

THE monthly newsletter from All Saints Episcopal Church MESSENGER



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Rector's Message

A Note About Music

By Kit Carlson, All Saints Rector

Music.

It is one of the most powerful ways that people connect to God. Because of its power, it can move people's hearts. It can also generate strong emotions, and even stronger opinions.

So it was with a bit of trepidation and a lot of curiosity that I observed the results of the Vestry's survey on music at All Saints. This survey was sent to a random sampling of All Saints parishioners in March. Of that sampling, 59 people responded, a 50 percent response rate. While this survey cannot be considered statistically significant, it gives a snapshot of a broad range of the congregation and their opinions of the music program.

First, there was good news. About 88 percent of the respondents described the music in positive terms. Congregational singing was very important to people, 64 percent saying they feel most connected to God when singing a hymn.

The adult choir and organ were mentioned also as important in connecting people to God.

A series of open-ended questions offered insight into individual opinions about music at All Saints. The variety and diversity of the music provided here was very important to people. But staying grounded



in our traditional hymns was also very important to people. Still, the individual comments -- across the board -- called for maintaining, and even expanding, the variety of music.

"Variety needs to be increased" . . . "Addition of more gospel renditions of songs" . . . "Wider selection of hymns" . . . "I love the melodic hymns that bring feelings to the surface as well as the old standards and the more contemporary songs" . . . "I like that we have variety. If I don't like the choices on Sunday, I bet I will like the selections for the next five Sundays."

Others called for a return to purely “traditional Anglican music,” but comments supporting diversity and variety were far more numerous. This was evident across all the questions: There is a *huge* range - would be sure to exclude a good number of people. Our “blended” musical approach seems to be connecting with most people most of the time.

This diversity of opinion makes selecting hymns and other music for our worship challenging, to say the least! I see on any given Sunday that while one hymn is making someone beam with joy, three pews over another person is sighing and rolling their eyes. (See “**Choosing the Music -- Meeting the Challenge**” elsewhere in this issue.)

My prevailing philosophy since coming to All Saints is that this congregation is a diverse group of people from a wide range of cultural and religious backgrounds, and that our worship will try to reflect and speak to that diversity, while remaining grounded in Episcopal liturgy and Episcopal musical resources. Or as I say in shorthand, “You won't always like everything we sing on a Sunday, but everyone should expect to sing something they like on a Sunday.”

Some directions to note for the future have come out of the survey. While congregational singing is THE most important part of music to most people, the survey respondents think we are not so good at congregational singing. Only 57 percent gave it a “very good” or “excellent” rating, meaning that as

of opinion about music in this parish, which makes it clear that to go too strictly in any one direction - very traditional, very contemporary, old, new, whatever

singers, we all could stand some improvement! Michael and I will be talking about ways to encourage and build up the congregation's participation in music. But for now, just remember to sing out -- your fellow worshippers rely on hearing all of you!

Also there is confusion surrounding our hymnals and why we use them, and where they come from. Our final Adult Forum for this year will be a presentation on the growing range of authorized Episcopal hymnals, and how the three hymnals that we use here at All Saints came to be, and why. That session will be held at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 16, in the sanctuary.

Watch for a hymn sing coming up soon, as well, featuring favorite hymns and also some newer ones to learn. Finally, as always, we'll be asking for your Hymnal Hit Parade requests as we plan the music for the summer. We want to sing everyone's favorites this summer.

I love making joyful noises with you each Sunday!

Peace,

+ *Kit*

Welcome to All Saints ... Celebrating Our Newest Members

On Sunday, May 23, we will welcome new members to All Saints during the 10 a.m. service. This day is the feast of Pentecost, the “birthday of the Church,” and it is an especially appropriate time to expand our own outpost of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, through baptism and renewal of our baptismal vows.

We will also welcome any newcomers to All Saints over the past year who want to officially align themselves with our parish.

If you are new (or new-ish) to All Saints, and would like to stand up and be recognized and welcomed as a new member on May 23, please email the church office at allsaints@allsaints-el.org, or call the office at 351-7160.

Ascension Day: Rogation Procession to Pray for Our Community

In the ancient church, the three days leading up to the Feast of the Ascension were called Rogation Days. They were a time when the church community would process around the bounds of the parish, praying for a fruitful harvest, praying for the health and well-being of the people in the parish, and praying for the wider community.

