



The WITNESS

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

June 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

Who's a Pentecostal?

Youth Sunday (June 4) coincided this year with the Feast of Pentecost. I can't imagine a better combination. On that very first Pentecost (described in Acts ch. 2), St. Peter – filled with the Spirit -- quoted from the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams..."

What's that about "last days"? Quite a few have passed since Pentecost AD 30! But on that day, Jesus' followers entered holy time, *Kairos* not just *Chronos*, directed by the Spirit. No further era is expected until the return of Jesus. Examining the Bible's "last days" in *Acts* and the various Epistles (but not *Revelation*, that's a different thing entirely) we see the new era is marked by many changes, necessary and often uncomfortable.

But if they spring from Spirit-inspired dreams and goals, good things will result. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, male or female, slave or free..." wrote Paul in highly dramatic fashion. "If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation!" Wow, shouldn't that get us off the couch? The jolt we feel is the Spirit prodding us out of our old patterns and into new fields for mission. That's Pentecost at work.

Have you ever attended a Pentecostal church service? I did, once. It was very different from an Episcopal Eucharist! The expression of *gifts of the Spirit*, including speaking in tongues, healing, prophecies, miracles and

other abilities are encouraged. It was hard to know what might happen under those circumstances! You can imagine that I was feeling uncomfortable, dyed-in-the-wool Episcopalian that I am.

This was decades ago, when I was young and confident that our Episcopal Church had figured out the *best way* to please God. I left that strange experience feeling skeptical, a bit like those bystanders to the first Pentecost event in Acts 2 who sneered, "They are drunk and it's only 9 am." Our first reaction to new ideas, over-the-top promises or headrushing feelings is often to doubt. That's good when it protects us from financial scams, recreational drug use, or bungee-jumping.

But what if those promises of the Spirit are true? What if the "Pentecostal movement" that calls on -those wild, spiritual gifts - and trusts them - is right on?

Don't worry, I still love the Episcopal Church and wouldn't want to be anywhere else. But the Spirit of Pentecost has been turned loose in the world; she's active, moving, changing things all the time – and sometimes I feel we Episcopalians have locked the doors to keep her out.

We're not alone in failing to keep up with the swiftly-changing era in which we find ourselves. But if our kids call us "Old-fashioned" they are right on the mark. Made in the old days, and still a bit stuck there.

Who's a Pentecostal—continued on page 2



Around the Parish

June Lectionary

June 4- Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104: 25-35, 37
1 Cor 12: 3b-13
John 7: 37-39

June 11- Pentecost 1

Gen 1: 1-2: 4a
Psalm 8
2 Cor 13: 11-13
Matt 28: 16-20

June 18- Pentecost 2

Gen 18: 1-15, (21: 1-7
Psalm 66: 7-18
1 Peter 3: 13-22
John 14: 15-21

June 25- Pentecost 3

Gen 21: 8-21
Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17
Rom 6: 1b-11
Matt 10: 24-39

Who's a Pentecostal—cont.

The Holy Spirit may well use our young people, demonstrating their leadership and musical skills on Pentecost of 2017, to poke us and rattle us with songs, prophecies and visions. They have different expectations of what it means to be a church, and of what adults need to do in response. Don't be surprised when their requests are made: *We need to do something over there. We want to participate in that. We can create something awesome with those. Here's who I want to be next.*

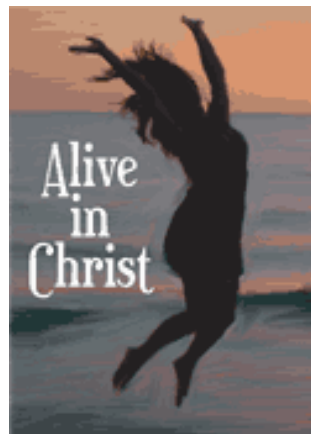
When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his friends on that Feast of Pentecost long ago, God unleashed an unrestrainable energy to transform the world. I hope and pray that you will dream new dreams, share them with others, and join the Pentecostal movement meant by God for St Stephen's.

Spiritually yours,

Memorial Service—June 17

You are invited to support Adrian and Bonnie Gross as they remember Adrian's son Jeffrey, who died recently in North Carolina at age 69. Members of Jeffrey's North Carolinian family will be bringing his ashes here for burial in our memorial garden.

The service for Jeffrey will be on **Saturday, June 17 at 11 a.m.** A luncheon in the Parish Hall will follow. Some of you will remember Jeff from St John's, Royal Oak, where he served as an acolyte and youth group member. Here's a photo of that handsome young man. He is missed very much by his family.



