rd 4:00pm St. Mary's

Alta and Drake Dantzler with their son, Rowan are new members of our parish. Alta and Drake are both professional singers and have asked if they could do a concert for us in preparation for a program they will be performing. Drake is a new faculty member in the Music Department at Oakland University and Alta is an adjunct faculty person at Oakland. They will be performing music from Strauss, Mahler, Ernest Charles and Benjamin Britten. It should be a wonderful evening of music. Please plan to attend to support Alta and Drake and invite others who would enjoy such an afternoon!! There will be no charge for the concert but a free-will offering will be accepted to support our outreach ministry with LOVE, INC. But the important thing is to come and support these people and to enjoy a time of music and to share this opportunity with others who would also enjoy it.

Pastor Chris

Love to Laugh

Saturday, October 8th 11AM-4PM

Enjoy Food, Games, Balloons, Clowns and so much FUN!

There is something for everyone!

Bring your entire Family and help Love INC continue to do even more together!

Join the fun at King of King Lutheran Church

1715 South Lapeer Rd, Lake Orion

More details at www.loveincfnoc.org

