



The WITNESS

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Troy, Michigan 48098

August 2011

The Rambling Rector



To all "Rambling Rector" readers: Thank you for reading my ramblings over the past twenty years. As you know, I love to write, and your affirmations of these efforts encourage me to expand upon my writing after retirement. If you want to keep up with my ramblings in the future, you may do so by visiting me blog at www.theramblingrector.blogspot.com. My intent is to maintain it more faithfully than in the past...that is assuming I can think of anything else to say!

The Rambling Rector

Rambling On

This place on Lake Champlain is one of those where, in a strange way, I always am, even when I'm not. St. Stephen's is another such place, yet more than a "place." Oh, I know, without the 5500 Adams Rd. address there would be no "anchor" for the larger context, just as the waters of this ancient lake provide an undeniable *weightiness* to its being.



This very quality, this fact-of-having-an-address, are the "outward and visible signs" of a *sacramental* reality, a reality that conveys God's living presence to us in an accessible way.



But you know that is my way of seeing the world. You know that I think the world is inhabited, infiltrated, infested, and actively haunted by

the Real Presence of God.

"God" is, I confess, a word we use when we run out of words, but just can't keep our mouths shut. How does one speak of "Someone" who cannot be weighed, measured, or made to open his or her mouth and say "ahh"?

Lest we be reduced to babbling stupidity, God has established an "address", so to speak, something like the one we maintain on Adams Rd., except that God's "address" was in Nazareth 2000+ years ago.

That address has expanded considerably since then, of course, which is why I can sit by Lake Champlain and be as close to God as if I had lived next door to Jesus and his family way back when.

Or as close to you, because God's address includes your house, and your family, and your church.

So, as I say, Lake Champlain is one of those places where I always am, even when I'm not. Just like St. Stephen's.



Love,

Jonathan





Around the Parish

August Lectionary

Aug 7—Pentecost 8

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105: 1-6,16-22,45b

or

1 Kings 19: 9-18
Psalm 85: 8-13
Rom 10: 5-15
Matt 14: 22-33

Aug 14— Pentecost 9

Gen 45: 1-15
Psalm 133

or

Is 56: 1, 6-8
Psalms 67
Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32
Matt 15: (10-20) 21-28

Aug 21—Pentecost 10

Ex 1: 8-2:10
Psalm 124

or

Is 51: 1-6
Psalm 138
Rom 12: 1-8
Matt 16: 13-20

Aug 28— Pentecost 11

Ex 3: 1-15
Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45c

or

Jer 15: 15-21
Psalm 26: 1-8
Rom 12: 9-21
Matt 16: 21-28

Dear caring people of God,
Grace and peace to you!

As we approach the time that Father Jonathan retires, one of the major roles he plays is all the pastoral care. It will take three of us (myself, Father Maxwell and Deacon Liz) to do his job, and we also want you to help!



So, we are going to continue the on-call pastoral care program we started when Father Jonathan went on sabbatical. We will do it for the weeks he is on vacation (July 14-Aug 3) and then when he retires (Sep-Dec). We will continue until we have an interim priest (which may be in a week or 3 months after Jonathan+ retires) and let the interim decide how to continue.

If you feel called to sign up for days (it can be one day or a whole week!) please let me know by emailing me at associate@stephenstroy.org.

Peace,

Pastor Manisha

very hot or stagnant, or marked by dull lack of progress.

At St. Stephens, we have not marked the Dog Days of 2011 by a "dull lack of progress!" This has been a time of vibrancy and commitment. We have been very busy doing Christ's work. The Vacation Bible School and the Mission Trip are two wonderful examples. We have also been busy preparing for the fall schedule and visioning our household of God without Fr. Jonathan.



One question that frequently is asked is "Who is in charge when Jonathan leaves?" The focus quite naturally is often on the Associate Rector, for us, Pastor Manisha. While she has all the gifts we need to lead us, it is not her ministry.

Believe me, she already very busy with the ministries she has been called to. To add to this the responsibilities as our interim rector would be unfair to her and the ministries she already leads.

The Diocese wisely recognizes this and passes all the non-ecclesiastical duties of the rector to the Senior Warden. This means I will be responsible for the management of the staff and "operation" of St. Stephens. Pastor Manisha, Fr. Jim Maxwell and Deacon Liz will lead in all things Pastoral.

