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Letter from the Editor

It has now been a little over a year since I attended my first service at St. Stephen's. It was a frigid day in January when the snow lay thickly on the trees and my breath formed crystal clouds in the air. I went alone to the early service, sat in the back and quickly slipped out after the conclusion. Winter continued, the earth slept deeply and COVID shooed everyone into their homes.

April came and the snows receded. Crocuses braved the cold soil and weak sun, and I decided to check in on St. Stephen's again. Services had moved from inside the beautiful church to online and there was an interim ministry team. A tumultuous beginning, but then, spring always is.

Weather warmed and each week my little sprouts received kindness and care at Godly Play. I listened and learned at the Sunday worship, deepening roots and broadening my understanding of faith.

Now the sun is high and the trees are in full leaf. We now have a full time priest, sometime in-person worship, and I have volunteered to edit the Parishscope. Truly, the dormant seeds planted in winter have bloomed in the fullness of the sun. I can't help but look forward to more beautiful blooms and deeper roots nourished by God, faith and the loving community of St. Stephen's.

Thank you for welcoming my family into your parish!

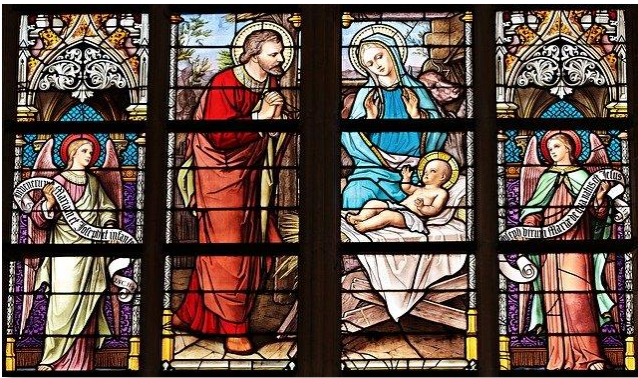
Alexis Perkins



Wither our Worship

by The Reverend Paul V. Olsson

It's hard to believe that it's been six months since I drove from New Jersey to Middlebury to begin our new ministry together. And in all that time, the one constant has been remote worship shared with all of you through the technological marvel that is Zoom. Love it or hate it, none of our church communities could have survived the pandemic without it. Yes, there have been a few precious opportunities for in-person worship, but Zoom is probably here to stay with us for the foreseeable future. We've learned that technology like Zoom helps us expand our reach to include lots of homebound and far-flung parishioners on any given Sunday. In short, Zoom has become a powerful tool for evangelism.



But now, as our state moves through the final stages of lifting precautions and removing barriers to public gatherings, we are challenged to keep pace with all of these developments. The Diocese of Vermont has consistently been concerned with the health and well-being of everyone during the pandemic, and their approach has been extremely cautious. Back in March, the diocesan Restart Team grounded their guidance with this theological statement “From the beginning of our pandemic-time ministry in the Diocese of Vermont we

have been guided by our theology of the Body. That is, in Jesus Christ we are one Body in which we find all our life and meaning, and are committed to the common good and the welfare of the most vulnerable members of our wider community.”

With that theological understanding in mind, what will we at St. Stephen's do this summer when it comes to worship? We're inching forward, slowly but surely to a return to indoor, in-person worship. As this goes to press, your parish Re-Opening Committee is finalizing and submitting our application for Phase 4 indoor, in-person worship. We hope to have an approval in hand and all of the details sorted out to begin indoor services come Sunday, July 4 – Independence Day (a quite fitting day to celebrate this milestone). Coming back to in-person worship in the church will require a renewed commitment on everyone's part to care for the other. Ushers, lectors, Altar Guild members, Designated Health Officers (DHOs) and other liturgical helpers will all need to recommit to their ministries, and in some cases adapt to the new and emerging protocols that will be part of our worship. For these in-person services to continue to be live-streamed on Zoom, we'll also need to develop a new and better trained tech squad to provide assistance at all of these hybrid services. And parishioners in the pews will need to adapt to all the required protocols that keep us safe – RSVPing for Sunday attendance given the limited capacity of our nave, masking, social distancing and no singing.

June continues to be our transition month, alternating each Sunday between Zoom-only Ante-Communion on the first and third Sundays and a hybrid Zoom/in-person, outdoor Holy Eucharist on the Green on the second and fourth Sundays. July will hopefully bring the return of in-person worship in the church and by August (with fingers crossed) I'm hoping we might see an expansion of the numbers who may attend and a return to singing.

I realize that many of you are anxious to resume normal worship patterns as soon as possible. Some of you have expressed your opinion that all of these protocols and precautions are tiresome and silly. But I've been hearing the voices of your fellow parishioners sharing stories of COVID cases hitting friends even after being fully vaccinated, parishioners expressing reticence on returning for in-person worship, and parents wondering how to manage a return to in-person worship when their children will not be vaccinated. All of these concerns are valid and deserve our respect and understanding. And if we're truly concerned about the well-being of everyone, then we must be willing to tamp down our own sense of individual liberty in order that everyone might be safe. That what being part of Christian community looks like. And that's what we'll strive for here at St. Stephen's.

Senior Warden Report

by Mike Davis



ParishScope Returns!

First things first; a heartfelt THANK YOU to Alexis Perkins who has taken over editing and production of PS after a hiatus of several months. This is no small job, aided by all the contributors, by Ryan and Annemarie, but most of all calls for a leader who can take material produced by others and make it into a readable, informative, and useful document.

Mutual Ministry

I want to spend some time on the issue of Mutual Ministry, and the MM Review that will happen soon between the Vestry, Paul, and a representative of the Diocese, Canon Auburn Watersong. As you recall this was a process included in Paul's contract, encouraged by both our parish and the Diocese. What I've learned, though, is that St. Stephen's interest in Mutual Ministry goes back AT LEAST as far as Catherine's tenure here. I know this because in my digging through old church docs looking for various things, I ran across a set of notes that documented a Mutual Ministry Review between Catherine and the Vestry. There have been at least a couple of instances of MM efforts since then, but this time is different in that it was a prominent feature of our 'job posting', and it was also something that Paul found particularly attractive when he first considered working here.

Fast forward to a couple weeks ago, when Jim Pugh shared a survey with you to establish a baseline of parish sentiment on our progress in the time since Paul started late last year. Thank you to all who replied; there are many thoughtful 'ponderables' in those responses and it gives us a lot to think about. One thing to remember about this process is that we didn't start our work together with Paul having a formal set of 'Ministry goals' that we would now be reviewing at the 6 month mark - rather, we have been doing what was necessary and (hopefully) helpful to the parish as a whole. Thus we will be evaluating our progress on those things that - had we thought about it - we would have written down as goals back in November. Long story short, your comments for the survey are spot-on in terms of what we've tried to do, where we have or have not done everything we could, and to some extent which of those activities should live on as goals for the near future.

