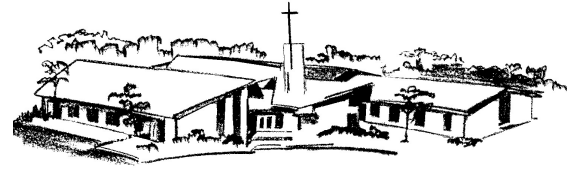


The Witness

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

October / November 2019

A Message from the Pulpit



Dear Family,

It's cider and doughnuts time!! The leaves are beginning to fall. We're rushing to finish all those summer projects that we started but never quite got done. It's time to clean out the garage so we can fill it up again. We cringe when someone proudly announces they have begun shopping for Christmas. And, of course, pumpkin spice latte is back on the scene.



It's autumn...my favorite time of the year. If only autumn would never end...[sigh]. Autumn is wonderful, that is, until Mother Nature turns her back on us and spits out frozen rain balls and throws them with a wind that would make the strongest tree quake and shiver from fright! But let's not think about that now.

I've been asked what it is that makes autumn so special to me, and I have to say that it isn't just one thing...it's a combination of many things. It's a stew of many ingredients, so to speak. It's the cool nights and warm days of Indian Summer...a warm, busy kitchen filled with comfort food and delightful desserts... it's an evening spent sitting in front of a cozy fire in the fireplace, watching a movie, and sharing a bowl of popcorn with the dog...it's pulling the dead summer flowers from the yard and replacing them with colorful mums...it's taking a road trip to experience the awe of the changing colors of the leaves.

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Senior Warden Message

Hello Family

What an amazing family we share – God is good! September came in with a Celebration ... a celebration of Welcome Back ... welcome back to a new church school year where we nurture, listen, hear, love, and challenge our youth. Welcome back to our soulful choir ... to Adult Faith ... the tasty food our Hospitality folks so lovingly prepare ... Welcome back to US and our Joyful Celebration of God and all his blessings!!!

September ended with yet another Celebration ... The celebration of Love, Service, Selflessness, Hope, Generosity, and Wonder led by the truly humbling team of Corinne and Miranda. Watching this Church Family come together – wholly together – to host and care for some 30 odd beautiful souls is a humbling experience for me each and every year reinforcing my belief God has brought us ALL together – here – at St. Stephen's – purposefully – to feed our faith!!



October kicks off the Celebration of Stewardship. A time where we selflessly reaffirm our commitment to our faith, our church, each other, and our God. As you read this, I'm sure many of you are thinking – here comes the pitch – well you can read easy. Stewardship is a personal covenant between You and God – and as we all discern the time, talents, and monies God asks of us individually – when shared with our Church Family, God will reveal an AMAZING plan for St. Stephen's. How blessed am I – How blessed are WE. A future filled with Miracles, Opportunity, Growth, Love, Giving, Selflessness, Faith, Hope, Understanding, and Forgiveness – STEWARDSHIP – Our CELEBRATION of God and all his many ... many ... Blessings! Come Celebrate with me and imagine what we will accomplish together!! Can you see it – just there – yea.

Much Love

Scott, Sr. Warden

Thousands of Fortunate Moments

It is autumn once again. Time to think about preparing for winter. We harvest our crops, we clean the exterior of the house one last time – preparing for the cold winter months. It is the time we take stock assessing where we are in life, what we have and what we have achieved.

This is the time to remember the things we have to be grateful for. It's also time to give thanks... not just for the obvious, like food, but for the thousands of fortunate moments, the multitude of blessings that we receive each year.

That's not always as easy as it sounds. We tend to remember the bad things much more easily than the good. As a society we rarely celebrate someone's goodness. We are all too quick to shame and even gloat about dysfunction and failure – even when it might not be. But we have been blessed by God with so much - we could make thankfulness an everyday habit.

What if we ended our day with a thought of gratitude? Not negative thoughts; only positive ones. For example, "I'm grateful that I made it through that heavy rush hour traffic safely." "I'm grateful that I got to see a beautiful sunset." "I'm grateful that I have a class at school that I really like." Don't forget to all the good things that happened because something bad happened first. "If that slow driver hadn't pulled in front of me, I would have gotten a speeding ticket." "If I hadn't tripped on the playground, I would never have met such a nice person." "If I hadn't experienced unemployment, I would never have acquired the skills that got me a more fulfilling job."