Church Notes

Welcome New Office Staff

I'm pleased to announce that on June 1 we welcomed two more members of our church staff. I introduced Caleb to you last month. Here's **Elena MacKenzie**, our new Parish Secretary. She'll be in the front office on weekdays, 9:30-1:30. Elena is new to the Episcopal version of church, and she'd love to meet you and learn from your knowledge of St Stephen's. So, **please stop in and introduce yourself** – especially during the summer months, when things are not quite so busy in the office.



Elena was born in Russia (you'll hear her intriguing accent) and emigrated to the USA as a Masters-degree student in Business. That was 25 years ago. She married, raised

three kids who are now in college, and got used to the food and landscapes of Michigan. Elena loves to travel the world, and will happily share recommendations for your next visit to Moscow (where she was once a tour guide) or any of the other places she's been. She would also like to improve her golf skills (after hours), and I'm betting a few of you could help with that!



We've also hired a new Bookkeeper, **Pam Bonkowski**. She will be less visible, having flexible hours – about ten per week – and being based in the Treasurer's Office. We will share Pam with St John's in Royal Oak, where she is also their part-time Bookkeeper and is familiar with the accounting software both churches use. I will provide a more complete profile of Pam next time!



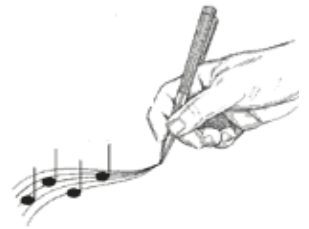
Thank you for making them both feel welcome at St Stephen's.

Faithfully,



Thank you, Patti!

Our deacon-intern, Patti Fraley, enjoyed her last Sunday with us on June 4. She gets the summer off from diaconal studies, which resume in September. She will be assigned a field-placement in the social-services, likely St Anne's Mead in Southfield which we know and appreciate. I (for one) am very grateful for Patti's help on Sundays, and we all wish her the very best!



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!



Summer Opportunities

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 1st and 2nd from 9:00am to Noon. The cost is \$25 per child. Registration is available at the church or on the website at www.ststephentroy.org

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



Mission Possible: Detroit

A mission experience for Youth and Young Adults ages 12 and up is happening in Detroit starting on Sunday, August 6 through Friday, August 11. Participants can choose one of two ways to participate

1. A student can stay for the entire week including overnights, which costs \$150.

OR

2. A parent/adult and student to attend 1, 2 or 3 days as commuter participants. The cost for both to attend is one fee of \$25 per day.

We will be staying at Christ Church, Detroit for the week and working with "Rippling Hope" in North West Detroit engaging in economic recovery work that includes home improvement measures and blight reduction activities. Fun, food and adventure will be in great supply for everyone!

For more information and to register go to www.edomi.org/yaya/mission-possible-Detroit

Eric Travis

Missioner for Youth and Young Adults



one World



From the Back Pew

As Time Flies By

I remember as a kid growing up in the 60's and 70's, there were a handful of dates that seemed to take forever to happen: summer to start, my birthday, arrival of the Sears catalog, and of course Christmas. Before there was Amazon or Toys R Us, we needed the Sears catalog to help us know what to put on our Christmas list. It seemed to take forever for that catalog to show up in September.



Time moves so slowly when you're young. As we age it seems to speed up. Which isn't right because as we age we want it to slow down. Between obtaining an education, then a job,

raising a family and growing a career, and saving for retirement, it flies by so fast. All the time, many of us are taking time for granted. As if we'd live forever.

When asked what surprised him about humanity the most, the Dalai Lama replied: "Man. Because he sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he does not enjoy the present; the result being that he does not live in the present or the

future; he lives as if he is never going to die, and then dies having never really lived."

I've come to a point in my life where I often ask the question: "If I knew I had two weeks to live, would I be doing what I'm doing." What if it was two months? Or what about two years? If the answer is "absolutely not", then I ask myself why am I doing it. Why do we live as if life is forever? Most of us never know when we'll be returning to heaven. As Jesus stated in Matthew 24:36: "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

How much more we would savor life if we lived each day as if we knew we only had a short while on this planet. I'd spend it with my family and friends. I'd eat and drink whatever I wanted – actually, I already do that.

An Australian nurse, Bronnie Ware spent several years working in palliative care, caring for patients in the last 12 weeks of their lives. She recorded their dying epiphanies in a blog called *Inspiration and Chai*. Her blog gained so much attention that she put her observations into a book called "The Top Five Regrets of the Dying":

1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
2. I wish I hadn't worked so hard.
3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.
4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

I recommend looking up her blog or book for more detail. The regrets of the dying can certainly provide guidance of how we should spend our time and live our lives.

Rob Redmer

2017						JUNE					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				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						

www.print-2017-calendar.com

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!



