



# THE WITNESS

## A NEW PRIEST FOR ST. STEPHEN'S!

Reverend Brian C. Alberti, former associate rector for Outreach at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida, has accepted the call to become the Priest -In-Charge of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Troy, MI. After a two and a half year process, our prayers have been answered. (continued on page 11)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

Today is October 28, and as I sit and write this, I am in sunny Florida... well, not so sunny this morning because it is spitting occasional rain. The heavy raindrops fall only when Gracie Anne announces dramatically that she needs to go outside to do her business! What am I doing in Florida, you might ask. Mostly I'm enjoying my long-overdue vacation while also recovering from successful breast cancer surgery. God is good and all is well! Yes, I have sunburn on my nose and sand between my toes...and a thankful heart!

Since I've been here at my beachside cottage, I've seldom looked at my calendar so I found it coincidental that a month from today...November 28...will not only be my last day in the pulpit at St. Stephen's but also is the First Sunday in Advent. an ending as well as a beginning.

It was nearly three and a half years ago when I first entered St. Stephen's to supply for a weekend's services. Little did I know then that an enduring relationship would be the result of that introduction. In the years that have passed, I feel that we have grown together in a good way. My leaving will be bittersweet for all of us...a sadness for my departure yet a promise of new, good things to come. (continued pg. 7)



### ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION

SING OUT for joy  
FIND OUT about a life of faith  
CRY OUT among friends  
BURST OUT laughing and  
REACH OUT to those in need

### ST. STEPHEN'S CORE PILLARS

- DOING CHRIST'S WORK IN THE COMMUNITY
- A NURTURING AND ACCEPTING FAMILY
- A GOOD LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
- TRADITION WITH A DIFFERENCE

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## ROB REDMER PASSES BATON AS WITNESS EDITOR



### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Buildings and Grounds** **Update by David Eldon**

The lights on the front sign and the two lights at the entrance and exit of the driveway were replaced with new LED's. There are five new LED lights for the sign, cross, and driveway.

The parking lot lights are not working now. The electrical line from the building to the light pole needs to be replaced. This will take some time and will be costly.

The south side of the parish hall roof is to be replaced starting Nov. 22. due to numerous leaks worn out repairs.

The church had a natural gas leak about three weeks ago. The lines in the Memorial Garden and the line from the furnace room to another room began to leak after 40-50 years of being underground. They were replaced, and the gas lines were installed all above the ground. This was a major project, with many bids, numerous phone calls and four working days to complete the project. All eight furnaces, the hot water heater, and the stove are all working now. Many thanks to Pat Wojas and Dave Eldon for their hard work in getting this job done as soon as possible.

P.S. Phase 1 of Adam's Road completed, Phase 2 resumes in spring and should be completed by May 2022. Both entrances to church are open now.

The Witness newsletter has been a staple for decades at St. Stephen's and has had several editors who have kept the publication vital in our parish. For the last several years, Rob Redmer has taken the helm and continued to provide periodic updates on the news of the parish as well as insights from the clergy and members.

Rob is stepping down as editor, passing the responsibilities on to Kris Fuhr and Norma Ross who recently volunteered for this important ministry. This came after several pleas were made during announcements and at other times by Dave Stein. Rob has continued to edit the Witness even though he is no longer attending St. Stephen's, as his worship home; he had been attending a Baptist church for some time and has become a member there.

This type of commitment by Rob to St. Stephen's is a familiar refrain. I remember so well the many years he spent in our Sunday school classrooms and leading youth groups, including leading the youth on Urban Adventures

in Chicago, canoeing and camping (not typically Rob's favorite activities) or being willing to participate in every silly game with the kids during lock-ins.

Rob has impacted their lives and ours over the years and made a lasting impression that he cares, God cares, and that kids at St. Stephen's are loved and cherished.

I know we will continue to see Rob enjoying many of our gatherings and supporting Amy, as she continues her ministries in our parish, so that's good news! Thanks, Rob, from all of us for your contributions over the years and most recently for keeping the Witness alive during these challenging times. It is just one more example of the blessings you have provided. *Ken Fuhr*



### THE SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS

November is the month of Thanksgiving. Not just the holiday, but the bounty of the harvest planted last spring and nurtured through the summer months. At St. Stephen's, it is also "harvest time" and a time to send God a Thank You card for all of our blessings. And we have been so blessed!! Even with the lingering effects of the COVID pandemic, we have been truly blessed. First of all, we have called a new priest! Fr. Brian Alberti will be joining us December 1st. We have also been so blessed with the steadfast and calming leadership of Mother Sharon these past 2+ years. We have been blessed with an excellent Vestry helping us navigate this crazy new world "normal". We have been blessed with generous hearts and helping hand keeping our outreach effort flourishing. We have begun to see the fruits of our work to reach out into the "digital community" through social media.

I offer my personal and most sincere THANK YOU to Mother Sharon for all she has given us through her love and ministry. While technically a part time priest, she has been anything but. Partly due to the pandemic, and partly out of need, but all out of dedication, she has shown us how innovative we can be in sharing Christ's message. Mother Sharon's most important gift to us was her ministry of healing that helped us to be ready to call our next pastoral shepherd. Mother Sharon's last Sunday with us will be Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Please join in the celebration of her parting Eucharist and then join us in the Fellowship Hall for a celebration of her time with us. (continued on pg.6)



THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET....  
 MEN'S BIBLE STUDY—CORRUPTION, DECEIT, MAYHEM,  
 AND LOVE By Jim Carnagie

God created men's bible study. We are told that the Bible is the word of God. So I read.

The Guinness Book of World Records states that since Gutenberg printed his bible in 1455 AD, more than 5 billion bibles have been produced. Worldwide, there are 80,000 different versions in 2,100 languages. I have 3 or 4 versions in my own house. But I never read them with intent.

So I read.

Why men's bible study now? After seven decades of religious education and experiences, I find myself in bible study every week. Five, six, seven, some times eight men around a breakfast table, reading the bible. But why? The reasons vary as much as the men at the table: accountants, engineers, salesmen, teachers, all men of like minds.

So I read.

