



The WITNESS

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

September 2011

The Warden's Corner



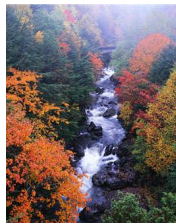
Life is all about change and growth. People come and people go. Life changes, our jobs change, our families change, our children grow. Our parish leadership may change, but what always remains the same is that all of us are part of God's family.

Here is where we journey together and know one another. Here is where we laugh and cry together. Here is where we celebrate and mourn together. *Here is where we are known by the One who "created us and through whom we have our being."* Here is where we are always welcome.



Welcome!

September 11 is officially "Welcome Back Sunday" at St. Stephens. For most of us it is the beginning of our church year. Vacations have been taken, the weather is starting to cool a bit (hopefully), the kids are back in Sunday school and the choir is back in their pews. We are ready to ease our way into the slower pace of Autumn. There is a feeling of being welcomed back; accepted back into the household. Life is good.



At one of our executive meetings recently, Pastor Manisha shared with us the progress of the Membership & Communications Team. She told us they have adopted a new tag line for the parish – "You are Welcome Here." I think this is an absolutely beautiful way – in four words – to express what Jesus' message is. But I also have to admit that I had to ask myself "am I as welcoming and as accepting as this phrase so boldly states?"

Then another phrase came to mind, "...this is the Lord's table not ours, and no one who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be turned away." How often have we heard Jonathan say these words, or read them in the front of the Sunday bulletin? Do I REALLY mean it?

In order for us to accept anyone who is seeking Christ at the altar, we must first welcome them into our "house." In a world of Political Correctness and Partisanship, cliques and clubs, where people readily and easily escalate to anger and violence to assert their "right" position over another, do we truly

accept anyone seeking Christ – the Christ in each of us? Are we a welcoming Household of God?

I've heard a lot of conversations about how we are now in a period of transition because of Jonathan's retirement. I understand and agree with the context of that statement. But – I also think about my personal journey of faith. If "transition" means (as Webster claims) a passage from one state to another, or evolution from one form to another, then I am in a perpetual state of transition! For me, it is in this spirit that I embrace this tag line "You are Welcome Here."

I believe with my whole being this is the best expression of what I think of when I think of our faith community, our Household of God. Even though I might struggle at times to welcome and accept, I know you are all at my side to remind me and through example, teach me when I need it.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Matthew 25:35-36

Welcome Back! It is time for us to be about Christ's work – and we've got lots to do.

Peace,
Dave Stein
Senior Warden



Around the Parish

You Are Welcome Here

September Lectionary

Sept 4—Pentecost 12

Ex 12: 1-4

Psalms 149

or

Ez 33: 7-11

Psalms 119: 33-40

Rom 13: 8-14

Matt 18: 15-20

Sept 11—Pentecost 13

Gen 45: 1-15

Psalms 114

or

Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21

or

Gen 50: 15-21

Psalms 103: (1-7),8-13

Rom 14: 1-12

Matt 18: 21-35

Sept 18—Pentecost 14

Ex 16: 2-15

Psalms 105:1-6,37-45

or

Jonah 3: 10—4:11

Psalms 145: 1-8

Phil 1: 21-30

Matt 20: 1-6

Sept 25—Pentecost 15

Ex 17: 1-7

Psalms 78: 1-4, 12-16

or

Ez 18: 1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25: 1-8

Phil 2: 1-8

Matt 21: 23-32

And of course, "Here", is 5500 N. Adams Rd., in Troy, the primary address for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church when it gathers together on Sunday mornings and various other times during the week.

When I was Rector of Good Shepherd & St. John's Church, in Milford, Pa., the sign in front of the building ended with these words: "Rector: The Rev. James Maxwell; Ministers: all the people of the Church." We wanted to communicate that every baptized Christian is a minister of God's love to everyone with whom they have contact, and that God has called each Church member to ministry.

Now, dial ahead to the summer of 2011. The Vestry committee on "Membership and Communication" has been meeting regularly for a number of months following our attendance at this year's diocesan "Household of God" conference, where the theme of "welcoming" was very prominent.

