



The WITNESS

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Troy, Michigan 48098

March 2016

Mother Susan's
Musings



Life is all about change and growth. People come and people go. Life changes, our jobs change, our families change, our children grow, but what always remains the same is that all of us are part of God's family.

Here is where we journey together and know one another. Here is where we laugh and cry together. Here is where we celebrate and mourn together. *Here is where we are known by the One who "created us and through whom we have our being."* Here is where we are always welcome.



Chinese symbol for love

Joining the Jesus Movement - All the Way

If you attended an Episcopal Church service in SE Michigan recently, you'll know that our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, spent the weekend of Feb. 20-21 in our diocese. He is one dynamic preacher! And he is very enthusiastic about our Church and its mission.

Bishop Curry described his experience meeting with the other, international Anglican archbishops in January; listening to their disapproval of our Church's recent decisions; and still sharing with them his certainty that God has work for us to do, staying fully inclusive, with or without the other archbishops' approval.

Bishop Curry's vision has become the theme of his term so far: to *Join the Jesus Movement*. Don't expect things to stay the same, for the old formulas aren't working. Besides, movements tend to, well, move. Like Jesus when he first got started, dripping with water from the Jordan River, proclaiming good news to the poor and the poor-in-spirit, moving from town to town so people could find and listen to him.

Curry is convinced that the Jesus Movement can find direction and momentum again, and begin to change the world's despair. A movement has a mission and gets to work on it.

And what is our work? To be a visible presence in the places that need Jesus. Not zooming into a place as "rescuers" and then leaving; but sticking around to be the persons, the incarnations, of Christ in the neighborhood.

Which got me thinking: who in our neighborhood needs us? And for what?

Last summer, when a group of us walked around our immediate neighborhood with fliers, we realized there's not much need for things like food, shelter or even better schools. Instead, what our neighbors might need from us can't be quantified, bought or inherited. It's love. Are we willing to offer it, to anyone and everyone, in the name of Jesus?

Coming up at the end of this month is Holy Week, the grim reminder of what often happens when the world's values collide with God's priorities. The first Jesus Movement 2000 years ago ended with his arrest for challenging the Roman power structures; and his public execution was intended to demonstrate the cost of such folly. *But God had the final word.*

Now that word is ours to preach, by actions first and foremost. The acceptance of all people, and the offer of a church for everyone, got The Episcopal Church some notoriety and yes, disapproval.

Maybe it's time to own that, and see it as movement forward. Bishop Curry is cheering us on, as he discerns and points to some pathways for our work together. I'm thrilled to have his company and his enthusiasm, helping the Jesus Movement to gain some new energy.

Now let's use it! The neighborhood is waiting.

Faithfully,





Around the Parish

Holy Week at St. Stephen's

Recalling the final week of Jesus' earthly life;
his passion, death and resurrection

March Lectionary

March 6—Lent 4

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 21
2 Cor 5: 16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13—Lent 5

Is 43: 16-21
Psalm 126
Phil 3: 4b-14
John 12: 1-8

March 20—Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms

Luke 19: 28-40
Psalm 188:1-2, 19-29

Liturgy of the Word

Isaiah 50: 4-9a
Psalm 31: 9-16
Phil 2: 5-11
Luke 22: 14-23:45
or
Luke 23: 1-40

March 27—Easter

Acts 10: 34-43
or
Isaiah 65: 17-25
Psalm 118: 1-2, 4-24
1 Cor 15: 19-26
or
Acts 10-34-43
John 20: 1-18
or
Luke 24: 1-12



Palm Sunday: March 20 at 8 & 10 am, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, followed by the events leading to his crucifixion

Note: the Saturday service on March 19 will celebrate Saints Patrick and Joseph

Tuesday, March 22 at 10 am – diocesan “**Chrism Mass**” at St. Paul’s Cathedral downtown. All are welcome to join our Bishop and the clergy of the diocese for this annual service in our beautiful cathedral.

Wednesday, March 23 at 10 am – weekly Bible Study in the Emrich Library; and
12 noon Holy Eucharist with anointing for Healing, in the church.

Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 6:00 pm – Potluck Supper in the Parish Hall; leading into our Worship, which recalls the Last Supper and the Footwashing, as Jesus told his friends “Do this to remember me.” The evening concludes with the Stripping of the Altar to symbolize Jesus’ betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday, March 25 at 12 noon – We host the Troy-area Ecumenical Good Friday service, welcoming worshipers and their clergy from many congregations for a one-hour service of prayer, preaching and song.

