



The WITNESS

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

February 2012

An Interim Moment



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.



Chinese symbol for love

Searching for the Household

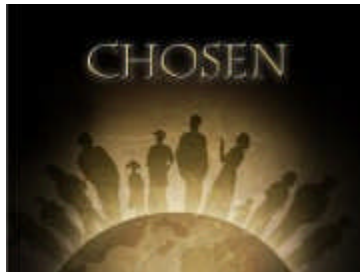
As part of the process for searching for a new priest, the Episcopal Church now has a system where the church answers nine questions.



Those priests searching for a new calling also answer nine questions. The clergy can see how a church describes itself, and the interview committee for a church can review prospective priests in the same manner. One of those nine questions for a congregation is: As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being?

I don't know how this church will answer that question as I am not involved in the search process. But it got me to thinking about the various ways a congregation does this, how it cares for itself. Being the size we are we basically do it in small groups.

The choir in any church is almost always a tight knit group that works and plays together. I was once at a church in a distant state where a couple moved into town and coming to the new church, soon joined the choir. I asked



the choir director how they were doing in this new situation, how they fitted in. Her husband, who was in the choir said: "Well he has a good tenor voice, and she is a good cook. And a choir always needs a good cook." And we know from our experience here how a good cook makes for a happy gathering.



What I am getting at here is not that all the small groups, the committees and guilds of this church should eat together regularly. But they should get to know one another. This is not to be nosy, but so they can reach out to those who have concerns and cares. And so these concerns and cares can be brought to the attention of the clergy if it is necessary.

While a group may not ever eat together, I encourage them to spend a little time at their meetings sharing some of lives. And I more than encourage that at each meeting you spend some time in prayer.

Walt+





Around the Parish

February Lectionary

Feb 5—Epiphany 5

Is 40: 21-31
Psalm 147: 1-12, 21c
1 Cor 9: 16-23
Mark 1: 29-39

Feb 12—Epiphany 6

2 Kings 5: 1-14
Psalm 30
1 Cor 9: 24-27
Mark 1: 40-45

Feb 19—Epiphany 7

2 Kings 2: 1-12
Psalm 50: 1-6
1 Cor 4: 3-6
Mark 9: 2-9

Feb 22—Ash Wed

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
or
Is 58: 1-12
Psalm 103 or 103: 8-14
1 Cor 5: 20b-6:10
Matt 6: 1-6, 16-21

Feb 26—Lent 1

Gen 9: 8-17
Psalm 25: 1-9
1 Peter 3: 18-22
Mark 19: 9-15

Search Team

In November, the Vestry met and identified 25 parishioners who they thought would make excellent candidates for the Team. Dave Stein, our Senior Warden, wrote each person asking if they would stand as a nominee to the committee. He received 20 positive responses. At the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry selected 13 parishioners to represent all of us in this important ministry. In the selection process, the vestry considered the nominee's age, tenure and areas of involvement in the parish.

The members of the Interview Team are:

- Scott Armstrong
- Norma Ross
- Amy Redmer
- Roy Waters
- Eric Hatchett
- Paula Somerville
- Rick Spina
- Karen Morley
- Don Ingersoll
- Kristin Giles
- Jim Trask
- Debbie Dutil

Jacob Hardy – Youth Representative

The team has met twice already and is off to a great start. Please hold these people up in your prayers as they do their work!



Dave Stein

Becoming the Household

The 15th Annual Becoming the Household of God Conference -- focusing on the theme of Transforming Worship -- runs from 9 am to 5 pm, February 25. The daylong event (hosted by the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit) features two keynote speakers, the Rev. Karen Ward and the Rev. Ian Mobsby. The focus of the day will be finding a means of investigating liturgy and mission, in the context of meeting the needs of 21st century parishioners and their communities.



Greeters Ministry

If you are a regular attendee at our 10 am service, then you've definitely had the chance to say hello and shake the hands of our enthusiastic greeters.

These wonderful folks are blessed to be able to welcome parishioners and visitors to St. Stephen's and to affirm that they are truly "Welcome Here" with us. A tidbit of consistent feedback we receive from our guests is delight and recognition of how welcoming our community is.

