

The
ST. STEPHEN'S SENIOR NEWSLETTER
Winter 2023

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church — Edina, Minnesota

"Chronicling Life at St. Stephen's"

DEAR BELOVED MEMBERS OF ST. STEPHEN'S!

In these uncertain times ... earthquakes, wars, rain in January ... it is comforting to know that some things are certain, like the **Lenten and Easter season** which is about to begin. Ash Wednesday is only a few days away, Easter is April 9 and the schedule at St. Stephen's will soon be announced so you can make your plans. Also returning is the **Mardi Gras pancake breakfast** and after three years the popular **Fish Fry and Bingo** is back!

The St. Stephen's **annual meeting** was held at the Edina Country Club on Sunday, January 29. 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 **Tom Beringer**.

The wonderful volunteers who went to **Holy Cross School in Belize** completed a long list of needed repairs in an incredibly short period of time. See what your donations purchased! We have details and photos inside.

The **Senior Fellowship Luncheon** next month will not be provided by Jerry's or a caterer. Len Slade is going to lead the Fellowship Committee in making the famous Iron Range "comfort food," the **Pasty**, from his family's recipe. The pasty originated in Cornwall, England, as lunch for miners, who were unable to return to the surface to eat. Like a mini pie, the folded pastry is stuffed with beef, potatoes, and rutabagas, and can stay warm for hours. Join us for a special treat!

A blessed Easter to you all.

Connie Brekken, Editor



"Snow Day" Jan. 21 at St. Stephen's

SENIOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 2022



Official welcomers and registrars, Joan Hanson and Evelyn David.



Another centerpiece masterpiece by Grace Taylor.



The entertainment included the surprise addition of Asst. Rector, Christy Stang along with Clark Duhrkopf and Bryon Wilson.



"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

Confucius



THE WHOLE GANG - Friday, December 2, 2022 - The Edina Country Club



SENIOR FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023
12 Noon in the Gathering Space

SPEAKER: Peter Hanson
"A Juicy Tale of Tomatoes"

Peter, the son of our member, Joan Hanson, grew up in Edina and attended St. Stephen's before he went on to an international career in agronomy and plant breeding. He has been the tomato breeder at the **World Vegetable Center** in Taiwan for 30 years. "WorldVeg," as it is called, conducts research, builds networks, and carries out training and promotion activities to raise awareness of the role of vegetables for improved health and global poverty alleviation.

His tomato breeding program targets development of tropically-adapted tomato lines for use by public and private sectors. Major areas of research include multiple disease resistance, especially tomato yellow leaf curl disease, bacterial wilt, late blight, and heat tolerance in tomato.

Before joining WorldVeg he was a bean breeder for two years at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia, and served for two years as senior lecturer in the Agronomy Department at Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya.

In addition to serving in the Peace Corps in Kenya, he received his B.A. (History) and B.S. (Agronomy) degrees from the University of Minnesota, and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Breeding from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

Peter recently retired and returned to the Twin Cities. He and his wife, Ruth, live in Bloomington where, we are sure, they are getting reacquainted with Minnesota winters.

He will talk to us about "A juicy tale of tomatoes and Taiwan: my research to help tropical tomato growers produce healthier harvests for themselves, consumers and the environment".



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 Monday, March 13. (Your check is your reservation.)
- The menu will be pasties (Iron Range comfort food), green salad, chips, pickles, and apple crumble with custard sauce for dessert. There will be a gluten-free option. Please indicate on your reservation, if you prefer this.
- We love to have you come to our luncheons, but PLEASE make a reservation. We need to know how much food to provide!

CELEBRATING LIFE



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DICK LARSON!

Best wishes to Dick who turned 90 on January 31.

Dick is a retired vascular surgeon following his father, who was also a surgeon. Dick graduated from Blake High School, attended the University of Minnesota for pre-med and was the first American

accepted at the University of Manitoba medical school. After six years at the Mayo Clinic for his residency, he and his wife, Madrienne, whom he married in 1954, returned to the Twin Cities.

