



The St. Stephen's Senior Newsletter

MAY, JUNE & JULY 2019

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church — Edina, Minnesota

Dear beloved senior members of St. Stephen's!

Spring has arrived, the traditional season for weddings — although we have been told that today many couples prefer to marry in the fall. Nevertheless, we thought we would focus this issue on weddings at St. Stephen's — past and present.

We talked to Fr. Tom to find out how one goes about booking a wedding at St. Stephen's and we interviewed Debbie Zarling, the parish wedding coordinator, to learn her role, which includes facilitator, timekeeper and problem solver.

We also reached out to a few members of the church who were married at St. Stephen's and asked for a memory or two. Our thanks to everyone who agreed to help.

At the May Senior Fellowship Luncheon we will have one last opportunity to hear our bishop speak before he retires the beginning of next year.

The luncheon will also be a special **Salute to Seniors**. See the Outreach article for more information. We hope you will make a special effort to attend. We are sure you will enjoy it.

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Bells of St. Stephen's</i>	p. 8
<i>Memories of Weddings</i>	p. 9
<i>Outreach</i>	p. 2
<i>Sanctuary Windows</i>	p. 4-5
<i>Sr. Fellowship Luncheon</i>	p. 3
<i>Upcoming Programs</i>	p. 6
<i>Weddings at St. Stephen's</i>	p. 7



AMELIA ARTHUR'S ORDINATION

Tuesday, June 25, our deacon, Amelia, will be ordained a priest! The service will be held at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis beginning at 7 pm. All are welcome.

Amelia will change her familiar deacon's stole, worn across the body over the left shoulder, to the priest's stole, worn over both shoulders.

Congratulations, Amelia!



OUTREACH TO HONOR SENIOR PARISHIONERS AT MAY LUNCHEON

Beginning last fall, Outreach started working with the Senior Ministries Committee to find an appropriate way to express gratitude for the tremendous contributions made by senior members of the church. The first-ever **"Salute to Seniors"** will take place at the luncheon on Tuesday, May 21, and we're excited about this opportunity to celebrate with you!

Mary Margaret Lehmann came up with a lovely way to express the spirit of friendship in the form of a May basket, and each luncheon attendee will find a little handmade "basket" at their seat. Without giving too much away, Outreach has also enlisted the help of Matt Lewellyn-Otten and one of the Youth Groups to help with May basket construction, making this a truly intergenerational effort.

We look forward to this opportunity to recognize St. Stephen's seniors and your generous contributions of time, talent and treasure to our church community. Several members of the Outreach Committee will attend the luncheon, and we hope to have a chance to speak to everyone at some time during the event.

Let us know how else we can honor and serve St. Stephen's seniors, and if there are any projects or programs of interest to you that we can help fund or facilitate. Hope to see you on May 21!

Leslie Gibson
Chair of the Outreach Committee

MAY 26 - SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

BEGINNING SUNDAY MAY 26 we change to the Summer Worship Schedule:

8:00 AM — Worship in the Chapel (a quiet liturgy – no music – and a sermon to begin the day)

10:00 AM — Worship in the Church (familiar hymns, summer choir, and a sermon)



NEW PRAYER BOOKS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Thanks to the gift of a generous benefactor, St. Stephen's received over 150 new Books of Common Prayer to replace the well-used copies that had been in the pews for many years. The new books were dedicated on Sunday March 24, 2019.

The retired Books are available to take home to use in your personal life of prayer. *If you would like one*, stop by the church office, pick one up in the nave after church service or call Deen Hubin at 952-920-0595.

FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE COMMUNION DATES

Communion is held the third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 at Friendship Village for all who want to attend.

The next three dates are:

May 21

June 18

July 16

Friendship Village is located near the intersection of Highways 169 and 494. The address is 8100 Highway Dr. Bloomington.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

12 Noon in the Gathering Space

Speaker: BISHOP BRIAN PRIOR
“Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs”

The Rt. Rev. Brian Prior was a guest at a Senior Fellowship Luncheon not that long ago, but the luncheon committee decided to invite him for a return visit when he announced last September that it was a good time to begin the process of calling the next Bishop of Minnesota.

We wanted to take advantage of one last conversation with him before he leaves office.

Bishop Prior said that after ten years this is a good time for leadership transition, when the organization is healthy, and has a clear sense of its mission. He said the Episcopal Church of Minnesota is “incredibly healthy and we are blessed to have great clergy and lay leaders.”