Speaking of the future, we are committed to a cycle of Mutual Ministry Reviews every six months or so. To keep this process alive, vital, and constructive will require the attention of all of us. I firmly believe that MMR has the potential to keep us focused, and to enhance the reach and reward of our ministries, both external and internal. It's

not a job evaluation. It's not just Paul and the Vestry. It's not doing the same things the same way over and over again. Mutual Ministry can - and likely will - take us in new directions, as we are open to God's guidance.

Altar Guild: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

By Barb Wood

The Altar Guild has been on a semi hiatus for the past 15 months. Now that we are planning to return to in person worship services, the Altar Guild needs to add new members. We need at least 3 new members to cover the 4 or 5 monthly services. Each member is part of a team and is responsible for one Sunday a month.

Please call Barb Wood at 388-2262 if you would be willing to volunteer for this ministry or have questions.

Peasant Market Update!

As we await final approval for a modified Peasant Market 2021, please keep your eye on our Thursday Emails for more details to come. Contact PM2021 co-chairs with any questions: Liz Cleveland liz_cleveland_vt@hotmail.com, Linda Horn lindahorn14@gmail.com

Creativity and Collaboration: Food Ministries During the 2020/21 Pandemic

by Sharon Tierra, Chair of Food Ministries

Before the Covid-19 pandemic drastically changed our lives in March of 2020, our parish was engaged in several long standing food ministries. We helped alleviate food insecurity in our community in one or more of these food ministries:

- Bringing non-perishable food to church on Sundays;
- Delivering the food collected on Sunday to the food shelves at HOPE and CVOEO;



- On Mondays throughout the year, cooking and serving free lunch for the community in our parish hall;
- Donating food items for bag lunches / preparing 30 bag lunches each week, delivered to HOPE and CVOEO for their clients in need;
- Donating child-friendly foods and packing boxes for families, to alleviate child hunger during school vacation times;

- Several times a year, providing the food, cooking the meal and serving over 250 people who are served by the weekly Community Supper, held at the Congregational Church.

When Covid-19 restrictions stopped our usual food ministry activities, we found new, creative, and collaborative ways to continue to help, including:

- Purchasing a generous amount of sliced lunch meat from Greg's each week, and delivering it to Charter House, as our contribution towards Charter House's feeding program for people temporarily housed at area motels/hotels because of the pandemic;
- Providing muffins, cookies, and other baked goods for Charter House's feeding program;
- (NEW) Providing a large quantity of cookies and brownies the first week of each month as the dessert for over 250 people served by the

weekly Community Supper, with 18 St. Stephen's bakers involved!

Again, many of you have been involved with these new food ministries, offering your talents, time and resources to help vulnerable people in our community. I am also aware that many in our parish also donate and volunteer as individuals, to address the interconnected social issues of affordable housing, racial justice, living wages, health disparities, and food insecurity. Thank you so much!

As restrictions are lifted and the needs of our neighbors change again, no doubt there will be a lot more changes and opportunities for St Stephen's to address hunger in our community. Some of our food ministries may look the same as before, and some may be very different. May we remember the lessons of this pandemic, stay flexible in our thinking, seek to serve in caring and effective ways, and always be open to exploring new ways of being God's hands in the world.

A Year Ago – the Music Ministry survey

By Jim Pugh

Last July members of the congregation were invited to participate in a comprehensive survey about the rich music programs we experience together at St. Stephen's. A summary of the results is below.

A summary such as this does not fully convey the passion that many people expressed in their extensive comments. We love our music in its many forms, and we miss live performance terribly.

The results do show the tremendous range of preferences that we bring into the pews on Sunday morning and other services and special performances. This helps to explain the variety of the musical experience at St. Stephen's.

There is deep respect for George Matthew and the organ music. There is support for revitalization of the choir. There is great appreciation for the special performers and concerts.

As we emerge from the pandemic, an important step will be the hiring of a new choir director. The results of this survey will help candidates to understand the challenge and opportunity of the position. Our choral music is anchored by the rich Anglican tradition, but it is much more than that.



Summary of the survey of our music ministry was conducted on SurveyMonkey from July 7-21, 2020.

Sixty-three persons started the survey. Of these, ten persons did not enter any answers other than for Q1. The number of checks and comments below are from the fifty-three (53) persons who answered some or all of questions 2-12.

Comments about specific individuals are combined with specific ministries. For example, a comment about George Matthew is included in comments about the organ ministry.

	# of checks	
Q1. Involvement with the music ministry of St. Stephen's (check all that apply)		
1	42	79%
2	32	60%
3	27	51%
4	26	49%
5	22	42%
6	12	23%
7	9	17%
8	8	15%
9	7	13%
"	7	13%
11	5	9%
12	4	8%
13	3	6%
"	3	6%
15	1	2%
"	1	2%
"	1	2%
18	0	0%

	Number of mentions
Q2. Describe your involvement with the music ministry of St. Stephen's.	
1 I like/love to sing	7
" Important form/part of worship	7
3 Appreciation of/Love for music	5
" Communal participation with the congregation	5
5 A spiritual expression/From the Holy Spirit	4
" Relationship with God	4
7 Church music is inspiring/uplifting	3
" Love to listen to live/performance music	3
9 It feels good	2
" There is beauty and power in music	2
11 A form of contemplation	1
" A form of prayer	1
" A gift of God	1
" Connection to the divine	1
" Feeds my soul	1
" Internalizes the liturgy in my body and mind	1
" When words fail, music speaks	1
<hr/> 16 <i>types of responses</i>	<hr/> 49

	Number of mentions
Q3. What is going well?	
1 Organ music/Organ ministry	23
2 Extra/non-worship concerts	6
" Special services/musical events	5
4 Choir/choir's pieces	7
5 Guest soloists	4
" Thursday noon concerts	4
" Variety	4
8 Overall, it is excellent	3
9 Advent & Lenten concert series	2
" Music students	2
" Instrumentalists	2
" Many talented/gifted musicians	2
" Ragtime	2
" Visiting choirs	2
15 A lot of interest in church music	1
" Beautiful Anglican hymns	1
" Ensembles	1
" Good leadership	1

"	Gospel hymns	1
"	Jazz group of young people	1
"	Organ postludes	1
"	Preludes	1
"	Soloists	1
"	Sunday morning musicians	1
"	Taize	1
<hr/>		
25	<i>types of responses</i>	56

**Number of
mentions**

Q4. What could be better?

