



The St. Stephen's Senior Newsletter

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER 2019

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church — Edina, Minnesota

Dear beloved senior members of St. Stephen's!

For those of us of a "certain age" time doesn't just fly, it seems to travel at supersonic speed. "How can it be 2019? Where did 2018 go?? Wait, what?? Our class reunion is for how many years? That can't be right!"

It seems as if summer just began and we learned the Commons Room would be remodeled. Well, time has flown and the room is nearly finished. We have some early pictures.

Fast forward to next year...Fr. Tom and Jim Biral are planning a mission trip to Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize in **2020**. Do you know how this special school got started? It's a wonderful success story against all odds. And do you know the St. Stephen's members who help lead the Foundation? Consider joining Fr. Tom and Jim if you've never visited Holy Cross. You will never be sorry!

In the meantime, make your reservation for our September 24 Senior Fellowship Luncheon where we will hear Deborah Pierce talk about her career in the FBI. Don't miss it!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15:

We return to the regular winter worship schedule at 9:00 and 11:15.

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FAREWELL TO OUR YOUTH MINISTER

On Sunday, August 18 we bid farewell to Matt Lewellyn-Otten, our Youth Minister, who has been called to serve as the Director of Youth Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Matt was raised with the Presbyterian Church and is excited to be part of that faith community once again and to connect with some of his spiritual mentors.



But in addition to missing "my kids", he said he will also deeply miss working with "the best crew of partners in ministry with whom I have ever had the opportunity to serve."

Good Luck and Godspeed, Matt.

NORMA CHRISTOPHER TURNS 95

Congratulations to Norma Christopher who celebrated her 95th birthday August 7. Norma was baptized at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, where she was born and has remained an Episcopalian her entire life. Norma was confirmed and married at St. Stephen's (her confirmation class in 1940 included Jim Schwarz), and she has a long history of active service at St. Stephen's.



Norma celebrated with family and fellow residents of Vernon Terrace at a party last week.

CHUCKIE KORSLUND TURNS 90

Congratulations to Chuckie Korslund, who celebrated her 90th birthday on August 13. We know *Charlene* Korslund as "Chuckie", a name she acquired in college. She is the mother of Jim Korslund shown below with his wife Lisa.

For those who don't know her, Chuckie was not raised in Minnesota nor as an Episcopalian. She is the product of Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and the Lutheran and Presbyterian faiths.

After 40 years on their Iowan farm and 15 years after her



husband Allen died, Chuckie decided to move to Edina and into Vernon Terrace. She chose to join St. Stephen's where her family attends and said she is very happy she did.

WE HAVE A NEW SEXTON!

Mr. Chance Ritchie joined the staff as Sexton on Monday, August 12, 2019. In this position he is responsible for the support of parish ministries through the care and maintenance of our church facilities and grounds.



Much of the first week

Chance spent finding his way around our building with its additions, tunnels and exits! He is now immersed in learning about the building and what its short term and long-term needs are.

Chance comes to us with 25+ years of experience in the property management industry. He began as a general contractor specializing in residential remodeling. More recently he has worked as an independent properties manager and maintenance specialist.

Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome him to St. Stephen's.

NOTE TO ALARM CLOCK...



Daylight Saving Time

ends *Sunday, November 3*. Turn your clocks back one hour and gain an hour of sleep Saturday night.

IN REMEMBRANCE...

OF CURRENT MEMBERS:

Marilyn Iverson, age 90. Died May 1, 2019. Burial at Fort Snelling.

Jim Schwarz, age 91. Died May 21, 2019. Former Senior Warden at St. Stephen's. Memorial service June 6, 2019 at St. Stephen's.

Bob Hagen, age 94. Died May 22, 2019. Memorial service May 31 at St. Stephen's.

Britton Goetze, Jr., age 96. Died May 28, 2019. Private memorial service.

Mary McDonald, age 89. Died May 31, 2019. Memorial service June 29 at St. Stephen's.

Peggy Anderson. Died June 20, 2019. A private Service of Committal was held July 8 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

AND OF THOSE WE KNEW AND LOVED:

Daniel Estlick, age 41. Former member of St. Stephen's youth group. Memorial service May 17 at St. Stephen's.



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

12 Noon in the Commons Room

**You are invited to come and hear
DEBORAH PIERCE
Talk about “My Career in the FBI”.**

DEBORAH STREBEL PIERCE retired as Deputy Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division of the FBI in 2006. Prior to her position in Washington, DC, she was the Special Agent in Charge of the Minneapolis Office for three years immediately after September 11, 2001. Her 27 years in the FBI were spent investigating and managing criminal and terrorism investigations in multiple offices.

