Summer Sunday Schedule

Beginning June 17: One service - 9 a.m. Rite II with music
Sunday, July 1 & 8 - Catherine Nichols
Sunday, July 15 - Larry Yarbrough
Sunday, July 22 - Terry Gleeson
Sunday, July 29 - Larry Yarbrough
Sunday, August 5 - Terry Gleeson
Sunday, August 12 - Sarah Horton
Sunday, August 19 - Larry Yarbrough
Sunday, August 26 - Dianne Nancekivell

Vestry Reflections
gathered by Mary McGuire

Eric
- Seeing the changing patterns of light and color in the new altar window, depending on the time of day, season of the year, and weather outside. The window looks very different at 8:00 am on a gray Epiphany Sunday than it does at 10:30 am on a sunny Trinity Sunday.

Lonnie
- What an amazing congregation we can be when it’s time for Peasant Market.

The Green seems to have more people than we usually are. Plus, each year the event ups its program/organization with new ideas and offerings. For all we do day to day, it is our brand and signature in our community. As I was told by Jennifer Barker long ago, “Don’t worry, everyone comes out of the woodwork and shows up and it happens”. So true, year after year. It represents a LOT of HARD WORK by a lot of souls.
Vestry Reflections

gathered by Mary McGuire (continued from page 1)

Susan:
-For me, St Stephen’s is all about being a community bound together and empowered by our faith, worship and service … and the joy of doing this together. Loving God, each other and all our neighbors is what makes us strong and helps grow our faith. God’s grace and our willingness to extend that grace to each other helps us get through our ups and downs. I am incredibly grateful to be part of this community and look forward to working together to understand God’s calling for us during this time of transition.

Paul:
-In the 5th of his 17 Nativity sermons, Lancelot Andrews preaches about St. Luke’s account of Christ’s birth that there was a “sermon,” preached by an Angel, and then a “hymn,” sung by the choir of Heaven: the Word, then a hymn. What I have loved about Episcopal and Anglican divine service, in cathedrals, college chapels, and our own good grey stone St. Stephen’s, are focus on the Word and our own words about that Word, and our music, in particular our hymns.

May:
“Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.”
(Lanny Wolfe)

Mike:
As I’ve learned from my interviews for P’Scope, as well as through simple observation, we are a congregation of doers. What we do for and through Saint Stephen’s may be more obvious, but many of us have important roles as doers in the wider community - efforts of which we should be equally proud. The flip side of that reality is that the Saint Stephen’s doers are regularly nourished and renewed by our faith community to go out and do, again and again, to the benefit of many.

Tom:
-What I love about St. Stephen’s is that you get an immediate extended family when you join this church. I have said this about every church I have ever belonged to, and it is one of the things I think we often take for granted. We are a welcoming and loving community of diverse people who all share a common interest in worship and ministry. We come to each other’s aid when necessary. We share in each other’s joys and sorrows. One is never alone when one belongs to a church, and St. Stephen’s is no exception.
I love our historic building, our placement on the town green and the many friends I have made here. I love that I am accepted for who I am and that my children had a safe place to thrive when they were young. And of course, I also love pie day!!

Mary:
St. Stephen’s offers me opportunities to hear God’s word, hear other people reflect on God’s word, and then practice living God’s word - to love each other as God loves us. I especially appreciate seeing the generations worshiping, praying, and playing together.
Knowing that children are welcome and feel at home in our church gives me hope for our world.
News from the News
by Linda Horn

Boat News:

Jay Parini and Devon Jersild upgraded their boat to a 2003 Sea Ray Sundancer, 26 feet in length. The name is still under consideration, but they are leaning toward: Row v Wade.

Paul Horn celebrated a big birthday with a 21’ Chapparal motor boat christened WhistleFish. Linda wanted a pontoon boat but it wasn’t her birthday.

Travel News:

Sandy and Bruce Archibald hit the trail the day after Peasant Market to celebrate birthdays ending in zero in Los Angeles and especially the Getty Museum.

Linda Wentworth (formerly known as Linda Quinn) spent much of the early summer in Prague where she earned a certificate in TEFL which has something to do with teaching English.

Barb Wood spent a week in Maine at Goose Rocks Beach with the Aldrich Family. It’s the sixth consecutive year they have had a family reunion at Goose Rocks and there are now eight grandchildren ages two through nine. It’s a ton of fun for Barb to be there with lots of beach time and great food. Four of the grandchildren have been baptized at the Episcopal church in Kennebunkport at the outdoor chapel facing the ocean which is a spectacular venue!

