

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THE PARISHSCOPE FEBRUARY 2020

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FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Things are happening...fast. Lent will be upon us soon, with Advent and Christmas a distant memory; A new Vestry has been seated, led by Senior Warden (and Editor) yours truly; the MDT is approaching completion of our Parish Portfolio which will trigger the next steps in the search process; there seem to be new faces wherever you look in the congregation on Sundays; and the 'big dig' right outside our south windows approaches a new crescendo this summer – but with it the promise of a beautiful new green with Saint Stephen's as its centerpiece.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by all the events – some you may appreciate and some not – but I suggest the best antidote to that confusion is to get...or stay...involved in the things going on at our church. You can't impact everything, but getting

involved in even one project at Saint Stephen's gives you a say in our future, brings you new relationships to people and issues, and – usually – renews your understanding of the importance of our parish to our community.

This is an especially important time for many of the committees and teams that provide a framework for our connections to each other and to the world around us. Several of these committees are looking for motivated and passionate members to join and renew their capacity to do their work, and even to be leaders of that work. If you'd like to know where the needs are greatest, and where there are opportunities that might fit your passion, talk to Mike or Carole.

Mike Davis, Senior Warden

MINISTRY MODEL TEAM UPDATE

At the January 22nd Vestry meeting, the Ministry Model Team recommended to the Vestry that St. Stephen's pursue a Priest-in-Partnership model. As we are seeing now during the interim period, St. Stephen's thrives in a shared ministry and leadership approach. The Holy Cow survey and listening sessions also validated that the parish has strong leadership in a variety of ministries. We believe that the Priest-in-Partnership model will enable us to continue to flourish. The idea of a contract for a fixed term, with the possibility of renewal as well as conversion to settled Rector agreement, should be reassuring to both parties. The idea of regular and mutual reviews of shared ministry is also appealing

as a way for both clergy leadership and the parish to evaluate, improve, and amend the partnership.

The Vestry approved the recommendation with the stipulation that we be allowed to interview multiple candidates at once, like the regular Rector model. As you are aware, the present process is that the Bishop recommends one candidate at a time for Vestry review and approval for a Priest-in-Partnership. There is a meeting scheduled with the Diocese later in February to propose that we be part of this more collaborative selection process in calling a Priest-in-Partnership.

Paul Horn, Team Leader

STEWARDSHIP REPORT February 2020 *submitted by Amy Hastings*

Over many weeks we've talked about and demonstrated how God's light shines at St. Stephen's. That light shines as we live faithfully together and share light in the world around us. The "Shining Our Light" giving campaign is now officially concluded and as our Treasurer has reported 101 households in our church committed \$266,300 in giving goals for 2020. Just a reminder that we talk about giving goals as just that: GOALS – our expressions of support through a giving goal help the Vestry and Finance Committee to plan for our church's expenses. Thank you to all who felt able to make such a commitment for 2020, to anyone who would still like to offer a goal, and to everyone who supports our church with your gifts.

Our commitments represented an increase over last year of nearly 25 percent in dollars and almost 10 percent in households setting a goal. The average goal is \$2,636, nearly 14 percent more



than last year. And, 17 households set a goal who hadn't done so last year!

Many of you know that the Stewardship Ministry Team of our church continues to work at expanding the meaning of

Stewardship – far beyond its monetary connotation that many of us grew up with. I leave you with this to ponder: stewardship is often defined as careful management and oversight of something we've been entrusted with, for example, the environment or a family legacy. For us then, as stewards of Christ, let's live as managers who are entrusted with FAITH, who worship as a community whose legacy is HOPE, and who serve as light-bearers into the world spreading LOVE.

May all of our gifts shine light for the glory of God!

Financial Report *submitted by Barbara Stratton*

With the month of January now behind us, St Stephen's is off to a solid financial start for 2020. Annual Giving contributions totaled about \$36,500 for the month, compared to \$30,300 in 2019 – about a 21% year-over-year increase. Operating expenses are on target compared with last year. A new savings sub-account holding the \$41,081 of net operating income from 2019 has been set up. These funds are designated to be used for search and re-location expenses of our new priest.



Cash flow throughout all of 2019 was plentiful; there was little seasonal income fluctuation. It seems that we parishioners have taken to heart the requests for "sustainable giving." Because of our Interim Ministry Team compensation structure, our expenses were less last year than they will be this year (if we hire a priest in 2020) and in future years. We managed our expenses well, coming in over budget in income and under budget in expenses. It felt as if we were really experiencing financial well-being as a parish, which is an important attribute as we move more fully into our calling to be Christ's hands and heart in the world. Financial well-being will be an important attribute as we call a new priest to join us as a community of faith. So, I thank you all for your generous financial support as well as your support of time and talent. Every contribution is vital to making this community we call St. Stephen's happen.

