



THE WITNESS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST



Alleluia, Christ is risen! In the Seven Sundays of Easter we contemplate the mystery of our Lord's resurrection from the dead. After celebrating the feast of the Ascension, we then move toward Whitsunday (Day of Pentecost) and the time after Pentecost. One of my favorite resurrection stories comes from the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke. Here we find Jesus appearing to two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus. The dramatic irony of the story is that two disciples walk with Jesus toward the village of Emmaus, but they do not recognize the man who walks with them. Only after they draw near to the village of Emmaus and sit down at the table with Jesus, do they see Christ in the breaking of the bread. The point for the reader is obvious. If we are looking for the risen Christ, then we are bound to find him in the breaking of the bread of the Holy Eucharist.

Today, the small town of Abu Ghosh is considered the historic site of the village of Emmaus. Abu Ghosh is located some ten miles from Jerusalem. Here in this historic town is a twelfth century gothic church called the Church of the Resurrection. In the church are several beautiful frescoes depicting Christ and the apostles, along with other narratives from scripture. However, the frescoes have partially faded. In fact, many of the faces of the figures in the paintings are entirely blank. One wonders if there is not some kind of metaphor here for the living of an ancient faith in a postmodern world.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we do not always see the risen Christ walking beside us. And in our own lives of discipleship the path forward is not always crystal clear. We may at times question what it means to live a life of faith today. Like the Frescoes at Abu Ghosh, Christianity has left room for the imagination and has provided us the opportunity to fill in the blank, so-to-speak, so that faith might give birth to new artistic creations in and through our own lives.

(continued on page 4)



ST. STEPHEN'S MISSION

Together we will... Sing Out, in worship to God, Reach Out, in service to others, Cry Out, with others in time of need, Find Out, about our faith, and Laugh Out Loud, together...All in the name of Jesus Christ.

ST. STEPHEN'S CORE PILLARS

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

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AROUND THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN



APRIL 18 ~ JUNE 5

With seed money of \$50,000 from diocesan operating funds, it is our goal to raise at least \$100,000 during this 50 day season of Easter.

Go to the diocesan website to read more about this initiative and to donate or use the QR code.



If you do not subscribe to the diocesan email, please do. There are many activities, studies, seminars, and updates on a weekly basis. Plus you also can read or listen to the Bishop's sermons. To subscribe go to www.edomi.org and sign up. It is titled Your Diocesan News Delivered/Weekly Connection (news@edomi.org)

At our Vestry Retreat Fr. Brian challenged the Vestry with two significant initiatives for Outreach this year. While we always do amazing things reaching out in our community, most of it is through donations of food, clothing, baby supplies and money. Fr. Brian is asking us to find a way to participate in a hands-on outreach ministry on a routine (monthly?) basis. He also asked us to consider taking on a larger outreach event – something we could invite the community to participate in. His suggestion was a charity called “Rise Against Hunger.”

Pre-COVID, we participated in several local hands-on ministries, some more routinely than others. As these ministries regroup, we want to be there to help in whatever way we can on a regular basis. We know we are serving breakfast at Crossroads twice this year. We are exploring opportunities at Lighthouse, Baldwin Center, and St. John's Food Pantry. Depending on their needs we may be working occasionally at any of these – or at another we aren't yet aware of. If you are interested in helping us with any of these ministries, please let us know. There is a “Hands-On Outreach sign-up sheet on the Outreach bulletin board located in the hallway across from the restrooms.

Remember SOS week? Remember how good it felt at the end of the week – tired but so blessed? As with our other outreach ministries, COVID changed SOS such that we can no longer participate as we once did. While it isn't quite “SOS”, Fr. Brian knows of a ministry that requires our participation for a day to package meals to be distributed around the world.

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that is growing a global movement to end hunger by nourishing lives, empowering communities, and responding to emergencies. They work with groups like us to package nutritious meals that are then distributed to partners in need all around the globe. Rise Against Hunger works with international partners to create sustainable solutions to hunger and equip them with agriculture training, business skills, and more to create and sustain food in their own communities.

