



The WITNESS

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

Summer 2018

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ... For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

St. Paul's letter to the church in Rome, 8:28,37-39

A Few of My Favorite Things

Dear ones,

I wish you a restful summer, a time to pray and reflect and move forward, as I will be doing. This was neither the timing nor the manner I would have chosen to leave St Stephen's. But it became necessary. Now sifting through the books on the shelves, the papers on my desk and the collection of little projects, cards and mementos you've given me – I have many fond memories, as you will. Here are today's Top Ten; they might be different tomorrow. I share them in alphabetical order.

1. Adult Faith Field Trips and Pilgrimage

– who says the kids should get all the fun? Beginning on my first Labor Day weekend, we started visiting downtown congregations on that holiday Sunday. Then other trips included important places in local history, art and Lenten fish dinners. In 2015 we got up our courage and headed west to Arizona, for an unforgettable week learning about Navaho culture, community gardening, the grandeur of geology, and how to build a school “off the grid.”

2. Creating liturgies, music and colorful accents to our worship, with the **Altar Guild, Choirs and music professionals** who have called this place home. Even when few folks turned up to comprise a congregation or concert audience, God was praised as hearts and voices were lifted. *Can we admit that St Stephen's sanctuary needs a shot of color?* I felt my efforts to provide some were appreciated; and the hangings I made for you will remain in the Altar Guild's care.

3. Knitting, stitching and packing bags with **Crafting Kind-**

ness. I'm so proud of these ladies, especially Barb Whitaker, their fearless leader. This group launched with the perfect Mission-Outreach formula:

- Find where your passion connects to a need of the community.
- Get like-minded (or like-talented) friends involved, within and outside the parish.
- Make a personal connection to those who benefit.

Crafting Kindness has done this and more, inspiring non-crafters to get involved too (purchasing supplies for hurricane victims, driving stuff to their destination, supporting girls wearing their handmade dresses, etc.) Way to go, team!

4. **Family Nights and “Messy Church,”** which took “church school” to a new level of adult+kid involvement. I enjoyed returning to my roots in Family Ministry, sharing the love with volunteers who might not have tried this sort of thing before! Watching the kids' faces light up as they “got” the essence of a parable, held up their art project or belted out a song made my heart smile.

5. Our amazing **“Nonagenarian Club.”** I've never been part of a community with so many active 90-plus-year-olds! Most are still attending church pretty often if not weekly. Five or six can be found at the Wednesday Bible Study, in addition to worship on the weekends. Others have had to





Around the Parish

Post Pentecost Lectionary

June 3: 2 Pentecost

Deuteronomy 5:12-15
Psalm 81:1-10
2 Cor 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

June 10: 3 Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130
2 Cor 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

June 17: 4 Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92
2 Cor 5:6-10, 11-13,
14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 24: 5 Pentecost

Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Cor 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

July 1: 6 Pentecost

Wisdom of Solomon
1:13-15, 2:23-24
Psalm 30
2 Cor 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 8: 7 Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
2 Cor 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 15: 8 Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 22: 9 Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 29: 10 Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalm 145: 10-19
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

Aug 5: 11 Pentecost

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15
Psalm 78: 23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Aug 12: 12 Pentecost

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Aug 19: 13 Pentecost

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Aug 26: 14 Pentecost

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18
Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

Sept 2: 15 Pentecost

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
Psalm 15
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,

Mother Susan's Top Ten, Continued

retire from participation here -- but I always enjoyed pastorally visiting, especially during the stressful weeks when I was doubting my abilities as a rector. You always cheered me up.

6. The SOS Ministry Machine. Leadership, organization, preparation, extreme hospitality and crisis management. An inspiring campaign to observe and then take a running jump into the action!

7. Our talented Staff. In its current configuration of Jacki Mudrich, Pam Bonkowski and Sue Gore, I've been blessed with extraordinarily helpful and patient pros in this year of too many transitions. I've not always been on-site to answer their questions or finish my projects, and they have rolled with my last-minute visits to a hospital or dashing to a meeting I forgot to tell them about.