We have a very talented Vestry and Executive Team all of whom I will rely heavily on for guidance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask me, Deane Blythe your Junior Warden or Don Ingersoll your Clerk. And continue to pray for your parish leaders, the missions of St. Stephens and the calling of our next spiritual leader.

Peace,

Dave Stein
Sr. Warden

The Wardens Corner

As I'm writing this it is the third week of July and about 96 degrees out. My mother would sigh and declare the Dog Days of Summer are upon us. We took this statement as a fact never asking what the "Dog Days" are. I always pictured our dog sleeping the day away in a shallow hole he dug under the porch. The "Dog Days" are the hottest, most sultry days of summer, usually falling between early July and early September



Through the ages, Dog Days were popularly believed to be an evil time "when the seas boiled, wine turned sour, Quinto raged in anger, dogs grew mad, and all creatures became languid, causing to man burning fevers, hysterics, and phrensies" according to Brady's *Clavis Calendarium*, 1813. Dog Days have also been defined as a time period or event that is

Around the Parish—cont.



SOS provides shelter, supportive services, and financial assistance to homeless and at-risk children and adults. **Many of the clients we are currently serving were negatively affected by the economic downturn and are homeless for the first time.** The services and aid provided to SOS clients are critical as they work towards independence. SOS works with each individual or family to address their needs at this crucial juncture, to prevent them from becoming chronically homeless.

SOS clients will be at St. Stephen's, the week of September 25th to October 2nd

You can help by preparing and serving meals, providing rides, leading activities, and more. Interested in getting involved? Please Contact, Joan Morgan at (248) 877-1270 or John Morley at (248) 641-5956. You can help make a difference!

Busy that week? Want to get involved in other ways? To learn how please contact Austin at (248)809-3773 or at austin@oaklandshelter.org

Thank you for being a partner in breaking the cycle of homelessness in our community!



**Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!**

Please join this remarkable group.

Our Summer Schedule starts in June and ends in September. If you would like to sing, every Sunday we are there. No robes required!

Come and make a joyful noise!

Theater

Come Fly Away is the new Broadway musical that brings together the legendary music of Frank Sinatra and the creative vision of Tony Award-winning choreographer Twyla Tharp. If interested, please sign up in the Gathering Area. For any added information, please see Jackie Ingersoll.

Where: Fisher Theatre
When: Sunday, September 18th
Time: 7:30 pm
Price: \$65 per ticket (Regular price \$89)
Money Due: Sunday, August 28th (Please make checks out to Jackie Ingersoll)

Opportunity

Just in case you thought there wasn't anything happening this summer, the Joint Membership Development and Communications Team has been busy! We are doing many exciting and innovative things this year! Some of our projects include redesigning the St. Stephen's Welcome Package, developing fun ways to identify and engage new members and completing the beautiful Welcome Center in the vestibule.



We are also working to update our website content and look as well as many more things. If you would like to participate or chat further, please contact karen Morley at 248-703-5516, or e-mail at morley.karen.e@gmail.com"

<http://www>



Under the Dogwood

The Dishes Can Wait

I recently read an article in a magazine called *Joy*, and one of the lines of the article really struck me – It said, “We were not created to live alone.”

The article also went on to mention that for some people the act of providing hospitality can be perceived as a risk. Opening your home to others means that you might be putting your personal life on display. It means that you might be giving up a bit of your privacy to let someone in. Giving up your time, talent, and treasures might make each of them less available for something/someone else that needs them. How do you balance the needs of others, with the needs of God and your own personal needs?

I don't think that there is a correct answer to that question and judging by the number of books that get written every single year about managing stress, or balancing your life, I don't think anyone else truly knows the answer either.

Maybe we are trying to answer the wrong question. Maybe the question shouldn't be how do I balance my life, and be everything to everyone, but rather how do I let God know that I appreciate the unique gifts that he has given to me? God has given us all the ability to feel joy, and love, and friendship and hope and he has also given us the ability to share it with others.



In the world that we live in today, there is so much pressure. Pressure to be the best, have the most, give the most, dress the best, cook the best, drive the best car etc. We

might often think about having a friend over for dinner, but decide to wait - until – we get the house cleaned, pull the weeds, or repaint the dining room. How many times do we give up the opportunity to share joy and hospitality because we feel like everything has to be perfect or planned

down to the last detail?

