



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

DEAR BELOVED SENIOR MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN'S!

Regular readers of this newsletter know that when the Newsletter arrives in the mail the next Senior Luncheon is just around the corner.....*until now*. Sadly, the decision has been made to **cancel the March luncheon**. First, we learned that the speaker from the Attorney General's office would not be allowed to visit in person. Because of Covid, they are making all of their presentations via Zoom. In addition a survey of the Senior Fellowship Committee showed growing concern about seniors gathering in large groups at this time because of Covid cases and the worry of new variants. So, no luncheon at this time, but there will be one as soon as we feel it is safe to gather together.

The St. Stephen's **annual meeting** was held at the Edina Country Club on Sunday, January 30. If you were unable to attend or watch via Zoom, we have a summary of the meeting for you as well as our annual interview with the incoming **Senior Warden**, who is **Julia Gutz Moller**.

Speaking of "**Zoom**," since Covid changed our ability and desire to gather in person, Tom Cook and his staff have undergone a crash course to learn how to make services and programs available to us in our homes via our computers. They soon learned that to do this well, the church internet service, equipment and technology had to be updated. **Deen Hubin and Amelia Arthur** managed a *Livestream Installation Project*. Learn what was involved and what the changes mean for you and me.

Finally, as many of you know, this is the last issue that will carry **Jane Parry's** name as co-editor. Jane suffered a massive stroke and died one week later on Saturday, January 29. Jane and I worked together on the Senior Newsletter since its inception seven years ago. I was the new, green member of the Senior Ministry Committee who had a lot of questions because I knew nothing. Jane had been at St. Stephen's since third grade in 1942 and knew everything. She knew the history, she knew the people, past and present, and she knew who had answers to my questions. And she was the best proofreader on the planet. She was one of a dwindling number of those with the institutional memory of our beloved church that is vanishing as our membership ages. Here she is leading the procession as head verger.

Rest in Peace, Jane.

Connie Brekken, Editor

Jane Parry, Co-Editor



IF YOU'VE BEEN AWAY OR KEEPING SAFE AT HOME, HERE ARE SOME CHRISTMAS SIGHTS AND SCENES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED.



THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

IN REMEMBRANCE

Lois Young, age 75. Died November 8, 2021. Memorial Service held November 13 at St. Stephen's.

Kaye Wentzel, age 93. Died December 2, 2021. Memorial Service held December 14 at St. Stephen's.

Nicholas James Ragan, age 38. Died December 27, 2021. Memorial service held January 6 at St. Stephen's.

Audri Schwarz, age 87. Died December 21, 2021. Memorial service held at Washburn McReavy Chapel in Edina on January 14.

Jane Parry, age 87. Died January 29, 2022. Memorial service to be held Saturday, March 5 at St. Stephen's.

Gavin Craig. Died February 3, 2022. Memorial service to be held Saturday, February 12 at St. Stephen's.



NEW 2022 CHURCH DIRECTORY AVAILABLE



Leslie Gibson picked up the new 2022 Directory at the annual meeting. **If you need the new directory**, stop by the office or call Deen Hubin at (952) 920-0595. Copies are also available in the Narthex.

REMINDER...

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 13.

Set your clock **ahead** one hour on Saturday night. (Yes, you will lose one hour of sleep.)



ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

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

All book lovers are welcome. If you wish to join us, contact Marillene Allen at mamallen0@gmail.com.

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

Mar. 8: *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben
Apr. 12: *American Gypsy* by Oksana Marafioti
May 10: *Sound of a Wild Snail Eating* by Elizabeth Bailey



LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES:

March 2 — Ash Wednesday
April 15 — Good Friday
April 17 — Easter



The specific time for these and other services will be announced soon. Watch your "Communications" email for details.

LENT — DID YOU KNOW?

