

The
ST. STEPHEN'S SENIOR NEWSLETTER
Spring 2022
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church — Edina, Minnesota

DEAR BELOVED MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN'S!

It appears we are verry gradually returning to what one might dare call "normal" at St. Stephen's. Masks are now optional at services and a Lenten dinner and a Maundy Thursday soup supper were held during Lent. As one member said, "*Members of St. Stephen's are starved for fellowship!*" (We agree.) We hope and pray this trend continues, everyone stays healthy in the process, and any and all variations of the virus disappear.

This winter we had an unusual number of our friends pass away. **The Funeral Ministry Committee** members were busy rearranging their schedules to fill their roles in serving on teams such as Altar Guild, vergers, music and hospitality. Someone recently said, "What exactly does this committee do?" So, we asked — see a description of their various roles and tasks.

Before programs and events wind down for summer, we encourage you to pay attention to **Coffee with Friends**, **Parish Ice Cream Social** and **Bridge Builders 65th Anniversary Celebration**, all scheduled in May.

- **Coffee with Friends** replaces the usual spring Senior Fellowship Luncheon with a social gathering. Once again, arranging an in-person speaker for the luncheon was not possible. Watching a speaker on a screen just didn't sound as appealing.
- The **Parish Ice Cream Social** is a kick off to the second season of monthly summer ice cream gatherings at local ice cream shops. Watch for details of dates and locations soon.
- **Bridge Builders** will celebrate their 65th anniversary. All are welcome! Come toast all that our endowment fund has accomplished.

As we begin to enjoy summer, we agree with John Steinbeck who said, "*What good is the warmth of summer without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.*"

Connie Brekken, Editor



We hope you had a Blessed Easter!

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Our bishop, **the Very Rev. Craig Loya**, will be with us for baptisms and confirmations. Reception follows the 10:15 service.



THURSDAY, MAY 12

Coffee With Friends at 10 a.m., Commons Room

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Parish Ice Cream Social — a taste of summer



MONDAY thru FRIDAY

Parish Offices will be closed from Monday, May 16 through Friday, May 20. In case of emergency, call the church office, then press 2 to leave a message.

MONDAY, MAY 23

Bridge Builders 65th Anniversary Celebration at 7:00 p.m. Commons Room



SUNDAY, MAY 29

Summer officially kicks off with Sunday service times **unchanged** (8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.) except the 8:00 a.m. service will be held in the chapel.

MONDAY, JULY 4

Enjoy the City of Edina's **Fourth of July Parade**. Bring your family and folding chairs to the 50th Street lawn. Free hot dogs and freezies are back, compliments of St. Stephen's.



In the month of July

After two years **Vacation Bible School** will be held **in person** and our youth in grades 8-12 will travel to **White Earth Nation** in Rice Lake to spend time with the youth and serve with the Boys & Girls Club and complete various projects that benefit the community.

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Parish picnic will be held at Wooddale Park at 11:30 a.m. Church will provide the main meal, you bring a side or dessert to share, and a chair.

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets the **second Tuesday of every month** at 1:30 p.m. Since Covid we continue to "meet" virtually via Zoom so you can join the discussion from wherever you happen to be.

All are welcome. If you wish to join the discussion, contact Marillene Allen at mamallen0@gmail.com.

The books we will read over the next three months are:

- May 10: "Sound of a Wild Snail Eating" by Elizabeth Bailey
- June 14: "Book of Joy" by Douglas Abrams
- July 12: "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich



IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen Hoyt age 93. Died February 15, 2022. Memorial Service held March 19 at St. Stephen's.

Maureen (Mo) Massopust age 71. Died February 21, 2022. Memorial Service held Friday, March 4 at St. Stephen's.

Elizabeth Eisenbrey, age 91. Died March 9, 2022. Services were private. A celebratory memorial gathering is planned for the spring.