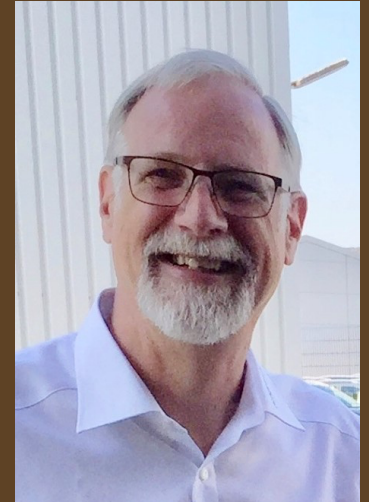
Our society teaches us to lament over what we don't have and we are constantly reminded of it. But we are so blessed with all that we do have! God has promised us that he will always provide for us. We need to focus on the abundance we do have. For example: "I'm so fortunate to live in a safe neighborhood where I can take walks." "I'm so fortunate to be able to see the beauty around me." "I am so fortunate to be a part of St. Stephen's." "I am so fortunate to know that God loves me."

Think about people you've known that have made you thankful for their existence. They can be family, friends or simply people that you've read about or seen on television. Imagine how many other people there are who might be equally as wonderful. You just haven't met them yet. Do you know everyone at St. Stephen's? I don't – yet.

What about people who have made life hard for you? Think about the things you accomplished because of them. Did you finish something because they said that you couldn't? Did you get better at something because they made fun of you when you did it badly? Did their cruel actions make you vow never to treat others that way? Even the negative forces in your life can be hidden blessings, worthy of your gratitude – and forgiveness as well.

Think about the places that make you smile: Home, a favorite hangout, a wooded trail, an exciting city, a great spot from which to view the sky, a hill that you once rolled down, St. Stephen's. Give thanks for all these things.

Now pass it on. True gratitude involves action. Lend a hand. Pitch in. Make a gift. Give your time. Listen. Give back as often as you can. Even a friendly greeting can make all the difference in the world. Create your own opportunities for gratitude. St. Stephen's is a place where we can all share in the action of gratitude. I have had many occasions to both give



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Moments

and receive gratitude – to be thankful for the many blessing I have received here.

Let others know when they've done something that you're thankful for. "I'll never forget how you stuck up for me. It meant a lot." "That email you sent really made my day." "You make shopping here a pleasure." An attitude of gratitude spreads like ripples from a tossed pebble, benefitting all it touches.



Remember that hard times make good times sweeter. Also keep in mind that obstacles and challenges not only make you stronger, but they force you to explore outside of the comfortable routine that you've settled into. Without challenges, there can be no progress. Without obstacles, there can be no achievement. Be thankful for the opportunities that they provide. Always remember that Jesus is right there with you. With all of us; thanks be to God!

As you are working through your fall check lists, remember St. Stephen's. Think about your relationship with God and us. Think about our abundance! We are so blessed to have each other and this holy space we call church.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (Thessalonians, 5:18).

Peace,

Dave Stein
Jr. Warden

SOS Thank You

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Your hearts were full of compassion, your time was appreciated, your talents were noticed, and your treasure was well spent; all to make our guests of South Oakland Shelter feel the love we so openly share with them. Last week was an expression of what we do best as a parish - come together to help



those in need. We have participated in SOS for more than thirty years and we will continue to do so going forward. Our volunteers at St. Stephen's have a special gift to welcome those who are facing a difficult time in their lives and we do it without treating our guests like invisible, faceless homeless people. We take one week a year to help them feel at home, loved, and welcome. All of this is hard work and takes a great deal of time to coordinate and the generosity of people like you to accomplish our goal.

