

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

DEAR BELOVED MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN'S!

How has your summer of 2022 been? Have you escaped to a lake cabin, immersed yourself in a garden, or perhaps finally trusted it is safe to travel? As usual, time flies, and we wonder why we didn't get all those books read that we planned to read.

The big news this summer is the addition of our new assistant rector, **Christy Stang**. Although this is not really "news" anymore as Christy has been with us since July, meeting members (and trying to match names to faces). She is a wonderful addition and we look forward to watching her grow in her calling.

The other big news is the completion of the new landscaping on the West side of the building. Thanks to a memorial gift from **Dave and Cara Gould Holmberg** in honor of her parents, **John and Mary Gould**, this project provides much improved landscaping that also opens up a view of the beautiful stone of the building. See the photos on pages 6 and 7 and see if you don't agree.

There is still time for one last **Holy Hike** and an **Ice Cream Tour Stop** before we dive into fall. Enjoy this warm weather while it lasts.

But fall means some great programs and events to look forward to. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 7. The annual **Fall Parish Pig Roast** is back on the calendar. This is the traditional event that welcomes everyone back from their summer adventures and gives us all a chance to catch up with friends. You might also want to attend the **All Parish Brunch** on Sunday, September 18, "Welcome Sunday." And, the **Senior Fellowship Luncheon** will be held in the Gathering Space on Thursday, September 15. Make your reservation now!

Looking forward to seeing you all! (*We Episcopalians do like to eat!*)

Connie Brekken
Editor



The Rev. Christy Stang

THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

TUESDAY, AUG. 30 **Holy Cross 2023 Mission Trip Information Session** at 6 pm in the Commons Room. Learn about the next trip to Holy Cross School in Belize in January 2023 led by **Jim Bizal**.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT 7 **Fall Parish Pig Roast** at 5:30 pm. Join everyone on the front lawn for this traditional fall event to re-connect as we return from summer adventures. Enjoy BBQ pulled pork plus coleslaw, chips and dessert. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10 **Holy Hike** at Staring Lake Park, Eden Prairie (last one for 2022).

MONDAY, SEPT. 12 **Ice cream Tour stop #4** — Pumphouse Creamery, 47th & Chicago
Open Space Yoga returns to the Commons Room at Noon.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 15 **Sr. Fellowship Luncheon** in the Gathering Space at 12 Noon.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 18 **All Parish Brunch** at 11:30 (WELCOME SUNDAY)
Backpack and Educator Blessing

SUNDAY, OCT. 2 **Blessing of the Animals** — All creatures welcome!

SATURDAY, OCT. 8 **Bash After Dark** — Fundraising for Outreach

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2 **All Souls' Day** — Light the Night Luminaries 6:30 to 8 pm + Worship at 7 pm

SATURDAY, NOV. 5 **Women's Retreat** in the Commons Room 9-3 pm. Watch for further details coming soon.

THURS/FRI NOV. 24 & 25... **Offices Closed For Thanksgiving Holiday.** In case of emergency, call the church office, then press 2 to leave a message.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Allene Burns, age 88. Died May 6, 2022. Memorial Service held June 26 at St. Stephen's.



ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets the **second Tuesday of every month** at 1:30 p.m.

Since Covid we have "met" virtually via Zoom so you can join the discussion from wherever you happen to be. Going forward, we are going to try to schedule some hybrid meetings where you can join us in person **or** via Zoom — your choice.

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:

Sept. 13: **"Going Solo"** by Roald Dahl

Oct. 11: **"Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace"** by Anne Lamott

Nov. 8: **"Pachinko"** by Min Jin Lee



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
12 Noon in the Gathering Space

SPEAKER: Bishop Michael Curry,
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church

"Faith and the Way of Love: Finding Hope in Troubled Times."



Join us to hear a lecture Bishop Curry gave on February 1, 2002, at St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN, as part of their Faith & Life Lecture Series, which has run continuously since 2003.

Bishop Curry was one of five nationally known speakers invited in 2022 to reflect on how Christian faith is related to different dimensions of every day life.

His topic, ***"Faith and the Way of Love,"*** is a recognition of the challenges that are before us and an affirmation of the hope that can move us.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry is presiding bishop and primate of The Episcopal Church. At the church's 78th General Convention in June 2015, he was elected to a nine-year term in this role and installed in November of that year; he serves as The Episcopal Church's chief pastor, spokesperson, and president and chief executive officer.

Throughout his ministry, Bishop Curry has been a prophetic leader, particularly in the areas of racial reconciliation, climate change, evangelism, immigration policy, and marriage equality. The animating vision and message of his ministry is Jesus of Nazareth and his way of radical, sacrificial love, and he regularly reminds Episcopalians they are "the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement."

Bishop Curry was ordained a priest in 1978 and served parishes in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland until his 2000 election as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. He graduated with high honors from Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University. Bishop Curry is the author of five books and a regular guest on national and international media outlets.

