



## THE WITNESS

### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIEST



#### The Year in Review

As we approach the holy season of Advent and Christmas, I am reminded of how far we have come in the past year in both mission and ministry. It was November of 2021 when I arrived in Michigan to feel the Midwest cool wind breeze across my cherub cheeks. By December first, I was fully ready to begin a new call, just in time for the Advent / Christmas season. In my first weeks in the church office, we organized and made plans for our Christmas liturgies. If you came into the office in those first months of December and January you may have caught me wearing my Alaskan parka with faux fur hood, but if you asked Ami O'Neill, our Church Administrator, it didn't mean that I was going anywhere. No, I was simply taking shelter from the sixty-nine-degree office whether patterns! For your part, because of our efforts in the office, you as a parish would have experienced a new children's liturgy for Christmas Eve, along with renewed service offerings and bulletins during Holy Week and Easter. Through the course of the year, you would have also experienced a new tri-fold bulletin.

In January, we elected a new vestry and set out to tackle three specific goals for the year. These goals included establishing a monthly outreach event, creating an annual partnership with Rise Against Hunger, and planning for the revitalization of our mission and ministry. One of these goals we have clearly accomplished, the other two are still in process and will likely continue into the next year. In addition to these vestry goals, I have for my part continued to work with our lay leadership on the development of our pastoral care and outreach ministries post-pandemic. (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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## THE SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS



### AROUND THE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

“When the mission is right,  
the odds don’t matter”-  
*Muhammed Ali*

That is the attitude of Church of the Messiah who at noon hold Sunday services at 231 East Grand Blvd in Detroit. Why? Because most of their parishioners are African-Americans who work in the service industry. 60% of them are males under the age of 30. I invite you to check out their website [churchofthemessiahdetroit.org](http://churchofthemessiahdetroit.org) to learn what a brave group of Episcopalians can do to empower and improve the community around them. Consider a visit to see this church in action and consider donating to their cause. Pastor Barry Randolph will uplift you with his powerful message of change.



As I was thinking about what to write, I thought about this crazy world we live in today. It has become a scary place! Sometimes we must look hard to see forgiveness and love. At a time when one would think people would flock to a safe haven like St. Stephen’s, churches of all denominations are struggling to keep their doors open. I hear the same concern and anxiety about St. Stephen’s. “How are we going to fix this?” “What’s the plan?”

This Christmas season got me thinking about Joseph and Mary as they unwittingly neared the first Christmas.

Joseph was a carpenter whose betrothed, Mary, became pregnant. Joseph first planned to quietly send her away, but an angel told him to take Mary as his wife. The child was to be the Son of God. Meanwhile, Mary, a poor village girl was visited by an angel and told she would give birth to a child. She was to name him Jesus and he was going to save the world. They both could have said No WAY – are you crazy? But they didn’t. Both Joseph and Mary believed God would guide them; God would see them through whatever trials they might face.

Then to add more adventure to their lives, Caesar calls for a census. Joseph and a pregnant Mary packed up and headed to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. There Jesus was born in a stable. Shepherds and Wise Men came to witness the birth of our Savior. Just when Joseph and Mary began thinking about heading home, Joseph was awakened in the night and told to take Mary and the baby and flee to Egypt – and he did. They had no idea what was ahead of them in Egypt, how long they would be there, how they would get back, or what would become of their son. Still, with faith in God, they went.

More than two thousand years later, I find myself, and I suspect all of us, struggling to understand where Christ is calling us to go, with no clue how to get there. I wish for the clarity of an angel to give us a clue. As I ponder the question, I think part of our modern world problem is that we NEED to understand, we NEED a certain clarity of a goal. We NEED to know the path and how to measure when we’ve succeeded. God simply asks us to believe. He has provided us with everything we need to fulfill our mission as his disciples. Can we do as Joseph and Mary? Despite all common sense, will we trust in God and go? I suspect that Joseph and Mary took a few wrong turns along the way and had to adjust their route. But they went, and kept going, trusting God to get them wherever they were to be.

Please pray for the faith and trust Joseph and Mary had in God’s guidance this Christmas. Pray that we at St. Stephen’s have the will to get up and follow Christ’s lead without having first to understand the “how” – or even the “where” he is leading. If we start out, He will show us along the way.

