



# The WITNESS

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

June 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

## Talk Like an Ephesian

If you don't hear The Bangles when reading this title, it's OK. My brain seems to be hard-wired to the pop music that accompanied me into adulthood. I heard a lecture by Daniel Levitin called "This is Your Brain on Music" (it's also the title of his book) about such tendencies toward musical nostalgia.

It's why we listen to The Oldies station: The human brain sets its preferences when we're in our late teens – early twenties. So the more sorts of music we hear when we're young, and the more foods we try, and the more types of literature we read, etc., the more it's going to stick. By the time we hit 30, we've become old dogs who have a much harder time learning new tricks!

Levitin was a rock musician, playing and producing music with "our own" Stevie Wonder, the Blue Oyster Cult and others. Then he went back to school and became a neuroscientist (!), to find out why he knew what he knew about musical tastes and trends. The lecture was fascinating; maybe I'll even read the book.

The solidifying of those tastes and trends is one reason why we include a mixture of musical styles in our worship every week. The generations who sing God's praise as we gather at Christ's table have ideas about "what's best."

The dangerous part is judging others' favorite styles to be "bad" or "inappropriate for worship." I struggle with it, too: I'd much rather listen to Bach or Tallis than anything on a "Christian rock" or Country radio station. Some of you will agree and others will disagree!

When you come to the June 3 "Spring Serenade" Choir Concert, as I know you will, you'll hear a variety of music. Just soak it in. And

come back next time for something different. The goal is to build up the whole congregation, their ears (and brains) both young and old; to learn from one another, trying to appreciate each person's perspective and keeping our mouths zipped when we're tempted to criticize the differences.

Why is this so important? I'll let another expert tell you:

**"Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you." - St. Paul (or his disciple) writing to the Ephesians, 4:29-32**

Many of you are really good at this: saying words that build up the community. When I greet you at the door, you find something nice to say about the service, my sermon or the music – and I appreciate it! I predict that you continue your kindness when you run into John, Ken, choir members, teachers, whoever it is



Talk Like an Ephesian -Continued on page 2



# Around the Parish

## June Lectionary

### June 5—Pentecost 3

1 Kings 17: 17-24  
Psalm 30  
Gal 1: 11-24  
Luke 7: 11-17

### June 12—Pentecost 4

2 Sam 11:25-12:10, 13-15  
Psalm 32  
Gal 2: 15-21  
Luke 7: 26-8:3

### June 19—Pentecost 5

Isaiah 65: 1-9  
Psalm 22: 18-27  
Gal 3: 23-29  
Luke 8: 26-29

### June 26—Pentecost 6

1 Kings 19: 15-26, 19-21  
Psalm 16  
Gal 5: 1, 13-25  
Luke 9: 51-62

Talk Like an Ephesian—cont.

that made a positive impact on your Sunday (or Saturday). THANK YOU!

Everyone likes to feel the warmth of praise, not out of ego-needs but because **building-up** happens too seldom in “the world,” Jesus’s term for the distrust, avarice, cynicism and just plain meanness that we encounter much of the time.

If a positive environment is needed by you or someone you love (such as those kids whose brains can still learn new tricks), I hope you will frequently come to soak in it here at St. Stephen’s. And if I catch some unkindness or nay-saying going on, I may become St Paul for a moment and urge reform, à la his advice to the Ephesians. You can do the same for me.

At 50+ I’m probably too old to learn appreciation for country music; but I have confidence that we can learn to sing a new song of grace toward one another, with the help of the Holy Spirit who knows all melodies.

## Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

This year’s high school graduates from St. Stephen’s are Amy Boldt, Tyler Braidwood, Quinn O’Neill, and Margaret Williams. Congratulations to you all for the wonderful gifts you have been given by God and thank you for sharing those with your parish family. May God’s grace be the guiding force in your lives.



Tenderheartedly yours,

*Susan*



**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.



## Graduation Recognition

June 5's Youth Service is a time to recognize (especially) our high-school graduates, but there are lots of other grads out there. If a member of your family is getting their {high school, associate's, bachelor's, master's, professional...} degree please let us know, and we will include them in our Prayers on a Sunday in June!



*Ken Fuhr*

## Free Will Ga-Ga Offering

At the annual church picnic on June 5<sup>th</sup> we will be gathering a free-will offering that will go toward the cost of adding rubber mulch to the beloved ga-ga ball arena. This area gets slippery very easily so adding the mulch will make this both more fun and safer for us all. If you do not have a chance to "kick-in" on this at the picnic but would like to help, feel free to drop a check by the office. Thanks.