Since retirement, her international contacts have taken her to places such as Tajikistan, Finland, Austria and Peru to promote leadership for women in public service.

She manages Pierce-Weber Partnership for educating the public about the FBI and the CIA as well as areas of specific interest to include *Leadership Lessons Learned, Identity Theft, Art Theft and Safe Travel*.

Deborah is the Chair of the Retired FBI Agents Chapter of the Society of Former FBI Agents for Minnesota and the Dakotas. She is a founder and international Vice President/Secretary of the Consortium for Women Leaders in Public Service Headquartered in Washington, DC.



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 off in the church office. Please write "Senior Fellowship Luncheon" on the memo line. Last day to make a reservation is *Friday, September 20*. (Your check is your reservation.)

The menu will be assorted wraps (including gluten-free veggie wraps), baked potato chips, coleslaw, relishes, fruit salad, and apple cobbler a la mode 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!***



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

COMMUNITY UNITY SUNDAY

Join us after the 10 am service for refreshments and to meet someone you may not have met before.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

ANNUAL PARISH PIG ROAST

Join us on the lawn at 5:30 pm (in the Gathering Space if it rains) for pulled pork sandwiches, hot dogs, coleslaw, chips, watermelon and dessert. There is no charge, but good will offerings are gratefully accepted. *Please RSVP so they know how much food to prepare.*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

WELCOME BACK TO THE REGULAR CHURCH YEAR

Friday, September 13 — Taizé Worship returns on the second Friday of each month. 7 pm in the chapel.

Sunday, September 15 — We return to winter worship schedule:

9:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary (traditional hymns, choral music and a sermon)

10:00 am All Parish Potluck Brunch between services

11:15 am Worship in the Sanctuary (songs, jazz-world music combo and a sermon)

Wednesday, September 18 — Evening programs return

Wednesday, September 25 — Morning Bible Study resumes at 10 am following the 9:30 am Prayer Service.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

COMMUNITY UNITY SUNDAY — Join us after the 9 am service for refreshments and to meet someone you may not have met before.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pets — all creatures welcome — for this outdoor service beginning at 11:15 am. Cats in carriers preferred. Leashes and clean up supplies as needed, please. In case of rain, service will move to the Gathering Space of the church.



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

COVENANT SUNDAY

One service at 10 am followed by All-Parish Brunch in the Gathering Space. Bring your pledge for 2020.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1 — ONE SERVICE AT 12 NOON

ALL SOULS' SERVICE

"All Faithful Departed Holy Eucharist" to remember those departed including prayers in the Memorial Garden.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

COMMUNITY UNITY SUNDAY — Join us after the 9 am service for refreshments and to meet someone you may not have met before.



INTERGENERATIONAL ADVENT RETREAT — Watch for more information coming soon!

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets on the *second Tuesday* of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the library. All book lovers welcome!

September 10 "The Girl with Seven Names" by Hyeonseo Lee

October 8 "The Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed out of the Window & Disappeared" by Jonas Jonasson

November 12 "The All of It" by Jeanette Haien



AMELIA ARTHUR ORDAINED A PRIEST

On Tuesday, June 25, 2019, our transitional deacon, Amelia, was ordained a priest at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. She was joined by two other candidates for priesthood and five candidates for transitional deacons. The Cathedral was full of friends and family including a large contingent of well-wishers from St. Stephen's. In addition, St. Stephen's members served as ushers for the service.



The faith communities representing each ordinand were asked to bring a banner to carry in the procession into the Cathedral. St. Stephen's did not have such a banner.

So Fr. Tom asked Jane Slade, Lynn Torney and Nancy Menzel, members who all have sewing, quilting, knitting and weaving skills, if they could produce a banner. The only instructions Tom gave them was that it should include the church name and city and have a Celtic cross.

The three women put their creative minds together and made a trip to SR Harris Fabric Outlet that carries a wide range of fabrics of high quality. They designed the lettering, researched various Celtic cross forms, chose the fabric, assembled and completed the lovely banner you see below in a single week.

Our banner was carried in the procession by Amelia's husband, Mike, assisted by their children, Lucy and Winston.

Our Congratulations to Amelia!



Our designers extraordinaire,
Nancy Menzel, Lynn Torney and Jane Slade.



Amelia's family carrying the St. Stephen's banner.

ST. STEPHEN'S ALTAR GUILD

In anticipation of the Commissioning of Altar Guild members and other volunteers the end of September it seemed timely to feature the Altar Guild and pay tribute to the important work they do.

Thanks to detailed meeting minutes from the inception of our Guild, we also found interesting history you might enjoy.

