

## ST. AIDAN'S TIMES Present Stuff

### **HABITAT CELEBRATION TODAY, May 23: FIELD LECTURE BY PROF. (EMERITUS) BURTON V. BARNES**

Come one and all. Eat and stay today after the 11:00 Pentecost Service to enjoy a lively field lecture about our grounds by Forest Ecologist, Burton V. Barnes. He will be teaching us about the levels of disturbance our woods have weathered in the past and give us insight on how to take care of it in the future. We will meet in the lower sanctuary at 1:00 for a short introduction before we go into the woods with him. We will finish with a reception in the lounge.

### **SIMULTANEOUSLY RETREAT CENTER OPEN HOUSE:**

During and after the lecture, our building will be open for anyone who would like to tour the facility with retreat use in mind. So, play host to any visitors you see who are seeking insight into our building and its possibilities. See Sue Wyman for really tough questions, or Susan McGarry. When you are away from our campus, urge others to use the retreat facility. There is a nice page on the website: [www.staidan.org](http://www.staidan.org) dedicated to the retreat center. It has a short slide show about the facility.

**WELCOME BACK TO LARK-AREYN SPEYER:** The long anticipated return from Boston of Lark-Aeryn Speyer and her husband, David happened last week. David has a position at U of M. Welcome home to both of you.

## ST. AIDAN'S TIMES Future Stuff

### **ST. AIDAN'S TO WORSHIP AS ONE IN SUMMER SCHEDULE**

In consultation with the vestry, I have decided to invite St. Aidanites to worship together in one worship service during the summer. The time will be 9:30 am. For the past several years, our summer congregations have been very small. As summer vacations present opportunities for travel and other enjoyment, our worship continues. The single service will offer us an opportunity to be together as one worshipping community that is more robust in numbers than we are used to having in our summer worship services. While the services will have music, it will be appropriate for a simple service with attention given for periods of contemplation and silence.

The summer schedule will begin on June 20 and continue through August.

I will be on an official sabbatical in July and August. Nevertheless, you will see me frequently on Sunday morning during those months. I will be celebrant at many of the services and preacher at some. I will be inviting other preachers to accompany me. The Rev. Jim Graham, of our congregation, will be the celebrant and preacher at several of the services as well.

During those two months, the pastoral care team will be on call for pastoral concerns and the wardens, Alan Vayda and Sue Pfoutz available for leadership and emergencies. More important will be your community love and concern for each other. Through the bulletin and e-mail contacts we will try to help keep each other connected with our needs and concerns.

Susan McGarry, rector

Summer Schedule:

June 20 – August 29 9:30 AM Episcopal Community Service of Holy Communion

Contacts:

Office: 663-5503 (emergency number always available)

[nam.ministries@sbcglobal.org](mailto:nam.ministries@sbcglobal.org)

## **PROPOSED LAND TRANSFER IN THE WORKS**

Let everyone know that a wonderful possibility is in the works. Dedicated member of St. Aidan's, Betty Rees, has offered St. Aidan's a gift of property. It is 10 very natural, beautiful acres of waterfront property on a Washtenaw County lake. It is her desire that we accept the gift, develop it as an extension of our present ecological ministry and retreat ministry. In particular, she would like us to preserve the land in its natural state. There is a task force working on the practical steps for us to receive this land. The task force recognizes its use for worship in a natural setting, spiritual development, and simple relaxation in the presence of God's beauty. We also recognize the wonderful possibilities for stewardship of a fragile eco-system and education about environmental preservation that would take place there. There are two clear hurdles to clear. One is seeking a special use permit for "places of worship," from the township's planning commission special is probably the most important one. The other is the permission of the bishop and standing committee of the diocese.

Visit the St. Aidan's page of Face Book for a video (mostly winter scenes). Just click on the video section of the page and choose "Betty's Land."

Then there will be some work to get the property ready for use. The first stage of development will only involve brush clearing, actually quite a bit of brush clearing. We plan to use an existing driveway, clear a few parking places, and create two worship

circles, one in the woods and one in an open field. A few unsafe structures will have to be removed. In this first stage of development, the property will be available for day use only. There will be no electricity or water. We will install a portable toilet facility that will be pumped by a contractor.

One of the most interesting projects will be the mapping and clipping of a number of existing game trails. These will form the beginning of the nature education program since they offer access to the whole property and will allow us to view the different ecosystems (wet-land, up-land, and water front) in every season.

The first stage of the plan does not include a dock for swimming and boating but that certainly will be a priority, as soon as the land is made useful for worship and education. It is a beautiful small lake with only a few owners. The boat traffic seems to be mostly canoes and small fishing boats.

So if this gift excites you, please contact a vestry member (Alan Vayda, Jim Barber, Sue Pfoutz, Fran Board, Michael Earle, Shirley Coombs) or Susan McGarry to communicate your interest and especially your availability as a volunteer as we put this gift in order.