And, at 7:30 pm – our choir presents the Requiem by John Rutter interspersed with readings and prayers for Good Friday. All are welcome; bring your music-loving friends and relatives. No charge.

Holy Saturday/Easter Eve, March 26 at 7:30 pm – The Great Vigil with Holy Baptism and first Eucharist of Easter. Music by our band, enhanced by our choir and a special children’s choir, and the extra-watery baptisms of our young catechumens! A joyful party will follow in the Parish Hall.

Easter Day, March 27 – 8:00 am Holy Eucharist with Hymns; 9:30 am Children’s Easter Egg Hunt; 10:00 am Festival Eucharist with Choir. Christ is risen! Alleluia!



Church Notes

Flip the Script(ure)

Register now for March 4-5 overnight women's retreat

Whether we're paying attention to it or not, we all have a script - a preconceived idea - for the role and capabilities of women in family life, in business, in school, in church and in the world.

When we stop to examine these scripts we see that some of the roles are life-giving and affirming. Others limit, damage and do violence against women. Perhaps we can begin to realize that something else might be true.

That's when we can choose to "flip" the script to demonstrate that preconceived ideas are just that - ideas. They are not the truth.

For more information, including how to register, for this women's retreat, scheduled for March 4-5 at the Lake Huron Retreat Center copy and paste this address in your browser:

<http://www.edomi.org/whitakerinstitute/flip-the-scripture-a-retreat-for-women/>

The Whitaker Institute



Speed Sharing

You've heard of "speed dating" - when a roomful of single adults will spend two minutes chatting in pairs, then switch partners and chat for another two minutes, and so on and so on, in hopes of finding someone they have enough in common with to try a real date...? Well, we're going to try something similar, without the dating aspect, for some getting-to-know-you fun.

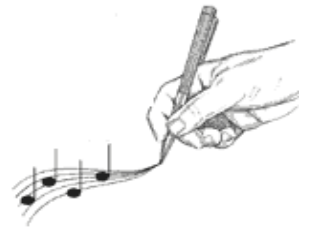
Don't miss Fellowship Hour (11:15-ish) on "Laetare Sunday," the fourth Sunday of Lent. Laetare means "Lighten Up" (your Lenten discipline) and have some fun. Wear pink if you like.

And once we've all got some coffee or tea, we'll try Speed Sharing at specially-arranged tables in the Parish Hall. Conversation starters and an official timer will be provided! We anticipate that adults will participate in this experiment, and kids will have a different getting-to-know-you game in the choir room. Lighten up and meet someone new! March 6 at Fellowship Hour.

Juan

Thursdays in Lent

In order to have plenty of time to eat and chat, soup will be served at **6:00** (instead of 6:30). If you arrive after 6:00 that's still fine, we'll keep the soup hot until at least 6:30. The class begins at 6:45 pm, with the quiet service of Compline at 8:15, ending about 8:30.



One Voice

Please join a remarkable group—the St. Stephen's Choir.

Come meet our Director of Music, John Pavik, and find out in person about his ideas and plans!



From the Back Pew

The Pattern Continues

Six years ago I was elected to St. Stephen's Vestry for the first time. Before that I was involved with this and that, but I hadn't done much regarding the running of the building or the mission areas. [Mission areas is a term we use to refer to all the committees and activities St. Stephen's engages in as we worship God, serve the members and reach out to the world.]

I was always impressed with the array of activities and how smoothly everything ran here. For much of my pre-Vestry time here I was in a high pressure-long hour job with regular travel to Europe and Japan. Thus I was happy to blithely take for granted that all the great things St. Stephen's was doing just happened.

At my first Vestry meeting I knew the names of everyone, but little else about most. That changed fast. I found that the Vestry was comprised of tremendously talented people--all of them. They were a mix of interpersonal and management styles, strategic thinkers and detail people, with broad and varied life and work experiences.

Contrary to almost every volunteer group I had ever been involved with, everyone spoke their mind and did it respectfully and constructively. They listened to each other and allowed themselves to be influenced by what they heard. When help was needed, hands went up readily. And, while they each represented their area of responsibility, they always focused on what was best overall for the parish.