Last week we accommodated the needs of thirty-two guests, ten of which were children. We had bonfires at night, hot breakfasts in the morning with cheesy grits, Saturday morning frittatas for breakfast and a barbeque with hamburgers, hot dogs for lunch, freshly popped popcorn on a dismal Saturday for the kids, 3:30 AM drives to Dearborn, Target runs for special needs, humorous and touching bus rides with Miranda, beautiful pillowcases and tote bags donated by Krafting Kindness, and so many other ways we went out of our way to make St. Stephen's home for one week.

One young man came to us on the last morning and said he had been in the program for three months and was about to get his own apartment. He gave us a hug and wanted us to know that St. Stephen's was the first church where he truly felt welcome and like he was part of a family. He missed his family from Texas and we helped to ease that sadness. He genuinely was so appreciative of the time he spent with us.

Thank you all for another successful SOS week. We will be back next September 20th through the 27th, so mark your calendars now so you can be a part of this amazing outreach program.

We wish to extend a great big THANK YOU and our appreciation to our outstanding church family.

Warm regards,

Corinne Fragnoli and Miranda Spates

Corinne Fragnoli & Miranda Spates

Outreach Spotlight

We reached these two as SOS week was ending, and they were recuperating. Both women are long standing members of St. Stephens, and here is what they had to say:

When did you join St. Stephens and why did you join?

Miranda: My husband John and I joined in late 1984 when his job moved us here. We found St. Stephens before we found a house to live in. We found St. Stephens people to be friendly, and I liked his approach to faith and how he was open to new ideas.

Corinne: My husband Steve and I moved here in 1991 when our first child, Justin, was born. We had been Godparents to a friend's child at St. Pat's in Madison Heights and liked the church service. When we heard Jonathan [Sams] sermon on fly fishing and hunting, my husband was hooked.

What have you participated in at St. Stephens?

Corinne: At first we weren't real active, but when our sons started school we became more involved. Our son Brent asked to go to Vacation Bible School, and all three of our sons were active in J2A as teens. I taught Sunday school and Steve served on the Vestry. Both of us have been active in Hospitality activities.



Miranda: I was the church Sexton for 20 years, served as a Sunday school teacher, on Altar Guild, the Pastoral Care Committee, as an EM and EV, and on Buildings and Grounds. I scheduled Ems for many years. Corinne and I have co-chaired SOS for 4 years.



Where Do you think St. Stephens going in the future?

Miranda: We should broaden Outreach activities, like SOS and the St. Johns Food Pantry, that bring us together. If we can figure out our mission and passion, we can grow and be a faith anchor in our community.

Corinne: We need to expand Outreach as a parish. I feel as though I am the lucky one to be able to work with SOS. I have a special concern about the homeless children we serve and want to make difference, especially for them.

We owe both of these women a huge thank you – there would be no SOS at St. Stephens without them.

Joan Morgan



We ask Your Prayers for the Following People

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Penokie | Amy Ambry |
| Jenny Dolan | Carol Mikols |
| Linda Dolan | Dorothy Langridge |
| Linda Lou Vance | Emy Pheil |
| Jim Whitaker | Kenny Nelson |
| Shawna Collins | Bob Mayer |
| Harold Ford | Emily Thompson |
| Mary Bandsuch | Ron Lee |
| Greg Thompson | John Thunder |
| Zoey Rose | Marilyn Elwarner |
| Kay Novak | Kay Smith |
| Cynthia Tischer | Michelle Walter |
| Mayme Oliver | Pattee Saylor |
| Sue Sprague | Betty Feighner |
| Rick Lowery | Ken Krato |
| Theresa Martin | Terry Flynn |
| Bob White | Meghann Armstrong |
| Colin Davis | Joe Havachek |
| Robin Cameron | Michelle Tobin |
| Deputy David Hack | Ron Goetzke |

Those in the Armed Services

Nathan Cremeans—grandson of Barb Whitaker

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

Brendon Church —Grandsons of Ed and Elaine Church, Nephew of Amy Church

Gordon Bagley - friend of Vida family

Capt. John Zimmer - friend of Vida family

Capt. Scott Wright - friend of Ann Williams

These Parish Families

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10/6 | Mary Lou Bryson Patricia Buller |
| 10/13 | Tony & Kim Burean, Peter and David Jon Burrell |
| 10/20 | James Carnage & Karol Sprague Barbara Cavendish |
| 10/27 | Gloria Christiansen Ed, Elaine & Amy Church |
| 11/3 | Byron Converse Arch & Kay Coran |
| 11/10 | Ed & Kathy DeCiantis, Claire, Hannah & Evan Olivia DeCaintis and Gabriel |
| 11/17 | Colin & Kathy Davis Donovan & Caroline Dengler, Brady & Keegan |
| 11/24 | Bruce Dostert Melissa & Daniel Duggan, Madeleine, Conner & Emmett |

Church Bulletin Bloopers

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of several others.

