



**Fr. Greg's Pastoral Letter for the Harbinger -
December 2017**

Dear Emmanuel:

Patience

Wonder

Possibility

These are the some of the special lessons that we are challenged to learn in Advent. I say "challenged", but most of us bail on it. We don't like living in world that challenges us anymore. We know that we can close a door and turn it off, and move toward things that challenge us little, if at all. We want entertainment, not challenge.

And so we fail to grow. Each challenge is an opportunity for us to discover new depths within ourselves, if we only accept the challenge. So I am challenging EACH OF YOU in one manner if each of the skills we're called to sharpen in Advent.

Patience: I challenge YOU to NOT use the express checkout when you shop, but to have a positive interaction with an actual human being. ALSO, I challenge you to NOT seek out the shortest line to check out, but to practice patience as you wait for others to have their turn.

(God's people had a lot of patience waiting for their savior.)

Wonder: I challenge you to NOT FIND THE ANSWER to questions that come up in your world. What is the capital of Saskatchewan? When is the last time the Bears actually defeated the Lions? Just where IS the world's largest ball of twine? The temptation for many of

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us is to turn to "The Oracle", our iPhones or computers, to answer every question that occurs to us. Stop it! Live for a while in the "unknowing" and let your imagination wander, or for your thinker to figure it out for itself! You might be surprised and the joy you feel in figuring something out, or in just NOT knowing!

(The shepherds had no idea what was going on around them, or what it meant; Mary wondered and pondered the news the angel brought her.)

Possibility: I challenge you to dream of what could be. Think about the many options and possibilities that still await you, and figure out what you have to do to help bring them to fruition. Not all of them will come to be, but little has been accomplished without a hope or dream of something better, and then the grit to get to work to get you there.

(So much became possible through the incarnation of God into human form. Mary said "yes" and then began to dream.)

The challenges are there, my friends. I hope you have the grace to accept some of them, if not all.

In any regard, I wish you all a peaceful, patient, wonder-full, advent filled with possibilities.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg's Announcements for the Harbinger

Advent Movie Series!!! By popular demand, we are beginning an Advent movie night on the Tuesdays of Advent. Dinner and refreshments will be provided, and you are welcome to bring something as well!

December 5: "To Kill a Mockingbird"; Gregory Peck nails it in this story of justice, patience, and innocence.

December 12: "Hugo" How lives are transformed and redeemed as a result of one boy's imagination and adventure.

December 19: "Waiting for Guffman", along the line of "Spinal Tap" and "Best in Show", a comical look at how one small town theatre troupe prepares for the coming of a talent scout.

Pledge Cards: can be turned in on the altar or placed in the offering basket at the time of the offertory between now and forever.

Mondays at Nativity, Boyne City. Out of town for the weekend and didn't make it to church? Well, SOME weekends you get a last chance! During the school year, Fr. Greg celebrates Holy Communion at Nativity about once a month on a Monday at 5:30 p.m. The service is always followed by a potluck dinner, which is always delicious. So come join us, and bring a dish to pass if you'd like to add to the variety! Upcoming Mondays include Nov. 27, and Dec. 11.

Christmas Eve & Day Services for 2017

December 24 a.m. - Advent 4

ONE SERVICE at 9:00 a.m. at Emmanuel

December 24 p.m. - Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. at Emmanuel: Youth Choir and more child-oriented service, music begins 20-30 minutes prior.

7:30 p.m. at Nativity, Boyne City.

10:00 p.m. at Emmanuel: Adult choir sings, music begins about 30 minutes prior.

December 25 - Christmas Day

Morning Prayer Rite 1 at 10:00 a.m. at Emmanuel, in the Chapel.



VESTRY UPDATE

The Harvest Dinner was a wonderful get-

together and a highlight of the stewardship campaign for 2018. Many thanks for being there, and for bringing yummy dishes to share, and for celebrating together our life at Emmanuel.

Vestry is working on next year's budget. We think, pray, plan and hope to put stewardship dollars to work to reflect our EEC mission and vision. We look forward to 2018 and Emmanuel's 131st year in Petoskey! More outreach, spiritual studies, a youth mission trip, undercroft improvements, expanding out music program are all projects in motion.