8. Wednesday Bible Study, rarely cancelled except for terrible weather. "Eat, Pray, Love, Read a little" might best describe our sessions. We frequently did more story-telling than Scripture-reading, but that was the deeper point. We found that when friends gather in the Name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit raises memories and emotions to be shared safely. We sure laughed a lot, too! Kudos to Chris Herfurth who was an excellent "sub" whenever I had to miss class.

9. White Water rafting with the YAC group, after working with them to fix up several homes in Charleston WV. The kids were very brave! Me, not so much.

10. Very best of all is serving you Holy Communion at the Altar, or in the home of a sick person or shut-in. That has been my greatest privilege on a regular basis – to share the nourishment of Jesus Christ with anyone, any age, who seeks His love.

Thank you all for reminding me that holy conversations and spiritual connections do withstand the tests of aging, illness, distance and even departure. The Body of Christ stretches but will not break apart, as long as we are faithful to Him who is the Head. Jesus knows and loves us best, and still has plans for us.

God bless you!



From the Senior Warden

Dear Parish Family

The recent announcement of Susan's resignation caused me to take pause and reflect on this amazing family I am so humbled to be a part of. I came to St. Stephen's 16 years ago with three kids in tow not knowing what to expect. We were welcomed with open arms and open hearts. A few years later I watched my 3 year old Grandson toddle down the aisle with such joy in his heart as he was baptized, witnessed by a congregation a family – my family, with open arms and open hearts. You embraced him, raised him, taught him, loved him and helped form him into the man he is becoming and you did it with open arms and open hearts. My expectations were well exceeded!!

What I found then, what made me stay here, was not a building or a rector, but you an amazing crazy diverse group of people sharing not only your faith but your lives with each other ... what an amazing gift God gave me. I realized the heart of St. Stephen's is not a building or a rector, the heart of St. Stephen's is YOU!! Over the years we have celebrated, nurtured, listened, welcomed, ate, drank, disagreed, supported, mourned, cried, did I say ate & drank, consoled, taught, sang, worshiped while we ate and drank together ... together a family and one I am blessed to have in my life.

Now, 16 years later you again humbled me by allowing me to serve you as Senior Warden and you elected an amazing group of people to the Vestry whose hands you entrusted the future of our church and family. As we say goodbye to Mother Susan and enter into transition, we must look to the future of our beloved church family not with anxiety, conflict, and apathy but with purpose, unity, and renewal. Our greatest strength comes from each other from our individuality, diversity, community and ability to set aside our differences and look to acceptance with love and understanding.

We are St. Stephen's and together we will continue God's work of Outreach, Pastoral Care, Youth Ministry, Song, Worship, Reconciliation and Healing. You see my friends, and I say it again, WE are St. Stephens and WE have built a foundation in this place with God's help through our blood, our sweat, our generosity, our memories, our gifts and most of all ... our love, a legacy our children's children will be proud to continue.

So, I now ask you to take time to pause and reflect on what brought you to St. Stephen's. How you helped shape each other's lives, as you celebrated, nurtured, listened, welcomed, ate, drank, disagreed, supported, mourned, cried, consoled, taught, sang and worshiped HERE in this community with open arms and open hearts and I pray you find your expectations were, are, and will continue to be exceeded.

May God bless you and keep you and our church family and hold us in the palm of his hand.



NEWS FROM BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

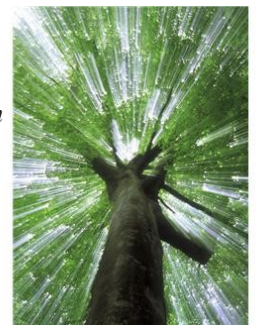
Building and Grounds has been busy the last few months. During the winter months, all new thermostats were installed and now we have better control of the heating and cooling of the building to keep our gas bill more under control. Two storage closets were cleaned and organized, with a lot gone to the dumpster. Corrine Fragnoli and Alice Moss were the main helpers in cleaning out the storage areas.

Another area that was cleaned out and organized was the YACYM Storage Room, thank you to all those that helped! There were 19 windows replaced with bad seals. The roof leaking and ice dams are next to be fixed by the roofer. The spring clean-up was a great success, especially with Joe Hopper providing lunch for the hungry workers.