I bet lots of people will have traveled over the summer. Please send me a few details of your trip for a future edition.

Family News:

Paul and Jennifer Nelson entertained ALL of their children and grandchildren early this summer. That’s four adults, two semi-adults, and six kids. The most they hosted at any one time was six. Ted Nelson and Ixi Chen brought Milo, Wes and Max. Meg and John Walters brought along Teddy and a companion (the semi-adults), along with James and Caroline. Some of them climbed Mount Mansfield. Others did shorter hikes. Then James stayed on in Vermont at Camp Sangamon, so they’re not finished yet.

Ann Cooper had a weeklong visit from granddaughter Samantha/Sammy who hails from Indiana.

Small Business News:

We have some industrious folk among us who are running small businesses. I am sure I don’t know what everyone is doing so please let me know your business news! Mike Davis is in cattle and sells grass-fed purebred Scottish Highland beef and breeding stock from Stonefold Beef in Shoreham. stonefoldbeef@gmail.com

Knitter extraordinaire, Mary McGuire, is a partner in the store Yarn and Yoga on Main Street in Bristol. http://www.yarnandyoga.com/

Housing News:

Other big Nelson (Jennifer & Paul) news: they sold their house and will be moving to a cottage at The Residence later in the summer. Books, CDs, dishes, clothes and furniture are flying out their doors as they downsize.

Much to their surprise, Amy Hastings and Larry Yarbrough purchased a new property in New Haven earlier this year--4646 Munger Street (thanks in large part to the encouragement from their soon-to-be neighbors Mary and Ed McGuire!). Plans are to build a new home there, but they aren’t in any rush! Many kind folks have already offered wise counsel about the building process for which they are grateful. In the meantime, they look forward to visits this summer from Austin friends and from son Colin and his wife Bailee and hope they’ll be visible enough while here that they’ll have a chance to see St. Stephen’s friends. They remain grateful for all the love and support offered to the family over the past 2 years.
Transition. The Vestry’s June 24 meeting was our last with Susan McGarry. Thus, we focused on a number of matters related to the upcoming transition in the parish. Our next meeting will be with Canon Lynn Bates from the diocesan office. The agenda for that meeting will include two items: calling an interim rector, who we hope will begin around Labor Day, and beginning the discernment process leading up to a call to our next settled rector. More information on these topics will be provided over the course of the summer. During the time between clergy, the Vestry is canonically responsible for the affairs of the parish. Mary McGuire, as Senior Warden, will be the point person for members of the parish who have concerns that they would like to see addressed by the Vestry. Another Vestry member will serve as a back-up to Mary on a weekly rotating basis throughout the summer.

Pastoral Lay Ministry. Pastoral lay ministry will be coordinated by Jessica Hoagland. If you become aware of any situation in which a member of the parish needs pastoral care, or if you would like to request such care for yourself or a loved one, please contact one of these three people: Jessica Hoagland, Mary McGuire, or Annemarie Deering in the parish office. We do not want any situation in which pastoral care is needed to fall between the cracks.

Task Force on Peasant Market Outreach Grants. The Vestry approved the charge to a task force that will work later this summer and early fall on reviewing the policies, timetable, and communications surrounding outreach grants made with Peasant Market funds. This is in response to a proposal submitted earlier this year by representatives of Peasant Market. Regardless of any changes that may be proposed in the grants process, the substantive focus of Peasant Market grants will continue to be in the area of children and youth. The task force will include representatives of the Vestry, Peasant Market, the Outreach Committee, and the visioning group. Susan Anderson-Ray and May Morris will serve as co-conveners of the task force, which will report back to the Vestry in the fall.

Gallery of Past Rectors. The Vestry decided to begin exploring creating a gallery that would include photographs, portraits, drawings, or sketches of the previous rectors of St Stephen’s for whom images can be obtained. Alice Van Tuyl will coordinate this effort. As we approach the bicentennial of our church building in 2026-27, we want to celebrate the history of the parish, and show how St Stephen’s has evolved and changed over more than two centuries. The gallery of rectors’ images would be part of this effort.