### **THE CAMPERS ARE COMING**

We are once again sponsoring the Living Waters Day Camp here at St. Aidan's. This year it is co-sponsored by King of Kings Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches with support from Northside. Last year we served 42 campers in this one week camp for 5-12 year old young people. We hope to serve as many this year. Living Waters Camps (Lutheran and Episcopal) send a whole staff and program to church campuses for younger children. Since we have a great camping campus, St. Aidan's decided, as part of our outreach we would also offer this camp. So pray for it, and support it by telling your friends with children. See the web site: [www.staidan.org](http://www.staidan.org) for up to date registration information. The camp is reasonably priced at \$75.00. There will be before and after care. The curriculum is fun, the songs great, and the experience strengthens the Christian formation of our youth.

You also are invited to volunteer at the camp. We need several volunteers each day to assist the professional counselors. 1) So if you have either full or half days you could volunteer, you might find yourself assisting with a camping group, making and serving snacks, or organizing art projects for the down times when the staff are on break. 2) If you have no whole or half days but could assist with before and after care. That would also be great. 3) We will need housing for the week Sun-Thurs. nights for 4 college age counselors. 4) You can help with organization beforehand. If you can provide any of these things, please let Susan McGarry know. (663-5503; 973-6067: [smcgarry@umich.edu](mailto:smcgarry@umich.edu))

Camp Details: June 28 – July 2. Camp is from 9am-3pm with before and after care. (8am and up to 5:30pm)

**OUR MINISTRIES: WORSHIP, SOCIAL ACTION, OUTREACH CONTINUE**  
**What can you do to help or spread the news?**

The task force on retreats will continue to plan, offer, and facilitate retreats. We had several very helpful retreats that we offered and have had four outside groups use our facility for retreats. You can help by suggesting and/or facilitating retreats that would be helpful to members of our churches and guests from outside this community. You can spread the word about our retreat center. You can spread the word about our on-site habitat and our worshipping community. Mostly please remember that you are not a consumer, you are a participant and member so your opinions matter, your ideas for what will make this community better, more loving, and more giving among and beyond our selves will make us stronger. So load up with St. Aidan's business cards, habitat business cards, give them liberally where you think they will be appreciated. Invite people to church or to special events. Since we are trying to make hospitality through the gift of our building and land, offer that as well. There is a nice page about the St. Aidan's/Northside Presbyterian Natural Habitat on the web page: [www.staidan.org](http://www.staidan.org).

Remember 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays are our hunger meal so, particularly in the summer volunteer if you can.

Worship as much as you can this summer. Enjoy your time away. And remember, when you worship somewhere else in your travels, notice things that you like, bring back ideas, see where we could improve our welcome and hospitality. If you particularly like a liturgy, grab a copy (and permission to use it if possible) and bring it back. A number of the liturgies we use here came to us that way. Finally take our peace and greeting with you when you go.

**ST. AIDAN'S TIMES**  
**The Past**

This has been a busy year at St. Aidan's. The challenge of more aggressively offering our selves and particularly our facility to others has put new challenges and experiences before us. The new retreat ministry taskforce not only offered four retreats, they developed the infrastructure to publicize and offer the retreat center to others. That is beginning to bear fruit. So please help by spreading the word.

Thanks to the planners of a fun and fund raising party to celebrate my 30 years of ordained ministry. I think the participants had a good time and some significant donations were made to several very important local non-profits.

We continue to have interesting Adult Education subjects on Sunday morning and are always open for other opportunities as well. The Wednesday noon Bible Study continues on for maybe its 30<sup>th</sup> year.

Your generosity at the time of the year-end holidays was magnificent. It also was enjoyable. With Northside, we outdid ourselves with the Jesse Tree. The five families, who really are among the poorest of the poor in our county, received richly from you. It was fun to see the lounge fill up with bicycles and all manner of other terrific gifts.

We once again offered a week of hospitality to the men from the homeless shelter (including an Epiphany ingathering of gloves). It continues to be my experience that we received as much as we give from this ministry each year.

Thanks to all who participated in the Lenten and Holy Week activities and services. Finally, let us remember all those who have had a difficult year because of their own health challenges or the challenges of those they love.

## **ST. AIDAN'S TIMES**

### **Challenge of Communication**

After many years of service as our Newsletter Editor, Phil Singer, asked to retire because of pressing family needs. So, we are without an editor. I, Susan, realize this is an inferior way to communicate our parish life, yet as a stop gap, I make bold to send this to you. Let it be a challenge to your creativity. How should we do this in the future? Who has creativity and gifts to create a news entity for us? Even if you cannot do it yourself, what would you like to see happen? Communicate these ideas to the vestry or me, Susan. If you can help, communicate that also. Lots of wonderful things are happening in this community. We need to let each other know so we can, as we are able, participate in the goodness and wonder.

Faithfully,  
Susan