God’s timing may not feel like our timing, but it’s the best timing. That’s a paraphrase of a quote shared with me this week, and then I received this Thomas Merton prayer from another very wise person:

God, we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead of us. We cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do we really know ourselves, and the fact that we think we are following your will does not mean that we are actually doing so. But we believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And we hope that we have that desire in all that we are doing.

We hope that we will never do anything apart from that desire. And we know that if we do this, you will lead us by the right road, though we know nothing about it. Therefore we will trust you even if we seem to be lost.

We will not fear, for you are ever with us and you will never leave us to face our perils alone.

Need I really say more? I believe that some impatience and worry around calling an interim clergy person is human, but let’s not get stuck there. We are not standing still, not simply waiting for a clergy person to lead the way. The Vestry has interviewed four candidates, and we are quite interested in one. This person is in the beginning stages of conversations with two other communities, however, and so, although very attracted to St. Stephen’s and Middlebury, is taking more time to discern God’s call. In the meantime, the Vestry will continue to interview candidates as they emerge with full confidence that God is with us. Please know, also, that we haven’t forgotten that some of you are very interested in serving on the discernment team. We have been advised by the Bishop and Canon for us to focus on our prayers for the interim discernment first as well as the activities and prayers of running the church. Read through the Parishscope to see the good energy God’s spirit is inspiring in us!
Some Announcements

Nominating Committee for Vestry and Convention 2019 - if you are interested in serving in either of these ways or know someone who might be interested, please contact one of the committee members: Paul Nelson, May Morris, and Lonnie Fisher. Jessica Hoagland and Sandy Ketcham are at-large members of the committee. Please see the committee's report elsewhere in the Parishscope.

Annual Meeting: January 20, 2019 is the date for our annual meeting. All committee reports must be submitted to Annemarie by Dec 14 to ensure inclusion in the annual report. We want to have that available in the church by the Sunday before Annual Meeting, so please write those reports and get them in.

Some Thanks

I have come to call them our parish family priests - Sarah Horton, Diane Nancekivell, Catherine Nichols, and Larry Yarbrough. They are leading monthly services at Eastview and The Residence, occasionally offering Eucharist at the Wednesday services in the chapel, give pastoral care, and are Sunday celebrants and preachers. I know we are all enjoying their presence at the altar and in the pulpit, and I personally am being held up by their encouragement and wisdom. The Vestry voted to offer them honoraria for their services beyond the Sunday supply services as a token of our deep appreciation.

Many thanks to the Stewardship Committee! The Annual Campaign kick-off potluck, very well-attended, was such fun. Emcees Mike Davis and Paul Horn will be taking their show on the road soon, and I hear that if you play just the right song, maybe Larry Yarbrough will dance a brief jig in honor of the campaign's theme - let's dance. In-gathering Sunday is on November 18 - one service at 10am that day with a potluck brunch to follow. We'll enjoy an extra special preacher that day: the Rev. Christopher Hogin. Many of us remember Chris who lived here in 1999, led the youth group (who loved him) and then moved on, eventually to seminary. Currently he is the priest at Ascension Church in Knoxville, TN.

I want to thank all the committees of our church who are leading and moving forward with both their routine duties as well as seeking out ways to be God's hands and heart in our community: Altar Guild; Adult Forum; Community Lunch and Supper; Facilities; Fellowship; Finance; Godly Play; Liturgy; Loaves & Fishes; Neighbors, Together; Nominating; Outreach (please see their report elsewhere in the Parishscope), Pastoral Care. Our lay staff also continues to carry on, working together in innovative and faithful ways. Annemarie, George, Peter, and Susanne are genuine gifts to our family by enriching our worship, caring for our building, and keeping us informed and organized.