1	Choir is small	10
2	Choir is weak/lacks energy	5
3	Choir is under rehearsed	4
4	Limit the hymns to three stanzas	2
"	More familiar/traditional hymns	2
6	Better coordination between choir director and music selections	1
"	Choir could explore Arvo Part or Heinrich Schutz	1
"	Choir should have more ambitious repertoire	2
"	Choral canon of the Episcopal Church is lacking	1
"	Concerts can be joyless	1
"	Conflict of adult ed vs. choir	1
"	Diversity in choral selections	1
"	Fewer hymns in each service	1
"	Hymns are too long	1
"	It isn't fair to choir to import singers for holidays and Evensong	1
"	More concerts by other groups	1
"	More emphasis on the choir	1
"	More Evensong concerts	1
"	More folk music	1
"	More possibilities for participating	1
"	More Taize throughout the year	1
"	Music in the service is too heavy	1
"	Music selection	1
"	Nothing - I am very happy	1
"	Pay attention to the pace and drama of a service	1
"	Selection of hymns is limited & stodgy	1
"	Slight lowering of quality before covid	1
"	Unity/theme in a service	1
"	Use more college and high school students	1
"	We shouldn't sing the psalms	1
<hr/>		
30	<i>types of responses</i>	49

	Number of mentions
Q5. What kinds of music do you most enjoy singing at services?	
1 Classical/traditional hymns (chestnuts)	12
2 Familiar/favorite hymns	11
3 All kinds of hymns	10
4 Contemporary/newer music	5
" Spirituals	5
5 All music	4
" Gospel	4
" Mixture of traditional and contemporary	4
8 Anglican/English hymns	2
" Hymns I sang as a child	2
" Taize	2
" The Doxology	2
12 Anything that is not WLP	1
" Anything with four-part harmony	1
" Arvo Part's music	1
" Bach	1
" Charles Wesley hymns	1
" Clap your hands music	1
" Expand the repertoire	1
" Good rhythm that inspires energy	1
" Hebrew music	1
" High church music	1
" Jazz	1
" Like the organist/choir director's direction before a song	1
" Music from GATHER	1
" Music related to social causes	1
" Old German hymns	1
" Open to learning	1
" Praise music	1
" Prayers and liturgy sung responsively	1
" Psalms and canticles	1
" Psalms sung in parts	1
" Racial justice - LEVAS II	1
" Sacred music	1
" Service music	1
" Simple music	1
" Singing the psalms	1
" Uplifting hymns	1
<hr/> 38 <i>types of responses</i>	<hr/> 89

	Number of mentions
Q6. What kinds of music do you most enjoy listening to at services?	
1 All kinds/broad range	11
2 Organ	10
3 Guest instrumentalists	7
4 Choir/choral	6
" Instrumental	6
6 Vocal solos	4
7 Anything done with love and skill	2
" Classical music	2
" Classical preludes and postludes	2
" Preludes	2
11 A cappella	1
" Baroque instrumental	1
" Clergy chanting the service	1
" Contemporary	1
" Doxology	1
" Ensembles	1
" Flute	1
" Gospel	1
" Jazz clarinet	1
" Kids singing	1
" Piano	1
" Plainsong	1
" Popular, well-known hymns	1
" Quality	1
" Recessional	1
" Student recitals & local guest musicians	1
" Trumpets at Easter	1
" Violin	1
28 <i>types of responses</i>	70

**Q7. During this time when we cannot gather for
worship due to health concerns, do you have any
suggestions for participatory music activity?**

The 49 answers to this question do not lend themselves to tabulation. Nine (18%) of the replies are "No". Most of the answers express a hope that a way will be found to share the music of our parish members with as "live" a presence as possible during the covid shutdown using technology.

		Number of mentions
Q8. What are your dreams / hopes / suggestions for the music program once we are past the covid- 19 constraints and as we resume worship and outreach together?		
1	Children's choir	3
2	More variety of concerts (not just high-brow)	2
"	Morning prayer	2
"	Return to what we've been doing	2
"	Strong choir/bigger mix of ages and talents	2
"	Variety/new experiences	2
7	All-music service once a month	1
"	Another Clare College concert	1
"	Be more experimental and approachable for all ages	1
"	Continued commitment to a varied music program	1
"	Expand music in the liturgy	1
"	Form a committee to oversee the music program	1
"	Hope the new clergyperson knows music	1
"	Instrumental soloists	1
"	Use the church for outside groups	1
"	Learn new hymns	1
"	Maybe a bell choir	1
"	Maybe coordinate with the THT to be more dynamic, theatrical, light hearted, and be a real presence in our central location	1
"	Maybe more cooperation with music school across the street	1
"	More commitment to see the program grow	1
"	More modern Christian music	1
"	Public performances	1
"	Raise funds for a music endowment	1
"	Services and music at Eastview, Residences, Helen Porter	1
"	Sing-a-long for families with children	1
"	Soloist at 4th Sunday	1
"	Strong choir with mid-week rehearsals	1
"	Touch of music at 8:00 a.m. service	1
"	Use music to involve children	1
"	Use the new green for musical outreach	1
"	Youth	1
31	<i>types of responses</i>	38

Q9. Are you (or have you been) a member of the St. Stephen's choir? (check one)

Regular member of the choir	7
Occasional member of the choir	3
Former member of the choir	9
Potential member of the choir	6
Never in the choir, and no interest in joining	22
Other	6
	53

Q10. Are you willing to attend weekly choir rehearsal in addition to regular Sunday morning

Yes	12
No	3
Maybe/depends	2
Would be a challenge	1
	18

Q11. Please nominate a favorite non-Christmas, non-Easter hymn or hymns for a favorite hymn

Fifty-seven (57) different hymns were nominated by 39 persons. These were the basis of the hymn contest held from late July to mid October.

	Number of mentions
Q12. Other comments about the music ministry at St. Stephen's	
1 Gratitude/appreciation for what we have	8
2 Thanks for doing the survey	5
3 Stop wasting paper - use the hymnal and prayer book	2
4 Attention should be given to funding and supporting the program	1

Summary of results

" Don't make the congregation feel like an audience - remind us that we come to church to participate in a worship service	1
" I miss it	1
" Include all concerts in the Thursday email and Parishscope	1
" It is not clear who the music director is	1
" Liturgy Committee should play a role in development of this ministry	1
" Maybe the current choir is too formal or strict to encourage participation	1
" Music should be a primary ministry and outreach	1
" Please, only one challenging hymn per service	1
" There should be a music director	1
<hr/> 13 <i>types of responses</i>	<hr/> 25

Today – Looking Ahead

By George Matthew Jr.

Do you feel like we are about to come home from exile? Did we "sing the Lord's song in a strange land" (Zoom)? Won't it seem more like Psalm 126 "when the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream"? The treasury awaits: the stained glass windows, the beautiful woodwork, the organ celebrating 146 years with us, the hymnals with their poetry - but the greatest treasure: us, who will bring all this to life again.



So what will I do? What do you want me to do? Here are some starters: February has been Black Music Month for about ten years now. With the emergence of Africa and the African diaspora as a fundamental component of our culture, I will make Black music an integral part of our living treasury: Nigeria dominates Afro/British/American organ literature for now, but works from other countries will soon be available.

So how to do it? Preludes, postludes, Thursday noon concerts, the Imgona group from the college when they get rolling again... any more ideas? I'm all ears. Also we hope to involve instrumental music, such as Emily Sunderman's Addison String Quartet and the talent of our high school and college students.