In the bible I find familiar stories with familiar images: from Charlton Heston as Moses leading the Israelites from Egypt, to the rock opera's *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, to other great movies of Hollywood: *Exodus*, *The Ten Commandments*, *The Prince of Egypt*, to the great paintings of the masters. The stories of God and His people have been the obsession with creative types forever. We can see God in every movie theater, museum, and art institute in the world.

So I read.

I am not a Hollywood writer or director. I am not a creative musician. I am not an artist. But I have the compilation of the history of religion in the palm of my hand.

So I read.

I also found that the Old Testament tells the story of God's people, their trust in God, and the myriad of rules they lived by. Sometimes we find that these rules lead to so much corruption, deceit, bloodshed and murder that we would become wrung out with adrenaline. The history of God's people in the Old Testament is a conflicted one.

So I read.

Then I realized that, in contrast to the Old Testament, the "good news" Gospels of the New Testament give the message of Jesus. His message was foretold in the Old Testament books of Leviticus, Chapter 19:18 and Deuteronomy, Chapter 6:4-6. But the gospels of Mathew 22: 35-40, Mark 12: 28-34, and Luke 10: 27 bring it home that the two greatest commandments are these:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul,  
 and with all your mind."

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

"On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Then I knew why I read and why I am glad that God created men's bible study. Oh, yes, and the omelets and hash browns at Leo's Coney Island are pretty good, too.

PRAYERS FOR OUR  
 PARISH FAMILY

Long Term Prayer Concerns:

Meghan Armstrong, Mary Band-  
 such, Tyler Braidwood, Alice Bran-  
 don, Bonnie Broadhead, Steve  
 Brokenshire, Claudia Chittenton,  
 Marge Coughenour, Colin Davis,  
 Jenny Dolan, Betty Feighner, Ron  
 Goetzke, Sherry Hyrkas, Greyson  
 Ingersoll, Kenneth Ingersoll, Barb  
 & Dick Jackson, Charles Jackson,  
 Robert Langridge, Helene Livitsky,  
 Rick Lowery, Michael Monterosso,  
 Dylan Moose, Kim Morrow, Kenny  
 Nelson, Zoey Rose, Sallie Salanty,  
 John Spates, Diane Staudacher,  
 Michelle Walter, Sophie Wasik,  
 Inge Wojas, Jerome Wojas, Julie  
 Wojas, Katie & Tristyn Yant, Ed  
 Yates

Military List:

Ian L'Hommedieu, Stephen  
 L'Hommedieu, Jim Sands, Kyle  
 Rogowski, Nathan Cremeans, Gor-  
 don Bagley, and Capt. John Zim-  
 mer

Parish Cycle of Prayer

11/7/2021

Jean & Erasmus Otoo  
 Peter & Daryllyn Oswald

11/14/2021

Pauleen Ottenhoff  
 Bruce & Nancy Papet

11/21/2021

Dom & Penny Piantedosi  
 Phil & Linda Pierce

11/28/2021

John & Debbie Pincura  
 Joseph & Patricia Przeslawski

12/5/2021

Amy Redmer  
 Jerred & Rachel Rich

12/12/2021

Pat & Elizabeth Roberts  
 Vergil & Sharon Robosan

12/19/2021

Norma Ross  
 Susan Russell

12/26/2021

Lucinda Sabino  
 Cheri Salanty

## FaceBook Pop-Up

As the world fights to figure everything out, I'll be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, saying good morning, keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, tipping generously, waving at police, sharing food, giving children a thumbs-up, being patient with sales clerks, smiling at passersby, and buying a stranger a cup of coffee. WHY? Because I will not stand to live in a world where love is invisible. Join me in showing kindness, understanding, and judging less. Be kind to a stranger, give grace to friends who are having a bad day, be forgiving with yourself. If you can't find kindness, BE kindness.  
*Attributed to Spencer Seim*

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop

NobleQuotes.com

## ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

### We need Vestry members!

We are looking for 4 new members to replace those whose terms are up at the end of the year. Please consider joining the leadership team of the parish. If you are interested in this important ministry, please contact Dave Stein or the church office.

### What does it mean to be on the Vestry?

First of all, it means you are part of the leadership team of the parish. You will help make decisions about our ministries, worship, and finances. You will also act as the liaison between the Vestry and one of our parish committees.

You will be part of a nine-member team tasked with leading the parish forward doing God's work for the benefit of our members and our community. You will be part of the team, including our clergy, who will work to create opportunities for the expression and growth of our faith, including the upkeep of the facilities.

The commitment you make to serve as a member of the Vestry depends somewhat on what you are willing to do.

However, there is a minimum expectation of about 50 hours/year.

### A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Over the past several weeks, I have been blessed to serve at the altar as a worship leader conducting Morning Prayer. As someone not born into the Episcopal tradition but married to a cradle one, I have come to love the Book of Common Prayer and the services contained within. Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline are dogeared in my personal prayer book that Ken gave me in 1977 when I was received into the Episcopal Church at St. John's Chapel on the campus of the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. As an educator of history, the Episcopal Church has always been a source of pride with its rich traditions that were carried here by Anglicans on the English ships. Living close to Philadelphia allowed me to dig around in the archives of both Christ Church and St. Thomas' while I wrote my thesis on the founding fathers and the influence of the organization of the Episcopal Church and an essay on the Reverend Absalom Jones. Since 1977, I have been blessed to serve in many roles in many other parishes and dioceses. My 44 years in this denomination have led me on a great spiritual pilgrimage that continues. I've met Bishop Desmond Tutu, author Madeline L'Engle (she signed several of my books), Father Michael Curry (before he became the primate), and many less famous fellow pilgrims on the journey. I can truly say, "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for" (Romans 1:8) The Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's Troy for these many years of blessings. *Kris Fuhr*

- ◆ St. Stephen's Vestry Retreat & Orientation 6 hrs.
- ◆ Diocese Vestry Retreat (recommended) 6 hrs.
- ◆ Safe Church (required on-line training) 4 hrs.
- ◆ Monthly meetings (2 hrs. each month) 24 hrs.
- ◆ Committee liaison work (flexible) 12 hrs. +/-

In your role as the committee liaison you will be the link between the committee chairperson and the Vestry. For instance, if the committee needs access to resources beyond their planned budget, you would bring those requests to the Vestry for action.