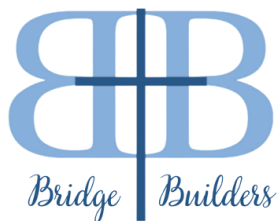
You're invited to
Join Us



What: **Coffee with Friends**
Date: Thursday, May 12, 2022
When: 10 a.m.
Where: Commons Room

Instead of holding the spring Senior Fellowship Luncheon, the Fellowship Committee is planning a coffee gathering. There is no agenda except to relax, schmooze, indulge in treats and celebrate spring with friends, old and new.

RSVP requested so we know how many treats to plan for. Call the church at 952-920-0595.



What: **Celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Bridge Builders.**
Date: Monday, May 23, 2022
When: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Where: Commons Room & Patio

Join us for an evening of celebration honoring the 65th Anniversary of St. Stephen's Bridge Builders ministry.

A Bridge Builder is the name we give those who have chosen to support our parish endowment, the St. Stephen's Fund. ***But, you don't need to be a Bridge Builder to attend this event!*** This is a parish-wide celebration and EVERYONE is invited to a night of inspiration and fellowship.

RSVP requested so we know how many to plan for. Call the church at 952-920-0595.

THE FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM

When a funeral or memorial service is planned at St. Stephen's, Tom Cook meets with the family to plan the funeral. When the details are set, Tom notifies the Funeral Ministry Committee providing the date, time, and requirements of the event. Since the date of a funeral is often only days away, Funeral Ministry members must spring into action contacting team members to determine their availability to serve.

The basic tasks of most committees are similar to what is done at a standard church service, but a funeral often requires slight changes in the duties and no two services are exactly alike. Here is what the Funeral Ministry team members do.

Each member of this group will tell you it is a privilege to serve in this special ministry.

THE ALTAR GUILD

As soon as a funeral or memorial service is announced the directress, currently Jane Slade, seeks two or three of the committee to serve. Among their duties are:

- Holy Communion is usually planned as it is part of the Rite of the Burial of the Dead, so the Altar Guild sets up the communion table and the Paschal Candle as the hope of resurrection. At the end of the service they clean and put all the vessels and linens away.
- Candles are refreshed and flowers are received and placed in the church.
- Before the service the hangings on the pulpit, the lectern and the frontal representing the liturgical colors of the season are removed and replaced with white ones. After the service the white hangings are removed and the current liturgical color is put back up.
- Memorial services have become more common, but if a funeral is planned with a casket present, the Altar Guild will place a pall on the casket. St. Stephen's owns a beautiful pall (see photo at right) that was a gift in memory of Thurston William Weum in 1951.
- A basket is provided for cards and memorial envelopes and a lectern is placed for the guest book in the narthex.
- If there are cremains, a small table is provided for the urn container and may also hold a photograph and small bouquet of flowers.
- The Altar Guild works closely with both the family and the funeral home staff to answer questions and provide assistance in any way.



THE USHERS

Head Usher, **Len Slade** says, "St. Stephen's Ushers are a multi talented group!" Standing on the front steps outside the main entrance they are usually the first personal contact our parishioners and visitors have as they approach the church. Their specific role is to welcome everyone, regular parishioners as well as visitors while opening the door and handing out bulletins, however they also provide security by posting at all entrances. Once the service begins they will lock all doors except the main entrance. They also observe those who may need assistance with mobility by helping exit their vehicle, setting up a walker or wheelchair. Often they will escort them to the Chapel door and find them seating.

At funerals ushers perform the same services as regular Sunday ushers, but additionally they are available 30-45 minutes prior to the visitation or service. When they arrive they check with the Lead Usher or Verger for any special instructions. They introduce themselves to the funeral home staff and offer any assistance they may require. They make sure the doors are unlocked, and the entry walks are clear of ice, snow or debris. They check to make sure the funeral bulletins are available in the narthex. They may assist the Altar Guild in moving floral arrangements and setting up a table and guest book lectern if needed. They make sure the Narthex is clear of any unnecessary items.

Funeral Ushers particularly watch for guests and family members to ensure they are guided to the designated entrance. Once the service begins, the ushers position themselves to observe the service from the back of the nave and narthex, available to assist late arrivals, and observe the congregation for anyone who may need assistance.