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

## From My Pew...

**S**tatistic: Eighty percent of the people who visit a church and stay, came on the arm of a parishioner. I don't have the details of this study to know if the visitors came to a service or an event of some kind. It's an important fact whichever is the case. Like all religious institutions, we have a certain number of folks leaving each year. Some move, some become incapacitated or die, some lose their sense of connection with God, the church or the parishioners, etc.

Statistic: Folks who regularly participate in church services and activities live longer and healthier lives than those who don't. One study reported 7 years longer on average, other studies reported 4 or more years. Looking around, I can believe these studies, as we have a long list of very senior parishioners who have been active over the years and are doing exceptionally well for anyone, not just folks their age.

Studies also consistently show that many people in today's society feel adrift and alone--unconnected to anyone who care about them. Many who join religious institutions do so in search of a connection with caring people as much as or more so than for a connection to God. I expect that when this is the case, the connection with God follows whether that was the initial motivation or not.

Interesting findings, but what do they mean? Well, lots of important things.

Most importantly, God call us to reach beyond our walls to spread the Gospel and do his work in the world. We are serving God when we reach out to folks, and in doing so, we are providing them an opportunity to connect with our caring and sharing folks. In addition to following God's direction, if folks connect with us, you may be helping them to add length and quality to

their lives as well as your own.

If they connect, we also add to our capacity to do good things for God. We add hands, talent and hearts to the congregation. We have more of the connections that enrich us individually and collectively. And if kids are added it's a double bonus: we gain energy from them while we pass on our Christian understandings and values. In doing so, we help protect the future of our families, community and the world for decades to come.

I doubt that anyone will argue with the above. However, there is a fly in the ointment. Studies and the reported experiences of folks long connected with the Episcopal and many other churches are that everyone agrees that "**SOMEBODY** should be **EVANGELIZING.**" But for too many folks, evangelizing isn't their thing, so in their minds "**SOMEBODY MEANS SOMEBODY ELSE.**"

They equate evangelizing with "Bible thumping" door-to-door or on a soapbox, or moving to a far off land to live in a hut. Of course evangelizing can mean this, but it is generally much less daunting. You don't even have to recite or interpret Bible verses. Here are some practical ideas that anyone can painlessly do.

Inform family, friends and neighbors about:

- Our music and other programs, and ask them to join you for one.
- Our many outreach programs, and ask them to donate some items, time or talent to the cause, especially a cause you know they are interested in.
- Our Vacation Bible School Weekend Adventure for kids in pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It's all on one weekend and family friendly.
- Our garage sale in the parking lot. Ask them to buy a spot to sell things, donate things for the kids to sell, or just stop by to browse and meet some of us.

From My Pew—continued on page 5

# 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

From My Pew—cont.

- Our active kids programs. Encourage the kids in your life to invite friends to our programs and events, or inform the parents of young kids you know. Offer to take the kids for them, thus making it easy for the parents to do what we want them to do. Many adults soon followed their kids to St. Stephen's.
- Ask folks to join you for one of our services, particularly if you or one of the kids in your life are involved somehow. Invite them to a singles or pairs GEM. Invite them to one of our regular Bible studies.
- Create events and outreach activities that make it easy for us to connect with non-members. Advertise our activities and programs beyond our walls so folks can become aware that we are here and learn what we are doing that may be of interest to them.

I'm out of space, but not ideas. How many more good ideas can you think of? Let me or a Vestry person know what they are. *More importantly, how many will you try?*

Peace be with you as you spread the good word about Christ and St. Stephen's.

*Don Ingersoll*  
Senior Warden

## Congratulations Confirmands!

On May 14<sup>th</sup> there was a festive Eucharist at St. John's in Royal Oak during which 10 of our parishioners were confirmed by Bishop Gibbs. This year's confirmands were Anna Dorsey, Peyton El-Zoghby, Garret Fragnoli, Diana Karlsson, Joseph Kennedy, Margaret O'Neill, Kate Roberts, Elijah Samuel, Sudhakar Samuel, and Emily Williams.

The confirmands were presented to Bishop Gibbs for confirmation by Mother Susan, Ken Fuhr, and the J2A Leaders Nikki Braidwood and Alan Giles. As they were confirmed, each was joined and sponsored by their family and their presenters, all of whom gathered afterwards for pictures and a reception.

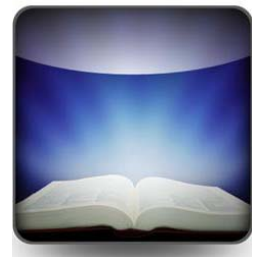
*Ken Fuhr*



# 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!



June 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		

Please check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events  
[www.ststephenstroy.org](http://www.ststephenstroy.org)



# Under the Dogwood

## The Buzz About Gardens

### ST. STEPHEN'S 2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale

Thursday, July 7  
From 9 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!