We could use your help with special projects: We need help with recycling, we need a coffee hour chairperson, and we have openings for writers of news articles and updates for

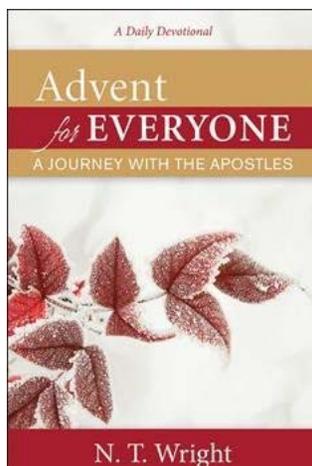
our Facebook page. Call me or call Leah to volunteer for these special tasks, and many thanks for your help and support!

Sandy Selden, Senior Warden

Advent for Everyone
Wednesdays: November 29 - December 20
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Enrich your Advent experience through daily Bible reflections and weekly discussion. Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles provides an inspirational guide through this year's readings for the Advent season. Popular biblical scholar and author N. T. Wright provides his own Scripture translation and brief reflection, helping readers understand Advent in the wider context of God's love.

We will meet on Wednesday's for discussion of the key themes: thanksgiving, patience, humility, and joy.



The book is available at Christianbook.com:

<https://www.christianbook.com/advent-everyone-mark-year-daily-devotional/n-t-wright/9780664263423/pd/263420?event=ESRCG>

And Amazon:

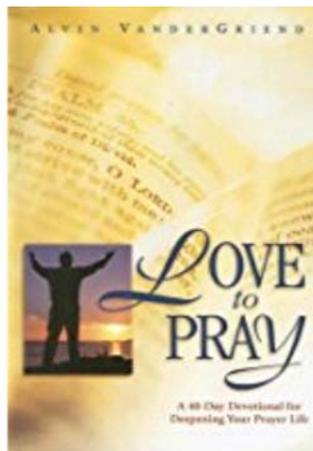
https://www.amazon.com/Advent-Everyone-N-T-Wright/dp/0664263429/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509015619&sr=8-1&keywords=advent+for+everyone+wright

For questions, contact Julie Eckhardt: 231-590-2764 or julieeckhardt@mac.com

Advent Series: Love to Pray
Wednesday mornings at 9:00 - 10:00 am
November 29- December 20

Before the birth of Jesus, devout Jews prayed for "the consolation of Israel." In the Advent tradition of prayer and preparation, you are invited to join us on Wednesday mornings for "Love to Pray."

We will use the devotional "Love to Pray" by Alvin VanderGriend. The book is arranged with brief daily devotional readings that are designed to ignite and empower your prayer life and deepen your relationship with God.



Once a week we will meet to talk about our reflections, questions, and experience with prayer. We will also set aside time to pray together.

What's the good of prayer?
What are the requirements of prayer?
How do we pray effectively for others?

These are just a few of the topics we will discuss and pray about through Advent. All are welcome and will learn something new, whether you have been praying for years or are just getting started. Please come!

Contact Julie Eckhardt for more information:
julieeckhardt@mac.com or 231-590 -2764

There are several copies of "Love to Pray" by Alvin VanderGriend available in the church office or you can purchase on Amazon at prayershop.org.

ADVENT ANGELS

The Gather and Grow cell group has been planning events that involve our parish family members and is set to kick off our Advent Angels again this year. This is a project where Emmanuel members bring forth names of people (they need not be only Emmanuel members) who may be struggling in some capacity, (ill, grieving, struggling, etc...) and could use a bright spot in their lives leading up to the holidays. Emmanuel members volunteer to take a family/person for which they will be responsible to purchase or make a small gift to be dropped off at the home of the community member each week of advent. (So you would have only 4 gifts to drop off.) Your gift should be simple...a jar of jam, a Christmas ornament, hand soap, a holiday hand towel, a book, flowers, a card, a poem, cookies, a loaf of bread, etc... It's not the gift that matters; it's brightening this person's day if only for a while. Some did it as a secret, anonymous, sneak up - leave the gift w/a brief message of encouragement, happy holidays, etc... from Emmanuel Episcopal Church and drive away. Not getting caught was tough. Some chose to knock on their door, greeting them with something like, "Just a little something to let you know Emmanuel Episcopal Church is thinking about you, have a great week," while others took the time to spend a few minutes for a short visit. It can also be done completely by mail, we will provide prepaid mailers with which you can tuck in your gift and drop it in the mail.