The meal packaging events are a fun, educational, high-energy, turn-key way to engage everyone at St. Stephen's (and possibly even our community) in hands-on service. Rise Against Hunger brings all of the equipment, ingredients, and staffing to us to host an impactful, easy service project! Believe it or not, around 50 volunteers can package 10,152 (minimum meal goal) in 1.5-2 hours' time. To host the event our out-of-pocket cost would be about \$4,600 total donation. *Continued on page 4.*

IN APRIL AND MAY

TYLER BRAIDWOOD 4/3
MIKE WELLMAN 4/3
ARCH CORAN 4/5
MARY ANN KISH 4/5
MARGARET O'NEILL 4/6
KEN FUHR 4/8
JOSEPH PRZESLAWSKI 4/12
TAMMY GERARD 4/14
CHERI SALANTY 4/14
DON INGERSOLL 4/15
Fr. BRIAN ALBERTI 4/17
PAUL HARDY 4/18
BOB HOFFMAN 4/22
DARYLLYN OSWALD 4/23
KAREN MIRZOIAN 4/27
GINNY BENNETT 4/30
SANDY JOSE 5/4
CLAIRE BRUMFIELD 5/5
SARA SUNDARESON 5/5
EMILY GERARD 5/5
JUSTIN PRZESLAWSKI 5/6
BARB SPINA 5/6
SUE GORE 5/8
DAVE ELDON 5/11
KRISTI GRUBB 5/13
CATHY HOFFMAN 5/13
ROY WATERS 5/13
JACOB HARDY 5/14
CALEB SOBOLWESKI 5/15
LUCINDA SABINO 5/19
QUINN BAKER 5/21
DONNA BRONSTEEN 5/24
JAMES CARNAGIE 5/26
PETER BUREAN 5/31

IN APRIL AND MAY

RICHARD & WINIFRED LOWREY
4/5
MARY ANN & PAUL KISH
4/13
JAMES & MARILYN ELWARNER
4/19
DANIEL & TAMMY GERARD
4/27
MARGARET & STEVE BRANDON
5/2
JAMES CARNAGIE & CAROL SPRAQUE
5/2
ED & ELAINE CHURCH
5/11
DAVID & JAN ELDON
5/20
KEN & KRIS FUHR
5/24
BOB & SARA SUE WESTBURY
5/26



Attention Kroger Shoppers!!!

All participants in the Kroger Community rewards program will need to enroll or re-enroll to continue earning rewards for the St. Stephen's Outreach Ministry.

Please help support the St. Stephen's Outreach Ministry without any cost to you. Each year St. Stephen's receives several hundred dollars from the Kroger Community Rewards program which in turn helps support the Outreach programming. It's fast, it's easy and all you have to do is choose St. Stephen's Episcopal Church as your non-profit organization of choice when shopping at Kroger.

Simply go online to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, sign in to your account and designate **82604** (St. Stephen's) as the recipient.

Click Enroll and you'll be set for the May 1st 2022 to April 30th 2023 year of Kroger Community Rewards.

One of these artistic creations involves the work that we do at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Our Episcopal parish here in Troy, Michigan is just one expression of the many manifestations of Christ's body in the world. How we care for this parish then means that we are engaged in an on-going artistic creation that is never quite finished. Our creation begins with a vision of a faithful church. It ends with acts of generosity that bring that vision to life.

Like the brush and pallet that an artist uses to bring her vision to life, so you and I can utilize certain tools which help us to bring our vision to life. One such tool that I intend to give to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is a monthly update, printed in our worship bulletin, of our budgeted and actual revenue. Some may fear that such a tool might give newcomers the wrong impression. Namely, that the church is only concerned with financial matters. However, as stewards of St. Stephens, if we are to bring a new creation to life, then we need tools which can help us gauge where we are and where the outlines of our vision need filling-in and definition. Easily accessible pictures of the state of the parish then, can help us all stay on track with the beautiful creation we are bringing to life.

Perhaps then, to complete the metaphor, we do not bring this creation to life so much as Christ brings it to life in and through us. After all, at the end of the day, the church is not so much our creation as it is the creation of Christ, who by dying and rising on the third day, brought forth a redeemed humanity. God bless you this Easter and Pentecost.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Brian Albert

SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

Our goal would be to raise most, if not all these funds from the surrounding community. We are hoping organizations like the Rotary, Lions, Optimist Clubs, etc. would pitch in with a donation.

We are hoping to hold the event on a Saturday in either late September or early October. Right now, we are looking for people interested in helping us get the idea off the ground. If you are interested in being on the RAH Committee, please let Fr. Brian or myself know.

We really need you – not only with the work – but with planning and leading as well! We can only do this with your help.

Peace, Dave Stein

At the Easter Vigil, we gather to hold a vigil. We gathered in darkness, just as the women who went to the tomb went there before the dawn.