Duct Tape and Glue: Helping our parish by helping Annemarie and Peter

At the Annual Meeting we heard well-deserved recognition for Annemarie and Peter, whose work does truly hold the machinery of our parish together. There was even a reference to the occasional (and sometimes frequent) interruptions that they allow during their workday when parishioners, and others, need something done that (it is assumed) they can't do for themselves. Truth is, most of these requests could be much less disruptive with a little thought and planning.

In talking to both Annemarie and Peter, there are a few common impositions that, while they may not take much time individually, do add up to significant lost time and disruption of work flow.

PHONEBOOK. Annemarie regularly gets calls from parishioners asking for a phone number for another parishioner...and even on occasion something way outside of reasonable (what is the phone number for The Flynn Center in Burlington?!!) Just a few days ago we received the latest edition of the Photo Directory, complete with all current addresses and phone numbers. You can download the Directory to your phone or computer, and we can show you how to do that as well as how to access it quickly. If you are a technophobe, we can provide you with paper copies when updates are published.

THE COPIER. Running the copier can be intimidating to the uninitiated. Lessons by either Peter or Annemarie too often turn into 'how about I do it for you', and the requester neither learns by doing, or prepares to do it alone next time. Far better, regardless of who is helping you, is to let someone know ahead of time (if possible) that you expect to need to do some copying. Either of our staff can plan for some time with you, as well as planning to NOT have a big church print job running at that time...which does happen...and pausing the BIG job for your LITTLE job is obviously not efficient.

BOTTOM LINE: we have parishioners of all ages who both access the Directory electronically and run the copier alone. **YOU CAN DO IT!** And if you plan ahead, we can help.



SCHEDULING SPACE AND BUILDING USE constitute another 'pinch point' that can work smoothly if you plan ahead. **THE BETTER WAY** is probably obvious; look at the church calendar to see if the space you want is in use at that time, call during office hours to discuss alternatives, and be flexible. Regular users say they can always see the church calendar online, send a note to request an unused space, and often get it done in seconds. When things come up at the last minute, the key word is flexible...the person using that space reserved it ahead of time, and you will probably need to talk to either Annemarie or Peter to figure out alternatives. **ALSO:** when your meeting starts outside of office hours, Peter programs the lock on the side door to be open 15 minutes ahead of your start time. If you don't schedule ahead, that doesn't happen.

CLEAN UP: You should always plan to leave your space exactly as you found it, **UNLESS** the next user is standing right there and says to leave tables and chairs, keyboard, whatever. Otherwise, clean up after you're done. There are things like final cleanup after a meal where Peter is planning to do regular vacuuming, etc... that is different and you should probably discuss with him if you are unsure. **WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK PETER. AHEAD OF TIME.**

by Mike Davis

OH, AND - BY THE WAY - **TURN OFF THE LIGHTS!!!**



Lent Calendar – please mark your calendars - A poster will be coming soon:

Lent will begin this year on Wednesday, February 26. Here are some of the offerings for this special season:

- Tuesday February 25 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Our last hurrray before we “hide the alleluia” until Easter.
- Wednesday, February 26: Noon and 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes.
- Wednesday evenings throughout Lent St. Stephens will again be offering a Taizé evening service. (March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1)
- Wednesday morning Lenten Adult Ed Series (Feb. 26, Mar. 4, 11, and 18) at 10:30 a.m.: Four sessions on “Repentance” led by the Rev. Larry Yarbrough.
NOTE: Each session will end in time for the noon Holy Eucharist or Noon Prayer service held weekly in the chapel.
- Thursdays at Noon – our annual Lenten music concert. Details will be forthcoming.
- Palm Sunday, April 5: regular 8 and 10:30 services with the Passion reading
- Holy Thursday April 9, 7:00 p.m.: Maundy Thursday service with foot washing and stripping of the altar
- Good Friday, April 10 Noon Ecumenical service hosted at St. Stephen’s and organized with the Middlebury Area Clergy Association.
- Good Friday, April 10 7:00 p.m. Good Friday service
- The Great Vigil of Easter, April 11 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil with lighting of the new flame. Holy Eucharist.
- Easter Morning, April 12 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



St. Stephen’s will once again celebrate the end of the pre-Lenten season with a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, February 25, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

“Shrove” is the past tense of the medieval English verb “shrive,” meaning to present oneself to a priest for confession, penance, and absolution. In early modern England, “Shrovetide” referred to the final days before the start of Lent. During this time, members of the Church would both focus on self-examination, repentance, and spiritual growth, and on celebration, the final days of exuberance before Lent, using up supplies of rich and fatty foods.

