By the Rev. Carole Wageman

“What is this thing we are calling an Interim Team?”

“Why can’t we just find someone to be a rector for us?”

Well, sometimes the best laid plans of mice and men become foiled by circumstance. From such events, creative responses are born. Such is this one: The Interim Ministry Team, comprised of lay and clergy leaders, has been called together by our Bishop Thomas C. Ely, Canon Lynn Bates, and the Vestry of St. Stephen’s. We are charged with “figuring it out” (whatever “IT” is). But figuring “IT” out is exactly what we have been doing during our weekly two hour meetings on Monday afternoons. We actually began meeting a few times in December as our half-time Interim Team Leader, the Rev. Carole Wageman, “lent herself” to getting familiar with St. Stephen’s and the Interim Team before her start date of January 1, 2019. So, while we might not be very visible yet, we are hard at work and I want to tell you about one initiative that we are working on, for it is an ambitious one and will take us some time to complete.

In one of our early meetings, we discerned that perhaps our unique call as a team is to address some healing issues in the congregation. We realized that to do that with any kind of significance called for listening. So, we are working on the details of an extensive course of individualized listening sessions within the entire congregation: Our Epiphany Journey. We are currently working out our plan and approach and we will keep you updated on our progress. We know this will take much longer than the Epiphany season alone, but we are searching for ways to bring the Light of Christ’s healing touch to human lives. We are seeking as we travel, much like the Magi did as they searched for the destiny outlined by the star they followed without really knowing what they would find nor how long they would be on the road to find “IT”...whatever “IT” was. But we are trusting that God is in the mix with all of us and will point the way ahead.
Robert Frost’s famous poem, “The Road Not Taken,” is a timeless message about one’s life journey in which there are always choices to be made and futures whose outcomes are somewhat dictated by those decisions.

But what about the paths that merge? One path meeting up with another and becoming one joint road, for a time. What happens at that place where lives meet up and travel together? What stories are learned? What wisdom is gained? What new discoveries are to be found? What bumps will need to be overcome? How are lives changed and shaped when two paths converge into one?

For that is where we are right now --- you and I. St. Stephen’s path meeting up with my own path and merging for a time. I sometimes marvel at how I came to be here -- and my own story seems as complicated as your story might sometimes seem to you. But I think sometimes that is where God does his best work...at the margins where we might not always feel we know exactly where the path is leading but it just makes sense to follow and find out.

Sure, I could write some boring and self-serving article about my background and my experience and try to convince you why I might be the right person for this job as Interim Team Leader; but truthfully, I think God had a lot to do with it and I have learned to put my trust in a God who answers prayers...my own as well as yours. Those answered prayers are not usually the plan that I had in mind, but somehow, God’s ideas always turn out surprisingly and unexpectedly better than I could possibly imagine.

As you learn more about me over time, I will be learning more about you as well, both as individuals and as a distinct community of faith in this unique college town. It is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle...finding how the pieces fit together...appreciating the distinct properties of each unique bit...imagining the possibilities of a picture that gradually forms...looking for the convergence...determining what needs rearranging and what should be left in place...staring in awe at the picture God is creating. Perhaps that is really what this job of Interim Team Leader means: Being willing to travel this path together with you for a time faithfully, lovingly, honestly, creatively, and with integrity. After all, clergy come and go. They come for a season and join their journey with yours; then they go and someone else comes. They get a new job, move on, retire, die, leave town, whatever; but you are the people of God whom that Holy Spirit has called to remain here in this place, this time, this community. God has called you to be the word and action of unquenchable love here in this place. You are the inheritors of the past. You are the shepherds of the present. You are the caretakers for the future. This is where God has called you to be. Clergy come to help you do the job God has called you to do. To walk alongside you, love you, challenge you, and to bring their best gifts to merge with your best gifts and see what God does with it all.

I am happy to be here. Will I make mistakes? Sure. Will you make mistakes? Afraid so. That is the way life is, but it is what we do with our mistakes and learnings that will be the measure of our success and that will lead us forward into the new path down which God beckons.
News from the Pews
by Linda Horn

Let trumpets sound! Mary McGuire quite appropriately found the bean in the kings’ cake on Epiphany and was crowned king! Thanks to Claire Groby for making a scrumptious gaullette des rois with her now famous pastry skills! Claire, Brian, Dean, and Taylor celebrated Epiphany in St. Albans at a hockey tournament. This writer remembers going to lots of those!