The lawn mowing contract was reviewed and a new contractor was hired. A smoke detector was replaced, the doorbell was moved so Jacki and others can hear it pretty much anywhere in the building now, and the yearly back flow testing was completed and repaired for the sprinkler system. The lower floors were stripped and re-waxed, and look terrific.

And finally, the two big projects for the year; the concrete was removed and replaced at the rear entry of the church and the pews will be sanded and refinished starting in July. Many thanks to Pat Wojas and Justin Wojas for organizing these.

- Dave Eldon,
Building and Grounds Liaison



Inside the Parish



Say...What's happening with the Strategic Plan?

It paused for a reason. The planning committee has two members who are also on the Vestry. They informed us several weeks ago that a change was being considered that would affect what we were doing. The change turned out to be Mo. Susan's transition which was announced recently.

The strategic planning guidance we were following clearly says to pause projects in times of transition; so we did. We remained quiet about it, because the Diocesan process being followed by the Vestry and Mo. Susan required nondisclosure until the path forward was determined.

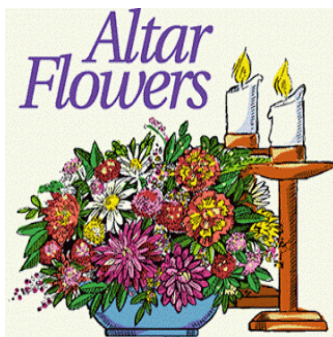
Does that mean the Holy Conversations we had were a waste of time? ABSOLUTELY NOT! We found out many significant things about ourselves and our hopes for the future, which will be important as we begin our search for a new rector. We were already planning to use this information to develop a survey of the congregation regarding who we are and how we want to grow in our service to God. We will need this information for the search and will add questions about what we seek from our next rector. The listening process was an important part of our last search and will be equally important this time.

What will happen with the ideas for improvement we had? WE WILL RETURN TO EVALUATING THEM! We unearthed many ideas for improving how we serve each other and the community, and for improving how we operate as a congregation. Moving ahead requires Vestry leadership, because changes typically involve or affect others whose knowledge is needed, or whose commitment and coordination are required. With the Vestry otherwise occupied, most ideas are on hold. We will pick up on the most fruitful-looking ideas and begin moving them ahead.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Don Ingersoll

Chair, Strategic Planning Oversight Committee



The beautiful new linens that the Altar Guild dedicated to Helen Slater, Alice Brandon, Joann Morelli and Dorothy Langridge have arrived and are now in use.

Thank You so very much ladies for your years of long standing, faithful service to your church!

To sponsor the Altar Flowers on a Sunday of your choice, sign up near the water fountain on your way to the Parish Hall.

Crafting Kindness's Summer Craft Days: June 29th and August 31st

Come on over between 1—2:30 pm on Thursday, June 29 and August 31. 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.

Get to know the 2018 Vestry!



There will be special Vestry meetings this summer, as we head into a time of transition. Most Vestry meetings are open, and ALL PARISHIONERS are encouraged to attend them.

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; Jr. Warden (2020)

David Eldon: Buildings & Grounds (2021)

Corinne Fragnoli: Hospitality (2021)

Jackie Ingersoll: YACYM (2021)

Patrick Wojas: Stewardship (2021)



Be careful what you wish for!

How many times have you said, "I wish they would fix these potholes! Well they heard you and Adams Road is going to be scratched down the roadbed and repaved from the I-75 ramp to South Blvd. from start to finish in early August. Adams Road will only be open to northbound traffic.

South Blvd will also be rebuilt from Crooks to Adams Road. This will begin in early June starting at Crooks Road and working west. During this time South Blvd. will only be open to westbound traffic. Repairs in the vicinity of Crooks and Long Lake Rd are also indicated by recent signage.

For those who wish more details on this work, we will post information on the bulletin board and have some handouts available. If you prefer to get the info from the internet, go to: www.rcocweb.org then click "Road Projects" on the home page and then select Adams Road or South Blvd.

Transition Leadership

Our Bishop has explained, "The Wardens and Vestry will be working closely with Jim Gettel, Canon for Congregational Life, and others in the Bishop's Office, to help facilitate this time of transition. With the Bishop's oversight, a process will be put in place to guide parish leadership toward a time when a new incumbent may be installed."