The 10th Bishop will be elected at the ECMN Convention next September.

We are delighted the bishop has agreed to speak to us one last time. Please join us to hear him talk about **“Prophets, Apostles and Martyrs.”**



Bishop Prior and his wife Staci

Make your reservation now! Cost is \$12.00 per person

To make a reservation mail your check (payable to St. Stephen's Church) in the enclosed envelope or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. Please write “Senior Fellowship Luncheon” on the memo line. Last day to make a reservation is *Friday, May 18*. (Your check is your reservation.)

The menu will be chicken and wild rice casserole, veggie tray with dill or spinach dip, assorted rolls (including gluten-free), and that all-time favorite, key lime pie for dessert.

***We love to have you come to our luncheons, but PLEASE make a reservation.
We need to know how much food to order!***

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

Our series on the stained glass windows in the sanctuary continues with two windows that have an overall theme of **Confirmation.**

It seemed appropriate to feature them at this time, as the bishop will be confirming our young people in June.

LEFT WINDOW

The theme of this window is
APOSTLES LAYING ON OF HANDS
symbolic of Apostolic Succession

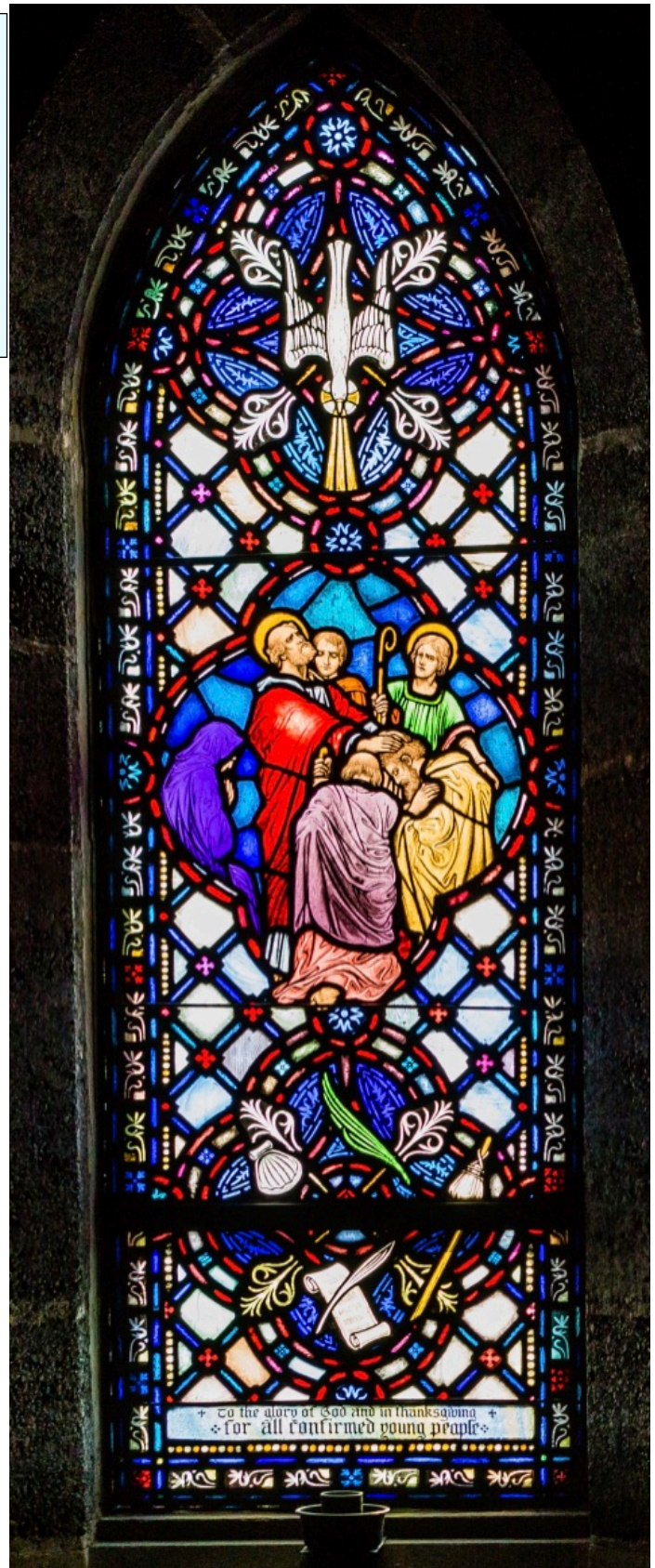
The top panel shows **a dove** pointing down with rays, the traditional symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The middle panel shows the **apostles laying on of hands.**

The bottom panel has a **shell, a scroll and pen.** They signify baptism and learning.

