



The WITNESS

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

April 2018

Mother Susan's Musings

"Why do you call me,
'Lord, Lord,' and do
not do what I tell
you?" - Luke 6:46

You're asking this of
me because you said,

Love them all

and sometimes I
can't.

You said,

*Ask the Father for
whatever you need*

and often I forget to
do that.

You suggest I have
enough faith to move
a tree or a mountain,

but I settle for weeds
and ant-hills

and even they come
back.

You offered an easier
burden, if I would
simply learn it from
you,

and for years, I've
been a poor student.

Help me to hear you
again,

to learn,

to follow.

Susan

Happy Eastertide



Are there any who
are devout lovers
of God?

Let them enjoy this
beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful serv-
ants?

Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of
their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!

First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!

Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that
have not, rejoice today for the Table is
richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted
one. Let no one go away hungry.
Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the
universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen
again and again; for forgiveness has ris-
en from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of
our Savior has set us free.

O death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are
annihilated!

Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are
cast down!

Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied
of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who
have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and
ever. Amen!

*Excerpts from the Easter sermon of Bp. John
"Chrysostom" of Jerusalem, circa 400 AD*





Around the Parish

Eastertide - Pentecost Lectionary

April 1: Easter

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
1 Cor 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

April 8: 2 Easter

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 15: 3 Easter

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

April 22: 4 Easter

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

April 29: 5 Easter

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:24-30
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 6: 6 Easter

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 13: 7 Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 20: Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21
Psalm 104:25-35,37
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 27: Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

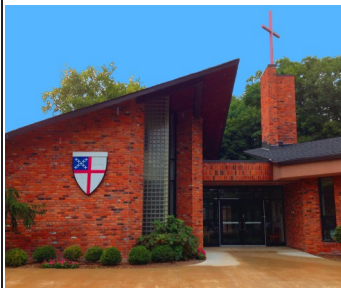


Support our Confirmands - Attend their special day!

The parish is invited to participate in the regional Confirmation Service on **Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 a.m.**, at St John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak(11 Mile & Woodward). The following persons will reaffirm their baptismal vows as full members of the Episcopal Church (that's what Confirmation is): Katy Allen, Adrian Brokenshire, Gillian Grubb, Mackenzie

Hardy and Norah O'Neill. Two of our group will be confirmed at another regional service: Peter Burean and Greyson Ingersoll will travel to St. Paul's Church in Jackson MI on **May 12** (also at 11 a.m.). Confirmand Tom West is traveling further afield, to Louisville KY joining his god-daughter Sophia at her confirmation service. Congratulations to ALL the members of our 2018 confirmation class!

"Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." - *BCP p. 310*



WHY I CAME HOME TO ST. STEPHENS

I have been a member of our church for 25 years. Over the past several years, I have become disillusioned with St. Stephens. For the past few months, my unhappiness with our church grew to anger with God and doubt so serious that I thought about abandoning my religious faith completely. This would have created a huge void in my life, as I am a cradle to grave Episcopalian who has always found strength, comfort and joy in my faith in God.

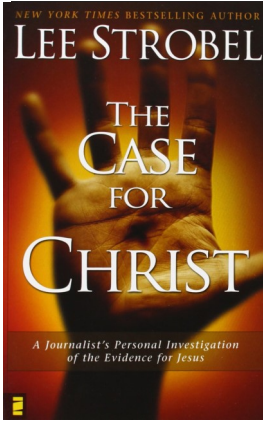
The source of my recent unhappiness was the terminal illness of my niece, who

died on March 10th. It was heartbreaking to see her emaciated body and to realize, week after week, that we would never talk or laugh together again. If God is good, I did not believe he would have let this happen to this young woman.

But I did return to church on Easter. Mother Susan's sermon spoke to me about looking and moving forward. It was great to see people I had not seen in a long while. I left feeling more hopeful than I had in months. As my good friend Gretchen Waters has always told me, the church is the people. I'm glad I'm back, together with all of us in this church, and hope we can all continue to celebrate one another, and God, together.

Joan Morgan

Inside the Parish Walls



Adult Faith Series: The Case for Christ

Join us on Sundays at 9 a.m. in the Bishop Emrich room, as our conversations focus on the 2017 film "The Case for Christ." The film is based on a true story, about an atheist

journalist who sets out to disprove his wife's Christian faith. (Let's hope they also got marriage counselling!) All are welcome to join the discussions, which start each week with a 20-minute movie clip. Come any Sunday through mid-May, and talk to Corinne Fagnoli for more information.

Crafting Kindness's Open Craft Day: April 28

Come on over between 10 am – 2 pm on Saturday, April 28 for a Spring Crafting Day! Anyone can help or learn a new skill, as we offer projects in various media and levels of difficulty (e.g. sewing, knitting, prep work). Talk to Barb Whitaker.



