

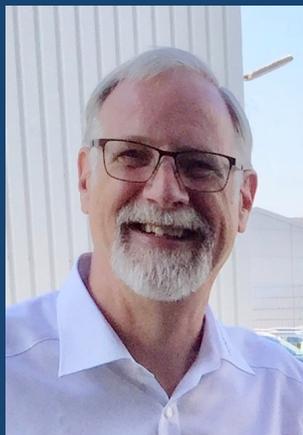


Senior Warden Message

We are not going back to church!

What? Got your attention didn't it! But it's true, we are not going "back" to church, we are going forward toward church. Toward a new attitude, a renewed desire for community and a need to be together in Christ – physically.

Our Bishop led a Warden's Town Hall meeting in late June and she talked about "Welcome Back" vs "Going Forward". She reminded us that we need to move ahead – in fact, we cannot go back. You've heard it said as many times as I have, "the new normal". I think that as we think about our relationship and engagement with St. Stephen's, this is a wonderful opportunity for us all to move forward in our faith journey. Moving ahead means we have to "do". St. Stephen's is us, and we will move St. Stephen's forward. It is Our Christian Community for a lifetime ... a lifetime Journey of Faith. And so we take another step



- ... we continue the journey we began in 1956.
- ... we embrace the "norm" ...
- ... continue to learn ...
- ... continue to engage; participate ...
- ... seek Jesus in our lives and our Community, St. Stephens.

Some of you will remember several years ago, we tried a new approach to Stewardship. We emphasized that each of our commitment to stewardship was a commitment made between ourselves and God. We made it a time for renewal. A renewed commitment to God, our Faith and our Community. I wrote a prayer for us to use at that time. I would like to remind you of it now as we pick up where we left off a few months ago and move forward to a richer, more engaged faith life.

Cont. on Page 3

A Message from the Pulpit

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Little did we know when we read the last issue of the Witness what the year 2020 had in store for us. Of course, we don't know what's in our future, but we usually don't expect to be devastated by it. The events of the past few months have rocked us to the core; and we ask ourselves, "What else can happen to us?"



COVID-19 turned our world upside down...the number of those who contracted the virus and the number of resulting deaths astounded us. Never have we seen anything like this. We literally closed down our lives in order to contain the spread of the virus, and it has worked. But as I write this, we are still living with social restrictions and we are unable to gather for our worship services.

Not only was the virus a catastrophe, but what followed was unimaginable...the civil unrest following the brutal murder of a black man by a police officer. We witnessed demonstrations... violent as well as peaceful...all across our nation.

Cont. on Page 2

Worship Service Returns: Sunday, July 5th

Message from the Pulpit

Cont. from Page 1

It pains me that, although our country was founded upon Christian principles, we, the people, have forgotten the Great Commandment...to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

White Privilege... a phrase that is being heard more each day...is something that many of my white brothers and sisters don't understand. Let me try to explain. As white people, we don't fear that when we leave our homes we may not come back. We don't fear for our lives when we are pulled over for a traffic stop. We aren't nervous when we drive through a white neighborhood that we don't live in. When we gather together in a group in public, we don't fear that others may consider our behavior suspicious. We don't worry that the color of our skin may make us targets of racial insults or physical assaults. And the list continues...