Our Ascension Day celebration this year will be based in a similar sort of procession. We will process to various locations in our East Lansing neighborhood to sing, pray and ask God's blessing on our community. We'll pray at East Lansing High

School, at the Haven House shelter for the homeless, at Hannah Community Center, at the gateway to MSU, at City Hall and at the sites on Abbot Road where All Saints was born. We'll then return to All Saints and resume our worship with the Great Thanksgiving and share Eucharist together.

For those not able to walk this distance, Chaplain Sarah will drive the Canterbury bus from spot to spot, so folks can still participate in our community prayers. Join us at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 13, to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and to pray for the well-being of our community.

Paddling on Dialysis for Kidney Health Project

By Erich Ditschman

This is my 10th year on dialysis.

To mark the occasion, I'm training for the Grand River Expedition 2010, which will take scientists, educators, local officials and river enthusiasts from the river's headwaters near Jackson to its Lake Michigan mouth at Grand Haven 225 miles downstream. The journey is scheduled for the last two weeks of July.

I'm also raising money for the National Kidney Foundation, the premier organization working to prevent kidney disease and to improve the lives of those who are suffering from it. When a person's kidneys fail, there are three options: Get a kidney transplant; go on dialysis or choose to die.

After each day of paddling, I will hook up to my portable hemodialysis machine and clean my blood for eight hours as I sleep so that I can wake up and be ready for the next day's paddle.

During my decade on dialysis I received two kidney transplants, one from my wife, Andria, and another from a cadaver. Unfortunately, both transplants failed.

It was especially difficult when I had to remove the gift of life that Andria lovingly provided. I had named it Annie because a nephrologist said it might help if I talked to it. Let me tell you, I received a number of stares as I sat in the University of Michigan courtyard saying, "Come on Annie, make some pee," as I waited for it to work.

Despite the failed transplants, I feel very fortunate. Andria and I adopted Antonia from birth on my fourth year of dialysis, and together with Jacob, the four of us are having an incredible life together.

Paddling 225 miles and raising \$20,000 to help keep others from getting kidney disease and to send children on dialysis to summer camp sounds like a great way to celebrate.

In the past, I already helped raise \$54,000 for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan (NKFM). With the added help of my new friends at All Saints and the East Lansing community, I know we can achieve an ambitious goal.

Before my kidneys failed, I was a watershed management consultant working to protect rivers and the lands that drain to them. Back then, I used to talk about the need to preserve wetlands because they are "nature's kidneys," improving water quality and managing the flow. But now I'm talking about human wetlands – our kidneys - - and how we need to protect them for pretty much the same reasons.

The Expedition will stop in communities along the way for small festivals to encourage people to take good care of their kidneys and to protect wetlands, too.



I haven't done any river work in the last 10 years, other than paddling with 10-year-old Jacob and 6-year-old Antonia, but I have been working with a number of groups to improve the lives of dialysis patients.

When I first started river work, someone who recognized me in a grocery store, shouted, "Hey, Riverdude." The nickname stuck, so I'm proud to say that in 2010, the Riverdude will reenter the waters.

There are four ways that you can get involved:

1. Make a donation at the secure Website paddlingondialysisforkidneyhealth.blogspot.com/.
2. Join the Riverdudes Walk Team and collect funds to help reach our goal. We will walk June 13 with the National Kidney Foundation at Potter Park in Lansing. I can sign you up.
3. Join me for a day on paddling with Expedition. Let me know which day is best for you.
4. Become a virtual member of my crew by joining the Walk Team as a money-raiser. If you can't walk or paddle with me, you'll still be part of the crew.

The money is used for research into cures and better treatments, sending youngsters who have transplants or are on dialysis to camp, making medicines more affordable to patients and educating populations at risk for kidney disease.

Checks made out to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan may be mailed to me: Erich Ditschman, 1120 Wildwood Dr., East Lansing, MI 48823.

In July, you can follow our journey at paddlingondialysisforkidneyhealth.blogspot.com/.

Thank you for helping me with this great project. Dialyze for the Prize!

Choosing the Music -- Meeting the Challenge

By Kit Carlson

Some respondents in our music survey wondered how the music for our worship is chosen.

It is chosen very carefully, in seasonal planning sessions that include me, Michael Crouch and Bill Ramsey. First, we talk about the liturgical season, if it is Lent, Easter, whatever, and the kind of feeling and direction we want to evoke with the service music choices.