The first Sunday of Advent is December 3rd and the subsequent Sundays are December 10th, December 17th, and December 24th. On Sunday, December 3rd after the 10:00 a.m. service, we will have a brief meeting which will include the final in-gathering of names of needy community members as well as determining who will take on each family/person. Gifts may be dropped off to the community member's home anytime each week or cards/gifts may be mailed. It does not have to be on Sunday, any day of the week is great. This is a simple project that serves as community service, outreach, and fellowship. It was well received by the receiving families and left Emmanuel members filled with true Christmas spirit.

If you know of someone who is in need of support, please jot down their name and address and let any one of us or Leah know what difficulty they face. Even the

smallest of gestures can make a huge impact on the spirit of someone in need. We hope you are willing to take part in this outreach project that requires very little time or money, but certainly helps us to reflect upon the need to share the love of Jesus Christ with those who are struggling.

Wendy Price and Gather and Grow Members

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

It has been a long time coming, but the Undercroft is painted! It is all one color! I would like to extend a special thank you to my daughter Ashley Price for being my voice and continuously asking the vestry and facilities management for the go ahead to this project. Thank you to all of those vestry and cell group members who agreed to proceed. A lot of work happened in a relatively short period of time by the Grace of God and many willing participants. When I offered to pay for expenses toward the paint, I didn't intend to take on the project itself, but lo and behold, God had other ideas. So I made several phone calls and in only one afternoon I had enough monetary donations to more than cover the cost of the paint. Thank you to these very kind and generous parishioners: Joe/Kathy Audia, Bill/Nancy Nicholson, Frank/Dottie Hawthorne, Bob/Karel Howse, David/Wendy Price, Andy/Susie Spence, Gary/Mary Street, Franz/Joan Neubrecht, Joe Blachy, and Mary Kreid. Thank you to Leah Cell for establishing an account, collecting the donations, and making deposits so that this money could be appropriately earmarked for the undercroft project. For the artistic talent of Sandy Selden and Patti Grannis who chose the warm, neutral color to be used, I thank you. Much appreciation to Joyce Riordan for setting the plan in motion, establishing an account for EEC at Complete Paint, and delivering all of the paint and supplies needed to make the painting bee a success. And of course, lastly, but without whom this project could never have been completed... my amazing painters who arrived early Saturday morning and painted for hours to its completion point: Ashley Price, Wendy Thatcher, Patricia Dovalina, Dan Prisaznuk, Kathy Audia, Connie Booth, Franz Neubrecht, Joe Blachy, Bob Howse, David Lamarche.



Feeling Tremendously Blessed,
Wendy Price

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS **DECEMBER 2017**

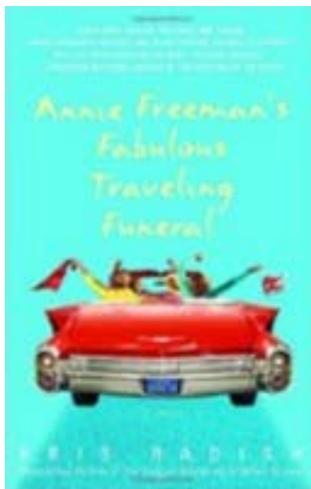
I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I ate enough to last me to at least, Christmas, and speaking of Christmas. You can't miss Emmanuel Episcopal Church's First Annual Christmas Sound Spectacular!!! Aka The First Annual Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long. This is an event for all ages. Everyone comes to the event; you get a program with the words to Christmas Carols both sacred and secular. The organ will accompany the carols, while all of you sing. It's going to be a lot of fun because YOU are 50% of the program. There will be an intermission where you can relax your vocal chords and



have some hot cider, hot chocolate, pop and some snacks. During the program will be some "surprises." And I'm not telling you what they are either!!! You'll have to come and see for yourself. But I can certainly guarantee that you will have a "Merry" time!!! The Sing-