HISTORY OF ALTAR GUILDS

In the sixteenth century in the Church of England the care of the altar was entrusted only to the ordained clergy. Later laymen became sacristans in charge of the sacristy where the communion vessels are kept.

By the nineteenth century women were included in this ministry as assistants to the sacristans. In the twentieth century women were beginning to organize into Altar Guilds and assume the sacristan's duties altogether. This was the only way women could serve God at the altar. They were not seen at the pulpit or at the altar except as an Altar Guild member until the 1970s.

The "St. Therese" Altar Guild first met on October 1, 1937, before the church was built. Membership until the 1970s was by invitation only. Names were often recommended by the clergy and a vote was held to accept new members. There was a nine to 12 month probation and learning period before induction. At its inception there was also a junior Altar Guild comprised of girls 16 to 21 years of age. In the early years members paid dues ranging from \$1.50 to \$5.00 per year.

The women, known as "God's Housekeepers", also paid for flowers, linens and church breakfasts. In the beginning many vestments, linens and frontals were made by hand. Members also made and wore smocks and had caps to wear when working in the church.

THE ALTAR GUILD TODAY

The current Altar Guild is a volunteer group of women and men who feel that being a member of the Altar Guild is a sacred ministry. They are called to prepare the sanctuary and chapel for all the services, as well as baptisms, funerals, weddings and other special services. They care for the communion vessels, vestments, candles, flowers and the bread and wine. They also change the altar hangings periodically as the colors of the liturgical season change.

Currently there are 20 members led by the directress, Judy Edin, serving a two-year term. Other members chair committees in charge of memorials/funerals, flowers, schedules, supplies, cleaning days and special occasions.

The Altar Guild "headquarters" is the Sacristy where all supplies are stored and all cleaning takes place. This is also where the *piscina* is located. This is the sink that drains the water and consecrated wine to the ground.

The members work in teams of three and work two weekend mornings every three months. They also make time for fellowship such as an English tea, a pool party and mini breakfasts before the quarterly meetings.



The altar guild sets up the *credence table* where the sacramental vessels are kept until carried to the altar for Holy Communion.



The Sanctuary Lamp and the *aumbry* (door closed) where the reserved sacrament is kept.



The *aumbry* (door open) showing the consecrated wine and wafers used for home communion.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

The Altar Guild invites anyone interested in joining this ministry to stop by the Sacristy after any service to ask questions and see them in action and get a tour.

Members feel it is a blessing to serve this behind the scenes ministry together. Please prayerfully consider becoming one of these dedicated members.

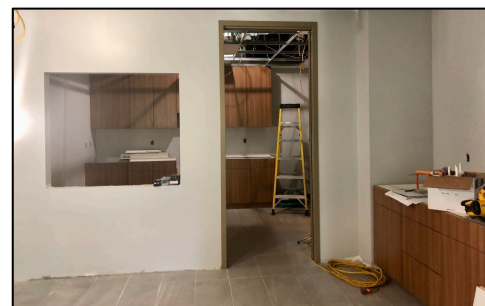
Any Questions? Call Judy Edin at: 952-943-9829.

THE "NEW" COMMONS ROOM

The Commons Room in the lower level is one of our most used and most loved rooms, but has gotten tired in appearance. As part of the Vestry's "Stewardship of Place" mission, they chose to refresh the room to benefit all the ministries that use it now and for future generations.

Workers have been busy all summer to complete the work in time for programs and events beginning in September. We thought you would appreciate an early peek of the changes they have made.

- The remodeling began with new windows last spring plus French doors to the patio that replaced a sliding door.
- New stone was installed on the patio outside and the patio level was raised to be even with the entrance. (Photo top right)
- A smaller but more efficient kitchen was built that now has ADA (disabled) features. The photo (lower right) is taken looking into the kitchen and shows the beverage counter built just outside the door.
- The addition of an exterior door in the far corner of the room (below left) provides a brand new safe and convenient exit. The door opens to the lower level walkway that curves up and around to Wooddale Ave.
- The photo (below right) shows the new exit from the outside. This door is temporary. A permanent door will be installed soon.
- The changes include improved lighting and storage.
- The interior finishes, walls, ceiling will be updated but will maintain the warmth of the room. Carpet has already been installed.
- You will also see new furniture, appliances and window treatments.
- There are no new HVAC units but they did improve some key parts of the ductwork for better airflow.
- The fireplace and stone wall remain unchanged.



HOW DID WE PAY FOR IT?

The cost of the improvements is approximately \$630,000, much of which was raised through private donations from generous members. However, contributions are still gratefully being accepted.

