



The WITNESS

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

May 2016

Mother Susan's
Musings

The Faith Laboratory



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

Youth is wasted on the young" and its corollary, "Wisdom is wasted on the old," are *bon mots* plaguing me today. I'm touring my *alma mater* with daughter Margaret, as part of her pre-freshman-year orientation activities.

My, how things have changed in 30 years. For one thing, WE didn't have pre-frosh orientation days! 33 years ago, I showed up clueless and nervous, and jumped into the whirlpool of classes and social activities and music/drama/dance/debate clubs. Did I mention sports? Nope; but I had classmates who jumped into those, too.

There's something to be said for advance planning, and another to be said for blind enthusiasm. Had I known then what she knows now, I might have done a few things differently.

For instance, the 2000 gathered students and parents on campus for these "Bulldog Days" were treated to a sampling of *a capella* singing groups, cellists playing Coldplay, and hip-hop dancers that wowed everyone. Students interested in such feats will probably start practicing their auditions as soon as they get home - and I might have, too.

We also sat in on panel discussions about academics and student life, and some of the kids were stressing already about how prepared they'll be for college classes. "Should we take courses over the summer to get ready?" Here, the advice was, "No. Just come. There will be a place for you, at whatever level you are."

The dual messages of "Prepare with excitement for what you love... Then relax and know you will have a place" strike me as good spiritual advice also. A few weeks ago I met with a slightly younger group of students, our J2A-Confirmation Class, who had been given the assignment to think of a faith question to ask me. They came up with some weighty concerns, several of which had to do with heaven, last judgment, and other after-life mysteries. To these my answers could be summed up, "Prepare with excitement for what you love, and those you love, then relax and know you will have a place!"

The other good advice I heard, for both college students and spiritual seekers, is "Explore what intrigues you." A university offers such a huge diversity of subjects, no one can cram in everything they'd want to try in four short years. Oh to be back again and take a few more! I might even try something in the science department this time around! (Still no sports.)

To Christians, I would say, "Experience the range of our 2000-year history that intrigues you." Icons and artwork? Musical expression of prayers? A monastic retreat? Go for it. After their confirmation on May 14, our J2A class will focus on their June pilgrimage and its range of American, Protestant traditions: from Amish to colonial to 20th century neo-Gothic. I hope the trip will whet their appetite for future spiritual discoveries, both geographical and educational.

The Faith Laboratory—Continued on page 2



Around the Parish

May Lectionary

May 1- Easter 6

Acts 16: 9-15
Psalm 67
Rev 21: 10, 22-22:5
John 14: 23-29
or
John 5: 1-9

May 8 —Easter 7

Acts 16: 16-34
Psalm 97
Rev 22: 12-14,16-17,20-21
John 17: 20-26

May 15—Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21
or
Gen 11: 1-9
Psalm 104: 25-35, 37
Rom 8: 14-17
or
Acts 2: 1-21
John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

May 22—Pentecost 1

Prov 8: 1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Or
Canticle 13
Rom 5: 1-5
John 16: 12-15

May 29—Pentecost 2

1 Kings 8: 22-23, 41-43
Psalm 96: 1-9
Gal 1: 1-12
Luke 7: 1-10

The Faith Laboratory—Continued...

And for us who are longer of tooth but lesser of energy, I hope you'll also keep learning and growing in your adult faith. For instance on May 7, you can join me at the cathedral in Detroit for some intriguing workshops at the Ministries Fair – and then support the kids' Pilgrimage that night, at our ninth annual J2A Auction!

Since I can't/won't run away to college in my 50s, I will need to do the more practical thing and find learning opportunities closer to home. In the best of both worlds, maybe the wisdom of the old gets shared more regularly with the enthusiastic young in our midst. A parish church, like few other places in society, brings all generations together under the umbrella of God's ageless love; and teaches all through faith experiments in the laboratory of life. Not even a great university attempts to do that.

What can you teach us? What would you like to learn?

Listening with an open mind,

Susan

Ken Fisher

Confirmation

Everyone is invited to pray for Anna Dorsey, Peyton El-Zoghby, Garret Fragnoli, Diana Karlsson, Joseph Kennedy, Margaret O'Neill, Kate Roberts, Elijah Samuel, Sudhakar Samuel, and Emily Williams as they stand for Confirmation by Bishop Gibbs on May 14. The service will be held at St. John's in Royal Oak and all are welcome to attend.

