



The WITNESS

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

November 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

For the Saints of St. Stephen's

The month of November always begins with a celebration of All the Saints. Being a saint is both an easy thing (getting baptized) and a difficult thing (living that baptism in a way that shows the Gospel light, especially in spiritually dark times or places). Are you glowing? Or at least, feeling connected to the Power Source?

As the wonderful (if slightly cheesy) hymn 293 puts it: *"They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will."* And while you might indeed find them "in trains, or in shops, or at tea," the saints of St Stephen's are connected to a church that gathers for worship, three times every weekend, and provides opportunities for so much more.

We've been missing some of our saints. Maybe you? Sometimes that's due to an illness, a planned surgery, vacation or time "up north" (that famous but vague Michigan location). Soon people will be heading "down south"! It's tough to keep track of you all. But we do notice your absence. The "Amens" are a little weaker, the hymns a little quieter, the gaps in pews are more visible.

Like any worthwhile skill, sainthood needs to be practiced. To shine with the light of God's grace, you've got to be plugged in – via your connection to your church, people and Lord.

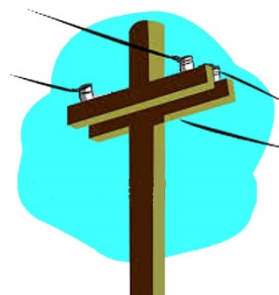
Perhaps your power-cord might need some maintenance. Has it come loose? If you've not been able to make God-time a possibility, let alone a priority, my counsel is to simplify your

weekend. This constant busy-ness can make us crazy. Come sit with God among friends for a while. We miss you, and your spirit misses us. If you're out of town, find a God-place there.

Alternatively, if we haven't seen you because something is wrong, please let us know! We want to include you in our prayers, come visit you, and/or provide appropriate help. St Stephen's pastoral care committee has a new name and purpose, "The Care Connection." They plan to include more parishioners in both the giving and receiving ends of that care, which might take the form of phone calls, get-well-soon cards, visits with or without Communion, a ride to church or the doctor, etc, etc.

Don't forget prayer-power! The sacrament of healing, which combines prayer, laying-on of hands and anointing with blessed oil, is going to be re-introduced on Sundays once a month following the 10 a.m. liturgy. Those who would like to participate should plan to stay for about 20 minutes beyond the postlude on **November 20** and/or **December 11**. Fr. Jim Maxwell will take the lead in this ministry.

All of this care flows from the love we have for one another, originating in God who sends out a constant current.



Hoping to connect with you soon,

Susan



Around the Parish

November Lectionary

Nov 6—All Saints

Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17: 1-9
2 Thess 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20: 27-38

Nov 13—Pentecost 26

Mal 4: 1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thess 3: 6-13
Luke 21: 5-19

Nov 20—Pentecost 27

Jer 23: 1-6
Psalm 46
Col 1: 11-20
Luke 23: 33-43

Nov 27—Advent 1

Isaiah 2: 1-5
Psalm 122
Rom 13: 11-14
Matt 24: 36-44

Musical Notes

Since our Director of Music, John Pavik, departed in late October to pursue other opportunities, we are blessed to have “director emerita” Connie Jose back for a couple of months. I am so grateful for her generous offer of assistance! I know you are, too, and we will let her know it frequently. Time is of the essence, as the Advent-Christmas music programs are coming right up. If you’re interested in helping with our special choral and bell music at Christmas time, let her know!

A second “listening session: for anyone to share their experiences and hopes for our music program will take place at 11:30 am on Sunday, November 20, in the music room.

In December we will also welcome two guest choirs: **#GraceNotes**, which meets at Kensington Church, will entertain the ladies at Advent by Candlelight, on **Dec. 4**. The choir’s 7:30 pm performance will be open to the public, and the free-will offering will go to Haven (as will the items collected for babies and toddlers that night). One week later, we’ll have another festive evening – this time to benefit Mariners Inn. This **Dec. 11** event will culminate with a holiday concert by the **Motor City Chorale** at 7:30 pm.

Advent by Candlelight

For the ladies, Advent By Candlelight has become a holiday tradition. It’s a time to start the Advent season with a quiet evening of fellowship and reflection.