I took our grandson Ryder to the Echo Science Center today where we saw two turtles who had been rescued from suitcases headed to China. They were sitting on a couple of rocks in an aquarium, and we learned that they were recovering well, in good health, and were basking - a technical term, apparently, when describing turtles resting happily in the light. May we all bask in God's peace and joy, --Mary

Vestry and Convention Election

Three members of the vestry complete their terms in January: Lonnie Fisher, May Morris, and Paul Nelson. According to our by-laws they are members of a nominating committee which compiles and finalizes a list of candidates from which three new members of the vestry will be elected at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 20. They are joined in their work this year by two at-large members, Jessica Hoagland and Sandy Ketcham. The committee will in addition nominate candidates to be delegates to two diocesan conventions, next year, the “regular” convention and a Special Convention to elect a new Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont. The nominating committee will solicit candidates for all these positions, and will in addition receive self-nominations for these ministries.
Suzie Klemmer will be playing the role of Lina Lamont in the classic musical “Singin’ in the Rain” on November 15 and 16 at 7pm, and November 17 at 2pm at Middlebury Union High School.

Kitty and Eric Davis attended a special service in Pittsfield, MA, on October 21 as part of the “Episcopal Revival” sponsored by the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry delivered the sermon. He is even more inspiring in person than he is online or on television.

This photograph shows Bishop Curry and Canon Stephanie Spellers processing by the pew where we were seated.

More About Transitions by Gunnar Urang

Everywhere we look, transitions seem to confront us right now. As a diocese: the election of a new Bishop; at the Cathedral: the need for a Dean; in our own parish: new clergy leadership. One of the take-home sheets offered the adult education group recently engaging this issue of transition was a selection of scriptural passages mirroring such moments for faith communities and individual seekers in the earliest Church. This article and a few others to follow will comment briefly on some of these passages in light of choices now before us.

Mathew 16:13 ff. and John 6:60, 66-69

Early on in his ministry of healing and teaching (and, with the Twelve, “coaching”) Jesus asks, in a seemingly-offhand way, “Who do people say that I am?” “John the Baptist,” someone replies; “Elijah,” says another; or: “One of the prophets.”

Then the question is (pointedly) re-phrased: “But who do you say that I am?” The answer given (by Simon Peter, needless to say) does not identify one or another theory; it conveys positive commitment: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

As members of the Church, you and I, as individuals and as a community, are those who embrace this affirmation of faith and seek to govern our lives accordingly. Our declaration is again and again tested, time and time again needing to be reaffirmed.
Changes in the Outreach Committee

by Lonnie Fisher

Concerns brought up by Ryan Nevius and Sandy Archibald during Peasant Market last summer led to an extensive examination of options in how we can share and leverage our Peasant Market proceeds. The concerns centered on two topics: 1) why do we wait until the following Spring to disburse the grants? 2) Why does the general population think we keep the proceeds for us? A third proposal was that instead of donating to 20 + organizations, we instead support one to three with more money and become involved in their programs?

Recommendations from the task force are 1) We do a thorough vetting of potential recipients, appointing liaisons to visit the organizations to ask questions and weigh outcomes and opportunities for hands on involvement by us in a range of capacities. 2) We select one organization with greater potential for our involvement for a larger grant than we usually provide and disburse it in the same year as the latest Peasant Market. 3) We do much better with communication and PR both within the church and in the greater community. 4) We invite our grantees to be present with information during the Peasant Market and even invite them for ministry moments or presentations to the congregation so we can all get to know our beneficiaries.

The bigger grant structure will be viewed as a pilot project to be reviewed and evaluated for continuation or not. The Vestry has accepted the recommendations so now the Outreach committee is looking for members who can buy into the new format of being a liaison and willing to become involved in supporting our beneficiaries with more than just dollars. This is what we are called to do, to be God’s hands reaching out to our sisters, brothers and children.

We are very excited about the possibilities with this new format and hope you will be too.

HELP WANTED: persons interested in getting to know our non profit beneficiaries and being a liaison and communicator for the beneficiary in our parish. Please contact Lonnie Fisher 388 0834 fishidd@gmail.com

More About Transitions by Gunnar Urang continued from page 3

A moment of such re-affirmation is dramatized in an exchange at the end of John chapter six. Some would-be (or could-have-been) disciples have realized that “this teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” and have decided to “turn back and no longer [go] about with [Jesus].” Once again comes the follow-up question: “Do you also wish to go away?” And once again Peter is ready: “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

For us in the church, the calling of a new clergy leader can pose anew the question “Who do you say that I am? or re-enliven that prompting whisper, “Do you also wish to go away?” May it for us yield rather the heart’s response—as in a song remembered from “Tuesday School” many years ago—“I have decided to follow Jesus: no turning back, no turning back.”

