



# THE WITNESS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST



### Why Church?

The year may be slowly nearing the end, but that doesn't mean that we are not at the beginning, so-to-speak. In the fall, students are beginning a new academic year. In the fall, the church begins a new year of programing. In the fall, many are returning from summer vacation to begin a new year of employment. While the leaves may be falling, and the pumpkin spice may be brewing, it doesn't mean that we are not at the beginning of something new. As we return once again to more normal routines, we find ourselves also returning to church. Consequently, the fall becomes a time to ask ourselves: why do I go to church?

Today, there are just so many options for meeting our spiritual needs. If it is not the cable news reminding us of our ultimate concern, then it is the self-help guru floating across our social media feed who promises to meet all our spiritual needs in three easy steps. On any given day, none of us feels particularly religious and so we wonder to ourselves: why do I go to church? Why do I commit myself to a life in community? But then it dawns on us: we go to church not only to see familiar faces but also to experience the grace of God. It is the grace of God that lifts our spirit and our countenance. Yes, when we think about it, it all becomes very clear. We go to church because we desire to pray to God and having prayed to God through a liturgy of praise and thanksgiving, our very souls are lifted. And yet, years of pastoral tradition remind us that the soul is not only in need of a spiritual high but is also in need of direction. It is a life of prayer in community that provides that direction. Church is all about the cure of the soul.

(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 DIVERSE

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### AROUND THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

You're invited to the Bishop's Fall Gathering at Emrich Retreat Center in Brighton. The fun begins on Friday, November 4 @ 6:00 p.m. with dinner followed by a camp fire and smores with Bishop Perry. Overnight accommodations will be available for those who want to stay.

Then join the Bishop on Saturday, Nov. 5th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for breakfast, a hike and lunch. More information and registration details available at [edomi.org](http://edomi.org) in October.

A great time for a late fall retreat!



If this were a "normal" year (as I get older, I'm not sure what "normal" is anymore) but if this were a normal year at St. Stephen's we would be winding down our year and you would be getting a mailing or two with a pledge card to fill out for your financial commitment to St. Stephen's for the next year. Well, this has not been a normal year and it is certainly not "business as usual" here at St. Stephens.

As we emerged from the lockdowns and restriction of the pandemic, we also welcomed Fr. Brian as our priest. Both of these "events" have created opportunities for new ideas, new ways to think about our mission and how we bring Christ into our lives and our community. We have been and will continue to be discussing how we might take advantage of these new opportunities to revitalize and invigorate our parish. Your thoughts and prayers are vital to these conversations. Please read my article "It Takes all Hands ..." to learn more about these small group conversations.

I want to take this opportunity to let you know what we are doing out there in the mission field through our many outreach initiatives.

- We made a \$2,500 donation for CCRT
- We were at Crossroads on June 26, 2022. We bought all the food, our ten volunteers prepared it and helped serve 368 meals.
- The Baby Shower was on July 17, 2022. We combined this with the Bishop's Ice Cream Social. As usual, the collection was a success! A rough count was about thirty boxes of diapers.
- The Blood Drive was July 18, 2022. There were fewer than normal signed up to donate, but we still collected nineteen pints of blood.

Fr. Brian challenged us to find a local hands-on outreach project that would provide us the opportunity to help on a routine basis, perhaps beginning quarterly, but hopefully growing into something we could do more frequently. We are looking into several activities, but one close to home might be serving breakfast on Saturday mornings at All Saints in Pontiac. They serve free breakfasts every Saturday. The meals are in a carry-out box, so the client has the option of eating there or outside. All the prep work happens on Saturday morning. They need a team of 6-8 people (4 is the minimum). Prep begins at 6:30am, Breakfast is from 8-10am and clean-up is over by 11am. If you think you would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact me or Joan Morgan.

On September 24<sup>th</sup> we held our *Rise Against Hunger* meal packaging event. Our goal for this year was to package 10,000 meals in a one-day event. Begun in 1998, *Rise Against Hunger* is committed to providing nutrition and resources for the world's most vulnerable while simultaneously engaging and inspiring volunteers around the globe to "take action". The organization works with groups like St. Stephen's to package nutritious meals that then are distributed to their partners in need all around the globe. (Continued on page 4)

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

## Greetings and Salutations!

In this issue you will find some changes have been made to the format and content of *The Witness*. Parish long-term prayers and cycle of prayers will no longer be published in *The Witness* as they are available weekly in the Key News email blast. I highly encourage you to check your email as the Key News also has important updates and event dates. Birthdays and anniversaries will continue to be published two months at a time, but remember they are also available weekly in the Key News. Let Ami O'Neill know ([office@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:office@ststephenstroy.org)) if you want your email to be included in the distribution.