We will place an ad  
in the Oakland

Press. If you would

like to reserve a  
space see either  
Ken Fuhr or Jackie  
Ingersoll for the

form to fill out.  
Cost is \$20 for 2

parking spaces.  
Items can be

brought in anytime  
after June 25th and

placed on the table  
in the fellowship

hall near the back  
door. If you have

any questions,  
please call or e-mail  
Jackie Ingersoll

**E**njoy one or more of these home and garden tours.

**June 4:** 12th Annual Home and Garden Tour of Historical Pleasant Ridge. Contact cityof-pleasantridge.org or call 248-541-2901

**June 5:** 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Huntington Woods Home Tour. Go to hwwl.org

**June 11-12:** Historic Indian Village Home and Garden Tour. Go to HistoricindianVillage.org or call 313-922-1736

**June 15:** Franklin Garden Club Walk. Go to franklingardenclub.org or call 248-851-1066

**June 24-25:** 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Grosse Pointe Garden Tour. Go to gogardencenter.org/annual-garden-tour/ or call 313-881-7511 ext. 206

**June 25:** Sylvan Lake Home & Garden Tour. Go to sylvanlakehometour.com or call 248-615-6296

**June 26:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Southfield Garden Walk. Go to southfieldparksandgarden.org or call 248-569-4286

**June 26:** Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Architectural Home Tour. Go to [ypsilantiheritage@gmail.com](mailto:ypsilantiheritage@gmail.com)

**July 13:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Troy Garden Club's Garden Walk. Go to [troygardenclubmi.com](http://troygardenclubmi.com) or call 248-952-5938

**July 13:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Northville's Country Garden Club's Annual Garden Walk. Go to [www.cgcnv.org](http://www.cgcnv.org)

Thanks to The Detroit News, 05/16

**Note:** Busy Bees are focused on gathering nectar, not bugging you! Bumblebees and other natives are naturally passive...until we swat or step on them. Even Honeybees rarely sting – only to defend their hive. BUT, if you are allergic to bee venom, always carry epinephrine.



### I'll see you on a garden walk



Norma Ross

## A Night of Amazing Support

**T**his year's youth auction was yet another witness to the support of the youth by our parish. The Fellowship Hall was full of people and full of laughter as all who attended enjoyed a variety of Mexican food prepared by the youth with the help of Ami O'Neill and the able leadership of Nikki Braidwood.

The silent and live auctions that followed the meal provided nearly \$6000 toward the youth program, helping to fund a portion of this year's Pilgrimage as well as the Rite 13 Outdoor Adventure, the Mission Possible: Detroit mission trip and many other activities and resources that continue to keep our youth program a vital part of the parish life.

Thanks to all who contributed items to auction and to those who bid so generously to make this year's event such a huge success. Mark your calendars now for next year's auction, which will be on Saturday, May 6!

June Birthdays

Ruth Goulding.....1  
 John Horne.....2  
 Jerry Sebrowski ..... 2  
 John Elder ..... 2  
 Trevor Otoo ..... 4  
 Brady Dengler ..... 5  
 Pauleen Ottenhott ... 7  
 Mary Jane Kerr ..... 7  
 Brian Terlecky ..... 7  
 Kay Coran ..... 8  
 Evan DeCiantis ..... 9  
 Hannah DeCiantis ..... 9  
 Brendan Gerard ..... 9  
 Christian Przeslawski 11  
 Cynthia Tischer .....12  
 John Morley .....12  
 Emma Boldt.....13  
 Sara Williams.....14  
 Michael McQuiston.....14  
 Cathy O'Brien .....15  
 Janet El-Zoghby .....17  
 Keegan Dengler.....17  
 Marlene Heberling .....18  
 Lynette Cline.....21  
 Andrew Home.....21  
 Jennifer Anderson.....23  
 Connor Duggan.....24  
 Judy McClendon.....25  
 Connie Jose.....26  
 Joanna Home .....26  
 Liz Golding.....27  
 Nathan Buller.....29  
 Sarah Mortensen.....29  
 Paul Kish.....30  
 Garret Fragnoli.....20

# Outreach

## Crafting Kindness Wish List

Through your crafting kindness, we have been able to deliver over 200 items to various charities this year! Thanks to everyone (crafters, cutters and supporters) who have been part of this fete. However we still have lots more to do.

The next Crafting Kindness Craft Day is scheduled for July 23. We will be crafting some ongoing projects (tote bags, seaman scarves, Christmas sock) and few new ideas (pillowcases, blankets for K9 Defenders). There will also be opportunities for scissor operators and kit compilers. Please mark your calendar for - July 23, 10 am to 2 pm—for creating, fellowship and lunch!