- The word "**Lent**" comes from the same root as the Anglo-Saxon word "lengthen." In the old Anglo-Saxon tongue it was a word for springtime when the daytime lengthens rapidly.
- The **earliest fasts** of Lent tended to be very strict, allowing one meal a day, and even then meats, eggs and other indulgences were forbidden.
- Sundays are not a part of the Lenten fast, because Sunday is always a feast of the resurrection. However, the Sundays of Lent are still a part of the Lenten liturgical season so worship services tend to be more simple and austere than normal.
- Many churches suspend the use of the "**Alleluia's**" in Lent. The Anglican and Roman rite associates the *Alleluia* with joy and omits it entirely throughout Lent.
- The custom of eating **pancakes** was undoubtedly suggested by the need to use up the eggs and fat which were, originally at least, prohibited articles of diet during the forty days of Lent.
- Many churches observe Sunday in Lent with the **Great Litany**, which is chanted or sung in procession, emphasizing the pilgrim nature of our faith. The Litany was the first English language rite prepared by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer.
- The Western liturgical **color of Lent is purple**, symbolizing royalty (the sovereignty of Christ) and penitence. In antiquity the color symbolized royalty as purple dye was very expensive.

ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2022

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.”

IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM, HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS.

THE STATE OF THE PARISH — HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2021

- St. Stephen's has weathered the pandemic very well during 2021. The **response to COVID** has been flexible and ongoing. We transitioned from a fully virtual start to more outdoor and in-person activities. Virtual tools such as Zoom have allowed people to attend Bible studies, committee meetings and Martyrs meetings, for example, without leaving their homes.
- The **Bash After Dark** managed a hybrid event that resulted in a record-setting fundraising for Outreach for their non-profit partners addressing youth, hunger, housing and senior needs.
- **The Properties Committee** completed a number of projects including 1) replacing the existing creek wall that was in danger of failing, with steel sheet pilings; 2) repair and refurbishment of the pews and kneelers in the nave and balcony; 3) reinsulating the chiller pipe system in the ceiling of the Gathering Space to resolve condensation problems that will also result in energy and cost savings; 4) replacing outdoor lighting with LED lights on the creek side of the buildings. They are controlled by photocells dusk-to-dawn to improve security in the Memorial Garden and back of the building and will also be cost effective.
- Work has begun to create a **multi-year strategic roadmap** for the future of St. Stephen's. We contracted with Ministry Architects to lead us through the design, planning, and implementation of the vision and goals.

FISCAL UPDATE

Treasurer, Tom Bracken, reported on the financial health of the church.

- Both revenue and expenses were above budget at year end, but the net result was a modest **\$10,000 budget surplus** for 2021, remarkable for such an unusual operating year.
- **Pledge amounts** for 2022 are slightly less than were received last year, however, so far there are 186 returning pledgers, 23 new pledges and 40 still to respond.
- The 2022 budget assumes significant inflationary **increases in water and utility costs**, consistent with increases being seen both locally and nationally.
- A 2% cost-of-living **compensation increase** for the clergy and staff is provided.
- Tom said that 2022 will undoubtedly have its own challenges. However, the church enters the year with strong support by the community, a strong balance sheet, and a balanced operating budget.

ELECTION OF NOMINEES

The nominees to the Vestry and to committees were unanimously elected. **New Vestry members** include: Nicole Bates, Matt Griak, Gwen Griswold, Anna Mae Lambert, Keith Skerrett (returning Vestry) and Grace Dueber (Vestry Youth).

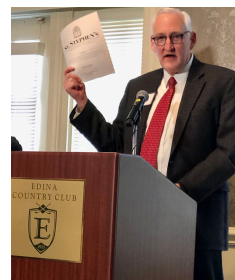
MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Membership analysis for the year 2021 is ongoing. But “Total Active Members” reported to the Episcopal Church National Office are: **917 in 2020** and **908 in 2019**.

The average number of people attending services per week - in person and on line - is 200.