The service music is the same throughout the liturgical season to create a consistent musical approach. The only exception is that the season after Pentecost is so long, stretching from June to December, that we shift service music halfway through, when summer ends and folks return for the fall.

The service music comes from our hymnals, or from new service music supplements issued by the Episcopal church, and in the case of the Advent music we use, from the Catholic tradition.

Then it is time to think about hymns. We have the Bible lessons for each Sunday before us, so we look carefully at the Scripture FIRST, listening for phrases and themes that can be emphasized musically. The sequence hymn is often chosen to link to the gospel lesson specifically, or to the theme for the sermon, if I am thinking that far ahead.

We also try to balance traditional favorites with newer hymns, the "1982 Hymnal" with "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*" and "*Wonder, Love and Praise*." We also keep before us the commitment to diversity and variety in music, knowing that our parishioners have many opinions about music, and many ways that music connects them to God.

We have a lot of help in this part from a wonderful resource Michael discovered two years ago. Issued by the Episcopal Church, it is called "*Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary*." This is a great reference book that offers complete planning for our Episcopal liturgies. There

are hymn suggestions from all FIVE Episcopal hymnals (yes, there are FIVE, and we use only three). There are pages of anthem suggestions for choirs of all sizes and abilities, along with suggestions for solos, duets, trios and more. There are also cross-references for choral or instrumental descants. This gives us a great starting point for selecting hymns and other music.

Finally, Michael and Bill find anthems that fit with the scripture lessons, the season of the year, and the abilities of our very talented choirs. These works range from spirituals to Renaissance and Baroque to some of the best modern compositions. Michael then chooses organ postludes and preludes that tie in with the hymns, the season, or the mood of the day.

We do this planning four or five times a year, in sessions that last the better part of a morning or afternoon. As the life of the church goes on, we also sometimes make adjustments as the day for a service nears. Sometimes the choir is not ready for a scheduled anthem, or I have changed my thinking about a sermon and want to tie it in with a specific hymn. It is always done with careful consideration for the other parts of the service, and how they all work together.

Some Disappointing News

I am sorry to report that our wonderful choir director, Bill Ramsey, has to resign his position for health and family reasons. Bill will conduct the choir through Pentecost, May 23.

While we are all saddened to lose him as a conductor, we can rejoice that Bill has said he wants to continue to sing with the All Saints Choir.

I will be looking for an assistant organist over the summer to assist our music director, Michael Crouch, when the choir season starts up again in the fall.

+ Pastor Kit

Interested in a Day of the Dead Tour in a Mexican Colonial Village?

The seeds of All Saints' annual Day of the Dead celebration were planted when parishioners Dick Johnson, Stephanie Hall, Vic Rauch and Ellen DeRosia traveled to San Miguel de Allende four years ago to experience Día de los Muertos as observed in central Mexico. Now it's your chance to immerse yourself in this cultural event.

The 2010 tour, the 11th sponsored by St. Paul's Church in San Miguel, is scheduled for Oct. 28-Nov. 4. The per-person cost of \$1,850 covers lodging, most meals and ground transportation. A large portion goes to St. Paul's many outreach programs, including feeding 4,000 children every school day and a pre-school for poor children.

A colorful brochure is online at stpauls.org.mx. Or ask Dick, Stephanie, Vic or Ellen for details about Day of the Dead and San Miguel de Allende.

Teddy Bear Collection in May

By Martha Lynch for the Outreach Committee

On Sunday, May 9, we will continue our long-standing tradition of collecting stuffed animals on Mother's Day. Please bring one (or more) clean, new, stuffed animal and place it at the rear of the church.

At the end of the month, the critters will be taken to South Church of the Nazarene on Holmes Road in Lansing. Members of that congregation coordinate Christian Services' Teddy Bear Ministry. Each stuffed animal will be tucked in an overnight bag, and given to a child who is being placed in foster care.

Before you bring your gift to church, consider offering a prayer for the child who will receive it.



Most Merciful God, we beseech you to remember your child [who will receive this gift]. Send your healing Spirit into [his or] her body, mind, and soul. Comfort her, hold her, heal her. Return her to the fullness of life in your love, through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. (From The Anglican Family Prayer Book by Anne E. Kitch.)

Sheila's Corner

What a great time we had at Zap Zone. Everyone enjoyed lunch, playing on the inflatables and playing Laser Tag. We will have to do this again.

I can't believe it is May. We have had a wonderful Sunday school year. I would like to thank all the teachers and adults that have made this year great. The kids have been so much fun and we thank them for coming.