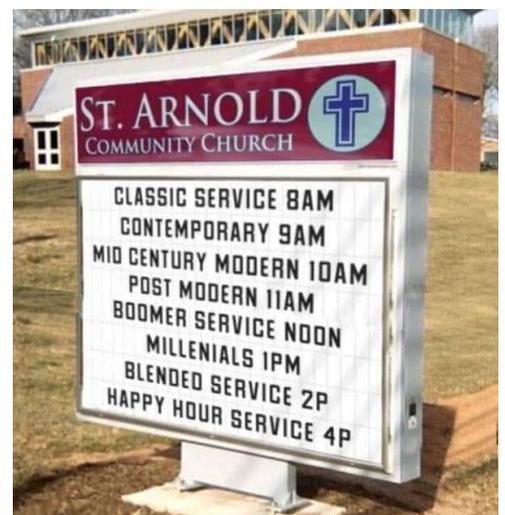
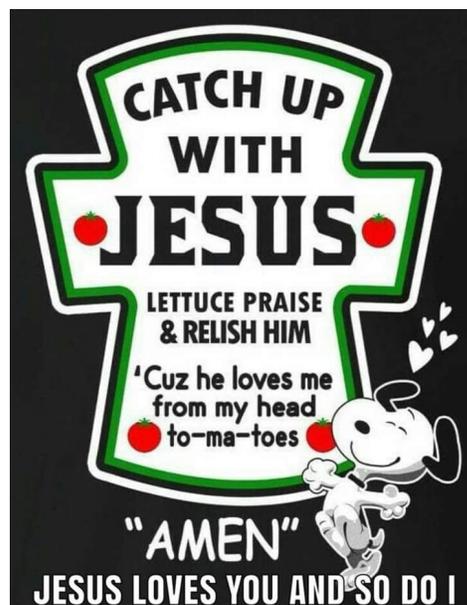
Many of us are blind to the plight of the person of color who has none of the "advantages" that our white privilege gives us. But these shouldn't be considered "advantages." No one should have these fears or worries in their lives. We should have the freedom to live as equals and to live together in harmony. That's what God desires.

It's common to hear someone say, "I have black friends. I'm not racist." My friends, we all need to educate ourselves about racism...what it really is... what it looks like...where it lives...how we can combat it. The world is not perfect...never will be...but we can make it better for all of us. Again, this is God calling us to do the work he has given us to do. It is not our place to judge others for any reason...especially for the color of their skin.

Let us open our minds and our hearts to the realities of life that people of color face each day. Let us learn of their experiences that are so different from ours and let us learn how we can break down the walls that divide us. Let us learn to work together, brother and sister, black and white alike. Let us do the work that God has given us to do!

Faithfully,

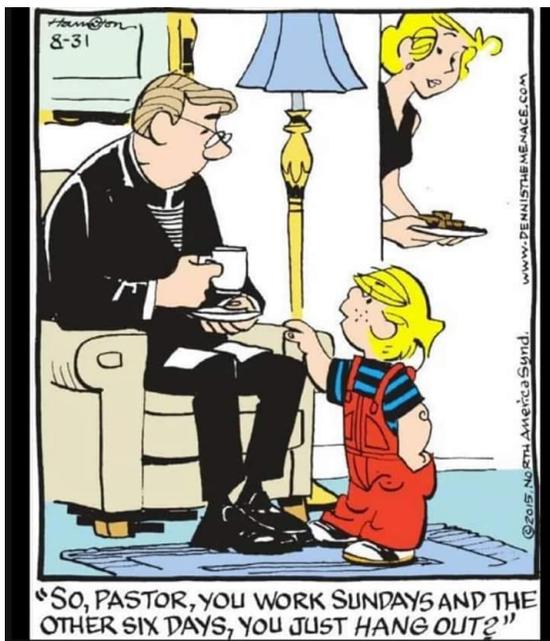
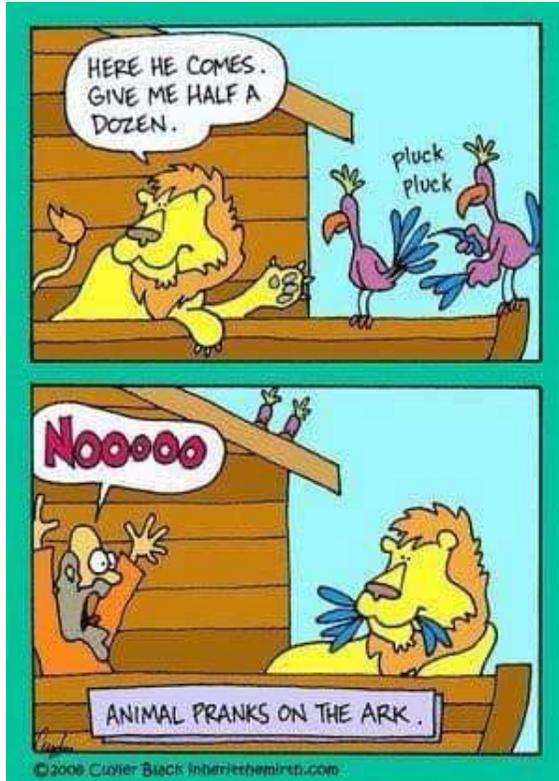
Mother Sharon



