



The Beacon

August 2025

“Life is a gift from God...”

Earlier this week, Katie Young, Terri Hutchins and I traveled to Ohio where we spent four days with the Community of the Transfiguration, an Episcopal religious order (nuns) and their retreat center. We joined them for worship in their lovely, circular chapel several times each day. A large group of writers meeting there also did not come to worship, so evidently you don't have to be seeking a spiritual experience; but we were. My hopes for immersion in ancient chant did not materialize, mostly because there were only about eight well-aged nuns at each service.

Still, being in their company was inspiring as they helped us find the prayers and psalms appointed for each service. The BCP was the basis for Morning and Evening Prayer, and daily Eucharist; but a collection of their own monastic offices was also used. The technique of listening to the nuns' voices around us, to avoid rushing the responses or standing out as an “oops,” was key to prayerful participation.



Since the three of us are often up front on Sunday morning, leading the congregation in song or prayer, this change into a listening role was revelatory. The sisters were delighted to welcome us into their circle of prayer; our role as guests was to accept with humility, joining their faithful witness in this place for 125 years. Noting our diligence, one of the nuns later asked if any of us was perhaps unattached and interested in learning more about their community? (Sorry, no.) Evangelism must be tough at a convent or monastery!

During a couple of the offices (= non-Eucharistic services) one of the sisters reads a short passage from their Rule, the guiding principles written in the 1890s by founding Mothers Eva Mary

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St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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9 AM - NOON

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
9 AM - 4 PM

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SEXTONS

"...gift from God" continued

Matthews and Beatrice Martha Henderson. I continue to reflect on this one: "Life is a gift to us from God, full of opportunities and choices; what we do with it is our gift back to God."

The days we spent at Transfiguration were definitely a gift from God. Opportunities for reconnecting with the Holy through prayer, conversation, natural beauty (the gardens were wonderful), and time away from the usual stress, are rare and precious. We'll try to make more of them available so you, too, can enjoy a change of pace and perspective.

Feeling blessed,

Susan

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 13**

**LAPEER COUNTRY CLUB
3786 HUNT ROAD
LAPEER, MI**

**Check-in: 7:00 am
Shotgun starts 8:00 am**



See Dave Rayner if you are interested in playing in this year's golf outing to raise money for Family Promise.

Truckload Giveaway

No, we aren't giving a truck away. We are however, giving away all the food that will fit in a semi. On September 6th (and again on October 25th), together with the Fenton Firefighters, we will be distributing fresh food, pastries and frozen foods to the community.

This will be the 19th event that we have sponsored since 2013, usually two per year (except during the pandemic). We have learned that the best fresh food is available in the fall, so this year both of our giveaways will be in the fall.

Around 7:30 am on the 6th a semi full of food weighing several tons will arrive at the Fire Hall. The food will be unloaded by volunteers and the truck driver. We will set up long tables in a 'U' shape inside the hall with the food in the middle. Volunteers will then fill the tables with food in preparation for our guests. While all this is going on, our neighbors from the community will begin lining up in the Fire Hall parking lot. At 9:00 the doors will open, and guests will come in single file

and register. Once registered, they will pick up a box(es) and a volunteer to help them shop. They will make a loop around the tables, selecting items of their choice. When they reach the end, a volunteer will help them carry the groceries to their car. This process will continue until 11:00 or until we run out of food.

Once the doors close we will need to find a home for whatever food remains. We have a long list of local charities that we will connect with and then load up the trucks/vans of St. Jude's volunteers to deliver what remains.

A sign up list is in Vandenburg Hall asking for help with setup, registration, distribution, clean up and delivery. If you have the time and energy, please consider signing up. You will find it to be a rewarding morning, especially the opportunity to interact with our guests.

St. Jude's Outreach Committee

August Birthdays

1st Bill Freeman
 4th Pedro Melchor
 5th Dave Little
 15th Connie Koch
 16th Matt Freeman
 Jill Perry
 Dolores Ruby
 25th Marilyn Safa
 Katie Young

August Anniversaries

6th Harry & Linda
 Chciuk (54th)
 15th Mike & Judy
 Marinco (55th)
 18th Craig & Gay Adams
 (52nd)
 Lynn & Kathy
 Hopper (47th)
 22nd Jerry & Francine
 Rucker (61st)

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES

Welcome our new Assisting Bishop!

Dear friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Standing Committee, I am overjoyed to share that the Rt. Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple will be joining the staff of the Diocese of the Great Lakes as our Assisting Bishop beginning in mid-August.

Bishop Anne brings a wealth of experience, deep pastoral wisdom, and a joyful spirit of accompaniment to this role. She served faithfully for nine years as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina, and while she has officially retired from full-time episcopal ministry, she continues to answer God's call to serve the Church. We are honored that she has said yes to joining us.

