



OCTOBER 2024
VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 10

ST. AIDAN'S

STAG & STAFF

The growing community of St. Aidan's is called to be God's light and loving presence through faith, sacrament, and outreach.

From Mother Esther's Desk —



Dear Friends,

We often describe St. Aidan's as a church family and, in many ways, it is a useful description. While most of us are not related by birth, we think of ourselves as family because of the promises we make to one another. In his book, *Growing in the Life of Faith*, Craig Dykstra contends that families are held together by commitments, not necessarily success. He explains that it's not the failure to *keep* promises that destroys families, but the failure of the family to *keep making* promises. Dykstra explains that people come to faith and grow in faith within the context of a promise-making Christian family.

While some of us were raised in a church family environment and others of us have come to the church later in life, we may recognize that our faith is shaped by both promises and practices. As a community, we promise to support one another as we learn how to participate in public worship. We promise to nurture one another as we learn the history of the church, how to tell the Christian story, and interpret scripture. We promise that we will help each other learn how to pray, how to reconcile our differences, how to engage in acts of service, how to give generously, how to suffer with and for others, how to extend hospitality, and how to work for justice.

As a church family, we promise to learn and continually grow, opening our hearts to the Holy Spirit. Making this promise challenges us to be patient and be faithful in our persistence. This fall,

**DID YOU KNOW
OCTOBER IS**



National Pork Month?
HAPPY #PORKTOBER

**Men's e
Breakfast**

**First Saturdays
OCTOBER 5**

**Cooking 8 am
Eating 8:30 am**

starting in October, the St. Aidan's clergy team is inviting middle school through high school students to participate in a Confirmation Class. I ask you to promise, with me, that we will provide a special kind of support to these young people as they learn and grow in their faith.

On two Sundays per month over a three-month semester, students will gather after worship for 45 minutes with Deacon Terry and me or Pastora Loretta. We hope these young people will 1) experience activities that help them grow in their faith (prayer, thoughtful questions), 2) learn Christian tradition (church history, scripture, creeds), and 3) learn how to offer and receive pastoral care (how to show kindness and thoughtfully interact with others).

I encourage you to offer words of support to these young people. I invite you to keep your promise by regularly attending our Sunday morning worship service. I ask that you pray for our St. Aidan's Church family and especially for these young people, as together we all learn and grow in our faith.

Mother Esther +



Many of you know that Milwaukee has a “LOVE” figure right on the lakefront (see photo), but I’ll admit that I was totally unaware of this, until one morning when I was walking Scarlet past the Milwaukee Art Museum – and there it was!



Granted, it is right on the trail along the shore, and many people pass by it – even daily. Even so, it seems to me that this is pretty much “hidden” from the general public’s view. I feel that this says something about our society: We have this beautiful example of love -- and our society certainly needs all the love it can get – but let’s not go about showing it off or flaunting it.

The question is: what about us? Are we occasionally guilty of this as well? Do we take our love and try to hold on to it? Keep it hidden? Keep it comfortable? I think we sometimes do this, but I doubt we do this intentionally.

In my short time with St Aidan’s, I have heard the phrase “well hidden treasure” a number of times, referring to the faith community. Perhaps that is easy to do, considering the location is not readily visible from a highly trafficked street. And the signage is pretty, but hardly noticeable or informative to passers-by.