Next Parishscope: Nov/Dec 2018
Deadline for submissions: December 6th
Be in touch with editor Jennifer Nelson (jgnelson@middlebury.edu) or 802 388 7008

And give News from the Pews to Linda Horn (lindahorn14@gmail.com) or 802 388 2300
The profile for the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont has been posted online at https://www.bishopsearchvt.org/. The deadline for applications and nominations is Friday, November 16.

The Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee (BDNC) will be spending November through March reviewing applications, and through prayer and discernment, selecting a slate of finalists who will be presented to a special convention of the diocese for election as the next Bishop of Vermont. The committee will begin by carefully reading all the applications. This will take some time, since applicants are being asked to write approximately 20 pages of responses to essay questions as part of their applications. In January and February, the committee will conduct video interviews with many of the applicants. At the same time, committee members will conduct reference check calls on many of the candidates. Later in February, the BDNC will select a group of semi-finalists who will be invited to join the committee for a four-day discernment retreat at the Bishop Booth Conference Center at Rock Point in mid-March. During this retreat, members of the committee will conduct intensive interviews with the semi-finalists. Each candidate will also lead a worship service during the retreat. The practice in the Episcopal Church is for bishop semi-finalists to be together during a discernment retreat – very different from searches in other professions, where candidates are interviewed one-at-a-time.

Following the retreat and further discernment, the BDNC will recommend a slate of finalists whose names will be presented to the convention delegates and clergy by the Standing Committee for consideration for election as bishop. Walkabouts – sessions at which the finalists will make brief presentations and answer questions – will be held at several locations throughout Vermont between April 28 and May 1, 2019. The special convention to elect the bishop will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at the Cathedral Church of St Paul in Burlington. Lay delegates to this convention will be those elected at parish annual meetings in January 2019.

The 11th Bishop of Vermont will be consecrated on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be the celebrant and preacher at this service. In the months ahead, the diocesan Transition Committee will provide more information on the walkabouts, the special convention, and the service of consecration, as well as a series of receptions to honor Bishop Thomas C. Ely on his retirement.

For the 6th consecutive year, St. Stephen’s will offer a series of free 1/2 hour noonday Advent concerts on Thursdays at 12:15, starting November 29th with the Addison String Quartet, led by Emily Sunderman. On December 6th, George Matthew Jr. will present a program of Advent and Christmas organ music. On December 20th our own Jack DesBois will return to give us one more of his marvelous vocal recitals.

On December 13th, we will not have a noonday concert. Rather, at 7 pm we will again present the Festival of Lucia, directed by Mr. Rostan Swensen of Orwell, with St. Stephen’s people augmented by members of the Nordic Chorus of Londonderry, VT and tentatively some children from the Orwell Lucia Chorus.

The light of Lucia originally a Swedish tradition, now cheers the darkest days of the year, from Scandinavia to Romania, Italy and the USA.
Getting to Know Karl Neuse
by Mike Davis

Anybody who can remember steam trains spewing ash into the south windows of the sanctuary during a Harry Jones sermon has been around a while and seen a few things. Although there are some others who can recall these events, this story is about Karl Neuse — retired attorney, devoted 8 o’clocker, student of golf. I will start this story where I usually end…things you can ask Karl about that will start him talking and — ultimately — reveal a lot about him and his relationships with Middlebury and Saint Stephen’s.