Bishop Anne will serve quarter time through April 2027, when we will consecrate our first Bishop Diocesan. Although she will not reside in Michigan, she will make regular trips to the diocese. She is already working closely with our staff to explore creative ways of being present with and accessible to across our communities on site and online.

This announcement is a long time coming! Since June 2024, your Standing Committee has been actively seeking an Assisting Bishop to offer pastoral and episcopal leadership during this time of transition. As you've heard me and others say many times before, we know that our systems and our people work best with a bishop walking alongside us.

Our Interim Executive Officer, Alan James, is providing excellent administrative and structural leadership and we're thankful now that Bishop Anne will join us in a role focused on uniquely episcopal leadership.

We are confident that Bishop Anne is the right person to walk with us in this season. Much like an interim rector serves a parish in transition, she will tend to the spiritual and pastoral life of our diocese as we continue our search for the person God is calling to be our first Bishop Diocesan.

Bishop Anne is eager to get to know the people of the Great Lakes and to share in ministry with us. She brings a particular heart for connection, formation, and care. She has already expressed her commitment to being a pastoral and teaching presence throughout our diocese and looks forward to joining us at Diocesan Convention this October.

We'll be sharing more details about her schedule, availability, and ways to connect in the coming weeks. For now, please join me in giving thanks for this good news, and in prayer for Bishop Anne as she prepares to step into this role among us.



The Rev. Molly Boscher
 President, Standing Committee
 Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

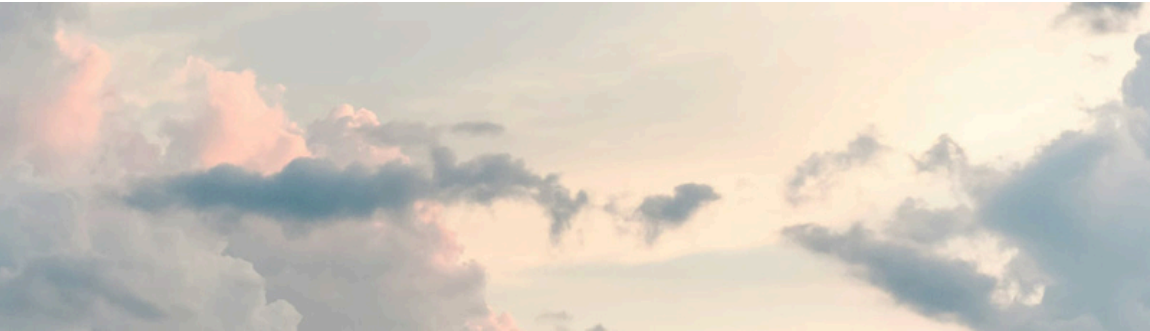
Reflections

Submitted by Judy Marinco from "Our Daily Bread", July 8th edition

Prayer of Desperation

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

John 11:23



In 2011, Karey Packard and her daughter were packing boxes for a move to a new home. Suddenly, Karey collapsed, and her heart stopped. Doctors revived Karey, but her condition worsened through the night. Her husband, Craig, was told to call family to say final goodbyes. They prayed what Craig called "a prayer of desperation."

How often have we prayed a prayer of desperation in a crisis? Mary and Martha did. They sent a desperate message to Jesus: their brother Lazarus, "the one you love," was gravely ill (John 11:3). When Christ finally arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha, in anguish, said to Jesus: "If you had been here, my brother would not have died" (v. 21). She knew Christ could heal sick people but could not imagine His

power to overcome death. Jesus, of course, raised Lazarus, a foreshadowing of His own resurrection weeks later.

Karey had officially flatlined, yet miraculously God brought her back to life. In the stories of both Karey and Lazarus, it's easy to miss the point: God has purposes that we don't know. He neither heals everyone nor brings all dead people back to life. But He gives us a transcending assurance: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die" (v. 25). As believers, whatever happens, we know we'll be with Jesus. Maybe that makes our desperate prayers a little less desperate.

By Kenneth Petersen

Reflect & Pray

What desperate experiences have you had? How have you prayed through them?

Father God, please help me see the bigger picture of Your purposes.

Upcoming Events to Note

Tuesday, August 5 & 19 - 1 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, August 13 - 1 pm: Outreach

Saturday, August 16 - 10 am: Alzheimer's Care Giver Sessions

Wednesday, August 20 - 7 pm: Vestry

Thursday, August 21 - 6 pm: Book Club

Saturday, September 6 - Truckload Food Giveaway



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VESTRY

2026

Bill Anderson
Paul Dolza
Heather Ludwig
Dave Rayner

2027

Doug Hill
Dave James
Jim Ramelis

2028

Charles Johnston
Sue Premo
Megan Rosa-Norred

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Paul & Sarah Dolza
Dave & Debbie James