We have developed (put into words) a concept that has long been present at St. Stephen's: namely that everyone who walks through our doors is Welcome Here, no matter who you are or were, or what you plan to become. If you are interested in being a disciple of Jesus Christ, then we will all work together, so each of us grows in that direction.

So, as we implement this concept, you'll notice some subtle (and not so subtle) changes occurring to enable this welcoming to happen. It all started with a survey sent out to the congregation. After the committee read the responses, we were on our way. The ultimate goal, of course, is for the committee to go out of business. That will be when all Church members realize that being a welcoming person is everyone's calling.



Here are some changes that you will see in the future:

1. A new "Welcome Center" in the gathering area, where there will be brochures and information available, and volunteers ("Welcomers") present to assist newcomers.
2. The nametags for every member will be in the Parish Hall, where all of us are encouraged to wear them during Fellowship Hour.
3. New and more visible signs pointing the way to the Nursery and classrooms.
4. New "visitor cards" in the pews for new folks to fill out should they so desire.
5. A gallery of pictures of new members, so they can more easily be recognized and welcomed.
6. Continuing the practice of verbally welcoming new folks at the beginning of the service.
7. Asking all members to occasionally speak to or seek out a person sitting near you who is unfamiliar to you.
8. Having "welcome packets" and a gift available to give to visitors.
9. Following up with visitors who share their e-mail or address with us, whether by e-mail or personal note.

A final reminder: this ministry of "welcoming everyone here", is not the job of a committee. It is for all of us to be and to do; for God, by our baptism, has called all of us to be God's welcoming ministers.

For more information contact Karen Morley or Pastor Manisha.

Jim Maxwell

From the Organ Bench

All is Well

What is your favorite hymn? Among my favorite hymns is "It is well with my soul!" as the Stephen's choir loves to sing.

Whenever I am discouraged or thinking of my lost friends, I often sing this hymn. I also remember Fr. Jonathan once mentioned in Harold



Hoteling's funeral that we cannot do anything but singing, praying, and love one another as Jesus has showed us by example.

This hymn was written by a Chicago lawyer, Horatio G. Spafford. You might think to write a worship song titled, 'It is well with my soul', you would indeed have to be a rich, successful Chicago lawyer. But the words, "When sorrows like sea billows roll ... It is well with my soul", were not written during the happiest period of Spafford's life. On the contrary, they came from a man who had suffered almost unimaginable personal tragedy. Horatio G. Spafford and his wife, Anna, were pretty well-known in 1860's Chicago. And this was not just because of Horatio's legal career and business endeavors.

The Spaffords were also prominent supporters and close friends of D.L. Moody, the famous preacher. In 1870, however, things started to go wrong. The Spaffords' only son was killed by scarlet fever at the age of four. A year later, it was fire rather than fever that struck. Horatio had invested heavily in real estate on the shores of Lake Michigan. In 1871, every one of these holdings was wiped out by the great Chicago Fire.

Aware of the toll that these disasters had taken on the family, Horatio decided to take his wife and four daughters on a holiday to England. And, not only did they need the rest -- DL Moody needed the help. He was traveling around Britain on one of his great evangelistic campaigns. Horatio and Anna planned to

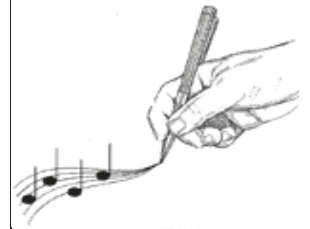
join Moody in late 1873. And so, the Spaffords traveled to New York in November, from where they were to catch the French steamer 'Ville de Havre' across the Atlantic. Yet just before they set sail, a last-minute business development forced Horatio to delay. Not wanting to ruin the family holiday, Spafford persuaded his family to go as planned. He would follow on later.