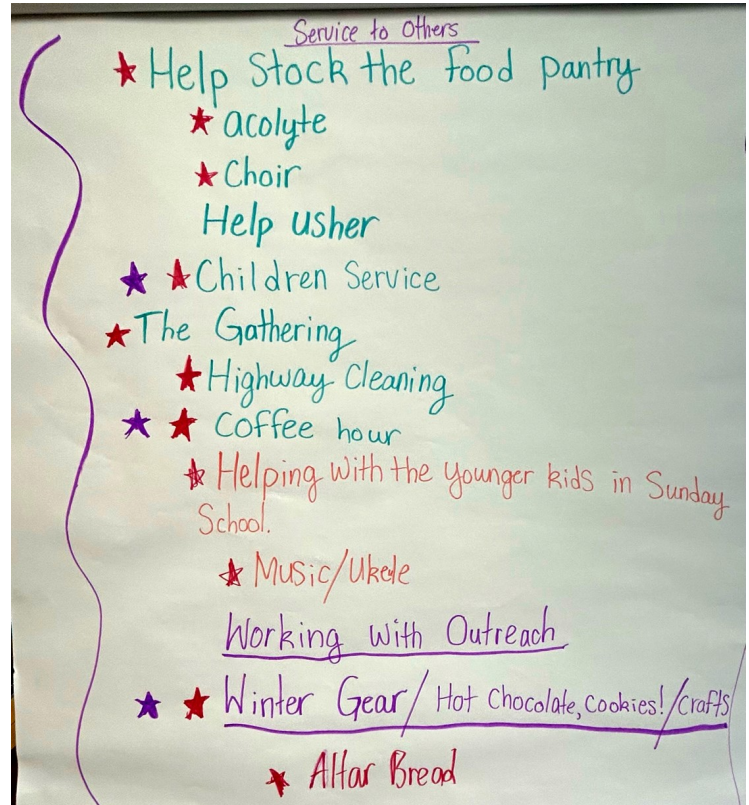
In my short time with St Aidan’s, I have recognized that coming through those doors is well worth the effort. That’s due more to the love and faith that is shared here than the physical structure. Indeed, when scripture refers to the church – it means the people. Buildings are just that – buildings.

As we enter the autumn, let’s be actively talking about how we might “lift the veil” and bring the love of Jesus Christ into view. Let’s make this a haven of joy that others will want to seek. Let’s be brave and bold enough to live and proclaim LOVE exists here. Let’s share the treasure of God’s presence in this community!

Love in Christ - terry



These are the ways our children thought they could be of service to others!



Worship Center/Upper Room

As we look at our young people at St. Aidan's, it's exciting to see them growing up. It does mean, however, that our classes will change. Many of our older kids will be starting confirmation classes in fall! Our younger children fall into preschool and lower elementary. Amanda Mercado and I will hold class every 1st and 3rd Sunday during the first half of church. If our class is mostly young ones, we'll move into a story and craft. If we have mostly older ones, we'll work on service-stories and activities that teach service. Our classes will be the opposite Sundays from Confirmation Class. Our older kids are always invited back to Upper Room. Please let us know your thoughts. Thanks for sharing your children with us.

Linda Weber and Amanda Mercado





From Donna's Desk

May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed.
[Psalm 20:4]

The vestry recognizes and continually assesses the work needed to improve worship, participation, ministry, leadership, and resources to help us continue to live into our mission. Yet today, I find myself at a crossroads asking, what matters in the life of our church? More importantly, what matters to you? What is happening that would be of interest to you to know about or be part of? My best advice to myself was to re-share key information I have shared with you and let you decide



Financial - Small grants provide financial help as well as build capacity to support new or continuing efforts. We have received \$3,400 in diocesan grants to support Creation Care initiatives, church safety, technology upgrades for recording services, and office support. We have made small changes that provide savings on the operational budget. For example, change to a cell tower for the alarm system, \$63-85 savings/month; change from an accounting fee of \$122 a month to a *no fee* payroll service from the diocese; a new copier lease with significance savings/copy; Focus on Energy rebates of \$710 on the furnace purchase, and \$258 on LED lighting upgrades in the vestibule.

We continue to discuss capital improvements and replacement as not an *if* consideration. It is a *when* and *how much* concern. We replaced three furnace units in February/March, repaired leaks in the sprinkler system, replaced a water heater in August, and will have new exit fire doors installed this month. We are deferring until 2025 at least one HVAC unit, sprinkler system pipes, and parking lot repairs/resurfacing.

Outreach - St. Aidan's Little Pantry is a continuous outreach to our neighbors and the Hartford Community. To fill the pantry box costs an average of \$100 a week, in addition to the food and hygiene items that you generously donate. The children's formation groups have also filled the box with fleece hats that they made and assembled birthday cake packages. The outreach committee coordinated a Backpack and School supply distribution that served 19 children/families who also use the food pantry.

Stewardship – I am always mindful of your faithful stewardship to St. Aidan's. Rooted in Abundance was the theme of our 2024 Annual giving campaign. It was a reminder that we are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. We give because of what we have experienced in the story of our faith. Rooted in Abundance describes the faith community of St. Aidan's and how we share our gifts and stories so graciously with each other. I am also mindful of your gift of attending. Attending, whether in the church building or continuing online through our recorded service, Facebook or webpage links; whether visits with Mother Esther or with each other – all these continue to build commitment and strengthen our faith community.