Merry & Blessed Christmas,  
Dave Stein, Senior Warden

# MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings and Salutations!

Happy New Year! In the church liturgical year, Advent marks the beginning of the new church year and this issue will mark my one year anniversary as your Witness editor too! You will note that this issue is Volume 2, Issue 1. Hence, welcome to a new church year at St. Stephen's. In looking over the past issues, we are truly blessed as a parish community. All one needs to look at are those photo collage pages to see us in action, loving each other and sharing our Christian faith.

Please enjoy the season of Advent by being present both in body and spirit at St. Stephen's. It is a season often overlooked for its simplicity and overshadowed by preparations for Christmas. Take some time to enjoy being grateful and listening closely to what the Spirit whispers in your ear. Spend some time reflecting with a cup of tea and a good book, or even a Hallmark movie, as the days grow shorter and the night grows longer. I wish you all a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas! *Kris Fuhr*



## ALL SAINTS REMEMBERED ON NOVEMBER 6, 2022

Rita Adams  
Joseph Arant  
Roger Blackwood  
Alice Brandon  
Mike Carpenter  
Archie Coran  
Betty Feighner  
Fr. Juan Perez  
Michael Russell  
Suzanne Sprague  
Val Thompson  
Vern Wheat

*May Light Perpetual Shine Upon Them*



For your part, you would have experienced new events like our Platinum Luncheon with Kivi Quartet and Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event.

In July, the youth of our parish traveled to Puerto Rico where they partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico in mission and service. During our time in Juan Diaz and Ponce we saw the good work that the Diocese of Puerto Rico is doing on behalf of those still suffering from Hurricane damage. Once more, our youth had opportunity to explore the island of Puerto Rico and to visit places like the fortress of Castillo San Felipe del Morro, the El Yunque Rain Forest, and other locations in San Juan. During the trip, the youth discovered that I play the bongo drum and that my favorite charity is Newman's Own Foundation. Having never heard of Paul Newman, our youth were eerily surprised each time I could list some new grocery item with his name attached, from salad dressing to Oreo cookies! As for your part, you would have experienced and helped support the fundraising efforts of our youth who hosted the Cinco De Mayo Youth Auction in May. You would have also experienced their report to the congregation on their return from Puerto Rico.

Finally, in the fall of 2022 we hosted our first ever Celtic Evensong and Holy Eucharist. This new contemplative service takes inspiration from the ancient pattern of Christian worship in the Celtic and Benedictine tradition. The service incorporates prayers and litanies from resources inspired by communities located in the British Isles, such as Iona and Northumberland. In this service, hymnody, candlelight, prayer, and silence all come together to give shape to a worship experience that opens our hearts to the Holy One. For your part, as a parish, you would have experienced a new meditative and inspiring liturgy of praise and thanksgiving.

As I think about our first year in mission and ministry together, I wonder to myself where can we go from here? What new initiative might we take as a community to revitalize our parish and move into the future together? I have some ideas of where we could go and what we could accomplish, but if we are to move forward into the future together then I believe it will call us all to discover a common vision for the sake of collective action. What is the famous proverb? *Where there is no vision, the people perish.* (Proverbs 29.18) The vision for the future of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is not something that comes from the top down; rather, it is something that we envision together. I have questions and ideas, but only through our embrace of what our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry in her sermon at Diocesan Convention has called *audacious hope*, will we likely discover that common vision that can illuminate the path ahead and reveal the steps we ought to take together.

*Rev. Brian Allert +*



**The St. Stephen's Novels & Nibbles Group** is off to a great start. We even have a name thanks to Jo Gondert and our club members for pouring over suggestions and settling on one that captures our fancy at 2 in the afternoon.

The initial meeting 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 was *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans (2018). Discussion was held on **Monday, November 7th from 2-4 pm** in BE. Our next book will be *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd (2021) with a discussion on **December 12th 2-4pm**. Our January book will be *The Prayer Box* by Lisa Wingate (2013) with discussion on **January 23, 2023 2-4pm**.