With this decided, Anna and her four daughters sailed East to Europe while Spafford returned West to Chicago. Just nine days later, Spafford received a telegram from his wife in Wales. It read: Saved alone." On November 2nd 1873, the 'Ville de Havre' had collided with 'The Lochearn', an English vessel. It sank in only 12 minutes, claiming the lives of 226 people.

Anna Spafford had stood bravely on the deck, with her daughters Annie, Maggie, Bessie and Tanetta clinging desperately to her. Her last memory had been of her baby being torn violently from her arms by the force of the waters. Anna was only saved from the fate of her daughters by a plank which floated beneath her unconscious body and propped her up.



When the survivors of the wreck had been rescued, Mrs. Spafford's first reaction was one of complete despair. Then she heard a voice speak to her, You were spared for a purpose." And she immediately recalled the words of a friend, "It's easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend to God." Upon hearing the terrible news, Horatio Spafford boarded the next ship out of New York to join



One Voice

Please join a remarkable group—the St. Stephen's Choir

Our season starts with Choir Practice on Wednesday, September 7, from 7:30 to 9 pm.

Come and make a joyful noise!

Children one and all, come to Children's Choir Practice right after the 10 o'clock service. We'll start on October 9. See the CORE for details.



From the Organ Bench—cont.

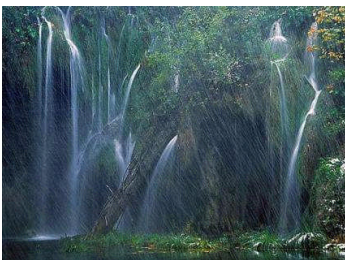
All is well— cont.

his bereaved wife. Bertha Spafford (the fifth daughter of Horatio and Anna born later) explained that during her father's voyage, the captain of the ship had called him to the bridge. "A careful reckoning has been made", he said, "and I believe we are now passing the place where the de Havre was wrecked. The water is three miles deep." Horatio then returned to his cabin and penned the lyrics of his great hymn.

The words which Spafford wrote that day come from 2 Kings 4:26. They echo the response of the Shunammite woman to the sudden death of her only child. Though we are told "her soul is vexed within her", she still maintains that "It is well." And Spafford's song reveals a man whose trust in the Lord is as unwavering as hers was. It would be very difficult for any of us to predict how we would react under circumstances similar to those experienced by the Spaffords. But we do know that the God who sustained them would also be with us. No matter what circumstances overtake us may we be able to say with Horatio Spafford...

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever
my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well,
it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come, Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul! It
is well ... with my soul!*



Peace
Seung

Newly Baptized

We welcome the newly Baptized:

Aubrey Elisabeth Rose

Erica Anne

Daughters of David & Jodi DeMay

David Wade

Son of David & Sara Williams

Pema Jiang Tsan

Norah Jaing Yi

Lachlan Zihui

Kassidy Yiouj

Daughters of Mike & Ami O'Neill

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

Amen

From the Book of Common Prayer



one World



Circles create soothing space, where even reticent people can realize that their voice is welcome.
Margaret J. Wheatley

The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience.
Emily Dickenson

Under the Dogwood

Wants and Needs

Dear beloved of St. Stephen's,
Grace and peace to you! I went on vacation, got my head and calendar cleared and God made it all clear to me what we needed to accomplish in the following weeks! Check out these great opportunities to do good in the world! Please contact me if any of these look interesting to you.

1. GUITARS: St. Stephen's has established a relationship with a new mission in SW Detroit called Grace in Action. It is a Hispanic community-based ministry that is super cool. They are looking for old guitars lying around your home that you are willing to donate. They want to start a guitar class for folks who do not have the funds to buy a guitar or have lessons. Let me know if you have a guitar you would like to donate. Also, if you have a desire to teach classes, let me know, too.



2. SOS: South Oakland Shelter week (where the church becomes home to 25-30 people who are homeless) begins at the end of September. Many tasks have been claimed. We still need chairs for the following jobs: **Set Up** (responsible on Sunday, Sep 25 to tell the adults and youth where to put furniture and set up of beds); **Tear Down** (responsible on Sunday, Oct 2 for getting all items out for pickup and putting the church back together); and **Laundry** (getting folks to do the laundry during the week of linens and towels. Pastor Manisha and the YACs are responsible for the final laundry done early Sunday



morning).