Organ repertoire from the Slavic and Scandinavian countries, Spain, Portugal, Canada, Brazil and Mexico is becoming available: I'm hoping soon to be able to present some works from Iceland. Also our area is blessed with musicians with their own unique insights, such as Lynnette Combs of Christ Church, Montpelier and our own Chris Williams, Rebecca Mitchell and Fred DeHaven. Finally, I hope we can once again host one of the great English choirs.

What started as Sherri enabling my preludes and postludes on Zoom has evolved into art form of its own, which may develop further by enabling St. Stephen's wider ministries. Sherri is a harpist and recording musician who started doing these videos for us with just her iPhone. She now has professional video cameras, equipment and software, and is studying film and cinematography to supplement her recording studio work.

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

Volunteer Opportunities: Teen Center

by Ryan Nevius

Missed the coffee hour update? You can [read about](#) St. Stephen's Engagement Grant to Addison Central Teens.

Opportunities for Engagement with Addison Central Teens

Summer School Volunteers

Addison Central Teens is seeking volunteer mentors to help run activities and supervise summer school students during extracurricular time at Middlebury Union High School. Shifts are from 12-3pm Monday through Thursday between July 5-15 and again from July 26-August 5. Activities may include supporting pre-planned programming (improv comedy, healthy relationships workshop, volunteering, etc.) or providing alternative activities such as board games and arts and crafts. Details of programming are to be confirmed.

Volunteer to Help Establish a Teen Mentorship Program

Addison Central Teens is looking for 1-2 volunteers to help establish an informal teen mentorship program for the Fall of 2021. Help us connect the congregation with local youth by bringing your ideas and expertise!

Garden Opportunities

Our teens are interested in gardening! ACT has recently expanded their garden to include two 4x10 raised beds for vegetables, as well as two 4x4 beds for flowers & herbs. Do you have an interest in teaching about herbs for food or medicine? Perhaps arrange a garden tour for a small group? Do a cooking class for a vegetarian meal? Do you have other ideas for collaboration? Let's talk!

Other Ideas

If you have skills, hobbies, or interests that you would like to share with teenagers, reach out and let us know! We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas. If you are interested in joining our board of directors or working on an ad hoc committee there will be opportunities in the Fall.

Do you know a recent college graduate or young professional looking for meaningful work in Middlebury? We are seeking an energetic, friendly individual to serve full time at the Teen Center this year, beginning August 31st. This is a Full Time AmeriCorps VISTA Member position starting on August 31st. They will serve closely with the Executive Director and learn many of the ins and outs of small nonprofit life, while making a major difference in the lives of local teens. More info at: [HERE](#)

Please contact mikayla@midsteens.org with your information and availability if you are interested in volunteering.

Picturing the Word

by Jennifer Nelson



The images of The Visitation are of the tender meeting between Mary and her cousin Elizabeth. Both are pregnant, Mary with Jesus, and Elizabeth with John the Baptist. Elizabeth feels the babe leap in her womb and thus recognizes the holiness of her cousin's child. Elizabeth says to Mary, "Blessed art thou among women," and Mary responds with the Magnificat: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit doth rejoice in God my Savior . . ."

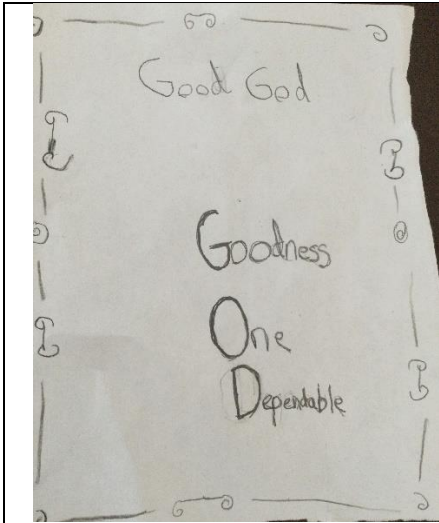
When I began my search for an image of this gentle scene, almost the first thing I found was a sculpture in the garden of the Church of the Visitation, in Ein Karem, Jerusalem. If you search for Visitation Sculpture you will find many photographs of this sculpture. A lot is written about the history and archeology of the site (possibly the location of the actual Visitation) but nowhere could I find the name of the sculptor, or dates, or measurements—things usually used to identify works of art. One source speculated that it was English, and that seemed possible to me (who knows pretty much nothing about English sculpture). That led me to dig into 20th century British sculpture and sculptors. I learned a lot of new names and saw some wonderful works, but not this one.

It is sited in what must be a lovely courtyard of the ancient church. The sculpture stands in a garden, and The Magnificat in many languages on ceramic mosaic plaques are on the surrounding walls.

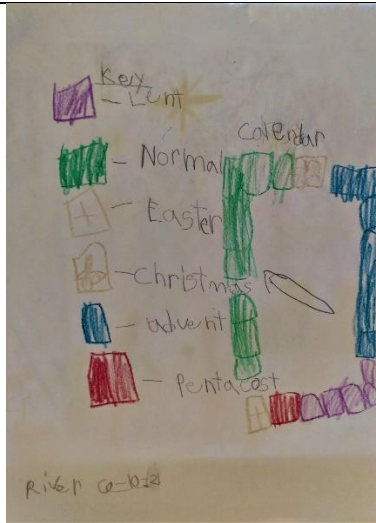
The statue itself: two young women, eye to eye, stand close together but lean apart from the waists up. I imagine Mary saying, "Gosh, look at us!" as she touches her own "baby bump." And Elizabeth, being three months ahead of Mary in her pregnancy, is thinking, "Yes. You're definitely coming along." There is a certain shyness between the women, like relatives who don't see each other often, but there is affection in their shyness. I don't know what material the statue is made from, I don't know how it was formed, and I don't even know how big it is. I only know that it touches me whenever I examine the pictures. If you've traveled in the Holy Land and perhaps visited this church, maybe you can fill in some of this information. I'd be grateful!

Children's Corner

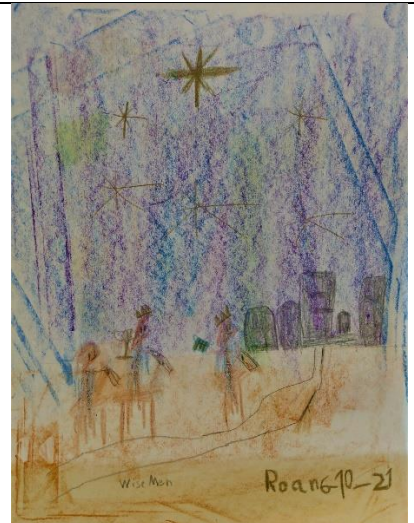
The Children of St. Stephen's Church



Asa: Acrostic Poem



River: Liturgical Calendar



Roan: Wisemen

Welcome Home Kits

By Sandy Ketcham



The Outreach Committee had been discussing what to do with the Peasant Market Funds that are usually disbursed through a series of grants each year. At one Zoom meeting, someone suggested we invite several agencies in Middlebury to attend our next meeting and advise us of the greatest need in our community. We met with Helena VanVoorst from United Way and Ingrid Pixley representing Housing Solutions.