When the service concludes the ushers assist by directing attendees to the reception area or to their vehicle, if needed. One usher will be positioned at the Link entrance to assist with the use of the elevator.

After all attendees have left the nave, the ushers perform a check of all pews for personal items, and other materials including bulletins, tissue, etc. They also realign the Prayer Books, Hymnals and Bibles in the pew racks in preparation for the next service.

VERGERS AND LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Janny Gothro has recently joined the Funeral Ministry Committee in charge of scheduling vergers and lay eucharistic ministers (colloquially known as “LEMs.”) If Holy Communion is not to be served, she may only need to schedule one verger and one cross bearer. But, if the family wants Holy Communion, Janny will be sure there are LEMs to serve the wine. Occasionally, she will also schedule torch bearers.

This photo shows the vergers who led the procession at Jane Parry’s memorial service to honor her many years as head verger.

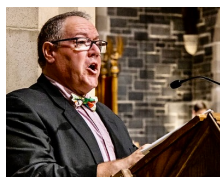


THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Receptions are occasionally held off site, but the majority are held in the Commons Room or the Gathering Space. When they are, this committee manages the food and beverage for the guests. It has been the policy of St. Stephen’s for many years to provide coffee, water and lemonade, but the family must provide the food. Sometimes it is as simple as cookies and bars, and sometimes a caterer prepares a hot meal. The committee sets up the buffet table and beverage table with plates, napkins and silverware based upon the estimated number attending and they clean up afterwards. They have on occasion poured wine or champagne and have enjoyed working some receptions planned with a “theme” such as an English High Tea and a Swedish Smorgasbord.

The committee members have learned how to make coffee in the big urns, how to load and run the dishwasher and where to find the wine glasses. They did not lose their cool when only half of the food was delivered 30 minutes before one reception was to begin, but quickly solved the problem. And when they blew out a fuse at the English Tea because too many electric tea pots were plugged in, no one was fazed.

The committee chair works with the family to coordinate delivery of food and explain what we provide (e.g., “No, you do not need to bring silverware, plates and napkins.”) They do their best to manage every detail of the reception so the family of the deceased has uninterrupted time to greet guests and celebrate the life of the departed.



THE MUSIC MINISTRY

At regular church services **Clark Duhrkopf** and **Bryon Wilson** decide what music is played and sung. At a funeral the music is sometimes chosen by the family of the deceased or in consultation with Clark. One of the first questions he asks is “*What style of music do you prefer?*” For example, it might be sacred, or contemporary. A family might want to include a favorite hymn, or they may have no preference and ask Clark to choose all the music. If a family wants a friend to sing or play an instrument, we try to accommodate their request, but Clark and Bryon are the first to be offered the music.

On rare occasions Clark has been asked to help at off-site funerals. For example, he has sung at Lakewood Cemetery and at a graveside service at Fort Snelling. If either Clark or Bryon is unable to serve, they will find a substitute.

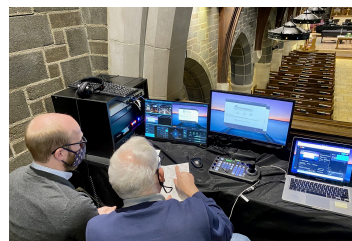
THE SOUND MINISTRY

The Sound Ministry includes our sound engineer, **John Crabtree**, and **Jimmy Barnett**, the live stream manager.

John’s job is to ensure the spoken word and choral vocals can be heard clearly. Sometimes sound needs to be amplified or reinforced. At a funeral John arrives early to seek out any guest musicians or singers, guest readers and occasionally guest clergy who need to be mic’ed. In the best of all worlds he has time before the congregation arrives to do a sound check with each presenter. He will often have a conversation with less experienced speakers about the benefit of projecting their voice and slowing down the speed of their words. When the reception is held at the church following a funeral, John always turns on the sound system so the hospitality committee can listen to the service as they prepare the refreshments and time the end of the service.

