



The WITNESS

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

July 2016

Mother Susan's
Musings

Assisi Pilgrimage



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

Buon Giorno! One of the places we most anticipated on our trip was Assisi, home and now resting place of San Francesco – St Francis, who died in 1226 and was declared a saint only 2 years later. Here is the account from my travel journal.

The day grew hot as we approached the medieval hill town of Assisi, with the huge Basilica of St Francis visible from miles away. Giuseppe (our lodging host and now tour guide) wisely went for the closest parking lot, whence two successive elevators lifted us to town-level. Now below us were olive trees giving way to farmland and houses far down.

We walked up (our usual direction this trip, everything is built on hills) and through the first medieval gateway in the thick town wall, into Assisi. The native stone is light and sometimes pink, as ancient homes along the toad now contains souvenir shops of every Francis-themed trinket imaginable. Cars squeezed by – only town residents or businesses are allowed in, cutting down on traffic considerably but not entirely. One especially needs to keep an ear open for the many motorbikes that zoom through.

Our first stop was a small piazza in front of the beautiful church of Santa Chiara (Clare), the first woman to emulate Francis' way of life and with his help founded the order known as the Poor Clares. In front of the church – I am not kidding – there was an adult woman dressed in an angel costume straight from a Christmas pageant. Giuseppe could not believe this sight either. She was sitting at a small table with a crowd gathered, writing their prayer requests to St Clare or St Francis on small cards. I don't know if any euros changed hands.

We passed her by and entered the rosy, ancient walls of the church to find a narrow nave, cool and dimly lighted, with some saints painted on the walls (very old and not easily identifiable in the light). A large replica of the St Damian cross hung

above the altar (see illustration). Several tour groups, student and adult, thronged the church so we kept moving and went down a flight of steps to the crypt level.

Here was Clare's actual resting-place; with reproduced medieval illustrations of her life along the wall as we approached her tomb. At the front of this circular area was St Clare's carved, painted effigy (as a nun in the familiar garb) atop a stone casket. Perhaps even more remarkable was a display nearby of garments she had made and worn, and garments of St Francis – some she had made for him, including soft leather shoes he had to wear after receiving the Stigmata (wounds of Christ) making his usual barefooted style a problem. These items were from the early 1200's!

The final coup-de-grace, literally, was a side chapel upstairs with the actual St Damian cross suspended over the altar. Crafted anonymously in the 1100's from cloth upon rough wood, this cross "spoke" to Francis as he prayed before it, instructing him to "rebuild my church which, as you can see, is in ruins." Francis first took this to mean the chapel of San Damiano in which he was praying, and did so. Later he realized the vision meant Christ's whole Church, now rich and powerful but paying little attention to the poor. Francis set about righting that with his own life and the friends he gathered around him, including Clare.

I shall stop here – as you can see, my travel journal gets pretty lengthy! But I'll ask you to ponder: if Jesus were to give you a message about his church, what do you imagine it would be and how would you respond?

From your traveling priest
and pilgrim,



Susan



Around the Parish

July Lec- tionary

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

2nd Annual Garage Sale

The Second Annual St. Stephen's Garage Sale happens on Thursday, July 7 From 9 am to 3pm in the St. Stephen's parking lot. Come with your stuff and sell it! ... or donate your stuff to YACYM to sell! ... or come with your family & friends to buy other people's stuff.



The Neighborhood Picnic

On Saturday, August 20 we will once again host a Neighborhood Cookout. The festivities will begin at 6:00pm and include:

- An invitation to our neighbors and yours to join us for this fun evening
- Great food and fellowship Music from Mark and Anna's band "Crossbow"
- A lock-in for youth from the deanery
- A special invitation to Vestry of the deanery

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for this farewell-to-summer event before the new school year begins.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



9am to 3pm, Thursday, July 7

Three great options:

1. Bring your tables to our parking lot, sell your stuff & keep the money. (This is being advertised in the Oakland Press and signage is being place outside the church on a very busy Adams Road.)
2. Bring your stuff and give it us and we'll sell it to benefit the youth program.
3. Come July 7th and shop like crazy!!

\$ 20 per table for the sellers

Free admission to the shoppers

For more information, please contact Jackie Ingersoll

248-703-3476

jackie@doningersoll.com



Church Notes

Pilgrimage Reflection

The Pilgrims arrived home June 26th safe and sound after a very active week. We traveled to Paradise, a peaceful and intriguing town in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Amish country, to Philadelphia, the hometown of our nation and our denomination, and to New York City, the largest center of American economic and social development.