Did you know:

The word "Disciple" describes the people who followed Jesus before his death on Good Friday. The term "Apostle" is for those who saw him after Easter, and carried the good news of his Resurrection out into the world!

Youth Groups will Gather for Fun on April 27

Youth from Grade 4 through J2A are all invited to a fun evening on Friday, April 27. They will go out for bowling or laser-tag, and of course food. The younger set gets picked up, and Rite 13 & J2A classes will be locked in for the night! Talk to

Wear Red on May 20!

The Feast of Pentecost ends the "white" season of Eastertide, 50 days starting on the day of Jesus' Resurrection. During the season, we've heard Gospel passages about his post-resurrection appearances to the disciples and many others. The Book of Acts tells the story that on the Jewish agricultural feast of Pentecost, the apostles were gathered for prayer when the Holy Spirit came into the room and into their lives in a crazy, powerful way. Whoosh! Wear red to celebrate the tongues of fire they saw, and the hearts transformed for evangelism, that marked the Pentecost event.



"No, Peter Cottontail was not an apostle!"

Get to know the 2018 Vestry!



The next meeting of the Vestry is **Monday, May 14 at 7 pm** when the planned Mission Focus is “Use and Care of our Building.” Vestry meetings are open, and parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Each parish committee has a Vestry Liaison whose role is to keep their work connected to others’. The Liaison also approves any check requests from their committee’s budget. They can answer questions you may have, or point out the person who can!

St. Stephen’s Vestry & their Committees (term-ending)

Katy Allen: Strategic Planning (2019)

Richard Kenefic: Endowment (2019)

Rob Redmer: Communications & Newcomers (2019)

Roy Waters: Finance (2019)

Scott Armstrong, Senior Warden (2020)

Alan Giles: Pastoral Care (2020)

Karol Sprague: Adult Faith (2020)

Justin Wojas: Outreach; Junior Warden (2020)

David Eldon: Buildings & Grounds (2021)

Corinne Fragnoli: Hospitality (2021)

Jackie Ingersoll: YACYM (2021) = *Young Adults, Children and Youth Ministries*

Patrick Wojas: Stewardship (2021)

Endowment Fund News

Onward and upward! The Endowment Fund balance has followed the stock market upward [with its few jiggles along the way], which is good news. Our balance has been hovering around \$150,000, from which our charter allows us to make grants totaling up to 5% of its average value, per year. This restriction helps ensure that the gifts you make will continue to support St. Stephen’s ability to do God’s work, indefinitely, because we are essentially spending earnings not principal.

The Endowment Committee has some new members, and at its March meeting elected its officers for the coming year. They are: Chair Don Ingersoll; Vice Chair Richard Kenefic; Secretary Jan Hopper. Trustees are Joan Knapp and Inge Wojas. Mo. Susan and Jim Trask are *ex officio* members.

The Endowment Committee oversees our professional portfolio manager from Raymond James, and we met

with her to discuss our portfolio’s goals and performance at our April meeting. Some modest adjustments are being made to reflect the current market environment.

Would you like to honor or remember someone? Do you feel moved to support the Endowment Fund just because it’s a good thing to do? You can do this at any time. No amount is too small. Just make out a check to St. Stephen’s and mark the memo line “Endowment Fund.” Attach a note or use one of the envelopes in the Gathering Area to designate who your gift is honoring or remembering. And, you can become a member of the Fred Bryson Legacy Society by either giving now or making provisions in your will for a gift upon your death.

Information about the Endowment Fund can be found in a brochure in the Gathering Area, or better yet, ask one of the Committee members.

Inside the Parish Walls



Tips on Reading the Bible

(Compiled by your friends at Forward Movement)

Choose a Bible that you enjoy reading

Visit a bookstore that sells lots of Bibles, and read different translations until you find your favorite. Choose one that has looks you like, so you'll enjoy seeing it and want to read it. If you already have one, great – but if you don't enjoy reading it, it's time to find another one. Try another translation. If you like NRSV, try CEB. The differences can deepen your understanding and spark conversation. Not sure? Go online to a Bible webpage like www.biblegateway.com. Search for your favorite passage and read it in several translations.

Get to know your Bible-Explore the table of contents, historical information, maps – discover the special features of your Bible.

Locate your favorite parts of the Bible -

Mark your favorite scriptures, prayers, and people with a ribbon, bookmark, or sticky-note. Keep adhesive flags on hand for marking passages you want to revisit.

Remember that the Bible isn't one book-

It's a library, with lots of books in one place. Start with the parts that interest you most. You don't have to read it in order, and if you do, it won't be a linear story. That's okay!