Our vigil begins in this darkness and the light is carried into the midst of the people, and spreads. We rehearse the story of our redemption, our story. This is the story of the preparation for the Light to come into the world. As the light grows, we welcome new members into Christ's church through baptism. And then the light blazes as we celebrate the coming of the day of His resurrection, with shouts of Alleluia!

Jesus chose basic elements of our universal human experience to teach us about himself and our world: Bread. Wine. Water. Darkness. Light.

Light is a fascinating phenomenon. From the days of Jesus until now, Light has been basic to our lives, and we can learn of him through the light.

Darkness is the absence of light. Darkness cannot resist light. Light invades darkness. Jesus came into this world saying, "I am the Light of the World." Believe in him. Love him. He is the light in our darkness.

There is a mystery to light, because it behaves equally like a wave and as a series of particles. Both aspects appear to be true of light, even though logically, that would seem to be contradictory.

Christ is both God and Man, two natures in one person. We do not have an imagination wide enough to hold those two things in some kind of logical relationship. And yet the fundamental nature of light helps us to understand that even in our physical world, there are aspects that we must hold together. We call these mysteries.

Enter personally into the mysteries of Christ. Adore him. Worship him as God who became Man. Celebrate his incarnation and resurrection.

Einstein discovered that light is the fastest moving thing in our known universe. Light is therefore the absolute point of speed. For this reason, the speed of light can be used to help understand and measure space, time, and distance.

Christ is the World's true light. He is the standard and ground of our life and knowledge. He is our everything and everything is measured by him. He is the one Savior of the whole world. Trust in him. Measure your life by his love. Follow him in all your ways.

Paul said it this way, in his second letter to the Corinthians: For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Rejoice! The Son of Righteousness has risen. The Light has come!

For more information in a short video presentation see <https://trinitywallstreet.org/stories-news/episcopal-explained-great-vigil-easter> (copy & paste into browser)



IF YOU MISSED THE GREAT VIGIL THIS YEAR, PLAN ON ATTENDING NEXT YEAR. IT IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST HOLIEST OF THE SERVICES PRESENTED DURING THE ENTIRE CHURCH

**EASTER
VIGIL**





VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS BY DON INGERSOLL, CLERK

Keeping you informed is a Vestry goal so you will be seeing updates. We always have many near and long-term balls in the air. Thus, we will usually report a few accomplishments and many works in progress. Briefly, we:

- updated and strengthened some financial management and investment processes
- approved a general process for more smoothly and transparently nominating and electing candidates for Vestry openings [details coming soon]
- approved a “Vestry Member of the Week” role so there will be one person responsible for keeping an eye out each Sunday for anything that might need attention, and for securing the church after Fellowship Hour
- began exploring with law enforcement ways to better secure our premises from people with evil intent
- continued exploring a major hands-on outreach program to replace SOS which is no longer using churches to house the homeless
- began to explore having more daytime events which are better for folks who prefer not to drive at night
- established a QR code to help seekers find information about St. Stephen’s, and started planning the sites it will link to

Less visible is the value added to many things via our coordinator function. We have a Vestry liaison assigned to each major mission and operational area so we can ensure good coordination, synergy and two-way communication. We are also good at finding helping hands and other resources for activities across the spectrum. Have an idea? See a need? Let us know. We need you. We are better when we all work together.

Want to help make *The Witness* more meaningful to all? Please consider these social media guidelines that were created to ensure the integrity of our Christian messaging on social media platforms that are open to the public. In our written form, i.e. *The Witness*, the following content is not allowed by St. Stephen’s:

1. Stories about a parishioner without their consent
2. Political or social commentary—including diocesan politics or opinions
3. Promotion of commercial items or services
4. Profanity, hate speech, etc.

The editor of *The Witness* reserves the right to exclude any article or submission that does not conform to these guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact Kris Fuhr, editor, or Dave Stein, senior warden, or Father Brian Alberti, priest. We want *The Witness* to be a witness to our life as a parish community, our spiritual growth as individuals, and as a source of news and events.

Areas that need regular contributors are A View from the Pew, Getting to Know You, From the Kitchen of ?, Thy Word is a Lamp, and Parish Happenings and Events. Please send a plethora of contributions to keep *The Witness* vital to us all.

WANT TO GET THE WITNESS FASTER THAN SNAIL MAIL, AND HELP DEFRAY COSTS AT ST. STEPHEN’S?