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

***To the glory of God and in thanksgiving
for all confirmed young people.***



An interesting feature of the sanctuary windows is that they were designed in pairs.

One window depicts a Biblical story and its counterpart window shows an application of the theme in our life today.

These two windows can be seen on the right side of the nave.

RIGHT WINDOW

The theme of this window is
LAYING ON OF HANDS BY THE BISHOP
AT CONFIRMATION
symbolic of Apostolic Succession.

The top panel shows a **heart and fire**, the fire symbolizing the presence of the Lord.

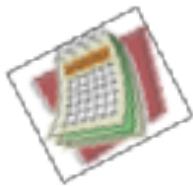
The middle panel shows the **laying on of hands** by the Bishop at Confirmation.

The bottom panel shows **praying hands and a beehive**, a symbol of learning and education.

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

***To the Glory of God and in Memory of
Robert Kinney McDonald.***





UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 4 — 8 am to Noon

SPRING GROUNDS CLEAN UP

The Properties Committee needs help to clean up the grounds around the church. No RSVP needed, just show up and help for as long as you can. Donuts and coffee provided! Bring your own rake and gardening gloves, if desired. All generations welcome.



SUNDAY, MAY 5

COMMUNITY UNITY SUNDAY — Join us between services at 10 am in the Gathering Space for coffee and donuts and greet and meet someone you may not have met before.

You will also hear about the plans to update and enhance the **Commons Room** and its kitchen and how you can support the vision of a renewed community room that everyone loves.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 8:30 to 10 am

WOMEN IN FELLOWSHIP

Women of all ages are invited to join us in fellowship as we greet old friends, make new ones and generally refresh our spirits and bodies (with continental breakfast). Our speaker is **Leslie Gibson** who will talk about her spiritual journey. Continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Commons Room and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to bring something to share — it always turns out to be a delicious buffet spread.



TUESDAY, JUNE 25 — 7 pm

AMELIA ARTHUR'S ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

Everyone is invited to attend the ordination of our deacon, Amelia Arthur, to the priesthood. The service will be held at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis with a reception following.

ECMN advises attendees to leave home early as they expect road construction at that time on highways leading to St. Mark's. It may require additional time to navigate construction and find parking.



WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, BEGINNING AT 9 AM

HOT DOGS AND JAZZ ON THE LAWN

Come watch the annual **Edina Fourth of July Parade** march past St. Stephen's. Bring a chair or blanket, sunscreen (umbrella?). St. Stephen's will again provide free hot dogs, lemonade and Freezie pops to all parade watchers. Enjoy listening to Clark Duhrkopf and the jazz group *AfterJazz* who will again provide great music from 9 am until the parade arrives.



ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets every month on the second Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the library. All book lovers are welcome to come and discuss the current selection. Please join us!

May 14	"News of the World" by Paulette Jiles
June 11	"Sting-Ray Afternoons" by Steve Rushin
July 9	"Virgil Wander" by Leif Enger



SO YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED AT ST. STEPHEN'S?

If you want to have your wedding at St. Stephen's Church because you liked that "pretty church by the Creek", or because you are a cradle Episcopalian, a couple must first make an appointment with one of the priests to talk about faith and membership in the church. You will be asked why you want to be married in the church and why you are choosing to be married at this time. You will also be expected to share some of the story of your current relationship as well as other important details of your personal story.

Who May be Married with St. Stephen's Church?

St. Stephen's Church welcomes for marriage those who are contributing members of the parish and their immediate families, and also friends of the parish who have established a substantial relationship with the worship or life of St. Stephen's.

Are there any requirements?

- No wedding ceremony will be performed in less than 90 days, except for weighty cause as determined by the clergy and in accordance with the canons of the Episcopal Church.
- At least one of the persons to be married must be a baptized Christian.
- All couples are required to do pre-marital counseling, typically four meetings.
- If one or both partners have been divorced, they are required to discuss the previous relationship(s) and to provide a copy of the divorce decree. Church law requires the permission of the Bishop of Minnesota for this new marriage to occur and approval to proceed can take up to six weeks.