If you plan on **attending**, please sign up in the narthex.

If you would like to **host a table**, please sign up On the hostess sign up sheet in the narthex.

This year, we will start the program slightly earlier at 6 pm and it will feature Grace Notes singing for us. Several of St. Stephen’s members sing in this community focused group.

For those who are able, bring infant items for donations to the Judson Center. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Papet, Norma Ross, Paula Somerville or Helen Giles.



Thank You

In mid-August, my world turned upside down when my mother unexpectedly passed away. I was blessed to have her as my mother - she truly was the greatest person I have ever known. Words can't describe how much your prayers, calls, cards and loving words have meant to us. The outpouring of support and letters we received touched us immensely as we grieved. We are blessed and grateful to belong to a church with incredibly warm and caring parishioners.

Yours in Christ,

Rob and Amy Redmer



Help St. Stephen's RISE UP when folks search for us on line by Googling our wonderful church and writing a review. Just put St. Stephen's Troy in your Google search bar and then click on "Write a review". Let's see how high we can go!

Church Notes

A Caring Community

A *caring community.* That is often how members describe St. Stephens. Just see how we show our love for one another at the passing of the peace each Sunday; we mingle, shake hands, and hug until Mother Susan has to call us back to attention. At coffee hour, too! If there is no one signed up to host, someone will scoot out to get some goodies. We will gather and chat, no matter what, because we enjoy the fellowship.

We also cheerfully look after those who are shut in or have special needs. Mo Susan and Rev. Jim Maxwell make regular visits and the Eucharistic Visitors also take Communion to the shut-ins. Lately, however, it seems, we have more folks who experienced injuries or illnesses and found themselves in a rehab center or hospital. Some seniors also would love an extra bit of attention.

Will you be a link in the **Care Connection**? In the next few weeks, the Adult Faith Committee will reach out to identify members who may have needs and those who would be willing to lend a hand in some way -- an occasional meal, trip to the grocery store, a telephone call, or a friendly visit. Making the connection between those who need and those who can help is a way of adding a little structure to the loving things we already do. Stay tuned for more information or contact Kathryn Hassel, Norma Ross, or Mo Susan.

Peace and Thanksgiving
The Adult Faith Committee



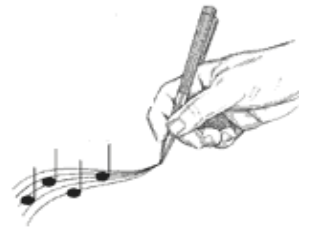
Well, Well, Well

The 10 a.m. Sunday school classes (Pre-K to 5th grades) finished their "Jesus Walks on the Water" unit at the end of October with a song, a banner, and we even had a baptism! The baptism would be tough to make happen every time, but ending with a special song, a banner, and a short presentation is planned for each unit this year.

The current unit, "The Woman at the Well" is a New Testament story with a multitude of opportunities to learn about how we are urged by Christ to be loving and accepting yet also inquisitive and adventurous in our faith. A marginalized woman goes alone to a distant village in the heat of the day wanting only water and instead has an experience that changes her life forever. Amazing!

The richness of the stories this year give our teachers the opportunity to help each of our kids find meaningful connections to their faith, at whatever grade or maturity level they may be. Crafts, stories, songs, games, and other activities make each Sunday special for those who are there as often as they are able to come. Everyone fits right in.

Ken Fisher



One Voice

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

As we look for a permanent replacement for our choir director, come on Thursdays and join the singing!



From the Back Pew

Watching Women

I would have titled this “Listening to Women” which is what I actually did, but that wouldn’t have attracted interest because that’s what us married men have done all our lives.

Anyway, I attended the “Five Women” program St. Stephen’s sponsored recently, and I’m glad I did. Someone may be doing a proper report on the session, but I will just share a few of my broad observations. As you may be aware, the women were from five faiths: Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism. The Buddhist woman’s family is Southern Baptist Detroiters (as was she until converting as a young adult). If I’m not mistaken, all the women spent much if not all their childhood in the United States or Canada, and all live in this area now. They were all well-educated and well spoken.