In each of these places we heard stories about choices people made that affected their lives and the lives of others. We also saw the result of choices, good and bad, as well as considered how God can affect these decisions in our lives.

Along the way we were blessed in many ways and knew that we were being prayed for. Whether it was a turn in the right direction on a back road in Bird-In-Hand or a miraculous parking place in Manhattan, the journey was made easier by the grace we all felt. Each place we stayed was "just right" and the people that hosted us were amazing. We were welcomed and embraced wherever we arrived – planned or not!

After the summer ends and the new school year begins, the Pilgrims will report to the parish on the journey. In the meanwhile, know that your support and prayers were a blessing to us all and that this Pilgrimage was a uniquely affecting experience that we are all so thankful to have been provided.



Kenn Fisher



Waters of New Life Flowed

This year's Weekend VBS Adventure was a wonderful weekend of fun, fellowship, and faith for the kids and leaders alike. From the meal Friday night to the Ice Cream Celebration on Sunday, everyone involved enjoyed the stories, songs, crafts, games, and activities that were lovingly provided by the leaders.

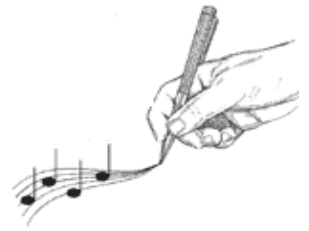
We owe special thanks to Jackie Ingersoll, Elizabeth Roberts, and John Pavik who were key in providing the program elements that made the weekend



work. Their efforts, along with the help of numerous volunteers and supportive parents and grandparents made this VBS a success in so many ways. The kids had a great time and each of the families expressed heartfelt thanks for your efforts.

As a side note, I left in a flash after the weekend and headed off on the Pilgrimage, leaving most of the VBS mess behind. When I returned after the trip to put it all away, our Sexton Nicole had already taken care of it. What a nice surprise to return to. Thanks, Nikki!

Kenn Fisher



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

From My Summer Pew

July: The middle of summer [in our minds if not scientifically]. As kids we considered it the best time of the year except for Christmas. No school was the predominant factor. As very young kids, my little sister and I would play around the clock.

We just had to be home for supper. But even when I was just 5 and sis 4, we were little entre-



preneurs. We had the odd Kool Aid stand, but for the most part, finding returnable bottles was the main source of discretionary income. If we wanted candy, ice cream or soda [we lived in New York], we just hit the neighborhood and park and found returnable bottles. We knew where to look, and we had a string of corner stores to do our business with. Some had better candy or varieties of ice cream or were closer to where our scavenging took us. No one taught us, but we had it down to a science.

By my teens we had moved to West Michigan, and summer meant jobs. I could earn real money. At 13 I started weeding celery in the muck flats down by the river. We crawled

atop ¼ mile long rows of celery growing out of black mud and pulled the weeds away from the stalks. It was mindless and un-



eventful except for the odd encounter with a snake. No gloves as they would interfere with your ability to grasp and pull out the weeds' roots, and not shoes as they would be ruined from being dragged through the muck behind you. No aspect of it was fun, but it was exhilarating because I was earning 35 cents an hour which gave me a world of options. Or so it seemed. Summer was the same during my high school and college years only the jobs were sometimes more interesting and paid more.

As a young husband summer first meant added chores: planting, mowing, weeding, outside home repairs, washing the car. Novelties at first that

quickly grew old. Luckily some golf and the odd picnic helped. With kids came other summer adventures. Indian Guides, scouts, and ultimately Little League.

Ah Little League. I recall my 9-year-old daughter Kim saying she wanted to play softball. I was thrilled and took her to register. They took her name but said she might not be able to play because they didn't have enough coaches. My toe went into the quicksand and I coached that year. But then the sucking sound grew louder and I added VP of softball to my list of titles and Jackie ran the concession stand. The league had 54 teams and played every weeknight and Saturday, and we were there whether our kids were playing or not.



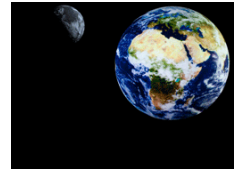
I don't know where time went, but now Jackie and I are retired. Thankfully we are still able to do yard work and help with the church gardens. We still have picnics and watch our grandkids play ball and partake in other activities. Life continues to be about making tradeoffs.