As we enter this time of transition, the vestry asks for your support, and your prayers. May we all be given open minds and listening hearts as we attempt to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading our particular manifestation of God’s House here on earth.
By mid-July, members of the Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee (BDNC) will have conducted approximately 40 Holy Listening sessions. Listening sessions have been held in most of the 45 Episcopal parishes in Vermont, as well as the two parishes in upstate New York that receive delegated episcopal pastoral oversight from the Bishop of Vermont. Some of these sessions have been held after Sunday morning services, others have been evening gatherings in mid-week. Committee members have also held listening sessions with a number of diocesan committees and institutions, including the Diocesan Council, the Trustees, the Ministry Support Team in the diocesan office at Rock Point, the Rock Point Board, and a group of teens attending the Rock Point Camp. We will soon hold a session with all of the clergy in the diocese.

Committee members have found these sessions to be most useful as a way of learning about issues that are on the minds of members of the Episcopal Church in Vermont as we begin the search for our next Bishop. From late July through mid-September, the BDNC will distill the thoughts and ideas from the listening sessions into a profile that will set forth the committee’s sense of some of the major issues that the next Bishop of Vermont will likely face, and what sorts of talents, gifts, skills, experiences, and other characteristics we should look for in the new Bishop. This profile will be discussed with elected parish delegates and canonically resident clergy at the special diocesan convention that has been called for Saturday, September 29. The location of the special convention will be announced soon. Please note that all members of the Episcopal Church in Vermont are welcome to attend the special convention, whether or not they are serving as elected parish delegates.
Sometimes, Meg Fitch thinks about her legacy. Most of us wonder (and more so as we age) how we will be remembered after we’re gone; in Meg’s case, her wondering is more intentional... ‘will I have done enough’ to right wrongs, to protect the weak and the natural world, to heal division. I can’t answer that question, but after a pleasant visit with Meg for this article I am confident that she has already done a great deal, and will do more in the future, to contribute to a robust and enviable legacy. There is, however, a lot more to Meg than her activism, so let’s find out more.

In the beginning, Meg was born in Chicago. Middle child between two brothers, a good student who enjoyed debate, child of agnostic parents who at age 11 decided she wanted to know about Jesus. That was the beginning of her spiritual journey, but like a lot of Episcopalians there are several twists and turns between then and now that we will touch on as we go. Her academic journey was pretty straightforward; she attended Bates because of their reputation for debate, and left with a degree in English. The English degree also marks a step in her literary journey, because Meg is and always has been a writer. Since the third grade, she has written prose and poetry, she claims to have a thick folder of rejection notices from publishers, and most recently worked in that cathedral church of English majors, also known as a library. That third grade epiphany was part of a grade school experience in a one room school house, taught by an excellent teacher who had a big impact on Meg’s preparation for future endeavors. By this time her family had moved to a dairy farm near Hubbardton, and were Vermonters for good.

Growing up with left-leaning parents does not automatically make you a liberal, but in Meg’s case she thinks she would have leaned that way anyhow. She does, however, admit to a brief period of conservatism in early adulthood, probably a result of a fairly rigid church environment along the way. That did not last, and she has become committed to a short list of social and environmental causes. She has been involved in ESL and transportation ministries for Spanish-speaking migrant farm workers, has an interest in the Black Lives Matter movement, and (like all good Vermonters) pays a lot of attention to environmental issues. Meg has recently been active in helping guide Saint Stephen’s adult education program, and finds that a wonderful opportunity to learn more about these and other issues from a spiritual perspective.

Meg’s younger brother was married in an Episcopal church, and that experience led to her being attracted to our denomination...she was particularly affected by the symbolisms of sacraments, liturgy, and the trappings of worship. She spent her early church life in the Congregational Church, coming to the Episcopal Church as a young adult. Long time parishioners probably know of her work at Rock Point, where she started as a cook and eventually ended up as Director there, a work experience spanning 18 years. From that vantage point she got to know a lot of folks in the Diocese, including Saint Stephen’s parishioners, and it was that familiarity with some of us that led her to begin attending SS. She recounted an experience with her daughter Heather during Terry’s time as rector, when she was still something of an occasional visitor here; after a particularly moving sermon, Heather leaned over to her mom and said ‘you should be here’. From a rather troubled environment at her previous church, Saint Stephen’s has from that point become her church home. Good for us.