A-Long is on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 5 p.m. At the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Service there will be a Brass Quintet joining with the organ on the Christmas Hymns. During the prelude, I composed a Medley of Christmas Carols that the brass and I will perform. Now, speaking of "Merry".....I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

EMMANUEL'S BOOK CLUB **DECEMBER 2017 NEWS**



Life is more fun when unexpected, unplanned things happen. And that's what happens when, from the grave, Annie Freeman requests a traveling funeral to usher her into the next life. Four women end up traveling the United States delivering Annie's ashes to the special places from a life well lived. Join us for our discussion of "Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral" by Kris Radish on Monday

December 11th at 7pm in the Lottie Peterson Room at Emmanuel. We have a great group who meets throughout the year and would love to have you join us! For more information, contact Nancy Turner at taketurns1106@gmail.com

SALVATION ARMY GIVING TREE



Again this year, you the generous members of Emmanuel, will help make Christmas special and magical for children in our area. Watch for the Salvation Army Giving Tree which will be set up within the next few weeks in the Betty Carlson Library. (Between the Church and the Lottie Peterson Room) The holiday season is quickly approaching. The "Salvation Army Giving Tree" is a project of our

Beyond Our Walls Cell Group and will be decorated with paper angels. Each Angel has information outlining a child's wish for what s/he hopes to find under the Christmas tree. All you need do is pick an angel or two and start shopping! Attached to each angel will be directions outlining exactly what you are to do. Our goal is to UNDECORATE THE TREE and DECORATE THE TREE. For every angel you take, we ask that you replace it with an ornament that we'll provide.

Acts 20: 35 "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way, we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

MERRY CHRISTMAS and heartfelt thanks for your generosity.

SCHEDULES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

COFFEE HOUR:

Dec. 3: Shirley Burns
Dec. 10: The Seldens
Dec. 17: TBD
Dec. 24: None
Dec. 31: TBD

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/02 - Carol Coursey 12/03 - Michael Sears
12/04 - Joseph Sproles 12/05 - Mark Makela
12/05 - Tom Smith 12/06 - Kay Farrimond
12/06 - Jan Toporek 12/08 - David Price
12/08 - Taya Price-Thatcher
12/09 - Patricia Grannis 12/09 - Laura Hall
12/10 - Lois Kircher 12/10 - Sarah Mosser
12/11 - Kristin Lufkin 12/13 - Jan Smith
12/13 - Pattie Utter 12/14 - Anna DeCamp
12/14 - David McBride 12/16 - Wendy
Armstrong
12/18 - Katherine King 12/24 - Bob Hannah
12/24 - Joan Holec 12/24 - William
Nicholson
12/25 - Margo Todd 12/26 - Pamela
Carpenter
12/27 - Karel Howse 12/27 - Bridget Seagren
12/28 - Thomas Keller 12/29 - Tiffany Moore
12/30 - Caitlin Ernsberger



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

2ND: Kent & Christina Cartwright
4TH: Samuel & Alison DeCamp
6TH: Guy & Nina Wagar
18TH: John & Jan Smith
22ND: Robert & Denise Sheperd
26TH: James & Susanne Hempstead
28TH: Joseph & Charlene Sproles
30TH: Andrew & Mary Jo Keller