Please contact Ami in the office and have her add you to the growing email list. You will receive the Witness in an electronic (pdf) format, so it is more like a page by page instead of booklet form as it is when it is published. The good news is that you save the parish money in postage, you receive it faster, you can save it on your computer to review over the two months it covers, AND if you think the print is too tiny you can make it bigger on your screen! A win, win for all!





PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY

Long Term Prayer Concerns:

Joe Arant, Meghann Armstrong, Mary Band-such, Virginia Bennett, Bonnie Broadhead, Steve Brokenshire Marge Coughenour, Betty Feighner, Ron Goetzke, Sherry Hyrkas, Greyson Ingersoll, Kenneth Ingersoll, Barb & Dick Jackson, Connie Jose, Helene Livitsky, Rick Lowery, Darrel Middlewood, Phyllis Monterosso, Dylan Moose, Kim Morrow, Kenny Nelson, Zoey Rose, Mike Russell, Sallie Salanty, John Spates, Diane Staudacher, Ron Vieregge, Michell Walter, Sophie Wasik, Jerome Wojas, Julie Wojas, Katie & Tristyn Yant, Ed Yates

Military List:

Ian L'Hommedieu, Stephen L'Hommedieu, Jim Sands, Kyle Rogowski, Nathan Cremeans, Gordon Bagley, & Capt. John Zimmer

Parish Cycle of Prayer

4/3/2022	Justin Wojas Inge & Pat Wojas
4/10/2022	William Wolf Fr. Brian Alberti
4/17/2022	Scott Armstrong & Chase Gunther Georgiana Badalow
4/24/2022	Bob & Alicia Baker Lee & Ginny Bennett
5/1/2022	Dennis & Mary Bishop Tom & Marilyn Borowski
5/8/2022	Nikki Braidwood & Bill Perod Tyler, Nico, Gio & Luca Steve & Margaret Brandon
5/15/2022	Mike & Erin Brokenshire Kate, Meghan, Adrian, & Audrey Bob & Donna Brokenshire
5/22/2022	Donna & Richard Bronsteen Claire Brumfield Norah & Hadley
5/29/2022	Patricia Buller Tony & Kim Burean Peter & David
6/5/2022	Jon Burrell Jim Carnagie & Karol Sprague
6/12/2022	Barbara Cavendish

THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET : MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY BY BARBARA WHITAKER

My spiritual journey road is not straight and narrow. There are times when I'm at the highest mountain, times I'm reaching the lowest valley, or times I'm experiencing the ease of smooth sailing. Whatever I am feeling, I remember that God is with me.

This journey began at baptism, shortly after my birth. I was taught the importance of knowing God, attending church, and being a caring person. Church was more than Sunday mornings. There was choir, youth groups, camping, bowling teams, and friendships. My parents showed me to care for others and be kind to all, even though I might not like them. As a Christian, I need to think about my thoughts, words, and deeds. Still today I think of how many times I have drifted away from those teachings; however, I remember there is a giving and knowing God who will forgive me and stay by me always.

Over the years, my spiritual journey has included the mountain highs of mission trips in Costa Rica and USA, a good family, and longtime friends to name just a few. God has always given me a peaceful and exciting adventure along the journey road. Then there have been low valley potholes, including family deaths, illnesses, major changes, and yes, even anger at God. For several days I would drive home after leaving a nursing home, yelling and crying, "God, why are you doing this to me?" I never received an answer, but God forgave me and showed me how to get out of the valley.

A couple of times, the highs and lows of my spiritual journey came together. The first was my stroke in 2010. God was definitely with me throughout that time. The story is for another time, but I do believe I am here today only by God's intervention. Shortly after I left the hospital, my doctor told me he knew why God kept me alive. He said, "God kept you because your husband will be needing you." The low of having a stroke and the high of having everything I needed to keep me alive right in the hospital was evidence of God in control.

Continued on page 9



Kudos go to our wonderful parish administrator, Ami O'Neill, who found an archived article by Mary Alice Heaton on the true story of the baptismal font gift from George C. Scott. Here is the rest of the story...

George C. Scott-A Connection by Mary Alice Heaton

The recent death of the actor, George C. Scott, caused an alert person in our parish to recall that Scott had once given a gift to St. Stephen's—our Baptismal Font. After some research, I discovered how this came to be:

The Font was given in memory of Robert Scott, who was George's half-brother. (They had the same father.) Linda Dewey Shimmick (Bill Dewey's daughter) explained to me that "Bobby" attended Andover High School with her and that he was killed his senior year in a scuba diving accident.

