

# CTC CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

## December 30, 2020



From Pastor Brant...

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:34*

Early on into the Book of Acts, Jesus shares with his disciples his vision not only of the mission before them, but also a promise of how he will empower them with his presence to accomplish this work. This proclamation take place right after the risen Christ finishes teaching them for 40 days (There's that number again!) about the Kingdom of heaven, and is then lifted up to the throne of glory.

What soon follows, of course, are the events of Pentecost, when Jesus' promise about the Spirit of God is fulfilled. With a mighty act of wind and fire, the disciples are empowered to be the witnesses Jesus calls them to be. They speak in many different languages to the people from many different countries about the person and redemption of Jesus Christ. The group that was 12, and then 120, has grown into one of thousands.

At the end of the second chapter we are offered a vision of how the church intentionally works to keep the Spirit of Christ at the center of all of its efforts. The people gather themselves regularly for study, and worship, and to share their deepest challenges and joys and heartbreaks. They do this because in these efforts they find that Christ himself is present through the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Acts was written by the same person who wrote the gospel of Luke. Part of his intention in writing this book is to help us know that the Jesus who was present on earth, who lived among the disciples, teaching them, fellowshiping with them, breaking bread with them and sharing in their worship, is available to us should we choose to seek him out.

Tom Bandy, in his book *Christian Chaos*, gives the vision of the church as an active volcano, full of energy and heat, ready to explode at any minute. The source of the heat and the energy comes from the church taking this model of the early church to heart. When we gather to share the wisdom and mercy of God, in how we encounter God through scripture, through our lives, through our worship, and through our efforts to serve others in his name, we stoke ourselves up for the challenges before us. To whatever degree we bring our embers to this place, we add fuel to the fire and allow ourselves to be warmed up by them as well.

Part of our struggle over the last year has been about how we have not been able to gather. This ideal that is set before us in Acts, of devotion to the study of the teachings, and the fellowship, and the worship, has been sidetracked in some way by this pandemic. It has certainly been a part of mine. I understand my work as being one who facilitates our efforts to engage one another around these activities. I want us to engage in the study of the scriptures and in the ways they impact our understandings of who we are and how we are to impact the communities around us. I want us to join together to share the more vulnerable aspects of ourselves with a trusted few, for this allows us to experience the grace that empowers us to break free into new actions and ways of being. I want us to discover new opportunities to express our thanks and praise to God and to challenge us to be bolder in our prayers for ourselves, for one another, and for all those in need.

Each day we hear the good news of vaccines becoming more widely available. The number of people vaccinated have not reached the levels we have been hoping for, and that is certainly something that will continue to be on our prayer agenda for some time. With that news comes the hope that we can see a time when we will be able to gather again and devote ourselves to these activities that assure us that Christ is with us as we take on the challenges of being the church in this new time and place. I am imagining that there is a great hunger for this out there because we have been without it for what seems like a very long time. Let's pray that it will happen soon because we have lots to share with one another while we have been away. And in the dead of winter whatever heat we can share is of benefit.

Take Care,

*Brant*

**YOUR SESSION/COUNCIL AT WORK**  
**Mary Ann Parker, Your Clerk of Session**

**MANSE PROPERTY**

For your information and to keep you abreast of developments:

After several people viewed the manse when it was placed on the market in November, we had a buyer who put down a \$500.00 deposit. Since that time, the first buyer backed out of the agreement. The \$500.00 will be sent to the church. The house was put on the market again. The third person that came through has now put down a deposit and signed a purchase agreement which the session approved on 12-28-2020. Hopefully, we will have a new neighbor in February, 2021.

**Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm in the Parking Lot**

The session called for the annual congregational meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, in the church parking lot at 1 PM. At this meeting of the congregation, the members of the 2021 Nominating Committee will be elected and church teams and organizations will be asked to report their actions for 2020 and their goals for 2021.

In addition, the session agreed to place before the congregation a change in the by-laws *authorizing the session to review and to approve all congregational minutes*. It is believed that this will simplify essential record keeping in the church.

Kathy Loviska has asked all committee moderators to have their annual reports to her as soon as possible after the first of the year and no later than January 10, 2021.

**In Person Worship Suspended Until Further Notice**

In person worship continues to be suspended until the way be clear for us to resume safely. The Sunday Worship service will continue to be broadcasted on our YouTube Channel, CTC Saginaw, premiering at 10:30 am, and will also be available on our FaceBook page later on Sunday afternoon.

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>**

During our worship on January 10<sup>th</sup>, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. You are invited once again to gather before you the elements of the bread and the cup so that you might fully participate in this sacred celebration.