The last day for Sunday school will be May 23. We will have an end-of-the-year party, outside I hope, during the Sunday school time.

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner, June 21-24. We are still looking for adults and youth to help. Signups for the children will be available after the 10 a.m. service. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

Please consider helping with the children and youth as our program expands in numbers. Everyone's talents could be used, from helping out for an occasional hour to being a Sunday school teacher.

If God has moved you to share the love of Christ with children and youth of the church, please contact Sheila Wiitala at allsaintssheila@hotmail.com.

Parish Life, May 2010

Second-Sunday Breakfast. The Second-Sunday breakfast in May will be held on the THIRD Sunday — May 16 — because of Mothers Day. Please join your church family at the meal of the month between the 8 and 10 a.m. services in the Undercroft. Breakfast includes eggs and sausages; croissant or Danish, juice, and coffee — all for a very reasonable \$3.

Coffeehouse!! 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday, May 21, in the Undercroft. Close out the academic year at the All Saints Coffeehouse. If you've never attended, the coffeehouse is an opportunity to kick back one Friday a month to sing, listen to music and poetry (or other readings), or offer a performance of your own for others to enjoy.

You can sign up — or just grab a seat — when you arrive. Food and beverages are available; you can even bring something to share, if you wish. The

atmosphere is relaxed; the evening full. There's no better way to start your weekend. We hope to see you there.

Parish Life will be publishing a recipe book featuring the soups from the Lenten Soup Suppers as a fundraiser in the coming months.

If you have made soup this year or in any past years for the Lenten Soup Suppers, please send Marguerite Halversen your recipe at halverse@msu.edu. Place "All Saints soup recipe" in the subject line. Photos of your soup would also be welcome.

You will be credited with the recipe in the book. The deadline for recipe submission is May 31.

Interested in helping with Parish Life? Call Marguerite Halversen at (517) 333-0251 or e-mail halverse@msu.edu

Strong Faith, 'Hard' Realities

By Lauren Stanley (as published in *Episcopal Life*)

Every time I speak about Haiti, I am asked: “What is it like there?” The only word I know is “hard.”

The devastation from the Jan. 12 earthquake has not suddenly gone away. It has not been cleaned up, and the people are not yet better. There truly is no word in any language to adequately describe the scope and horror of this tragedy.

Every time I am in Haiti, this linguistic challenge hits me in the gut again. It hits when I stand among the ruins and feel the rubble beneath my feet; when I travel about the country and see the buildings that still contain bodies; when I walk by the tent cities where tens – no, hundreds – of thousands of people still live without electricity or sanitation or water or sufficient food or protection; when I see children on the street who should be in school, and who were in school, until their schools came crashing down; when I am told of yet another friend who was killed.

Yet even in all this hardship, over and over again I hear my Haitian friends and colleagues say the same thing: “God saved us for a reason. God saved us to take care of our people and rebuild our country.”

What I hear is the determination of the people not only to persevere, but also to thrive.

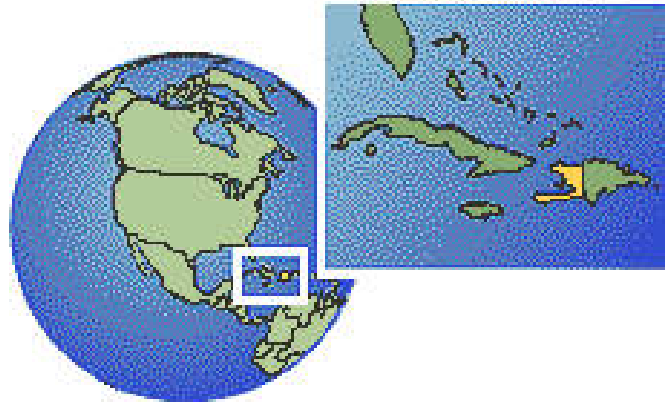
Everyone knows what needs to be done; everyone dreams of what can be done. These are the people to whom I listen the most, the Haitians who, when the earthquake tore apart their lives, did not curse, but instead cried out to Jesus; who every night since the quake have joined with friends and strangers to sing praises to God.

Haiti is their country, and they are the ones who need to guide the rest of us in what needs to be done and how. So even though it is hard for us (there's that word again), we have to listen, to wait, to be patient, to be willing to let Haitians guide us instead of us telling them what to do.