We have more time but less energy. Time opens up more options, less energy takes some away. I'm thankful for the things I can still do, but alert enough to see others battling health issues of their own or loved ones. But, summer is still nice: Warm sunshine, no snow or ice, green trees, flowers and chirping birds. And lots of folks go on vacations with family and friends. Going "up north" is a big activity in Michigan, particularly for families with kids who can't get away at other times.



From My Summer Pew—Continued on page 5

one World



An Alzheimers Care-givers 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 Summer Pew—Continued

So what's the point of this rambling reminiscence? Thank God for his blessings throughout our lives, particularly for our summers. Many of those that I have shared summers with are in heaven, including my little sister. Many of the activities we engaged in as kids helped shape our lives for the better.

Those of my generation have seen our capabilities grow and then start to decline, but they won't disappear entirely until our bodies die. If you are reading this you are somehow connected to St. Stephen's, a great source of opportunities for: thanking God; using your skills to do his work on earth; and enjoying a connectedness to interesting, likeable people who care about each other no matter what season the calendar or our lives are in.

While many parishioners are "away" for chunks of the summer, our services and most mission activities go on. Don't take a vacation from us just because of the calendar. Summer is a great time to reflect on where you have been and what you still want to do. Let's all continue to use God's sunshine to warm our hearts and soothe our souls, and let's continue to support St. Stephen's and each other.

Don Ingersoll
Senior Warden

Coming up

St. Stephen's will be hosting a family friendly trip in October to the Underground Railroad Museum located in the First Congregational Church in Detroit.

More information as this date approaches.



Dave Stein's Address

David Stein
Ploeck 52
69117 Heidelberg
Germany
dcs53td@gmail.com



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!



July 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



Under the Dogwood

Labor Day Sunday Annual Outing

The Adult Faith committee has arranged for another fun visit on Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 4th.

We are heading to Church of the Messiah in Detroit to worship with their community, which is led by the very dynamic Rev. Barry Randolph, enjoy lunch with them, and then witness the small business incubator they have become nationally recognized for providing.

More information will come your way on this as the summer progresses, but mark your calendars now.



Ken Fisher



HOST A YFU EXCHANGE STUDENT

Your ordinary family is extraordinary to an exchange student! This year, share your traditions and customs while learning about others and making a real difference in the world. Discover the best in yourself and in your family by opening your home and heart to a YFU exchange student.

YFU is currently seeking families to host motivated students from around the world for the upcoming academic school year.



YFU, one of the world's oldest and largest exchange organizations, and its global network has been trusted to provide study abroad opportunities for more than 260,000 high school students from 70+ countries since 1951. The YFU community is excited to help create bonds of international and interpersonal friendship. Families interested in learning more should call their local district at **1.800.TEENAGE**.

Norah O'Neill 5
 Janet Satyanathan .. 6
 Vickie Saylor 6
 Jodi DeMay 8
 Justin Fragnoli..... 8
 Darrel Middlewood ..9
 Madeleine Duggan 9
 Kathy DeCiantis..... 10
 Sarah Boos..... 11
 Adrian Brokenshire 11
 Rob Redmer 13
 Mary Jane Johnston 14
 Kathryn Buller 16
 Chad Anderson 16
 Jim McQuiston..... 17
 Chinedu Okeagu 17
 Kathy Davis..... 19
 Jeremy Taylor..... 20
 Geena Pickering..... 21
 Brian Ingersoll..... 22
 Jillian Spina 23
 Abby Kennedy..... 25
 Michael Herderich .. 26
 Daniel Gerard..... 26
 Pema O'Neill 26
 Cloe Ingersoll..... 26
 Audrey Brokenshire 29
 Kay Novak 30
 Justin Wojas 31

Outreach

Baby Shower Coffee Hour

Outreach invites you to come to the annual "Baby Shower Coffee Hour" after the 10 am service on Sunday, July 17th. We are asking for any type of baby supplies, but especially diapers (any size), to donate to local charities. If you can't come, just drop your gifts off at the church any time. Thanks in advance for your generosity.