We are on the lookout for book recommendations. Cathy Sontum is currently re-reading the Bible for the 14th time. Cathy and Steve report a lovely and lively Christmas with both kids and all their spouses and children staying overnight on the 24th. The Christmas miracle was that the grandchildren actually slept!

Holly Stabler and Bob Ruggeiro celebrated Christmas in Rye, NY with Bob’s son and daughter--who came up from Washington. The trip included a visit to the Oyster Bar in New York City.

Joe McVeigh is headed to (and probably back by now) Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos to give English language teacher training workshops. This trip is sponsored by the US Department of State and is an excellent use of our tax dollars.

Big changes are ahead for Tyler McGuire, son of Mary and Ed. He is leaving the Marine Corps after many years as a helicopter pilot and returning to Vermont to look for a job.

Emily Walsh is tuning up her downhill skis for the Special Olympics. Way to go, Emily!

Our own amazing Suzie Klemmer is not only captain of the dance team at Middlebury Union High School, but she will be the leading drum major--holding the baton, blowing the whistle, and walking backward--for the high school band as they perform in New York City at the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Congratulations to Lian McGarry, our former rector’s daughter, for her success in the Middlebury vs Randolph gymnastics meet on Jan 3. She won the individual beam event, finished 2nd all around, and led the Tigers to a team victory. What a great way to start 2019!

Linda Horn has an alter ego known as Captain 100. Captain 100 visits kindergarten and first grade classrooms to help celebrate the 100th day of school. Susan Anderson-Ray made Linda an outstanding red and purple cape with 100 multi-colored pom poms and rhinestone decoration. This is just the kind of style young students appreciate! It is also kind of fuzzy so the students will love touching it.
Woohoo! We’ve officially entered an Interim clergy season, and I am so thankful for the clergy members who have agreed to form a team: the Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell, Rev. Catherine Nichols, Rev. Larry Yarbrough, and ably led by Rev. Carole Wageman. This group of wise and faithful people loves God and our church, and I praise God for their prayerful leadership and care. My role as senior warden is continuing this year following Bishop Ely’s recommendation to the Vestry and their approval; the Bishop also recommended that I serve on the Interim Team, and I am honored to do so. Primarily I am a liaison for the Vestry. This team and my role, being the first of its kind of interim work, will respond as the year progresses and we identify needs. Certainly we are all open to hearing from you, so please be in touch.

I strongly encourage everyone to attend the Annual Meeting. Irv Cummings, with help from Tom Turley and Vestry members, will provide an excellent coffee hour after church for us to be well-snacked for the meeting. You’ll also be able to buy a bag (or two or three) of Peasant Market soup mix. This is an exciting time at St. Stephen’s with the Outreach work teaming with the Teen Center and the Ministry Discernment Team forming soon. Be involved, listen, share your ideas.

Also, please come to the Fellowship events - Friday fun nights, the skating party, Rock Point Weekend, Foyer dinners - dates are all in this issue. If you have ideas for social events, share them. We are God’s body, and the more we join our voices and our energy, the better we will be God’s hands and heart in our world. Praying for God’s peace to dwell deeply in our hearts,

Mary McGuire: Words from the Senior Warden

Tom Klemmer: Words from the Junior Warden

2018 was another busy year with two major projects completed. I will begin with our new columbarium. This was a long road traveled indeed. From concept to completion took almost two years. We were able to raise funds through generous donations and grant money from the diocese to cover the cost in its entirety. There are a total of 143 “companion niches”, or 286 individual niches. Each door covers one companion niche and can be engraved. The finish woodwork surrounding the columbarium will commence after the chapel has been freshly painted and a new cherry floor installed. Hopefully this will all be completed before Easter. The individual niches are now available for sale at a cost of $1,000 per niche. There were three donors who made this project possible, and each donor will receive one companion (2 individual) niche. This leaves 280 niches available. All the money raised through the sale of the niches will be put into a fund dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the facilities of St. Stephen’s.