### **Session Report from its stated meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>**

A request was received from an organized Scout troop for Countryside Trinity to become its Charter Organization. This request was discussed and a decision was made to continue to explore the commitments it will require of us and the ways we might support this organization and its ministry to our community. Presently the Scouts are not meeting.

The Stewardship and Finance team invites those who have yet to pledge, to please send in your pledge card to the church office. This year has presented CTC with many challenges in how we minister to our congregation and our community, and this information is helpful as the session continues to seek out new opportunities for service.

The session approved new office hours for our Administrative Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM year-round. (NO change during the summer months).

### **Offering Envelopes are available to be picked up.**

Lori Halase has made the boxes of offering envelopes available during the week for pickup. To pick yours up, **please first call the church office to make an appointment** to ensure both that someone will be here to unlock the door for you, and to pick up your offering envelope if you want to drop it off, and also to help us keep the number of people coming into the church building manageable. The boxes will be on the table on the left side as you come in the East door, each one in its own plastic bag. Please wear a mask as you enter, and exit as quickly as you can.

### **Per Capita Contributions will be collected starting on January 10<sup>th</sup>**

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, the day we commemorate the baptism of Jesus Christ, as well as recommit ourselves to our baptismal vows, it is appropriate that we begin our annual collection of our Per Capita contributions. Again this year we are inviting all members to contribute \$30 to cover the costs of providing support to "Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) of the United Church of Christ and the "Per Capita Offering" of the PC(USA). This donation empowers the Presbytery of Lake Huron, the Michigan Conference, and our denominations to provide us with guidance and support as we seek to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in our community and in our world. Below are two online links to give you more information on each.

[https://oga.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/per\\_capita\\_overview\\_2019\\_color.pdf](https://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/per_capita_overview_2019_color.pdf)

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churches-wider-mission/ourchurches-wider-mission-basic-support/>

**Christian Outreach:** Please remember our local ministries during this time, as they work to provide additional resources to our community in this time of pandemic and need your support. The Mission of the Month for January is Forgotten Man at the Saginaw jail. Since we can't take underwear in as we usually do, we are asking for cash donations labelled Forgotten Man or notated on your check. The money collected will be sent to the chaplain at the Saginaw Jail for whatever she sees is needed.



**Women's Association** - We were able to help six families with gift certificates of \$100 for Christmas. Extra monies donated will be sent to East and Westside soup kitchens, saving a small start for Easter Baskets.

Countryside recently lost two charter members. They are Donald "Don" Brady and Allen Streeter. Their obituaries follow:



**Brady, Donald "Don" James  
Kochville, MI**

Passed away peacefully at his home on October 7, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. He was 72 years old. Donald James Brady was born on April 29, 1947, in Pontiac, Michigan, to the late Raymond and Genevieve (Winieckie) Brady. Don spent his early childhood in Anaheim, California. His family moved to the Saginaw area when he was a teenager, where he attended Arthur Hill High School, graduating in 1965. He met the love of his life, Jean E. Bourdow at the Golden Glow. He proudly served his country with the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Upon his return, he and Jean eloped on December 9, 1967. They settled in Kochville, where they raised their four children. Don worked for General Motors-Grey Iron Foundry for over 25 years and retired in 1995.

When he wasn't working, he spent many hours coaching baseball and softball for the neighborhood teams and those of his children. Don was an avid collector of Notre Dame memorabilia and he loved the Fighting Irish, especially Notre Dame Saturdays.

Don also enjoyed golfing, fishing with his son, antiquing with Jean, listening to and playing music on his guitar. Don loved to celebrate family occasions with making his famous, fried bread dough. Lastly, he loved a good game of "Let's Bug Don". A game made up and played by his grandchildren without his knowledge or consent.

Don is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Jean E. Brady; children: John (Monica) Brady, Dee Brady, Melissa (Brandon) Bordeaux and Summer (Mark) Spetoskey; grandchildren: Olivia, Vayden and Atticus Brady, Brittany Enszer, Ryleigh, Jackson and Carter Spetoskey and Cooper Bordeaux; great-grandson, Peyton Scully; siblings: Rick (Barb) Brady, Danford Brady, Denise (Bob Lauka) Brady and Ramona (David "Salty" Saltmarsh) Lamping; sisters-in-law: Patricia Bourdow and Betty Ann (Don) Jolin. Don is also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family, friends and his dogs, Ella Bella and Rudy.

He was preceded in death by his parents; step-father, Thomas Smith; grandson, Kyle Enszer; mother-in-law and father-in-law, John and Louise Bourdow; sister-in-law, Mary Lou Weeden; and his brothers-in-law, Bob and Dan Bourdow, Sr.