Faith is faith. It can’t be proven. At the most basic level, all faiths are the same. Except for Buddhism, all have a supreme being, and all have the Golden Rule as a core value. The women viewed their faith as a source of comfort, solace, and values. Their traditions and rituals form a common bond with others of their faith. They feel their lives are better for having faith and for belonging to their congregations.

So-called religious conflicts are viewed as more cultural and political, than based on religious values. One woman said *“We should strive to meet as friends not labels. If we did we would focus on our many areas of commonality instead of the differences.”*

As girls in the United States and Canada, the women remembered feeling different, often isolated because there were few of their faith in their schools or neighborhoods. The Hindu woman said she was called “dot head” because she had the traditional bindi on her forehead. One said she had to implore her mother not to give her traditional food for lunch because the kids teased her about it.

The Sikh woman recalled her young son being bullied after 9/11 because the kids thought he was a Muslim. Lots of kids get bullied and teased, but being of a non-traditional faith and having darker skin than most got unwanted attention. Having been a kid, albeit long ago, I can relate to the fear of not fitting in.

Despite this, the five women love their faith traditions and pass them along to their children. One noted that people are copping out when they say they will not push a religion on their kids to let them decide when they grow up. This approach almost certainly guarantees that they will grow up without faith in a supreme being, and they will miss the strength and joy of having faith and belonging to a faith community.

The women noted that religious practices are influenced by the cultural environment. One woman lived in the United States until she was 15, and then moved to India for high school and college. She experienced many differences in Hindu practices that were just part of the Indian culture.

Similarly, Muslim women in the United States have much more independence than they do in the Middle East. Here again many practices are thought of as being grounded in Islam when they are based on cultural traditions many of which vary from country to country.

Here is my big take away. I think if I had been born into a family that practiced one of these religions, I would probably feel a joy similar to that which I get from being a Christian. That doesn’t make me want to convert. Contrariwise, it makes me more certain that

Watching Women—continued on page 5

one World



Keep Spreading
the Word!

I generally post our events on our subdivision's website, and for the first time I had results: a neighbor came to hear the “Five Women,” and she loved it. She now knows that we are here and that we are nice people doing interesting things. Perseverance pays off. We all need to keep spreading the word. Now and then something will resonate or folks' lives may change and they may feel the need to re-connect with God and caring people. If so, we will be in their minds.

Don Ingersoll

Inside the Parish Walls

Watching Women—continued

having faith in God and in each other is a powerful and beneficial element in my life. I'm more certain than ever that my faith is a source of strength and joy, and that by living our faith together we are strengthening ourselves, our families and our world. Power-hungry egotists within religions, governments and businesses are the problem. If we could only get them out of the way people of faith around the world could quickly move us toward heaven on earth.

Well, I've again used more than my allotted space. That's my story and I'm glad I stopped to listen to the women as I have been taught to do.

Peace,

Don Ingersoll

Senior Warden

Celebrating your
Generosity
on November 13!
Bring your 2017
pledge and stay for
brunch at 11:30

November 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

The Gift of Diversity

The greater Troy community is so blessed by the wonderful diversity that is part of our neighborhood, city, and region. On Wednesday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m., Sergeant Meghan Broderick Lehman of the Troy Police Department and others from the city will lead a presentation and discussion on the opportunities that diversity presents, and how we can most effectively respond to these as a community of faith.

Sergeant Lehman is in the Community Service Section of the Troy P.D. and is active raising awareness throughout the community. We are excited to host this event and everyone is urged to attend. This will be held in the Fellowship Hall and there is no cost for the program. Light refreshments will be served.

Tiny Tunes

Each Wednesday and Friday morning this fall the choir room has been alive with songs, not from our choir but from a bunch of little bitty kids and their moms. They are taking part in a fun program called "Tiny Tunes Music Time".

The creation of Jennifer Stuart, this program provides moms and kids an hour to share together in singing and moving to songs that are enriching and joyful. Jennifer started this program in the Atlanta area and continues to operate it there, but when she moved to Southeast Michigan not long ago, she introduced the program here in Troy and in Sterling Heights.