If you meant to help with this project but the summer simply got away from you, *it is not too late!* Feel free to contact Fr. Tom or the vestry treasurer, Chas McKhann, at 1-408-887-8441 to discuss how you wish to help.

HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN SCHOOL – BELIZE

Since 2007 youth and adults from St. Stephen's have gone on mission trips to Holy Cross off the coast of Belize to contribute labor to build and improve the classrooms and buildings as well as engage in the life of the school by interacting, playing and worshipping with students.

If you are not familiar with this school and St. Stephen's involvement, you might ask: “So why Belize? And how did we get connected to this particular school?” Our thanks to Brian Ostenso and Jim Bizal for providing answers to these questions, not to mention their dedication and ongoing help to this special school.

WHAT IS HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN SCHOOL?

Holy Cross Anglican School (HCAS) is located on the island of Ambergris Caye off the coast of Belize. The school educates over 400 students from preschool to 8th grade. It was founded in 2006 to meet the needs of the poorest children in the San Mateo and San Pedro communities on the island. San Mateo at one time won the dubious honor of being recognized as the most at risk community in all of Belize by the Red Cross.



Many of the children live in single-parent homes and have limited access to clean water, indoor plumbing or safe living environments and are victims of the many other systemic problems of severe poverty.

It is the only school in the area that does not require its students to pay tuition. The meals served at school are often the only food the students will eat on a given day.

Outside of the land and teachers' salaries, all other costs are covered by private donations.

The goal at Holy Cross is to provide an excellent education that meets the needs of the modern world. To provide for the health of the students they provide a nutritious lunch, dental care and volunteer doctors. For those who cannot afford their own, they provide pencils, paper, uniforms and shoes so they can attend school.



HISTORY

HCAS was founded by Vernon and Frances Wilson, Episcopal missionaries from Virginia serving the Anglican diocese of Belize. While on a break in the town of San Pedro, they were struck by the number of children wandering the streets during the day. They learned that many children were not in school because existing schools were at capacity and the government did not have money to build more schools. Plus many children could not pay even the nominal cost of public school. The Wilsons did not think this was right.

They persuaded the Belize government to give them land so they could build a school. Unfortunately, the land was 8.5 acres of swampland. With the support of the bishop and local officials and with the help of volunteers, they succeeded in building a three-room school on stilts. It opened in 2006 with 66 students. On opening day there were no books or pencils, no electricity and only a makeshift toilet.

Coincidentally, at the time the school opened, St. Stephen's was looking for a more permanent mission site where our young people could return periodically and develop a relationship with the students. When we learned about Holy Cross, we found it fit many of our parameters. Traveling from Minnesota to Belize is fairly direct and comparatively inexpensive. Plus, there was no language barrier. English is the official language as Belize was a British colony — British Honduras — until independence in 1981.



GOVERNANCE

When Brian Ostenso and others from St. Stephen's made their first mission trip to Belize in 2007, Brian was approached by the Wilsons, to help them set up a 501c3 nonprofit to make it more attractive for donors to make contributions. Brian, Tim Zosel, Jim Bizal and Mary Ramos with the assistance of Todd Andrews, created a nonprofit, *The Holy Cross Education Foundation*.

Brian has served as chairman of the board since its inception. Jim Bizal and Tim Zosel and 10 other Episcopalians from all over the US serve on the board. Jim Bizal with his construction background has been instrumental in directing the physical improvement of the school facilities.

Donations through the Foundation provide almost all of the funding for operations, classroom supplies, maintenance and non-faculty salaries.

PROGRESS

Beginning with three temporary classrooms, the school rapidly grew as more and more parents asked if their children could enroll. Just two years after opening, the school had 17 classrooms, bathrooms, a computer lab, library, dental clinic, playground and a school office. They also added a cafeteria as many students were malnourished and children cannot learn when they are hungry.

Much of the success is due to the volunteers from many churches and other groups (including St. Stephen's) from the United States, Canada and Great Britain.

Currently under construction is the *House of Grace*, a comfortable and welcoming space for clergy they hope will come from mainland Belize or elsewhere in the world, perhaps on sabbatical to lead regular worship.

WHAT'S NEXT?

A new multipurpose building is planned that will respond to a number of needs and desires. From the beginning Bishop Philip Wright of the diocese of Belize wanted to build an Anglican faith community along with the school. The foundation board wants to be able to serve more children who cannot afford school or enroll in the local schools because of overcrowding. And the Ministry of Education wants all schoolrooms to be hurricane proof.

To address these needs the new building will have six new classrooms on the lower level and worship space on the second floor that will also serve as a community room when not being used for worship. The hope is to begin regular Sunday services. The building will be concrete based rather than wood as all other buildings are. The building will also sit on top of a cistern, which will help them manage the extremely scarce water resources.