Editor Comment: The last one on the board has some potential

Thank You

We offer a HUGE thank you again, to Phil and Linda Pierce, and Mother Sharon for the fantastic job they did producing all the video content during the quarantine.



Senior Warden Message (cont)

Dear Father,

We come to you to adore you and praise you. You have given your Son to us and we struggle to understand your love. We have come together at St. Stephen's as a community of repentant sinners sorry for the injury we have caused you through our inattention to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Thank you for all the blessings you have given each of us, especially St. Stephen's, our Christian Faith Community. Help each of us to learn to share our abundance with others. Help us to know your will and demonstrate that knowledge in our daily lives. Teach us to be a community of Disciples eager for your word, ready to do your work.

As we have chosen St. Stephen's as our Christian Community, we do hereby signify our intent and commitment to follow your son Jesus Christ through active participation in the community of St. Stephen's parish. We will support its mission with our time, talents, and treasures to the best of our ability.

Recognizing that one must participate in a community to be a part of that community, and because Jesus has called each of us to active discipleship spreading his word; we pledge to active involvement in in our faith community.

To know your son Jesus is to love him; we each come to know you through him. Each of us must come to know Jesus better if we are to do your will. We pledge to participate actively, and to the best of our ability in some Educational, Spiritual, or Fellowship activity aimed at spiritual growth and personal discipleship.

Having accepted St. Stephen's as our Christian Faith Community, we understand and accept our role as its Steward. In the same manner as we want to give of ourselves for the well-being of our immediate families, so do we desire to commit ourselves to the continued well-being of St. Stephen's.

Lord Jesus, help each of us to live our lives as you have shown us. Give each of us the strength and courage to be your disciple and to fulfill the promises we've made to our Father. We ask your guidance and help as we work to share your word with others. We need your love and understanding as we struggle to honor these commitments to St. Stephen's our Christian faith Community. Amen.

I won't welcome you back. I'll invite you to join us with a renewed commitment to grow in Christ.

Dave Stein
Sr. Warden

Coronavirus Affects SOS for 2020

COVID-19 has impacted our lives in so many ways and it continues to challenge our daily activities. As we navigate our way through this unusual time, the uncertainty of the future forces us to think of new ways to accomplish tasks and attain our goals. Whether we are working from home, creating a home school to teach our children, or finding a new daily routine, Coronavirus has forced us to be adaptable and to look at life differently moving forward. Similarly, St. Stephen's is looking at new ways to reopen for services, fellowship, and most importantly, the ministries we share with each other and the community.

For many years, St. Stephen's greatest outreach ministry has been hosting the men, women, and children of South Oakland Shelter (Lighthouse of Oakland County). Lighthouse continues to serve people experiencing homelessness amidst the pandemic. Local churches and the volunteers who serve are the most valuable resource for Lighthouse to meet the needs of their clients. However, the safety of SOS guests and the safety of church volunteers have forced Lighthouse to cease rotation among local churches for the first time since 1985. Currently, emergency shelter is provided by area hotels and will continue for the foreseeable future until Lighthouse is confident the health and safety of its clients will not be compromised and hosting congregations can safely receive the guests. Nonetheless, to host SOS for one week requires a great deal of planning, preparation, energy and organization. We cannot make a successful week happen for our guests or the volunteers who serve this ministry on short notice, so this year we will serve our homeless neighbors in a new way.