Fr. Tom Cook



Jim Korslund
Retiring Sr. Warden



Julia Gutz Moller
New Sr. Warden



Tom Bracken,
Treasurer

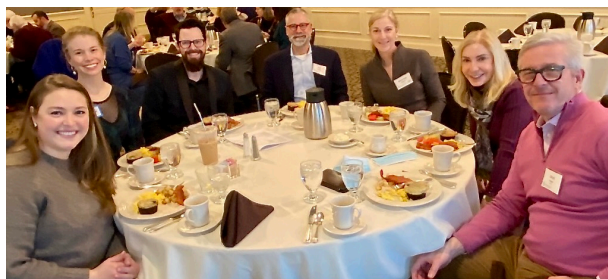
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Senior Warden Julia Gutz Moller explained that her predecessor, **Jim Korslund**, never got to truly celebrate his retirement from General Mills two years ago because he immediately began work as Junior Warden and then as Senior Warden — jobs that have kept him busy full time. So she gave him our sincere thanks and presented him with a bottle of wine and a gift certificate to a restaurant where he and his wife, Lisa, can finally celebrate the start of his retirement.

Julia also presented an award she called “**Quiet as a Church Mouse**” Award to **Judy Edin** who, Julia explained, could be found forever working around the church (quietly) in her capacity as *Director of the Altar Guild*. It was also a thank you as Judy’s three year term as Director came to an end.

Finally, Fr. Tom announced the recipient of this year’s **Rector’s Cup**, which is presented annually to someone who in a behind-the-scenes way contributed to the ongoing life of the parish. This year Fr. Tom said the award goes not to a person but an entire committee — **the Senior Ministries Committee** — for the work they do for the parishioners through sending notes to seniors, working to get the chapel windows repaired, reporting life at St. Stephen’s through the Senior Newsletter and hosting Community Unity Sundays.

Some of the in-person attendees:



OUR NEW SENIOR WARDEN: JULIA GUTZ MOLLER

The Senior Warden for 2022 began her term at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, 2022. Every year we interview the new leader of the Vestry to introduce him or her to the congregation.



Tell us about your background.

I was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and have one sister, Jennifer, who now lives in Maple Grove with her husband and 10 year old twins. Our family belonged to St Michael's Episcopal Church where I was baptized and confirmed. I was fortunate to be part of a solid youth ministry program with terrific volunteer leaders which inspired me to volunteer as an adult.

Growing up, I swam on the swim team, played tennis and golf, and was a member of the debate team and swing choir. During my senior year of high school, I served as the chair of Governor Brandstad's Youth Advisory Council.

I went on to attend Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, my mother Kathryn's alma mater.

Tell us about your family.

My immediate family is made up of my husband, Mark Moller, and our 10 year old daughter Anna. Mark and I met while working together at Ameriprise Financial and were married at St. Stephens in October of 2004. We had the honor of adopting Anna in August of 2011. The family match came up unexpectedly and we set out for Montana on short notice. All along the way, our St Stephen's family and friends were following our journey on Facebook. A few months later, Anna was baptized at St. Stephen's on All Saints Day. Rounding out the family is our 5 year old miniature schnauzer, Chuck and three fish.

Tell us about your professional life.

My BA is in Economics from Cornell College and I hold an MBA and JD from the University of Iowa. After graduate school, I moved to Minneapolis and began my professional career as a tax attorney with PricewaterhouseCoopers. I eventually realized tax law was perfect for an introvert (not me!) and made my way into the brand and marketing business working for Wells Fargo, Ameriprise Financial, and now Allianz Life.

In my current role at Allianz, I lead sponsorships with local and international partners like Minnesota United FC, the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees and Team USA. The role is a perfect fit for me, capitalizing on my legal and marketing background.

Tell us about your life at St. Stephen's.

I joined the church shortly after I arrived in Minneapolis in January 1992 following graduate school. After a brief tour of some other local parishes, I found St Stephen's and never looked back. I quickly jumped into volunteering with youth ministry and the Johnny Appleseed Bash. Later, I went on to serve as a member of the Finance committee and St Stephen's Foundation and worked with children's ministry, VBS, outreach projects, chaired the Bash and supported Teens Encounter Christ as an Adult in Charge. Today, I am a member of the altar guild, eucharistic ministry team, and the vestry.

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

As senior warden, I'm excited to have the opportunity to help define a mission, vision, and strategic roadmap for the next five years at St Stephen's. While we are a healthy and vibrant parish today, the world around us is rapidly changing. Shifting cultural norms, changing generational expectations, and the impact of the pandemic are all factors that we need to consider as we plan for the continued stability and growth of our beautiful church community. My hope is to help equip the parish with a clear understanding of who we are today and what we want to become for the future.