As you may recall, confirmands in the Episcopal Church are asked by the Bishop to make two important vows. First, the candidates are asked, "Do you reaffirm your renunciation of Evil?" The second question they are asked is, "Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?" The candidates then move ahead and join the community in renewing our Baptismal Covenant, but these two questions are the "bottom line" for the confirmands.

The confirmation class had an opportunity to discuss each of these big questions and recognize the commitment that is being made. We all fall short and the will of God may be hard to live out some times, but the goal is quite clear. We are called by Jesus Christ to love God and love one-another.



**CHURCH PICNIC & YOUTH SUNDAY
JUNE 5, 2016
A CRAZY SERVICE, WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP,
AWESOME FOOD, SILLY GAMES
DON'T MISS IT!**

Church Notes

Vacation Bible School, 2016—"Waters of New Life"

This year, on June 17, 18, & 19 children will be treated to a wonderful weekend of fun experiences as they discover amazing stories, play games, sing songs, and make super-cool crafts. Each of the three days has a special theme.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17 (5:30 – 8:30) FEATURES..... "JONAH AND THE WHALE"

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 (9:00 – Noon) FEATURES..... "JOHN THE BAPTIST"

SUNDAY, JUNE 19 (9:00 – Noon) FEATURES..... "THE LADY AT THE WELL"

As we did for our weekend program last year, a meal will be served Friday night and there will be a special program and celebration on Sunday that everyone will be invited to enjoy immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Be sure to invite your kids, your kid's kids, your neighbor's kids, and your friend's kids to be a part of the fun. Registration will begin in mid-May.

If you would like to help and be a part of the staff for the weekend, please contact Ken Fuhr or Jackie Ingersoll or sign up to help at the registration table.

Ken Fuhr

Filling a Need

Last year I enjoyed visiting and worshiping with the people of St. Matthew's /St. Joseph's in Detroit along with other parishioners from St. Stephen's. Their prayer books were very worn and tattered but their worship was inspiring. We saw a need and thought it would be a good idea to use the Altar Guild Fund to order a case of Books of Common Prayer for Maddy Joe's.

The idea was well received by our members at the last meeting. Before long, 24 pristine, new Books of Common Prayer were delivered directly from Cokesbury to St. Matthew's St. Joseph's on April 7, 2016. Darlene Williams of Maddy Joe's immediately phoned to say thank you and God bless! Indeed it was a good feeling to fulfill such a small, but important need for our sister church in Detroit.



Faithfully,
Alice Brandon
On behalf of the Altar Guild



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

Everything Has its Season

For everything there is a season. Life has its cycles. We see evidence of this every day. Recently Joanne Middlewood's ashes were interred by her family in the Memorial Garden. It was a wonderful service with testimonials by family and friends, Biblical readings, prayers and songs. It was clear that Joanne was well and rightfully loved by her family and those who knew her.

It was winter in Joanne's physical life cycle. God called her to her new home where it will be Spring. But that's not the end of her influence on earth. It is summer in the life cycle of her memory as it inspires and motivates her family and friends to be the best that they can be. They were blessed with her unconditional love and will forever be better for it. I expect that they will honor her memory by passing that love on to others.

For us who remain it's Spring outside no matter how old we are. Spring warms our hearts and soothes our souls by reminding us of the regeneration of God's creations here on earth. Spring is the season of rebirth, new life, freshness, new energy and beautiful flowers.

In the human context, our young parishioners embody Spring. Although I'm a long way from my youth, I still get a Spring-like feeling of joy and hope; and a surge of energy when I see the youth of St. Stephen's joyfully evolving from infants to toddlers to preschoolers and up through young adults.



It's heartwarming to see their bright smiling faces filled with joy, their unlimited poten-

tial, their endless energy, and their minds open and eager to learn about Jesus and his lessons for being good Christians and caring citizens.

Most of our current crop of kids didn't know Joanne because she and Darrel attended the 8 o'clock service. But she is helping them nonetheless.



Her ashes are nurturing the beautiful new life in our garden. The Sunday after her ashes were interred, our youngest Sunday schoolers were planting flowers in the garden. Her memory will live in the beauty she is helping to create.

What can we learn from all this? The world has far more beauty than ugliness. God's fingerprints are all over it, but we are its caretakers. We can and must continue to contribute to that beauty no matter what season our bodies are in.

That's what is expected of us as Christians. That's why we must continue to push ourselves in service to God and each other. We are part of St. Stephen's life cycle, and St. Stephen's is part of the community's life cycle. We have all been blessed in many ways and we have many ways in which to give back. We are being called. Are you listening? Spring is in the air. What is your answer?