The Outreach Committee

Two church tours offered by the Troy Historic Village

July 20: Islamic Association of Greater Detroit, 879 W. Auburn Road

August 10: Bharatiya Temple, 6850 N. Adams Road

Tours begin at 7:30 pm. Price \$5 for THS members (Troy Historic Society); \$7 non-members Advance registration required. troyhistoricvillage.org 248-524-3570

Applewood, The Charles Stewart Mott Estate

Through October. Guided house tours 10 am—6pm, Thurs-Sun. 1400 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Free. Visitors may enjoy the grounds on their own. Reservations are strongly suggested for house tours. **Contact RUTH-MOTTFOUNDATION.ORG**

Detroit Institute of Arts – just a few of the activities

5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, 48202 Hours T, W, Th, 9am-4pm; Fri 9 am-10 pm; Sat-Sun. 10am-5pm. Closed Monday. **Contact www.dia.org member help line – 313-833-7971**

June 18-September 11- Photography and the American Road Trip.

July 24 –The Corn Potato String Band. Old-time fiddle and banjo music alive and well for all-ages.

July 30 & 31 – Puppet Kabob's The Snowflake Man.

Puppeteer Sarah Frechette combines art, science, and a bit of American history for a magical effect. After the performance, audience members can create their own pop-up theater.

Eastern Market Heritage Tours – 2-hour walking tours Saturdays May-September

Meet at Eastern Market Welcome Center, 1445 Adelaide St. (Corner of Market St., near Shed 3). \$10 per person. See the murals and how they got there; Hear the tales of ribbon farms, cemeteries, ghosts, prisons, breweries, churches and more. Shop, eat in one or more great restaurants, and enjoy a lively Detroit landmark and culture.

Sponsored by Preservation Wayne, 313-577-7666 or www.preservationwayne.org.

Oh The Places You'll Go

Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places. You're off and away!" And so begins Dr. Seuss' zestful 1990 classic *Oh, The Places You'll Go!* for "out-starting upstarts of all ages." The last book penned by Theodor Geisel (1904-1991) maintains the quirky, joyous, modulated optimism that we associate with this legendary children's book author. An excellent reading adventure for anyone with brains in their head and feet in their shoes.

Great Lakes Dossin Museum

100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle, Detroit, MI 48207 Phone: 313.833.5538 Summer hours through September 4, 2016! Weds – Sun: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission to the museum is FREE. However, a Michigan Recreation Passport is required to enter the Belle Isle State Park. Michigan registered vehicles - \$11. Residents can purchase the Passport at any State Park or when renewing their license tabs annually. **Parking is free** with a valid State of Michigan Recreation Passport or a Day Pass

Michigan Summer Festivals in July

July 8-9 – Michigan Elvis Fest, Ypsilanti

July 8-10 – American Polish Festival & Craft Show, Sterling Heights

July 8-17 – Oakland County Fa8ir, Davisburg

July 14-17 – Tall Ships Celebration, Bay City

July 21-24 – Ann Arbor Art Fair, Ann Arbor

July 29-31- Yale Bologna Festival, Yale

(Check out more activities at Michigan.org)

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

Those in the Armed Services

Stephen Armstrong—Nephew of Linda Pierce
Rachel Barton—Granddaughter of Jane Frank
Nathan Cremeans—Grandson of Barb Whitaker
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

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.

These Parish Families

7/3 Stanley, Laura, Daniel, Gillian, Austin
And Brian Terlecky
Robert & Kathryn Thatcher
7/10 Elizabeth, Brian & Tristan Thiel
Valerie Thompson
7/17 John & Joan Thunder
Cynthia Tischer
7/24 Jim & Francis Trask
Tom, Cindy, Evan & Megan Vida
7/31 Geoff & Cheryl Walter
Kevin & Carolyn Ward

The Departed

Harriet Redmond
Friend of Kathryn Hassel
Janet Reisner
Cousin of Barbara Whittaker
John Ball
Father of Becky Bagnall
Dan Ashtiani
Student at Troy High

July

Anniversaries

Mike & Erin
Brokenshire8
Jeff & Renee
Parent10
Rod & Donna
Johnson 11
Sandy & Connie
Jose.....12
Brian & Megan
Mullin13
Rick & Barb
Spina15
Steve & Corinne
Fragoli21
Joesph & Patricia
Przeslawski21
David & Jodi
DeMay28



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

Building Manager/Sexton—Nikki Kamicka

mrskamicka@yahoo.com

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

JULY 2016