Robert was buried from Christ Church Cranbrook where the Rev. Perry Williams conducted the service. This must have occurred about 1960 which, of course, was when St. Stephen's was being built.

Since St. Stephen's was a mission church of Christ Church, it is believed that Rev. Williams suggested to the actor that he might wish to give the memorial to us.

And so the connection—between the famous George C. Scott and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Troy.

(As published in The Witness, November 1999 pg. 4)

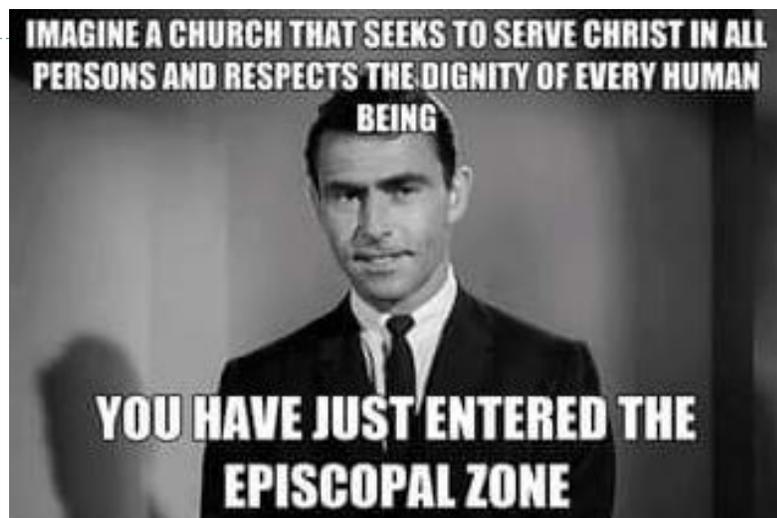


MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY BY BARBARA WHITAKER CONTINUED FROM PG 7

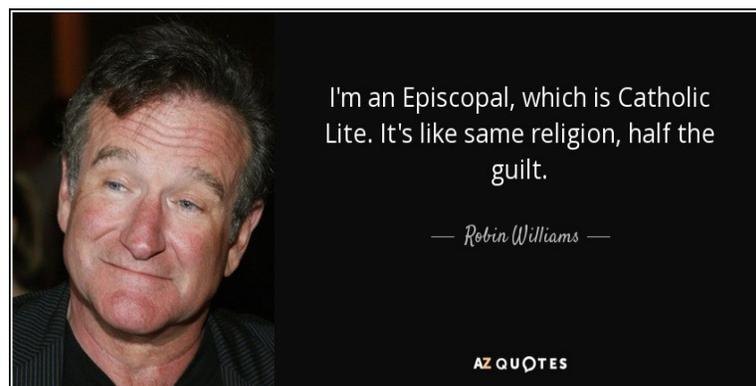
I do not read the Bible as much as I should. I do not pray as often as I should, nor do I do some things that I should be doing. There is comfort in my spiritual journey which has kept me together and will continue to keep me going as long as God wants me here. The mountain tops give me the peace and contentment I need. Down in the valley, a time of sadness and uncertainty, tells me this will be renewed. For most of this journey, the road has been a straight line—ordinary days. However, I always know God is with me, keeping me going, enjoying the mountains, picking me up from the valley, and by my side every day.

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me...they're cramming for the final exam." George Carlin (laffgaff.com)

*Episcopalians drink coffee as if it were the third sacrament.
(<https://episcotheque.wordpress.com/>)*



All humor posts compliments of The Church Pension Group this edition, except Robin Williams compliments of A-Z Quotes.



Back in 1985 the parishioners of St. Stephen's created a cookbook of recipes. Jane Wellman created the title, Linda VanderLaan did the artwork, and Arlene Davidson and Cynthia Tischer typed and compiled the edition. I thought it would be fun to feature a few of these 80s recipes. If you have a favorite let me know. Here are two for Spring; two of my favorite ingredients are featured, pistachios and dates!

Pistachio Cake by Florence Benaglio page 76

1 pkg yellow cake mix, 1 pkg pistachio instant pudding, 1/2 pint sour cream, 4 eggs, 1/2 c cooking oil

Topping is 1/2 c chopped nuts (I'd probably use pistachios), 1 tsp cinnamon, and 1/4 c sugar

Mix together the cake mix, pudding, sour cream, eggs and oil. Pour half the batter into a tube pan. Sprinkle 3/4 of the topping over the batter. Then pour the rest of the batter in, and sprinkle rest of topping on top of the cake AFTER it is out of the pan. Bake 350 degrees for 45-60 minutes (toothpick comes out clean). A tube pan I believe could also be a bundt pan. I probably would end up glazing this with confectioner's sugar and cream, then putting the final sprinkle of topping on just for fun and more calories!