The greeter ministry needs several more volunteers! Two people are scheduled for each Sunday, they arrive 20 minutes early and stand by the vestibule doors to welcome all comers to the 10:00am service. Generally, greeters are only scheduled every other or every third month.

Contact Karen Morley at

morley.karen.e@gmail.com or [248-703-5516](tel:248-703-5516).

Around the Corner

Service Schedule

February 22

Ash Wednesday:

Services

12 pm

7 pm

Saturday Service—4:30 pm

February 4—Evening Prayer

Officiant—Deacon Liz

February 11—Eucharist

Officiant—Father Walt

February 18—Evening Prayer

Officiant- Deacon Liz

February 25—Evening Prayer

Officiant—Father John

March 3—Evening Prayer

Officiant—Deacon Liz

March 10 Eucharist

Officiant—Father John

Irish Night

Come One Come all

Irish Night is Coming!

Mark your calendar's!

On Saturday, March 17, promptly at 5:30 pm, we have the St. Stephen's Annual Irish Night Pot Luck Dinner!

Stay tuned for more details!

New/Old Youth Director

I am very excited to be serving as the Lay Youth Director for our parish. As many of you know, I actually served this role in an interim capacity prior to Pastor Manisha's arrival. I remember how pleased I was at the annual meeting at that time when the decision was made to search for a full time associate priest to help support the youth program, a decision that brought her to us.

When our associate rector came, the Journey program had been started, but there was much to be done. Since that time, much has been done. More than we expected at the time, certainly, but not more than we have come to expect.

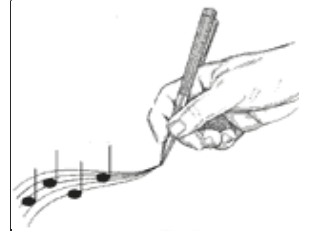
As each program has strengthened and new programs developed, the expectations developed just as rapidly. I have always believed that we usually get what we expect, so this is a very good thing.

Having been personally involved in implementing much of the youth program, I have seen God work hard through the leaders and families to bless us with growth in the Christian community our youth enjoy.

But the true measure of this is not in the numbers. It is in the way our young people remain engaged in the life of the parish and the lives of their brothers and sisters. This is a valuable gift and one that we must cherish and nurture.

So it was no surprise to me that our parish decided to move quickly to ensure that the vital youth ministry at St. Stephen's was well looked after. I am honored to be given the opportunity to help that mission as the youth director and to be a good steward of the youth program and the children of this parish.

Ken Fuhr



One Voice

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

Choir Practice is on Wednesdays 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. See the CORE for details.



From the Family

Facebook Friends

Hey all you Facebook Users out there! The St. Stephen's Public Facebook page (the one that's also linked to the website) needs more friends. :(Only 38 people "Like" this page.

If you are a Facebook user and click "like" on this page, then St. Stephen's Episcopal will show up in your organization "Likes" on your information page. If hundreds of us do this, then we should get more traffic to this page & consequently more traffic to the website and even to our sanctuary.

So, please click this link.... check out our public page... and LIKE it today!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Stephens-Episcopal-Church-Troy-MI/200648843309560>

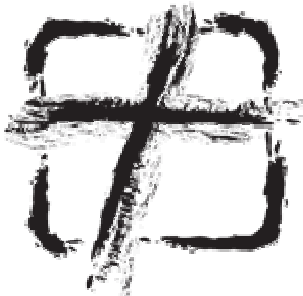
God's peace to all of you...

Karen Morley

Membership & Communications Committee

Lenten Schedule

The worship committee is planning the Lenten schedule. There will be some study groups, and the service preparation. Please stay tuned for more details and keep checking the calendar online at www.ststephenstroy.org for more details on the upcoming services and programs for Lent and Easter.



Pancakes

What will you give up for Lent? Well, before you give anything up, come and share a dinner of pancakes and celebrate Mardi Gras! Tuesday, February 21, from 4:30 to 7 pm, we'll be making pancakes to start off the Lenten season! Please plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall!