Don Ingersoll
Senior Warden



one World



An Alzheimers Caregivers Group meets at Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Novi. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am in the parish hall. It offers support and open discussion for all those dealing with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Inside the Parish Walls

Eagle Scout Service

Tyler Braidwood officially achieved the rank of Eagle Scout at his troop's Court of Honor on April 17, 2016. As you will see in the accompanying picture, this achievement involved hundreds of hours of dedicated effort earning badges, providing community service, serving as a leader at many levels in the troop, and preparing physically and mentally to meet the requirements of the rank. Few young men are able to earn this achievement – in fact only about 4% of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle.



As you may have seen, Tyler's Eagle Scout Project was redecorating and

updating the nursery. This involved painting and cleaning as well as installing new storage and carpet. In addition, Tyler raised money to purchase and provide new toys and furniture. The result is a freshened up space that Quinn and the little ones can enjoy for years to come.

Thanks and congratulation to Tyler on this significant achievement, and thanks also to his parents, Nikki and Bill, for their loving support and steadfast encouragement.

The Journey East

This June the J2A group will be taking a pilgrimage that is a key rite of passage in the Journey program that most have been part of for the last 4 years. This week – long adventure provides an opportunity for the "Pilgrims" to experience people and places in a way that can facilitate a greater awareness of how God works in their lives and is revealed in the lives of others.

The pilgrims will explore vastly different environments and cultures as the group spends time in the Amish community of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, visits the birthplace of the Episcopal Church and our nation in Philadelphia, and experiences the magnificence of the country's largest cathedral following a visit to what may be our most sobering memorial while in New York City.

The members choose the pilgrimage location for each pilgrimage. This year's will be quite unique as is always the case, but it will be to similar locations as the very first J2A Pilgrimage nearly a decade ago. It is truly a blessing that the spiritual and financial support of the parish has facilitated these amazing opportunities for our youth, and all the pilgrims for these 10 years continue to appreciate that support.

Ken Fisher



May 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

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

Do You Give Happy Money

ST. STEPHEN'S
2ND Annual
Neighborhood Yard
Sale
Thursday, July 7
From 8 am TO 3pm
In the
St. Stephen's park-
ing lot.
Come with your
stuff and sell it!
Come donate your
stuff to YACYM to
sell!
Come with your
family & friends to
buy other people's
stuff!
But no matter what
- COME!

This October, St. Stephen's will be hosting my colleague The Rev. Dick Hamlin for a workshop called "The Joy of Giving Joyfully!" Preaching at all services October 1 & 2, Dick will challenge us to get in the habit of joyful giving. More details will be coming in future editions of The Witness. I'm thinking about it now, because I just read an article that referred to "happy money" and "sad money." Sound weird? Keep reading please...

"Some money is sad money, some is happy money," writes fund-raising consultant Ashley Hale.* "Sad money is paid as a duty or a penalty. Taxes, debt-payments, fines – these are paid with sad money. Unfortunately, many church members respond to stewardship appeals with sad money."

So what's happy money? It's when you spend a bit more than you'd planned on a birthday present for your aunt because it's perfect. Happy money bids more for that J2A Auction item because you know what's most important. \$60 for a pie? Why not!

"Happy-money giving is generous giving," Hale says. "Members of a congregation who give happy money will get along better with each other and love their church more, than a congregation that is giving sad money."

When you write the check or open your wallet for the mission of St. Stephen's, *what kind of money is it?*

Thinking happy thoughts,

*The Lost Art of Church Fund-Raising (1993: Precept Press); pp. 52-53.

Coming May 7th at 6:00 p.m.

It's the 9th Annual...

J2A LIVE AUCTION!

Supporting St. Stephen's Youth



Hey amigos, don't miss the great food, drinks, fellowship & FUN!

An Introduction to Iconography

Nationally-renowned iconographer and Episcopal Priest, the Rev. Peter Pearson will introduce us to the world of icons—their history and purpose, the spiritually inherent in icons, how icons are used and the unusually techniques used to create them. Mother Susan spent a week creating an icon with Fr. Pearson and highly recommends learning from him. 6 to 8 pm Wednesday, May 18 at Christ Church downtown, 960 East Jefferson (located at the end of the 375). To RSVP, call the church office at 313-259-6688. There is no charge for this event; light snacks will be served.