Second, *The Witness* will only be published every two-three months (approximately 4-5 times a year) and will be more of a review of events, upcoming event list, photos from events, plus articles that feature inspirational messages and our parish life together. If you as a parishioner would like to add to the richness of *The Witness*, please consider a contribution to "A View from the Pew" (thoughts and commentary on various topics), "From the Kitchen Of..." (recipes to share with all), "Thy Word is a Lamp" (reflection on your personal study and spiritual growth), or "Interesting Stops Along the Way" (travel adventures you've had and wish to share). Also, if you have an idea for other articles of interest to all please let me know. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the editor (Kris Fuhr) at [kfuhro8@gmail.com](mailto:kfuhro8@gmail.com) or [witness@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:witness@ststephenstroy.org). *The Witness* is meant to be a witness to our parish life together, so the more contributors to it, the richer it will be. Blessings on you all. Kris Fuhr



## WE NEED HELP!

We are a small, but vibrant parish and desire to keep things running smoothly. If you find that you have a few hours a month to help... Many Hands Make Light Work! Thank you!

- ♦ We need more plate counters! The goal is to have a minimum of 4 two person teams so everyone only has to count once every 4 weeks. We are currently down to 2 teams. If you feel called to this ministry and for more information please contact Dave Eldon.
- ♦ We need more singers for the choir. We all love to hear music on Sundays, but the choir could use more sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9 pm and again at 9:30 am on Sunday before the 10am service. If you feel called to this special ministry please contact Sue Gore, organist-choir director.
- ♦ We need more help with the altar set up. Currently there are only five members, each doing one Sunday a month. It would really help if there were at least two members for each Sunday. What it takes is a willingness to serve by setting the table. On Friday or Saturdays you set for the 8am Sunday service, and then between the 8 and 10 am service you set up for the 10am. After the 10am service you wash the "dishes" and put items away. This is open to men and women who have an hour or so monthly. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Alice Moss, AG directress and Jr. Warden.



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST (CONTINUED FROM PG. 1)

But while church is all about the cure of the soul, we may say that this is not all that church is about. The gathering of God's people in worship of the transcendent God of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is not only about the cure of souls, but is also about the love of neighbor. Yes, we come to church not only to find a Balm in Gilead and a cure for the sin sick soul, but we come also to transform our navel gazing into genuine concern for our neighbor and our community. All of us know well how to be concerned with our own affairs, but where we need help is in directing our self-concern outward. Some of us have noticed that when the participants of the liturgy process out of the sanctuary, in the bulletin, we no longer call it a "recessional." But the term, "recessional" suggests that our primary work is now completed in the gathering around the altar of the Lord. The term suggests that we are now "recessing" back to where we were before! But oh, how *au contraire*, having partaken of the holy things in bread and wine, our work has just begun! We do not recess out into the world; no, instead we process out into the world to begin the work to which the Gospel has called us. The work is not over in the worship of Elohim (the Almighty one), on the contrary, the work has just begun as we move toward service in the world.

Well, there is still yet more reason why we come to church week in and week out. We come not only to pray and to serve our community in outreach, but we also come to meet and make new friends. We gather to care for one another, whether it be through our pastoral care ministries or simply through a friendly social gathering. We come to church because as much as our culture says we need no one but ourselves alone, we know, deep down, that is simply not true. We need community and the practice of gathering with others. It is the risen and ascended Christ who gathers us together and teaches us to break bread with one another. It is the grace of God which draws us together, again and again, and schools us in the practice of love for God and neighbor.

This fall, as you begin again, may you discover why it is that you come to church, and may you discover in the sacramental life of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the blessing and peace of God.

*Rev. Brian Albert +*

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

We were blessed to have over twenty-five donations totaling over \$5,500! This should give us about \$1,000 head start on next year. There were two local Lions Clubs who each made donations of \$500. We hope to attract donations from more community groups next year. Of course, we had plenty volunteers! A special THANK YOU to those who came in early to help with set-up and stayed late to put everything away – and especially our hotdog chef Joan Morgan.

We still have several outreach activities planned for the remainder of the year: the fall Blood Drive, Thanksgiving Food Bags, and the Christmas Giving Trees for Bound Together, CCRS and Baldwin Center. In December, as has been our custom, we will make financial donations to several local charities. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful Outreach Team. We can never thank them enough for their dedication and love for their work. If you would like to join us, there is always room for more helping hands.

Before I end, there is another way to participate in the ministries of St. Stephen's. That is as a member of the Vestry. We will soon be searching for three candidates to join our wonderful and dedicated vestry. It is a fantastic time to be part of the leadership of St. Stephen's as we work to re-envision our mission. If you are interested in joining our vestry, or in learning more about it, please see me or Alice Moss.