Town of Middlebury Board of Selectmen
The Moravian Church
Addison County Regional Planning Commission; planned giving and the role of estate planning in SS financial health

There is even more to Karl than this eclectic mix might suggest, and hopefully you are now engaged enough to read on. Karl was born in Porter Hospital and grew up in Middlebury. He can remember going to the parsonage next door to the MC President’s home to play with the priests’ kids. Speaking of the College, Karl’s family was strongly connected there with his father as head of the German department, founder of the German School in Mainz, and instrumental in the formation of the German department at the local campus. Eloise, his mother, who died when he was at Williams College, was the other half of his father’s German department for 20+ years. She was born in Leonard, ND where her family was living in a Moravian rectory. When she was the family moved to Wisconsin and she ultimately became an undergrad at UW/Madison…where his future father was pursuing his doctorate in German. They were wed in Bethlehem, PA, where the Moravian Church in the United States was founded.

Karl’s spiritual journey is rooted in Middlebury, where he was baptized in the Congregational Church. A budding ecumenist, Karl was baptized by his uncle who was a Moravian minister. By 1948 Karl had become active at Saint Stephen’s during Harry Jones’ tenure as rector, and he has from that point been active and involved at Saint Stephen’s. He and Diane married in an Episcopal Church on Long Island, and they raised two daughters at SS. He can recall good times and bad at SS, both in terms of finances and healthy clergy relationships. He’s been on the Vestry for both, and remembers that, more than anything, he wanted to see Saint Stephen’s survive. He was Jr. Warden before the church had a Sexton, and things weren’t nearly as well kept as they are now. Karl has strong feelings about the church and it’s future, opining that ‘we can’t always find an Addison Hall’ to lead us. He also feels strongly about a subject near to this writer’s heart, that being an emphasis on estate planning and encouraging members of all means to include SS in their will, in order to shore up the endowment that sees us through difficult times.

Most know Karl as an attorney in town. Karl attended Northfield/Mt. Hermon prep in MA (3 sport athlete), BA at Williams, and law school at Georgetown. He cites one particular decision he made early in life that made him a better student. ( that decision was to become a better reader. This, he says, enabled him to master the law and many other disciplines to the benefit of many around him. When asked about his favorite work, he cites his long role in the Regional Planning Commission. Being active in the community included 9 years on the Select Board, 2 of those as chair, and 35 yrs (!) in the Army National Guard including 30 years as a JAG officer, Staff Judge Advocate and retirement at the rank of Colonel.

Coming from a long line of men who have trouble expressing emotions publicly, I find it refreshing to learn that Karl is unabashedly emotional at times...he even choked up a bit during our interview. Far from a sign of weakness, this strikes me as a sign of a confident, open, honest person; the kind you would want to know better. If that is true for you, reader, then a few more suggestions for conversation starters; ask about traveling Germany with his ‘baby sister’, or about his and Diane’s interest in golf. Or better still — what advice does Karl have for Saint Stephen’s in our current circumstance, as one who has ‘been there and done that’ for quite a while.
FINANCIAL NOTES FROM YOUR TREASURER

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Operating Actual Compared to Budget
January through September, 2018

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<th>Jan - Sep 18</th>
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Selected balances from Statement of Financial Position (aka Balance Sheet) as of September 30, 2018

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<th>Sep 30, 17</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
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<td>777,520.95</td>
<td>30,356.85</td>
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We are now at the end of our third quarter for 2018. As we head into fall, revenues have picked up noticeably. We received our DUT quarterly interest payment, $9,420, at the end of September. Of note is the increase in unrealized gain on the DUT – more than $30,000. Our checking account balance fluctuates week to week, as we have had significant expenses during September and early October: The purchase of our pre-paid oil (approximately $8,000), which should carry us through March 2019, and the installation of a new heat pump (approximately $10,000). The columbarium is expected to be completed sometime in mid-November. A shout-out to each of us who are keeping current with our giving goals!

By managing the timing of our bill payments, we managed the lean summer months and early fall without having to draw on our savings or LOC. (We just received notification that the LOC interest rate was increased from 5.75% to 6%.) Susan McGarry’s employment with St. Stephen’s will conclude at the end of October and this current period without an interim rector will have an impact on cash flow.