In lieu of hosting SOS this year, St. Stephen's, with the assistance of our generous and compassionate congregation will make a monetary donation to Lighthouse of Oakland County/SOS to assist with the cost of hosting the clients that would have stayed with

us the week of September 20th. The cost of providing one guest shelter, meals, and services for one week is \$180. During the pandemic, Lighthouse is serving more individuals than ever before. The expanded emergency services are providing shelter for 64 single adults, parents, and children, and they anticipate serving many more. Lighthouse is providing individual rooms so guests can safely "stay in place" and quarantine as needed, while still receiving three daily meals, snacks, toiletries, clothing, and case management. In addition, Lighthouse is assisting 1,000 households each week by helping to provide families with seven days of food and other supplies so they can safely "stay in place". All of these services require funds to manage and maintain.

The faith community remains an incredibly important and stable partner for Lighthouse to continue their services in the community. **For our 2020 SOS ministry, please consider a making a monetary donation to SOS instead of your time and talents.** Our parish has always demonstrated amazing love and support of the clients we serve each September. Let's be sure to continue our longstanding tradition in a slightly different way this year. Until we are able to worship together at church, check donations made out to St. Stephen's with 2020 SOS noted in the memo line can be mailed to the church office.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
5500 North Adams Road
Troy, MI 48098

Stay safe and keep the faith,

Corinne Fragnoli & Miranda Spates
SOS Coordinators

We ask Your Prayers for the Following People

Jennifer Penokie	Emy Pheil
Jenny Dolan	Kenny Nelson
Linda Dolan	Bob Mayer
Linda Lou Vance	Emily Thompson
Shawna Collins	Ron Lee
Harold Ford	Marilyn Elwarner
Mary Bandsuch	Kay Smith
Greg Thompson	Michelle Walter
Zoey Rose	Pattee Saylor
Kay Novak	Terry Flynn
Mayme Oliver	Meghann Armstrong
Sue Sprague	Joe Havachek
Rick Lowery	Ron Goetzke
Theresa Martin	Joyce Vance
Bob White	Shirley Wallace
Robin Cameron	Jim Whitaker
Deputy David Hack	Jerome Wojas
Amy Ambrey	Lollo Klinger
Carol Mikols	Scott Caroll
Dorothy Langridge	

These Parish Families

7/5	Peter & Daryllyn Oswald, and Colton & Jack Jean & Erasmus Otto
7/12	Pauleen Ottenhoff Betty Padilla
7/19	Bruce & Nancy Papet Dom & Penny Piantedosi
7/26	Phil & Linda Pierce John & Debbie Pincura, and Kate
8/2	Joseph & Patricia Przeslawski, and Justin Rob & Amy Redmer and Kendra, Lexi & Blake
8/9	Jerred & Rachel Rich and Savannah Pat & Elizabeth Roberts, and Kate & Madelyn
8/16	Norma Ross Susan Russell
8/23	Lucinda & David Sabino Cheri Salanty
8/30	Indira Samuel Nalini Samuel

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
Rev. Major Michael Engler —friend of Kris Fuhr
Gordon Bagley - friend of Vida family
Capt. John Zimmer - friend of Vida family
Capt. Scott Wright - friend of Ann Williams

Birthdays

July

Name	Date
Erinma Ezeugwa	3
Norah O'Neill	5
Joey Pennington	6
Vickie Saylor	6
Luca Perod	8
Madeleine Duggan	9
Darrel Middlewood	9
Kathy DeCiantis	10
Adrian Brokenshire	11
Rob Redmer	13
Kathryn Buller	16
Jim McQuiston	17
Peter Oswald	18
Josephine West	18
Kathy Davis	19
Alex Ezeugwa	20
Jeremy Taylor	20
Brian Ingersoll	22
Chloe Ingersoll	26
Pema O'Neill	26
Daniel Gerard	26
Carol Jantz	28
Audrey Brokenshire	29
Kay Novak	30
Justin Wojas	31