Jimmy Barnett is in charge of live stream and says, “*I think of the live stream as something family and friends will be able to go back to time and again, rather than just those watching in that moment. That allows me to think about what might be important later, such as closer shots of the urn, of family speaking Words of Remembrance, and of special musicians. I also try to increase shots of the congregation so that family watching might be able to point out people in attendance.*” After the service a copy of the video gets rendered and Molly Reichard gives one to the family.

Both John and Jimmy are training backups to step in when either of them are unable to serve (and would love to hear from you!).



Jimmy Barnett training a new live stream manager.

COMINGS and GOINGS and CELEBRATIONS



We said farewell and Godspeed to **AMELIA ARTHUR**, our Associate Rector, on **February 6**. Amelia is moving to Richmond, VA, where she has accepted the position of Associate Rector for Formation & Parish Life at St. James's Episcopal Church.

Amelia joined us in November 2018 as a deacon and we celebrated with her when she became a priest in June 2019. We will miss her very much but know she will always be in our hearts.



Congratulations to **CLARK DUHRKOPF**, our director of music ministry, who celebrated **25 years** with St. Stephen's on March 27. Thanks for all the wonderful music you give us, Clark, and here's to another 25 years!



Longtime member, **KATIE HARDY**, always said she would move back East where she was raised — *someday*. After 47 years in Minnesota and at St. Stephen's she is finally moving to Portland, ME, where she will be near family. Fr. Tom said a blessing and thanked Katie for her contributions and many years of service to St. Stephen's. (See Altar Guild send-off on next page.)



Once again we had the privilege of hearing **TIM ZAVADIL**, clarinetist with the Minnesota Orchestra as a guest musician Sunday, March 20. Tim has been an occasional guest the last several years and at one time helped direct the older children's choir.



After 25 years **KEITH and LINDA FRIEDE** said farewell to St. Stephen's, as they embark on a new chapter of their lives on Washington Island in Lake Michigan. On Sunday, March 20, Tom thanked Keith for keeping the story of our stained glass windows alive leading walks around the church, explaining the history and representations in the windows, and for his musical contributions with his bass guitar. We will miss Linda's dedication on the St. Stephen's Fund Committee and in counting the gifts to the church, which she has done for years. Tom asked God's blessings on their new life and new journey.

ALTAR GUILD HONORS KATIE HARDY

Katie Hardy has a 45 year history with the Altar Guild. So when she announced her decision to move to Maine, the members held a send off party in February 2022. In appreciation for her many years of service, they presented her with a pendant with a representation of an altar.

Katie says before she joined, the Altar Guild had its own treasury and members were required to pay dues. That money was used to buy the wine and bread for Holy Communion and the candles. When working in church, members wore a uniform of blue smocks, matching caps and white gloves.

The first year of service you were “learning the ropes.” After one year you became an official member at an initiation service held in the chapel.

Thanks, Katie, for your service, your friendship and your laughter!



Judy Edin presenting Katie with her going-away gift.



Members honor Katie's long service with the Altar Guild.

The sterling silver pendant shows the altar set up for Holy Communion, the ministry of the Altar Guild.



WELCOME BACK, JOYCE!

Some members will remember Joyce Denham and her husband, Pete Lundstrom, who joined St. Stephen's over 20 years ago. They are back and Joyce is back doing what she loves, teaching the Bible as literature.

Joyce first created her series of talks called “**Compass**” when they belonged 20 years ago and has been teaching it ever since. The title comes from her phrase, “*Literature of the Bible as our Compass for life.*” She has a unique ability to provide meaning and context to stories in the Bible and her initial training as a high school teacher gave her a sound start as an interesting and engaging speaker.

Joyce has had a varied career teaching, tutoring, leading spiritual retreats, both here and at historic monastic sites in the UK, and is the author of many internationally published books for children and adults on Christian faith, Celtic prayer and the lives of the saints. While it is clear she loves literature, you might be surprised to learn she has a Master's degree in both literature and epidemiology!