Monthly Vestry meetings begin with a prayer. The members may share a personal reflection before moving on to the monthly business of approving the previously submitted minutes, treasure's report, and Rector's report, with any amendments as needed. The ministries of our parish and current issues are discussed and the meeting concludes with a closing prayer.

Faith  
Hospitality  
Mercy  
Discernment  
Knowledge  
Writing  
Leadership  
Administration  
Exhortation Service

## ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS NOVEMBER 7

One of the seven principal feasts, All Saints' traditionally begins at vespers on All Hallows' Eve (Oct. 31, right about the time the neighborhood kids are showing up in costume to ask for candy) and continues through the following day. Many of the traditions surrounding All Hallows', All Saints', and All Souls' (or the Feast of the Faithful Departed, November 2) have been confusing and condensed into one of those three days. If a church desires, All Saints' may be celebrated "on the Sunday following November 1, in addition to its observance on the fixed date."

Despite its association with Halloween, a feast day of remembrance for all the saints and martyrs predates by far any of our modern Halloween traditions. Formal observation is said to have begun in Ireland, gradually moving south toward Rome and being made "official" during the 9th century. Informally, similar celebrations have been part of the life of the church since its early days, with mentions as far back as 270. For a church beleaguered with great persecution, such a time of remembrance of those who faithfully professed Christ, even to torture and death, must have been a great encouragement! Today, All Saints' is celebrated in many Christian traditions worldwide.

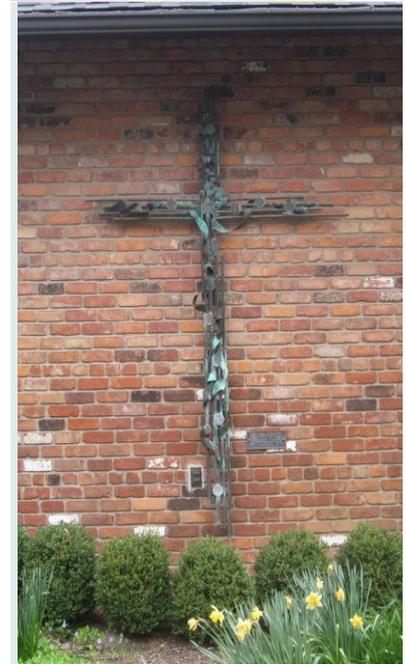
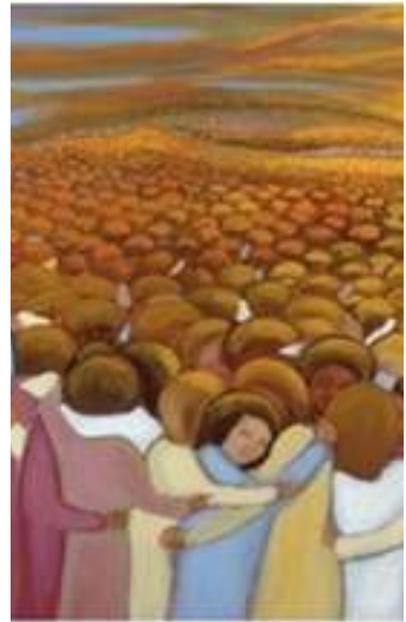
On Sunday, November 7th, St. Stephen's will be remembering our loved ones who have died in the past year, as well as all the saints and souls who have gone before us. May light perpetual shine upon them.

Researched by Kris Fuhr and based on articles by Drew Nathaniel Keane ([livingchurch.org](http://livingchurch.org)) and Tai French ([anglicancompass.com](http://anglicancompass.com))

## ALL SAINTS & ALL SOUL'S DAY REMEMBERANCES

These faithful souls were remembered at the altar on November 7, 2021. *May the souls of the departed rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon them.*

Rosemary Berger, Art Bowman, Mary Lou Bryson, Gery and Kenny Cogswell, Kay Coran, Adam Craver, Lynn Francis Drury, Dean Eldon, Jane Frank, Charlotte Jean Gondert, Theodore Richard Gondert, Adrian Gross, Barbara Hubert, Dorothy Langridge, Doug Latkowski, Felicia Latkowski, Charles Lusby, Kenneth Morley, Robert Novosel, Mayme Oliver, Paul Omilian, Walter Owens, Betty Padilla, Daisy Reese, Elissa Richardson, Ernest Silversmith, Helen Slater, Roland Somerville, AJ Stewart, Jeremy Taylor, Kathryn Thatcher, John Thunder, Joan VanOsdol, Shirley Verhelle, Shirley Wallace, Jim Westenbarger, and Jim Whitaker



**OUR PARISH FAMILY  
CELEBRATES THE  
BIRTHDAYS OF**

Melissa Hardy	11/1
Elaine Church	11/2
Bill Langridge	11/4
Amy Redmer	11/5
Kendra Redmer	11/5
Shankar Sundareson	11/5
Kachi Ezeugwa	11/7
Lee Bennett	11/8
Nico Period	11/8
Ed Church	11/9
Patricia Przeslawski	11/12
James Elwarner	11/13
Karen Morley	11/14
Shannon Weigant	11/19
Brent Fragnoli	11/21
Lani Nolan	11/21
Margaret Fielder	11/22
Anthony Johnson	11/22
Gio Period	11/22
Paula Somerville	11/24
Joanne Gondert	11/25
Joan Thunder	11/25
Claire Grutta	11/28
Tom Borowski	11/29
Norah Brumfield	11/29
Kate Pincura	11/29
Val Thompson	11/29
Kris Fuhr	12/3
Steve Brandon	12/6
Jerred Rich	12/6
Joan Morgan	12/7
Sudhaker Samuel	12/11
Miranda Spates	12/11
Indira Samuel	12/12
Mardi Maxwell	12/14
Penelope Baker	12/19
Linda Pierce	12/23
Rick Spina	12/23
Michael Szott	12/25
Sharon Miller	12/26

## ENGLISH HIGH TEA ENJOYED BY LADIES

On October 14th, Tonia's Victorian Rose Restaurant & Tea Room on 3rd Street in Rochester MI was the place to be, as 15 ladies of St. Stephen's enjoyed high tea, a beautiful setting, perfect service, and great conversation. The Victorian Lady was built in the 1880-90s and has housed several families, along with businesses over many years of looking at Rochester's downtown changes.