After that meeting I couldn't stop thinking about something Ingrid had said about homeless people. She told us it is very difficult for a homeless person to transition from being homeless to having a place of their own. First of all, it is very hard to find a place because there is so little affordable housing available in our area. However, if they are lucky enough to find housing they usually, "Don't even have a fork or anything else needed to set up housekeeping".

Her words stuck with me for days as I thought of all the times I had moved. I couldn't even imagine how difficult it would be to not have the basic materials needed. I told my partner, Bill, that I wished our committee could do something to help. He told me about something called "A Kitchen in a Box" that contained the basic materials for a kitchen.

I thought maybe the Outreach Committee could fund a project that would provide something similar. I wrote a short proposal to suggest we put together a kit including the basic items needed for a kitchen, bathroom, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, etc. and call it a "Welcome Home Kit". The kits would be made for a single person, a family of two or a family of four. Each Kit would include a message saying, "Welcome Home from the parishioners of St Stephen's Church – We hope these items will help you get settled in your new home".

The Outreach Committee decided to try it. When we told Housing Solutions and United Way about the idea they were excited and United Way even provided \$1,500 in seed money to get it started.

Barb Wood provided a list of basic items used to help in the immigrant resettlement program as a blueprint for our kits. We had a lot of items donated by Jessica's Hoagland's family, other items were donated by anonymous donors and some things were purchased from local re-sale shops. Right now the items are stored and put together at the DeHaven's home.. Sharon DeHaven, Lonnie Fisher and I put the first kits together. So far eight kits have been completed and delivered to the United Way offices where they are stored until a social worker picks them up and delivers them. Six have been delivered and the feedback we have received is very positive. One social worker reported that her client was excited to have clean towels.

The latest news is the Welcome Home Kits were discussed at a clergy meeting with the Bishop and the St. Alban's church was so impressed they are now beginning their own "Kit Ministry". Eventually we are going to need more space for storing items as they are collected and packing the kits. I hope we can continue to grow this ministry at St. Stephen's.

Say Yes: Poetry & Meditation

By Julia Alvarez

Often, with meditation, I'm reminded of many people's reaction to poetry- "I don't get it," they say, a little embarrassed to be admitting this to a writer and a former English teacher.

The first thing I think is: You must have had a really lousy teacher who taught you poetry is something you "get"—a message you extract for a good grade. Poetry-phobes might feel a bit more relaxed when I tell them that's not how poetry works. Often, with my favorite poems, I never fully get them. All I know is reading and rereading them, the mystery stirs inside me again. In her lovely poem, "Self-Portrait with Religion and Poetry," Kate Daniels describes what happens to her when she deeply connects with a work of art:

... I lie down in the silence
of my mind and touch the world all over.
Clouds fly through me. Trees break the sky
above a frozen lake, and a footprint
startles its crust of snow.

Then I can type another page, or nurse
my hungry infant. I can take from the cupboard
the bread and the wine, the eggplant and garlic
my hands will transform into sustenance.

Like poetry-phobes, I'm a bit of a meditation-phobe. Even after years of daily practice, I feel like a total failure. Within seconds of hearing the bell, my mind is overrun by thoughts, plans, insights,

schedules, shopping lists (eggplant, garlic, bread, wine).

I recently heard a story that has helped me relax about my meditation practice. An elderly nun attended a retreat on centering prayer (the Christian term for meditation). After two days, she tearfully confessed her mind must have strayed a thousand times. The meditation leader beamed. "Wonderful! A thousand opportunities to return to God!"

Hearing that story, I was reminded of the parable of the prodigal son and the joy the father experiences when the young man returns home. Now multiply by a thousand times—that's a lot of joy!

Another helpful tip for wayward meditators (is there any other kind?) is to imagine yourself as an old grandmother or grandfather minding the grandkids and their little friends. They run around like crazy, jumping, laughing, falling down, bawling, fighting, hugging each other (in pre-COVID days). Oh my, such exuberance! You're exhausted just watching them. But your part is not to throw yourself into that fray. You've gone past that stage of life. They are doing what children do. And you are doing what old, tired souls do: watching, stepping in if needed, mostly just being a kind, attentive, and non-judgmental presence in their world.



So also when you meditate. You are minding that noisy gaggle running around in your head. Not getting pulled into their arguments, siding with their alliances, indulging their tantrums. That's all you have to "do," all you have to "get" about meditation.

You don't even have to be good at it. Grandma sometimes nods off. Some days she's cranky or impatient. But her bedrock love for these little critters comes through even on those bad gray-hair days. "You do not have to be good," Mary Oliver reminds us in her poem, "Wild Geese." It's as simple as letting "the soft animal of your body/love what it loves."

A young friend recently told me he has the best grandmother in the world. Thinking I'd get some tips on being a terrific grandmother, too (There I go again!) I asked what made her the best. His ready answer, "She always says yes."

That's a great approach, not just to meditating, but to life in general, if we understand our lives as an extended meditation practice and ongoing prayer. Rumi, the 13th century Persian poet and mystic, reminds us of this in his poem "The Guest House" (translated by Coleman Barks):

This being human is a guest house.

Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!

Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,

still, treat each guest honorably.

He may be clearing you out

for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,

meet them at the door laughing,

and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,

because each has been sent

as a guide from beyond.

This isn't always possible, I know. I confess I often say No! I don't have the energy, I'm busy writing; I'm resting; I already gave to the last uninvited guest; it's not a convenient time. (The much longer version of this list is available in my meditating mind.) But what I've found is resisting takes up a heck of a lot more time, energy, good will, and peace of mind than letting the unwelcomed feelings, thoughts, and distractions come and go. It turns out they aren't all that interested in me. Don't take your feelings personally, a Quaker in our meditation group advised at one of our sessions.

During a rough period of my life, I kept having a recurrent nightmare. A monster was chasing after me. Breathless and panicked I ran home, locked myself in, and piled every available piece of furniture at the door. Finally, the monster took the hint and wandered off. Or so I thought. But when I turned around, relieved, there it was: It wasn't a monster, but a mirror, reflecting my face.

As with poetry and meditation, I'm not sure I totally "get" my dreams. But I get the hint: acceptance changes the paradigm, defuses the struggle, humanizes the fear. Ruby Sales, the African

American activist and founder of SpiritHouse Project, once remarked when she finds herself in a furious, escalating encounter where sides are being taken and folks are demonizing, us-ing, and them-ing each other, her first question is, “Where does it hurt?” It doesn’t end the struggle, but it begins to transform it. The no and the yes can reach a further shore, a larger paradigm. History and hope sometimes do rhyme. And—to bring in yet another poet, William Blake—both wear the human face divine.

So, feel encouraged. Welcome whatever comes to the doors of your attention when you meditate. No need to give up, abandon the house or put up a struggle or call the superego cops. Finally,

these distractions are guests, not permanent residents. (At the end of their play day, the grandkids go home.) These visitors might just be clearing space for the mystery already stirring inside you.