The **Compass** Lenten Series, *Jesus' Final Journey*, held in March and April will be followed by *Jesus' New Journey* beginning April 24 and ending May 22. We invite you to come to this adult forum class held in the Commons Room at nine a.m. Sunday or join others online from wherever you are. The good news is that Joyce will continue teaching Adult Forum classes next September when we resume the regular schedule of programs and events.

Joyce was born and raised in Minneapolis and she and Pete have lived in various cities. They recently returned to the Twin Cities and bought a home in Bloomington but not for retirement. Joyce says the word “retired” is not in her vocabulary. Her life is, and will continue to be, **reading, studying, writing and teaching.**

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We continue our occasional series on the stained glass windows in the sanctuary featuring two windows that have an overall theme of **PRAYER**.

LEFT WINDOW

*The theme of this window is the **HOLY SPIRIT — THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**.*

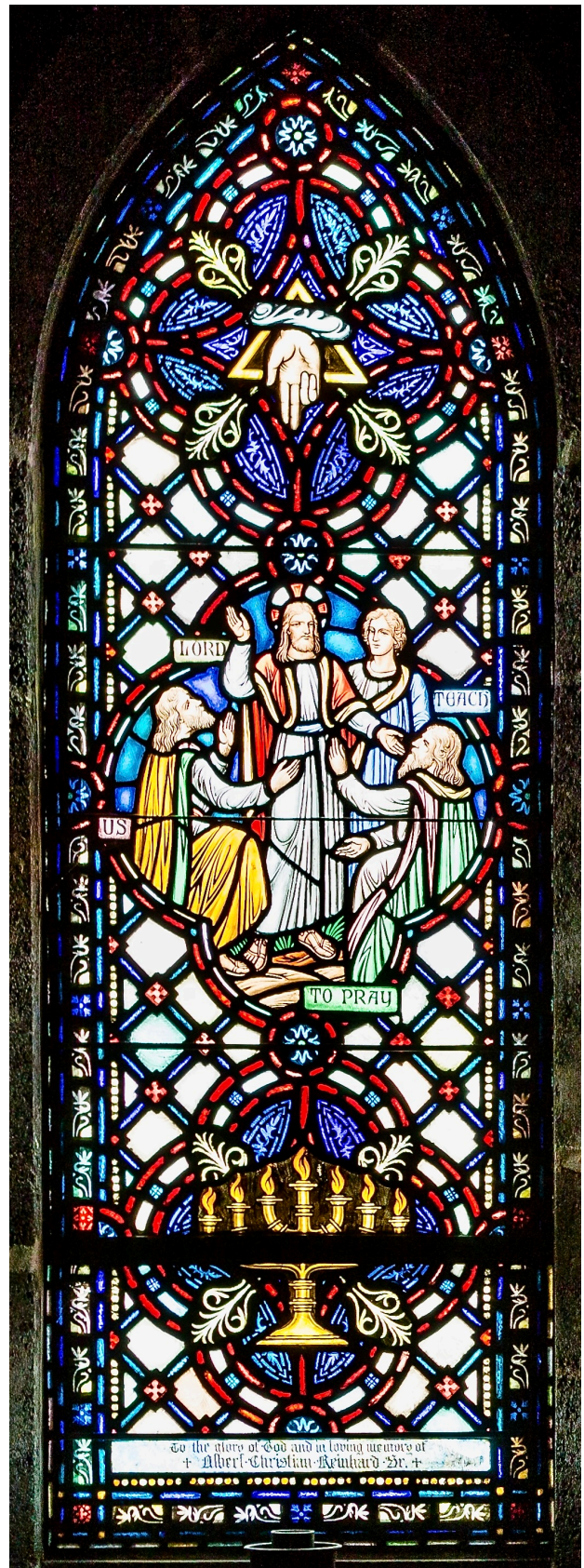
The top panel shows **the hand of God answering prayer, the Triangle representing the Trinity**.

The middle panel shows **Christ with his disciples** and the words, "Lord, teach us to pray." (See Luke 11:1)

The bottom panel has a **Jewish menorah** with seven candles. The candles are lit at the beginning of the Sabbath until sundown — a time of prayer/Shabbat.