Another thing that is just plain hard: ignoring those who claim that, by their work alone, the Haitians have been saved and are being saved and will be saved. Evangelists are using this tragedy to claim that they are ones who, in one visit, converted tens or hundreds of thousands (or even, as one preacher put it, millions) of Haitians to Christianity, disregarding the fact that Haiti is a Christian nation.

Some aid workers and missionaries are determined to proclaim that they have all the answers as to what needs to be done when, how and why.

Still others even now are discussing how to remake Haiti's government, despite the fact that Haiti has its own constitution.



It is hard (hear that word yet again?) to ignore those who are determined to remake Haiti in their own image, who refuse to recognize that Haiti and Haitians have their own image.

But no matter how much I try, it's still hard to ignore those voices. It seems I spend at least half of each day combating them, thanking people for their offers of help but telling them, “No, thank you,” when those offers come with strings attached that will serve only to bind up the people of Haiti instead of setting them free.

My heart is in Haiti. From the time I arrived, I was welcomed into the Haitian family. I have friends there, people about whom I care deeply. I believe them when they say God saved them for a reason.

And I believe that our role in the rebuilding of the kingdom of God in Haiti, in what Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin calls our “new creation,” is to demonstrate our faith first by listening, then by partnering with the Haitians.

They will know us as Christians not by our words, but by our deeds; not by our boasting, but by our willingness to decrease so that the kingdom can increase.

Building this new creation will not be easy. This is a marathon, one that will take years. The best way we can run this race is to stretch our hearts and minds by listening, waiting patiently while the earth still groans and walking humbly with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

And that, like the devastation, is, for lack of any better word, hard.

The Rev. Lauren Stanley is an Episcopal Church-appointed missionary in Haiti and Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin's liaison in the United States.

May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Trinity Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	31 Memorial Day - Office Closed 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Club 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Newcomer's Committee 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/ 7:30 p.m. AA Eucharist 7:30 p.m. AA					1 Potters Guild 10:00 a.m. Advent House
2 Easter 05 WAWA 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	3 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	4 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 1:30 p.m. Staff Mtg 7:00 p.m. OSL 7:30 p.m. AA	5 10:30 a.m. Sparrow Auxiliary 1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. HE/Healing 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:45 p.m. Adult Ed 6:45 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	6 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:00 p.m. Outreach 6:30 p.m. ACLU 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Adult Discovery 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	7 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	8 10:30 a.m. Confirmations
9 Easter 06 Birthday Sunday Mothers Day 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	10 1:30 p.m. Staff 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study 7:30 p.m. AA	11 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. AGO Auditions 7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds 7:00 p.m. Cancer Support 7:30 p.m. AA	12 5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 5:30 p.m. HE/Healing 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:45 p.m. Adult Ed 6:45 p.m. Children's Choir 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	13 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 9:00 a.m. ANS Parents Tea 7:00 p.m. Ascension Day Service 7:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	14 Messenger Deadline 9:00 a.m. ANS Parents Tea 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	15 9:00 a.m. Baptism Class 9:00 a.m. Prayer Needlers 10:00 a.m. ANS Graduation
16 Easter 07 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:45 a.m. 2 nd Sunday Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	17 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	18 8:00 Breakfast at Coral Gables 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. OSL 7:30 p.m. AA	19 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	20 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	21 1:00 p.m. Duplicate Bridge 7:30 p.m. Coffee House	22 7:00 a.m. Zonta Flowers
23 Pentecost 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum 11:30 a.m. Bell Choir 11:30 a.m. Youth Christian Ed Class 2:00 p.m. EL Writers Forum	24 1:30 p.m. EL Women's Club 1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Newcomer's Committee 6:30 p.m. Steiner Chorale Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Prayer/Study group 7:30 p.m. AA Eucharist 7:30 p.m. AA	25 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters Guild 7:00 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA	26 7:30 p.m. Debtors A	27 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. ACOA 8:00 p.m. AIAnon	28 1:00 p.m. Bridge	29

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics
 ANS = Abbott Nursery School

AIAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics
 Debtors A = Debtors Anonymous

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East Lansing, Michigan 48823

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Canterbury MSU

The Episcopal Chaplaincy at Michigan State University services are held at 5 p.m. Sunday evenings during the fall and spring MSU semesters with dinner following in the Undercroft. For more information, please email emmsu@msu.edu.

Chaplain: The Rev. Sarah Midzalkowski