Our design is a book every six weeks or so, meeting on Mondays from 2-4 pm. Tea, coffee and nibbles will be served. For more information see Susan Russell.

# OUR PARISH CELEBRATES....

## BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER

Melissa Hardy	11/1
Elaine Church	11/2
Bill Langridge	11/4
Shanker Sundareson	11/5
Kachi Ezeugwa	11/7
Lee Bennett	11/8
Nico Perod	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
Claire Grutta	11/28
Kate Pincura	11/29
Tom Borowski	11/29
Norah Brumfield	11/29

### DECEMBER

Kris Fuhr	12/3
Steve Brandon	12/6
Jerred Rich	12/6
Joan Morgan	12/7
Miranda Spates	12/11
Sudhakar Samuel	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

### JANUARY

Molly Albertson	1/2
Joann Morelli	1/3
Marilyn Borowski	1/3
Gordon McMullen	1/3
Alice Moss	1/5
Winifred Lowery	1/8
Marilyn Gilbert	1/8
Dave Stein	1/12
Kate Roberts	1/12
Rod Johnson	1/14
Donna Johnson	1/21
Sathi Satyanathan	1/21
Diane Kenefic	1/22
Susan Russell	1/22
Jill Stein	1/23
Molly Grubb	1/24
Cindy Vida	1/24
Jim Maxwell	1/25
Inge Wojas	1/26
Greyson Ingersoll	1/27
Chris Herfurth	1/28

## ANNIVERSARIES

### NOVEMBER

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

### DECEMBER

Inge & Pat Wojas	12/15
Elizabeth & Pat Roberts	12/18
Jane & Mike Wellman	12/26
Mary & Dennis Bishop	12/27

### JANUARY

Gretchen & Roy Waters	1/7
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**VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS**  
BY DON INGERSOLL, CLERK

**Keeping You in the Know**

I could talk about lots of specific things the Vestry [including Fr. Brian] has done recently, but I think this is a good time to step back and give the big picture.

The thrust of the Vestry's activity this Fall has been to find and start down the path to God's vision for us. Revitalizing ourselves won't be easy, and it will be an ongoing process. The world is changing, people are changing. Like most churches our membership and revenues have been declining for years. Churches that are trending upward have had to make sometimes painful changes in what they do and how they do it.

That said, we also must be mindful of the needs of our fellow parishioners. And we are also doing many things to "serve our neighbors" which are a source of joy to us. We don't have infinite time, talent, or money, so we must find ways to do things smarter and make tradeoffs. Everything is being looked at, including:

- our worship services [think Celtic],
- our pastoral care for helping parishioners deal with their challenges,
- ways to build connections among parishioner, especially our younger members,
- youth and adult education and programs,
- outreach programs supporting people and needs outside our walls,
- communications with each other and those whom we hope to invite, welcome and connect with,
- how we manage our operations, building and grounds and other assets, and,
- how we might generate income from non-traditional methods.

This is a work in progress, and we are closer to the beginning than the end. The Vestry and Fr. Brian are the focal point for this, but success will require everyone pitching in as best they can. [Have an idea? See a need? Want to help with something? Let us know. We need you. We are better when all brains and hands are working together.](#)

Vestry meets the 4th Tuesday of the month



**BLESSED ARE THOSE**

Our parish is very blessed to have Kathy DiCiantis and Gretchen Waters leading the charge with our faithful Sunday School children as they pack and prepare blessing bags to be given to the homeless. Through your donations of items requested, the children and also the youth group will put together bags filled with items that will assist in the well-being of those less fortunate. The group hopes that members of St. Stephen's will take a few bags and as they see folks on the street corners, hand out a bag to them with a blessing of peace and love.

What a wonderful idea, and one that takes no time to do as we are driving from here to there. Thank you Kathy, Gretchen and our children for such a wonderful idea.

Bags will be ready for distribution on November 13th after being blessed by Father Brian. Please take a few and keep them in your cars to give out.





**A MEDITATION  
TO PONDER ON  
FROM ST. AUGUSTINE**

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO BYLAWS OF ST. STEPHENS**

Reason: The Maximum number of 9 vestry members better represents the population of our church. The change reduces the ambiguity of how many vestry members are needed to fill vacant positions.