Our clergy currently perform an average of ten weddings a year. Occasionally, we have what are called "host weddings", when the couple ask that clergy from another church perform the ceremony.

When the wedding date is set, the wedding coordinator contacts the couple and the planning begins. Our wedding coordinator, **Debbie Zarling**, is an invaluable resource in the planning process and helps keep things running smoothly. Debbie says that weddings have changed from when most of us got married and the mother of the bride made most of the arrangements. Today, the bride and groom plan more weddings and the mother of the bride takes a back seat.



When she meets with the couple, Debbie has a check list of questions and topics to discuss including, (but not limited to) choice of music, flowers, aisle candles, number of bridesmaids and groomsmen, dress rehearsal arrangements, pictures (when, where), photographer, videographer, when to light the candles, getting dressed in the church or elsewhere, (just bride and attendants or groomsmen, too?) reception in the church or elsewhere, is there a Wedding Planner?

Timing is important as well. What time is the rehearsal? When will the flowers be delivered? When will the wedding party arrive? When will the photographer arrive and when will pictures be taken? Exactly when will the bride and groom and attendants leave the changing rooms and proceed to the sanctuary? Ensuring that answers to all these questions are clear in advance makes it more likely their Most Memorable Day will be successful and glitch-free.

Debbie learned what to do by following her predecessor, Linda White, for one year. She has been on her own for the past four years. She said the late sexton, Robert Smith, was a great help to her as is Andy Otness who assists her especially in long weddings and is training to be her backup. Debbie says the key part of her job is being a facilitator and will do her best to provide what the bride and groom ask, within certain parameters. There are guidelines regarding flowers and placement of flowers as well as when and where a photographer can take photos during the ceremony. The musicians of St. Stephen's will consult with the couple regarding the music but must approve the final choice.

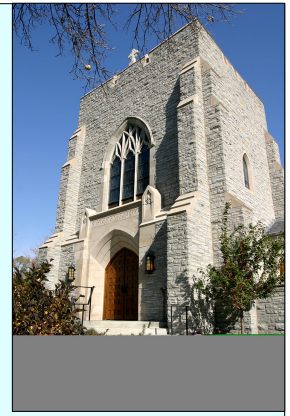
Every wedding is different and flexibility is key. Debbie has been asked to iron something, pin the boutonnieres on groomsmen and once she called her husband, Max, to come over to tie the groomsmen bow ties. But she loves the job, she loves being of service and I am sure, the couples love having her there to see everything proceeds flawlessly from start to finish.

THE BELLS OF ST. STEPHEN'S

This article was printed in the Sunday bulletin not that long ago but it seemed appropriate to include it with the other pieces about weddings at St. Stephen's. When you read it, you might think the title of the article should read, "*The Miracle of the Bells*".

Our thanks to Jane and Len Slade for sharing this history of the bells.

Len says, "To the Parish of St. Stephen's and our neighbors the Bells of St. Stephen's have tolled for almost 15 years. They chime on the hour and they chime at the beginning of services on Sundays and other services including weddings, funerals and other special events. We have had concerts by the creek when the bells were played through the keyboard inside the church. All of the beautiful music and tolling has been recorded with the aid of digital technology. The Taps were recorded at Arlington National Cemetery! And when the breeze cooperates, we can hear them all the way to our home on Maple Road!"



Thinking back to our wedding day 50 years ago in the small Iron Range town of Babbitt, surprisingly the church bells were ringing loudly as we stepped outside to greet our guests. The bells had not worked for a number of years, but a good friend decided they must ring for our wedding so he proceeded to climb the bell tower and repair them just in time for our wedding!

Fast forward to 2004 and our daughter Jody's wedding, and the same friend asked if St. Stephen's had church bells. The answer was no! After further discussion I decided to call the church and ask if they could be repaired. The answer was no! The bells were in such a state of disrepair, they had been removed years ago. I then asked why we couldn't buy new ones. I was told there was only one company in the world that made the type of bells we would want, and that company required a minimum of a 90-day turnaround. At my insistence, I asked that at the very least a call be made. Reluctantly St. Stephen's music director made the call only 11 days prior to the wedding.

