



# The St. Stephen's Senior Newsletter

## Winter 2021

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – Edina, Minnesota

Dear Beloved Senior Members of St. Stephen's!

It may be winter in Minnesota, but daylight is getting longer and we are all awaiting the day everyone is vaccinated and we can finally meet one another in person. In the meantime the Newsletter is pleased to bring you news from St. Stephen's.

The **annual parish meeting** was held January 31 — virtually — and we have an overview for you in this issue. We also have our annual interview with the **incoming Senior Warden** for 2021, who, as many of you know, is **Jim Korslund**.

The rest of this issue is dedicated to a **review of 2020 in pictures**. Since many of us could not participate in Sunday Holy Communion by the Creek during the summer, nor Baptisms, nor All Souls Day, we are blessed to have members who photographed activities throughout the year. Our sincere thanks to **Molly Reichard and Dan Akins** for capturing views of events and our beloved church during the eleven months we have been in isolation.

We miss you and can't wait to see you! As spelled out in two windows of the church, HOPE and LOVE are still alive. Until we can tell you in person, just remember that you are LOVED and we HOPE to see you all soon.

*Happy New Year!*

Connie Brekken, Editor  
952-893-0512

Jane Parry, Co-editor



## CELEBRATING LIVES WELL LIVED

### CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDY YOUNG — 90 years old on March 16



A native of Battle Creek, Michigan, Sandy moved to Chicago after college to pursue a career in advertising. This naturally raised the question, "Was life in advertising then like advertising depicted in the television program, *'Mad Men'*?" Sandy says, "Not quite." But coincidentally, her great niece, Kiernan Shipka, played Sally Draper, the eldest child of the lead character, Don Draper, in the AMC drama series.

Sandy met her husband, Arthur, who also worked in advertising in Chicago. When he was transferred to Minneapolis in 1971 to work for Green Giant, they settled in Edina, where they continued to raise their two sons. Their oldest son, Scott, died suddenly and unexpectedly at age 58. Son John lives in Plymouth and Sandy enjoys being able to see him, her two grandchildren and great grandchild.

As cradle Episcopalians, Sandy and Art chose to join St. Stephen's. Sandy soon discovered a love for needlepoint and joined the Needlework Guild of Minnesota to hone her skills. She ultimately became a teacher and worked at Needlework Unlimited. When Sandy and Art first came, they participated in an outdoor "Renaissance Faire" fundraiser, held in Wooddale Park across from the church. Her fifth grade Sunday school children created banners for the fair which eventually led to Sandy and others designing and creating banners to use in processions and hangings for church services. Unfortunately, she doesn't think we still have them.

Art died four years ago and Sandy continues to live in their townhome at Nine Mile Village in Edina.

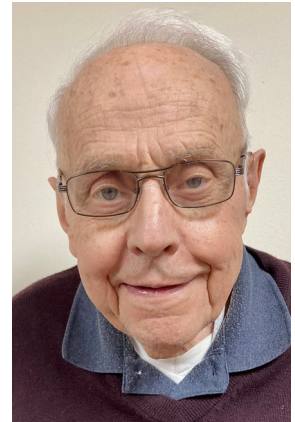
### CONGRATULATIONS TO CHUCK CONVERSE – 90 years old on March 29

Following generations of family Episcopalians (both his grandfathers were 40 year Junior Wardens in their respective parishes) Chuck (at age 9) and his family moved to Edina and joined St. Stephen's in 1940 just two years after the church was built. That began Chuck's lifelong love of St. Stephen's. He grew up in the church and attended Episcopal-related Breck School. In college at Yale he met Mt. Holyoke student, Nancy, on a blind date and they were married after graduation in 1953.

Following Army service they returned to Edina where Chuck pursued a career in finance. They raised three children, including a Cambodian holocaust survivor, and both were very active at St. Stephen's throughout. Chuck's passion was stewardship and he remained chair of the Stewardship Committee even while serving as Jr. Warden and then Sr. Warden. St. Stephen's was also the center of the couple's social life. They were charter members of St. Stephen's Couples Club where they formed many close personal friendships.

After retirement Chuck and Nancy moved to warm-weather Tucson, AZ for 23 years and in 2015 to the St. Louis area to be closer to their daughter, Cathy, and nearer other family. Although they were and are active in Episcopal parishes in both cities, they maintained close ties and are pledging members at St. Stephen's as well.

