



# The WITNESS

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

May 2017

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

## Powerful Conversations

I hope you've enjoyed getting to know the several "Outreach Agencies of the Month," and their representatives who have joined us during and after worship. Hearing a personal story, imagining the situation, encouraging and supporting real ministries – that's what we've been about on each of these featured Sundays. The interactions we've had with leaders from CCRT, Oakland County Foster Care and Mai Family Services bring us closer to our community.

Soon you'll be hearing from me and the Vestry, about additional ways to get even closer. *Should I interject an ad for deodorant or breath-mints now?* Well, how about a verse of Scripture:

[After the Resurrection, Jesus told his disciples,] **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** Acts 1:8

This familiar quotation will be read in all churches on May 28, as part of the Ascension story. Right after saying this, Jesus leaves for his place "at the right hand of God the Father." That departure, the growing apart, usually gets our attention as we imagine the trauma that the disciples felt, watching him go up...up... and away.



But not entirely away: The Holy Spirit, sent

by Jesus, enables all sorts of amazing things to happen when this bunch of hesitant-yet-hopeful Christians really start doing their mission. Indeed, they will be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. And we count ourselves among them, as the instructions are passed from one generation to the next. How does all that happen? Most frequently, by conversation.

On May 28, "Ascension Sunday," let's take some time for holy conversation – during church and afterwards in fellowship. I will offer some instructions for doing so, at the time. But know that (like the Ascension itself), our mission is awaiting further activity *with God's help*. We are being prepared and guided by the Holy Spirit to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" as part of an on-going, transformative action plan for our church. The talks from and with our Outreach Agency partners demonstrate the importance of caring, listening, engagement with our neighbors.

Where might the Holy Spirit be leading you, for service toward those in our church? And how about, to those outside the church?



Which possibilities really capture your imagination and your passion? Conversations will be popping up all over, and we'll be growing closer in the process.

Looking forward to sharing them,



# Around the Parish

## May Lectionary

### May 7—Easter 4

Acts 2: 42-47  
Psalm 23  
1 Peter 2: 19-25  
John 10: 1-10

### May 14—Easter 5

Acts 7: 55-60  
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2: 2-10  
John 14: 1-14

### May 21—Easter 6

Acts 17: 22-31  
Psalm 66: 7-18  
1 Peter 3: 13-22  
John 14: 15-21

### May 28—Easter 7

Acts 1: 6-14  
Psalm 68: 1-10, 33-36  
1 Peter 4: 13-14, 5:6-11  
John 7: 1-11

## Fund Drive for ERD Animals

During Lent the 10am Sunday school kids gathered coins, cans, and bottles to raise money for Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. They made boxes at the Family Night in early March to take home for collecting coins and reached out to the parish for cans, bottles, and donations.

This effort yielded over \$500 in gifts, allowing for the purchase of chickens, goats, and a pig! These animals will be provided to needy families in developing countries to help give them a “hand up” that will yield long term financial and nutritional benefits.

Thanks to all who supported this effort. Also, special thanks to the O’Neill Clan and to Scott & Chase Armstrong who got their hands sticky recycling over 1600 cans and bottles on Maundy Thursday night.

## Front Office Farewell

I’m sorry to announce that our long-time Parish Administrator/Accountant and Assistant Treasurer, Cathy Hoffman, resigned from her position effective May 15. She and Bob will remain members of St Stephen’s, active in their ministries such as Altar Guild and Eucharistic Minister.

Because she’s not leaving *per se*, Cathy declined a “farewell party.” Please join me in thanking her for her service to St. Stephen’s and to each of us, as she diligently tabulated pledges, answered questions, and handled lots of official documents. The search for new office staff is underway – please keep us in prayer, and send any inquiries to the attention of the Rector.

## Youth Recognition Sunday

This year’s “Youth Sunday” is on June 5<sup>th</sup>. That will also be the day of the Parish Picnic. This is a week earlier than in the past, so please plan accordingly. All children, youth, teachers, and leaders are urged to attend this fun day of celebrating the gifts we have been given through our Sunday School and Youth programs.

This year our only graduating high school Senior is Cathryn Hardy, who is an active member of the program, traveled to Wyoming on a pilgrimage with her J2A brothers and sisters, served as an acolyte and been involved in many other ways in our parish life. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate Cat and all our children and youth on this fun day of worship and fellowship.



# Church Notes

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## Welcome Caleb Sinclair

Our Sumer Organist

Beginning on Sunday, June 11, Caleb Sinclair will be our organist/pianist/vocalist for at least the summertime. Caleb is a very recent graduate of Calvin College, where he gained an impressive amount of experience singing, conducting, accompanying and even composing sacred music. He is a native of Rochester, and will be living there as he searches for a music-teaching position in the area – or further away, if nothing materializes here. That “unknown” means he cannot yet make the longer-term commitment. Prayers definitely requested for his success, which will be ours as well! I know you will enjoy meeting and hearing Caleb.