Until a member of the clergy is named with particular responsibilities, decisions usually made by the Rector will be handled by the Wardens. This includes finding clergy for pastoral emergencies or funerals, problems you might find in the building (report them please!), staff oversight, etc.

Senior Warden Scott Armstrong: (248) 860-0408. scottiemi06@icloud.com
Junior Warden Justin Wojas: (248) 641-1499. jpwojas@gmail.com

Faith & Fellowship



Everyone was a winner at the 2018 J2 Auction!!!

Just in case we missed thanking you personally, a giant **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped make the **Auction for Youth** a roaring success on all levels. That includes the organizers, decorators, cooks, donors, bidders, cleanup crew, ticket sellers, the program and PowerPoint preparer, our fantastic auctioneer, and the cashiers.

About 70 folks had a great evening of food, fun and camaraderie with interesting parishioners and guests. We even had folks calling in bids from out of town. Some folks picked up treasures at a great bargain, and some overbid the "book value" to show extra support for our youngest generation of parishioners.

Over \$4,000 was raised for youth trips and programs; but perhaps as important was the visible evidence our kids saw of the love and support the congregation has for them. As usual, the kids saw Christ's love and teachings personified right in our Fellowship Hall.

Don and Jackie Ingersoll

Happy Anniversary!

June

Mike and Katie Sobolewski	June 2
Peter and Ruth Goulding	June 3
Kevin and Carolyn Ward	June 8
Colin and Kathy Davis	June 11
Dave and Krista Grubb	June 12
Bob and Donna Brokenshire	June 18
George and Peggy Klempay	June 19
Jerry and Kathy Sebrovski	June 19
Daniel and Melissa Duggan	June 19
Paul and Melissa Hardy	June 24
Lee and Ginny Bennett	June 26
Bob and Alicia Baker	June 27
Dave and Jill Stein	June 30

July

Peter and Daryllyn Oswald	July 4
Mike and Erin Brokenshire	July 8
Jeff and Renee Parent	July 10
Rod and Donna Johnson	July 11
Sandy and Connie Jose	July 12
Rick and Barb Spina	July 15
Joseph and Patricia Przeslawski	July 21
Steve and Corinne Fragnoli	July 21

August

Bob and Kathy Thatcher	Aug 2
Alex and Erinma Ezeugwa	Aug 3
Alan and Helen Giles	Aug 24
Geoff and Cheryl Walter	Aug 25
Jim and Mardi Maxwell	Aug 28
Bob and Cathy Hoffman	Aug 31

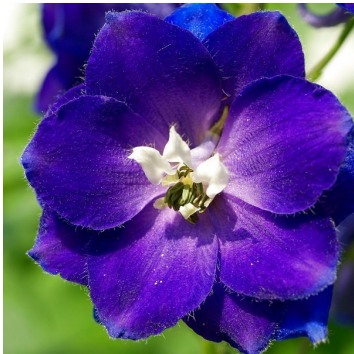
Grant them your blessing, O God, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep their promises and vows; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SUMMER BIRTHDAYS!!!



JUNE

Ruth Goulding.....1	Pauleen Ottenhoff.....7	Cynthia Tischer.....12	Connie Jose.....26
Jerry Sebrowski...2	Kay Coran.....8	Emma Boldt.....13	Liz Golding.....27
Bob Baker.....3	Brendan Gerard.....9	Cathy O'Brien.....15	Connor Duggan...27
Brady Dengler.....5	Hannah DeCiantis....9	Bruce Dostert.....16	Nathan Buller.....29
Brian Terlecky.....7	Evan DeCiantis.....9	Keegan Dengler....17	Paul Kish.....30
Mary Jane Kerr....7	John Morley.....12	Kamsi Ezeugwa.....18	Garret Fragnoli....30
	Paul Kish.....30	Judy McClendon....25	



JULY

Erinma Ezeugwa.....3	Rob Redmer.....13	Jeremy Taylor.....20	Audrey Brokenshire..29
Norah O'Neill.....5	Mary Jane Johnston.14	Alex Ezeugwa.....20	Kay Novak.....30
Janet Satyanathan...6	Kathryn Buller.....16	Brian Ingersoll.....22	
Darrel Middlewood .9	Jim McQuiston.....17	Daniel Gerard.....26	
Madeline Duggan....9	Josephone West.....18	Chloe Ingersoll.....26	
Kathy DeCiantis.....10	Peter Oswald.....18	Pema O'Neill.....26	
Adrian Brokenshire.11	Kathy Davis.....19		