In spite of long hours as a surgeon, Dick found time for his love of hunting ducks and pheasants. He and Madrienne also loved to travel. So, Dick and other surgeons he knew from the Mayo Clinic formed the *Continental Surgical Travel Club*. Their travel destinations began modestly — going to domestic sites such as New Orleans or away for long weekends. Later, the destinations were international including one six week Viking cruise from Lima, Peru, around Cape Horn and up the Amazon!

A massive heart attack 26 years ago while skiing at Vail forced Dick to take early retirement. Since then, he has applied his surgical skills to woodworking and enjoys the company of their four children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Dick and Madrienne and their Goldendoodle, Rosie, live in Arizona in the winter and at Friendship Village and at their cabin in the summer. They celebrated Dick's birthday with family and friends at a "happy hour" on January 28.

Many happy returns, Dick!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO DIANNE MARSHALL!

Best wishes to Dianne who turned 90 on February 3.

If you have ever received a get well card from St. Stephen's, this is the lady who has practiced this ministry for **44 years**. She has also sent birthday cards to members over 65 years of age since 2014.

A member of St. Stephen's for over 50 years, Dianne was born and raised in the Roman Catholic faith but when she met Bob Marshall on a blind date, she joined the Episcopal church when they married in 1955. At that time marriages between a Protestant and a Catholic raised difficult questions, not the least of which was "Where shall we get married?" So, with the blessing of their parents, Dianne accompanied Bob to a trade show he was attending in New York and they were married at the Church of the Transfiguration, aka "The Little Church Around the Corner," in Manhattan. They returned to live in the Twin Cities until Bob's death in 2009.

Today, she lives at Friendship Village where she is the key person reminding interested residents every month when Tom and Christy are due to celebrate Holy Communion. She is also a member of a choral group, "Sing for Your Life" that until Covid gave concerts for residents and guests. She hopes they will soon resume their weekly practice which was led by members from the MacPhail Center for Music. Dianne also loves to cook and do crossword puzzles and cryptokuip puzzles.

She celebrated her birthday with family on the date and has continued celebrating with lunches all month!

Best Wishes to "The Cartwheel Queen of her Neighborhood" as she was known growing up!



IN REMEMBRANCE

David Ryerse, age 90. Died November 10, 2022. Former member who grew up at St. Stephen's. Private service held at Lakewood Cemetery.

Gary Dietz, age 70. Died December 23, 2022. Former youth leader for 32 years. Memorial Service held January 14, 2023, at St. Stephen's.

Olaf "Bing" Strand, age 79, husband of Arlene Strand. Died December 26, 2022. Memorial service held January 11, 2023, at St. Stephen's.



THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

- SUNDAY, FEB. 19** **Mardi Gras Celebration** at 11:30 am. Come enjoy pancakes and sausage breakfast hosted by St. Stephen's Martyrs ... and music from a Dixieland band.
- SUNDAY, FEB. 19** **Compass, Adult Education and Formation Class** at 9:00 am., a special session called "Psalms and Poems" for Ash Wednesday.
- WEDNESDAY FEB. 22** **Ash Wednesday** - There will be four services from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with Imposition of Ashes, plus a Family Worship in the Chapel at 5:30 pm.
- SUN., FEB. 26—MAR. 26** **Compass, Adult Education and Formation Class** at 9:00 am., a five-part Lenten series, "Walking Through the Wilderness."
- FRIDAY, MARCH 3** **Fish Fry** at 5:00 pm followed by **Bingo** at 7:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now. This is a popular event and seating is limited so make your reservation ASAP.
- THURSDAY, MARCH 16...** **Sr. Fellowship Luncheon** in the Gathering Space at 12 Noon.
- SATURDAY, APRIL 1** **Women's Retreat** — Watch for details coming soon.
- SUNDAY, APRIL 2** **Compass, Adult Education and Formation Class** at 9:00 am., "Walking Through Holy Week."
- SUNDAY, APR 16 & 23** **Compass, Adult Education and Formation Class** at 9:00 am., "Creation Care"

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES:

Feb. 22 — Ash Wednesday
 April 7 — Good Friday
 April 9 — Easter

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



THE NEW 2023 CHURCH DIRECTORY IS AVAILABLE.