I was thankful to have had such a great experience that year, and hated to see that mix of people break up as four finished their terms and four new folks joined us. You guessed it! The next year was as good, and so was the year after that. After three years I took my mandatory year off, after which I was re-elected. We had our first meeting as the newly constituted Vestry in February, and as I begin the final year of my second term, I am

happy to report that the pattern continues.

Speaking of the Vestry, let me provide insight into how it is organized, and who is filling the various roles this year. In accordance with the Episcopal Canons, we have three officers: the Senior Warden [me], the Junior Warden [Silvia Karlsson] and the Clerk [Katy Allen]. These officers have canonical responsibilities, but essentially the Wardens are the Vestry chair and vice chair and the clerk records the minutes and has other specified signatory authority. To ensure that all important mission areas have a two-way communication link with the Vestry, we have Vestry liaisons with each. This year the liaisons are:

Adult Faith	Norma Ross
Bldg & Grnds	Roy Waters
Communication	Don Ingersoll
Finance	Pat Roberts
Hospitality	Alice Moss
Stewardship	Paula Somerville
Membership	Kathy DeCiantis
Outreach	Margie Armstrong
Pastoral Care	Katy Allen
Worship	Richard Kenefic
YACYM	Paul Hardy

Junior Warden Silvia Karlsson will serve as ambassador-at-large and be available to assist wherever help would be useful.

Thanks to nametag master Darrell Middlewood, members have "Vestry" under their names on their tags. Please feel free to ask Vestry members any questions or provide feedback or suggestions. We are here to serve you and improve our household of God. And praise God for blessing St. Stephen's congregation [which includes you too] with an abundance of talent, enlightenment and generous hearts.

Don Ingersoll
Senior Warden

one World



"The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless ... beyond speech ... beyond concept."

— Thomas Merton

Inside the Parish Walls

Technology Updates

There are two important updates that I would like to be sure you are aware of. First, the website has been updated, so you will see a new look when you visit www.ststephenstroy.org. I hope you like the new look and find your way around the site comfortably. If you have any questions or see anything that needs corrected, please send an email to webmaster@ststephenstroy.org and let us know.

In addition, we have updated our WiFi environment and there are now 4 access points throughout the church building which dramatically improves wireless connectivity. All 4 use the same password, which is:

URwelcome (This is case sensitive.)

Once you enter this the first time, you will not have to enter it again, but you will need to do so on EACH OF THE 4 ROUTERS. For example, the first time you connect to the WiFi in the Education Wing you will not yet automatically connect in the Sanctuary.

I hope you enjoy this more effective wireless footprint and find the website refreshing and useful. If you have any questions or need help, please don't hesitate to ask.



248.894.614 (Cell)

formation@ststephenstroy.org

March 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Please check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events
www.ststephenstroy.org

Fishy Senior Moments

Join us and bring a friend on March 18, 2016 for a Lenten experience and Friday Fish Fry at Sweetest Heart of Mary, a breathtakingly beautiful Polish church in Detroit with magnificent stained glass windows and a compelling altar area.

The soaring, gothic architecture of the church with two steeples is truly awe-inspiring. Delicious dinner entrees, all for \$15.00 or less, include choice of baked flounder, fried shrimp, lemon-baked cod, pierogi dinner, or beer-battered cod and sides of coleslaw, potato, or macaroni & cheese.

Make your choices and pay at the door. Seating is family style; make new friends and enjoy the festive atmosphere. The tentative schedule includes a carpool from St. Stephen's. Gather in the parking lot at 1:45 p.m. and leave promptly at 2:00 p.m. to enjoy a guided tour of the church at 2:30.

Enjoy a wonderful early supper after the tour, and depart for home about 4:30 p.m.

Sign up now in the gathering area or call Norma Ross at 246-267-9232 and leave a message no later than March 13.



Norma Ross

Daylight Savings Time returns at 2 am. on **March 13**. (That's the one where we "spring forward" and lose an hour of sleep. Darn.)

One Family

Bible Study

For all who are interested in weekly Bible Study, the "no experience necessary" bible study is held in the Bishop Emrich lounge, each Wednesday at 10 am. Newcomers are always welcome! Join Mother Susan each week and explore!





Under the Dogwood

Meet our Catechumens!