AUGUST

Robert Brokenshire..2	Geoff Walter.....9	Richard Kenefic II..21	Ami O'Neill.....26
Bruce Papet.....2	Jan Hopper.....11	Helen Giles.....21	Kathryn Hassel....27
Liz Sinkovich.....3	Linda Lambert.....11	Quinn O'Neill.....21	Bob Westbury.....29
Olivia DeCiantis....4	Melissa Duggan.....13	Byron Converse.....22	Jon Burrell.....30
Sharon Sands.....7	Joe Hopper.....14	Joan Knapp.....25	Lou Mirzoian.....30
Paul McClendon....8	Emmett Duggan.....16		

We Ask Your Prayers for...

Linda Lou Jarvis	Judy Ford
Zoey Rose	Edith Richardson
Jim Sherman	Ron Gural
Michelle L'Hommedieu	Kelly Dampousse
Joe Simler	Kyle Merian
Sally Granger	Jane Young
Suzanne Ross	Jim Whitaker
Janet Satyanathan	Sonia Nihem
Harold Ford	Jackie Jakubowski,
Stacey Wesley	Tim Stanley
Tim Simon	Annabelle Grace Georges
Mary Boldt	Linda Dolan
Jenny Dolan	Susie Kowalski,
Dave Hack	Alice Brandon
Barb Kuspa	Richard Cremeans
Rick Lowery	Robin McClear
Thankom Thomas	Paula Vance
Joyce Vance	Thelma Depew
Jeralyn Burrell	Colin Davis
Mary Bandsuch	Betty Feighner
John Spates	Katie Yant

Those in the Armed Services

Nathan Cremeans—grandson of Barb Whitaker
 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. Please also let us know when they have recovered!

These Parish Families

6/3	Ed, Elaine and Amy Church Byron Converse
6/10	Arch and Kay Coran Colin and Kathy Davis
6/17	Ed, Kathy, Claire, Hannah, Evan DeCiantis Olivia and Gabriel DeCiantis
6/24	Donovan, Caroline, Brady, Keegan Dengler Bruce and Ardy Dostert
7/1	Daniel, Melissa, Maddie, Connor, Emmett Duggan Sharon Eck
7/8	David and Jan Eldon Marilyn Elwarnder
7/15	Alex, Erinma, Kamsi and Kachi Ezeugwa Sarah and Brian Fanning
7/22	Margaret Fielder Nancy Fischer
7/29	Steve, Corinne, Brent and Garret Fragnoli Jane Frank
8/5	Ken and Kris Fuhr Daniel, Tammy, Katelyn, Andrew, Brendan, and Emily Gerard
8/12	Marilyn Gilbert Alan, Helen, Kristin and Michael Giles
8/19	Liz Golding Sue Gore
8/26	Peter and Ruth Goulding Adrian and Bonnie Gross



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 wardens should respond to, please ask them if it's ok for you to call the office on their behalf.



How to Contact Us

Church Office (summer hours: Tues-Fri, 10 a—2 p)

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

Jacki Mudrich, Parish Administrator

office@ststephenstroy.org

Scott Armstrong, Senior Warden

248-860-0408; scottiem06@icloud.com

Justin Wojas, Junior Warden

248-641-1499; jpwojas@gmail.com

Sue Gore—Choir and Music Director

248-852-1379

Jim Trask, Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

Pam Bonkowski—Assistant to the Treasurer

bookkeeper@ststephenstroy.org

The Witness, Liz Sinkovich and Jacki Mudrich

witness@ststephenstroy.org

office@ststephenstroy.org

E-mail, bring to church or fax your articles to

248-641-8067

Deadline for the September edition is Aug 22.

Weekly Services:

Sat. 4:30 p.m.

Informal Service

Sun., 8 a.m.

Early Eucharist

Sun, 10 a.m.

Eucharist with Music. No Nursery care or Church school; they resume September 9

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 2018