The rest of the story is truly amazing! A series of fortunate coincidences and circumstances resulted in what seemed to be impossible: The bells of St. Stephen's would indeed ring for our daughter's wedding in 10 days! A representative from the bell company *just happened* to be in Minneapolis on the day of the call. Due to a cancellation the bell company *just happened* to have a set of the exact bells St. Stephen's was requesting, and *just happened* to have an opening in their installation schedule. The bells were delivered and the installation completed the day before the wedding. The Bells of St. Stephen's played for our daughter Jody's wedding on the 24th of April 2004, just as planned!

Manufactured by Schulmerich Bells, who have set world standards for bell instruments since the 1930s, the carillon is fully electronic. Its rich sounds are sampled from actual cast bells, the sound so real that it's hard to believe you are listening to state-of-the-art digital technology. The system even calculates Doppler effects for each bell, for unmatched simulation of swinging or tolling. The speakers, mounted in the bell tower, can be adjusted for effect, and the volume of the ringing can likewise be controlled. The bells can play an infinite number of hymns as well as be played directly through our organ keyboard.

While the bells are a gift in celebration of our family and in memory of our parents, they really encompass the celebration of *all* families: the Church family as well as that of the larger community. Bells speak to the heart. For centuries they have rung their clear tones to mark the events that bring communities together: faith, joy, sadness, warning, and celebration.

When you hear the wonderful bells of St. Stephen's, stop for a moment, enjoy their clear resonance, and think what a legacy they are for all of us.



Len and Jane Slade

**WE REACHED OUT TO SOME MEMBERS WHO WERE MARRIED
AT ST. STEPHEN'S AND ASKED FOR A MEMORY OR TWO.
HERE ARE THEIR RESPONSES.**

CLAIRE CHRISTOPHER and JOHN MACLENNAN

June 9, 1950

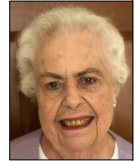
John says, "We were married by Bernard Hummel at 8:30 in the evening in a full formal wedding, which meant tails for the men. Not a single thing went wrong, everything was perfect."



ANN CONVERSE and PAUL MARX

May 11, 1957

Ann says, "Bernard Hummel married us in an 8 p.m. ceremony and the church never looked lovelier. The florist had filled the Chancel with flowers and greens. It was gorgeous." After their honeymoon they settled in their first home in Detroit, MI. where Paul's company had sent him.



MADRIENNE JOHNSTON and RICHARD LARSON

September 3, 1954



Madrienne says, "Bernard Hummel married us at an 8 pm ceremony which was popular in those days. It was a rainy night, so the church canopy was placed over the walkway to the street. After an overnight at the St. Paul Hotel, we headed for Winnipeg, Manitoba, where Dick began medical school. We will celebrate 65 years of marriage in September."

SONJA MYHRE and DAN FLORY

September 13, 1958

Sonja says, "I was raised in St. Stephen's from kindergarten on and was SURE I wouldn't feel married unless Rev. Bernard Hummel officiated. He did — we were married on a beautiful Minnesota autumn day before starting our senior year of medical school."



JANE DICKEY and JIM MATSON

December 28, 2016



Jane and Jim married at St. Stephen's with Fr. Tom officiating and Sonja and Dan Flory as the sole guests and witnesses. Dan commemorated the date on a lovely wooden bowl he turned from a cherry burl. *The New York Times* thought the way they met

was unusual enough to publish an article. To read it enter both their names in the browser search line on your computer.

ANN GRIFFITH and JIM SCOGGIN

February 5, 1949

In the winter of 1949 the chapel addition and the narthex did not exist. Ann recalls dressing in the undercroft, going out in her boots carrying her shoes with her coat over her shoulders and walking up and around to the entrance to the church. She changed into her shoes and at the last second the wedding coordinator whipped Ann's coat off as the door to the church was opened and she and her father began walking down the aisle.



NORMA SMITH and ROBERT CHRISTOPHER

July 14, 1950

Although Norma and Bob knew each other at St. Stephen's, it wasn't until later in New York City that they met up again, fell in love and got engaged. Norma was working there after graduating from Pratt Institute with a design degree and Bob was home from his assignment as a diplomat in Brazil. It was a short engagement as he was soon reassigned to India. Norma bought her dress in NY and her mother planned the wedding here. They returned to Edina and were married by Bishop Keeler then left for India for two years. Their daughter, Maren wore her mother's wedding dress at her own wedding.



