



A local vineyard

About the same distance away is the Lakeland Spectrum Hospital, the center of a nationally recognized not-for-profit, community-owned health system that includes three hospitals, an outpatient surgery center, a regional cancer center, rehabilitation centers, two long-term care residences, home care and hospice services, and 41 affiliate physician practice locations. Southwest Michigan supports two four year colleges and two community colleges. Southwest Michigan is also a prime agricultural region with numerous large grain and vegetable farms, orchards, and vineyards. There are many U-Pick Farms of all kinds to purchase fresh produce. During the fall harvest months, many farms have special events like corn mazes, games and other family activities. The hardwood trees provide an extraordinary display of color during the fall season. The many vineyards and hops farms in the area support a great number of wineries and craft breweries, many of which hold festivals and tasting events during the year. We are an environmentally friendly community with a strong recycling program. We work hard to protect the waterways, farmlands and forests by working closely with the State of Michigan and by participating in environmental programs with Chikaming Open Lands, a



A local brewery

HOW WE PROVIDE CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

The Church of the Mediator is a compassionate congregation, concerned with the well-being of our parishioners. An active chapter of The Daughters of the King assists the rector when needed, prays, updates and maintains a weekly prayer list and often helps to coordinate church events such as funerals, holiday celebrations and special events.



A food coordinator arranges for meals for the disabled, shut-ins or special occasions. A dedicated core of five Eucharistic Visitors visit twice a month. We have three commissioned members in the healing Order of St. Luke. Prayers for healing with anointing are administered the first Sunday of each month by a retired priest from the congregation. Our members often respond on their own to needs within the congregation by visiting the sick, the grieving or by supplying a needed ride to an appointment or church. Our passion for helping also extends to the community. We work with St. Paul's Episcopal church at the Salvation Army soup kitchen in Benton Harbor once a month. We sponsor and volunteer several times a year with the Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry. Our concern for social justice and the environment has led us to begin a relationship with the Southwest Michigan Interfaith Action Coalition.



In the fall we provide back-to-school supplies to several families in need of help. In the summer we have offered a free art or reading camp to area children. We collect books for the local elementary school so that each child can go home with a book to read in the summer.



At Thanksgiving and Easter, we purchase and deliver meals to several local families, and at Christmas we adopt several families by providing foods and gifts. We collect items for two local animal shelters year round



Where We Are Going

Wherever we are on our faith journey, we hope to become better Christians in the years ahead and long to be inspired by teaching and the worship and sacraments of the Episcopal Church to live better lives, to love and serve God and to do the work we are given to do. We hope for a deeper sense of purpose to care, through service and ministry, for those in our church and community who are in need. We hope to grow and develop Christian education for children with a particular hope to establish a children's chapel on a regular basis. We want to develop and increase our programs like the Art Camp and Book Share so we will be re-energized to continue to work in the community to spread the Good News and to serve others. We are growing our understanding of social, racial and religious differences, to be better witnesses against racism, hate and violence, and to strengthen our participation in social service agencies like the Salvation Army, Feeding America Food Bank and The Southwest Michigan Interfaith Action Coalition. We are increasing our use of new technology to help us keep all our members, year-round and summer, up to date, and to share our worship and evangelism with the greater community. We hope to improve our internal church organization to become more efficient and productive. Our new rector will help us with ideas and leadership for fully supporting an aging congregation while reaching out to younger families.

For fifty-seven years The Mediator has identified as “the little church that could”. That little church has grown up and wants to step up to the challenges of evangelism and love in a changing world.