Pick a consistent time of day you'd like to read-Get help if there are parts you don't understand. Study Bibles offer commentary and explanations of the text. Online resources can offer in-depth questions and answers. At church, ask questions of your clergy and laypeople who are knowledgeable about the Bible. Find more resources at www.thegoodbookclub.org/resources.

After you read, ask yourself these questions:

What happened? What does the text say?

What excited or surprised you? Any other emotions arise?

What does the text mean?

How does what you read apply to you?

Read the Bible with others-As you continue to read, you may have questions or the desire to talk about what you've read. Find or create a Bible study group! Forward Movement can help with resources for group bible studies; visit www.forwardmovement.org to learn more.

Dig into the history of the Bible-Your Bible may have historical information, or you can find it online. Find a current map of the region and compare it to a map of the time the Bible was written.

Read the Bible out loud-Reading out loud engages your senses differently and can lead to new understandings and means to what you read silently. Read aloud with a friend, spouse, family member or even your pets.



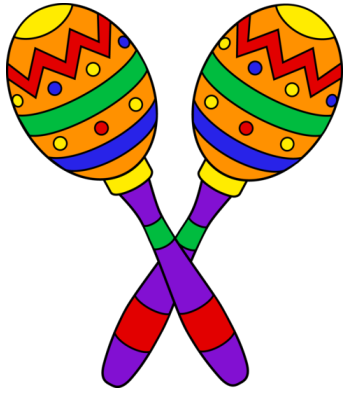
Join us for group Bible Study any Wednesday morning at 10:00.

The St Stephen's "No experience required" Bible study has been held for many years, but you can come any time and feel at home.

We meet in the Bishop Emrich Lounge (aka the Library) from 10-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday morning. We make frequent use of big-screen internet for maps, video clips and immediate answers to our students' questions. And just for fun. Prayer begins and ends our time together.

Currently we are reading Paul's epistle to the Colossians, a group of new Christians who were grappling with cultural challenges like, "How is Jesus different than the Greek / Roman gods we used to worship?" and "How is my household impacted, now that we're Christian?" His advice, written in the 50s AD, includes some profound and timeless theology.

Juan



Faith & Fellowship

The Future is Now!

May 5th is the FUTURE. Mark it so you won't miss the fun at the 2018 Auction to support our St. Stephen's kids' trips and programs. Of course, May 5 is also known as Cinco de Mayo, so we are planning a Mexican buffet. Prior attendees will attest that the evening is fun even for those who don't intend to buy anything. Just being there shows the kids you care about them.

NOW is when we need you to begin figuring out what you might wish to donate for the silent or live auctions. Don't have any "things?" Gift cards will work just fine. Too big to handle? We can pick it up. It takes time to get the items organized and bid sheets prepared, so the sooner we know what you have, the easier it is to prepare. But, keep thinking as we are very flexible and can take things until the day before the event.

Got questions? Want to help? See Jackie or Don Ingersoll 2488790948
don@doningersoll.com.

**THE J2A AUCTION IS
SATURDAY MAY 5
AT 6:00 PM**

V.S.O. QUARTET RETURNS

APRIL 29 AT 3 PM

All are invited to a concert by the V.S.O. String Quartet on **Sunday April 29**, right here at St Stephen's. The concert begins at 3:00 p.m. and will include music by Dvorak, Schubert, Hayden and Purcell. A light reception follows.

VSO Quartet has already provided music for us twice, at services in Advent and Lent, and they are wonderful!

Concert tickets are \$10 at the door or \$8 presale from www.vsostringquartet.com/purchase-tickets

The quartet includes parishioners Geoff Benes, far left, and Alyssa Benes, far right.



You're Invited!



...to St. Philip's Church in Rochester, to hear Radford "Rad" Jones, retired Secret Service Agent, on Sunday April 29th, at 7:00 pm.

The ECW of St. Philip's is hosting a special presentation by one of our members who is a retired Secret Service Agent. They would especially like to invite folks from St. Stephen's to attend. It is hosted by the ECW, but men are also welcome to attend! There will be light refreshments served. No need to RSVP.

St. Philip's is located at the corner of Romeo Rd. and Main St (Rochester Rd) in Rochester, just north of the downtown.



Despite the ice storm on April 15, we were able to give \$662.00 to Cass Community Social Services, following the visit of their director, The Rev. Faith Fowler. If you had planned to attend but were prevented by the wintry weather, you can send a check directly to:

Cass Community Social Services
Attn: CR
11745 Rosa Parks
Detroit, MI 48206

or give online:

<https://casscommunity.org/donate/>

On Sunday, May 6, we welcome Cheryl Lovejoy from "Angel's Place," our next Outreach Agency of the Month.