MARGY BELL and MAHLON SCHALLER

July 26, 1952

"My memory? Excited and nervous but very happy!"



JACKIE RIDER and JOHN SULLIVAN

September 19, 1987

Jackie and John came to St. Stephen's to marry at the suggestion of her brother, David, a friend of Associate Rector, Jack Overman. David and Jack co-officiated at the ceremony. Jackie and John merged two families when they married: John brought five children (ages 7 to 21) and Jackie brought Sarah (age 2) whom John later adopted. Mary Overman told them that day she could "surely see the hand of God" in how they met, fell in love and married.



JANE SCOGGIN and J. THOMAS PARRY

April 29, 1956



Jane says, "Our honeymoon was a long drive to Sacramento, California, my husband's first active duty station in the U.S. Air Force, with everything we owned stuffed into our car."

IS THE MINNEHAHA CREEK GOING TO FLOOD THE KITCHEN?

That is the question many asked when the snow started to melt and the creek started to rise. But the short answer is “no”, we don’t expect another flood like we had four or five years ago when sandbags could not prevent water coming in under the kitchen door.

One mitigating factor is a rebuilt wall that helps protect rising water from flowing freely into the building.

In 2016 John Dempsey was pursuing the rank of Eagle Scout, part of which required he complete a service project. He saw a need at St. Stephen’s so he planned, developed (with the aid of Jim Bizal) and led the rebuilding and raising of a block wall outside the kitchen entrance. In May of 2016 John, son of Jack and Claire Dempsey, and members of his Scout Troop 124 and other volunteers got most of the project completed in one day.

The cost of materials was greatly helped by generous donations from members of the church when they heard of the project and the need for funds.



John Dempsey is third from left.



Now the entry path to the kitchen door is smaller and lumber and sandbags can be placed there to block water should the creek rise again.

In Remembrance. . .

OF CURRENT MEMBERS

Sally Mae Warner, age 92. Died February 6, 2019. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s March 16, 2019.

Scott Massie, age 62. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s March 23, 2019.

Robert Smith, age 36. Former St. Stephen’s custodian, died April 3, 2019. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s April 11.

Penelope (“Penny”) Jordan, age 77. Died March 22, 2019. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s April 12.

Frank Mork, Age 86. Died April 5, 2019. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s April 12.

Nancy Converse, age 87, Died December 19, 2018. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s April 13, 2019. Wife of Chuck Converse, sister-in-law of Ann Marx.

Janet Cornish, age 87. Died April 13, 2019. Memorial service at St. Stephen’s April 30.

Alan Hesdorffer, age 83. Died April 21, 2019. Private burial service at Lakewood Cemetery.

AND OF THOSE WE KNEW AND LOVED

Paul Rhodes, former member of St. Stephen’s, died on April 2, 2019. Memorial service April 10 in Maple Grove. Private interment at St. Francis Memorial Garden at St. Stephen’s (which he co-founded).



FEBRUARY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



Another one of Grace Taylor's beautiful, handmade centerpieces.



Our luncheon was the day after Presidents' Day. Naturally, we had cherry pie for dessert.



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."

Unknown



Our own personal soundman, David Langer.



"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."

Marcel Proust

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
4439 West 50th Street
Edina, MN 55424

IF YOU'VE BEEN GONE, HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



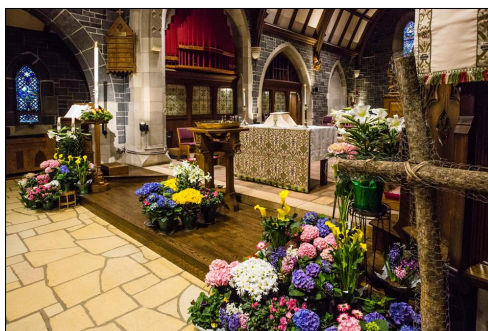
Ash Wednesday



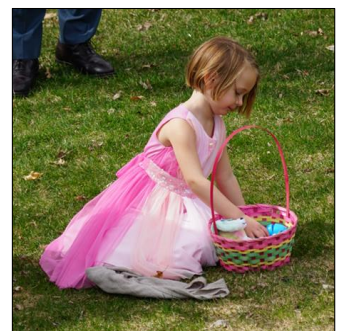
Fish Fry and Bingo



Palm Sunday



Easter Sunday



The Easter Egg Hunt