



The
ST. STEPHEN'S SENIOR NEWSLETTER
Fall 2021
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church — Edina, Minnesota

DEAR BELOVED SENIOR MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN'S!

As we celebrate the beauty of fall and look forward to Advent and Christmas, we remember it is also a time of sharing and giving. This month is our annual **Advent Drive for First Nations Kitchen**. The deadline is fast approaching to donate, so please see page 5 for more information on how to beat the deadline. There are many who need our help this season. Watch "*Communications*" for other ways you can help.

Because November is National Native American Heritage Month, we are featuring **First Nations Kitchen**, one of Outreach's partners. We hope you find it of interest and that it piques your interest to consider volunteering!

Is Friday, December 3, also on your calendar? It is our **Sr. Fellowship Christmas luncheon** at the Edina Country Club. Naturally, our finest musicians will entertain — Clark and Bryon.

Connie Brekken, Editor
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Over 200 paper luminaries were placed on the parish grounds on **All Souls Day**, November 2, in memory of family and friends.

WELCOME!

If you are receiving the Senior Newsletter for the first or second time and wonder why, it is because we updated our mailing list. We found a number of members of the congregation are "eligible" to receive it based on their date of birth. Who is eligible? We decided to err on the side of inclusivity and send it to those who have passed their 60th birthday.

This is a newsletter about *life* at St. Stephen's — the people, the history, the activities, the buildings and grounds, plus a little humor. It is an old fashioned snail mail document you can read over coffee that does not require electricity or Wi-Fi. We hope you enjoy it.

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

- **IT'S STEWARDSHIP TIME.** If you have not made your pledge for 2022, please respond to the communication you received or call Nancy Wood in the office at 952-920-0595, if you have questions. Covenant Sunday is December 12 when our pledges are symbolically presented on the altar.
- **UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Sunday, November 14	Loaves & Fishes Service Day - Woodlake Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 28	Advent Wreath making - Gathering Space
Friday, December 3	Sr. Fellowship Christmas/Advent Luncheon - Edina CC
Sunday, December 5	First Nations Kitchen Service Day - All Saints Mission
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Services (watch "Communications" for times.)
Thursday December 25	Christmas Day Service (watch "Communications" for time.)
- **THE 2021 BASH WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!** Auction bidders and contributors raised a record \$67,000 for Outreach at the Bash in October. One hundred percent of the money raised goes to support the non-profits that address housing, hunger, youth and senior needs. Bravo to all who helped set this record!
- **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** - The office will be closed the week after Christmas: Monday, Dec. 27 through Friday, Dec. 31. In case of emergency, call the church office then press 2 to leave a message.

In Remembrance

Of Current Members...

Jane Lofstrom, age 101. Died October 14, 2021. Memorial Service November 14 at St. Stephen's.

And Those We Knew and Loved...

Marjorie (Marj) Wunder, age 90. Died October 1, 2021. Memorial Service at Sts. Luke and James Episcopal Church October 22.



MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

A lovely third plaque has been installed in the loggia at the top of the Memorial Garden. The two existing plaques are now filled with names of those whose ashes are (or will be) interred in the garden.

The St. Francis Memorial Garden was constructed almost 35 years ago. It is consecrated ground where the cremated remains of members of the church and their loved ones can rest. There are three ways ashes can be interred: 1) Ashes may be interred in the *scattering area*. 2) Ashes may be interred in a ground niche, in essence, a family plot that can accommodate multiple interments. 3) Ashes can be preserved in an urn in a *vault*. The concrete vault is large enough to accommodate four urns and is covered with a granite top at ground level. Currently, only five of these concrete vaults remain available.

If you are interested in more information, call Deen Hubin in the church office at 952-920-0595.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL ADVENT— CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Friday, December 3, 2021

12:00 to 12:30 Social Time

12:30 p.m. Lunch

Edina Country Club

(Valet Parking Provided)

Join us for our annual Christmas luncheon with musical entertainment by:

Clark Duhrkopf and Bryon Wilson.