Haiti Outreach

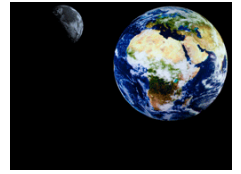
Since 2004, the Haiti Outreach Mission has provided \$500,000 to \$800,000 in direct aid to Mirebalais, including a full time clinic, an orphanage, school construction and teacher support. HOM operates solely with volunteer personnel and has virtually no overhead.

On January 19, four ladies attended the Fundraiser to help restock the medical supplies in Mirebalais -Haiti's medical clinic. Several generous donations were also given by people who could not attend, but wanted to help. Also donated - two very interesting pieces of jewelry to the silent auction for this event. Several people at St. Stephen's donated a total of \$110.00 and both Helen Slater and Joan Knapp won their bids for items on the Silent Auction.



Peace+
Deacon Liz

one world



You are
Welcome
Here

Interested in joining our church family? You are most definitely Welcome Here!

On Sunday, February 12th from 6 to 8:30 pm, please plan on attending this "everything you always wanted to know about our church" session.

Child care provided (advanced notice needed). Contact: Karen Morley at morley.karene@gmail.com or 248-703-5516

Under the Dogwood

J2A Auction

Once again, thank you again for your generous support of the 2011 J2A Auction. Your donations resulted in a spectacularly successful auction. The tickets, services, opportunities and products that you donated were auctioned with very competitive bidding. They enabled us to raise a great deal of money for our youth pilgrimage.

Each year it amazes me what a great statement of faith this J2A Auction turns out to be. Yes, it is a great party and a good fundraiser, but your contributions and attendance at the event impress me as statements of your faith. Thank you!

This year the auction is particularly important as our J2A members prepare for their Pilgrimage this summer. The Pilgrims will be traveling to the Colorado Springs region where these newly confirmed young people will use the magnificent environment and numerous activities to help them discern what God has planned for them in their lives.

This year's J2A Auction will be held on Saturday, February 11 at 6 pm. If you are again in a position to donate tickets, services, opportunities or products - either the same or different from last year, your generosity is most appreciated. Please let Frances Hammond or Ken Fuhr know by sending an email to:

youthdirector@ststephenstroy.org



We hope to see everyone there for this most enjoyable night of lively bidding, great food and refreshments, and plenty of fellowship. Remember, both live and silent auctions occur that night, so whatever your preference there is always plenty to catch your interest. The dinner will be a pot luck, so no ticket need be purchased to attend. Please sign up in the gathering area, so that we know how many we can expect.

Frances Hammond
Auction Chair

Bible Study

Ever wonder what exactly is in the Bible? Come join a group who wrestles with the text and hopes to be blessed in the process. Absolutely no experience with the Bible is necessary. All questions are welcome-- nothing is off limits! Fun for those who are new to the Bible and for those who have depended on the Word of God for all their lives.

We meet every Wednesday at 10AM.

Now led by Father Walt, who will bring a different perspective on the good book, and he also knows how wonderful it is to have the Scriptures as a companion in life.



February 2012						
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			

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

One Family

All Men All Girls

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, very friend, and every animal current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing.

My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls?"

Her response: "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men'

From the Dictionary



Liz Sinkovich is the Storyteller. Call, write or email her with your stories: story@ststephenstroy.org

Stories are the vehicles that God uses to tell of His work in our community and in ourselves. It is how we connect and know one another.

Lisa has been contributing articles for the last couple of months. This month, she talks about change of directions. Change is part of life—and it is always difficult, no matter what.

What we do matters!

Directions

Dictionary.com defines change as “to make the form, nature, content, future course etc of something different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone.”

Why, you might ask, did I look up the definition of change when all I have to do is look around me to see it everywhere? Well, I wondered if someone or some recognized authority might actually be able to put the swirl of emotions running through me into clear understandable words.

Generally, I think change keeps things interesting. If I get bored, I change my hair or the route I drive to work. I might cook a new food or make a new friend. These little changes keep things from becoming routine.



But....when it was announced on Christmas Eve that Pastor Manisha was leaving us to answer God’s call at another parish, just a few short months after Father Jonathan’s retirement, I confess – I spent the rest of the service in tears.

These changes were not small insignificant occurrences like going from a blonde to a brunette or adding cheese to a favorite recipe – these were huge changes that rocked what I considered to be my very foundation, and suddenly I discovered, I was afraid of change.