Tom Beringer,
Incoming
Junior Warden

LIVESTREAM INSTALLATION PROJECT

(Or How Sunday Services Got from the Sanctuary to Your Computer.)

UPGRADING CABLES, HARDWARE AND TELEPHONE LINES

The imposed isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic did not change the necessity to continue the ministry of St. Stephen's. While public gatherings were on hold, recording the weekly services seemed the obvious solution so parishioners could continue to worship at home. (Easier said than done.) The process involved recording portions of each service and then combining them together into one recording.

Once we were beginning to regather, it was apparent that it would be some time before the full parish would be able to come together. The decision was made to discontinue the pre-recorded services and begin to stream them live over the Internet.

The first bottleneck was the capacity of our existing Internet service. Our current provider was unable to offer service with enough bandwidth for our streaming needs. After reviewing options from several providers, we contracted with Comcast Business Internet to install a new fiber-optic line with 100MB service. We have the option to increase that, should the need ever arise.

Unlike our prior service, which ran over existing copper telephone lines, this required a construction crew to install an underground conduit for the new fiber-optic cable. This also required a change in some of our network hardware to direct our Internet and telephone traffic to the new line. The technicians from Comcast and our IT support firm had our service changed over within a couple hours of the line being active; both said the process went very smoothly.

It was estimated that the process would take 60-90 days. The agreement was signed on October 5, 2021, and we went live on November 16, 2021; we were fortunate to get the whole upgrade completed in six weeks.

What that means for members and anyone who wants to view a Sunday service at St. Stephen's is that you can now see the service live and not recorded. You will feel that you are really a part of the congregation even if you are in your living room or miles away. If you have not tried watching a service on YouTube, join many who are regular viewers. It's the next best thing to being there.



Installing new fiber-optic cable done with a boring machine instead of digging a long ditch through the lawn.

LIVESTREAM INSTALLATION PROJECT (Con'd)



Jimmy Barnett, our "Livestream Operator"

BROADCASTING ON THE INTERNET

Minister for Youth and Young Adults, Jimmy Barnett, can be found every Sunday in the balcony of the church with his earphones and computers broadcasting the 10:15 am service to Youtube. He directs two new "PTZ" (pan, tilt, zoom) cameras, (one located at the back of the nave on the balcony and one on the left side of the nave above the pews). Jimmy follows the bulletin to know where the next camera angle needs to be watching on a monitor and using a joystick to direct the cameras to the action. This means the viewer at home never has a single static, long view of the church from the balcony, but is able to see speakers up close as well as view the back of the nave when the procession begins.

All this is produced through YouTube's "Studio" and our new video production program, which brings our Sunday service to the internet.

Jimmy never studied this in seminary but says "this sort of technology just makes sense to me." While he's never worked with such a sophisticated camera system before, he's spent a lot of time with audio equipment tech and that experience helped him learn the new system quickly. Also, his first church job was "Contemporary Music and Technical Director" at Crown of Glory Lutheran Church in Chaska 17 years ago.

At this time the 10:15 Sunday service is the only service broadcast live. But other special services like those of Holy Week and feast days will also be streamed.

THE WOMEN'S CHEF SOCIETY

Do you like to cook? Or better yet, do you like to gather with other women who like to cook? Then this is the group for you.

The Chef Society began in the fall of 1998. It was started as a way for women to have fellowship with other women when gourmet dinners were popular back then. Today it is less about a fancy dinner and more about getting together to have a good meal with other women who love food. The meals are no longer necessarily gourmet but the focus is on fellowship. They have tried to remove the stigma that you have to be a good cook to participate.

The group used to meet in people's homes but as the membership continued to grow, it was too difficult to facilitate in homes. Now they meet in the Commons Room at church. The members are divided into five teams. Between September and May each team prepares one dinner. The group comes up with a theme, decorates and cooks a meal according to the theme. Each group is responsible for everything for that dinner including the cost. The other four groups attend a free dinner hosted by the team cooking.