Every year since moving away, Chuck and Nancy have returned to Edina to visit his sister, Ann Marx, Cambodian son, Paul, and other family. While in town they could always be found Sundays in Ann's pew. Nancy died in December 2018, one week before their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



### IN REMEMBRANCE

**SHARON KAY PAPIC**, age 75, died November 26, 2020.

**WILLIAM (BILL) SHERMAN**, age 94, died January 3, 2021.

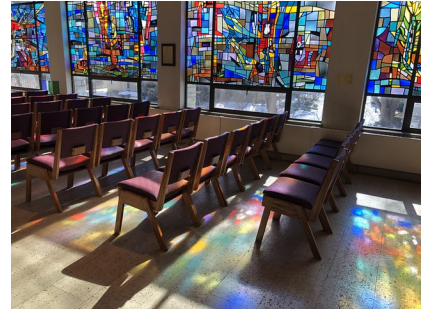




# LIFE AT ST. STEPHEN'S IN PICTURES SINCE MARCH 2020

## **MARCH**

On March 15 all services and activities inside the church are suspended due to COVID-19. The building is empty.



## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

If COVID-19 had not kept us home on Easter Sunday, the snowstorm with five inches of snow might have done the job.

The electronic sign lower left sent an important message: ***"Hope and Love Aren't Cancelled."***



## **APRIL SHOWED HOPEFUL SIGNS OF SPRING**

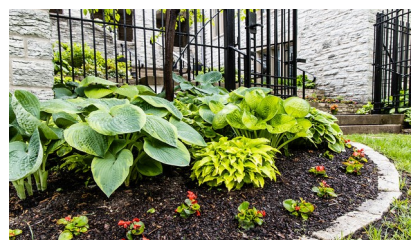
The bulbs began to emerge and the garden committee again planted flowers in the Memorial Garden.





## **MAY**

The gardens and foliage around the church were beautiful, waiting for us to return.

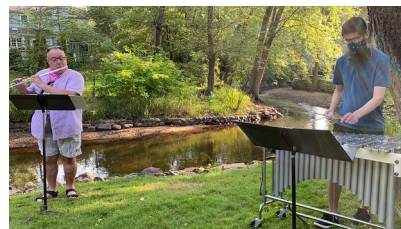


## **HOLY COMMUNION**

In August outdoor services began by the Minnehaha Creek and on the walkway on the Link until cold weather in November finally forced all celebrations to be limited to our computers.



By November it was necessary to bundle up.



Clark Duhrkopf always made sure there was music.



Participating electronically via all devices from iPads to the television screen in the living room.





## AUGUST

The tradition of Baptisms in the Creek continued even if we couldn't be there to welcome the 10 new members.



## SEPTEMBER

The annual Pig Roast became a "Drive-Through Pig Roast in the Rain". Food was packed in bags in the kitchen for us to take home to enjoy. While the food was wonderful, we greatly missed the fellowship!





## OCTOBER



Mother Nature delivered eight inches of snow on October 20, breaking records and making it the all-time snowiest day in the Twin Cities for that date.

Ten days later it had all melted and ***Drive By Trick and Treating*** went on as scheduled. Children were encouraged to show off their Halloween costumes as they arrived to pick up treats. The staff greeted them in costumes, too. Can you identify the staff members?

Note the “Episcopal Pumpkin” middle right.





## NOVEMBER

Although we could not attend in-person, **All Souls Day** was still celebrated on November 1. In addition to an online service, luminaria were created in memory of loved ones. Some families created their own and many others were personalized by volunteers at the request of members.



Volunteers assembled approximately **200** luminaria and placed them along the sidewalks and church steps creating a spectacular way to **"light the night"** in memory of loved ones.



The electronic sign reads:  
**Light Night: Remembering Those Gone Before Us.**



## **ADVENT**

During the season of Advent the exterior of the church had a beautiful light display. A manger scene and giant Advent wreath were set up on the grounds.



Tom and Amelia filming an Advent Service.