Please join us as we show our support for Amy and Alan in preparing for the girth of their first child.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Birthdays

October

| Name | Date |
|-------------------|------|
| Sandra Martin | 1 |
| Sue Stewart | 8 |
| Blake Frydrych | 9 |
| Elizabeth West | 11 |
| Corinne Fragnoli | 15 |
| Robert Thatcher | 17 |
| Donna Brokenshire | 19 |
| Gretchen Waters | 20 |
| Katheryn Thatcher | 22 |
| Margaret Klempay | 23 |
| Dorothy Waun | 23 |
| Patricia Buller | 25 |
| Norma Ross | 26 |
| John Pincura | 27 |
| Samuel Parent | 28 |
| Karol Sprague | 28 |

November

| Name | Date |
|----------------------|------|
| Melissa Hardy | 1 |
| Elaine Church | 2 |
| William Langridge | 4 |
| Kendra Redmer | 5 |
| Amy Redmer | 5 |
| Alistair Sundaeson | 5 |
| Kachi Ezeugwa | 7 |
| Lee Bennett | 8 |
| Dominic Perod | 8 |
| Edward Church | 9 |
| Patricia Przeslawski | 12 |
| Karen Morley | 14 |
| Shannon Weigant | 19 |
| Brent Fragnoli | 21 |
| Lani Nolan | 21 |
| Margaret Fielder | 22 |
| Gianni Perod | 22 |
| Paula Somerville | 24 |
| Jacques Ndione | 25 |
| Joan Thunder | 25 |
| Claire Grutta | 28 |
| Thomas Borowski | 29 |
| John Lynch | 29 |
| Kate Pincura | 29 |
| Val Thompson | 29 |

Message from the Pulpit

Cont. from Page 1

Autumn is a bridge from summer vacation to back to school...from planting to harvest...from seasonal heat and rain to cold winds and snow. Autumn is a magnificent collection of colors, smells, foods, and memories.

As we slow down from our hectic summer, autumn is also a good time to sit back and reflect on the past year...have we been taking care of ourselves both physically and spiritually?...have we been focused on the goals we set at the beginning of the year?...have we followed through on the changes we've vowed to make?...have we taken time away from our busyness to find refreshment for our minds and bodies?



Anniversaries

October

| Name | Date |
|-------------------------|------|
| Judy & James McQuiston | 1 |
| Diane & Richard Kenefic | 11 |
| Linda & Phil Pierce | 15 |
| Cynthia & Tom Vida | 15 |
| Kay & Arch Coran | 21 |
| Nancy & Bruce Papet | 28 |
| Rachel & Jerred Rich | 30 |

November

| Name | Date |
|------------------------|------|
| Martha & Michael Szott | 11 |
| Lucinda & David Sabino | 28 |

Grant them your blessing, O God, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Autumn is that quiet time when we can take a deep breath and relax before the hectic rush of Advent, Christmas, and the New Year are suddenly upon us.

What's not to like about autumn??

And now, my friends, I'm heading out to the pumpkin patch to wait for the Great Pumpkin! Happy Autumn everyone!!

Peace and blessings,

Mother Sharon

St. Stephen's Happenings

Welcome Back Sunday - September 8

Welcome Back Sunday School

We are off to a great start with both old faces returning and new faces beginning. It's going to be an exciting year with many activities and ceremonies planned. One of the new things we are trying is to have the YAC and J2A classes attend Sunday school every other week. We hope this will increase attendance. Today's reality for kids is that they are very busy with activities on Sunday, jobs, divided households and challenging school classes.