Jennifer is wonderful at what she does and has a growing following. It's great to have the kids and moms here in our building. For more information on Tiny Tunes you can check out the Tiny Tunes website at: <http://www.tinytunesmusictime.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!



November Birthdays

- Kevin Miller.....1
- Melissa Hardy.....1
- Elaine Church.....2
- Joshua Dutil.....3
- Bill Langridge.....4
- Shanker Sundareson5
- Amy Redmer.....5
- Nico Perod.....8
- Ed Church.....9
- Alida Jose.....9
- Patricia Przeslawski12
- James Elwarner.....13
- Karen Morley.....14
- Lindsay Podsiadlik..14
- Brian Mullin.....17
- Joey Kennedy.....18
- Shannon Weigant...19
- Greg Anderson.....19
- Uzoma Okeagu.....20
- Lani Nolan.....21
- Katie Abitheira.....21
- Brent Fragnoli.....21
- Margaret Fielder...22
- Paula Somerville....24
- Joan Thunder.....25
- Claire Grutta.....28
- Val Thompson.....29
- Tom Borowski.....29
- John Lynch III.....29
- Kate Pincura.....29

Outreach

New Baldwin Center Outreach

In the past, youth of St. Stephen's served lunch on the third Sunday of the month at Baldwin Center. The Sunday lunch was discontinued this year because many churches have Sunday meals so the need was not significant enough to continue lunch that day.

Instead, the folks at Baldwin have started a pilot program to offer an after-school-dinner to the children that go to the after school program at the center. In October the St. Stephen's youth began volunteering for this program, serving dinner on October 6th to about 25 little kids and their 4 teachers.

This went very well and was a bit easier than the Sunday lunches because all the kids come in at once, eat, and go. We will continue to be involved with this outreach activity the 1st Thursday of each month from 5pm to about 6:30pm.

Although this is a youth sponsored outreach activity, if any adults are interested in helping, let one of the youth leaders know. Extra hands are always appreciated.



Fall Ingathering UTO

On November 19th and 20th, write your check to St. Stephen's with UTO in the notes space.

This is our long-cherished mission since the 1880's to aid the needy on our country and throughout the world. It can be a special family project, putting each ones thankful coins in the little blue box at breakfast or dinner, or whenever you are all together. Say thank you to God in this little way for all our blessings.

Joan Knapp
248-879-2183

Saint Stephen's Church, Troy

Mariners Inn, Detroit & The Motor City Chorale present



Art - Music - Transformation

A holiday event on Sunday,
December 11 from 5 – 9 pm
St Stephen's Church in Troy



Combining a silent auction
of Artwork

by residents of Mariners Inn,

a Reception with the artists,
featuring hors d'oeuvres and
non-alcoholic beverages,
and a Concert of favorite holi-
day songs by the Motor City
Chorale. Entrance tickets \$5.



All Proceeds Benefit Mariners Inn,
a shelter and treatment center for the home-
less.

St Stephen's Church is at
5500 N. Adams Road
between Long Lake (18 mi)
& Square Lake (19 mi)

ststephentroy.org · marinersinn.org •
motorcitychorale.org



We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Jeralyn Burrell
Betty Feighner
Larry Nunn
Charles Saylor
Ken Shipman

These Parish Families

11/5 Bob & Donna Brokenshire
Donna Bronsteen
11/13 Mary Lou Bryson
Pat Buller
11/20 Jim Carnagie & Karol Sprague
Agnes Carpenter
11/27 Barbara Cavendish
Gloria Christiansen

November Anniversaries

John & Joanna
Horne.....3
Ken & Liz
Elder5
Gary & Brenda
Abitheira.....7
Michael & Martha
Szott..... 11
David & Lucinda Mau
Sabino.....28

The Departed

Kimberly Hodge
Niece of Miranda Spates
Pipe Bender
Step-father of Helen Giles
Ken Shipman
Member of St. Stephen's

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
Stephanie Herderich—member of St. Stephen's
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

Baptized

Emmitt Matthew Thiel
Son of Liz & Brian Thiel
Grandson of Roy & Gretchen Waters

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)

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

Connie Jose—Interim 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

NOVEMBER 2016