August

Name	Date
Robert Brokenshire	2
Bruce Papet	2
Liz Sinkovich	3
Olivia DeCiantis	4
Sharon Sands	7
Paul McClendon	8
Geoff Walter	9
Jan Hopper	11
Linda Lambert	11
Melissa Duggan	13
Joe Hopper	14
Emmett Duggan	16
Helen Giles	21
Richard Kenefic II	21
Quinn O'Neill	21
Byron Converse	22
Joan Knapp	25
Ami O'Neill	26
Kathryn Hassel	27
Bob Westbury	29
Jon Burrell	30
Lou Mirzoian	30
Cathryn Hardy	31

Anniversaries

July

Name	Date
Daryllyn & Peter Oswald	4
Erin & Mike Brokenshire	8
Donna & Rod Johnson	11
Connie & Sandy Jose	12
Barb & Rick Spina	15
Corinne & Steve Fragnoli	21
Patricia & Joseph Przeslawski	21

August

Name	Date
Katheryn & Robert Thatcher	2
Erinma & Alex Ezeugwa	3
Helen & Alan Giles	24
Cheryl & Geoff Walter	25
Mardi & Jim Maxwell	28
Cathy & Bob Hoffman	31

Outreach Continues Despite Covid-19

St. Stephen's has continued to support our neighbors during Covid. We have delivered food weekly to Morse Elementary in Troy and to Lighthouse. Morse hands out food to 300-400 families each Friday. Lighthouse hands out food and other items (there is always a need for toilet paper and everything Food Stamps don't cover) to people throughout the week. An additional fundraiser for Lighthouse is the collection of cans and bottles, which have been redeemed for thousands of dollars.

On a more personal note, I have taken time off of work (when I can) to volunteer at Forgotten Harvest, which has daily drive by food giveaways all over Metro Detroit. People line up in their cars and food is put in their trunks. Every time I have worked, the line of cars goes further than you can see. Inside the cars are everyone you could imagine -- families with lots of kids to single elderly people, but they all need food. Forgotten Harvest does not ask for ID, just for peoples' zip codes, so they know where the need is greatest and plan more food distributions in that area. People are so appreciative and kind and patient. Several of the people I have spoken with told me they have donated to Forgotten Harvest in the past, but their circumstances have changed and now they are in need. Every time I work there I am deeply affected by the magnitude of the need in our community.

Thanks to everyone who has donated. Please keep the donations coming. We will continue to collect food, as well as paper, cleaning and hygiene products, and cans and bottles. Leave your donations outside the front door of the church.

Joan Morgan

Outreach Committee Chair

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.

Honoring our High School Graduates

We have three amazing graduates to honor this year, Pema O'Neill, Peter Burean, and Adrian Brokenshire. These young people have grown up at St. Stephen's and played important roles. They have helped with SOS, at Baldwin Center, been acolytes, helped with the youth auction and many other dinners and as a whole have been outstanding representatives of our youth here at St. Stephen's.

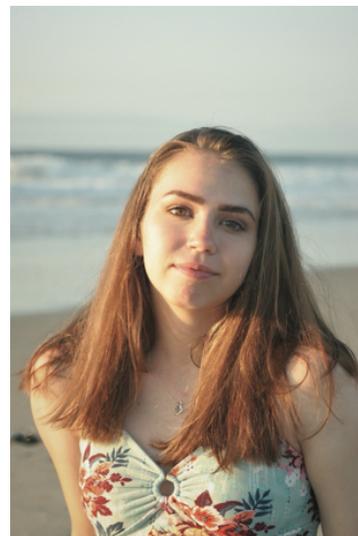
They would like to thank all their Sunday school teachers and leaders through the years who have guided their way. They also appreciate the support and encouragement everyone has given them verbally and through their support of the auction and other fundraisers.