This past summer our air conditioning unit failed requiring replacement. Your vestry voted unanimously to replace this unit with a 4-zone heat pump that will provide both heating and cooling. We hired Dave Crane of Crane Plumbing & Heating to do the work. All work was completed on time and within the estimate we received. The heat pump has been working flawlessly providing heat to the upper meeting room, rector’s office, work room and Annemarie’s office. We are very grateful to Dave Crane and his professional crew for doing such a great job. We are tracking our oil usage and hope to report a decrease in our fuel burn thanks to the heat pumps. I am also very proud to report that the cost of the heat pump was entirely funded by generous donations from many members
of the parish. I want to offer a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to this project.

Our antique auction is going to be held at the VFW on Exchange St. on April 27th, so please save that date and tell all your friends! Your auction committee has been working very hard collecting items (we are still collecting if you’d like to donate) and developing strategies regarding advertising and logistics. Remember that unlike Peasant Market, the money raised from this auction will go directly toward maintaining and preserving the facilities of St. Stephen’s. This one is for us, so please show your support by donating goods or services and by attending the event itself. Look for more information in the coming weeks as we approach the date.

We have been very involved in the railroad project, and in particular, the development of the new triangle park. We have a vested interest in this park since our retaining wall blocks will be repurposed in the construction of the park itself. As you may remember, we are still paying off a Butterfield loan for those blocks. We hope to have more information about this project and possible resolutions soon. The completion timeline for triangle park will be late 2020 or more likely in the spring of 2021.

Monitoring cameras have been set up in both the Nave and the upper meeting room. The camera in the Nave enables the Sunday school to monitor the service remotely, thus eliminating the need for someone to go up there and tell them when to come down for communion. The camera in the meeting room was installed to record the adult education classes. Those classes will be uploaded to the website so that anyone who missed the class can view it later.

Moving forward, we have several projects slated for 2019. The major repairs will be centered around fixing parts of our slate roof and repairing holes and decay in our bell tower. We also need to reinforce the floor beneath the baptismal font that is sagging under the weight. Other projects include continuing the renovation of our chapel and finishing the columbarium surround as previously mentioned.
Outreach reaches out! by Lonnie Fisher

Outreach is on a roll and the big wheel is Addison County Teen Center. The Teen Center has welcomed St Stephen’s interest. There are many ways and areas that we can support them other than financially. Of course funds will be in the mix but it’s our time and talents that are key. Already Ed McGuire has met and planned a boat building project with the teens, using the Hannaford Center shop during Winter and Spring breaks.

We are seeking time and talent in our congregation in some but not limited to the following roles or areas:

- Supportive, engaged adult volunteers
- Community partners in our next phase
- Sustainable and varied support
- Volunteer coordinator
- Administrative assistance

Facts about Teen Center

Currently center hours are 3-6 PM everyday after school, following ACSD calendar
15-20 daily drop in, 170 individuals over course of a school year from all 7 ACSD schools
Offer: Snack, study, LGBTQIA groups, Teen Speak (public speaking) League of Legends, Teen Leadership holiday programming, etc. And the center serves 20 summer campers during summer camp.

More information will be forthcoming, some at the Annual Meeting, so be sure to attend.

Outreach is waiting submission of Grant Applications due Feb. 1st.

Upcoming Fun and Frolic

SKATING PARTY JAN 27

January 27 Parish Skating Party! Fun and Fellowship! Come skate with blades or boots or just hang around the fire on January 27 2:30pm - 4:00pm. This will be at the McGuire’s Pond. 4590 Munger St. New Haven, VT. Hot chocolate and hot dogs provided, along with sticks for cooking them over the fire. There is also a small hill for sledding, byo sled! It would helpful, but not required, if you would sign up on the back table or let Suzanne Snider or Mary McGuire know if you are coming.

POT LUCK ON FEB 1

Everyone is invited to Fun Friday potluck supper, game night, and compline on Friday, February 1 at 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

SOME BASICS ON GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN’S

I. Checks should be made payable to “St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church”.

II. Gifts of Stock or Securities. Special instructions are available at the church and soon to be on the web site. Most importantly, if you are considering a stock gift, you should contact our Church Treasurer, Barbara Stratton, barbara.stratton@comcast.net, (802)758-9280. She will forward you detailed instructions. Freda Tutt at Raymond James Financial Planning in Burlington handles stock transactions on our behalf, freda.tutt@raymondjames.com.