And for all the chocolate lovers, especially if you gave it up for Lent here is one from John Laymac.

Chocolate Date Dandy Bake with Ice Cream Sauce

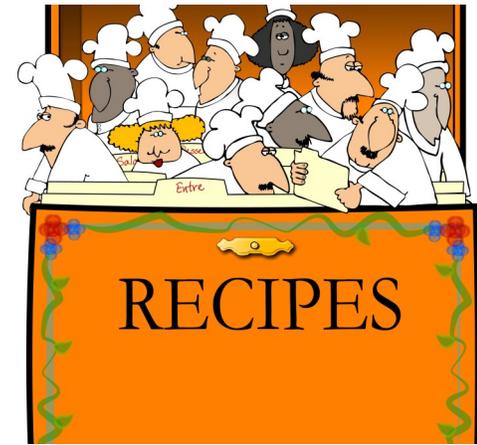
1 1/4 cup boiling water, 1/2 lb snipped dates, 1 pkg. German chocolate cake mix, 1 4 oz bar German sweet chocolate, chopped, and 1/2 c chopped pecans.

Pour the boiling water over dates, cool. Prepare cake mix according to package directions but substitute the date mixture for the liquid. Pour into a greased and floured 9X13 pan. Sprinkle the chocolate pieces and pecans over top. Bake 350 for 35-40 minutes. Serve warm or cool with ice cream sauce.

Ice Cream Sauce

1 pkg instant vanilla pudding, 1 1/2 c milk, 1 pint vanilla ice cream, softened. Combine mix and milk together, add ice cream and chill. Serve over Chocolate Date Dandy Bake. Pg 98

So, I hope you enjoy a little blast from St. Stephen's past. Thanks to Gretchen Waters for providing me the cookbook. Honorable mention must go to a Pork and Beans dish by Denise Pope on pg. 188. Perhaps someone will make it for the church picnic this year!



Do you have a favorite recipe to share, send it to witness@ststephenstroy.org Everyone enjoys a new or old dish. Looking for Easter traditions for next issue.



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Ho'onani i ka Makua mau, ke Keiki me ka 'Uhane no

(Praise to the Eternal Father, the Son with the Spirit)

Karen and I recently had the privilege of taking a vacation to Hawaii to celebrate our 30th anniversary (a year delayed due to Covid). We had a wonderful time at Waikiki beach, saw lava in the volcano, witnessed sunset from the top of Mauna Kea at 13800 ft., visited a coffee plantation, snorkeled, and saw whales, dolphins, and a manta ray. The beauty of Hawaii is truly astonishing.



But as spectacular as these tourist activities were, the most moving part of our trip was a Eucharist on the Beach, compliments of St. James Episcopal church on the Big Island. It took place on Saturday late afternoon looking West over the Ocean at the setting sun and listening to the surf crash rhythmically on the beach. We were warmly welcomed by Father David Stout, bare footed, wearing shorts and a clerical collar on a bright Hawaiian shirt. The service began with the "Sounding of the Pu," the blowing of native horns that traditionally announced arriving boats and is now used to open events and ceremonies. This was followed by the opening hymn in Hawaiian and English.

The service was Episcopal high church familiar to both of us and featured this beautiful Doxology:

O God, we thank you for the beauty of this place where the glorious revelation of your presence is all around us. From the depths of the ocean floor, you lifted your massive islands and pointed them toward the heavens to sustain life. We marvel as we wander through stately palms and twisted lava along the shore, where colorful fish swim among the rocks, crab scurry about the sand, dolphins, and whales dance upon the waves; and we remember that you have given us these things to enjoy and care for. Our spirits are refreshed, and our strength renewed.

We come together in communities on the seashore, on the volcanos, and in their shadows in the valleys, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil, and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

As the service proceeded through its familiar paces, we could not help but be moved by the power of God's creation, inspiring us on every side.

After the service, we went down to the water's edge (where baptisms are performed in the surf) and, standing ankle deep in the Pacific, Karen and I renewed our vows. As we were married in the Methodist church, this was not only a renewal, but a blessing of our marriage in the Episcopal church. The service involved the vows, a blessing of our rings, and an exchange of leis in the Hawaiian tradition (Karen handmade hers in a lei making class the day before).