Meg (given name Megaera, a character in a book her mom was reading, Greek origin) is one of those quiet people at Saint Stephen’s, but also a doer. From her home on the family farm 20 miles away she has had a steady and meaningful impact on our church. As we once again look ahead to transition and some uncertainty, Meg suggests that in our dialogues with each other we let our guard down and be vulnerable – to know each other better and to deal with our problems more honestly. Good advice. And speaking of conversation, one way to get Meg talking would be to ask her (especially if you are hip to the 60’s–70’s folk scene in VT) about her connection to a well-known folk musician...it has to do with her poetry. Actually, for a quiet person she’s pretty talkative...do yourself a favor and get to know Meg better.
Peasant Market Results
Thanks to everyone’s hours of labor and the additional gift of an anonymous donor, Peasant Market 2018 brought in $29,000 – the most in several years. Eight of our booths had record-high levels of income. Thank you all for your hard work to help others in our community. – Sandy Archibald & Joe McVeigh

Peasant Market Wrap-up Meeting
All interested are invited to a pot-luck brunch and wrap-up meeting at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 22 at the home of Joe and Leila McVeigh, 11 Chipman Heights in Middlebury. Please come, bring some food to share and ideas on how to make Peasant Market 2019 (and 2020) even better. Questions: Joe McVeigh 388-1244 (home) 989-9238 (cell) joe@joemcveigh.org

Helen Porter Service July 22
St. Stephen’s monthly service at the Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will be held on Sunday, July 22, at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Please plan to join us at 3:15 pm if you are able to assist residents getting to and from the Common Room and following along with the service. Questions: please contact Eric Davis, at ericd@middlebury.edu or 802-236-0991.

Help Needed for Community Supper July 27
Volunteers Needed! St. Stephen’s will be hosting community supper at the Midd. Congregational Church on Friday, July 27 at 5pm. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table for volunteers to help prepare the meal at the beginning of the week and to help set up and serve the meal on Friday. Please contact Tom Turley for more information, 759-2241.

Neighbors Together Asks for Volunteers
Neighbors, Together is looking for volunteers on community events this summer. The shifts are short and need a variety of talents. Please check it out at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4cadad28a4fc1midd Contact Linda Horn with questions, linda-horn14@gmail.com.

Silence for a While: Parishscope Goes Quiet
Hello everyone! This is Jennifer Nelson, the Parishscope editor, here. Paul and I will be moving in late July and early August from the house where we’ve lived for 50 years into a cottage at The Residence at Otter Creek. As you can imagine, this will take a bit of time and concentration, and I won’t be able to produce a Parishscope again until at least September, and possibly later. We cast around for volunteers earlier this spring and nobody we spoke to was willing to take on the publication, even for a short time. So St. Stephen’s will be ‘Scope-less for a while.

In the intervening time, feel free to imagine yourself involved with this monthly publication. If you write poems, read interesting books, watch inspiring videos, and would like to share your thoughts, feel free! My contact information will remain the same. Don’t hesitate to be in touch.

jgn
From Our Junior Warden -- Tom Klemmer

Greetings from your Junior Warden!

As we come down from the high of another successful Peasant Market I will keep this relatively short. We are slowly getting back to a normal pace at St. Stephen’s, and there are a few items to note here. First, our columbarium is now under construction at the factory. Peter Dempewolff has finished the preliminary alterations to the chapel and has the materials necessary to build the base structure on which the new columbarium will rest. Now that Peasant Market is over and we once again have access to the chapel, Peter will continue in this endeavor.

The gardens look FABULOUS! Thank you again to everyone who is volunteering their time to maintain them. Your work is greatly appreciated indeed.

Now for some unfortunate news: Our air conditioning unit that supplies air to the church offices and the upper meeting room has come to the end of its life. Peter and I are exploring several replacement options at this time and will present a solution once we have gathered all the necessary information. This is an unexpected expense and will certainly put additional stress on our already strained budget. I also don’t think we have seen our last heat wave this summer, so perhaps if you have a free moment, you may consider bringing Annemarie and Peter some cold refreshments in the weeks to come.

Your vestry is working diligently to keep things running smoothly during this time of transition. It is certainly a busy time for all of us as we move forward. Please know that we are always available to talk or answer emails if you should have any concerns during this time. That is all for now. Have a great summer!

Tom Klemmer

During the coming summer period you can contact Jessica, Mary or Annemarie if you have pastoral care needs. Anyone of them can connect to the others. Do not be shy, St. Stephen’s will not know of your need unless you or someone else lets us know. Even when you are in the hospital, we do not get notification. If you know someone you think we should be calling on, ask them if you can make the referral. This is so important to making sure we offer loving support in difficult times.

Jessica Hoagland (388-9012, hoagland.j@comcast.net), pastoral lay ministry coordinator; Mary McGuire (802-598-1895 or 388-6740, mary.c.mcguire10@gmail.com), Senior Warden; or Annemarie Deering, in the office (3887200, ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com).