It was wonderful watching Clark's Christmas entertainment on our computers at home last year, but this year our luncheon is back "in person." Be prepared to join Clark in singing Christmas carols.



Make your reservation now!

Cost is \$30 per person.

- 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. Deadline to make a reservation is Tuesday, November 30. (Your check is your reservation.)
- The menu will be peppercream salad, Portobello chicken, white and wild rice pilaf blend, bread baskets, asparagus, and white and chocolate holiday frosted cupcakes for dessert.

FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN

First Nations Kitchen (FNK) is a ministry led by indigenous people *for* indigenous people. It is located in a historic church, All Saints Episcopal Indian Mission, in the Powderhorn neighborhood of Minneapolis where they have traditionally served residents of nearby Little Earth of the United Tribes, the largest indigenous urban housing community in the United States.

FNK has been serving healthy, organic, traditional indigenous food in a welcoming, family environment every Sunday evening since November 2008. The food served is based on an ancestral diet of First Nations people such as buffalo, wild rice, elk, fish, deer, and turkey. They get wildlife from the Red Lake Nation. They get wild rice from the Leech Lake area. In addition to being organic, it is healthy. You will not find macaroni and cheese on the menu.

Its primary intent is to provide food to indigenous people who would not otherwise have access to high-quality, fresh organic food in an environment of hospitality and cultural empowerment. Every Sunday night for many years it provided a warm dinner in the basement of the church. There was no buffet line. Volunteers seated guests, served them dinner and bussed and washed the dishes. At the end of the evening, any leftovers were boxed up and sent home with the guests. It was also an opportunity for guests and volunteers to sit and talk to one another — to make a connection.



This is no small undertaking to accomplish every single Sunday night, come rain, snow or Super Bowl. Volunteer support comes from many area Episcopal congregations, the Native American Law Students Association of William Mitchell, and multiple churches of various denominations.

When the pandemic forced social distancing, FNK changed its model and continued to serve the community with a Produce Giveaway that can include a warm to-go meal and other supplemental food. Waving signs saying “Free Fresh Food” outside the church, volunteers and staff invite neighbors to take food home.

St. Stephen's has been supporting FNK for nine years through Outreach and members serving food Sunday nights. Lisa Netzer is our organizer. On December 5 you can join her and others at a First Nations Kitchen Service Day to see for yourself what is done here. There are two shifts. Come at noon to help package produce and to-go meals in the kitchen or come at 3:30 to help set up tables, give away food outside and cleanup. Or call Lisa (952-830-9907) for details about five other dates available in 2022.

Annie and Todd Schilling and their family have volunteered at FNK for many years. Annie says they have found volunteering there *“to be a significant part of our spiritual journey. For those who might be curious about serving at First Nations Kitchen, we encourage you to try it. The perspective we have gained as a family focuses us with an outlook of deep gratitude. We are so grateful for the opportunity to give back in such a tangible and meaningful way.”*



Bags of produce waiting to be given away.



REV. CANON ROBERT TWO BULLS — The Man Behind FNK

Fr. Robert Two Bulls was born and raised in South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Reservation as a member of the Oglala Lakota Oyate. He received his Master of Divinity at the General Theological Seminary in New York and a Bachelor of American History with a focus on Federal Indian Policy at the University of Maryland.

He started his ministry in Los Angeles where he volunteered in a Skid Row soup kitchen. When he moved to Washington D.C. he worked in a soup kitchen there also. Along the way he gathered ideas of how he would do things differently if he had the chance.

When he began as vicar at All Saints in 2006, the congregation asked him to help start a soup kitchen, which so far had been unsuccessful. He went way beyond a soup kitchen. He spent two years raising money and finding organic suppliers. He talked local co-ops into donating organic fruits, vegetables and dairy products. And he found volunteers through Twin Cities Episcopal churches and others to help plan, prepare and serve a warm dinner every Sunday night. Thanks to him the program is firmly established to serve local indigenous people well into the future.