Make your reservation now! Cost is \$15.00 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 9. (Your check is your reservation.)
- The menu will be Sloppy Joes, chips, coleslaw and dessert.
- We love to have you come to our luncheons, but PLEASE make a reservation. We need to know how much food to order!

A CHAT WITH OUR NEW ASSISTANT RECTOR: CHRISTY STANG

In June 2022 Tom Cook announced the call of the Rev. Christy Stang to serve as Assistant Rector with St. Stephen's Church. She recently completed her Masters Degree in Divinity at the Yale Divinity School in New Haven Connecticut, and has served as Deacon with Trinity Episcopal Church on the Green in New Haven since June 2021. She was ordained a priest on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis. Her first Sunday at St. Stephen's was July 3.



Tell us about your background and education.

When I began school, my mom decided to homeschool both my twin brother, Turner, and me and we continued all the way through high school. Being homeschooled allowed us to be more flexible with our time, take college classes, network and form friendships with people of all ages, and be involved in various research projects, jobs, and extracurricular activities that interested us. I went to Mount Holyoke College for my undergraduate degree, and I double majored in Psychology and English Literature, graduating in 2019. I chose to head straight to Yale Divinity School after college, and in May of 2022 I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree, a certificate from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, and a Diploma in Anglican Studies from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

We understand you have roots in Minnesota.

I was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, but I lived in Minnesota from age one onward, so I consider myself a Minnesotan! My family lived in Eden Prairie until I was five, and then we all moved to Excelsior, where my parents still live now. I always loved Minnesota, and I had a hunch that I would feel drawn to come back after my education on the East Coast.

Did you always want to be a priest or did you have other goals before being called?

I always knew that I wanted to work with people, and for a brief period I was intrigued by the possibility of going into therapy, counseling, or social work. Around middle school, however, I started to hone in on my call to the priesthood. I considered it carefully in prayer, since I did not want to assume that the next automatic step for an involved layperson was to become a priest. After beginning to sense my call as a child and years of prayerful discernment afterwards, I knew with certainty by the end of high school that priesthood was what I was meant to do. Every day after becoming a priest has continued to convince me that this is what God wants me to be doing!

What do you do in your spare time?

I love to be creative in my spare time. I have been singing my whole life — choirs, musical theater, solos in church and casually composing songs in my free time. I have also been known to write poetry and flash fiction, which is fiction characterized by being very short, typically consisting of only a few hundred words. I also knit, decorate my house with hand-dyed silk or folded origami cranes, and make personalized toys for pets. Spending time with friends and family is also important to me, since my immediate family lives in Minnesota as well as a handful of my childhood friends.

What are your guilty pleasures?

I love savory snack food — spicy Doritos and salt and vinegar potato chips are some of my favorites. When I want to watch something that doesn't require much thinking, I enjoy watching reality dating and cooking TV shows. I also love to play video games with my twin brother, often ones that we played when we were little, and when we spend time together, we often pick up food from Subway or another fast food restaurant and hang out for hours at a time.

CHRISTY'S FIRST MONTH AT ST. STEPHEN'S

ORDINATION AT ST. MARK'S CATHEDRAL IN MINNEAPOLIS, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022



Christy and Bishop Loya at her ordination at St. Marks.



Our Sr. Warden, Julia Gutz Moller, carried the St. Stephen's banner in the procession.



Christy with her family: twin brother, Turner, and her parents, Mark and Cathy Stang.



CHRISTY'S FIRST OFFICIAL DAY AS ASST. RECTOR AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Celebrating Holy Eucharist on July 3.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was back in person the last week of June 2022. Christy agreed to start early to assist Missy Greene, Minister for Children and families.



THE EDINA FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Christy came prepared for her first Edina parade, complete with umbrella. She was welcomed by many parishioners as she tried to memorize dozens of names.



RECEPTION SUNDAY, JULY 17

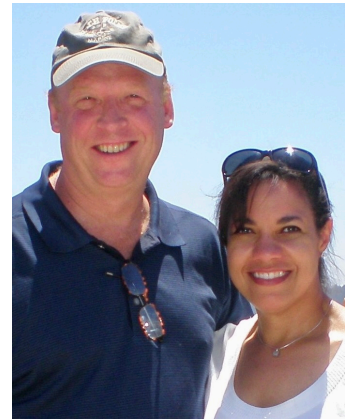
Parishioners had a chance to meet and welcome Christy after the 10:15 service.

NEW LANDSCAPE ON WEST SIDE OF ST. STEPHEN'S

If you haven't driven by the church recently, you might not recognize the West side. Gone are the tall trees and shrubs that hid the building. In their place is new landscaping that opens up the view of the beautiful stone of the building and the side portico.