Both Father Jonathan and Pastor Manisha are very unique individuals with very different and interesting perspectives on life. Father Jonathan’s gentle warmth and understanding drew me back to church after a very long absence and Pastor Manisha’s exuberance for life and God’s word touched both me and my children.

I felt pretty sorry for myself and somewhat deserted.

How could both of these people leave? Didn’t they understand that I had enough turmoil and change in my life already?

Of course when I finished my rather self-indulgent pity party, I realized that I was completely missing the point! Father Jonathan and Pastor Manish were sent to us by God to guide us and teach us. They were his chosen messengers.

When I think back to when Pastor Manisha first arrived, it was in reality, a big change for all of us. Her style and teachings were very different from what we were used to, but after a while it seemed as though she had always been a part of our St. Stephen’s family. If I had let the fear of change stop me from giving her a chance, I would have missed out on all of the joy and wonder that she has brought to me.

Now, again, I find myself at a crossroads – waiting to see how my course, future, etc will be made into something different. Will there ever be another Father Jonathan or Pastor Manisha?

The short answer is – no, but maybe if I again put aside my fear of change and open myself up, I will get the opportunity to see God’s works and learn his lessons through another of his messengers.

I am going to have to take a leap of faith – and trust that God knows what he is doing. I know that the love and support of my church family will always be there and that although God may send us another messenger to deliver his word, the underlying message will be the same – We are all God’s children and his mercy and love will endure forever.

Lisa Bialowas

E-Mail Update

If you have not be receiving e-mails from the St. Stephen’s chain, we may not have the correct e-mail. Please send the correct e-mail to

ststephenschain@gmail.com to start receiving e-mail messages for JOY, NEWS, CONCERN and COMING EVENTS.



February Birthdays

Steve Fragnoli.....	1
Kristen Schreck.....	1
Anne Miller.....	2
Christina Elder.....	2
Frances Hammond.....	3
Gary Abitheira.....	3
Gavin Betts.....	3
Alyssa Kalaj.....	3
William Waun.....	4
Katelyn Gerard.....	4
Katherine Sebrowski.....	6
Derek Bialowas.....	6
Jacquelyn Parent.....	8
Silvia Karlsson.....	9
Nancy Smith.....	10
Amy Church.....	10
Nathan Schreck.....	10
Marion DeLong.....	11
Lillian Aschenbach.....	12
Thomas Hyland.....	12
JJ Podsiadlik.....	12
Janet Eldon.....	13
Laura Terlecky.....	13
Patti Fox.....	15
Melissa Heberling.....	15
Carolyn Ward.....	16
Meghan Brokenshire.....	16
Claire Smith.....	16
Helen Slater.....	17
Sheryl Smith.....	17
Colin Davis.....	19
Anne Mortensen.....	21
Peggy Treadwell.....	22
Matthew Neumann.....	22
Mackenzie Hardy.....	23
Katherine Sobolewski.....	24
Jeralyn Burrell.....	25
Gillian Terlecki.....	25
Jeanne Blythe.....	26
Mary Lou Bryson.....	28
Kathleen Henderich.....	28
Michael Taormino.....	28
John Pincura.....	28
Andrew Gerard.....	28

Reaching Out

By the Numbers

\$800

Estimated value of diapers, baby clothing, baby toys and books donated for babies at Haven by the women attending Advent by Candlelight

14

Number of scarves hand knit by parishioners for Mariners at Sea

21

The number of games donated to Bound Together

81

Number of assorted gifts, diapers packs and baby formula boxes donated to Baldwin Center Holiday Market

\$520

The amount collected in Meijer gift cards for a local military family with three children. (Dad is in Afghanistan)

40

Number of scarves for St Paul's Cathedral distribution to the needy



Ogres

Shrek is a Tony Award-winning musical based on the first Shrek movie. This is a real family show and a great way to introduce your child/children to theater if they have never attended a play before. If interested, please sign up in the Gathering Area. For any added information, please see Jackie Ingersoll.

Where: Fisher Theatre

When: Sunday, March 11

Time: 6:30 pm

Price: \$58 per ticket (Regular price \$79)



Money Due: Sunday, February 15th (Please make checks out to Jackie Ingersoll)

Teachers

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23.