Technology – Upgrades have provided more efficiency in sending out our online newsletter, uploading and recording services, and hosting our church website. Online ministries build a new outreach community, which includes our homebound members as well as non-members. An ECF website post shows that 42% of those responding to a survey feel enhancing a congregation's social media presence is an important step in moving forward to engage young adults as well. We need to learn how an online presence 'fits' others' needs and 'fits' our mission, and how both online and in person worship intersect.

What is most true of St. Aidan's as we continue with the work that helps us live our mission? I am proud of what we have done and the future events being planned. There are many opportunities. For example, consider the upcoming confirmation classes, worship center and youth activities; End of Life presentations by Deacon Regs Scheeler in November; All Soul's Day; Thanksgiving Eve Service; Christmas Bazaar; Blue Christmas Service, and Christmas services.

Now, it is your turn. What matters most to you in the life of St. Aidan's? Where do we need to improve? What is the most helpful to know? Does what I share inform, change ideas, or invite you to ask questions? Please share with me!

Blessings,

Donna Dinco



ST. AIDAN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE

2024

	6	13	20	27
Reader	M.B. Moran	B. Schrunk	M. Hoffmann	B. Pollock
Prayers	E. Schmidt	L. Schrunk	K. Fairchild	A. Pollock
Acolyte	L. Daly	J. P. Schrunk	A. Schrunk	L. Daly
Usher	R. Schnorenberg	B. Schrunk	A. Pollock	J. Pierce
LEM	J. Pierce	A. Pollock	B. Schrunk	M. Weber
Counters	M. Weber/Hoffmann	A. M-Meigs/J. Pierce	Gardner/Moran	Fairchild/Schnorenberg
Cleaners	Gardner	Mercado	Weber	Trewyn/Johnston
Altar	G. Hefti			



	3	10	17	24
Reader	B. Mendoza	T. Schlaefer	C. Gardner	A. Pollock
Prayers	C. Gardner	D. Beml	T. Schlaefer	E. Schmidt
Acolyte	S. Schmidt	J.P. Schrunk	A. Schrunk	S. Schmidt
Usher	L. Molenda	R. Schnorenberg	B. Schrunk	Webers
LEM	M. Hoffmann	A. Pollock	M. Weber	J. Pierce
Counters	M. Weber/A. M-Meigs	J. Pierce/M. B. Moran	Schnorenberg/ Moran	C. Gardner/K. Fairchild
Altar				

If you cannot serve your appointed time, please arrange for a substitute. Thank you.
 Any **permanent** changes to the schedule should be reported to
Gail Hefti at gail.hefti@gmail.com or 920-740-3997.

PARISH EVENTS — OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	3  Choir 6:30 pm	4	5  Men's B'fast 8:30 am
6 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am	7	8	9  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	10  Choir 6:30 pm	11	12
13 Worship — 9:30 am	14	15	16  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	17	18	19
20 Worship — 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am  Sharing Sunday Stag & Staff articles due	21	22	23  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	24	25	26  Community Lunch 11:30 am 1st United Methodist
27 Worship — 9:30 am	28	29	30  St. A. B'fast Main St. Café 7 - 9 am	31 Happy Halloween! 	NOVEMBER 1  Dia de los Muertos	2

“WE ARE THE Episcopal BRANCH OF THE Jesus movement”
 —Presiding Bishop Michael Curry



How to reach us —

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Mary Beth Moran, Treasurer

Vestry Wardens

Donna Dinco , Senior Warden

Eric Wetzel, Junior Warden

Vestry

Charles Gardner

Laura Johnston

Lynn Molenda

Eileen Schmidt

Vestry Clerk

Geri Kelly

Stag and Staff — St. Aidan’s Newsletter

Published monthly

Deadline: Third Sunday of the month

Micki Hoffmann, Editor

Contact: mphoffmann70@gmail.com

or 262-673-2903



Prayer Chain

If anyone has a prayer need for someone or something, please call

Alice Pollock [262-707-3456] or the church office.

Mondays --		
Men’s AA	7 - 8 pm	Parish Hall
Tuesdays --		
Women’s AA	Noon	Parish Hall
Wednesdays		
Office Open	9am - Noon	
Thursdays		
Al Anon	7 pm	Parish Hall
Choir	6:30 pm	Sanctuary
Fridays		
Office Open	9 am - Noon	
First Saturdays		
Men B’fast	8 am	Parish Hall
Sundays		
Worship Service	9:30 am	

For information about groups or scheduling the building, contact the Church Office.