**Article II – Membership**

**Section 2. Vestry Members**

Current bylaw wording:

- A. The vestry shall consist of a minimum of nine (9) and a maximum of twelve (12) adult members and may have an additional two (2) youth members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Youth members must be at least sixteen (16) years of age on or before the date of election and no older than twenty-one (21) years of age on date of election.

Proposed to Change the Number of vestry members to Read:

- A. The vestry shall consist of nine (9) Members who are at least sixteen (16) years of age on or before date of election.  
(Refer to Member definition in Article II section 1.)

**Article VII – Voting**

Create a Nomination committee and a process to seek potential nominees to the vestry and provide a timeline with interaction with the congregation.

Reason: To clarify in writing a process that we loosely follow now.

To inform and include entire parish in the processes.

**Section 1. Election of the Vestry**

Current wording- with changes /additions are underlined

**A. Nominating Committee**

A Nominating Committee shall consist of Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Two (2) parishioners at-large, to serve for one year, and the Priest.

The Committee members to be chosen at the Annual meeting.

Procedure:

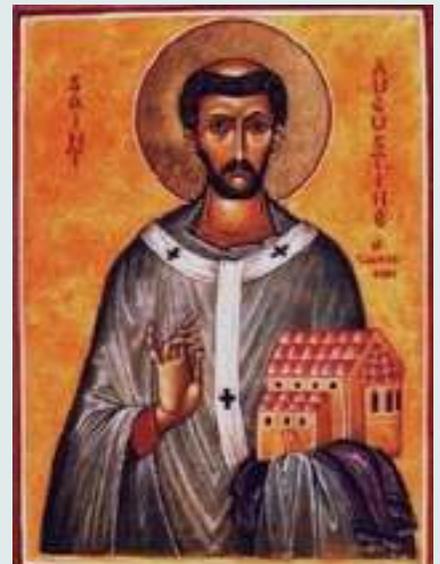
- 1). October: Nominating Committee meets to begin search for potential nominees. Announce the process to nominate begins & post current committee members.
- 2). November: Invite Parishioners to volunteer and/or submit names to the committee. *Continued on page 14.*

Love, and Do What You Will

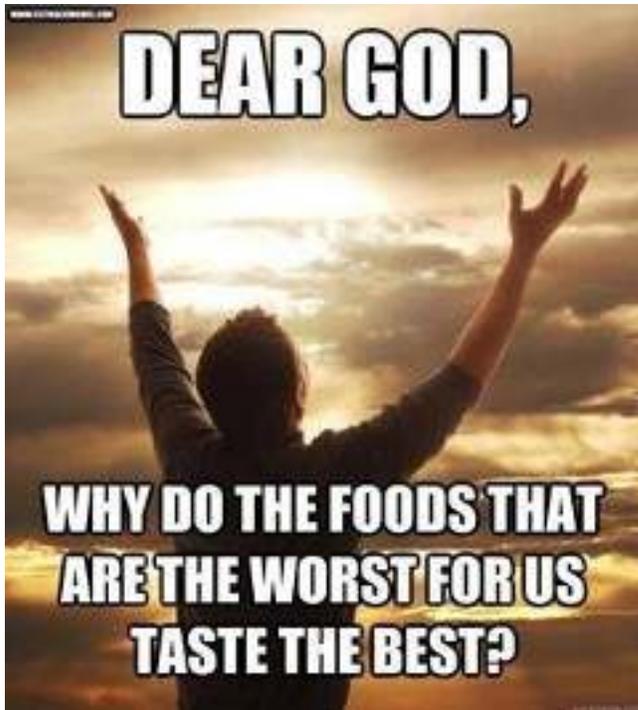
Once, and for all, a short rule is laid down for you: Love, and do what you will. If you keep silence, do it out of love. If you cry out, do it out of love. If you refrain from punishing, do it out of love. Let the root of love be within. From such a root nothing but good can come.— Sermon on 1 John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