St. Patrick's Party

Another Interfaith Opportunity!

On Monday, March 7, St. Stephen's will host the March meeting of the Troy-area Interfaith Group.

Join us in the church from 7 to 8:30 pm for a presentation on "Expressing Faith through Music and Poetry," from the perspectives of several traditions. It should be a fascinating evening.

Our who? "Catechumens" are persons preparing for baptism. We are blessed to have a class of six children who are going to receive the Sacrament of Baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter! They are Anaïs, Dylan, Evan, Gabriel, Megan and Paulina. It's going to be an extra-festive service and we hope all their classmates will be there to support them.

On a Sunday soon, when they're all present, you will be introduced to these eager catechumens; and we will pray for them:

May Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has put the desire into your hearts to seek the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, grant you the power of the Holy Spirit to persevere in this intention, and to grow in faith and understanding.

O God, the creator and savior of all flesh, look with mercy on your children whom you call to yourself in love. Cleanse their hearts and guard them as they prepare to receive your Sacraments that, led by your Holy Spirit, they may be united with your Son, and enter into the inheritance of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may know the story of Padraig (Patrick) of Ireland: he was kidnapped as a teenager in NW England or Wales, brought to Ireland, and sold as a slave; this was in the early 400's. After about five years working as a shepherd, he escaped and returned home to Britain. He was educated as a Christian and ordained. A vision told him to return to Ireland, which he did in the year 431, as that country's first bishop.

Well, that's the official story. Inquiring minds want to know: Why did Patrick really come back to Ireland? Just for the Irish people and green, rolling hills covered with shamrocks? Or might it have been for the special locales we now call Pubs?

Help us to discover Patrick's favorite pastime, as we celebrate things Irish on Saturday, March 19 from 5:30 – 8:00 pm (or -??). We will sample food and beverages in the style of the traditional Pub and sing some songs of the Old Country. Irish heritage is not required, but you must be 21 to partake of these traditions. Begorrah, and aren't we hoping to see you there! Do us a wee favor and buy a ticket in advance:

\$10 with guided beer tasting
\$ 5 without alcohol

Susan

Lenten Series & Soup...
 "From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians"

 A series considering the history of Jesus' ministry & the formation of the early church
Thursdays, Feb. 18 to March 17
 Soup & Salad @ 6:00
 Video & Discussion @ 7:00
 Conclude with Compline @ 8:30



Cheryl Walter 5
 Patrick Roberts 5
 Elizabeth Roberts..... 6
 Peyton El-Zoghby..... 6
 David Burean 8
 Margaret Brandon ... 9
 Judy McQuiston..... 9
 Bryan El-Zoghby..... 9
 Michelle Pickering.. 13
 Pat Wojas..... 14
 Alex Morley..... 14
 Jamie Dutil 15
 Mary Boldt 18
 Ed DeCiantis 18
 Jane Frank..... 19
 Bob Wolf 19
 Georgiana Badalow .20
 Gillian Grubb.....20
 Alice Brandon..... 21
 John Pavik..... 21
 Cindy Bailey22
 Jerry Nolan.....24
 Conner Mullin.....24
 Bill Martin.....25
 Lucas Allen.....26
 Gwen Kirby.....27
 Mary Bishop.....27
 Diana Karlsson.....27
 Jackie Ingersoll29
 Robert Cline29
 Caroline Gratsch29
 Lynn Nunn..... 31
 Martha Szott..... 31
 Jacob Pincura..... 31
 Jesse Pincura..... 31

Reaching Out

Crafting Kindness

2015 was an exciting year for Crafting Kindness. Through your donations, support, and crafting we were able to contribute over 300 items to a nine charities. Our handiwork included:

- Pillowcases dresses finding homes in Haiti
- Scarves for the homeless in Detroit
- Baby washcloths for African moms
- Tote bags for our SOS visitors
- Auction items for J2A
- Christmas stocking for SW Detroit children.

THANK YOU to everyone who made this possible.

The bar has been set high for 2016. During the January Craft Day, sewers created several items for the J2A Auction, knitters stitched Peace Pal Dolls which will be find homes with African children, and plastic bags turned into “plarn” which will be used to crochet a sleeping mat for a homeless person.