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Albert Christian Reinhard, Sr.



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 **THE LORD'S PRAYER.**

The top panel shows a family at prayer in pews.

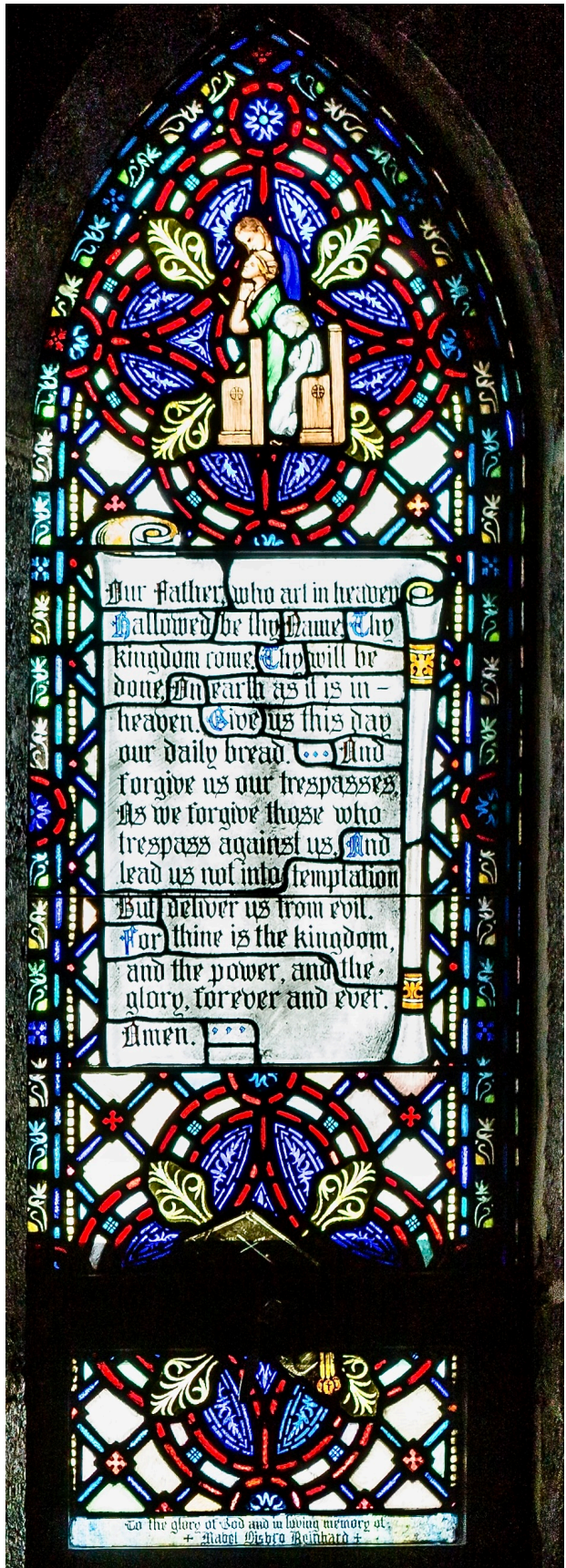
The middle panel is the Lord's Prayer on a scroll

The bottom panel shows a Bible.*

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mabel Disbro Reinhard.

*(Unfortunately, the Bible is barely visible because the original builders chose to make the bottom panel a hinged window and the frame covers most of the Bible.)





OUTREACH SUPPORTS MINISTRIES SERVING:

- HUNGER
- HOUSING
- YOUTH
- SENIORS

*Did you know that Outreach awarded over **\$100,000 in grants** in 2021 to its nine partners? About 50% of grant dollars came from the Bash, and the other 50% from the St. Stephen's Fund. Here is a list of the 2021 awards.*

BLUEBIRDS & BLOOMS: \$5,000

Brings joy to people living in memory care, hospice, and other care communities by delivering recycled bouquets of flowers: 10,000 bouquets a year!