Tonia Carsten has owned Tonia's for just the past five years, two of which have been very challenging due to

Covid. She manages a skeleton crew of a chef and additional server, but you would never know it, as everything was timed perfectly and tasted wonderful. We can't say enough about the wonderful afternoon we spent, except "Let's do it again soon!" and we will. Special thanks to Jill Stein and Kris Fuhr for coordinating the event.



## SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS (CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

Thank God and Father Brian for accepting our call! We are ready and eager to welcome him, not only continue our ministries, but to seek out new relevant ministries as Disciples of Christ. Father Brian's first Sunday with us will be December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join him in the celebration of his first Eucharist with us, and, yes – another party afterward!

I also thank all the members of our Interview Team who spent the last two and a half years on the roller coaster ride that is inherent in the search process. Led by Ken Fuhr, the team also included Steve Fragnoli, Karol Sprague, Alice Moss, Sandy Jose, Alan Giles, Claire Grutta, and Miranda Spates.

Finally, I thank all of our members for continued prayers, support, and faithful stewardship to our Household of God. Your continued commitment to the ministries of St. Stephen's and the love and caring you have for each other is all the proof I need to know God is amongst us. Indeed we have much for which to be thankful.

Peace,  
Dave Stein

## FROM THE PULPIT (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

Advent is the season prior to the celebration of the birth of our Savior. It's a time for us to quietly examine what is in our hearts and minds and to prepare to welcome Jesus once again into our lives. Advent also marks the beginning of a new liturgical year for us and, as we will read and hear different passages of Scripture each year, it allows us to read the Bible in a three-year period. A good beginning! And a good time to welcome your new shepherd who will walk with you in your journey to God.

My personal Advent will evolve as I transition from the pulpit to the pew. I will always be a priest no matter where I sit in church. During my seminary studies, a well-respected priest told me that once the Bishop laid hands on me and ordained me to the priesthood, the word "priest" would be indelibly etched on my soul. That's serious stuff and not to be taken lightly, so I'll follow the direction God gives me (or pushes me into...we have a history, God and me!)

Advent is a beautiful, holy time created by our church fathers so that we may properly prepare ourselves for the wonder of the birth of Jesus. It is a season for us to purposely set aside time for personal reflection and prayer so that we might learn what God desires for each of us personally. It is, most importantly, a time for us to bring Jesus more fully into our lives by what we say, what we do, and what we believe. I hope you find this Advent to be a period of renewal and refreshment and contentment and that you will feel Jesus walking alongside you wherever you may be.

May God's blessings be upon you!

Sharon+

## GREETINGS FROM GRACIE ANNE

Hi Folks...

Well, let me tell you... That huge bath tub filled with water and surrounded by an enormous sand box...you can have it!!! Honestly... sand all over me, especially my feet, and crashing water logs that you can't believe! The only good thing about that sand box is the dead fish! Mom won't let me roll on them (but I did get real close once!)

But I am having fun. There are these little things with four feet and a long tail...there are so many of them and they run so fast that I can't catch them. Another fun thing is the little round things that fall from the trees. If I'm really quick, I can stuff three of them in my mouth and get back in the cottage to chew them before Mom finds out. We went to a place where I can run around without being on my leash. That was marvelous...so many different smells! I think we are going to go there a lot while we're here.

Well, it's time for another nap. This thing called vacation really tuckers me out! See you when I get back!

Barkingly yours,

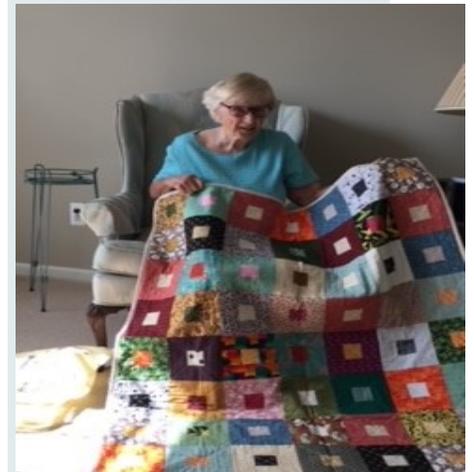
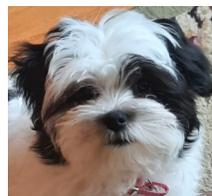
Gracie Anne

## CRAFTING KINDNESS UPDATE BY JILL STEIN

Crafting Kindness has been busy remotely, and we have resumed our meeting again at St. Stephen's on October 30th.

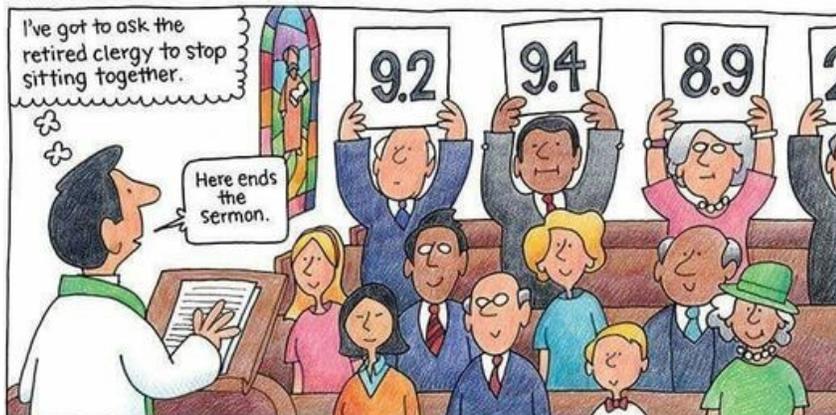
We will have washable hand quilted placemats that will be delivered to Troy in November. The group has received lots of help from a few other quilt guilds and churches; together we have shared God's love by sharing 400 placemats that will be distributed with "Meals on Wheels" Thanksgiving dinners!

Our December end of year meeting TBA.



## A BIT OF HUMOR TO LIGHTEN THE DAY

### SERMON REVIEWS



This cartoon is brought to you by your Morning Prayer Worship Leaders: Scott, Kris, Miranda and Linda. Enjoy!