Julia Alvarez is the author of many books, including *Afterlife*, *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, and a picture book for young readers, *Already a Butterfly: A Meditation Story*. Thank you to Kate Daniels and Coleman Barks for permission to quote their work.

The St. Stephen's Meditation Group meets via Zoom (same link as Sunday Worship) every Monday and Thursday at 4 PM. All are welcome and no meditation experience is necessary.

Interview with a Parishioner: Kiki Johnson

by Mike Davis



One thing most of us remember about being in church (in our sanctuary) is where people sit. And how you can tell someone else about a parishioner by where they sit. For example, ‘Kiki sits on the left side (facing the altar), near the center aisle, about half-way back’, or something like that. So as we look forward to moving into the church for worship, I suspect we will all head for our ‘assigned seats’ just like we did before March 2020. If you want to get to know Kiki, I can tell you where to find her, but for now just read on.

Kiki’s given name is Kathleen – I should have asked where ‘Kiki’ came from - but maybe that’s something you can discover when you get to know her. Kiki is now retired from a career in education, specifically the world of independent schools, where she has been a student, teacher, school head, and advisor to boards, among other things. She has an extended family that may soon (hopefully) include great grandchildren. She splits time between Vermont and Florida, enjoying the seasonal best of both. Most importantly, she is a long-time member of our Parish, having served in many ways including search committee and Peasant Market. She now walks with a cane on a pair of fragile ankles that, according to her docs, are beyond repair. She has a lot of stories, though, and you would find her a fascinating conversationalist. So, where to start?

Kathleen Johnson was born in Washington, DC. She attended private schools, as was tradition in her family, and did her undergraduate studies at Vassar – as did her mom. She was a child during the unsettled time of WWII, and also talks about the COVID-like experience of losing grade school classmates to things like measles, polio, and scarlet fever. She and her ex-husband have 3 accomplished children and 6 grandchildren, and she is just beginning to see them in person again after the forced separation of the pandemic. Much of her professional life (she is retired) was as an employee of Carney, Sandoe & Associates, a firm specializing in staffing and advising independent schools in the US and worldwide. .

Like many of us, Kiki is not a cradle Episcopalian. Her parents were essentially unchurched, with Catholic and Lutheran ‘branches’ featured in her family tree. As a child she attended a Quaker camp, she attended a Presbyterian church for some time. and was Head of St. Luke’s school (Episcopal) in NYC. In other words, her faith journey has been one of many traditions. A unique feature of the consulting work in her career has been weekend travel – being away on weekends to meet with school boards for strategic planning work, for example – and so there have been times when she was not regularly in Sunday services. Still, she has found time to do things like teach Sunday School, and edit a parish newsletter – once again proving the adage that ‘if you want something done, ask someone who’s busy’. It’s also a good reminder that, as much as Sunday worship is central to our corporate life, there are very engaged members who don’t make it to church every Sunday.

One reason I personally appreciate Kiki is that she is one of those parishioners who take the time to write an occasional note of encouragement to a harried Senior Warden or ParishScope editor, foregoing the often obligatory admonitions to simply say ‘thank you for doing what you do’. This is good advice for all of us; to look past the minor quibbles we may have with the performance of our volunteer leaders and say ‘good job, keep it up’.

I try to ask all of my interviewees to share some advice or counsel appropriate to our parish. Kiki simply said to ‘talk less and listen more’. As we embark on our shared ministry with Paul Olsson, the often-voiced desire for collaboration, transparency, and Mutual Ministry will be well served by our willingness to listen to each other. It’s a strength of our parish that we have so many thoughtful and engaged members willing to share their ideas; the challenge is to spend as much time listening to others’ ideas as we do sharing our own.

The purpose of these interviews is to get to know each other better, and hopefully to start conversations that lead to lasting friendships. Now that COVID is waning, in-person conversation is one of those things that we all could use more of. If you need a conversation starter with Kiki, I suggest asking her about racing sailboats with her ex...apparently they were pretty good sailors.

Book Review: The SPCK Bible Guide

by Joe McVeigh

A few years ago I was wandering through the bookshop in the Anglican cathedral in Liverpool in the UK, when I came across a wonderful book: The SPCK Bible Guide. The SPCK is an English organization, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The book turns out to be exactly what it claims on the front cover: “An illustrated survey of all the books of the Bible—their contents, themes and teachings.”

If you’ve ever been intimidated by that hefty Bible on your shelf, or if you are seeking a broad overview of scripture, this is the book for you. It is written in clear, understandable prose and is readily comprehensible.

Each book of the Bible receives detailed treatment. There is a brief introduction, placing the book in historical perspective with quick overview. There follows a two to three sentence summary of each chapter.

To help make sense of the Bible as a whole, the author has categorized each chapter according to 18 common themes or genres. These include praise, worship, prayer, history, parables, prophecy, moral teaching, etc. Each theme receives a color code and a numbered code as well. These are then shown next to the chapter summaries, making it possible for the reader to quickly sense the genre of writing in that particular chapter.

There is a brief commentary on sections of each book, often demonstrating how that portion of the text relates to other parts of the Bible or otherwise analyzing the work in context.

Although this is not the central focus, the book is illustrated throughout with depictions of Biblical passages in famous works of art. Paintings and sculpture of Bellini, William Blake, Caravaggio, Fragonard, Raphael, and Rembrandt are among those included.

The author, Henry Wansbrough, a Benedictine, is the former Chair of the Theology Faculty at Oxford University and as far as my untrained mind can tell, does not appear to have any particular theological axe to grind, but seems to present a fairly even-handed account. No doubt the theologians among you could point to particular biases, but I found him to be, above all, a wonderfully clear writer.

The version I have is the paperback version, ISBN: 978-0-281-06945-3. An identical version in hardcover is also available under a different title The Bible: A Reader's Guide, ISBN: 978-0785830368. Both editions can be found in inexpensive used copies online or check with the Vermont Book Store and see if they can find you a new copy.



Lights, Camera, Action!

by Sherri Matthew

I'm a harpist. Or more specifically, a harpist with a recording studio. Prior to 2020, my video experience was limited to making three short videos on my iPhone in the spring of 2019 for SaveGMC to try to keep my alma mater Green Mountain College from closing and a couple before that devoted to raising awareness of feline diabetes. But I really had no knowledge of serious editing or working with a professional video camera. Since childhood, my whole life had revolved around audio, microphones and recording, either on reel to reel tape or more recently, in a digital studio environment.

With the pandemic, opportunities to acquire new knowledge presented themselves rapidly! Kitty Davis had videoed George playing the organ and posted them to the web; George reviewed several of her selections and they conferred with each other as to which was best: what to keep and which to delete. Somewhere along the line I volunteered my harp music to St. Stephens and Kitty emailed me back: she'd rather I took over making videos. Because there was "your video talent" and she felt "we are blessed." I was overwhelmed by this, feeling inner doubt and remembering when I was trying desperately hard to save my college. At one point then one of the organizing alumna let me know, in so many words, "thanks for your efforts, but no thanks, now we have a professional videographer who will be assisting us." It stung but I thought, "well, hey. I'm a studio musician, not a cinematographer." I let it go at the time.