The updated Directory for 2023 is now available. You can pick one up in the Narthex or in the Commons Room. You can also call Deen Hubin at (952) 920-0595 or stop by the office.

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. 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 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:

- March 14: *The Searcher* by Tana French
- April 11: *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* by Robert M. Pirsig
- May 9: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles



CONGRATULATIONS TO FR. TOM

For 25 Years As A Priest!

He was ordained February 10, 1998.



VICTOR CALHOUN/Chapel Photographer
 The Rev. Tom Cook, a graduate of the University of Florida and the School of Theology at the University of the South in Seawee, Tenn., will join the Rev. David A. Powers in serving All Saints Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev. Charles F. Duvall, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, ordained Cook Tuesday.

OUR NEW SENIOR WARDEN: TOM BERINGER

The Senior Warden for 2023 began his term at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Every year we interview the new leader of the Vestry to introduce him or her to the congregation.



Tell us about your background.

Although I've lived here for almost thirty years, I'm not a true Minnesotan. I grew up in Chicago, Milwaukee and Atlanta. I went to college in Maine and moved to Boston after that where I met my wife, Catherine. We moved here for a job opportunity and never looked back. I am not a cradle Episcopalian, but I married one. I grew up a Congregationalist and Presbyterian.

Tell us about your family.

My wife Catherine and I have three children, Annika, Gus and Mimi, who all grew up at St. Stephen's. We recently moved to Waconia and are now empty nesters, living with our dog, Iddy.

Tell us about your professional life.

I have worked in the Financial Services industry my entire career, and currently work for Virtue Investment Partners as Regional Director.

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

Catherine and I joined St. Stephen's back in 2000. Over the years I have been involved in Loaves and Fishes, Strategic Planning and two terms on both Vestry and Stewardship. We have enjoyed so many parts of St. Stephen's, the Bash, Creekside baptisms, Compass, the Pig Roast, and the Easter Vigil After-Party, just to name a few.

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

This past year we have seen our parish re-emerge from Covid. The pews are starting to fill up again. It's amazing to see so many young children running around the church again! Compass, TEC, and many other programs are back. It's an exciting time at St. Stephen's. I am hopeful that we will continue to grow as a community as we approach our 90th anniversary.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like to kayak and boat around Lake Waconia in the summer and snowshoe in the winter.



Mary Sue Vorbrich,
new Jr. Warden

ST. STEPHEN'S ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023

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 2022

- St. Stephen's has experienced a robust renewal in the gathering for services of worship, marriage, baptism and burial. We witnessed the return of TEC (Teens Encounter Christ), and welcomed Christy Stang as our new Assistant Rector. We returned to in-person Vacation Bible School, Wednesday evening suppers and community events. And we have welcomed many new members and families.
- Work on the **multi-year strategic roadmap** for the future of St. Stephen's continues. A Mission Statement and seven Core Values were created and affirmed by the Vestry. Father Tom worked with Ministry Architects to renew the employee manual, job descriptions and policies, and a plan is being finalized to replace the Financial Manager, Nancy Wood, who has announced her plan to retire.
- **The Properties Committee's** biggest project was the extensive landscaping renovation on the 50th Street side of the property, completed due to a generous donation. The garden irrigation system was also upgraded, along with rebuilding the trash handling area. This summer work will begin in the nave with the installation of five tie-rods to stabilize movement in the ceiling. The work will cause some disruption so services will be moved to the chapel for a while.



Outgoing Sr. Warden, Julia Gutz Moller, and incoming Sr. Warden, Tom Beringer.