We wish them every success in their next adventure.

Adrian Brokenshire

Adrian Brokenshire is a woman of many talents. She is talented in art, dance, mountain biking, and technical theatre. A graduate of the Troy High School class of 2020, Adrian has been attending St. Stephens since she was born on 7/11/02. She is generally quiet and reserved, but not afraid to work hard for success. She has always been a dedicated student, graduating with honors and a member of the National Honor Society. Adrian has taken dance from an early age, learning pointe before finally retiring to pursue other interests.

Many people at the church have known her to miss a service or two during the fall months as for the last several years she has been competitively mountain bike racing, racking up several titles and a pile of trophies. Adrian found herself getting drawn to the theater world, working on the running crew for school productions and becoming stage manager beginning in her junior year. This also led her to be an employee of the Troy School District technical crew. Adrian is headed to Michigan State University in the fall to study Film production.



Pema O'Neill

Pema O'Neill has been a student in the Troy School District for the past 13 years. She started out at Leonard Elementary where her favorite subject was recess and lunch. Once she had her fifth-grade promotion, she moved on to Smith Middle School where she was a cheerleading flyer (also known as the girl they toss in the air and hopefully catch before she hits the ground). Pema loved history and spent many hours researching and writing papers for extra credit. Then it was finally time for high school.

Pema has been a student at Troy High for the past four years. She has been a member of the Troy High orchestra and played the cello; her favorite piece was the Ashokan Farewell. Pema has been a member of Student Government and was on the executive board. She helped plan many events and helped run charity week where they raised over \$16,000 this year for elementary schools in Flint and Pontiac. Pema has also been a Link at Troy High-Links are students who help their special needs peers with classes. Pema is a hard worker and has had several jobs as she went through high school. At one point she was juggling three jobs and school at the same time.

Now Pema is officially a graduate, but it was not a typical senior year due to Covid-19. There was no Senior Prom, no All-Night Party, no Senior Clap-Out, no yearbook distribution for friend signatures, no Senior Trip, no walk across the stage to get a diploma. On the bright side, she did end her senior year with the first ever drive thru graduation ceremony in history! Yay Class of 2020!

Pema will be attending Oakland University in the fall and plans to study Biochemistry and Criminal Justice on the Pre-Law track.



Cont. on Page 8

Crafting Kindness

As you most likely realize, our June meeting and the July Craft Day are cancelled. Although we have not been able to get together to craft, many hands have continued crafting for others in need. I am especially thankful for the many neighbors, friends and family who have made over 900 masks and ear savers during this unusual time. In normal times, there are several projects during the year, however we are not yet back to normal. Right now, I would like to concentrate on one or two projects: Christmas socks and the Military Boxes for our church soldiers. There are also many kits available if you would like to work on those rather than the socks or boxes.

***Christmas Socks – kits contain enough felt for at least five socks and cuffs. This year there will be 2 sizes which will allow some room for slightly larger items. Donations will depend on the number of socks we make. Probable recipients will include Beaumont, Troy Children and Elder Centers first. Socks should be ready to stuff no later than October.

***Military Boxes – for the last 2 years, we have sent goodie boxes to the 9 soldiers on our military prayer list. There are bags, larger than we normally use, available. It would be possible for a lap quilt to fit into that bag. This lap quilt could be knitted, crocheted, or sewn. Nothing fancy, just an easy pattern. Or do you have other ideas for this project? Your thoughts would be appreciated. This project needs to be ready to send by first week of November.

***There are also kits waiting for you for chemo caps (knitting or crocheting), premie blankets-14"square-16"square (knitting, crocheting, sewn), child's quilt from 6" squares (sewn), love bears (sewn). There is a box of strips and small squares - design your own project, another box of strips 2-1/2" to about 4" design your own project. And finally the always waiting UFOs.