How much time do we spend wondering what other people will think? What would happen if we decided to skip cooking dinner and invite a friend over for a pizza or if we called someone who we knew might be lonely and invited them over for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and some conversation? What if our kitchen counters were cluttered with newspapers and our carpets needed to be vacuumed? Would our guests look at the counters or the floors in shock/horror, or would they feel loved and welcomed?

Hospitality has thousands of definitions (I know I have looked them up J), but the basic idea is really quite simple, share your time, share your talent, share your treasures, anytime, and in any way that you can. Call, a friend, have a potluck, share a story – the dishes can wait.



Lisa Bialowas

PLANNING A GRACE- FILLED EXIT

Who will make your final decisions?
Will your last wishes be met?
Join us on Saturday, September 24 from 8 to 12:30, followed by lunch, to learn how you can give your loved ones peace of mind and assurance during a most difficult time by letting them know your wishes about your Spiritual, Financial-Legal, and Practical plans.

\$17 (\$30/couple) by September 18

The Endowment Committee

Wanted:

A wonderful teacher for our 4th-6th grade Sunday School class (to work with Rob Redmer and Liz Sinkovich).

A dynamic and energetic Coordinator for our Sunday School (works closely with Pastor Manisha).

If interested, let Pastor Manisha know (associate@ststephenstroy.org) !

August 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Please check the website for the most up-to-date calendar of events
www.ststephenstroy.org



More Help Wanted

Do you enjoy Facebook? Pastor Manisha could use your help in creating Facebook pages for the church. Let her know by friending her!

August Birthdays

Elizabeth Raczkowski1
 Bob Brokenshire.....2
 Bruce Papet2
 Jenna Przeslowski.....2
 Liz Sinkovich3
 Olivia DeCiantis4
 Amber Allen.....5
 Pat Look6
 Carly El-Zoghby.....6
 Sharon Sands.....7
 Joe Crowell7
 Daniel Cho7
 Paul McClendon8
 Jen Hatchett8
 Geoff Walter9
 Lindsey Miller10
 Madeleine Roberts .10
 Jan Hopper 11
 Linda Lambert 11
 Courtney Bialowas... 11
 Harry Frank.....12
 Stephen Brokenshire .13
 Melissa Duggan13
 Joe Hopper14
 Carolyn Miller.....18
 Rebecca Jose18
 Richard Kenefic21
 Helen Giles21
 Byron Converse.....22
 Robin Gratsch22
 Herschel Hicks23
 Joan Knapp25
 Chibuzo Okeagu26
 James Schmidt26
 Kathryn Hassel27
 Kristen Walter27
 Jeffrey Williams ...28
 Claire Spivey28
 Lou Mirzoian30
 Jonathan Burrell30
 Chloe Malinich.....30
 Susan Taormino31
 Kyle Bailey.....31
 Benjamin Buller.....31
 Cathryn Hardy31

Reaching Out

Numbers



\$730

The amount in dollars of plants purchased from the Baldwin Plant Sale in May.

\$426.28

The amount collected during the Spring UTO Ingathering.



19

The number of whole blood units collected at the July

Be a Brick

You are cordially invited to "Be a Brick" or as Pink Floyd would say.....another brick in the wall?? :) Every little bit helps to put the wonderful Cathedral center back in business helping the poor and educating the young.

St. Patrick's Madison Heights and St. Stephen's Troy will jointly host a Benefit Potluck dinner on August 6th from 6-9pm to help rebuild the Cathedral Center in Haiti. This will be held at St. Stephen's at 5500 N. Adams Rd, Troy, MI. Door Prizes, Good Food, Live Music (by Celtic Knot) are to be had for a donation of \$10.00 and a dish to pass. Meat will be provided. RSVP to 586-764-2560 (Deacon Liz Forest) by July 30th. You are cordially invited to "Be a Brick" or as Pink Floyd would say.....another brick in the wall?? Every little bit helps to put the wonderful Cathedral center back in business helping the poor and educating the young.



Peace
Deacon Liz+

Did You Know?

Did you know that contributions to the rector's or associate rector's discretionary fund help families in our own congregation with their needs? If you would like to help, make checks out to St. Stephen's and write in the memo "(associate) rector's discretionary fund." We are grateful for your generosity to help our beloved families. -- Pastor Manisha and Father Jonathan



Giving a Party!