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

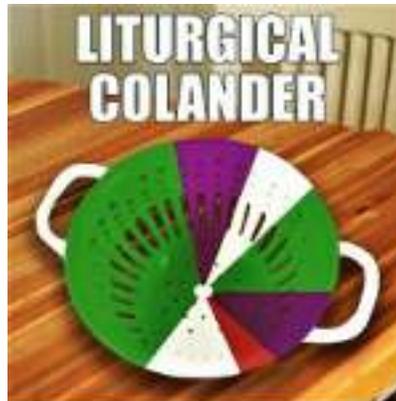
Excerpts from Augustine Day by Day pg. 80



A BIT OF HUMOR TO LIGHTEN THE DAY



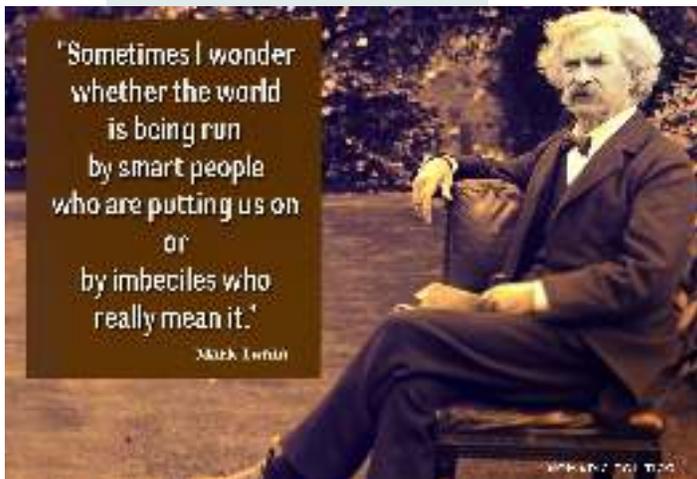
Yes, it's time to start a new liturgical season! Upcoming is the purple one, not to be confused with the one in February where we put ashes on our foreheads.



Some more Mark Twain quotes:

*"Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in."*

*"The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close."*



## FROM THE KITCHENS OF KATHY DICIANITIS & CORINNE FRAGNOLI—THANKSGIVING FAVORITES

Every family has their traditions of special recipes, especially around Thanksgiving. Two of our “hostess with the mostest” are sharing recipes expected at the feast of Thanksgiving every year. The DiCiantis family Thanksgiving table must have Jiffy Cornbread Casserole, and the Fragnoli family table must have Cranberry-Orange Sauce. Both recipes are below. Consider adding them to your family Thanksgiving table, too.

### **Jiffy Cornbread Casserole**

Serves 8, 5 minutes prep, 45 minutes cooking time

1/2 cup butter, melted

2 eggs, beaten

1 (8.5 oz) box Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix

1 (15 oz) can whole kernel corn, drained

1 (14.75 oz) can creamed corn

1 cup sour cream

Preheat the oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9X9 baking dish with oil or butter. In a medium bowl, stir together the butter, eggs, kernel and creamed corn, and sour cream. Mix in the corn muffin mix until well-combined. Pour mixture into the greased dish, and bake 45 minutes or until the top is golden brown. Enjoy!

### **Cranberry-Orange Sauce**

Serves 8, 30 minutes prep, 1 hour 30 minutes chill time

1 bag (12 oz) fresh cranberries

1 1/3 cups sugar

1 Tbl finely shredded orange peel

1/4 cup water

2 Tbl lemon juice ( I use fresh lemons)

1/4 cup orange juice (NOPE) or orange-flavored liqueur (YEP!)

-I use Grand Mariner

In a nonreactive 4 qt saucepan, mix cranberries, sugar, orange peel, water and lemon juice. Cook over medium-low heat, stirring frequently, until juices start to flow and sugar is dissolved. Increase heat to medium, simmer 6 to 8 minutes longer, stirring occasionally, until cranberries pop. Stir in liqueur. Refrigerate about 1 hour until completely cooled. Nutrition information: 1/4 cup each serving is 180 calories, 0 fat, 0 sodium, 2 grams dietary fiber. Note: I always double the recipe. Enjoy!