The numbers of members ebbs and flows. They have 35 women signed up at present, but usually have 20-25 attend the dinners. At the last dinner 18 women attended.

This is a wonderful way to meet people who attend St. Stephen's who you may not otherwise know. If you are interested in joining or want further information, contact **Wendy Petersen** at 952-240-6119 or wendypetersen89@gmail.com.

SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2021



*Friends are the siblings God never gave us.
Mencius*



The napkins folded into Christmas trees.



THE WHOLE GANG - Friday, December 3, 2021 - The Edina Country Club



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 **HEALING**.

RIGHT WINDOW

The theme of this window is the **NEW TESTAMENT HEALING OF THE BLIND**.

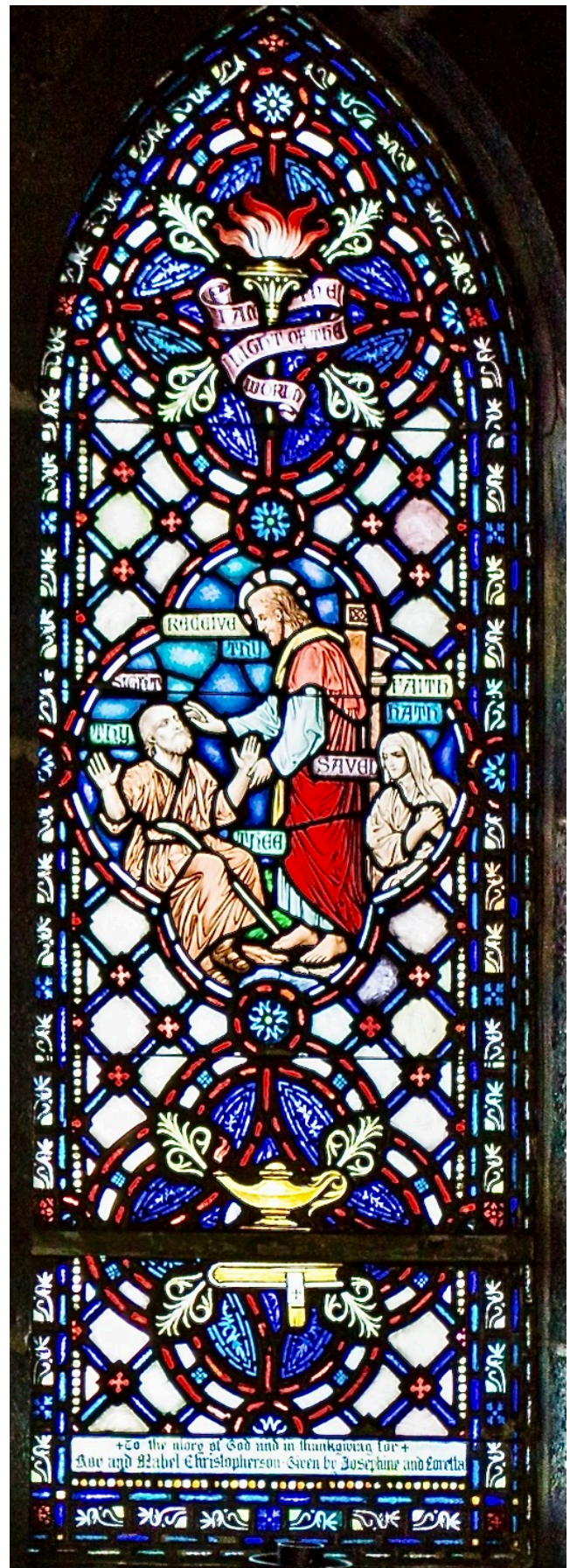
The top panel shows **a flaming torch**, Christ, the light of the world and the words "I am the light of the world" in a scroll.

The middle panel shows **Christ healing the blind man** with the words, "Receive thy sight, thy faith hath saved thee."

The bottom panel has an **oil cruse over the Book** — the early practice of anointing the sick with blessed oil, and the prayers of Christians for the healing of the body, soul, and mind.