She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

We Ask Your Prayers for...

Prayer Concerns

Bruce Dostert
Rose Fragnoli

Connie Jose
Mike O'Neill

Continuing Prayers

Allen Alberti	Patty McKibben
Ola Bell	Albertine Mosier
Steven Bell	MJ Ogden
Murray Brown	Vivian Parent
Dale Brown	Rachel
Mary Lou Bryson	Bill Paton
Lyndel Crater	Barb Paton
Jane Darr	Parker Pavloff
Jack Dillon	Cathy Pera
Cathlynn Duncan	Ryan Pote
Marilyn Elwarner	Charles Saylor
Betty Feighner	Tom Schutz
Deacon Liz Forrest	Meg Schwedler
Harold Golding	Ivy Sloss
John Good	John Spates
Jeffrey Gross	Charles Sternberh
Alcia Haines	Kay Sternberg
Donald Harris	Greg Thompson
Alan Hicks	Linda Thorten
Brian Hicks	Emily TucheK
Claudine Hoppen	Penny Vannelli
LeRoy Johnson	Christopher
Bob Ketterer	Dan
Ed Kliess	Jean
Collin Kratzer	Lynn
Donald Ledford	Mary
Pat Look	
Lucille Makarov	

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
Peter Hughes—Cousin of Nancy Papet
Robert Johnstone—Known to Alaina Nunn
Michael Kohn—Known to Norma Ross
Ryan Kasky - Grandson of Larry & Lynn Nunn
Zach Larson—Friend of Mark Pierce
Stephen L'Hommedieu—Godson of Phil & Linda Pierce
Nick Limauro—Friend of Phil & Linda Pierce
Nathan Madak - Cousin of Diane Kenefic & David Eldon
David Mentier - Cousin of Diane Kenefic & David Eldon
Sarah Peacock—Niece of Linda Pierce
Kyle Rogowski—Nephew of Ken & Kris Fuhr
Joshua Spates - Son of John & Miranda Spates
Neil Taitt—Friend of Nancy Papet
Alex Wade—Nephew of Debbie Sloan
Taylor Ward - Son of Kevin & Carol Ward

These Parish Families

2/5 Jim, Judy Lazarro, Michael & James
McQuiston
JC Mellor

2/12 Darrel & Joanne Middlewood
Mike, Vickie, Michael & Christine Milgie

2/19 Jim & Anne Miller
Kevin, Carolyn, Lindsey & Lauren Miller

2/26 Marilyn Miller
Sharon Miller

3/4 Lou & Karen Mirzoian
Joe & Karen Mollahan

The Departed

Susan Jarrell

Known to Kathy Herderich

Steve Kirby

Son of Gwen Kirby

Dave Sparrow

Father of Nancy Sparrow

Phil Brock

Known to Carol Sprague

Janice Sayers

Wife of former Rector the Late Rev. Carl Sayers.

February Anniversaries

David & Sara
Williams.....2

Don & Jackie
Ingersoll3

John & Miranda
Spates.....3

Paul & Judy
McClendon..... 21

Jim & Barbara
Whitaker27

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Investment Management Consultant
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How to Contact Us

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Tel: 248-641-8080 Fax: 248-641-8067

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Gretchen Waters, Office Assistant

office@ststephenstroy.org

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ecinterim@aol.com

Dave Stein, Senior Warden

dcs53td@gmail.com

The Rev. Jim Maxwell, Retired Priest in Residence

jimmardi@wowway.com

The Rev. Liz Forest, Deacon

deacon@ststephenstroy.org

Ken Fuhr—Youth Director

youthdirector@ststephenstroy.org

Ray Aiello, Sexton

bldg-mgr@ststephenstroy.org

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Cathy Hoffman, Assistant to the Treasurer

treasurer@ststephenstroy.org

Church Website: John Morley, Webmaster

www.ststephenstroy.org (password: coffeeshour)

The Witness, Liz Sinkovich, Editor

witness@ststephenstroy.org

E-mail, bring to church or fax: 248-641-8067

Weekly Services:

Sat. 4:30 p.m.

Eucharist or Evening Prayer 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

FEBRUARY 2012