God's Peace,

Dave Stein, Sr. Warden



# OUR PARISH CELEBRATES....

## BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

Marilyn Elwarner	9/6
Lachlan O'Neill	9/9
Dom Piantedosi	9/10
Philip Pierce	9/10
Alan Giles	9/11
Nancy Fischer	9/11
Kristin Kender	9/14
Bonnie Gross	9/15
Debbie Pincura	9/22
Scott Armstrong	9/22
Barbara Whitaker	9/22
Savannah Rich	9/22
Colton Oswald	9/22
Jane Wellman	9/24
Ethan Sobolewski	9/29

### OCTOBER

Sandy Martin	10/1
Sue Stewart	10/8
Corinne Fragnoli	10/15
Robert Thatcher	10/17
Donna Brokenshire	10/19
Brandon Hespenheide	10/19
Gretchen Waters	10/20
Peggy Klempay	10/23
Dodie Waun	10/23
Patricia Buller	10/25
Norma Ross	10/26
John Pincura	10/27
Karol Sprague	10/28

### NOVEMBER

Melissa Hardy	11/1
Lydia Thiel	11/1
Elaine Church	11/2
Bill Langridge	11/4
Shanker Sundareson	11/5
Kachi Ezeugwa	11/7
Lee Bennett	11/8
Nico Period	11/8
Ed Church	11/9
Patricia Przeslawski	11/12
Karen Morley	11/14
Shannon Weigant	11/19
Lani Nolan	11/21
Gio Perod	11/22
Margaret Fielder	11/22
Anthony Johnson	11/22
Paula Somerville	11/24
Joan Thunder	11/25
Joanne Gondert	11/25



## ANNIVERSARIES

### SEPTEMBER

Kathy & Ed DeCiantis	9/6
Sara & Shanker	
Sundareson	9/10
Carol & Bob Jantz	9/13
Liz & Larry Sinkovich	9/25

### OCTOBER

Judy & Jim McQuiston	10/1
Diane & Richard Kenefic	10/11
Linda & Phil Pierce	10/15
Cindy & Tom Vida	10/15
Rachel & Jerred Rich	10/30

### NOVEMBER

Donna & Richard	
Bronsteen	11/10
Martha & Michael Szott	11/11
Lucinda & David Sabino	11/28



## VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BY DON INGERSOLL, CLERK

Keeping you informed is a Vestry goal. We have many balls in the air. Here are a few key snippets.

- Fr. Brian and the Vestry are planning new ministries, including: a “Meals Care Ministry” that will orchestrate getting meals to parishioners that need them during challenging times; a new educational series starting with “Ways to Pray;” a blessing of the animals service tweaked and advertised to make it more effective at attracting non-parishioners to our door/grounds.
- Our recent Platinum Recognition Lunch, the Bishop’s Ice Cream Social, and the Baby Shower were critiqued, and all were considered highly successful.
- Details were developed for the Fall stewardship campaign’s in-home gatherings. These events are being blended with our planning for how to grow St. Stephen’s and its ministries. Doing so is important because having a positive vision as a target and attracting the funding and personal commitments we need to achieve our goals go hand-in-hand.
- The Vestry received a detailed update from Treasurer Phil Pierce on our finances through July and projections for the rest of the year. Budget implications and priorities were discussed as they relate to 2023 operations and plans for future growth. The Vestry provided guidance on priorities which will be reevaluated after we see how successful our stewardship campaign is and what our giving is during the rest of 2022.
- Training in CPR and use of our defibrillator has been arranged and a sign-up sheet is available.
- Heard reports on and helped coordinate and find additional resources for our many missions and activities.

Have an idea? See a need? Want to help with something? Let us know. We need you. We are better when we all work together.

Vestry meets the 4th Tuesday of the month



## LATE-BREAKING NEWS!

**Eucharistic Minister and Eucharist Visitor Training** will take place on **Sunday, November 13th after the 10am service**. If you believe that God is calling you to serve at the altar or to bring the consecrated elements to the infirm and homebound, you can sign-up for training as a Eucharistic Minister. If you have been licensed before, please sign up for the training in order to renew your license and share your gifts with the parish. A sign-up sheet can be found in the gathering area.

## The St. Stephen’s Book Club

is off to a great start. The initial meeting has set the first two books, the “rules” of the group, and the dates for six months. We invite all to participate. You can even come for discussion if you don’t read the book! Our first book selection is *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans (2018) . Discussion will be held on **Monday, November 7th from 2-4 pm** in BE. Then our next book will be *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd (2021) with a discussion on **December 12th 2-4pm**. Our design is a book every six weeks or so, meeting on Mondays from 2-4 pm. Tea, coffee and scones will be served. A contest for the best name for the “club” will be held in October. Details will be in the gathering area to enter to win a chocolate prize. For more information see Susan Russell, Ken Fuhr, Joanne Gondert or Kris Fuhr.





## IT TAKES EVERY HAND... BY DAVE STEIN

Your Vestry has been spending a lot of time and effort this year talking about and envisioning our mission going forward. We have begun the re-invention or re-imagining of our ministries given the new realities of being a 21<sup>st</sup> century church facing the added challenges and opportunities for ministry. Our work will be challenging, but also very rewarding as we seek to do Jesus' work in our community.