Barb Whitaker

248-373-9392

Barbwhitaker137@gmail.com

Peter Burean

Peter Burean attended Oxford Schools for his entire school career. Although he is quiet, he's a leader who has made a mark with his caring and thoughtful personality.

This kid is a joiner! He is a Boy Scout who earned his Eagle Scout rank in April. He has been active at St. Stephen's, serving as an acolyte for the last 10 years and volunteering extensively.

Peter loves school and never misses an opportunity to get involved. He has been part of the Marching and Jazz Bands and Track Team for all 4 years. Senior year, he didn't want to miss out on any opportunities, so he also joined Cross Country and Swim. He was really looking forward to Track season because he was in the best shape of his life and was excited to see how much he had improved.

Peter also is very active in National Honor Society and greatly enjoys tutoring elementary students as well as helping out at many community events. He is a top student who has challenged himself with many AP & IB classes during high school and has maintained over a 4.0 GPA even while having so much on his plate. He achieved the honor of being a Top Scholar, which means he is in the top 25 students out of his class of almost 500.

Peter is devoted to his family, including his parents, grandparents, little brother and cousins. He is a patient and thoughtful sounding board for his friends. He loves traveling to new places and learning about other cultures.

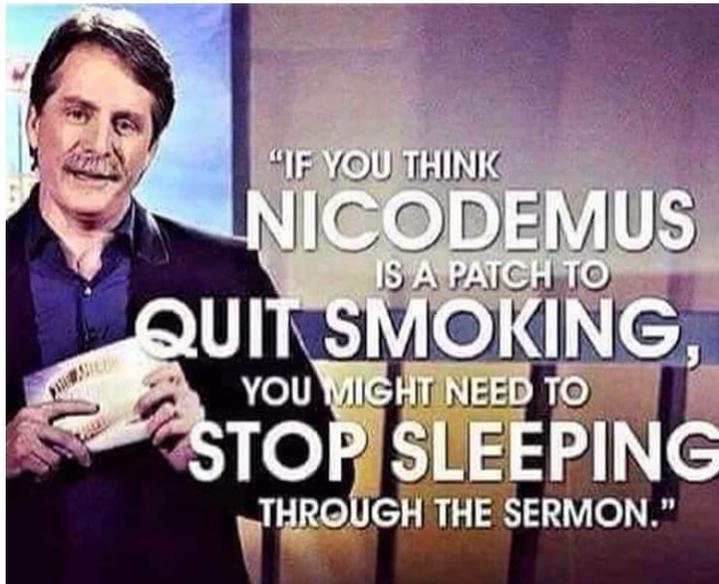
Peter plans to attend the Lee Honors College at Western Michigan University in the fall to study Business, and is looking forward to the next chapter in his life. He has loved growing up in this caring church community that has given him such a strong foundation on which to build future success!



Weekly Services

Sat. 4:30 p.m.	Informal Service
Sun., 8 a.m.	Early Eucharist
Sun, 10 a.m.	Eucharist with Music

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!**



Who's Missing?

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

How to Contact Us

Church Office Tel: 248-641-8080

Sharon Voelker, Priest in Residence

rector@ststephenstroy.org

989-600-8494 (Cell)

Ami O'Neill, Parish Administrator

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Sue Gore—Choir and Music Director

248-852-1379

Phil Pierce, Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

Pam Bonkowski—Assistant to the Treasurer

bookkeeper@ststephenstroy.org

Dave Stein, Senior Warden

248-346-4126; dcs53td@gmail.com

Ken Fuhr, Junior Warden

248-894-2614; kfuhrs3@gmail.com

The Witness: Rob Redmer and Ami O'Neill

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office@ststephenstroy.org

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

248-641-8067

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Road
Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will.

