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# *The Messenger*

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

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July/August 2009

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## **RECTOR'S MESSAGE**

# **Wishing you a summer filled with gifts**

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By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

**S**ince our amazing Pentecost celebration, the words of a prayer from the baptismal service have been rolling through my brain. They come just after the baptism, and just before the sealing with holy oil.

The prayer is for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We ask God to "give 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."

As baptized people, every word of the baptismal liturgy also applies to each and every one of us.

And so as we move through long and lustrous summer days, in town, away on vacation, at church, in our back yards,

wherever we may be, my prayer is that these words and phrases might take hold in you, however and wherever you need the lift of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps you have a hard decision to make, a choice between two options, or maybe you feel a nagging push to do something different or try something you have never attempted. For you, may you find the gift of an inquiring and discerning heart to help you choose the pathway God desires for you.

Or you may be going through a hard time, seeking a new job, or struggling with a relationship.

Perhaps you are juggling the demands of aging family members and young children or grandchildren.

*(Continued on next page)*

## **SUMMER GIFTS**

*(Continued from previous page)*

Maybe you are just trying to wait out the perils of this economy with some kind of grace and security. For you, may you have the courage to will and to persevere, even when the road is hard and the way seems long.

Maybe your life of faith seems dry these days. Maybe you just don't find meaning in your prayers, or conviction in your worship. Maybe your natural questions and curiosities are overwhelming your sense of the presence of God. Or perhaps God has dug into your heart even deeper, drawing you out, drawing you in to God's loving embrace. For you, may you have the spirit to know and love God in every moment of your days.

And as the sun sets over the lake, or as a bird rises off a branch, or as you look out into a crystalline blue sky, or get far enough out into the country to be dazzled by the starry heavens, or even as cottonwood fluff rains down upon you, may you find the gift of joy and wonder in every one of God's works.

A blessed and fruitful summer is my prayer for all of us.

**+ Peace, Kit**

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## ***Save the dates for first-ever all-parish retreat!***

**Young people, old people, and people in between -- all are encouraged to come to Narnia (or actually Howell, Mich.) for our first-ever all-parish retreat.**

**From Friday, Nov. 6, to Sunday, Nov. 8, we'll dig deeper into our faith and**

**have a lot of fun, as we enter the world of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."**

**Watch for sign-ups in the fall, but reserve this weekend on your calendars now.**

**You're guaranteed to love it.**

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## **Farewell to Pat Walsh and Sandy Consiglio**

This summer, we are losing two valued and talented staff members.

Pat Walsh, who has been our bookkeeper for the past two years, is leaving All Saints to return to school full time and finish her bachelor's degree and work toward her CPA. She has been crucial in helping the parish normalize its accounting and financial practices. Her wisdom, attention to detail, and willingness to go the extra mile will be sorely missed.

And we also are sad to see Sandy Consiglio, our choir director for the last four years, move on. Sandy has finished his course work for his Ph.D. at MSU and no longer needs to be in East Lansing to finish his dissertation and other material.

He has moved to Buffalo, New York, to help care for his parents, who are getting older and need his help. Sandy enhanced our worship with his exquisite oboe music, and he was a dedicated and talented conductor of our adult choir. We will miss hearing that beautiful oboe music every Sunday, and the choir will miss his leadership very much.

In conjunction with some members of the parish, I am interviewing qualified candidates for both of these positions. I hope to have them filled by the end of summer.

**-- Pastor Kit**

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

# *Looking for new ideas for and from you*

By **REBECCA McKEE**

**O**ne of the unofficial canons of the Episcopal Church is jokingly said to be “But we’ve always done it this way.” Another is “But we’ve never done it this way.”

Following either of these canons can lead to church programs so stuck in the proverbial rut that they fail to meet the needs of anyone.

I’ve been the ECW Queen (self-titled) for several years now, and lately I’ve been seeing signs of the creeping “but we’ve alwayses” in myself.

So in August, I plan to abdicate my throne. The problem is, there’s no heir apparent.

If you’re a woman who has ever thought to herself, “I’d like to get more involved in what the church is doing,” this could be your big chance to lead the All Saints ECW (Episcopal Church Women).

### ***Yes, there are perquisites***

Being the ECW leader comes with a few responsibilities and a couple of perks. First the perks – because it wouldn’t make sense to scare you off right away!