*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 : A ROAD TRIP TO GETTYSBURG

BY KAROL SPRAGUE & JIM CARNAGIE

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The idea was to take a short get-away. We wanted to visit the site of one of the most significant events in the history of the United States. Karol's cousin Brent urged us to visit Gettysburg. Karol's fourth great grandfather, George Rummel, settled in Gettysburg on Culp's Hill, site of the July 1 battle in the 1750s. His grandson, John, lived there in 1863, and their barn was used as a hospital following the three-day siege. Cousin Brent thought we might find it interesting, and he was right.

We stopped overnight in Pittsburgh. Next morning, we attended Sunday service at Trinity Episcopal, the Cathedral for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. We thoroughly enjoy the experience of worshiping in an Episcopal church wherever we find ourselves. In the afternoon we visited the Carnegie Museums near the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

Gettysburg was our goal. It is a charming town. Most of the buildings built before 1863 have plaques showing construction dates. Independent guides and shopkeepers walk through town in costume. The Gaslight Inn, our B&B, hosted an 8:30am speaker to set the stage for us. There is so much to do and see and learn. Our ninth-grade history course is long forgotten. We did a walking tour of the town, visited a preserved home, and drove the battlefields with an audio tour. Gettysburg's population has not grown significantly. The town was home to 2400 in 1863, and today the population is about 7000. It seems that everyone who lives there is invested in preserving and presenting the story of the battle.

In 1863 Gettysburg was an industrial center, manufacturing and exporting carriages, shoes, and tanned goods. Many roads converge in Gettysburg, like spokes on a wheel. These roads connect to at least ten nearby Pennsylvania and Maryland towns, which allowed large troops in the battle of Gettysburg to move quickly. The confrontation was not a long-term plan from either side, and the residents were caught off guard. Some civilian residents joined to defend their town. One of the most celebrated was John Burns, a civilian in his 70s who is honored with his own statue on the battle grounds.

We are not military history buffs, but no one can help but be overwhelmed by the enormity of the events around July 1 – 3, 1863. In three days, 160,000 soldiers, both north and south, arrived and did battle in an area 3.3 by 5.3 miles around the town. Karol's cousin Wesley Culp fought and died on Culp's Hill. In three days of fighting in this small area 40,000 men were killed or wounded and 5, 000 horses also died. *Continued on page 13*



## 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 your calendars as you will not want to miss the return of this wonderful evening spent in song and sharing stories on Love, Faith and Hope, Peace and Joy, and of course, good fellowship, desserts 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. Sign-up in the gathering area or contact the church office or Alice Moss with any questions @248-840-3631.



### Did you know ...

1. Roy was originally from Madison, New Jersey. After college he entered Naval Officers' Candidate School in Newport, RI, and was commissioned as an ensign. During his active-duty [mid-60s], Roy was a damage control officer, first on a landing ship [for tanks], then a destroyer.
2. After active-duty Roy joined the Naval Reserve and rose to the rank of Commander.
3. Professionally, Roy was a construction estimator and project manager in the New York area and elsewhere.
4. Luckily, work brought him to Detroit, where he met and married Gretchen, who is also well-known around St. Stephen's.
5. Roy and Gretchen selected St. Stephen's because they had two daughters and thought it would be great for them to have a woman priest. The church was also close to home.
6. The girls, Katie and Liz, attended Sunday school and were acolytes. They were both married at St. Stephen's, and Liz's marriage was the last one performed here by Fr. Jonathan, who delayed his retirement to do so.
7. The children of Katie's and Liz are continuing the cycle as students in our Sunday school, performing as pageant actors, and other activities.
8. In addition to all that Roy does at St. Stephen's, he has also served on the Diocesan Loan and Grant Committee evaluating proposals, the Catholic Community Response Team collecting used furniture and distributing food, and has held leadership roles in the Beverly Hills Lions Club.

## DID YOU KNOW...



Roy Waters has worn many important hats since joining St. Stephen's when Rev. Nancy McGrath was Rector. Before he knew what happened, Roy was on the Vestry. During his term as Senior Warden, Rev. McGrath moved West where her husband's job took them. The ensuing search process surfaced two strong candidates, which caused some stress, but in the end, Fr. Jonathan Sams was called.