Don's family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staff and doctors of Covenant Mackinaw Chemo and Radiation Center and Heartland Hospice.

May his spirit play like a champion today, and always.

FUNERAL: A Funeral Liturgy will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 11, 2019 at St. Dominic Parish – St. Stephen Catholic Church, 1310 Malzahn St., Saginaw, MI 48602. Rev. Fr. Steven M. Gavit will officiate. Military

Honors will follow at the church under the auspices of the United States Air Force. Cremation will follow the Mass.

VISITATION: Family and friends are welcome to visit at the Deisler Funeral Home, 2233 Hemmeter Rd. (off State) on Thursday, October 10, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. A Vigil Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening led by Pastoral Associate, Sharon Wahl. Don will lie in state at the church on Friday from 12:00 p.m. until the time of the Mass.

MEMORIALS: In lieu of flowers, those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the Amazing Grace Animal Rescue or the Saginaw Bay Ice Arena (Pat Bourdow Memorial Fund). Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at the funeral home, church or through [www.deislerfuneralhome.com](http://www.deislerfuneralhome.com).



**Streeter, Allen**  
**Thomas Township, MI**

Streeter, Allen 9/18/1923 - 12/14/2020 Saginaw Died December 14, 2020 at Covenant Hospital. He was born on September 18, 1923 in Flint, Michigan, the son of Everett and Elizabeth (Allen) Streeter. He was raised in Flint and attended public schools there, graduating from Flint Northern High School. He worked for General Motors at AC Spark Plug and attended General Motors Institute before going to the U.S. Army in 1943. He served in Europe during World War II. After the war he married his school days sweetheart, Doris Mae Loomas in 1945. She predeceased him in 2006. The family moved to Saginaw in 1964 when Allen was transferred to Saginaw Steering Gear where he worked as a senior designer until he retired in 1982. He became interested in Saginaw Township government and served on the Township Planning Commission for 33 years between 1966 and 2003. He was elected a Township Trustee and served from 1970 to 1974. Allen and Doris moved to Swanhaven Manor, a retirement community in Thomas Township, in 2004. He was appointed to the Downtown Development Authority there in 2007. Allen's special interests in addition to his family and Church were; travel, family genealogy, music/theatrical events, photography and contact with his WW II army buddies and their widows. Allen served as an Elder at Countryside Presbyterian Church (now Countryside Trinity Church) and later at First Presbyterian Church. He was a life member of Salina-Pioneer Lodge #79 F.&A.M. and a member of Scottish Rite Bodies in Bay City, Michigan. He was honored with a life membership in Michigan Society of Planning Officials in 1992 and was a member of the Saginaw Genealogical Society, Saginaw Steering Gear/Delphi Salaried Alumni, Saginaw Historical Society, and the Streeter Family Association. He is survived by three children; Kenneth (Karen) Streeter, Marcia Streeter (Alan Bromund) and Janice Talkington. Other survivors are grandchildren; Daniel (Barbara) Streeter, Rebecca (Steven) Miller, Paul (Wendy) Streeter, Jennifer (Earl) Waite and Andrew (Andrea) Bejcek. Also, great-grandchildren; Brittany (Justin) Carpenter, Amanda (Lance) Rader, Steven (Chelsie) Miller, Brieana (Daniel) Prewett, Bethany Miller, Paul, Luke and Gabrielle Streeter, Isabella Waite, Gemma and Oliver Bejcek. Also, great-great-grandchildren; Jennifer, James, and Beniah Miller and Declan Rader. A Celebration of Life will be held on May 22nd, 2021 at First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, Rev. Ted McCulloch officiating. Internment has taken place at Oakwood Memorial Mausoleum. Those planning an expression of sympathy may consider memorial gifts to First Presbyterian Church of Saginaw, Rescue Ministries of Mid-Michigan or to the donor's favorite charity.





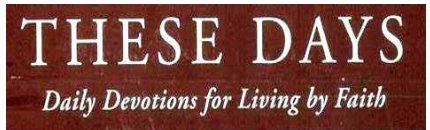
**Greeting Cards:** Due to the restrictions regarding Covid-19, Shirlee Scovill will **NOT** be selling cards until further notice based on Covid Guidelines. However, she wanted me to relay that if you need to get something please call her or email her and maybe she can arrange something with you. Her phone numbers are: 989 892-1903 (Home) 989 327-2219 (Cell) and her email is [scovillshirlee@yahoo.com](mailto:scovillshirlee@yahoo.com).