Crafting Kindness is looking for a few good people:

- Crocheters – Be a part of making a Plarn Matt for a homeless person. We have the plarn and hook; we need your hands. (Plarn mats are sleeping mats for the homeless)
- Scissors Operators – There is always a need for plastic yarn (plarn). What we do not use will be donated to Blooms and Blessings. Instructions are available.

Knitters, Crocheters and Sewers – Scarves and hats for adults and children, chemo caps, and prayer shawls.

If you have any of these gifts, please contact Barb Whitaker!

Thank you!  
 Barb Whitaker  
 barbwhitaker127@gmail.com

## New Chair Person Needed

Outreach is looking for a new chair or co-chairs. We are a committed, fun group who needs new leadership. If you are interested, please contact retiring co-chairs Gretchen Waters at gwaters@wowway.com or Joan Morgan.

## The Innocents Abroad

Mark Twain’s book by that title (from 1869) is hilarious as he recounts the faux pas of an American tour group in Europe. I don’t know how innocent we are, but the Williams family will be heading abroad for a few weeks. We hope not to be as clueless or obnoxious as Twain’s companions! We leave for Italy and Austria soon after Margaret’s graduation ceremonies.

“Do not be afraid for I will not leave you comfortless,” Jesus said, and sent the Holy Spirit. I will send you some fine priests who will make sure God is praised, Communion is celebrated and comfort is given to those in need of it. Please help me welcome The Rev’s **Tom Hawkins, Alfred Loua**, and our own **Jim Maxwell** to the pulpit and altar. I’ll be back with you on July 17!



## Prayers Please!

Please keep our J2A group in your prayers as they travel on their Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania and New York. They will be departing on Sunday afternoon, June 19 and returning Sunday afternoon, June 26.

# We Ask Your Prayers for...

## Prayer Concerns

Peter Bumstead  
Ipe Cherian  
Cathlynn Duncan  
Betty Feighner  
Elaine Jacobs  
Larry Nunn  
Jack Rollins  
Linda Sabino  
Charles Saylor  
Jim Schall  
Kathy Sebrowski  
Lois Shepherd  
Catherine Trask  
Elizabeth Trask  
Tom Trask  
Ken Williams

## These Parish Families

6/5 Michael Sparrow  
Miranda & John Spates  
6/12 Richard & Barb Spina  
Dave & Jill Stein  
6/19 Shanker & Sara Sundareson  
Martha & Michael Szott  
6/26 Patsy Tatomir  
Jeremy Taylor

## The Departed

Jerry Lerche  
*Friend of Barb Whitaker*  
Jack Hayward  
*Brother of Ruth Goulding*  
Harriet Redmond  
*Friend of Kathryn Hassel*

## Those in the Armed Services

Stephen Armstrong—Nephew of Linda Pierce  
Rachel Barton—Granddaughter of Jane Frank  
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

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

## June Anniversaries

Mike & Katie  
Sobolewski .....2  
Greg & Jennifer  
Anderson.....3  
Peter & Ruth  
Goulding .....3  
Kevin & Carolyn  
Ward.....8  
Colin & Kathy  
Davis..... 11  
Bob & Donna  
Brokenshire .....18  
Larry & Lynn  
Nunn .....18  
George & Peggy  
Klempay.....19  
Jerry & Kathy  
Sebrowski.....19  
Paul & Melissa  
Hardy.....24  
Bryan & Janet  
El-Zoghby .....25  
Dave & Jill  
Stein .....30





## How to Contact Us

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

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

Cathy Hoffman, Parish Administrator/Accountant  
[office@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:office@ststephenstroy.org)

**The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams—Rector**

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

Home: 248-732-7955

[rector@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:rector@ststephenstroy.org)

**The Rev. Jim Maxwell, Retired Priest in Residence**

[jimmardi@wowway.com](mailto:jimmardi@wowway.com)

**John Pavik—Music Director**

[musicdirector@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:musicdirector@ststephenstroy.org)

**Ken Fuhr—Director of Christian Formation**

[formation@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:formation@ststephenstroy.org)

**Jim Trask, Treasurer**

**Cathy Hoffman, Assistant to the Treasurer**

[treasurer@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:treasurer@ststephenstroy.org)

**Church Website: Ken Fuhr, Webmaster**

[www.ststephenstroy.org](http://www.ststephenstroy.org) (password: coffeeshour)

**The Witness, Liz Sinkovich, Editor**

[witness@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:witness@ststephenstroy.org)

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

**Building Manager/Sexton—Nikki Kamicka**

[mrskamicka@yahoo.com](mailto:mrskamicka@yahoo.com)

248-825-5714

## Weekly Services:

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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](mailto:office@ststephenstroy.org). Thank you in advance for helping us with our continued effort to....THINK GREEN!

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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5500 North Adams Road

Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will

*Change Service Requested*

Dated Material

*JUNE 2016*