When we talk about "mission" and "doing" one of my first thoughts is who? Who is going to do this work that needs to be done? The answer is actually quite simple, and difficult. Because the "WHO" must be answered by "US". Hence the tag line for this year's Stewardship campaign –

### It Takes Every Hand to Build a Future Together

It will take the efforts of all of us. We must not only continue to support our parish financially, but also be willing to roll up our sleeves and invest a little sweat equity as well.

St. Stephen's takes pride in being a warm and loving family. I have always found your generosity to be truly remarkable, and am so very grateful to everyone who has given so much to further the work God asks us to do. We have been making a difference in the lives of many, but we can and should do more.

As we have done periodically in the past, we need your thoughts and prayers as we work to re-vitalize our church. Several families have been kind enough to open their homes for us to gather and discuss how we might improve our Worship, expand our Outreach and Pastoral Care ministries, bolster our financial situation and – most importantly – find ways to meet the needs of the youth of our community.

All the discussion groups are meeting during the month of October. There are evening as well as daytime options for you to choose. Hopefully, one of the date will fit your schedule. There are sign-up sheets in the gathering area and also on-line.

As always, **Thank you** for your continued prayers and support of St. Stephen's in so many ways! In this time of revitalization, may God be with us as we pray for guidance, evaluate our potential to commit our time, talent, and treasure to do God's work through St. Stephen's.

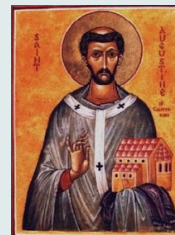
## A MEDITATION TO PONDER ON FROM ST. AUGUSTINE

### Love, and Do What You Will

Once, and for all, a short rule is laid down for you: Love, and do what you will. If you keep silence, do it out of love. If you cry out, do it out of love. If you refrain from punishing, do it out of love. Let the root of love be within. From such a root nothing but good can come.—Sermon on 1 John 7,8

Prayer: I love You alone, Lord. I seek You alone. I yearn to be possessed by You alone.—soliloquies 1,1

Excerpts from Augustine Day by Day  
pg. 80



## ADULT FAITH UPDATE

**On September 26th at 7:00 p.m. a group of seekers met to discuss starting a book study group at St. Stephen's. Check your bulletin and the Key News for the book selected and the date for the discussion group. The group will read and discuss about every six weeks, all are welcome!**

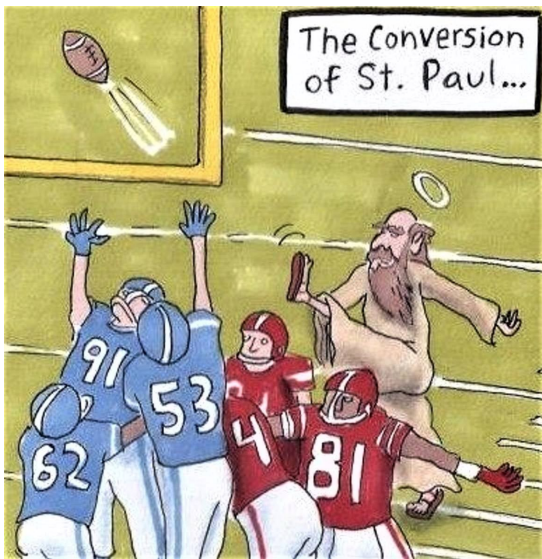
**Beginning on Sunday, October 2 Father Brian will lead a study between services at 9:00 a.m. on Ways to Pray. Please join us for this four week session. Various ways to pray and prayers will be explored.**

**Interest has been expressed in an Adult Pilgrimage overseas during the 2023-2024 program year. If this is of interest to you please share your thoughts with Ken Fuhr or any member of the Adult Christian Faith Committee.**