Please consider joining us at our next meeting, Thursday, March 31 at 6 pm. We will be learning more about the “plarn” sleeping mat and talking about future projects. You don’t have to craft, perhaps you can cut plarn or just enjoy the fellowship.

If you have questions about Crafting Kindness, ways you can help, or any of our projects, please contact me. I am always happy to talk with you.

Barb Whitaker

248-373-9392;

jbwhitaker@ameritech.net

Camp Compassion

This summer, the YAYA Ministries will once again be heading to the Dominican Republic for construction work around Puerto Plata, located on the northern coast, where we've been helping build a church in San Marcos for the past four years.

The main church building was completed this summer, but there is still work to be done. Additionally, we will be working at Christo Rey in Puerto Plata and building a clinic in Mosovi.

Because of the limited number of people we can take, we are offering two separate weeks for Camp Compassion in 2016. Week One is June 27-July 4 and Week Two is July 4-11.

The cost is \$1,800 to \$2,000 per person, which includes airfare, lodging, food and project expenses. There are limited spaces available for this trip. Fundraising help will be offered.

Please go to <http://www.edomi.org/yaya/camp-compassion/> for more information.

YAYA

Youth and Young Adult Ministries



We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Arch Coran
Marti Dreiman
Cathlyn Duncan
Betty Feighner
Patti Genheimer
Lisa Hicks
Elaine Jacobs
Marian Krueel
Elaine Rice
Charles Saylor
Gary Schwartz
Lois Shepherd
Katie Yant
Trystan Yant

These Parish Families

3/6 Michelle & Geena Pickering
Mark Pierce
3/13 Linda & Phil Pierce
John, Debbie, John, Jacob, Jessie &
Kate Pincura
3/20 John, Lori, Lindsay & JJ Podsiadlik
Joseph, Patricia, Lauryn, Jenna,
Christian & Justin Przeslawski
3/27 Kathy Raczkowski
Rob, Amy & Courtney Redmer

The Departed

Nora Jarvis

Mother of Jackie Ingersoll

Fay Stewart Jose

Mother of Sandy Jose

Ed Rice

Friend of Kay Novak

Jack Williams

Brother of Ken, Uncle of Eric Williams

Those in the Armed Services

Stephen Armstrong—Nephew of Linda Pierce
Tom Fydrych— known to Rob Redmer
Ian L'Hommedieu— Godson of Linda Pierce
Stephen L'Hommedieu—Godson of Linda Pierce
Kyle Rogowski—nephew of Ken & Kris Fuhr
Jim Sands—Grandson of Sharon Sands
Clayton Ulrich—Nephew of Jeralyn Burrell

We constantly review and renew the lists for prayers. Please call the church office, or e-mail us at office@ststephenstroy.org, to ask that a relative or friend be added to those in need of our church's prayers.

March Anniversaries

Jerry & Lani
Nolan.....2
Joe & Jan
Hopper9
John & Karen
Morley21
Ronny & Silvia
Karlsson25
Tom & Marilyn
Borowski
John & Debbie
Pincura.....31



How to Contact Us

Church Office: (Open 9:30-1:30 weekdays)

Tel: 248-641-8080 Fax: 248-641-8067

Cathy Hoffman, Parish Administrator/Accountant
office@ststephenstroy.org

The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams—Rector

Cell: 716-397-0997 (voice or text)

Home: 248-732-7955

rector@ststephenstroy.org

The Rev. Jim Maxwell, Retired Priest in Residence

jimmardi@wowway.com

John Pavik—Music Director

musicdirector@ststephenstroy.org

Ken Fuhr—Director of Christian Formation

formation@ststephenstroy.org

Jim Trask, Treasurer

Cathy Hoffman, Assistant to the Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

Church Website: Ken Fuhr, Webmaster

www.ststephenstroy.org (password: coffeeshour)

The Witness, Liz Sinkovich, Editor

witness@ststephenstroy.org

E-mail, bring to church or fax: 248-641-8067

Weekly Services:

Sat. 4:30 p.m.

Informal Service

Sun., 8 a.m.

Early Eucharist

Sun, 10 a.m.

Eucharist with Music, Nursery and Sunday School

If you have e-mail, you can receive our newsletter faster! Please send your e-mail address to office@ststephenstroy.org. Thank you in advance for helping us with our continued effort to....**THINK GREEN!**

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Road

Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will

Change Service Requested

Dated Material

MARCH 2016