**1. You get to hang with a bunch of really cool women** (and bask in the reflected glory of their hard work and great ideas). On any given Sunday, if you look around the sanctuary at All Saints, you will see women of all ages and stages of life. Same deal with our ECW activities: We attract 20-year-olds, 45-year-olds and 70-year-olds, along with their friends, neighbors and family members. There are dog people, cat people, and “no pets in my house!” people. Where else are you going to find such an eclectic group of women to spend time with?!

**2. People ask for your opinion.** And sometimes they listen to it!

**3. You get to lead the discussion about where to donate money.** (How cool is that?!)

**4. You get to pick your title.** As I said, I’ve been the self-titled ECW Queen, though sometimes I’ve assumed even less formal titles, such as the Chicken Rustler in Chief

and the Grand Poobah. Other, more serious occupants of this exalted office have chosen to be the president or the chairwoman. What would you like to be? You can take on a new persona just for this job.

### ***Yes, there are responsibilities***

Okay, now the responsibilities. You have to:

**1. Decide how often the group will meet,** and work with Susie Pearson, the office manager, to reserve a room and get on the parish calendar.

**2. Convene and lead the regular meetings.** During my tenure, we’ve met no more than once a month, and if we didn’t have any burning agenda items in any given month, we didn’t meet.

**3. Learn to use the ChurchPost mail system,** which is a piece of cake.

**4. Send out a ChurchPost reminder** to the ECW group list before the regular meetings and any special events.

**5. Talk to the organizers of ECW special events** to make sure the planning is on track. For the past few years, the ECW has held spring and fall rummage sales, a Christmas tea, and Women’s Weekend Away (pronounced WaWa) in May. You don’t have to organize these activities – unless you want to – you just have to support the volunteers in charge of them.

**6. Answer occasional e-mail questions** from office managers, clergy people, and parishioners.

**7. Check the ECW mail folder** in the choir room. (The ECW doesn’t get much mail.)

If you’re interested in becoming the ECW Crown Princess, President-elect, Poobah in-waiting – or whatever other name suits your fancy – give me a call at (517) 699-2869. I can tell you about the fun I’ve had as ECW Queen (and help you pick your title).

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*Rebecca McKee is the outgoing All Saints ECW Manager in Charge of Rearranging the Lounge Furniture.*

# What's new in Sheila's Corner?

A great big thank you goes out to everyone that helped with Vacation Bible School. A great time was had by all. We had over 50 people participate.

## *Studio Go*

A Backstage Bash will be held at noon Sunday, Aug. 30, after the morning service for everyone who attended VBS. All who are in Sunday school and friends are welcome, too.

The event will include Backstage games, a potluck lunch and having fun with your Studio Go back stage crew. RSVP by Aug. 16.

## *Nursery during the summer*

During the summer, preschool children are welcome to go to the nursery during the worship service. Activities are planned for children 0 to 5 years old.

Sunday school will resume in September. Help is needed. I can find something for anyone who is interested. Please talk to me or contact me at [allsaintssheila@hotmail.com](mailto:allsaintssheila@hotmail.com)

## *MOPS group forming*

We are organizing a chapter of Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS). The program is designed to help encourage, equip and assist mothers of preschoolers and school-age children to be the best moms possible. This is a great opportunity for moms to join together and support each other.

An organizational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4. I do need a few people to help plan and implement the program. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this fun group. It is open to everyone, so invite friends and neighbors.

Do you need childcare for the meeting? Let me know that, too.

## Parish Life Events

### **Lugnuts Game, 2:05 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 16**

The annual All Saints trip to the Lugnuts game will take place on Sunday, Aug. 16, beginning at 2:05 p.m. Box seats are \$9. This is Family Christian Day at the game with a free concert following the last pitch. Kids 12 and under receive a voucher for a free hot dog and drink. Kids also have a chance to run the bases in between the game and the concert. Look for a signup sheet on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the undercroft. Contact Bob Kilbridge at (517) 351-8309 with any questions.

### **Coffeehouse! 5-9 p.m. Saturday, August 22**

The next Coffeehouse will be the All Saints Campfire/Coffeehouse between 5 and 9 p.m. as part of the end-of-summer gathering at the home/farm of Gail Shafer-Crane and Dan Crane. This wonderful site in northwest Lansing has horses, barns, a wonderful antique car collection, hayrides for the children, a potluck dinner and singing around the campfire while making s'mores! Put the date on your calendar and plan to bring your lawn chair and a dish to pass. It will be a wonderful time for everyone. Map will be posted on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the undercroft in July. Look for details in the bulletin, future *Messengers*, or call Marguerite Halversen for information.