This is a year when we will have a Rite 13 ceremony, Confirmation (off site), a YAC retreat weekend, Urban Adventure to Chicago, the Youth Auction and various other fun activities. We are so lucky to have such a great bunch of kids at St. Stephen's.

The classes as they are arranged this year are as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nursery | Quinn O'Neal |
| PK-2nd Grade | Jackie Ingersoll, Gretchen Waters |
| Grades 3rd-5th | Rob Redmer |
| J2A-Grades 7th-9th | Alan and Helen Giles |
| YAC-Grades 10th-12th | Scott Armstrong |

Grades 3rd through 12th will go to their classes after Communion. PK-2nd Grade will begin at 10am and go in at the Peace.

Jackie Ingersoll



Annual Christmas Walk - December 7th

Mark your calendars for Saturday December 7 for St. Stephen's Christmas Walk.

This is a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season enjoying the Christmas decorating at three different homes, eating delicious food and catching up with friends. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm, tickets are \$15 each with proceeds being donated to a charity yet to be decided.

The homes for this year will be announced soon.

Any questions call Amy Redmer 248 709-8070. I hope to see you there!



Crafting Kindness Doings

ODDS & ENDS

UFOs – Many of our donations have included UFOs (UnFinished Objects). Both knitting and sewing projects waiting for your help to be completed.

SAVE THE DATE – Friday, December 6th for fellowship and fun at our annual Thank You Get Together. More on that soon.

If you worked on the pillowcases or lunch bags for SOS this year, please give me the approximant time you spent on this project. SOS needs hours severed for their records.

DELIVERIES – The September numbers aren't ready just yet, however there should be around 375 deliveries made this year. Your crafting in blessing many people far and near. Thank You so much for making this mission successful.

UPCOME MEETINGS - Saturday, October 26th



Crafting Kindness

How did fall appear so very quickly this year? It is difficult to believe it is time for us to be finishing up our meetings for 2019. This is also the time we attempt to clear the shelves and make room for all the crafting you continue through the year. Crafting Kindness will be having the final Craft Day of the year on Saturday, October 26th. October is also Breast Cancer awareness month and our sewers will be completing pillows for patients at St. Joe's Hospital.

Our big project on Saturday will be stuffing 9 boxes for our annual Veteran's Day Thank You Box for our military along with 100+ Christmas Socks for hospitals, children, senior citizens and special needs folks. We need donations to complete this project. The following items are needed to fill these socks.

Consider also joining us on Saturday, October 26th to help stuffing the socks. Donations can be put into the 'Crafting Kindness Grab 'N' Stitch' tubs in the Outreach Hall by October 20th

Suggestions for the Military Boxes: Microwave Popcorn, Junior Mints, Granola Bars, Hot Chocolate, Teas of all kinds, an Amazon Gift Card. These are suggestions; please feel free to make some other choices. They will also be receiving a microwave bowl holder, a large mug, and mug rug.

Suggestions for Children and Special Needs Folks

Socks: Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, and Floss. We already have crayons and a small coloring book for the children's socks and the special needs socks will include a small notebook and pencils. Again, these are suggestions; the socks are small, about 3" wide and 5" tall. No food or candy please.



Suggestions for Premie

Babies at Beaumont Troy: Baby Socks and Small Bibs. These socks have been approved by Beaumont and we will not be adding other things.

Suggestions for Senior Citizens: Hand Cream (travel size) and Hand Sanitizers. We have pencils and a small notepad for these socks. Again, these are suggestions and your ideas are appreciated. Please not food or candy.

Thank you all for your support of Crafting Kindness
Barb Whitaker

Barbwhitaker137@gmail.com or 248-373-9392

Weekly Services

Sat. 4:30 p.m. Informal Service
Sun., 8 a.m. Early Eucharist
Sun, 10 a.m. Eucharist with Music

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!



How to Contact Us

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bookkeeper@ststephenstroy.org

The Witness: Rob Redmer and Ami O'Neill
witness@ststephenstroy.org
office@ststephenstroy.org

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



Who's Missing?

If someone you usually see in church hasn't been there in a while, please give them a call.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Road
Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will.