Fr. Two Bulls also serves as the statewide Missioner for Indian Work and Multicultural Ministry.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Last day to make donations on line or at the church.

FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN ADVENT DRIVE — ACT NOW!

You have probably heard we are collecting warm winter essentials for our outreach partners at FNK to distribute to people in need throughout the Advent season. If you want to help, please act now. **Our deadline is only days away!**

1. You may still purchase items off our Amazon Wish List. Check your "Communications" email for the link. The items will ship *directly* to the church.
2. Buy locally and bring items to the church. Look for hats, mittens or scarves such as these:



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

First Nations Kitchen donations will be blessed and we will have a special guest musician.

MARK BILLY, A NATIVE (CHOCTAW), WILL BE A GUEST MUSICIAN.

In addition to playing the native flute, Mark is also an accomplished clarinetist and Verdi baritone with a multi-faceted career in opera, recital, and concert work. He has performed throughout the entire United States, including Hawaii.



REASONS TO CELEBRATE



CONGRATULATIONS TO MAX ZARLING

Happy birthday to Max who celebrated his **90th birthday** November 2. Although originally from Iowa, Max has spent most of his life in the Twin Cities. He graduated from West High School in Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and embarked on a career in neurosurgery.

He and his first wife were married at St. Stephen's in 1955. After her death Max and Debbie Zarling were married in 2011. They settled in Edina and became members of St. Stephen's. Max has enjoyed being a member of the Martyrs and volunteering as a greeter in the church office.

Max has a wide range of interests and talents. He is a voracious reader and belongs to two book clubs, one for 20 years, and his love of classical music led him to serve on the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra board of directors for many years. He is known as an excellent cook, whether you want American, Chinese or Italian cuisine, and he still serves as Debbie's coach for golf and tennis. They both like to travel extensively and will be glad to tell you why you should go to Ireland or Bermuda, two of their favorite places.

Max and Debbie traveled to Chicago to celebrate his birthday with family.

MEMBERS OF EDINA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 1952.



The City of Edina built its first one-room school in 1859. Many other elementary schools were added as the population grew but it wasn't until 1949 that a high school was built. Until then, students leaving eighth grade had to transfer to a high school in another town or go to a private school.

The first class to go through **all four years** at the new high school graduating in 1952 had plans to celebrate their 69th reunion this year, but the pandemic got in the way.

Three members of the class of about 125 are pictured left: **Jane Parry, Jim Matson and Sonja Flory**. Jim and Sonja attended Wooddale School starting in kindergarten and Jane started in

third grade. They remember going to **"religious education class" every Wednesday** after lunch held across the street at St. Stephen's. This was part of the regular school curriculum! The Roman Catholic students did not attend.

Jim's father was on the school board at that time. Jim says, *"The new school was very controversial. About half of the Edina community wanted to continue paying the low tuition for their kids to attend West, Southwest, Washburn or St. Louis Park High School. The other half wanted their own Edina High School."*

These three were also in the same confirmation class at St. Stephen's so they are shown carrying the prayer books they were given when confirmed. The confirmation class also included Ann Marx and Audra Holm.

Next year will be their 70th high school reunion. May we all live to enjoy such celebrations!



Jane (Scoggin) Parry



Jim Matson



Sonja (Myre) Flory

(Photos from the 1952 Edina High School Whigean Yearbook.)

IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN GONE, HERE'S WHAT YOU MISSED.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON on THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

After 22 months of isolation, masking and social distancing we finally reunited in the gathering space where we enjoyed each other's company, a lovely lunch and entertainment by Barbara English, a local singer and guitarist.



Right: Barbara English and her partner/roadie/husband/best friend.



Since the entertainment was music, Grace Taylor decorated the tables with musical symbols.



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