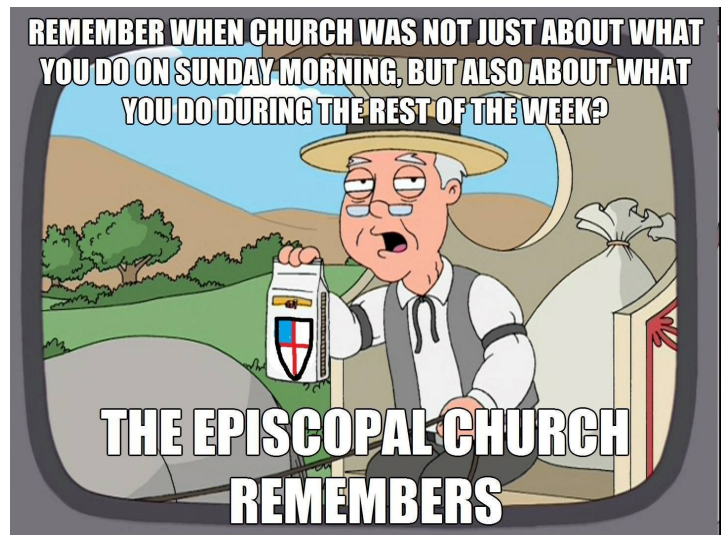
A BIT OF HUMOR TO LIGHTEN THE DAY

*SOME OF MY FAVORITES  
FROM THE EPISCOPAL  
MEMES FACEBOOK PAGE,  
ENJOY!*



*A POSSIBLE NEW KICKER FOR THE  
LIONS?*

**We need coffee hosts because...**



*Now we know  
where Michigan got Round-a-bouts!*



In August, St. Stephen's gave a Platinum Luncheon for our senior members. The menu was planned and prepared by our very talented parish administrator Ami O'Neill and her amazing daughters. The menu of the day was Simple Green Salad, Chicken Picatta, Seasoned Green Beans, Mini Penne with homemade Marinara, Air Buns, and Individual Tiramisu (Ami's dad's recipe as he was taught as a boy in Italy by his grandma). It was such a wonderful and delicious event! Here are two of the recipes for you to try at home.

### CHICKEN PICATTA ala DANTE

- Thin cut chicken dredged in seasoned flour (flour, salt, pepper, paprika and parsley flakes)
- Choppies (Green Onion, Parsley, Garlic: green onion sliced thin, parsley chopped fine, garlic minced)
- Chardonnay (usually a tiny bottle if cooking for 2)
- 2 Tbsp Butter and Lemon juice (1 lemon)

Heat oil in pan, when hot add the seasoned floured chicken. Brown on both sides and cook until almost done. Sprinkle with the Choppies. Cook for about 3 minutes, flip the chicken over. Pour Chardonnay over the chicken, cook a few minutes to evaporate alcohol. Squeeze half a lemon over the ingredients in the pan. Add 2 TBL of butter to finish off and thicken sauce. You could also add sliced mushrooms to the dish if you wish when you put in the choppies.

### AIR BUNS

In 1/2 cup lukewarm water put 1 tsp white sugar and 1 envelope of yeast. Let rise in warm place for 10 minutes.

In a large bowl put 1/2 c margarine, 1 tsp salt, 2 Tbsp vinegar, 3 1/2 cups lukewarm water

Add the risen yeast and 8 to 10 cups of flour, just enough so dough will not stick to hands. Grease a bowl, add dough and cover with lid or cloth.

Let rise in a warm place for 2 hours.

Knead down, Let rise another hour, Knead down again.

Form into buns the size of a crabapple.

Grease cookie sheet, set buns on cookie sheet (not too close as they rise to a good size).

Spray plastic wrap with Pam and cover buns for final rise, 3 hours.

Bake at 400 degrees until golden brown. Makes 5 dozen.



*Do you have a favorite recipe to share, send it to [witness@ststephenstroy.org](mailto:witness@ststephenstroy.org) Everyone enjoys a new or old dish. Looking for winter favorites for next issue.*



## INTERESTING STOPS ALONG THE WAY BY JILL STEIN

*This is a brand new column for The Witness where interesting travels can be featured by many of our wanderers of the United States and abroad. If you find a particular spot interesting, so would others. Take a few pictures and tell us why it is a must see place. Editor*

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#### The Witness

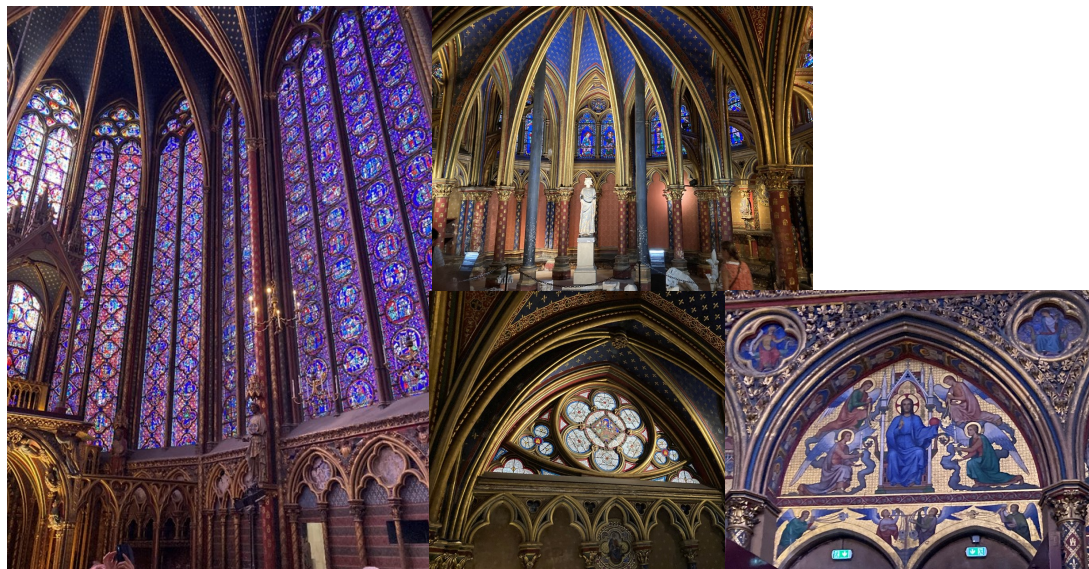
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David and I traveled to Paris and the Normandy Region of France this summer. We saw many of the typical tourist sites that many travelers to France see. I shall expand on one site in particular because it truly captured our eyes and souls with its gorgeous colors and design; the chapel called Sainte Chapelle which means Holy Chapel.