Roy's service continued unabated. He served on the Vestry twice more, including a stint as Junior Warden. Roy's past and current service includes serving on the search committee for Fr. Jonathan's replacement; being an usher and counter, a Finance Committee member; scheduling and being a lay reader, and lay eucharistic minister. Roy also played a key role in the design of major expansions of our office space, the Fellowship Hall, and other spaces, and he helped oversee the construction work.

*Continued at left*

PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE PARISH!



We were impressed with the respect shown to all the soldiers who fought at Gettysburg, not just Northerners. Although Pennsylvania was a northern state, we believe Karol's cousin died fighting with the Confederate troops. Originally, only northern states were invited to place monuments for the battalions from their states. Later, southern states were allowed to place monuments as well. The most impressive monument is the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, built in 1938 with Maine granite and Alabama limestone. The National Park Service owns most of the battlefield land. It does a remarkable job of maintaining the park, keeping it authentic. No new trees are allowed to grow. All wiring is underground. There is a concerted effort to keep the entire area look as it did in 1863.

Were the soldiers religious? We read that religion stood at the center of the Civil War for both sides. Both North and South looked to God for meaning, and each side believed with equal fervor that God was on its side. We also read that many denominations, varieties of Presbyterians, English and German-speaking Lutherans, Catholics, Brethren, White and African American Methodists, started churches in Gettysburg during that era. The Lutheran Theological Seminary, established in 1826 sits on Seminary Ridge.

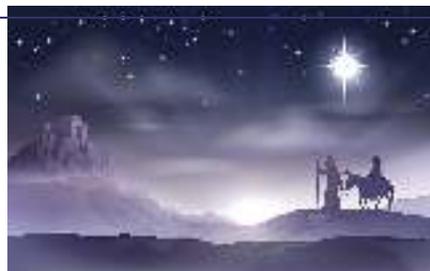
We all know of Lincoln's Gettysburg address. We were most moved by the realization that Lincoln fought at tremendous cost to prevent the dissolution of the United States at the time of great divisions between the states and the people. His fears and cause in this regard became even more poignant to us, considering many divisive movements in our political atmosphere today.



*Battle of Culp's Hill*



**Crafting Kindness Update.** Crafting Kindness will have its last meeting of the year on Saturday, December 10th from 10am to noon. We will be making and creating ornaments under the direction of Alice Moss. We will paint, glue, and decorate Christmas ornaments for seniors and other loved ones. Please invite family and friends. No sewing is required, although we will have some walker bag kits to take home and return for use in January. We will have cake and tea to share at the December meeting. Please **RSVP** if you're attending via text to Jill Stein's phone 248-376-0560. Hope to see many of you there! Our January meeting will be on Friday, January 6th from 10am to noon. We will have a brief sewing demo and take kits home to sew and return in February.



3). December: Committee ascertains the nominees are willing and able (fitting the criteria stated in Membership) to serve, then presents the slate to the vestry.

Biographies of all nominees are due and posted.

4. January: Announce slate of nominees to the congregation. State that the deadline for any additional nominees is 2 weeks prior to the Annual meeting.

#### Section 1. Election of Vestry

B. Election of Vestry Members shall be by secret, written ballot at the Annual Meeting of the members.

Members shall cast not more than one vote each for every vestry position to be filled. Failure to do so shall void that ballot. ~~(The Wardens or their designated members)~~ In Event there is not a full slate of nominees to fill all vacancies, Nominations from the floor shall be accepted at the annual meeting. If the number of nominees is the same as the vacancies, then election of Vestry Members may be by show of hands or vocal acclamation.

~~The committee members shall act as tellers of the ballot and shall be responsible for counting the votes and announcing the results. In the event of a tie which would more than fill the existing vacancies, a runoff of the tied candidates shall be held to fill the vacancies. Lots shall be drawn of tied candidates to fill vacancy.~~

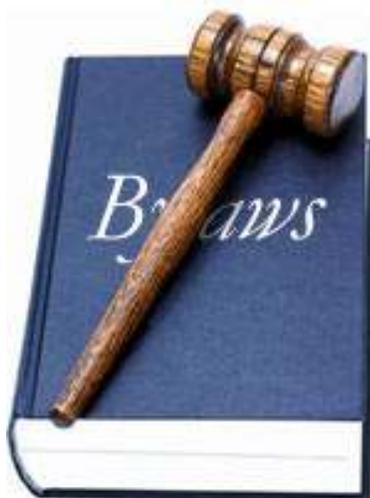
Changes to the Election of vestry members to make a simpler and fairer process. Clarify when Nominations from the floor are accepted.