DECEMBER 2017

DEC. 3

DEC. 10

DEC. 17

DEC. 24

DEC. 31

LEM:
Maryln
Graham,
Tom Hord

LEM:
Maryln
Graham, Tim
Tippett

LEM:
Maryln
Graham, Tom
Hord

9:00 am
LEM:
Frank
Hawthorne,
Tom Hord,
Gretchen
Lamarche

LEM:
Julie
Eckhardt,
Tom Hord

4:30pm
LEM:
Tom Hord,
Megan Keller,
Thomas
Keller

10:00pm
LEM:
Lynn Duse,
Ernie
Mainland,
Dennis
McGeath

POP:
Julie
Eckhardt

POP:
Julie Eckhardt

POP:
Tim Tippett

9:00 am
POP:
Frank
Hawthorne

4:30pm
POP:
Andy Keller

10:00pm
POP:
TBA

ACOLYTES:
Carolyn
Farley,
Katie Farley,
Thomas
Farley

ACOLYTES:
Van Atchison -
Crucifer
Suzy
Carpenter

ACOLYTES:
Juliana Liebler
- Crucifer
Avery Sears

ACOLYTES:
9:00 am
Annie Jones,
Ellie Jones,
Lillian
Lamarche -
Crucifer

ACOLYTES:
Suzy
Carpenter,
Joe Farley

4:30pm
Megan Keller,
Thomas
Keller,
Avery Sears

10:00pm
Josephine
Cabana

LECTOR:
Nancy
Turner

LECTOR:
Denise Evans

LECTOR:
Carolyn
Penniman

LECTOR:
9:00 am
TBD

LECTOR:
Daphne
Weston

4:30pm
AndyKeller,
Mary Jo
Keller

10:00pm
Denise

Evans

**CHURCH
OPENER:**
Jeremy
Rakoniewski

**CHURCH
OPENER:**
Lynn Duse

**CHURCH
OPENER:**
Bruce Koch

**CHURCH
OPENER:**
9:00 am
DJ Jones

**CHURCH
OPENER:**
Lynn Duse

4:30pm

10:00pm

**USHERS &
GREETERS:**
Bill & Ginny
King
VaLaura
Nibbelink

**USHERS &
GREETERS:**
Bruce &
Connie Booth

**USHERS &
GREETERS:**
Sarah Mosser,

Joan
Neubrecht

**USHERS &
GREETERS:**
9:00am
Ashley Price,
Wendy Price

**USHERS &
GREETERS:**
TBD

4:30pm
TBD

10:00pm
TBD

**COFFEE
HOUR:**
Shirley Burns

**COFFEE
HOUR:**
The Seldens

**COFFEE
HOUR:**
TBD

**COFFEE
HOUR:**
None

**COFFEE
HOUR:**
TBD

VPOW:
Sierra Hilt

VPOW:
Karel Howse

VPOW:
Gretchen
Lamarche

VPOW:
9:00am
Sandy
Selden

VPOW:
Frank
Hawthorne

4:30pm

10:00pm

**PLATE
COORDIN.**
Frank
Hawthorne

**PLATE
COORDIN.**
F/D Hawthorne

**PLATE
COORDIN.**
Bob Howse

**PLATE
COORDIN.**
9:00am
Franz
Neubrecht

**PLATE
COORDIN.**
Ben
Ernsberger

4:30pm

10:00pm

**ALTAR
GUILD:**
Karel Howse

**ALTAR
GUILD:**
Christina
Cartwright

**ALTAR
GUILD:** Bill &
Louise
Graham

**ALTAR
GUILD:**
9:00am
TBD

**ALTAR
GUILD:**
Christina
Cartwright

4:30pm
Christina
Cartwright

10:00pm
Karel Howse

DEC. 21
7:00pm
LONGEST
NIGHT
SERVICE AT
CHURCH OF
THE
NATIVITY IN
BOYNE CITY:

LEM:
Julie
Eckhardt,
TBA

DEC. 25
10:00am
CHRISTMAS
DAY SERVICE
IN THE
CHAPEL AT
EEC:

Ernie
Mainland

Emmanuel Episcopal Church Calendar DECEMBER 2017

Click [here](#) to visit our website.

We worship God and follow Jesus Christ, learning
and growing together in the Holy Spirit to serve in the
world. We will love and welcome ALL.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

FROM ALL OF THE STAFF
AT EMMANUEL:

May Peace be your gift at
Christmas and your blessing
all year through!