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

*To the glory of God and in thanksgiving
for Roy and Mabel Christopherson.
Given by Josephine and Loretta.*



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 left side of the nave.

LEFT WINDOW

The theme of this window is the
MODERN APPLICATION OF THE HEALING MINISTRY.

The healing ministry is depicted as carried out in **research and sacrifice service** of men and women. "The healing ministry of the early Church is being renewed today."

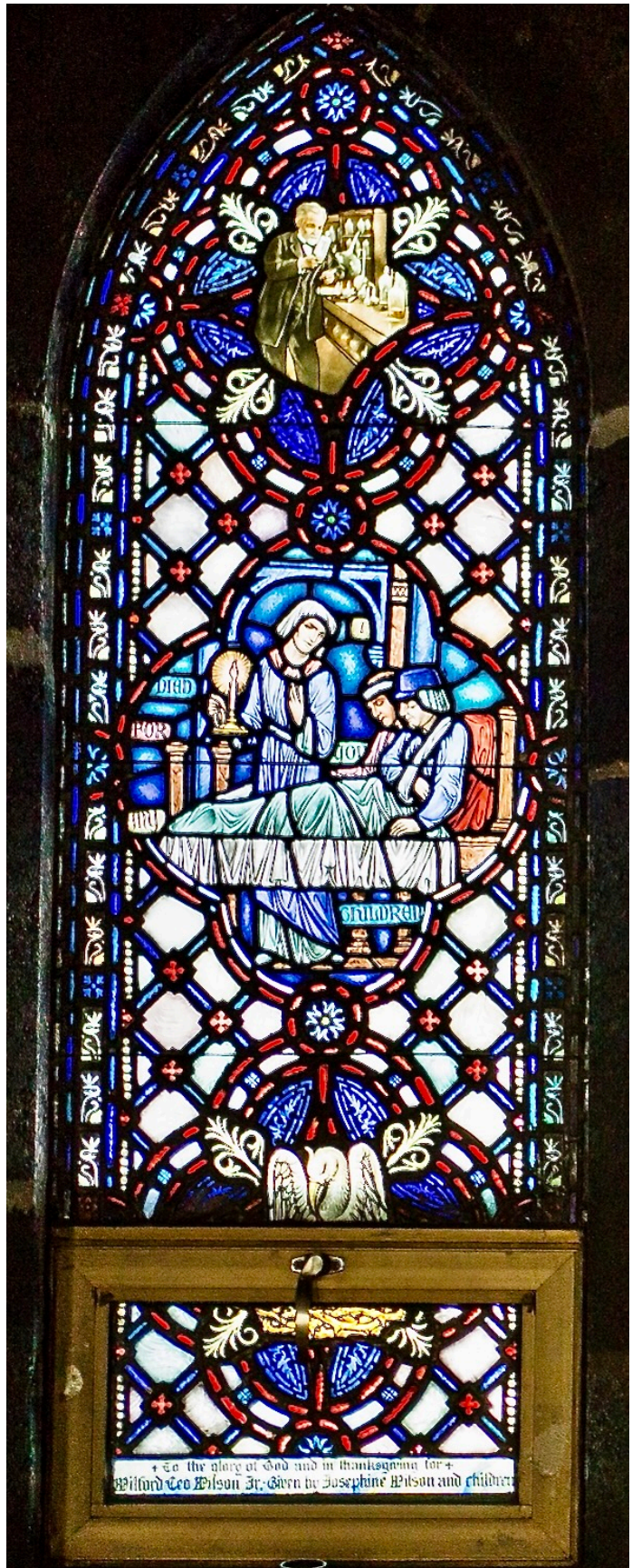
The top panel shows a scientist representing research.

The middle panel shows two ill patients in bed and a nurse with candle representing sacrifice service, and the words "I died for you my children."

The bottom panel shows a pelican in a nest of thorns a symbol of the passion of Jesus and the Eucharist — pelican's self-sacrifice: providing her own blood to her young by wounding her own breast when no other food is available.

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for Wilford Leo Wilson, Jr. Given by Josephine Wilson and children.



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