Sainte Chapelle is a royal chapel in the Gothic style, within the old palace residence of the Kings of France until the 14th century. The chapel is a hidden gem inside this old palace, and is not a typical tourist attraction because it is inside this old residence, and not nearly as big as Notre Dame. Our daughter told us about this hidden treasure and it was indeed worth the subway ride to step back into time and see this treasure of light and color.

Construction began sometime after 1238 and the chapel was completed in 1248. Sainte Chapelle is considered among the highest achievements of that period's Gothic style. The royal chapel stands squarely upon a lower chapel, which served as a parish church. It was commissioned by King Louis IX of France to house his collection of Passion relics, including Christ's Crown of Thorns – one of the most important relics in medieval Christendom. This was later held in the nearby Notre-Dame Cathedral until the 2019 fire, which it survived. The two levels of the new chapel, equal in size, had entirely different purposes. The upper level, where the sacred relics were kept, was reserved exclusively for the royal family and their guests. The lower level was used by the courtiers, servants, and soldiers of the palace.

Although damaged during the French Revolution and restored in the 19th century, it has one of the most extensive 13th-century stained glass collections anywhere in the world. The fifteen stained glass windows in the nave and apse of the upper chapel are breathtaking. The colors and light fill the chapel with a feeling of awe. May we be inspired to look for hidden gems and rays of light in our travels and in our ordinary daily lives.





On July 17<sup>th</sup>, the parish enjoyed an ice cream social provided by Bishop Bonnie, and donated LOTS of baby stuff to Lighthouse and CCRT in Pontiac. We donated 21 packages of diapers, 13 packages of formula, 13 packages of wipes, 12 blankets, 2 sundresses, 2 pajamas, and a basket of baby care products, socks and wash cloths. Lighthouse especially thanked those who made the baby blankets, and let us know how beautiful they were. Thanks to everyone who helped out.



### Soon You Will Know! By Don Ingersoll

Our congregation is known for its caring and nurturing nature. We love worshiping and serving God and socializing together, but sometimes we are like ships passing in the night. We only know a sliver of the rich and giving lives of many of those we interact with regularly. The Vestry wants to improve that.

It would help if we just talked to more than the same few friends at services, fellowship hour, social events or when working on mission activities, and we need to talk about more than the weather. However, that is easier said than done because we don't want to seem nosy. So, if you know little about someone, where do you start a conversation?

To help you, we are introducing a regular "Did You Know..." column in *The Witness*. In it we will highlight parishioners whom you see regularly but may not know as well as you might like. These won't be life histories, just glimpses about them to help everyone know them better and help break the ice for generating conversations. The articles will also give us a chance to recognize some of the things they have done and are doing to serve God and the St. Stephen's family. Hopefully these articles will make it easier to start the ball rolling; but why wait! Just try sitting with different people and being open to asking them about things. Our inaugural highlight is to the right...

### ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT IS RETURNING

*Blessed are we, for each of us has access to hope, belief, and faith in the Christmas story's promise of infinite good and love everlasting.*

We are truly blessed to gather together and celebrate Advent by Candlelight this year!

Ladies, mark you calendars as you will not want to miss the return of this wonderful evening spent in song and sharing stories of Love, Faith and Hope, Peace and Joy, and of course, good fellowship, deserts and beverages.

Advent by Candlelight will be held on Monday evening, December 5th at 7:00 pm. We will be looking for those to attend and also those to host a holiday table. Contact Alice Moss with any questions @248-840-3631 or alicemoss@hotmail.com.



### DID YOU KNOW...



Dave Eldon has been part of the fabric of St. Stephen's since its beginning, and like the Energizer Bunny he is still going. At 5-years old Dave was one of St. Stephen's first Sunday school students at Eastover School prior to construction of our church. His parents, John and Daisy Eldon were among those who worked tirelessly and long to create the foundation for who we are today.

Dave was among those who used a shovel to break ground for our church, and he is still digging and fixing things around the building today. He is a stalwart of the Building & Grounds Committee, which handles things ranging from getting breaks in our gas lines fixed, HVAC equipment repaired and replaced, contracts for services such as plowing and mowing, roof repairs and light bulbs changed. He also organizes and serves as an usher and collection counter.

But that's not all. Dave recently served on the Vestry and is currently on the Endowment Committee and the Investment Advisory Group.