Evan Mullin..... 3
 Sandy Jose 4
 Sara Sundareson..... 5
 Claire DeCiantis..... 5
 Robert Brandon 5
 Ashley Allen 5
 Emily Gerard 5
 Kevin Ward 6
 Barb Spina 6
 Megan Mullin 6
 Justin Przeslawski ... 6
 Erica DeMay 6
 David Eldon 11
 Roy Waters..... 13
 Cathy Hoffman 13
 Krista Grubb..... 13
 Jacob Hardy..... 14
 T J Morley 14
 Susan Williams..... 17
 Chinwenwa Okeagu. 18
 Jamie Mason..... 18
 Lucinda Sabino 19
 Patrick Barry..... 19
 Daniel Neumann 19
 Taylor Ward 21
 Catriona Maxwell... 21
 Debbie Dutil 23
 Donna Bronsteen 24
 George Klempay 25
 David Williams 25
 Adrian Gross 26
 James Carnagie 26
 Michael Sparrow 27
 Peter Krzywicki 30
 Peter Burean 31

Senior Moments

Berry Nice Moments

The best bargains at the market this month are Berries! Berries are plentiful and good for you. Eight medium strawberries contain only 45 calories, yet provide you with more vitamin C than one orange.

Berries are rich in vitamin C and fiber, yet low in calories. They also provide folate and potassium. But what makes berries special are their phytochemicals, notably anthocyanins—the pigments that give them their intense colors. Anthocyanins are potent antioxidants that fight oxidative cell damage and may reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. Berries rank higher in antioxidant power than most fruits and vegetables.

In animal studies, blueberries have been found to improve memory and other brain functions. Lab studies also show that berry extracts may inhibit tumor growth, decrease blood clotting and have other beneficial effects.

People often want to know the best way to keep strawberries fresh. The best method is to remove all of the moldy or damaged ones and place the good strawberries in the refrigerator in layers separated by paper towels inside a plastic container or sealed bag. This works great for short term storage- up to 3 days.

For anything longer than that, the strawberries will need to be frozen in a sealed plastic bag. Freezing fresh strawberries can keep them delicious for months.

Whatever storage method you use, do not wash the strawberries before storing them. Wait until you plan to eat them to rinse them off to ensure optimal freshness.

Quick Tip: How to Hull a Strawberry
Push a straw through from the bottom of the strawberry to the top. The hull will pop right out! That's why they're called "strawberries"! (Well, maybe!)

A scrumptious recipe to make for the church picnic...

Creeping Crust Berry Cobbler

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup butter, margarine or applesauce
- 1 ½ cup flour
- 1 ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- ¾ cup milk
- 2 cups strawberries mixed with ½ cup or less sugar

Procedures: Melt margarine in 13X9 inch baking dish.

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder; add milk and mix.

Spoon over melted margarine.

Heat fresh fruit with sugar. Pour over dough.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes until crust is golden brown. Crust will rise to the top.

Serve warm or cold, if any lasts that long.



Want more berry good recipes? Email me: rossmail@comcast.net or leave a note for me in the church office. Then watch your mailbox for Berry Nice Recipes.



Norma Ross

We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Ipe Cherian
Betty Feighner
Ken Fuhr
Patti Genheimer
Ken Ingersoll
Marian Krueh
Lucinda Sabino
Charles Saylor
Jim Schall
Lois Shepherd
Tom Trask

These Parish Families

5/1 Sharon Sands
Sathi & Janet Satyanathan
5/8 Sheryl & James Schmidt
Jerry & Kathy Sebrowski
5/15 Ken Shipman
Liz & Larry Sinkovich, Amy & Emma Boldt
5/22 Helen Slater
Edith Smith
5/29 Mike, Katie, Ethan and Caleb Sobelewski
Paula Somerville

May Anniversaries

Steve & Margaret
Brandon.....2
Jim Carnagie & Carol
Sprague2
Kevin & Carolyn
Miller.....9
Ed & Elaine
Church..... 11
John & Lori
Podsiadlik 11
David & Jan
Eldon20
Bill & Dorothy
Langridge20
Patrick & Debbie
Barry.....22
Rob & Amy
Redmer23
Ken & Kris
Fuhr24
George & Rona
Howell.....28

The Departed

William L. Marks
Brother of Norma Ross
Kathleen Ingersoll
Sister-in-law of Don Ingersoll
Patsy Wright-Warren
Aunt of Silvia Karlsson
MaryAlice Keiller
Aunt of Kathy Sebrowski
Stanley Jacobsen
Father of Margie Armstrong
Merlin Herlein
Friend of Don Ingersoll

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.



How to Contact Us

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

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The Rev. Jim Maxwell, Retired Priest in Residence

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John Pavik—Music Director

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Ken Fuhr—Director of Christian Formation

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Building Manager/Sexton—Nikki Kamicka

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248-825-5714

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

MAY 2016