### Top Ten Reasons For Being An Episcopalian

(according to Robin Williams, that is)

10. No snake handling. 9. You can believe in dinosaurs. 8. Male and female, God created them; male and female, we ordain them. 7. You don't have to check your brains at the door. 6. Pew aerobics. 5. Church year is color coded! 4. Free wine on Sunday. 3. All of the pageantry, none of the guilt. 2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized. And the number one reason for being an Episcopalian: 1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you.

*“Do you know why Episcopalians are lousy chess players? Because they don't know the difference between a Bishop and a Queen!”*

### A MONTHLY MEDITATION TO PONDER ON

“Now, may our God be our hope. He who made all things is better than all things. He who made all beautiful things is more beautiful than all of them. He who made all mighty things is more mighty than all of them. He who made all great things is greater than all of them. Learn to love the Creator in His creature, and the Maker in what He has made.”

Saint Augustine, p. 136

An excerpt from

Augustine Day by Day

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THANKSGIVING WITH JOAN THUNDER

**Thanksgiving Around the World....well, not exactly.** Although a celebration of the harvest is common in most religions in the world, Thanksgiving, as we know it, is a uniquely American holiday. According to an eyewitness on November 25, 1621, Plymouth colonists, grateful to have survived a miserable ocean voyage and to have found a home in the new world, were joined by friendly Wampanoag Native Americans to celebrate and stuff themselves in a three-day feast. The menu was pretty much the same then as now, including various animals of the forest and an array of delicacies such as lobster, seal, and swans. Recipes for stuffed seal are rare. A phone call to Joan Thunder verified that, indeed, Thanksgiving is not a tradition in the U. K. In her own charming accent, Joan confirmed that Harvest Festival has long been celebrated in the Anglican church in England each September. Joan should know; members of her family have belonged to the Church of England since 1674! Thanksgiving is not a holiday in England, but they might have been thankful to be rid of those pesky Pilgrims. In America, Thanksgiving was officially proclaimed by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, and hence has been a national holiday each year in November. (For more information see <https://www.history.com/topics/thanksgiving/history-of-thanksgiving>) Norma Ross



## FROM THE KITCHEN OF...JANE WELLMAN

Recently, St. Stephen's Fellowship Hours after the 10 Service have featured the delectable treats of Baklava from Jane Wellman's loving hands. She does have some help from Mike as her chopper. Here is what Jane says, "I wish I could say it is an old family recipe but a few years ago, we found it on the internet. In fact, I do not have any Greek in my DNA. My father was born in Poland and my mother in Chicago. We liked this recipe because it called for a 9 x 13 Pyrex dish. Before, I made Baklava in a 12 x 15 heavy baking pan and it was a nuisance to have to use two sheets of Filo on each layer. It isn't a hard recipe, but I find it is much easier to make if two people are involved. Mike usually chops the nuts and makes the top-ping. That way, he can say its his recipe and he made it. When Mike retired 25 years ago, he took over the kitchen. I do most of the baking except for pies, and he does most everything else. It works for us!"

### BAKLAVA



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (16 ounce package of phyllo dough)
- 1 pound chopped nuts
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup honey

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Butter the bottom and sides of a 9 x 13 glass dish.
3. Unroll phyllo dough. (Keep dough covered with a damp cloth as you work.)
4. Place 2 sheets of dough in dish and butter thoroughly. Do this 3 more times. (8 layers)
5. Sprinkle that layer with the nut mixture.
6. Add two more sheets of phyllo, butter and add nut mixture.
7. Repeat at least two more times. (Use up all the nut mixture)
8. Doing two sheets at a time with butter on top, use up the rest of the phyllo.
9. Use a sharp knife and cut the diamond shapes. Cut 4 long rows and then cut diagonally. Put any extra butter on top.
10. Bake about 50 minutes, until golden and crisp.
11. Make sauce while the baklava is baking.
12. Boil sugar and water until sugar is melted.
13. Add vanilla and honey. Simmer for about 20 minutes.
14. Remove baklava from oven and immediately spoon sauce over it
15. Let cool. Serve in cupcake papers.

*"An Episcopalian divine once told the Pope that the only difference between their denominations was that "the Church of Rome is infallible and the Church of England is never in the wrong." ~ Benjamin Franklin*

## ANGLICAN-EPISCOPAL TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Our primary weekly worship service since 1979 has been the Eucharist. However, from October 3rd until November 7th, we will worship using the service of Morning Prayer, the traditional main service at many Episcopal Churches that includes scripture readings, Apostles Creed, prayers, and a sermon. Morning Prayer has been revived among many Episcopal churches during the pandemic and in churches such as St. Stephen's where an ordained priest is unavailable for a period of time. Historically, the Eucharist form of worship came in the tradition of the Roman Catholic church, as it was instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper. The Eucharist was originally only required twice a year to be members in good standing of the Church of England, and later the Episcopal Church USA. Despite a prejudicial view of the weekly Eucharist

that was considered "Romish," a group of English seminarians and later theologians created what came to be called the Oxford Movement, hoping to reclaim the beauty of the Roman traditions - not only surrounding the Eucharist, but other facets especially liturgy, vestments, Holy Day observances, and others. The Eucharistic theology was complicated, but still closer in substance to the Catholic doctrine. Scripture was translated into English with a new prayer book (Called the Book of Common Prayer) written by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer to create uniformity in worship among the English Churches and their expanding colonies.

based on a blog by  
*The Rev Bernie Poppe, Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Church, Worcester, MA.*



## CONTACT US

### Office Staff:

office@ststephenstroy.org

Main phone 248-641-8080

- \* Sharon Voelker, priest  
rector@ststephenstroy.org  
Cell-989-600-8494
- \* Ami O'Neill, parish  
administrator  
office@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Sue Gore, Choir & Music Dir  
sakgore@comcast.net  
248-852-1379
- \* Phil Pierce, Treasurer  
treasurer@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Pam Bonkowski, bookkeeper  
bookkeeper@  
ststephenstroy.org