III. Gifts from an IRA. A required minimum distribution from your IRA given to St. Stephen’s can, re-

continued on next page
markably quickly and easily, lower your taxable income and satisfy minimum distribution require-
ments. Your IRA or plan custodian will know how to make such a qualified charitable contribution
and see that it is directed to St. Stephen’s. For more information, please contact Church Treasurer,
Barbara Stratton, barbara.stratton@comcast.net, (802)758-9280.

All gifts to St. Stephen’s are welcome and needed!
None of the above should be viewed as tax advice! For accurate information regarding the tax impact of
any charitable contribution, please contact your tax advisor.
The St. Stephen’s Meditation Group is sponsoring our third annual Lenten Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park New York. This will be a silent retreat with arrival the afternoon of Tuesday, March 12, and departure after lunch Friday, March 15, 2019. The cost per person, including your room, all meals, and leadership service provided by one of the brothers will be about $300 (varies slightly depending on the number attending). We currently have 3 spaces remaining. The exact theme is yet to be determined. We have always come away refreshed and with a grateful heart for the hospitality so generously given by the brothers. You can learn more about the monastery at holycrossmonastery.com. If you are interested or want more information, please see Glenn or Sharon or call 897-5422 or email stsmeditation@gmail.com by January 21.

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Christmas Pageant 2018

Photographs by Barb Wood and Oliver Parini
CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

David M. Kenyon

David was born in Kingston, Ontario, and moved to Pennsylvania where he attended and graduated from Penn State University and their ROTC program. He then served in the US Army for 20 years, in Germany, Italy, Somalia, Iraq, Haiti and the US.

He is married to the former Lorraine MacNally and has two grown children, Karla Gail and Ryan David. He is a grandfather of two.

After retiring from the Army he attended the Vermont Police Academy and worked for the town of Middlebury and the Addison County Sheriff’s department. He went to St Joseph’s College in Rutland and received a degree in social work and counseling. He currently works for the Counseling Service of Addison County, and the Community Resource team providing services to people with mental health challenges and drug addictions.

He lives in Salisbury with his wife Lorraine and his mother, JoAnn Horton, and his Cockpoo McNally. He enjoys hiking in the mountains and boating, and taking holidays in Canada.

Jim Pugh grew up in Rye, New York, where he attended Christ Church and sang (poorly) in the boys choir. He is a lifelong Episcopalian. He attended Swarthmore College (where he learned to appreciate the “inner light” of the Quakers), and did graduate work at Harvard and Minnesota.

Jim has worked at independent schools in Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania as a history teacher and CFO. Since moving to Vermont, he has served as interim CFO at five schools in the northeast. Jim and his wife Barbara Greenwood moved to Cornwall in 2010, purchasing the farmhouse of John and Irene Thompson. He has served on the boards of the MVAA (now Middlebury Regional EMS) and the Opera Company of Middlebury.

At St. Stephen’s, he has served on the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee, and the most recent Discernment Committee. He was the 2016 Peasant Market chair.

Jim appreciates that St. Stephen’s has a warm and varied group of parishioners, and has to do a careful balancing act with worship, program, finances, facilities, outreach, and leadership. The next three years will be interesting ones.

Stephen Sontum

I have been member of Saint Stephen’s Church since 1983 when we moved from California so I could take a position in the chemistry department at Middlebury College. I retired from the college in 2011. My wife, our children, and myself were baptized and raised in the Lutheran Church. When we arrived in Middlebury from California and began looking for a local church to join, St. Stephen’s is where we felt the most welcomed and at home. At St. Stephen’s I have served as an Usher or Eucharistic Minister each year since the late eighties. I have served on the personnel committee and the pastoral lay ministry. And, I have been on the Vestry three times. The issue that concerns me the most about our church is our decreasing number of active parishioners. As an usher, I have noticed the attendance at the late service decrease from 140 in the late eighties to about 70 presently.
Sip or Dip? by The Very Rev. Diane Nancekivell

A number of people have raised the question regarding the health hazard of drinking wine from the common cup during flu season. A few years ago, The Cathedral Church of St. Paul’s asked Peter Galbraith the then state entomologist about it and were told that it was FAR safer to drink from the silver non-porous cup that is wiped and turned than to intinct the bread into the wine because fingers inevitably touch the wine! So we are urging NO ONE to dip the bread or wafer into the wine.