Hartford Community Lunch
Saturday, October 26
11:30 am
1st United Methodist

Lunch is served at 11:30am. Come for a free hot meal with the Hartford Community! To volunteer [9 am—2 pm], just show up on the day.
 If you have questions, please contact **Larry Thomas** at **262-955-4900**.

3rd Sunday — Sharing Sunday
 The “loose” [paper and coin] collection supports Mother Esther’s discretionary fund. She uses it to help people in our community in need — more often than you might think!
Please be generous!

Poets' Corner

Wild Geese

*You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of
your body Love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the
rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prai-
ries and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air, are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to
you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting- over and
over announcing your place in the family of things.*

Mary Gordon



Thank you to everyone who has turned in their updated contact information and media release forms. I will be reaching out if yours has not been received.

Thank you to everyone who came in to have their pictures taken for the directory! You're a lovely looking bunch! If you have not had your picture taken, please call the office to schedule a time to have it taken or please send a recent picture via e-mail to the office. It's important to have everyone represented in the directory.

If you have taken any photos during church events (in or out of the church building), please e-mail them to the office. They may be used in the directory or in an updated media posting.

Thank you for your help in completing this project!

You Can Get Everything You Want

ALICE'S RESTAURANT

('ceptin Alice)

I hope you remember those lilies we had on the altar during the Easter season. Perhaps you took a few home when we put them out after the last blooms dropped. I tucked a few



in next to our birch tree where they promptly withered away. I cut them back and forgot them. They did not, however, forget me. Several weeks later I found brave little green spikes pushing up in the garden followed a few weeks later by Easter blooms all over again! They will over-winter for a few years and give Easter blooms again and again. We are at the end of the growing season now. Time to cut back the foliage and add some compost and put the garden to bed for a long winter's nap. The garden changes, the weather changes, we dress differently, and change the way we eat. Here is one last summery recipe for you before we simmer those hearty soups and casseroles of fall and winter.

Orange Cake

Spray a 9x13 pan. 350*

1 orange seeded and cut onto pieces with the peel
1/2 a lemon seeded with the peel
1/4 C. milk or plain yogurt

Run all in the blender or food processor

2 sticks butter
2 eggs
1 3/4 C. sugar
2 C. flour
1 t. baking soda
1 t. vanilla

Run all together in the blender, pour into the pan, and bake 25-35 minutes

Sprinkle with powdered sugar or mix 1/2 cup orange juice and sugar and pour over warm cake.

Alice Pollock



The United Thank Offering (UTO) began in 1883 when the women of the church took up a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion that the church budget could not cover.

Today, UTO includes members of all ages and genders and welcomes people regardless of church affiliation. UTO's focus is still on promoting gratitude and supporting innovative projects that address compelling needs around the globe. It has been proven that living a life in gratitude has many psychological and physiological benefits!

While we focus on living a life in gratitude, we also encourage people to share their gratitude in many ways, one of which is contributing to your parish's Ingathering. The monies collected through the Ingatherings are distributed each year to fund grant requests. The money collected in 2023 funded grant awards totaling \$1,003,283.78 for projects focusing on 'the stranger' that Jesus mentions in Matthew 25. Money collected this year will fund grants awarded in 2025. The focus for those grants will be on water: "I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink" (Matthew 25:31-46).

Traditionally Ingatherings have been held twice a year, in the spring and the fall, however we recognize every parish's circumstances are different. You can do one or two, spring, fall, or a different time that works best for you. However you do your Ingatherings, please send your money to the diocesan office! Money should get to the diocesan office no later than December 6 so they can get it in to the denominational office before December 15, 2024. Please make sure to include your parish name and put UTO on the memo line.

Episcopal Diocese of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 137
Oshkosh WI 54903

There are ways to contribute online as well. Always make sure you list your parish, and Diocese of Wisconsin, so the money will get credited to the proper place.

The [UTO webpage](#) is full of useful information on UTO in general, grants, applications, downloadable items for use in your congregations, children's projects, liturgies, and more. Cheryl, our UTO coordinator, loves to travel and meet people! If you would like her to come talk to your congregation about UTO, please email her at: cheryldob@gmail.com (please include UTO in the subject). She would be more than happy to set something up.