You won't want to miss this grand finale tribute to our retiring rector:

Date: Saturday, August 27, 2011

Place: The Met Hotel former Hilton)

550 Crooks Road @

I-75

Troy, MI 48098

Time: 5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Menu: casual buffet



PARTY



St. Stephen's is on Facebook! To join the St. Stephen's Group, friend Karen Morley, Jay Edwards or Pastor Manisha.

We Ask Your Prayers for...

Members

Bob Bagnall	Mathias Look
Harold Golding	Albertine Mosier
Peter Goulding	Mike O'Neill
Steve Kirby	Charles Saylor
Connie Jose	Pauline Woodin
Pat Look	Katie Yant

Family & Friends

Ola Bell	Patty McKibben
Steven Bell	Shirley Morley
Susan Brown	MJ Ogden
Jane Darr	Barb Paton
Jack Dillon	Bill Paton
Cathlynn Duncan	Ryan Pope
Betty Feighner	Rachel
Karen Fisher	Robin Raybould
Rose Fragnoli	Richard Saferian
Gage Family	Liz Sage
John Good	Janice Sayers
Ken Gore	Tom Schutz
Jeffrey Gross	Chris Slezak
John Hoffman	Ivy Sloss
Claudine Hoppen	Charles Sternberg
LeRoy Johnson	Kay Sternberg
Renee Kelpay	Anna Wagner
Lucille Makarov	David Wagner
Gertrude Marks	Andrew Wellman

Those in the Armed Services

Stephen Armstrong—Nephew of Phil & Linda Pierce
 Rachel Barton—Granddaughter of Jane & Harry Frank
 Jason Demattia—Known to Kathy Davis
 Andrew Fielder—Grandson of Davis Fielder
 Thomas Frydrych—Son-in-law of Rob & Amy Redmer
 Kyle Hoffman- Known to Joe & Jan Hopper
 Ian Hotton— Grandson of Randy Hotton
 Robert Johnstone—known to Alaina Nunn
 Michael Kohn—Known to Norma Ross
 Ryan Kasky - Grandson of Larry & Lynn Nunn
 Nick Limauro—Friend of Phil & Linda Pierce
 Stephen L'Hommedieu—Godson of Phil & Linda Pierce
 Nathan Madak - Cousin of Diane Kenefic & David Eldon
 David Mentier - Cousin of Diane Kenefic & David Eldon
 Brian Papet - Son of Bruce & Nancy Papet
 Sarah Peacock—Niece of Linda Pierce
 Andrew Rathbun—Known to Stephanie Herderich
 Kyle Rogowski—Nephew of Ken & Kris Fuhr
 Joshua Spates - Son of John & Miranda Spates
 Alex Wade—Nephew of Debbie Sloan
 Taylor Ward - Son of Kevin & Carol Ward

These Parish Families

8/7	Bill, Robin, Benjamin & Caroline Gratsch Adrian & Bonnie Gross
8/14	Joe & Claire Grutta Bill, Nancy & Elyse Haboush
8/21	Paul, Melissa, Jacob, Cathryn & Mackenzie Hardy Kathryn Hassel
8/28	Eric, Jen & Quentin Hatchett Tim, Renee, TJ, Faith & David Hatt
9/4	Mary Alice Heaton Rhett, John, Peter, Melissa & Marlene Heberling

The Departed

Doug Crewdson
Friend of Mary Beth Beal

Judy Davis
Sister of Joann Morelli

Ruth Potts
Founding member of St. Stephen's

Teri Lynn Ward
Maternal Grandmother of Jayden & Teagan Pruitt

August Anniversaries


Harry & Jane Frank.....	1
Eric & Jen Hatchett	2
Byron & Mary Ehlers	4
Joe & Barbara McCoy	4
Mike & Rhonda Allen	5
Mark & Gayle Williams	6
Leon & Kathy Raczkowski	6
Alan & Helen Giles	24
The Rev. Jim & Mardi Maxwell	28
Bob & Cathy Hoffman.....	31

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witness@ststephenstroy.org

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Weekly Services:

Sat. 4:30 p.m.

Eucharist for All Ages

Sun., 8 a.m.

Early Eucharist

.....
Sun, 10 a.m.

Eucharist, with music, Nursery

If you have e-mail, you can receive our newsletter faster! Please send your e-mail address to office@ststephenstroy.org. Thank you in advance for helping us with our continued effort to.....THINK GREEN!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

5500 North Adams Road

Troy, MI 48098

Please remember St. Stephen's in your will

Change Service Requested

Dated Material

AUGUST 2011