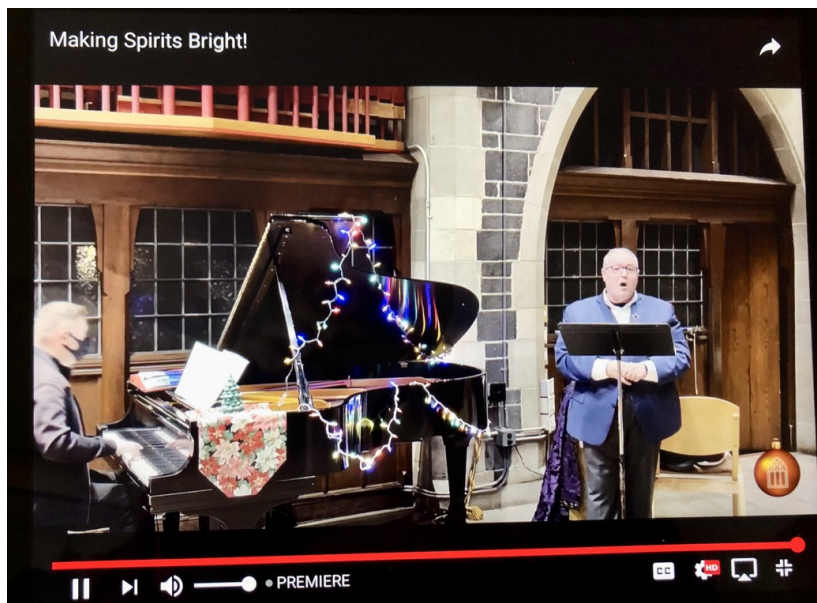




## DECEMBER

Our **annual Christmas luncheon** at the Edina Country Club always includes entertainment organized by Clark Duhrkopf, our Director of Music Ministries. With the luncheon cancelled this year, Clark organized the entertainment entitled ***"Making Spirits Bright"*** that could be viewed on computers in our homes.

Here are a few photos (from a computer) of Clark singing with Bryon Wilson accompanying him on the piano. Clark never fails to come up with costumes and props appropriate to each song he is singing.







## OUR NEW SENIOR WARDEN: JIM KORSLUND

The Senior Warden for 2021 began his term at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 31. Every year we interview the leader of the Vestry to introduce him or her to the readers.

### ***Tell us about your background.***

I'm originally a farm boy, from the middle of Iowa. Many of you will know my mother Chuckie (Charlene) Korslund, who joined St. Stephen's in 2014 when she moved here. She and my father, Allen, who passed in 1999, had a typical Iowa farm with corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs. I am the youngest of their four sons. I got an engineering degree from Iowa State and later a business degree from Southern Methodist University.

### ***Tell us about your family.***

My wife, Lisa, and I married in 1986, and have been blessed with three children: Ryan, aged 28, living and working in LA and twin daughters, Hannah and Kate, aged 22. Hannah is soon finishing a graduate degree in education at Stanford, and Kate is also living and working in LA.

### ***Tell us about your professional life.***

Lisa and I both worked in the food business for many years, primarily at General Mills. I had earlier engineering roles at Cargill and a couple other companies. And, Lisa and I were fortunate enough for much of our careers to be based overseas. First, her job took us to Holland for three years, and later my work was in England and also in Switzerland. I recently retired in August of 2020, after 29+ years at General Mills.

### ***How long have you been a member of St. Stephen's and what have you been involved in?***

We joined St. Stephen's originally in 1998, as our daughters were baptized late that summer, and were mildly active for about four years. After living in England and Switzerland, we returned to Edina in 2010, and rejoined St. Stephen's and became more active (our daughters enjoyed the youth programs from 2010 thru 2016).

Over the last 10 years, I've enjoyed serving as an usher, a short time on the Senior Ministry committee, regular attendance with the Martyrs, a few years each on the Properties Committee and the St. Stephen's Fund Committee and then on the Vestry and this past year as Junior Warden. I've especially enjoyed partnering with Len Slade in supporting the fall pig roasts the last 5-6 years.

### ***What are your hopes for the future of St. Stephen's?***

There are a few areas I'm focused on. First, I'm looking forward to our parish gradually coming back together physically in 2021, along with adapting and retaining some of the "silver linings" from Covid that have helped us all. While none of us expected or wanted to see this pandemic come, hopefully our future will include some elements of broadening our ministries and connections for members who may not always be able to be physically present. I see us remaining as a vibrant, community-based church, but with some virtual options for attendance and community when helpful.

With our wonderful, professional and full staff and clergy, I'll be excited to see them leverage the current engagement and grow their programs as we become able to physically meet again, especially for children, youth and for seniors.

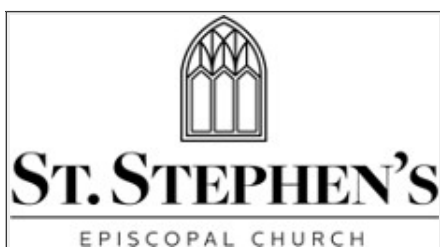
Finally, we've made some key steps with our building and site, and I believe we will continue to find ways to adapt and improve our church "place," especially to support our ministries, to be good community neighbors, and stewards of the beautiful location we have.