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## Prayerful Weeding

The Troy Interfaith Community invites our participation in an Evening of Labyrinth Gardening, on Monday, June 5th. Our nearby neighbor, Northminster Presbyterian Church at 3633 W. Big Beaver (3 blocks east of Adams) hosts a lovely outdoor labyrinth. It needs some tending to be ready for the prayerful walking that many faith traditions enjoy.

Come on over between 6:30 and 8:30 pm! Light refreshments and gardening tools will be provided. Bring your own gloves!

*Susan*

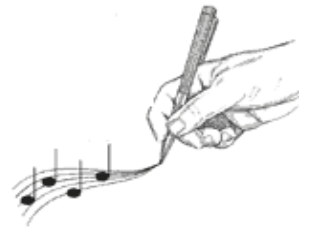
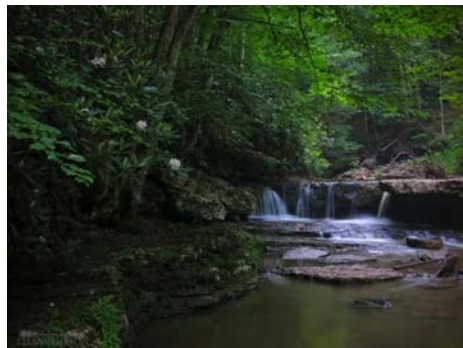
## Summer Youth Trips

This June, the J2A and YAC groups will be traveling in opposite directions for faith-filled adventures. The J2A Urban Adventure is planned for June 16 to 18 and will include traveling by van and train to Chicago, “urbaneeing” around the city on the busses and commuter rail, preparing lunch for 140 homeless folks, and worshipping at St. James Cathedral. This is a wonderful experience that is an important element in the Journey to Adulthood program.

The older youth (YAC) will be traveling to do mission work in West Virginia as well as make a visit to Gettysburg, the National Cathedral, and other sites. They will be traveling from June 18 to 25. This is a combination mission trip/pilgrimage and is designed to facilitate a greater awareness of how Christ works through us in the world in which we live.

The support of the parish makes these trips possible. Although parents pay a significant amount of the cost, these would not be possible without your support. Please continue to keep our young people in your prayers. Your support is recognized and felt by each of them. Thank you for all you do.

*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

## VBS is a Miracle!

Jesus miracles were the “signs” that he gave to us as indications of his awesome love and amazing power over sin and death. This year’s VBS Weekend Adventure will be a fun three days that will focus on these wonderful Bible stories that are such an important part of our faith.

Plan to bring your kids, friends’ kids, grand-kids, nieces, nephews, and neighbors’ kids to the VBS Adventure “Miracles of Faith”. Crafts, music, stories, games, and activities will help bring the miracles of Jesus to life and remind us of the most important miracle of all, God’s incredible Grace.

We will start with dinner at 5:30 on Friday, June 30 and end at 8:30 that night. Then the adventure will continue both Saturday and Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00am to Noon. The cost is \$25 per child. Registration will be available at the church or on the website beginning Sunday, May 14.

Volunteers are needed, so if you can help, please contact Ken Fuhr for more details.

*Ken Fuhr*



## Blood Drive

You Can Make a Difference! St. Stephens is hosting a blood drive in on Wednesday, May 31st from 1 pm to 6:45 pm. The drive will be held at St. Stephens in the Fellowship Hall.

### Benefits of Donating

- It feels great to donate!
- You get free juice and delicious cookies.
- It's something you can spare – most people have blood to spare... yet, there is still not enough to go around.
- You will help ensure blood is on the shelf when needed – most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- You will be someone's hero – in fact, you could help save more than one life with just one donation.

Please make an appointment to donate blood and encourage others to give at the drive too. You can schedule an appointment on line by clicking on the Red Cross link at the St. Stephens website or by contacting Judy Lazzaro McQuiston at [judyLazzaro75@gmail.com](mailto:judyLazzaro75@gmail.com) or 248-860-6213.



one World





# Inside the Parish Walls

## J2A Auction Time

We will once again be enjoying a night of celebration and support of the youth of St. Stephen's on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The evening will begin with a wonderful dinner with delicious food, beverages, and silent auction bidding, followed by the J2A Live Auction. This year we will feature many delicious, fun, useful, and entertaining items for everyone to bid on and enjoy. We will also continue to accept credit cards as well as checks and cash for all the treasures you win!

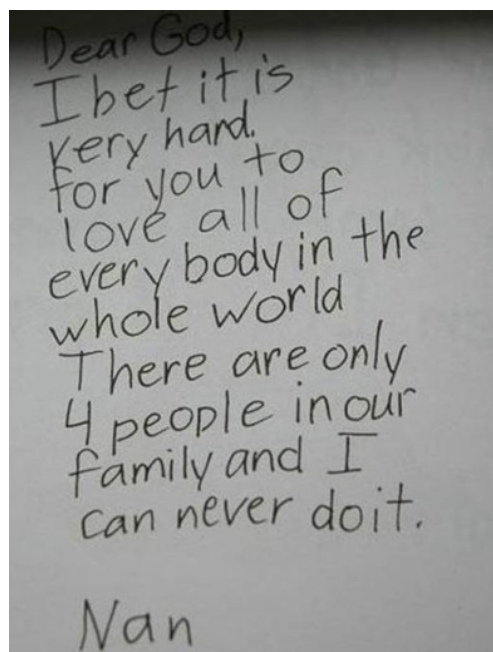
Past items include:

- Tickets to Michigan and Michigan State Football
- Vacations
- Delicious Foods
- Tickets to the Tigers
- Handyman/Landscaping Services
- Meals at local restaurants
- Specialty Baskets
- Tickets for the Symphony, Opera, Musicals, etc.
- Art created by parishioners
- Technical Services
- And much, much more

This year, Crafting Kindness is donating two beautiful quilts to the auction! After Easter you can preview them in the parish hall.