### Vestry:

- \* Dave Stein, Senior Warden  
dc53td@gmail.com  
248-346-4126
- \* Ken Fuhr, Junior Warden  
kfuhrs3@gmail.com  
248-894-2614
- \* Joan Morgan, Clerk  
clerk@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Don Ingersoll, Admin,  
Finance & Stewardship
- \* Joan Morgan, Building and  
Grounds  
building-grounds  
@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Alice Moss, Hospitality  
hospitality  
@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Paula Sommerville, Adult  
Faith  
Adult-faith  
@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Kathy DeCiantis, Outreach  
outreach@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Dave Stein, Public Relations
- \* Miranda Spates &  
Sheryl Schmitt, Pastoral Care  
caring@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Rev. Sharon & Ken Fuhr,  
Senior Transportation Assist
- \* Rev. Sharon, Worship
- \* Ken Fuhr, YACYM

### The Witness

- \* Norma Ross & Kris Fuhr,  
editors  
witness@ststephenstroy.org
- \* Ami O'Neill, Publisher  
office@ststephenstroy.org

Email, bring to church or fax your  
articles

## ADVENT HAPPENINGS

### *Holiday Brass Detroit*

is presented by The Detroit  
Chamber Winds and Strings on  
December 5, 2:00 P.M. at St. Mat-  
thew and St. Joseph's Episcopal  
Church, 8850 Woodward Avenue,  
Detroit, 48202.

Ticket prices: \$30.00; Seniors  
\$25.00. Order by phone 248-  
559-2095 Monday through Fri-  
day between 11 A.M. and 3 P. M.

Proof of final COVID vaccination  
or negative results within 72 hours  
of the event. Masks required at all  
times.



St. Matthew and St. Joseph's Epis-  
copal Church is well loved by St.  
Stephen Stephen's parishioners  
due to our association thru  
Margaret Anderson.



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE NEEDED

WE ALL ENJOY A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS.

Please help make this year as wonderful as ever. You can donate in someone's  
memory, to commemorate, honor, or just to the Glory of the coming of our Lord.

See forms in the bulletin and in the church office.

Please put "Altar Flowers" on the note line of your check.

Please plan to stay after the 12/19 10am service and help  
decorate our church for Christmas!

THANK YOU—St. Stephen's Altar Guild



## ST. STEPHEN'S FIRST "ANNUAL" COOKIE EXCHANGE SUNDAY DECEMBER 12 AFTER 10 O'CLOCK

In place of Advent by Candlelight this year, the first Cookie Exchange is planned after the 10 o'clock  
service on Sunday, December 12th (The Rose Sunday). Fellowship Hour will be a Cookie Monster's  
delight. To participate, please bring the following to make this a very special event:

1. 5 dozen cookies. (Two dozen will be shared for fellowship hour and three dozen will be ex-  
changed with those participating. **It is important to indicate if the cookies contain  
nuts .**
2. An empty container to fill with your exchanged cookies.
3. An attitude of fun, as we shall be sharing cookies, drinking coffee, tea, or hot chocolate and  
singing Christmas Carols with Sue Gore!

If you have any questions, please see Jill Stein, Linda Pierce, or Corrine Fragnoli

## A NEW PRIEST FOR ST. STEPHEN'S (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Father Brian received his B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, his Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC, His Master of Sacred Theology from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in Columbia, SC and his Diploma in Anglican Study from the University of the South in Sewanee, TN. Father Alberti was ordained in 2009 and received as a priest in the Episcopal Church on May 2018. St. Stephen's gratefully thanks the Search Committee (Ken Fuhr, chair, Stephen Fragnoli, Karol Sprague, Alice Moss, Sandy Jose, Alan Giles, Claire Grutta, and Miranda Spates) for their due diligence and dedication to the process. The vestry voted at a special session on October 3rd to issue the call based on the recommendation of the committee. With grateful hearts we applaud the efforts of all.

A Welcome Coffee Hour is being planned for Father Brian's first Sunday with us on Sunday, December 5th following the 10:00 service.

### Opening Prayer for Vestry (from October meeting)

Heavenly Father look with favor upon our gathering tonight as we prepare for the next leg of St. Stephen's faith journey. Help us as we begin our journey to a future where we better serve you, our neighbors, and our fellow parishioners. A journey that enables us to grow our influence and sustainability into the future.

As we prepare to welcome Fr. Brian to our faith family, please give him and us the vision to see our potential together and the new reality we face in our rapidly changing world.

Give us the wisdom to understand how this reality affects people's growing desire to have more meaning in their lives. Help us to provide opportunities for our members and our neighbors to find the relationships and ministries that provide that meaning.

Help us to successfully invite, welcome and connect with seekers.

And Father, give us the courage to try new things and accept the changes that may be required to move us closer to our full potential. And give us the energy and the grace to do those things we know in our hearts must be done.

In Jesus name we pray...Amen

Written by Don Ingersoll

## OUTREACH NEEDS FOR NOVEMBER

A long-standing tradition at St. Stephen's is to provide Thanksgiving Bags for those less fortunate. Please give as you are able during this month of gratitude.

For Baldwin Center (see list) and the Due Date is December 1st

Cornbread mix, dessert mixes, stuffing mix, macaroni and Cheese (prefer Velveeta or similar type), gravy mix, instant mashed potatoes, green beans or canned corn, canned sweet potatoes, boxed cereal

Lighthouse wants people to donate through Amazon or write a check to St. Stephen's and put Lighthouse in the memo line. Outreach will then purchase for Lighthouse. Outreach is not collecting cans and bottles at this time.

### OUR PARISH FAMILY CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARIES OF

DONNA & RICHARD BRONSTEEN  
11/10

MARTHA & MICHAEL SZOTT  
11/11

LUCINDA & DAVID SABINO  
11/28

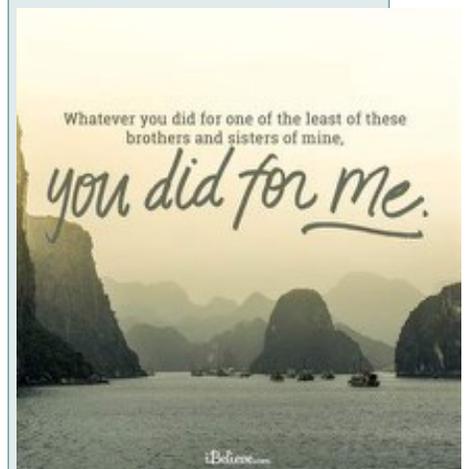
JAMES & RUTH LUZOD  
12/4

INGE & PAT WOJAS 12/15

ELIZABETH & PATRICK ROBERTS  
12/18

JANE & MIKE WELLMAN  
12/26

DENNIS & MARY BISHOP  
12/27





### **SOS UPDATE Amazing Giving! How high can we go?** By Dave Stein, Sr. Warden

Last year we raised and donated over \$6,000 to help Lighthouse keep SOS alive through the pandemic. Earlier this year, I issued the challenge to you to raise \$8,000 for SOS. It is my view, that even though SOS has changed in ways that don't allow us to continue our hand-on SOS ministry, we can – and should – continue to offer significant financial support for this important ministry focused on helping those who are in need of a path toward their own home. Obviously, you agree!