*You are invited to join in a 12<sup>th</sup> Night celebration Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Partake in an evening of fellowship, fine dining and festivities.*

*The dinner will be prepared by the Fragnoli's & Mike Wellman, with assistance from the Hospitality Committee. Tickets are \$25 each and all proceeds will benefit a charity. In order to plan properly, please reserve your seating soon if you are planning on attending.*

*To purchase tickets, please see either Stephen or Corinne Fragnoli or Mike Wellman. If you would like to reserve your tickets, you may email Stephen Fragnoli at: [stephen.fragnoli@ccnetwork.com](mailto:stephen.fragnoli@ccnetwork.com)*



## THE YOUTH PAGE

### Noah's Ark Project

The elementary school children completed a project on Noah's Ark. It has three levels with stables and cages and storage areas for animal feed. There are woven fabric blankets and baskets of food for Noah and his family but...we had to: "imagine" that there are two of every animal on board. Kathy DiCiantis and Gretchen Waters are the faithful teachers of these wonderful and bright children.



### A Visit to the Apple Orchard

Recently, Evan DiCiantis and I took a group of the middle school/high school youth group to Diehl's Apple Orchard and cider mill in Holly. This has been a popular outing for the youth in the last few years. Our first stop was the corn maze. What a difference from last year when the corn was high, and we tried to dodge the puddles and muddy sections without much success. With very little rain this summer, the stalks were only about two feet high and no mud in sight. Very disappointing but it was a beautiful day, so we wandered the paths to the end anyway.

The hayride was fun followed by Diehl's delicious cider and donuts. The coats were soon off as the kids ran around climbing haystacks and playing blind man's bluff among some bales of hay. It was delightful watching these older kids just having fun with each other and participating in lots of low-tech games in the sunshine.

Jackie Ingersoll



### BOOK NOOK UPDATE BY JACKIE INGERSOLL

With the cold weather approaching, you may want to wander over to the Book Nook in the Fellowship Hall. Lots of new books have been added recently. The books are donated from the Friends of both Oxford and Auburn Hills Libraries. The newer books are \$2 and the rest are \$1. Puzzles are \$2 and 2023 calendars are \$.50. Don't see anything you like? Let me know your favorite author or some titles and I'll keep my eye out for you. Not a book reader? Pop in a couple dollars as a donation. The money goes to support youth programming and outings.



## 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

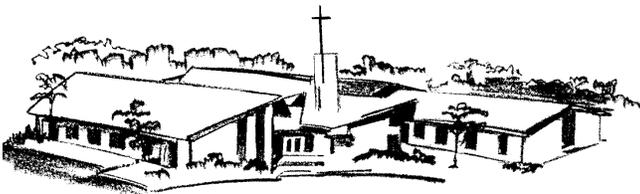
Choir Practice 7:30 pm-9:00pm

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



- \* November 20th—Celebration Sunday with brunch after 10am service
- \* November 27—Advent begins
- \* November 27—Celtic Evensong and Holy Eucharist 6pm
- \* November 27—Bound Together gifts due
- \* December 5—Advent by Candlelight 7:00 p.m. see sign up in gathering area
- \* December 10th— Crafting Kindness 10am-Noon
- \* December 12th- -Novels & Nibbles Group 2-4 pm BE
- \* Christmas Eve Services— 5:30pm Christmas Story & Family Holy Eucharist  
9:30 pm Choral Christmas Music  
10pm Holy Eucharist (with Incense)
- \* Christmas Day Services— 10am Eucharist Rite I (spoken)
- \* January 1st New Year's Day— 8am Spoken Eucharist Rite I  
10am Holy Eucharist Rite II
- \* January 7th— 12th Night Dinner , see sign up in gathering area in December or Steve and Corinne Fragnoli
- \* January 29th —The Annual Meeting after 10am service
- \* For up to the minute current events at St. Stephen's see Key News and the website calendar



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