This event is the only significant fundraising that is done by the youth and will help support this summer's YAC mission trip and J2A Urban Adventure. Your presence is greatly appreciated, whether you bid 'em up or just enjoy fun night of fellowship, so please plan to come. Tickets are just \$5 and are available in advance and at the door.

*Ken Fisher*



# 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!



MAY 2017						
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](http://www.ststephenstroy.org)

Thomas West.....	1
Sandy Jose.....	4
Sara Sundareson.....	5
Claire DeCiantis.....	5
Bobby Brandon.....	5
Emily Gerard.....	5
Kevin Ward.....	6
Barb Spina.....	6
Justin Przeslawski.....	6
Emmitt Thiel.....	7
Sue Gore.....	8
David Eldon.....	11
Roy Waters.....	13
Cathy Hoffman.....	13
Krista Grubb.....	13
Jacob Hardy.....	14
Caleb Sololewski.....	15
Rev Susan Williams.....	17
Jamie Mason.....	18
Lucinda Mau Sabino.....	19
Quinn Baker.....	21
Donna Bronsteen.....	14
George Klempay.....	25
Adrian Gross.....	26
James Carnagie.....	26
Peter Burean.....	31

# Reaching Out

## SOS 2017

Our greatest outreach event as a loving and giving parish is the week we host the clients of SOS (South Oakland Shelter) each year. The gift of our time, talent, treasure, compassion, and love of each other and our neighbor is the most beautiful expression of God's love among His children.

It is an amazing week to experience and it is only able to come together when we all come together. Please join the SOS committee for a special coffee hour on May 21st to see where you can share your time, compassion, and love for the clients during the week of September 24th - October 1st.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Corinne Fragnoli or Miranda Spates.

*Corinne Fragnoli*



## Crafting Kindness

Thank you for your generosity and support of Crafting Kindness. Recently, two boxes filled with dresses for young girls and knitting yarn for the women staying at the convent began their journey to Haiti. The shipment will arrive at Agape Flights (in Florida) this week.

Agape Flights will complete the delivery to Haiti, as space is available, usually within a week of receipt. Agape Flights serves 375 missionary families sharing the love of Christ in Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic.

Agape flights does not require payment for the shipment, but does request the recipient pay a portion of the flight costs. Your donations to Crafting Kindness will enable us to donate in full, both the recipient fees and Agape's costs to ship to Haiti.

The money raised above the cost of this delivery will be used for future postage and additional supplies needed throughout the year.

A very heartfelt thanks for your generosity which allows our mission to continue to Craft lots of Kindness.

*Barb Whitaker*



# We Ask Your Prayers for...

## Prayer Concerns

Jerralyn Burrell  
Ron Converse  
Arch Coran  
Thelma DePew  
Cathlynn Duncan  
Betty Feighner  
Gary Feighner  
Elizabeth Grantham  
Enid Hausding  
Mark Hetzel  
Charmel Maki  
Betsy McLachlan  
Kyle Merian  
Larry Nunn  
Zoey Rose  
Charles Saylor  
Annie Sharp  
Joe Simler  
Joyce Vance  
Dante Vannelli  
Tristyn Yant  
Beth L  
Kyle J

## 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  
Peter Hughes—nephew of Bruce & Nancy Papet  
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

Brendon Church  
Kyle Church  
Grandsons of Ed and Elaine Church & Nephew of Amy Church  
Benjamin Church  
Great Nephew of Ed and Elaine Church & Cousin of Amy Church

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.

## These Parish Families

5/1 Paul & Mary Ann Kish  
Peggy & George Klempay  
5/14 Joan Knapp  
Linda Lambert  
5/21 Bill & Dorothy Langridge  
John & Leslie Lynch  
5/28 John Lynch & Anne Hiemstra  
Bill & Sandy Martin

## The Departed

Lloyd Coon  
Uncle of Chris Herfurth



## May Anniversaries

Steve & Margaret  
Brandon.....2  
James Carnagie & Carol  
Sprague .....2  
Ed & Elaine  
Church..... 11  
John & Lori  
Podsiadlik ..... 11  
David & Jan  
Eldon .....20  
Bill & Dorothy  
Langridge .....20  
Rob & Amy  
Redmer .....23  
Ken & Kris  
Fuhr .....23

## 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)

**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

## 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

**MAY 2017**