They have already begun the quiet phase of fund raising for this and hope to begin construction in the next twelve months.



MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY IN 2020

If you are interested in seeing Holy Cross up close and helping further the important work that began 13 years ago, here is your chance.

Tom Cook & Jim Bizal hope to lead a mission trip to Holy Cross in 2020. The cost of the trip is about **\$2,500.00** including airfare, hotel, meals, all ground transportation and a donation to the school.

For more information or questions or to sign up contact Jim at **(952) 649-1525** or email him at: **jim.bizal@bizalbuilt.com**.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES and INFORMATION

You can learn more about Holy Cross at their website:

www.holycrossbelize.org

To donate directly to the foundation go to www.hcefoundation.org or call Jim Bizal or Brian Ostenso.



OUTREACH'S COMMITMENT TO SENIORS TAKES ROOT IN 2019

Starting with a joyful May basket celebration at the Senior Luncheon, followed by two recent grants to organizations devoted to the well being and happiness of seniors in our community, Outreach is thrilled to have been able to demonstrate our commitment to seniors this year.

EPISCOPAL HOMES OF MINNESOTA

In June, the Outreach Committee made a significant grant to Episcopal Homes of Minnesota, and will be recognized as a sponsor of the organization's 125th Anniversary Celebration in September.

Episcopal Homes and St. Stephen's enjoy a strong, mutual partnership that began at least as early as December of 1942 when parishioners sent 20 boxes of Christmas cards for Episcopal Homes residents. Today, St. Stephen's parishioners regularly visit Episcopal Homes' residents and family; serve on the Board of Trustees 125th Anniversary committee, and seven of eight standing board committees; and volunteer and contribute financially.

Episcopal Homes offers many volunteer opportunities for youth, individuals and families, and they welcome anyone who would like to help ensure this long-standing partnership.



BLUEBIRDS & BLOOMS

At our August 13 meeting, Outreach welcomed Karen Wooldridge, co-founder of Bluebirds & Blooms, a budding non-profit serving seniors living with memory loss, mainly in the south and western metro areas. Bluebirds & Blooms collects and receives flowers that can no longer be sold at retail or have been previously used. Flowers are donated from stores, weddings, funerals and corporate events, and the group also receives donated flowers from St. Stephen's Alter Guild after Sunday Services each week.

The donated flowers are repurposed into charming bedside bouquets, and volunteers deliver the bouquets to memory care residents. A key element of the Bluebirds & Blooms mission includes a personal visit with each resident during the deliveries.



Karen Wooldridge, co-founder, with recipient of repurposed flowers.

Bluebirds & Blooms currently delivers between 800-1000 bouquets each month, and they visit 23 different memory care communities on a monthly schedule. In addition, when they have an abundance of donated flowers, they provide bouquets for four different hospice services and one senior day center. *CBS This Morning* caught wind of the organization's mission and featured Bluebirds & Blooms on its national morning broadcast of August 15! Outreach voted unanimously to support Bluebirds & Blooms' work in the coming year.

After operating for two years, Bluebirds & Blooms volunteers know the flowers they deliver are even more appreciated during the darker days of fall and winter (which will be here before we know it!)

With fall comes the **Bash After Dark** (Saturday, November 9) and opportunities to celebrate the work of the Outreach Committee. We hope you'll join us for a fun evening filled with good food, games, music and more, as we look forward to another year of extending St. Stephen's support to our congregation and the community at large in the areas of youth, hunger, housing, and seniors.

MAY SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



The May luncheon celebrated seniors with a **May Day** theme. Mary Margaret Lehman, right, suggested the idea and her husband, Ken, far left, made maypoles for each table. Mary Margaret and Ken donated the maypoles after the lunch to Phil Rose, second from right, director of spiritual life at the Episcopal Home in St. Paul for use at the home. Our speaker, Bishop Brian Prior, gave a wonderful talk, as usual.



Barbara Morgan holding a May basket made by the youth of St. Stephen's.



A May Pole was the centerpiece of each table.



"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These are but trifles, to be sure but scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable."

Joseph Addison

"There's an old saying, 'Life begins at forty.' That's silly, Life begins every morning you wake up."

George Burns



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
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IF YOU'VE BEEN GONE, HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED.



Hot dogs and lemonade while watching the City of Edina **Fourth of July parade** march by.



Pulled pork and sides at the 3rd annual St. Stephen's **Family Picnic**.



Baptism in the Creek



Enjoying **Minnehaha Creek** via kayak and canoe followed by a picnic.