I am thrilled to tell you that we have raised over \$9,000 and still climbing! **THANK YOU** all for your generous donations! Let's keep this going and see just how much we can give to this very important local ministry. While \$9,000 sounds like a lot, it takes \$7,000 to provide two meals per day for 100 guests per week.

Please make a contribution to SOS at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 5500 N. Adams Rd. Troy, MI 48098  
Please remember to write in "SOS gift" in the memo line.

## A RECAP OF THE 187TH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

Submitted with blessings by Alice Moss

The convention this year was entirely online, very easy to navigate. Though it would have been nice to interact in person, there were slide shows, testimonials, and the chat bar. I attended the workshop on Intercultural Development Inventory by Ellen Ekevog & Terri Pilarski, who noted the following about our relationships with others:

- Basically: 1) What we see culturally on the surface; language, art, food.
- 2) What lies below; concepts, world view, religion, cultural traditions.

As a church, we have to be clear about our values; to look and understand what is below the surface; not to debate or challenge, but to really listen respectfully. Welcome people to our church not to become like us, but what they can add to us. (as well as what we can offer them).

Through a presentation on The College for Congregational Development. (a training program offered through the Diocese). I gleaned these messages:

Be the best of the church that we are. (don't need to reinvent)

Identify issue—obtain a clear objective.

Help each other (learn from other churches).

What a congregation needs today.

We voted for candidates for offices. The Very Rev. Chris Yaw is still the Dean of our Deanery. More results will be on the edomi website. (<https://www.edomi.org>) The diocese budget is balanced and approved.

Bishop Bonnie Perry gave a wonderful sermon on moving forward, and how Covid has taught us a new way.

## OUTREACH DURING COVID

BY JOAN MORGAN

When Covid started, I began working remotely. Lots of people did not have this luxury. Through Pastor Manisha, I started passing out food at pop up food pantries throughout metro Detroit run by Forgotten Harvest. It was heart breaking to see hundreds of cars lined up to get a box of food.

I also started collecting food for Lighthouse, which opened new pop-up food pick-up locations. I dropped off a carload of food, diapers, paper products, and whatever else they told me they needed each week. When I went back to work in person, I continued to drop off, but only on Saturday mornings. Lighthouse also delivers boxes of food to homebound people and those who don't have a car to pick it up.

I've had some great experiences doing this. More than once, someone at a store will ask me why I'm buying such great volume of whatever I'm buying that day and, when I explain what I'm doing, they pay for my purchases, allowing me to buy even more.

Some weeks I'm able to use money donated by generous parishioners, and sometimes I spend my own money to do this. We haven't missed a week in the past 20 months, and I won't stop these donations until the need is met. I plan to continue for a very long time.

Outreach is collecting holiday food for Baldwin Center and Lighthouse now. You can drop off your donations (anything you would eat at Thanksgiving) at the church or write a check with "Lighthouse" in the memo line. Thank You.

## 2022 STEWARDSHIP LETTER

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

A year ago, the pandemic was making a mess of the world. Vaccines were not available, we had been without a full-time priest much longer than expected, social and religious interactions were unsafe and highly restricted, and our membership and revenues continued to decline. Uncertainty seemed to be the order of the day in every aspect of our lives.

Despite the adversity in the world and our neighborhood, members of the St. Stephen's family hungered for renewal and revitalization, but struggled to see a path forward.

However, God didn't put us on earth to give up! At a time when most organizations were struggling to stay afloat, your Vestry put together a plan that had the audacity to ask you to increase our total giving by 20%, and to commit to striving to keep our giving growing by 2% per year after that. Our faith in you was not misguided. We came within a few tenths of a percent of increasing our pledges by an amazing 20%.

Our faith and determination to succeed together, as shown by your pledges and continued giving, convinced the Diocese and priests considering a relocation, that we have faith in ourselves and the willingness to provide the resources needed, not just to sustain our presence, but to seek out opportunities for revitalization.

Here we are, one year later. Fr. Brian Alberti is preparing to join our family of Christian soldiers. Only God knows what we will be able to achieve together, but to succeed, we need funds to proceed. We need a new roof, but we need programs too, and they are not free.

It is hard to talk about, but we are an aging parish, so it is inevitable that from time to time we will have to pitch in a little more to continue the work of those who go home to the Lord.

First, I ask that you review your 2021 giving. Most pledges are up to date, but if you are not, please try to catch up. If you haven't pledged this year, please try to give at least what you gave last year.

For 2022, I am asking you to continue your efforts to support our promise to increase in overall giving. To achieve a 2% increase in giving over last year, we actually need to increase overall giving by something closer to 10% next year. As an example, if your pledge last year was \$1,200, a 10% increase would be an extra \$10 per month (the price of a small pizza).

As we look forward to a wonderful and exciting year ahead, ask your heart what you can give to help us fulfill our mission of Christ. Please fill out your Pledge Card and return it to the church before Sunday, November 21, 2021.

**Thank you** for your continued prayers and support of St. Stephen's in so many ways!

Peace, David Stein, Senior Warden



### **EVERYONE is Responsible for Keeping a Safe Church!**

For many years the Episcopal Church has provided programs to educate folks in how to avoid situations that could provide opportunities for actual abuse or misinterpretations of intensions that lead to feelings of abuse. Prevention is the key.

Some roles make it more important to know and diligently follow the rules. Thus, our clergy, Vestry, youth leaders/teachers and others who interact with kids or vulnerable adults have been receiving training regularly over the years.

The training provides logical things to do or not do that help minimize potentially dangerous situations and what to do when we encounter one.