3. NURSERY WORKERS: We are looking for 2 people who can commit to caring for our nursery during Sunday 10AM service. Background checks will occur. There is a small stipend associated with the work.



4. 4th-6th GRADE LEAD TEACHER: A vibrant class filled with gifted students, our Sunday School class that is



taught after communion at 10AM service is looking for a lead teacher to work with the uber-talented Liz Sinkovich and Rob Redmer. Taking a course in Safeguarding God's Children is

required.

5. SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR: Do you love encouraging people? If so, consider being the Coordinator for our Sunday School ministries. You would work with Pastor Manisha in supporting our teachers, creating an atmosphere conducive to teaching God's love, helping order curriculum and supplies and welcoming newcomers to Sunday School.

Thanks for being open to adding another thing to your plate. Your willingness to give it all is mind-boggling and a gift.

Peace!

Pastor Manisha

One Family



The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's deserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing, defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.

Erma Bombeck

Under the Dogwood

For our Family

Finally food stamp people have eased the food burden for the O'Neill's. In terms of what that means to them is food for the most part becomes more affordable. Discussing the situation with Ami I see their needs are not by any means fully met.

Caring for one another



Mike's medical situation of course adds more to a Mom's workload, as it would for all, this extra help midweek will give Ami a little break.

So here's the suggestion to supply a mid week meal once a week. Other ways of helping are with paper goods, Kroger gift cards, or Gas cards. (Much needed when Mike returns to U. of M .)

My friends you have been so generous this past year plus, I am astounded, and so proud to know you all. You have prevented great suffering in a direct and tangible manner. Our Lord Christ with those fishes and loaves still at work.

God Bless
Colin Davis

It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons.
Johann Schiller

September 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	

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

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



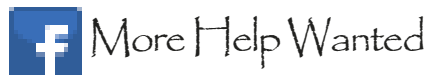
There is an interconnectedness among members that bonds the family, much like mountain climbers who rope themselves together when climbing a mountain, so that if someone should slip or need support, he's held up by the others until he regains his footing.
Phil McGraw

Say What?

Do you ever wonder what God may be saying to you? Do you want to follow God's plan, but are not always sure of what that is? Join Pastor Manisha and Alan Giles as we lead a Group Spiritual Discernment once a month. For more information email associate@ststephenstroy.org for a brochure.



Humans: become atheists each and all!
God will nevertheless welcome you with all his heart!
Giovanni Papini



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

September Birthdays

Brenda Abitheira	1
Daniel Terlecky	4
Matthew Walter	5
Marilyn Elwarner	6
Kyle Collins	6
Wilson Blythe	7
Leslie Bailey	7
Michelle Beal	8
Amy Boldt	8
Abbigail Latkowski	8
Catherine Crowell	9
Dominic Piantedosi	10
Don Hotton	10
Philip Pierce	10
Alan Giles	11
Mark Dutil	12
Teagan Pruitt	12
Anthony Antonino	13
David Pierce	14
Bonnie Gross	15
Samantha Fox	15
Stanley Terlecky	18
Marge Dillon	21
Barbara Whitaker	22
Debbie Pincura	22
Scott Armstrong	22
Jane Wellman	24
Seunghee Cho	24
Molly Neumann	24
Marie Burnside	25
Lauryn Przeslawski	26
Ann-Marie McCoy	26
Jessica Fox	26
Kyle Church	27
Cheryl Davenport	28
Lori Podsiadlik	29
Sunn Cho	29
Timothy Hatt	30

Reaching Out

For Our Other Families

A big "thank you" to Connie and Sandy Jose and Jim and Anne Miller.

You know how unbearable this summer has been?

They donated 7 fans and an air conditioner to St. Suzanne's clients at the CCRT in Pontiac.

The most interesting thing about Suzanne's clients (and the saddest) is that they usually don't qualify for help from the other agencies. Reasons: no drivers license, male, no children, missed a deadline to sign up, criminal record. These folks truly slip through the cracks.