The new landscaping came about when **Cara and Dave Holmberg** expressed their interest in giving a memorial gift to honor her parents, **John and Mary Gould**, who were members here for many years until they passed away.

Cara says her parents loved the beauty of the church and loved gardening, so she and Dave began to consider outdoor projects that would be both a fitting tribute and that would enhance the exterior of the church. They talked to church leaders and to head gardener, **Maren Christopher**, and after looking at the landscaping on the West side of the building decided that area really needed a lot of work. The area had been planted 20 to 25 years ago and many plants were overgrown while others had died leaving gaps in the garden. Cara and Dave's gift enabled the complete rework of this landscaping area.



Dave and Cara Gould Holmberg



The **old landscaping** planted 20-25 years ago had become overgrown.



The **new landscaping** is designed to enhance the exterior yet show the stone of the building.

Tom Weigel, chair of the Properties Committee says, "The project was a complicated one and it's been a real collaboration. The final scope included not only the new landscaping but improvements to the irrigation to use less water while more effectively watering the plants." The design also includes improvement to drainage to move water away from the building and guard against water seeping into the church.



John and Mary Gould

Cara and Dave chose **Mangold Horticulture** and **Aqua Engineering** to complete the project but Tom, Maren, and our sexton, **Chance Ritchie**, were actively involved in the project. Cara says, "Having Maren involved is exactly what Mom and Dad would have wanted. We love the gardens around the church and we trusted that Maren and Mangold would make it fit together perfectly."

For two summers the landscaping around the church has undergone a gradual "refreshing," with new shrubs and plants replacing old ones. For this new re-landscaping Maren chose plants in keeping with the look of the other recent changes. In this shady side of the building the new plantings include a Pagoda Dogwood tree, shrubs such as Red Twigged Dogwood, Fothergilla, Rhododendron and Arborvitae. Maren also chose perennials such as Astilbes, Japanese Painted Ferns, Hostas and Heucheras. She also added some lovely annuals. The plants are spaced to grow and fill the area so they will not look crowded or overgrown as they mature.



A **new bench** was added to provide a place to sit while waiting for assistance into the church or to a car.

A **bench** has been added outside the sacristy doors facing 50th Street. (See photo left.) This new seating can be considered a tribute to both Cara and Maren's mothers. "We remember picking up our moms after church," said Maren. "There wasn't a place for them to sit while waiting and as they aged, this got harder and harder on them." This will be a welcome addition for many for years to come.

The landscaping update of the 50th Street side of the church is now complete and the area was dedicated after the 10:15 service on Sunday, August 14, 2022.

Thank you, Cara and Dave, for your thoughtfulness and your generosity. We are sure John and Mary would approve!



The new plants were unloaded then placed in position according to plan before being planted.



Some trees were heavy and required two people to carry. **Dan Akins** had a better solution and offered his lawnmower to carry the weight while **Tom Weigel** steadied the plant.

Hidden for years behind shrubbery, the **cornerstone** that was laid in 1951 when the office addition was built is finally visible.



New **white stone** edging being installed.

LIFE AT ST. STEPHEN'S SPRING 2022

CONFIRMATION AND RECEPTION WITH BISHOP CRAIG LOYA MAY 1.



Bishop Loya visited us the first Sunday in May. He spoke at the adult forum at 9 a.m. before leading the congregation in Holy Communion. Twenty youth and adults were confirmed or received.

A reception was held after the service to greet and talk to the bishop.



LIFE AT ST. STEPHEN'S SPRING 2022

BRIDGE BUILDERS 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Since the year 1957 over 125 members of St. Stephen's have made a commitment to support the long-term financial stability of our parish through a legacy gift to the St. Stephen's Fund. These people are called **Bridge Builders**, because their gifts are invested to build a bridge from the past to the future. On May 23, 2022, we gathered in the Commons Room to celebrate 65 years of gifts that have grown to a balance of over \$4 million as of December 2021.

The impact of these gifts entrusted to us over the past 65 years, whether large or small, are woven into the fabric of life for our parish. Behind the scenes, these funds quietly support our ministries every day while also providing a strong foundation on which the dreams and needs of the future generations of our parish can be fulfilled.

The evening was a time for fellowship and celebration and an opportunity to hear what inspired people to become Bridge Builders. At the end of the evening the emcee, **Kevin Green**, raised his glass and offered this toast:

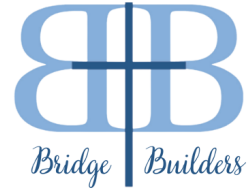
Thank you to those Bridge Builders who have come before us, most of whom we do not know, but had the vision to benefit future generations unknown to them. Thank you, to those current Bridge Builders, for being inspired by the past while carrying on the lasting legacy of fulfilling the dreams and needs of future generations to come.