Ruth Goulding.....1
 Jerry Sebrowski 2
 Trevor Otoo 4
 Brady Dengler..... 5
 Pauleen Ottenhoff... 7
 MaryJane Kerr 7
 Brian Terlecky 7
 Kay Coran 8
 Evan DeCiantis 9
 Hanna DeCiantis 9
 Brendan Gerard..... 9
 Christian Przeslawski ..11
 Cynthia Tischer12
 John Morley12
 Emma Boldt.....13
 Michael McQuiston.....14
 Cathy O'Brien.....15
 Janet El-Zoghby17
 Keegan Dengler17
 Lynette Cline.....21
 Andrew Home.....21
 Connor Duggan.....24
 Judy McClendon.....25
 Connie Jose.....26
 Liz Golding.....27
 Nathan Buller.....29
 Paul Kish30
 Garret Fragnoli.....30

Reaching Out

Outreach Spring/Summer Update

Greetings from your Outreach Committee!

Our next "Outreach Agency of the Month" will be **The Baldwin Center**, featured at the 10 am service on **June 11**. The Baldwin Center has been serving low-income and homeless people in Pontiac for over 30 years.

Their programs include: The Family Soup Kitchen which provides meals five days a week; the Clothes Closet which provides gently used clothing; and the Youth Center where youth gather each day for academic support, a meal and a snack, and a variety of enrichment opportunities. Baldwin Center also hosts laundry facilities, commodity foods for low-income seniors, household items for fire victims, GED classes, and a holiday gift and food program.

How you can help: The Baldwin Center is requesting the follow donations for their 6 week summer camp: **fruit snacks, juice boxes (100% juice please), granola bars and unfrozen Icy Pops. Please make sure all snacks are peanut- and tree-nut-free, and individually wrapped.** The collection bin is currently available in the Gathering Area.

You can volunteer to help at **Baldwin's Family Soup Kitchen**. Next date is **June 30 from 9:15 am-1:30 pm**. If you are interested, please sign up in the Gathering Area the week prior to the event.

Other Opportunities to Serve:

Volunteers are needed for the **St. John's Food Pantry** in Royal Oak on **June 10, July 8**

and August 12; 9 am-12:30 pm. If you are interested please sign up in the Gathering Area the week prior to the event.

The Mariners Inn "Tee off for Recovery" Golf Classic is scheduled for **Friday June 9** at The Inn at St. John's. For more information please visit: <http://marinersinn.org/events/golfouting>

Our annual **St. Stephen's Baby Shower** is scheduled for **Sunday July 16**. We will be collecting diapers and baby wipes for local families in need.

The **SOS Fun Run is on Sunday August 6**. St Stephen's is a co-sponsor. Check out <https://my.southoaklandshelter.org/run> or talk to Joan Morgan.

Don't forget to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards: www.krogercommunityrewards.com The code for St. Stephen's is 82604.

We will be posting updates on Facebook and the email chain regarding the above activities and other opportunities in the works. **Thank you for your support!**

The Outreach Committee



We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Jerralyn Burrell
Ron Converse
Thelma DePew
Cathlynn Duncan
Gary Feighner
Enid Hausding
Mark Hetzel
Diane Kenefic
Charmel Maki
Betsy McLachlan
Kyle Merian
Zoey Rose
Charles Saylor
Annie Sharp
Joe Simler
Greg Thompson
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, to ask that a relative or friend be added to those in need of our church's prayers.

These Parish Families

6/4 Jim & Mardi Maxwell
Scott & Leslie Mayotte
6/11 Paul & Judy McClendon
Gordon McMullen
6/18 Judy & Jim McQuiston
Darrel Middlewood
6/25 Marilyn Miller
Sharon Miller

The Departed

Nalin Udani

Father of Pastor Manisha

Larry Nunn

Member of St. Stephen's

Charles Carnagie

Brother of Jim Carnagie



June

Anniversaries

Mike & Katie
Sobolewski2
Peter & Ruth
Goulding.....3
Kevin & Carolyn
Ward.....8
Colin & Kathy
Davis..... 11
Bob & Donna
Brokenshire18
George & Peggy
Klempay.....19
Jerry & Kathy
Sebrowski.....19
Paul & Melissa
Hardy.....24
Bryan & Janet
El-Zoghby25
Dave & Jill
Stein30

How to Contact Us

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

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

Elena MacKenzie, Parish Administrator
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

Ken Fuhr—Director of Christian Formation

formation@ststephenstroy.org

Jim Trask, Treasurer

Pam Bonkowski 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 Communion Service, with music. Sometimes held outdoors in the summer!

Sun., 8 a.m.

Quiet Eucharist, short and sweet

Sun, 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with music, nursery care available. Stay for fellowship afterwards.

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

JUNE 2017