INTERfaith CAREGIVERS

Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store, or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program is in need of volunteers who can provide transportation in the local area. We especially need drivers who are available during daytime business hours - mornings and afternoons. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you, and we call you with specific appointments that meet these criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year will make a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call us today at (586) 757-5551.



*Have you hugged an
Episcopalian today?*



April BIRTHDAYS

- Mike Wellman 3
- Tyler Braidwood..... 3
- Mary Ann Kish 5
- Arch Coran..... 5
- Margaret O'Neill..... 6
- Ken Fuhr..... 8
- Joseph Przeslawski 12
- Tammy Gerard.....14
- Mark Pierce.....14
- Cheri Salanty14
- Don Ingersoll.....15
- Paul Hardy.....18
- Peter Goulding20
- John Thunder20
- Bob Hoffman.....22
- James Luzod22
- Daryllyn Oswald....23
- Karen Mirzoian.....27



May BIRTHDAYS

- Thomas West1
- Sandy Jose4
- Claire DeCiantis5
- Emily Gerard.....5
- Sara Sundarson5
- Justin Przeswski ... 6
- Barb Spina.....6
- Kevin Ward.....6
- Emmett Thiel7
- Sue Gore.....8
- David Eldon11
- Krista Grubb.....13
- Cathy Hoffman.....13
- Roy Waters13
- Jacob Hardy14
- Caleb Sobolewski .15
- Susan Williams17
- Lucinda Sabino.....19
- Quinn Baker.....21
- Donna Bronsteen .24
- James Carnagie.....26
- Adrian Gross.....26

We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Linda Lou Jarvis	Sonia Nihem
Jeralyn Burrell	Jim Whitaker
Janet Satyanathan	Molly Neumann
Judy Ford	Rick Lowery
Laura Hayden	Mary Bandsuch
Zoey Rose	Harold Ford
Edith Richardson	Jackie Jakubowski
Jim Sherman	Stacey Wesley
Ron Gural	Tim Stanley
Betty Feighner	Agnes Carpenter
Michelle L'Hommedieu	John Thunder
Kelly Damphousse	Tim Simon
Charles Saylor	Annabelle Grace Georges
Charmel Maki	Kate Georges
Joe Simler	Jamie Georges
Kyle Merian	Mary Boldt
Sally Granger	Linda Dolan
Suzanne Ross	Jenny Dolan
Susie Kowalski	Rhonda French
Deputy Dave Hack	Alice Brandon

The Departed

Betty Sage

Those in the Armed Services

Nathan Cremeans—grandson of Barb Whitaker
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

Brendon Church
Kyle Church
Grandsons of Ed and Elaine Church & Nephew 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

4/8	Mary Boldt Tom & Marilyn borowski
4/15	Bill, Nico & Gio Perod, Nikki & Tyler Braidwood Alice Brandon
4/22	Steve & Margaret Brandon Mike & Erin Brokenshire
4/29	Robert & Donna Brokenshire Richard & Donna Bronsteen
5/6	Mary Lou Bryson Patricia Buller
5/13	Tony & Kim Burean Jon & Jeralyn Burrell
5/20	James Carnagie & Karol Sprague Agnes Carpenter
5/27	Barbara Cavendish Gloria Christiansen

Anniversaries

April

Richard & Winifred Lowery, April 5
John & Joan Thunder,, April 7
Mary Ann and Paul Kish, April 13 — 50th!
Robert & Lynette Cline, April 18
James & Marilyn Elwarner ,April 19
Bob & Sara Sue Westbury ,April 21
Daniel & Tammy Gerard, April 27

May

Steve and Margaret Brandon, May 2
Jim Carnagie and Karol Sprague, May 2
Ed & Elaine Church, May 11
John & lori Podsiadlik, May 11
David & Jan Eldon, May 20
Bill & Dorothy Langridge, May 20
Rob & Amy Redmer, May 23
Ken & Kris Fuhr, May 24



Who's Missing?

If someone you usually see in church hasn't been there in a while, please give them a call.

If there's something amiss that the clergy should respond to, please ask them if it's ok for you to call the office on their behalf.

Our crystal ball broke years ago and we rely on actual human contact to give us important news about the people we love!



How to Contact Us

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

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

Jacki Mudrich, 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

Sue Gore—Choir and Music Director

[248-852-1379](tel:248-852-1379)

Jim Trask, Treasurer

Pam Bonkowski—Assistant to the Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

The Witness, Liz Sinkovich

witness@ststephenstroy.org

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

This edition of The Witness was produced in the church office. Deadline for the June edition is May 22, to office@ststephenstroy.org

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

APRIL 2018