(continued on pg. 14)



# RISE AGAINST HUNGER 2022





# 10,152 BAGS, 50 VOLUNTEERS & LOTS OF FUN





[illegible]

# YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH MISSION/PILGRIMAGE TRIP COLLAGE





### Did you know ...

- Dave and brother Dan served as acolytes and crucifers, and in their day, they were the Go-To Team for special services.
- Dave went through Fr. Carl Sayers' confirmation class and was confirmed by Bishop Emrich at St. Stephen's.
- Dave's daughter Ashley was an acolyte and helped him usher and count the collection when she was in her late teens.
- Dave's sister is Diane Kenefic who also has been carrying on John and Daisy's legacy at St. Stephen's.
- Dave's parents and brothers Dan and Dean are interred in the Memorial Garden.
- Dave's early work life was helping to run his family's bowling lanes.
- Dave was a concrete mixer truck driver for 29 years until he retired.

Dave is unquestionably very determined and resilient. As a young adult, a traffic accident left him with a crushed leg among many other injuries. He was hospitalized for 80 days enduring traction and a half-body cast. After a long rehab, he reappeared at St. Stephen's and used crutches to walk down the aisle for communion. Returning from the altar, the congregation gave him a rousing ovation.

Dave endured 2 more tragic accidents which he prefers not to talk about, but through them he showed the same determination and resilience.

In addition to all he is doing at St. Stephen's, Dave is the primary caregiver for his wife Jan who is dealing with long-term health issues.

## ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2022

BY JACKIE INGERSOLL

Pictures are worth 1,000 words, but here is what they cannot capture. **THIS WAS A LIFECHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF US**, and all our expectations were exceeded.

- Christian values were strengthened by experiencing the joy of serving those in great need, then seeing love and appreciation in their eyes.
- Enhanced was our appreciation for how relatively blessed and advantaged we are.
- Many minds were expanded by being in a tropical climate where Spanish is the primary language, and for some it was their first plane ride.
- Kids and adults all bonded via their shared demanding work and unique experiences.
- Kids were strongly appreciative of this latest evidence of the love and support of the St. Stephen's parish for them.

The first three days were spent at a rustic camp right on the Caribbean. We were guided in our service by Danny, disaster relief coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico. The four houses we worked on were damaged either by hurricanes or an earthquake. Construction work had been completed, so we were the finishing crew that scraped, painted, and cleared debris; all in high heat and humidity. Everyone worked enthusiastically without complaint. We all felt so good helping these seniors who were on low fixed incomes.

After work we swam in the Caribbean, ate dinner, and shared reflections on the day. Fr. Brian then led us in either Compline or the Eucharist.

The kids totally embraced serving others and wished they could do even more for them. In fact, they did. Once back, those with jobs opened their wallets and kicked in cash, then asked the congregation to do so too. Kids without jobs helped return bottles and cans to contribute. In total, we were able to send \$1,000 to support the Puerto Rican Diocese's relief efforts, which included \$250 from St. Philip's ECW.

We have people in need in our area whom we might have served instead but helping people who have gone through what our new Puerto Rican friends went through was on a totally different scale. The amount of massive damage, as well as a year without electricity or water, left many speechless. *Continued on pg. 17*

## YOUTH & PARISH OUTREACH: BLESSING BAGS

Last year the church youth assisted in assembling 20 “Blessing Bags” for homeless individuals that are often on street corners in metro Detroit. This year we would like our parish family to assist us by purchasing supplies for these bags and then help in the distribution of these “blessing bags”.



On **Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup>** the youth will assemble the bags during Sunday School and then on Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> the bags will be presented to Father Brian, during the 10am service for a special blessing. At that time, we will ask the children to pass the bags out to our parish family to carry to those less fortunate in our community that we see on the street.

Please help us collect items this fall for this very special project. Below are some suggestions:

- \*Knit Caps   \*Mittens/Gloves   \*Socks   \*Chapstick   \*Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- \*Hand/Foot Warmers   \*McDonald's Gift Card   \*Trail Mix   \*Granola Bar
- \*Gum/Mints/Hard Candies   \*Small Snack Bags   \*Band Aids   \*Hand Sanitizer

We have found that local Dollar Stores are a good place to find many of these items.

A laundry basket marked “Blessing Bags” will be placed at church for the donations. Thank you for your help and generosity in this important outreach. If you have any questions please see Kathy DeCiantis or Gretchen Waters.

## Blessing of the Backpacks

A new tradition was started this year on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the 10am service with Fr. Brian blessing our students and their backpacks as they begin another year of school. After the blessing, the young parishioners marched out with a special banner to their Sunday school classroom. God bless our teachers, administrators, staff and students as they begin another year of education.



### *Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico continued from pg. 16*

The rest of the trip was the pilgrimage part. We visited a rainforest and went kayaking to see bioluminescence water. Operating from a monastery in old San Juan, we attended a Spanish service in the second oldest cathedral in the Americas, San Juan Bautista and toured the sprawling Castillo San Felipe del Morro, begun in the 1500s to protect San Juan's harbor. We ended our week with a wonderful dinner in San Juan, then flew out the next day. Wonder Voyage did a fantastic job planning our trip and we all really bonded with Georgia, our guide. It was a trip we will remember for a lifetime.