Father Greg, Brian,
Christina, Leah,
and Patricia



Emmanuel Episcopal Church
1020 East Mitchell Street
Petoskey, MI 49770
Phone: 231.347.2350 Fax: 231.347.3699

STAFF OF EMMANUEL:

Rector: The Rev. Gregory Brown 231.347-2350 Ext. 111 (ofc) 231.330.6209 (cell)
(revgreg@eecpetoskey.org)

Music Director:

Brian Bogdanowitz 231.347-2350 Ext. 114

Altar Guild Director:

Christina Cartwright 231.881-7081

Office Manager:

Leah Cell 231.347.2350 Ext. 110 (ofc) 231.340.0519 (cell)
(office@eecpetoskey.org)

Nursery Provider:

Patricia Dovalina

VESTRY OF EMMANUEL:

Sandy Selden, **Sr. Warden** 2019 590-0734 (c) sandy.p.selden@gmail.com
 Frank Hawthorne, **Jr. Warden** 2019 507-208-5816 (c) frankwhawthorne@gmail.com
 Bill Nicholson 2018 881-6735 (c) fatherbill36@hotmail.com
 Sierra Hilt 2020 989-370-5925 sierrach89@icloud.com
 Karel Howse 2020 838-7040 (c) khowse41@gmail.com
 Bruce Koch 2018 439-9228 (h) bkoch@ncmich.edu
 Gretchen Lamarche 2020 248-930-9880(c) lamarchegretchen@yahoo.com
 Ashley Price 2018 881-0715 (c) aspvallarta@aol.com
 Joyce Riordan 2019 231-633-2803(c) jriordan@charter.net

CONTACT LIST FOR CELL GROUP & PROGRAM LEADERS**Beyond Our Walls / Outreach Cell**

Dottie Hawthorne dothaw1@gmail.com

Finance Cell

Chair & Treasurer: Todd Petersen 622-8044(h) tmpetersen51@gmail.com
 Asst. Treasurer: Franz Neubrecht 517-281-9106(c) franz@franzrx.com

Git R Dun Cell

Kent Cartwright 348-1152(h) kentc@chartermi.net

Memorial Cell

Margo Todd 347-8443 margotodd@sbcglobal.net

Pastoral Care Cell

Sharyn Olliffe 622-8866 olliffe@charter.net

Blessings & Generosity Cell

David Lamarche Co-Chair 248-568-4015 dwlamarche@yahoo.com
 Kathy Petersen Co-Chair 202-285-1392 kathy@kathypetersen.com

Facilities Management Cell**Gardens:****Gather & Grow Cell**

Wendy Price 526-5613 jonana53@gmail.com Chairperson
 Joan Neubrecht 517-281-9002 franz@franzrx.com Co-Chairperson
Coffee Hour: Dottie Hawthorne 507-990-0271 dothaw1@gmail.com
Kitchen: Nancy Nicholson 373-3900 grannynanny37@hotmail.com
Book Club : Nancy Turner 330-1510 taketurns@charter.net

Liturgy & Worship Cell

MaryIn Graham 347-1742 marcusbarcus1317@sbcglobal.net
 The Rev. Greg Brown, **Rector** 330-6209 revgreg@eecpetoskey.org
 Christina Cartwright, **Altar Guild** 881-7081 kentc@chartermich.net
 Tom Hord, **Acolyte Scheduler** 622-8306 tom.hord@yahoo.com
 Connie Booth, **Chief Usher** 347-5134 javajo54@hotmail.com
 MaryIn Graham, **LEM Coordinator** 347-1742 marcusbarcus@sbcglobal.net
 Mary Kreid, **Lector Scheduler** 526-6036

Youth Spiritual Formation Cell**Leader:**

Ashley Price 881-0715 aspvallarta@aol.com

Safeguarding:

Nursery contact: Ashley Price 881-0715 aspvallarta@aol.com

Worship Center: Christine Carpenter 348-0736 ccarpenter@racc2000.com

Sunday School Grades 2-5: Carrie Farley 487-9113 shop@cutlersonline.com

Middle School Youth

Ashley Price 881-0715 aspvallarta@aol.com

Senior High Youth:

DJ Jones 838-8671 foundationwizard@gmail.com

Dan Armstrong 557-8879 diamonddanarmstrong@gmail.com

Diocesan Summer Camp: Cathy Brown 758-2465 petoskeybrowns@gmail.com

Training Leaders for Christ: Greg Brown revgreg@eecpetoskey.org

Thursday Guild

Ernie Mainland 347-9061 erniemainland@gmail.com

Adult Spiritual Formation
Education for Ministry Program

"We Care" Program Gene Dixon 439-0210

Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Communicator:
http://www.edwm.org/news_and_events.html

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1020 E. Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770

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