The extreme heat has been deadly – hence the request for fans/air conditioners from Suzanne.

Another interesting fact: all fans/AC were given away within 2 hours of drop-off at CCRT.

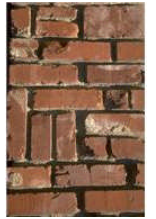


Gretchen Waters

We Were Bricks!

There were 32 people who attended the "Be a Brick" fundraiser for the Episcopal Cathedral Center in Port Au Prince, Haiti. \$600 was raised. Live music was provided by the Celtic Knot (our own Dave Stein is a member). This was a joint effort between St. Patrick's in Madison Heights and St. Stephens. Good food was enjoyed by all! We finally found another group could cook almost as good as the chefs at St. Stephen's.

To date St. Stephen's has collected in the operating fund \$1,765 for Haiti!! That includes the funds that St. Patrick's helped raise to rebuild the Cathedral Center in Port Au Prince, Haiti (approx. \$600.00). WOW! I am so very proud of our congregation. There are so many worthy causes out there and we really came through for the poor in Haiti.



*Peace+
Deacon Liz*

SOS Week is September 25 to October 2

Sign up sheets in the Gathering Area

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matt 25:40

Welcome Back Sunday

You won't want to miss this—plan to come back to Welcome back Sunday! Welcome all back from Summer to Sunday School. It's bound to be a blast!



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

Harold Golding	Pat Look
Peter Goulding	Albertine Mosier
Deacon Liz Forest	Mike O'Neill
Kathleen Herderich	Charles Saylor
Connie Jose	Katie Yant
Steve Kirby	

Family & Friends

Allen Alberti	Lucille Makarov
Ola Bell	Patty McKibben
Steven Bell	MJ Ogden
Jane Darr	Barb Paton
Karen DeCook	Bill Paton
Jack Dillon	Ryan Pope
Betty Feighner	Rachel
Rose Fragnoli	Robin Raybould
Gage Family	Tom Schutz
John Good	Chris Slezak
Sue Gore	Ivy Sloss
Jeffrey Gross	Charles Sternberg
Claudine Hoppen	Kay Sternberg
LeRoy Johnson	Penny Vannelli
John Kelly	David Wagner
Amanda Ketterer	

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

9/4	Mary Alice Heaton Rhett, John, Peter, Melissa & Marlene Heberling
9/11	Mike, Kathleen, Kristin & Stephanie Herderich Chris Herfurth
9/18	Herschel, Renee, Andrew & Alan Hicks Jill, & Will Hilborn
9/25	Bob & Cathy Hoffman Joe & Jan Hopper
10/2	John, Joanna & Andrew Horne Don & Linda Hotton

The Departed

Caitlin Stevens
Friend of Father Jon

Richard Saferian
Friend of Vicki Saylor

Jonah Lane
Friend of Harold & Liz Golding

Bryon Ehlers
Husband of Mary Ehlers

Ken Gore
Known to Don Ingersoll

Art McClelland
Friend of Mary Ann & Paul Kish

Gertrude Marks
Aunt of Norma Ross

Betsy Lapham
Sister of Kay Coran

Jean Crowe
Member of St. Stephen's

Marion Conat
Mother of Chris Herfurth

September Anniversaries


Bruce & Ardy Dostert.....	4
Rev Jon & Nancy Trey-Sams.....	4
Barry & Cheryl Davenport	5
Michael & Julie Redfield	5
Ed & Kathy DeCiantis	6
Mark & Debbie Dutil	6
James & Vickie Hunt	7
Don & Linda Hotton.....	10
Shanker & Sara Sundareson.....	10
Robert & Carol Nutter Jantz	13
Adrian & Bonnie Gross	23
Jim & Anne Miller	24
Larry & Liz Sinkovich	25
Jon & Jeralyn Burrell	29

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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

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Please remember St. Stephen's in your will

Change Service Requested

Dated Material

SEPTEMBER 2011