## FUN PAGES FOR ALL AGES



# FUN PAGES FOR ALL AGES

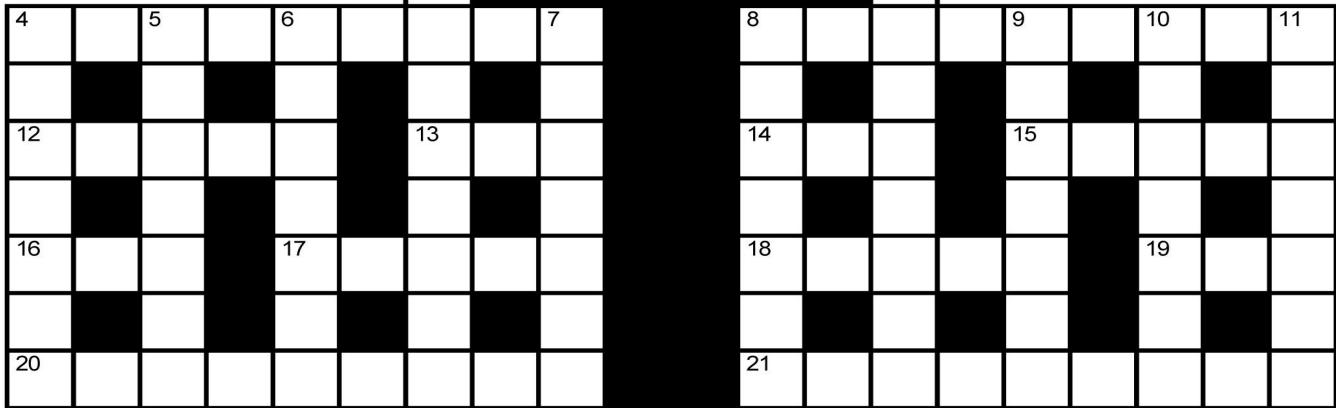
## Bible Crossword X

### Across

- 1 Donkey (3)  
2 Jesus' Father (3)  
4 One of the twelve (9)

### Down

- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)  
3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)



- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)  
12 One of David's warriors (5)  
13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)  
14 New Testament name for Noah (3)  
15 Wish harm upon (5)  
16 Hole in the ground (3)  
17 Adversary (5)  
18 Saviour (5)  
19 First woman (3)  
20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)  
21 Family of priests (9)  
22 Third son of Jacob (4)  
23 Hates (8)  
26 Assurances (8)  
30 Endured pain (8)  
31 Return from the dead (4)  
32 Intercessor (8)  
35 Decorating (8)  
39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)  
40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)  
42 A wise insect (3)  
44 Dwelling place of kings (6)  
45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)  
5 Father of Jonah (7)  
6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)  
7 Defensive structures (11)  
8 Refuges (11)  
9 Dirty (7)  
10 Devout (7)  
11 Pieces of money (7)  
24 Used to listen (3)  
25 Used to see (3)  
26 Positions (5)  
27 Made available (7)  
28 Snake (7)  
29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)  
33 Finish (3)  
34 Possess (3)  
35 King of the Amalekites (4)  
36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)  
37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)  
38 Present (4)  
41 Unfasten (4)  
43 Fish traps (4)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 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

Wednesday Bible Study 10am BE

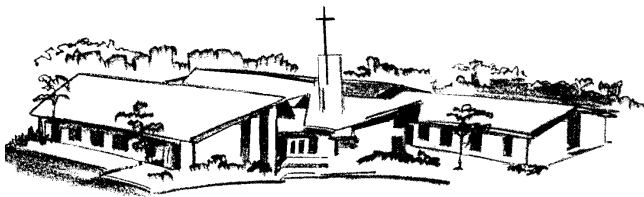
Choir Practice 7:30 pm-9:00pm

Men's Bible Study-Friday's 9 AM at Leo's Co-ney 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.



- \* October 2 Blessing of the Animals @ 2:00 p.m.
- \* October 2 thru 23, Ways to Pray with Fr. Brian 9:00 a.m.
- \* October 13 Ladies Lunch Bunch @ 11:30 a.m. Lucky's Prime Time Rochester Hills. Sign up or let Susan Russell know
- \* October 15—CPR Training—sign up to reserve a spot
- \* October 28th, Friday 10-2pm Crafting Kindness
- \* Small group conversations on going in October, sign up in Gathering Area or online
- \* Lighthouse Thanksgiving Food Drive—due back 11/6
- \* By November 6th donations for Blessing Bags for Youth Collection (see pg 15)
- \* Monday Nov. 7th 2-4 pm Book Discussion see page 6
- \* Sunday, November 13th after 10am service Eucharistic Minister and Visitor Training
- \* November 27—Advent begins
- \* December 5 Advent by Candlelight 7:00 p.m.
- \* For up to the minute current events at St. Stephen's see Key News and the website calendar



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

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