**Facebook Prayer Group:** We have created a FB Prayer Group on our newly created FB Page. It is a private group where only those who are invited can see the messages posted for those in need of prayer. If you are on Facebook and would like to be invited, please call Kathy in the office so she can invite you to join.



**Telephone Directory:** Don't forget to let Kathy in the office know about any change of yours or a family member's address, phone numbers or email addresses so she can update the church records and mailing lists. Please email changes to [countryside@ctcsaginaw.com](mailto:countryside@ctcsaginaw.com) or leave a message at 989 793-0125.

**These Days:** We have received the first quarter of 2021 *These Days* magazine and they will be in the box outside the east entrance door if you would like to pick one up.



**Thank You:** Nancy Easlick wants to thank all of those who purchased the Poinsettias to display in the church for the Christmas Eve service. There were 25 plants ordered and they looked beautiful. She also wishes to thank Dan Groom for all his help on December 23<sup>rd</sup> when the plants were picked up. Nancy also wishes to ask everyone to say a prayer for Dick as he has not been feeling well. So far the doctors have not been able to determine what is wrong, but please keep Dick Easlick in your prayers for his healing and to regain his strength.

## PROTOCOLS FOR COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

In an abundance of caution and until it is safe to relax these procedures, the following protocols will be required before entering the building:

1. Appointments are required. Please call the office (989) 793-0125 to set up a convenient time Monday-Thursday in the mornings.
2. Enter the building only through the east door near the office
3. **YOU MUST WEAR A MASK WHILE INSIDE THE BUILDING.** Free masks are available in the entrance hall.
4. Fill out the Registration Sheet on the table immediately inside the door to the left, recording your answers to the Screening Questionnaire and your temperature as shown on example below. To take your temperature, place the thermometer near your forehead and squeeze the button. Your temperature will show up on the screen (please note that if it is cold outside, you may need to place the thermometer close to a location which was covered by your coat in order to get an accurate reading (forearm, neck, etc). **If you are not feeling well, or your temperature is above 100.4° F please do not come into the church.**

EVENT:					
Date:		Time:	Location:		
Attendee/Name		Screening Questions (which one if answered "yes")	Temperature (Below 100.4 F/38C)	Admitted (Yes) (No)	
1	Jane Doe	None	98.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Please use the hand sanitizer on your way in and on your way out.
6. Please do not venture into the church.
  - a. If dropping something off, leave it on the table.
  - b. If picking something up, please arrange this in advance so it will be readily available for you.

We want to make sure that we are all as safe as possible under these extreme conditions and urge everyone to please be careful, always wear your mask and wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes regularly. If you do not have a mask or need more, please let Kathy know and you will be provided as many as you need.



# And Happy Anniversary

## **BIRTHDAYS JANUARY**

- 2 Shirlee Scovill
- 5 Norma Meacham
- 8 Zachary Vega
- 12 Julie Smith Lowe
- 13 Sarah Gonzales
- 13 Kevin Diggs
- 14 Betty Hauk
- 15 Mary Young
- 17 Madisen J. Groom
- 22 Mary Ann Parker
- 24 Chelsea Parker
- 25 Brian Leach
- 27 Laura Nolan
- 28 Irene Ohmer
- 28 Kevin Barnum
- 30 John Bethune
- 31 Peter Dominguez

## **BIRTHDAYS FEBRUARY**

- 3 Roger Scovill
- 6 Angie Mitchell (Organist)
- 8 Mark VanArsdale
- 9 Matthew Davis
- 9 Aaron Plater II
- 10 Victoria Parker
- 11 Isabella Dominguez
- 11 John VanArsdale
- 12 Jackie Williams
- 13 MariAnne Vega
- 18 Brady W. Groom
- 22 Gail Jacobson
- 22 Michelle Martinez

- 25 Doug Leffler
- 26 Leore Bethune
- 26 Helen Reynolds

## **BIRTHDAYS MARCH**

- 1 Ron Platt
- 2 Elaine Miner
- 3 Carol VanArsdale
- 8 Virginia Brachear
- 9 Sandy Redfield
- 12 Richard Foote
- 14 Andy Smith
- 16 Shirley Roof
- 22 Chong Ladner
- 29 Floyd Krzak
- 30 Glenna VanHautte
- 30 Robert Furlo

## **ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY**

- 6 Pervez & Ezra Yusaf
- 7 Ron & Brenda Platt
- 11 Robert & Jean Bortner
- 28 Michael & Amanda Groom

## **ANNIVERSARIES FEBRUARY**

- 11 John & Leore Bethune
- 25 Sarah & Tony Gonzales

## **ANNIVERSARIES MARCH**

- 6 Chad & Karla Parker
- 21 Vincent & Michelle Martinez