I'm always happy to hear from parish members, and to share discussions and ideas together. I've been blessed with a wonderful family, and now I see that "family" can be broadly defined to include the wonderful and diverse people of St. Stephen's.



Julia Gutz-Moller, the new Junior Warden.





## ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021

*The Bylaws of the Church of St. Stephen the Martyr state that at the Annual Meeting the "Executive Committee, on behalf of the Vestry, shall present a full, accurate and faithful written statement of the conditions and activities of the parish as a body Politic."*

Our rector, Tom Cook, called the annual meeting to order from his home via Zoom as we all watched on our computers in our living rooms. Tom explained that Associate Rector, Amelia Arthur, was not in attendance as she is recovering in New Orleans having contracted COVID-19. Here are highlights of the meeting.

### **FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH — St. Stephen's is in a healthy financial position.**

Total income for 2020 was \$1,456,432, including proceeds from a PPP loan (Paycheck Protection Program). The PPP loan of \$163,302 was converted to a grant so it does not need to be repaid.

Expenses were nearly \$100,000 below budget. Due to COVID-related precautions, the building was closed and many programs and ministries moved from in-person to mostly virtual/online activities.

Pledge income was above budget (some people paid *more* than their pledge!)

The Stewardship campaign was a success with pledges for 2021 approximately \$15,000 ahead of last year.

The Operating Budget for 2021 was difficult to plan as there are many unknowns. \$55,000 of the 2020 surplus will be used to balance the 2021 Operating Budget.

### **CHURCH LIFE**

Gatherings in the church building ceased in mid-March due to COVID-19 with the staff becoming skilled in producing virtual worship and fellowship online. From August to November twice daily Sunday services were held outdoors by the creek. Many other programs were held online. A few funerals were held in the Memorial Garden, Baptisms in the creek continued but there were no weddings.

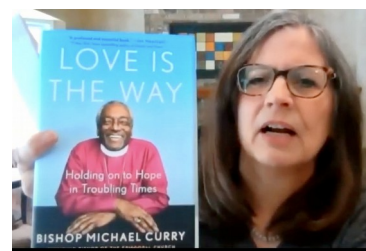
A new Youth Minister, Jimmy Barnett, joined the staff in August.

The annual Bash surpassed its fundraising goal, even though we could not gather in person, raising money for Outreach.

The Properties Committee tackled two major projects: 1) reinsulating the chiller pipes to improve maintenance, air quality and energy usage and 2) planning repair of the creek retaining wall that is in danger of complete failure.

### **OUR THANKS TO SENIOR WARDEN, CATHY CELLA**

Jim Korslund thanked Cathy Cella for her leadership as Senior Warden during 2020 and presented her with a copy of Bishop Michael Curry's new book, "Love is the Way" plus a personal letter from the presiding bishop thanking Cathy for everything she has done this year as Sr. Warden.



### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The slate of nominees for the Executive Committee, Vestry and standing committees was unanimously approved. The new members of the Vestry are:

Vestry at Large:	Marillene Allen, Rachel Reeves, Lora Thielen, Jack Dempsey
Returning Vestry:	Ward Godsell
Youth Vestry Representative:	Caroline Seiler

### **RECTOR'S CUP**

The Rector's Cup is presented annually to someone who, in a behind-the-scenes way, contributed to the ongoing life of the parish. This year Tom awarded this honor to **Sue Biral** (right) for leading the Advent Project. Sue and members of the Community Building Committee and staff brainstormed about how to reach out to older members who do not have computers or are otherwise isolated due to COVID-19. Their solution was to create and deliver three gift bags during Advent to 37 households. Sue led the project and 30 people designated as "St. Stephen's saints" made deliveries three weeks apart during Advent. Sue's children were recruited to assemble *all* the bags. They contained a variety of items such as cocoa, treats, a small Christmas tree, and sparkling cider, a hat and noise-makers for New Year's Eve. Sue says the project resulted in an outpouring of love and new friendships. They intend to continue the project in some shape or form in the future beginning with Lenten bags.





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

### **CHURCH DIRECTORY**

An updated photo directory (usually distributed at the Annual Meeting) will be available later in the spring. Watch your email for more information.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

If you want a copy of the 2020 Annual Report mailed to you, call Deen Hubin at the church office at 952-920-0595.