So here was an invitation and an opportunity. And a chance to recover from the sting. Thank you St. Stephen's! Yes, I did learn a lot in one year! Week after week, a very steep learning curve: a fried college-issued laptop when I discovered just how intensive video processing is for a computer (right before Christmas). Moving up to bigger and better cameras than an iPhone. Learning to work with software like Final Cut Pro X, doing spot color corrections so they were unnoticeable, developing a database for organizing the massive image repository (over 1,000 and counting!) of licensed photos from my stock photo agency subscription. And continuing education: both online and DVD courses, books and articles, and YouTube tutorials during the slower part of the week when George and I weren't preparing videos.



Actually, I discovered that I loved doing this. It was like working in my recording studio, only thinking visually. We had to keep moving and plan everything a week and a half ahead, so being organized with lots of written and digital notes was essential. Beyond this though, I found I really liked working with the cameras and the gear, even if sometimes the unexpected happened or we had to redo a segment because it didn't make it somehow. It was the fun of learning and the joy of discovering what you could do after you had read and studied about it, and actually being able to make it happen, both hearing and seeing it, that was exciting! Sometimes an artistic attempt would fall apart in production but not too often; I tried to keep my newest experiments on track with my coursework. If one video effect or camera technique really bombed out, it just didn't make it to that week's official Sunday prelude and postlude video. I would go back, re-study, and try again another week.

Now as we emerge from Zoom hibernation, there's the question for everybody: what's next? Probably a lot of people developed new skills, discovered talents they didn't know they had or just took advantage of the down time to work on rediscovering interests that had fallen by the wayside. Which doesn't mean these new-found talents need to be quickly forgotten as we venture forth. Pandemic-era skills and artforms can easily parlay their way into a redefined career or venture. Of course, this will require a commitment to continued exploration, learning and growth in one's chosen new field of interest but that would be essential in any occupation. What is key here is finding a way to integrate these new abilities with one's current work and interests to make an exciting new hybrid that brings benefits to both you and your world.

Here's a pivot point to illustrate this: last fall Folk Harp Journal did a feature story on me in which it was reported that "Sherri Matthew will be releasing a second CD..." Um. No. Those don't really go over anymore. But I know one thing that does. Videos! And I really enjoy making them!

What I would like to do now is head back to my recording studio and start working on my harp music once again. But if St. Stephen's would like to have some videos for any reason post-pandemic, you know where to find me

Justice Committee Report

By Meg Fitch

St Stephen's Justice Committee - "Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public." - Cornel West

The Justice Committee was convened for the first time earlier this year by Michael Reeves and has been meeting on the 4th Monday of the month ongoing. In April, we focused on our history in response to a Diocesan resolution asking parishes to look at their history of land acquisitions and relationships with BIPOC folk. (Black, Indigenous and People of Color). We want to be able to give a report on that to the next Diocesan Convention. It's a big job! We ask you to read the resolution (detailed below).

In Sacred Ground, many of us are seeking and learning the importance of our national history. The Justice Committee is seeking to find and eventually present an unvarnished parish history. We have been talking with various people who have pieces of the history, as well as starting to go through our own parish records. A special thank you to Paul and Dee Hodges who have done most of that work so far. We have searched the internet for articles and reports. We've had a good email from Chief Don Stevens answering several of our questions from the Abenaki history and have found a late 19th century history of the parish. And of course we have Elizabeth Allison's work.

If you have historical information, please contact Meg Fitch or Amy Hastings, current co-chairs of the committee.

Commission for Land Use History in the Diocese of Vermont

SPONSOR: The Rev. Rachel Field (Mission Farm, Killington, and St. Thomas and Grace, Brandon)

RESOLVED, That the 187th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont recommend and strongly encourage each congregation, and the diocese as a body, to learn the history of our land as a way of understanding and unearthing our complicity in systems that oppress persons of color and afford privilege to white persons in Vermont; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in commitment to this deep work, this Convention ask for a gathering and sharing of stories from our collective research to be shared as a report at our 188th Convention.

EXPLANATION

Acknowledging the history of genocide and land seizure that has made it possible for the Episcopal Church to have properties for us to gather in is a step in the process of learning from our history to make healing and racial reconciliation possible. Entire dioceses, like Rhode Island, and individual churches have explored the history of their buildings to

Rhode Island, and individual churches have explored the history of their buildings to understand the relationship between the land and colonialism. We are inviting congregations to trace the history of their buildings, and also the history of their local ecology and the peoples who have called that land home.

Tracing the relationships among peoples (Abenaki, Black, Latino, White) and the land and between wealth and property will help us to learn together what effects from colonization persist, and how our current structures and systems reinforce a colonial system of thought. We encourage this historical retrospective as a step on the road to healing from racism, which harms all people, including white people, in Vermont today. This resolution is offered in hope. Hope that understanding our history with the land, and how the land informs our spirituality may help us all in this healing; that the door may be further opened to the way that the Spirit moves in our hearts, in the creatures, and in the landscape.

This resolution was prayed over and dwelled in the hearts of: Rachel Field, Lisa Ransom, Earl Koopercamp, and Auburn Watersong. As a result of drafting this resolution, Mission Farm is committing to exploring, and in conversation about, officially opening the land for hunting and gathering to the Abenaki. We encourage others to come along with us and explore this path as well.

For information, contact: Rachel Field rachel@missionfarmvt.org

2020-2021 Outreach Update

By Susan Anderson-Ray and Sharon DeHaven

2020 brought many changes for the Outreach Committee: no Peasant Market to fund our usual activities; role changes for several long-time leaders; new committee co-chairs; social agencies universally under stress; and strict limitations for hands-on assistance during the pandemic. In the midst of all this, St. Stephen's was very fortunate to receive two extremely generous private gifts to support local outreach: initially a \$30,000 gift, followed by a second \$150,000 gift. Taken together these circumstances led the Outreach Committee to pursue a very different path during the past months. Rather than following our typical process of soliciting grant requests, the committee paused to consider the question: "How is God calling us to serve at this critical time?"

Our reflections lead us to focus our attention on two areas of great need during the pandemic: food insecurity and homelessness/housing insecurity in Addison County. Late in 2020 our food ministries were consolidated under the leadership of Sharon Tierra and refocused on pandemic related needs. Rather than providing Monday lunches at St. Stephen's, food is being donated to Charter House to help make boxed lunches for those in shelters and the homeless temporarily being housed in hotels or motels. More recently, we have also started providing desserts for community suppers once per month. As in the past, these ministries are possible because of generous contributions by our parishioners, as well as Peasant Market reserve funds. More details about our food ministries are available in a related article by Sharon Tierra.