Sharing the grace of God in this spectacular setting will be a memory we cherish until the end of our days.

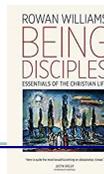
The Sounding of the Pu and the opening hymn can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/3RzbQ7OJl5k> (copy and paste into your browser)

Happy Spring! Our next Crafting Kindness meeting will be Thursday April 28th from 10 am to 2 pm. Bring your sewing machines. (If any have pillowcases to return please reach out to Jill so that these pillowcases can be delivered in April to Foster Care- big thank you to all who helped make the pillowcase project a success.)

We will be making adult senior dignity bibs. We will provide the material and the pattern. You provide the desire to help seniors. I will have coffee and tea and a light snack. Those that knit or crochet are welcome to come and enjoy fellowship as well. Even if you can't stay the entire time, come share our community! We are guaranteed to share a few laughs too.

If any of you have decent material to donate to make the bibs please bring and we can decide together if this can be utilized. If any ques-

RECAP OF LENTEN STUDY 2022
& MOVING FORWARD IN ADULT FAITH FORMATION BY
KEN FUHR, ADULT FAITH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



Wednesday nights during Lent were exceptional with great soup, a thought-provoking book, and good discussions. Ending the evening with a spiritual journey given by a fellow pilgrim and compline made the evening very special for the 28 parishioners who attended. A basket donation totaling \$274 was given to Ukraine Relief. Moving forward, expect to see a Survey Monkey in your email box to give input into what programs, days and times appeal for continuing our journey together in adult faith.

Beginning on Sunday, May 8th, Transforming Faith is resuming in the Bishop Emmerich Lounge from 8:45am until 9:30ish (so choir folks can go to practice). We will be discussing Bishop Michael Curry's Book *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times* (2020). The book will be divided into four sessions and is available from Amazon or other book sellers (\$18.15 hardcover, or \$14.99 kindle). See Kris Fuhr for more details. Please read the Introduction through Chpt 3 for session 1 on May 8th. The dates will be 5/8, 5/15, 5/22 and 6/5 (No

Without Christ We Can Do Nothing

“Our Lord had the power to lay down His life and to take it up again. But we cannot choose how long we shall live, and death comes to us even against our will. Christ, by dying, has already overcome death. Our freedom from death comes only through His death.

To save us Christ had no need of us. Yet without Him we can do nothing. He gave Himself to us as the vine to the branches; apart from Him we cannot live.”

Saint Augustine, Sermons on John 84, 2

Prayer. “Lord, You have saved my soul from the constraint of fear, so that it may serve You in the freedom of love.”-

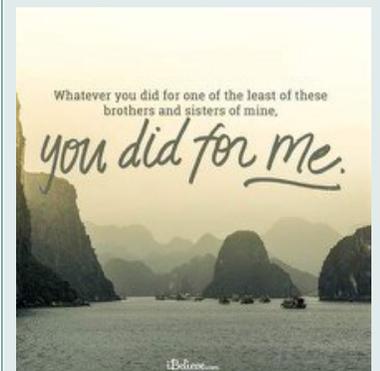
Commentary on Psalm 30 (1), 8

An excerpt from *Augustine Day by Day* pg. 56

OUTREACH NEEDS

MARK YOU CALENDARS:

- 12 Volunteers to serve lunch at Crossroads in Detroit on Sunday, **June 26th** from 7:30AM until 1PM. Car pool from church parking lot is an option. Let Dave Stein know if you are interested.
- 5-6 Volunteers for the RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE on Monday, **July 18th**. Let Dave Stein know if you can help out.
- Food items for Lighthouse always!



SUNDAY SCHOOL LIGHTHOUSE FOOD DRIVE BY JACKIE INGERSOLL CHILDREN/YOUTH LEADER



Fr. Brian recently blessed the food items collected for Lighthouse by the Sunday school youth. This outreach project followed a lesson on wants and needs. The children were made aware of the needs in our greater community and of the fantastic job Lighthouse does in distributing the food items to the needy. They collected approximately 250 items plus two large boxes of diapers totaling 264 diapers. A big thank you to all the families involved for your wonderful generosity.

AUCTION TO BENEFIT YOUTH TRIP BY JACKIE INGERSOLL, CHILDREN/YOUTH LEADER

Youth Auction Is Coming Soon!