**Second-Sunday Breakfasts** will return in September between the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services.

**Other Summer Events.** Please see the bulletin or the All Saints Web site (<http://www.allsaints-el.org>) for events planned for the summer.

# Family reunion

## *Prayer, sharing, legislation all part of General Convention*

### **Episcopal Life News Service**

**I**magine Eucharist for 8,000 people. Imagine a marketplace of goods and ideas. Imagine quiet conversations among friends, old and new. Imagine one of the largest legislatures in the world. Imagine the utter silence of prayer before momentous decisions.

The every-third-year gathering of the Episcopal Church known as the General Convention is all of these things. The 76<sup>th</sup> gathering begins in Anaheim, in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Calif., on July 8 and continues until July 17. Bishops and deputies from the Episcopal Church's 110 dioceses will make broad decisions about policies and worship.

Those decisions take the form of resolutions agreed to by both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.

The House of Deputies ranges in size from 800 to 1,000 members. Its sessions are moderated by its elected president, a position currently held by Canon Bonnie Anderson of the Diocese of Michigan. Each diocese is represented by up to eight elected deputies: four priests or deacons and four lay members.

Deputies cannot be instructed to vote one way or another. They agree to have an open heart so that they can prayerfully listen to others and be led by the Holy Spirit. And they cannot refuse to vote on an issue.

Most resolutions or other actions must pass by simple majorities in each house. Occasionally, the House of Deputies votes by orders, meaning that clergy and deputies

vote separately and each order's votes are counted as one vote with the majority of the combined votes being recorded as the vote. If the deputation's orders are evenly split, the vote counts as "no."

The House of Bishops consists of diocesan, suffragan, assisting and retired bishops. It will be led by the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, who was elected at General Convention in June 2006.

Resolutions come from the groups that carry out work authorized by the previous convention, and from bishops, dioceses, provinces (geographic collections of dioceses) and deputies. Before a resolution can come before either house, it must be considered by a committee, which hears public testimony and recommends whether that resolution will be presented.

Convention is more than legislation. All business stops each morning so that everyone can join in the Holy Eucharist. At this year's meeting, worship services will be based on daily themes, with a variety of preachers and speakers, including Jefferts Schori, Anderson and Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan D. Williams, who will visit the convention for its first two days.

In the exhibit hall, organizations and interest groups present their wares, recruit members and do their best to influence legislation.

Many church-related organizations are meeting in conjunction with the convention, including the Episcopal Church Women, which holds its triennial session concurrently.

## **Diocese of Michigan sending bishop and eight deputies**

The Diocese of Michigan will be represented at the General Convention by four lay deputies, four clergy deputies and Bishop Wendell Gibbs. Lay deputies and their committees are Bonnie Anderson, president of the House of Deputies; Herb Gunn, communications; Julia Huttar Bailey, prayer book, liturgy and church music; and Simon "Pete" Ross, consecration of bishops). Cedric Flounory will attend as a lay alternate. Clergy deputies are the Revs. Lisa Gray and Barbara Cavin, both on ministry); Brad Whitaker, evangelism; and Daniel Appleyard, ecumenical relations. Deacon Thalia Johnson will be clerical alternate.

On the Mondays of the convention, *The Record Weekly* will list blogs of some Michigan deputies. One way to follow convention action is the innovative [Media Hub](#), produced by the Episcopal church office of communication. The site will include videos, blogging, short Twitter feeds, Flickr photos and live webcasting to deliver the full story of General Convention.

## First walker ‘arrives’ in Haiti

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

All Saints’ walkers reached their first cumulative 2000 miles as of June 20, putting our first walker in Haiti! Congratulations to the twenty-one participants who have been reporting their walking distances since May 1.

Our virtual “walk to Haiti” is part of the Diocesan summer initiative called S.T.E.P.S. - Steps To Encourage Physical Stewardship ... *of our bodies*. S.T.E.P.S. is designed to encourage physical activity through walking. As we strengthen our bodies we also enliven our souls and glorify God.