The National Episcopal Church will soon introduce an updated version of its "SafeChurch" program. The training has updated content and is available via self-paced online modules that can be taken whenever convenient. People in some roles are required to take some or all the new modules, but anyone can sign up. The more everyone is aware of potentially troublesome situations, the safer everyone will be.

The National Church will issue guidance about which modules are required for specific church roles and will contact people in those roles to ensure compliance. The Diocese of Michigan is revamping its web page to accommodate the new registration process and update links to the Safe Church, Safe Communities training. We will let everyone know when these new features are available so you can sign up if interested.

*For more information contact Don Ingersoll who is our liaison for this program with the diocese or Sister Veronica Mary [sistervee@edomi.org](mailto:sistervee@edomi.org)*



## PETER BUREAN COMPLETES EAGLE AWARD

Peter Burean was recognized recently, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at his Eagle Court of Honor. Peter became an Eagle Scout last year, but the ceremony was delayed because of Covid. For his Eagle project, Peter built and installed owl houses along the Polly Ann Trail.



### A NOTE FROM EVAN DECIANTIS

I am very excited to begin helping with YAC activities! I had the pleasure of growing up in the church and learned a ton from my experiences. I went on mission and pilgrimage trips and look forward to spending time helping St. Stephen's youth experience the connections made in these experiences.

Now that the world is opening again, we are looking forward to getting back to youth activities, service, and outreach.

We recently went to Tree Runner Adventure Park and spent the day zip lining and balances through the ropes course. We are currently planning a Christmas party with the group and are looking forward to many more activities.



## YOUTH TO TAKE PILGRIMAGE TO PUERTO RICO

WOW! The Youth Group is going to Puerto Rico!

YACYM is planning a fantastic mission/pilgrimage trip to Puerto Rico July 5-11. The highlights will include helping hurricane victims, swimming in the Caribbean, wandering through a rainforest and touring Old San Juan.

The young people have missed so much because of the pandemic. Therefore, we are inviting this year's and last year's high school graduates and have reached out to the youth at Beautiful Savior and St. Philips' churches as well. The more participants, the cheaper it will be per person.

We have a reasonable sum in the pilgrimage fund from previous youth auctions. This will supplement what the families are paying. However, there are families with more than one child going, so additional fund raisers are planned in addition to the youth auction on May 7. Donations are welcome, too.

So far, the adult chaperones are Evan DeCiantis, Scott Armstrong, and Jackie Ingersoll. If you have a high schooler who would like to go and haven't told us yet, please do so ASAP. Jackie will gladly answer your questions.





## UPCOMING YOUTH DATES CALENDAR

Younger St. Stephen's children meet every Sunday for class from 10am until the peace is exchanged with Gretchen Waters and Kathy DeCiantis.

Rite 13 and YAC meet with Jackie Ingersoll and Scott Armstrong on Sunday November 14th and Sunday December 12th following communion.

There will not be any classes on Sunday November 28th (Thanksgiving weekend)

TBA-Christmas Pageant

TBA-Christmas Party for Rite 13 and YAC

## WHAT'S UP WITH THE YOUTH THESE DAYS

**Apple Orchard Outing:** The youth group recently visited Diehl's Apple Orchard in Holly. A muddy trip through the corn maze, a wagon ride and, of course, cider and donuts made for a fun afternoon.

In the Rite 13 class, the kids are studying creation and creating their own worlds. It will be fun to see how they turn out.

Gretchen Waters and Kathy DeCiantis have taken over the youngest kids' class and are awaiting for their return to church and Sunday School. All necessary precautions are being taken per the CDC to assure the safety of our children in small groups and in church. We are hoping to still have a Christmas pageant at the Children's Service on Christmas Eve. More details to come in the mid-December issue.



## ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### Weekly Opportunities

Eucharist Service on Sunday at 8 am  
resuming 11/21

Choral Eucharist Service on Sunday at  
10 am

Live Stream of Sunday on St. Stephen's  
Private Facebook page and YouTube  
Channel

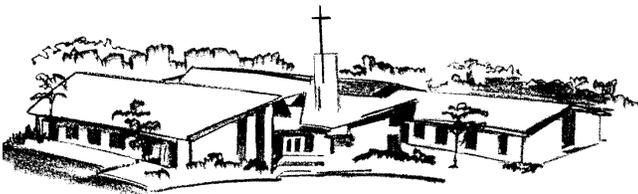
Bible Study-Wednesday 10AM in  
Bishop Emerich room-all welcome

Men's Bible Study-Friday's 9 AM at  
Leo's Coney Island on Opdyke Rd

Compline-Weeknights at 9PM on the  
St. Stephen's private Facebook page

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Nov. 11th: Ladies Lunch Bunch for November 11th at 11:30 am at McVee's Pub & Grub (formerly Steelhouse Tavern) located at 1129 E. Long Lake Rd, Troy. Sign up at Church or call Mary Ann Kish 248-824-0981 for more information.
- ◆ Nov. 14th Eucharistic service at 10 am with supply priest, no 8am
- ◆ Nov. 20th: Fall Clean Up at the church. 9-12 You may bring your own tools, but there are items at the church also. Bring work gloves for sure. Many hands make light work!
- ◆ Nov. 21st Mother Sharon returns. Both 8 and 10 am services
- ◆ Advent 1—Nov. 28th Mother Sharon's last celebration with us. Farewell luncheon after 10am.
- ◆ Advent 2—Dec. 5th Father Brian Alberti joins us as our new priest. Welcome luncheon planned.
- ◆ Holiday Brass Detroit @ St. Matthew and St. Joseph Detroit 2pm (see details pg. 10)
- ◆ Advent 3 Dec. 12th—First St. Stephen's Cookie Exchange (see details pg. 10)
- ◆ Advent 4 Dec. 19th—decorating the church after the 10am service. Many hands, etc.. Please plan to stay and help.
- ◆ We will have a better idea on times for the Christmas Services once Father Brian is here. Look for a mid-December Witness with information on Christmas and early January at St. Stephen's. Also check your email for the Chain, the Bulletin on Sundays, and the Website and Facebook pages.



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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

Phone: 248-641-8080  
Witness Email:  
witness@ststephentroy.org  
E-mail: office@ststephentroy.org