The Youth Auction is just around the corner on Saturday, April 30 beginning at 5:30pm. Help support our St. Stephen's kids' mission trip to Puerto Rico. While there they will be helping the poor and hurricane victims who are still suffering even though the hurricanes were several years ago.

Of course, April 30 is for all practical purposes Cinco de Mayo, so we are planning a Mexican buffet. Prior attendees will attest that the evening is fun even for those who don't intend to buy anything. You can purchase your tickets at the door for \$10. Just being there shows the kids you care about them.

It is not too late to donate items for the silent or live auction. Don't have any "things?" Gift cards will work just fine. Too big to handle? We can pick up items for you. It takes time to get the items organized and bid sheets prepared, so the sooner we know what you have, the easier it is to prepare. But keep thinking as we are very flexible and can take things until noon on April 30th.

Can't attend? Don't have anything to donate? A cash donation will be more than welcome. Be sure to write Youth mission trip in the memo portion of your check.

Got questions? Want to help? Contact Jackie (248-703-3476) jackie@doningersoll.com or Don Ingersoll don@doningersoll.com

Plans are being finalized for our youth mission trip to Puerto Rico in July. We will fly into San Juan and be picked up by our leader from Wonder Voyage for the week. We will then be driven across the island to Ponce where we will be housed at a camp right on the Caribbean. For the first three days we will be assisting local families with such things as home repair, painting, and gardening under the supervision of the Diocese of Puerto Rico. Being right on the water, we will be able to go swimming every day after we return to the camp. I'm sure that will be a welcome relief with temperatures likely to be in the high 80's.

Following our time at the camp, we will pack up and travel back to San Juan. On the way we will stop at the El Yunque National Rainforest which is famous for its mountains and waterfalls. In San Juan we will check into our sleeping quarters and then head out to a bay with glowing organisms (bioluminescence). The following day we will tour Old San Juan and prepare for our trip home the next day.

There are 13 of us going on this trip including Father Brian. We chose Wonder Voyage to plan our trip and provide us with a guide for the week. We have used this Mission trip-organizing company many times and have found them to be a wonderful organization. As the time gets closer, we are all getting more and more excited to take this wonderful adventure; and of course, the kids all really appreciate your support.



Are you looking for **Adventure, Excitement, Drama, Laughs?**
Watch TV.

But, if you are looking for: PURPOSE, COMMON CAUSE, COMMITMENT TO SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOURSELF, JOIN THE FEW, THE PROUD....**THE ACOLYTES!**

St. Stephens needs you. You get to wear vestments! If you are looking for a chance to lead? Join us, you will lead!

Are you eight years old or older? Third grade or higher?

Contact Mr. Jim Carnage, the church office or talk to Father Brian and he will put you in touch with Mr. Carnage to become a part of the best group of acolytes around.

You are wanted and needed at St. Stephen's!

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Weekly Opportunities

Eucharist Service Rite I on Sunday at 8 am

Choral Eucharist Service Rite II on Sunday at 10 am

Live Stream of Sunday 10 am on St. Stephen's Private Facebook page and YouTube Channel

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

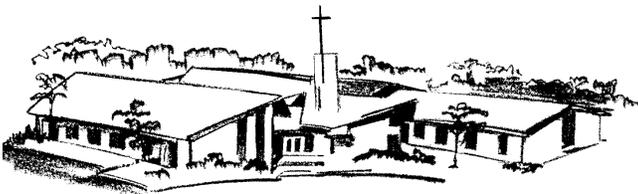
Men's Bible Study-Friday's 9 AM at Leo's Coney Island on Opdyke Rd

The QR Code (right) will take you to our Website, just take a picture of it with your phone or use a QR reader app. See Kris Fuhr if you need assistance doing this.



- * April 28th Crafting Kindness 10am-2pm
- * **April 30th Youth Auction & Dinner 5:30 pm**
- * May 4th English Tea with the Ladies @ 3pm
Purple Door in Ferndale (**RSVP to Kris Fuhr by April 29**)
- * May 8th Transforming Faith study of Curry's *Love is the Way* 8:45-9:30 BE
- * May 12th Ladies' Lunch Bunch TBA (RSVP)
- * June 12th Annual Church Picnic following 10 am service
- * June 26th Crossroads Lunch Serving need volunteers
- * July 8th Blood Drive

Summer Office hours begin June 3 till September 2
Tuesday thru Thursday 9:00am till 2:00pm



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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