As we move into the heart of summer walkers are encouraged to keep moving and keep track of their steps or miles. Distances can be reported either way. Steps are converted at the rate of 2,000 steps equals one mile. A poster near the undercroft provides a visual record of our progress.

As the June/July issue of the *Messenger* goes to print, All Saints’ walkers have reported a total of just over 2400 miles. We’re well on our way to getting the second person to Haiti. It took less than two full months to get the first walker to Haiti. How many more will get there by the end of August?

- **Ellen DeRosia**

## *Help needed to keep Day of the Dead alive*

A small group held a brief meeting about Day of the Dead after worship on June 21. We are hoping to repeat the bi-lingual service at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1, immediately followed by the fiesta celebration, and do this in conjunction with Canterbury MSU.

HOWEVER. We need a much more active group of leaders in order to do Day of the Dead. In addition, Vic and Ellen are ready to transfer the general chairperson responsibilities to the next leader (though they will remain active on the planning committee.)

So without much broader participation, we may reluctantly retire this event. If you want to make sure a Day of the Dead celebration happens in 2009, please attend the mandatory planning meeting on Monday, July 20 at 7 p.m. in the church Lounge.

Depending on participation at this meeting, we will decide if we are able to go forward with the celebration or not.

Hope you will be there. Please bring along anyone you think might be interested in helping out.

- **Peace, Kit**

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***Canterbury MSU takes most of the summer off, but will meet a couple of times. The service is NOT just for students – everyone is welcome.***

# July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>  1 p.m. Parkinson's Support  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>2</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  6:30 p.m. ACLU  7:30 p.m. ACOA	<b>3</b>  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>4</b>  10 a.m. Advent House
<b>5 Pentecost 5</b>  8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum	<b>6</b>  7 p.m. Prayer/Study  7:30 p.m. AA	<b>7</b>  12:15 p.m. Bible Study  7:30 p.m. AA	<b>8</b>  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>9</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA  8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>10</b>  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>11</b>
<b>12 Pentecost 6</b>  Birthday Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist	<b>13</b>  2 p.m. Staff Mtg.  7 p.m. Prayer/Study  7:30 p.m. AA	<b>14</b> 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Cancer Support 7 p.m. ECW 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>15</b>  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>16</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA  8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>17</b>  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>18</b>
<b>19 Pentecost 7</b>  8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum	<b>20</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg 5:30 p.m. Finance 7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7 p.m. Day of Dead planning mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>21</b> 8 a.m. Breakfast at Coral Gables  12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. B&G Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>22</b>  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>23</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA  8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>24</b>  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Pentecost 8</b>  8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. HE CMSU	<b>27</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg  7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>28</b> 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild 7 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>29</b>  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>30</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA  8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>31</b>  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous  
ANS = Abbott Nursery School

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics  
Debtors A = Debtors Anonymous

AlAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

# August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 10 a.m. Advent House
<b>2 Pentecost 9</b> 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist	<b>3</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg.  7 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>4</b> 12:15 p.m. Bible Study  7 p.m. MOPS organizational mtg. 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>5</b> 1 p.m. Parkinson's Support  7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>6</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  6:30 p.m. ACLU 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>7</b> 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>8</b>
<b>9 Pentecost 10</b> Birthday Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist	<b>10</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg.  7 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>11</b> 12:15 p.m. Bible Study  7 p.m. Cancer Support 7 p.m. ECW 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>12</b> 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>13</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7 p.m. Outreach 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>14</b> September Messenger Deadlind  1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>15</b> 9 a.m. Prayer Needlers
<b>16 Pentecost 11</b> 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2 p.m. Lugnuts	<b>17</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg  5:30 p.m. Finance 7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>18</b> 8 a.m Breakfast at Coral Gables  12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. B& G Meeting 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>19</b> 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>20</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>21</b> 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>22</b> 5 p.m. CoffeeHouse at the home of Dan and Gail Crane
<b>23 Pentecost 12</b> 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. HE CMSU	<b>24</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg  7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>25</b> 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild 7 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	<b>26</b> 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	<b>27</b> 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following  7:30 p.m. ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	<b>28</b> 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	<b>29</b>
<b>30 Pentecost 13</b> 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Backstage Bash (VBS reunion)	<b>31</b> 2 p.m. Staff Mtg  7 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA					

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous  
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Holy Eucharist Schedule: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday;

Canterbury MSU student ministry on summer break

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