GREATER MINNEAPOLIS CRISIS NURSERY: \$10,000

For more than 35 years, has provided free services to families in crisis with young children, including respite care for parents. The Nursery works to end child abuse and neglect and create strong, healthy families.

EPISCOBUILDERS/HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: \$5,000

A partnership that builds affordable housing and assists with exterior refurbishing of homes in the Twin Cities. St. Stephen's members regularly work as on-site volunteers.

EVERY MEAL: \$10,750

St. Stephen's Outreach grant supported their "Weekend Food Program" that puts food in backpacks of children at Ridgeview Elementary School in Bloomington who face food insecurity at home on weekends.

BEACON/66 WEST: \$3,000

Our grant helped re-stock "Dale's Closet," where new residents can choose bedding, towels, and kitchen supplies for their new residence at 66 West. When they move out, they will take these items with them.

VEAP (VOLUNTEERS ENLISTED TO ASSIST PEOPLE): \$15,000 and \$2,000 in gift cards.

Serves individuals and families in Edina, Richfield, Bloomington, and part of south Minneapolis who are at serious risk of hunger and homelessness. VEAP provides food, gas cards, transit passes, and help with rent/utilities/damage deposits/moving expenses.

PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING: \$1,000

Empowers low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency through programs in housing stability and career readiness. Our grant supported their "Ready for Success" program that provides gently used clothing and personal care items for job interviews and the workplace.

FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN: \$30,000 for a new refrigeration unit

A ministry located at All Saints Indian Mission Episcopal Church in south Minneapolis. We assisted with the purchase of a new refrigeration unit for their meal services to indigenous people, as well as with providing warm winter hats and gloves.

HOLY CROSS EDUCATION FOUNDATION: \$26,500

Since 2007, St. Stephen's has served God's children at Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize. St. Stephen's assists with volunteers for building maintenance and provides classroom and educational supplies for 455 students ages preschool-8th grade.

In addition direct drives benefited our partners through the generosity of our parishioners. Here are two of the drives in 2021.



The Stuff-the Truck **VEAP March Food Drive** resulted in over 700 pounds of food.

First Nations Kitchen Winter Items Drive for children and adults generated over 140 packs of mittens, hats and scarves.





PICTURES FROM BELIZE

In February a small group traveled to Holy Cross Anglican School (HCAS), a mission site in Ambergris Caye, Belize, that St. Stephen's has supported since 2007. The team worked on *HOUSE OF GRACE*, a place for visiting clergy to live while they minister to the school and community. Our team finished the soffit, railings and exterior painting.



The February 2022 team:
**Jimmy Barnett, Fr. Tom Cook,
Britton Cook and Miranda Ward.**



Some of the 18+ computers
donated by members of St.
Stephen's to the school.



House of Grace in 2020 - unpainted. →



The finished
exterior today.



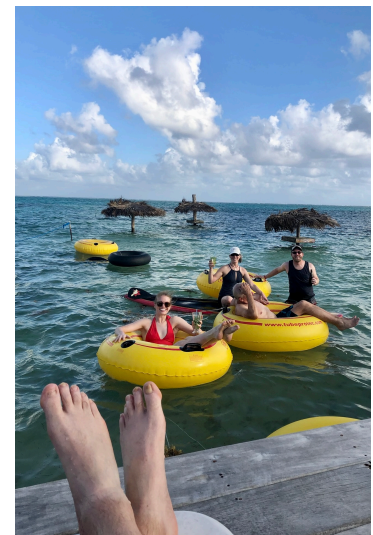
Some of the team
at work.



This Communion goblet and paten are taken on every mission trip to Belize. They were made from wood grown in Belize. Inscribed on the bottom of the plate is "Belize Service Journey - Holy Cross Anglican School, San Pedro - June 2017, January 2020, February 2022." Future trips will be added.



Touring the school library.



Relaxing at the end of a hot day.

Average temperature: 81°
Average humidity: 74%

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

**IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ON A ROAD TRIP RECENTLY, WE THOUGHT WE'D
SHARE SOME SIGNS YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN.**