Finally, **George Wanstall** read the poem written by Miss Will Allen Dromgoole titled "The Bridge Builder." It was first read by **the late Jim Curry** in 1987 soon after the term Bridge Builders was ratified and has become an annual tradition to read it in recognition of Jim and the many generations of ideals and generosity for which we are grateful.

If you have questions about how to become a Bridge Builder, you can contact either:

Jackie Sullivan, Committee Chair at: sullivan6832@comcast.net

Denise Cole, the Bridge Builder "Shepherd" at: cole.deniseann@icloud.com



The hors d'oeuvres team prepping.



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 **CHILDREN**.

LEFT WINDOW

*The theme of this window is the **JESUS' INTEREST IN AND CONCERN FOR LITTLE CHILDREN.***

The top panel shows **a cross and a church**..

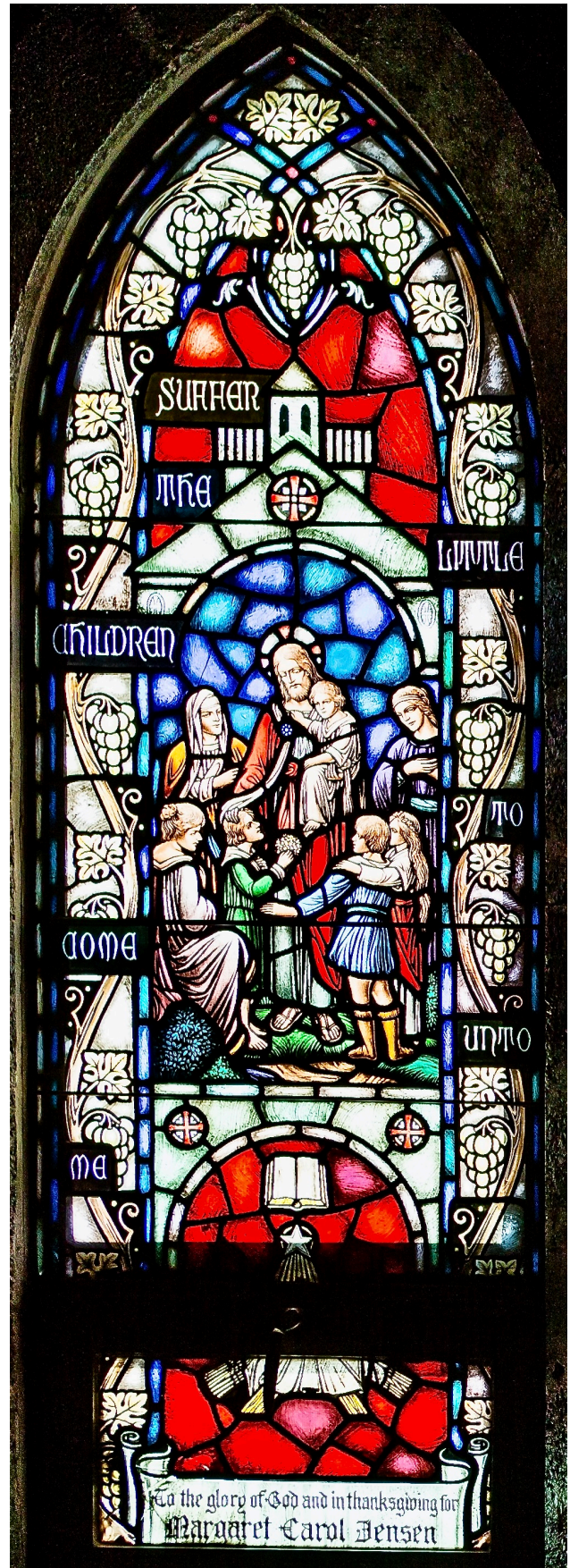
The middle panel shows **Jesus and children** with the words, "*Suffer the little children to come unto me*" on the sides of the panel .

The bottom panel has a **Bible, a Star of Bethlehem and a manger of the Christ Child**..

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Margaret Carol Jensen.

* (The bottom panel is part of a hinged window, the frame of which covers some of the Star of Bethlehem and the manger.)



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 application is **CHILDREN'S RELATION AND SERVICE TO THEIR MASTER.***

The top panel shows a cross and a church.

The middle panel shows a priest with children, one acolyte holding an American flag, another acolyte with a cross, a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout, and a boy and girl praying. The words "Love God and love thy neighbor" are on the sides of the panel.

The bottom panel shows a Latin cross that beams out to an orb — a symbol of the world below, symbolizing sovereignty of Christ over the world.

The dedication at the bottom of the window is to a child and reads:

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for Lawrence Stevens Turker (1927-1936)



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

"Why are Episcopalians afraid
to go to church in the
Summer? - Because someone
might think they don't have a
lake-house."

"Get a baby gate," they said, "It'll keep
them safe." they said...



REALLY??
Who writes these things?



My stomach is FLAT.
The L is just silent.