In January we invited Helena Van Voorst of the United Way and Ingrid Pixley of Housing Solutions to discuss other pressing needs in Addison County. The Transitional Housing Assistance Pilot Project for "Welcome Home" kits was developed by Sandy Ketcham in response to their feedback during this meeting. The purpose of this initiative is to help those who have been homeless make a successful transition into more permanent housing by providing basic household items at the time of their move in. Funding for the "Welcome Home" kits ministry includes a \$1,500 grant from the United Way as seed money, along with \$8,000 that the vestry approved as an allocation from the first \$30,000 gift. You can learn more about this exciting new ministry in an article by Sandy Ketcham.

The vestry also authorized \$15,000 to be used from the initial \$30,000 gift in lieu of Peasant Market funds for Outreach grants in 2021. Given our focus for this year, we decided to use this money to help address the looming crisis for the homeless in Addison County because changes are anticipated in temporary state funding. Pandemic related support to house homeless individuals and families in hotels and motels is slated to end by July 1, 2021. Organizations providing emergency housing service do not have sufficient resources to help this vulnerable population. In response, the Outreach Committee has launched a very focused grant round to help with this issue. Four organizations providing emergency housing services have been invited to submit grant proposals either individually or collaboratively, including Charter House Coalition, John Graham Shelter, WomenSafe and Housing Solutions. The application deadline was at the end of May, with our recommendations to the vestry due before their June meeting. Our goal is to award this funding by July 1, 2021.

Although Outreach has been primarily focused on food and housing insecurity, we also honored our commitment to Addison Central Teens by seeking vestry approval for a \$5,000 grant from the \$30,000 donation. This gift helped make it possible for us to complete our 3-year funding commitment to the Teen Center. Beyond our financial support, we look forward to more hands-on engagement with them during the coming year through volunteer roles detailed separately by Ryan Nevius.

Finally, in 2021 we were presented with the unique opportunity to support Sophie Swallow, a graduating Middlebury College student, as she takes her next steps toward joining the Young Adult Service Corp (YASC) program sponsored by the National Episcopal Church. Sophie plans to begin her work at Guatemala Youth Initiative (a National Episcopal Mission Partner and 2019 Outreach grantee) this summer even though her national church funding will not begin until January 2022. In June she will return there as a Program Officer while she also completes her YASC orientation. St. Stephen's is pleased to assist with her living costs for the next six months using a combination of Peasant Market reserve funds and the Clergy Discretionary fund. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with Sophie and the Guatemala Youth Initiative as she continues her service in the Young Adult Service Corp in 2022.

What's next? In July we look forward to sharing news about the outcome from the Spring Grant cycle, including a final summary of all the disbursements of the first \$30,000 gift for local outreach. In addition, the Vestry is finalizing a set of guidelines for the distribution of the second major gift (\$150,000) and expects to provide them to the Outreach Committee in short order. Once received, the Outreach Committee will go to work over the summer on allocation recommendations. This process requires careful discernment on how God is calling us to serve during this unprecedented time so that we can make a meaningful difference with this very generous gift.

News from the Pews!

We have a few things to celebrate! First, **Rebekah Mitchell** has received tenure from Middlebury College in the history department. Congratulations!

Congratulations also go to **Jack Simpson**, for winning first place in the first grade chess championships.

Cathy Walsh's daughter, Mary Claire was one of four members of UVM's Larner College of Medicine community to be honored last month when the Dean's Awards for Professionalism were conferred. Mary Claire is a P.A., Researcher/Analyst for the Vaccine Testing Center and Physician Assistant at the UVM Medical Center. She served as the lead point of contact for the AstraZeneca vaccine trial, established an entirely new clinic site, hired and trained its staff, and was honored for her crisis management skills and calm presence during the cyberattack against the Medical Center, and "throughout the highly dynamic process of COVID-19 vaccine development." Way to go, Mary Claire! Thanks for all that you do!

Cheryl Kater says: even though it has been 3 years & 17 days!!! since Jim passed away, her 'on her own' Life has yet to quieten down..... hence her very occasional appearances on Zoom Services & meetups. Still, LOTS to be very grateful for too, like being with step daughter Rebecca Stadolnik & family in Stow, MA for 4 days over Memorial Day weekend celebrating Grandson Henry graduating from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with the honor status of "high distinction". Henry earned a double Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science & Interactive Media & Game Development (IMGD). His Major Qualify Project was awarded the Provost Award & he also earned an IMGD Community Leader Award.....

There is news from **Emily Walsh** too! As many of you may know, **Emily Walsh** moved home in early March, 2020. It's been a busy 15 months, but thanks to some pretty terrific weather for riding and skiing, and truly lovely respite providers, Emily is in good spirits. Cathy and Emily have been riding nearly every day, and their horses have never been more fit (and their barn so clean)! She's delighted, as of June 1, to have begun spending two days a week in day programming at The Yellow House. **Em** says the best parts are making new friends, and spending Fridays at the farm in Shoreham. She has missed her friends at St Stephens and sends her love. Right back at ya, **Emily!**

In travel news, **Ryan and Barry Nevius**, spent some time in North Carolina and Florida this spring. **Linda and Paul Horn** visited son Alexander in Utah and visited Zion, Bryce, and Capitol Reef National Parks in May.

Suzie and Jacob Klemmer are home from Canada for a while before both head out to jobs in summer camps. Suzie in Maine and Jacob in Pennsylvania. Suzie and Jacob are the 20 something children of **Beth Stanway and Tom Klemmer**.

Retirements abound this month with both **Mary McGuire** retiring from teaching and **Steve Snider** retiring from working with the US Government. Enjoy this next stage of your life!

George Matthew was reappointed Middlebury College Carillonneur for another three years! Also, his granddaughter Christine and her husband Matt came for a visit and he met his great-grandson Michael-André Veleber. He celebrated his

86th birthday that weekend and played carillon concerts of his own compositions. Also on Sunday Michael was baptized at First Congregational Church, Nashua, NH where his daughter Susan (his grandmother) has been soprano soloist for about 20 years. And to top it off, George was reinstated as carillonneur of Norwich University: he'd been laid off in June 2020 because of the pandemic.

Meg Fitch has spent much of the pandemic studying on Zoom. She took courses on preaching and leading Morning Prayer last summer and fall. Then she joined a course from an Anglican group called Heartedge on the Gospels and Acts which will go until mid-December. There was a fascinating series on the end times out of St. Luke in the Fields in NYC (her daughter's parish when she was at NYU as it happens). Perhaps the most exciting thing for her is that she has started studying Talmud with a friend of Diane Nancekivell's, an Israeli scholar who worked for many years for Kids4Peace. Her old friend from London is also taking it and that has been a joy because now we see each other every week. **Meg** has discovered in addition to courses that there are so many discussion groups and lecture series online. She recommends Heartedge.org in particular. It has also been a great joy that she has been able to see my daughter's family regularly during this time, so She have definitely been one of the lucky ones!

The copy deadline for the next Parishscope is
July 8, 2020

To submit article ideas or to discuss recent content, talk to Editor Alexis Perkins at
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