FISCAL UPDATE

Treasurer, Tom Bracken, reported St. Stephen's continues to be in a very healthy financial position.

- **Actual 2022 results** were a little better than budget. Expenses were about \$53,000 below budget due to 1) very good expense control by the clergy and staff and 2) a one-time payroll savings due to the change in our clergy in the spring. The 2022 net will be used to balance the 2023 budget.
- In 2022 we engaged an auditing firm to do a regular triannual review of the church's books and accounting systems. There were no items of concern raised.
- **The 2023 Budget** is largely in line with 2022 and reflects pledges in hand.
- Contributions from the St. Stephen's Fund were held at 5%, the middle of its contribution range, the same level as was used in 2022.
- The budget provides for a cost-of-living compensation increase for clergy and staff, and anticipates inflationary increases in utility costs and other similar categories.

ELECTION OF NOMINEES

The nominees to the Vestry and to committees were unanimously elected. **New Vestry members** include: Sr. Warden, Tom Beringer; Jr. Warden, Mary Sue Vorbrich; Treasurer, Tom Bracken; Clerk of the Parish (open); and members at large: Matt Bogart, Neil Nelson, Tom Weigel, and Sarah Sullivan. Returning Vestry member, Mark Moller, and Vestry Youth member, Grace Dueber.

RECTOR'S CUP

Finally, Fr. Tom announced the recipient of the 2023 **Rector's Cup**, which is presented annually for a ministry that changes the life of the church. This year the award went to **Jim Bizal** for his unflagging enthusiasm and efforts to share the ministry of Holy Cross School in Belize with others. Fr. Tom said, "He consistently, persistently invites, cajoles and welcomes so many others to this experience that enlivens the soul and helps make life better for everyone involved. It is a gift of his character that for many years he has helped others help others." Congratulations, Jim!



LIFE AT ST. STEPHEN'S

DEDICATION OF THE PARRY VERGE

On Sunday, November 27, 2022, Tom Cook dedicated a new mace, or Verge. He said:

"By the gracious generosity of members of St. Stephen's Church, we are, from time to time, able to renew the vestments, vessels, and items used in Divine Service.

So on this Sunday, we begin use of the new mace, or Verge, carried in Procession by our church Vergers as a symbol of their office and ministry. The head of this Verge is fashioned after the *Canterbury Cross*, an ancient Saxon design from a brooch dated around the year 850 and discovered in Canterbury, England, in 1867. We bless the new Verge in its use this Sunday in the perpetual honor and memory of longstanding Head Verger, Jane Parry, departed of St. Stephen's Church in January of this year."



He recited this prayer:

Receive this Verge, O Lord, to the use of this Church and to the honor and memory of Jane Scoggin Parry.

May all Vergers who carry it be edified in their ministries and equipped to guide your people in Divine Service.

May those who see its use know that those who carry it do so to the Glory of God and in service to the entire worshipping community of St. Stephen's Church.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

NEW ALTAR HANGINGS GRACE THE CHAPEL

The Holy Spirit works in wondrous ways. Like bringing two talented people with complementary gifts together to create something new and beautiful to glorify God. They were Nancy Menzel and Lynn Torney. Their gifts? Nancy weaves, Lynn sews. *Perfect!*

Nancy invited Lynn to her Victorian home for tea one afternoon in 2019 and led her upstairs to see Nancy's room-sized loom. While admiring the loom, Lynn spotted a bolt of cloth resting in a dark corner. The cloth had a pattern of crosses on it, in shades of green. When Lynn inquired about it, Nancy replied that she'd woven the cotton and Tencel pattern long ago "just because," and the fabric had remained unused. They agreed that the nine yards of lovely repeating crosses would make beautiful altar hangings.

After a consultation with Associate Rector Amelia Arthur, Lynn ordered an ecclesiastical sewing pattern and went to work. She lined most of the pieces in heavy green satin and attached three gold-thread embroidered crosses to the neck of each stole. The altar frontal (with a cotton canvas lining), lectern fall, and three stoles were completed in February 2020...just as Covid shut everything down.