It is important to know that receiving communion of the bread alone is considered receiving full communion. For the above reasons priests will not dip for you! Should you not want to receive wine from the common cup simply cross your arms across your chest and the Eucharistic Minister will pause and repeat the words in front of you without offering you the cup to drink.

There will be ample opportunities to cleanse your hands on the way up to communion as we’ve placed bottles of disinfectant around and within easy access.

Think Spring – April will be here soon

On Sunday, April 7, the Bishop Thomas C. Ely will visit St. Stephen’s for his final Sunday pastoral visit prior to his retirement. A Bishop’s visit is also a time when a candidate can be baptized, confirmed, received into or reaffirmed in the Episcopal Church. If anyone has an interest in any of these opportunities for yourself or a loved one, please speak with the Rev. Carole Wageman, Interim Team Leader, (or anyone from the Interim Team) so that one of our clergy can help you prepare for that occasion. Preparation will begin in mid-February.

PARISHSCOPE JAN 2019 EDITORIAL

Looks a little funny, doesn’t it?

Your editor suffered a serious setback with her desktop publishing application. It took more than a whole day to regain equilibrium, and it’s still not perfectly right. But I’ve managed to get something out, albeit way past its due date. I beg your forgiveness, and ask everyone to cross fingers for next month! Jennifer
Lenten Concerts

Here is the Lenten concert schedule as it now stands:

Starting Thursday, March 7th, St. Stephen’s will present its ninth annual series of free 1/2 hour concerts at 12:15 pm Thursdays.

March 7th  George Matthew Jr., St. Stephen’s organist in a program of Scandinavian organ music
March 14th  Vocal recital. New member of our music community. Surprise!
March 21st  Organ recital by Vaughn Watson, dean of the Vermont Chapter American Guild of Organists
March 28th  TBA

April 4th  Organ recital by Frederick DeHaven, retired organist of St. James’ Episcopal Church, NYC and now St. Stephen’s member
April 11th  The Addison String Quartet, directed by our own Emily Sunderman!
April 18th  Orgelgebet (Organ Prayers): Ninth presentation of the events of Holy Week, as interpreted by organ composers from the Renaissance to today. George Matthew Jr., organist

And mark your calendar! Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:30 the Choir of Clare College, England will join us in a program of English and Spanish music of the Renaissance. This one will not be a free concert.

Adult Education Presentation Schedule

ADULT EDUCATION CALENDAR February through Easter, 2019

Below are programs which will be offered in Adult Education from now through Easter. All of our programs are held in the Upper Meeting Room at 9 am.

Sunday, January 27 – Annual Meeting (no adult ed)

Sunday February 3 – Part 1,”Listening for the ‘Other’ Kierkegaard” presented by Gunnar Urang. Counsel from Soren Kierkegaard on walking the walk as individual followers of the way of Christ.


Sunday, February 17 - “The Art of Dying: Artistic expression and representation of death and the afterlife in religion” offered by Heather Fuller, who teaches art and religion at CCV.

Sunday, February 24 – Eric Davis will lead a discussion on chapters from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book, Ethics, on relationships between state and church, including government’s claim on the church and the church’s claim on government.


Sunday, March 10 – Part 1, “Why did Jesus have to die?” A discussion, as a Lenten preparation for Holy Week, about how we understand the meaning of the Cross, presented by Meg Fitch and Sarah Horton.

Sunday, March 17 – Part 2, “Why did Jesus have to die?” Led by Meg Fitch and Sarah Horton.

Sunday, March 24 – Eric Davis will lead a discussion on chapters from Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s book, Ethics, on relationships between state and church, including government’s claim on the church and the church’s claim on government.

Sunday, March 31 - “Christian Orthodox Icons and Prayer,” offered by Maria Hatjigeorgiou, Lecturer in Religion and Classics at Middlebury College.

Sunday, April 7 – Vijaya Wunnava, a native of India, who lives, works, and has raised a family here in Middlebury, will share stories of her personal relationship to Sanathana Dharma, the eternal truths and teachings of Hinduism.

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday, no Adult Ed

Sunday, April 21 – Easter, no Adult Ed