We have implemented a project management system in QuickBooks that allows us to track Peasant Market and other projects and to create project-specific reports. This system has proven especially valuable in analyzing Peasant Market results. Each Peasant Market involves transactions that cross several years, with income earned and direct expenses paid in Year 1 and sometimes earlier, and grants disbursed in Year 2. By Year 2, we have started a new Peasant Market. This situation created a reporting problem insofar as the income and direct expenses never matched the grant disbursements in our monthly or annual financial reports.

We are presently getting ready to transfer our accounting to QuickBooks Online. Our present system, which utilizes Microsoft Remote Desktop Protocol, is slow and not designed for newer large high-resolution monitors, which I use. Only a single user is allowed access at one time. QB OL allows up to 5 simultaneous users, which will allow Barb Wood and me to work at the same time or collaborate. I hope to have the software transition completed by the end of October so that we will be ready to start budgeting for next year. I can’t believe how fast this year is racing toward 2019!

If you wish additional financial information, please contact me at barbara.stratton@comcast.net

Barbara Stratton, Treasurer
From Our Junior Warden -- Tom Klemmer

Greetings from your junior warden. I am going to keep this on the short side this month. Our heat pump is working fabulously! We have raised $4,459.58 so far toward the cost of the heat pump. We still would like to raise the remaining $5,775 to cover the cost so as to eliminate the impact of this expense on our budget. Donations can be made via the St. Stephen’s website using Paypal or you can drop off a donation in person designating that it go toward the heat pump.

Our columbarium should be coming sometime during the second week of November! We are very excited for this addition to our ministry.

One item I want to address is the announcements made during the Sunday service. Starting this Sunday, the 21st, we will be implementing a new procedure for the announcements. We will have a microphone stand to hold the wireless microphone. When it is time for announcements, one of the ushers will bring the microphone stand down to the front of the church and invite all those who wish to make an announcement to line up at the microphone. When everyone has finished their announcements, the ushers will remove the microphone stand and the service will proceed. Of course, anyone who is unable to come down to the front of the church will have the microphone brought to their seat. I have seen this model work very well at several other parishes, so let’s give this a try.

That’s all for this month. Thank you.

Making Changes to Address Global Warming
by Kristen Swartzentruber

This past week I was walking in the forest with my two young boys. They had been inside all morning and had a lot of energy. I packed them in the car and we drove a few short miles to my favorite easy trail. We all breathed a sigh of relief as we started walking and exploring. It was one of those perfect Vermont fall days: chilly but not cold, sunny too. As we walked through the yellow and red dappled sunlight a breeze blew some leaves off the trees. As they floated to the ground my six year old yelled, “Ah! The magic of nature!”

That sentence floored me. Yes, I thought, that is magic.

With the recent U.N. Climate Change report coming out we realize the situation for our earth, or as my six year old put it, “the “magic of nature”, is quite dire and we all need to make changes. On October 7th, ten of us got together for an adult ed session to brainstorm steps we can take as individuals to lessen our impact on our earth. First we discussed the top ten ways we could reverse global warming.

We looked at a book called Drawdown, edited by Paul Hawken. Some of the ideas were not a surprise, such as saving the Tropical Forests from being cut down which was #5 in importance for reversing global warming. Others didn’t seem as straightforward but have far reaching effects, such as educating girls. That was #6 out of a 100 ways to reverse climate change. Many of us, after learning about that one, decided we wanted to look further into organizations who have that as their mission.

At the end of our session together we took some time to write down ways we want to change how we live in order to lessen our negative impact on the earth. Here are a few ways in which your fellow parishioners are changing their lives: reducing trips to town/combining trips, refusing to buy items packaged in too much plastic, eating more fruits and vegetables and less meat, looking into buying a hybrid vehicle, donating money to fund the heat pumps at St. Stephens, reducing food waste, switching to an electric car within a year, changing light bulbs to LED, remembering to bring grocery bags when shopping, looking into solar for home use and voting for representatives who can help us make changes on a larger level.

This may seem like just a drop in the bucket, but we must be active and not stagnant in this overwhelming time. Let’s continue to educate ourselves, challenge our way of thinking and living and encourage each other in our endeavors so that more children can enjoy the “magic of nature.”