But the story continues. The fabric that had rested in a dark attic corner came into God's light this year as altar hangings. They were installed in the Chapel, blessed, and dedicated at the 8:00 am service on Sunday, January 15, 2023. **Take time to see them!**



Right: Christy Stang, Lynn Torney, Isa (Nancy's granddaughter), Nancy Menzel and Tom Cook in the Chapel when the hangings were blessed and dedicated on January 15.



UPDATE FROM BELIZE

In one short week in January, ten volunteers, led by Jim Bizal, accomplished a great deal at Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize. Work continues on finishing *HOUSE OF GRACE*, a place where visiting clergy will live while they minister to the school and community. The crew also undertook a variety of repair projects as well as reading to the children, conducting a spelling bee, and conducting the Wednesday chapel service.



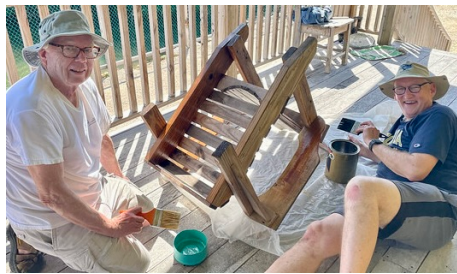
Re-painting the entire kitchen.



Volunteers Extraordinaire



Building new security gates



Staining furniture for House of Grace.



House of Grace —finishing doors.

Here is a list of the work completed:

- Painted the complete kitchen.
- Installed new electrical in the kitchen.
- Sealed House of Grace floors and varnished all the doors.
- Installed new Plycem wall in sewing center.
- Spread six loads of sand on the playground.
- New soffit in computer lab.
- Built three new security gates.
- New floor in the pre-school.
- Re-painted the front sign.



House of Grace — finishing floors.

Jim Bizal reports that *"The overwhelming contributions from St. Stephen's members allowed us to purchase two new freezers, a new Ninja Blender, new cookware, three new ceiling fans and a six-burner commercial range. We are also going to purchase six new ceiling fans for the cafeteria and new cutlery. We raised so much money we are also going to purchase seating for the new church."*

Jim extends the thanks from the Holy Cross Board of Education for the continued support from St. Stephen's. ***"We are changing the lives of so many young people. Education changes the world."***



Re-painting the weather-beaten front sign.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

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

RIGHT WINDOW

*The theme of this window is the **CREATION OF THE WORLD AND MAN.***

The top panel shows the **Star of David** with the Hebrew symbol for the word "God."

The middle panel shows the **Sun and Moon, Adam & Eve, and Animals, birds and fish.**

The bottom panel has a **pillar.**

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Jane Sample, Janet Sample Bass.



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 application of the theme in this window is the **CREATION AS IT MOVES THROUGH GOD'S INSPIRATION OF MEN AND WOMEN.**

The top panel shows a **worker**.

The middle panel shows **Workers: an architect, housewife, farmer, teacher, and a mason in the process of carving "194."** The words shown from the top to the bottom of the three panels read: "Let thy work appear unto thy servants and thy glory upon their children".

The bottom panel shows **symbols of science, music, literature and art.**

The dedication at the bottom of the window reads:

To the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for Bernard David Miars 1889-1946.



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



THE MAIN FUNCTION OF YOUR LITTLE TOE IS
MAKING SURE ALL THE FURNITURE IN THE
HOUSE IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

I once dated a girl
with a twin and
people always asked
me how I could tell
them apart... It was
simple, Alison painted
her nails red and
Bob had a beard...

I'm writing a book
about all the things I
should be doing in my
life.
It's an
oughtobiography.

Meanwhile in Canada...

An angel asked God what He was doing. "Making Canadians," He said.

"Awww they're so nice," said the angel.

"Oh yeah? Watch this," said God, as He dropped a hockey puck.