For more information about our pancake supper, or to help to prepare and serve it, please contact Michael Reeves.



**George Matthew Jr. announces the 10th annual
Thursday Noontime
Free Lenten concert series
– starting one week early –**

*All programs are 30-45 minutes in length, starting at 12:15 on Thursdays.
Admission is free. Light refreshments will be provided and brown bagging is encouraged.*

- February 20** Christopher McWilliams, pianist and organist, in a program of his own works
- February 27** George Matthew Jr., St. Stephen's organist, in a program of organ works by Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin. (Yes, they wrote for organ!)
- March 5** Emily Sunderman, violinist and Gareth Cordery, pianist in a program of Bach, Handel, and Beach
- March 12** Mini Nordic Festival with George Matthew Jr., organist and Gareth Cordery, pianist. Works by Sibelius, Grieg, and Sjogren.
- March 19** Chris Foster, trumpet and George Matthew Jr., organist in a program featuring works for trumpet and organ by Hans Hielscher and Baroque works.
- March 26** Rebecca Mitchell, pianist, in an all-Rachmaninov program.
- April 2** Frederick DeHaven, organist, in a program of Bach and Mendelssohn
- April 9** Maundy Thursday, George Matthew Jr. in his annual *Orgelgebet* (Organ Prayers) program.

– from the organ bench, George Matthew Jr. –

February - It's Epiphany and also Black Music Month: There is a vast organ repertoire for both in just four weeks. An organist feels like a gourmet, turned loose in a smorgasbord and given five minutes, so every February I play as many settings as possible of "How Bright Appears the Morning Star" (hymn #496). Look it up; these are some of the most magnificent words in the hymnal. Also, you'll hear the now familiar music of Adolphus Hailstork and Godwin Sadoh, African-American composers, and at the end of Epiphany Dom Benoit's setting of the Gregorian Transfiguration melody.



Encountering Taizé

The first time I heard a Taizé chant was when Sarah Horton was our interim minister. We sang “Ubi Caritas” during communion and, as novelist/playwright Romulus Linney says in *Jesus Tales*, my “blood jumped.” In Linney’s novel, based on folktales about Jesus and St. Peter from the villages of Corsica, Italy, Spain, and elsewhere, when Peter the fisherman first encounters Jesus the teacher and healer, he’s thunderstruck by a deep jolt of recognition that he can’t put into words.



That’s how I feel about Taizé. More than almost any other spiritual practice or prayer form, the stillness, the focus on one simple phrase, the repetition and above all the music draw me into the presence of God — especially, as we will be doing this Lent, when the mind is focused by darkness and candlelight.

When Jack DesBois, Winky Thomas and I organized our Lenten Taizé series in 2016, we made it mostly a cappella out of necessity. But we found that the sparseness had its own power. I would fret that it wouldn’t sound like the glorious recordings on YouTube or the beautifully accompanied Taizé services at our cathedral. And Jack would remind me that the focus wasn’t production but prayer.

When my family and I traveled to the Taizé community in 2016, I was struck by the simplicity of the everyday services. And I realized that in our enforced simplicity we had, almost accidentally, found something very like the way the Taizé brothers pray every day.

Winky, Jack and I hope that this Lent you’ll take an hour on Wednesdays out of your busy lives and come sing and pray with us and listen to the Holy Spirit as she speaks in your own heart.

— Gaen Murphree

Taizé services will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1.

Lent Madness: Coming Soon to a Device Near You

Holy Women, Holy Men includes biographies of several hundred saints and saintly people who are recognized on the calendar of The Episcopal Church. Each year, 32 of these saints are selected for the “Lent Madness” online tournament.

Beginning on the day after Ash Wednesday, and continuing throughout Lent, each day features a pairing of two saints.

Participants in the tournament vote on their devices for their preferred person from the pair, and the winners go forward to subsequent rounds: the Saintly Sixteen, the Elate Eight, the Faithful Four, and the Championship. The winner of the final



round (Martha of Bethany in 2019) is awarded the Golden Halo.

To receive a daily e-mail with the day’s ballot and biographical information about the contestants, sign up at <https://www.lentmadness.org/>. Booklets with the complete bracket and information on all 32 entrants will be available at St. Stephen’s, and a poster in the lobby will be updated as the bracket progresses.

Lent Madness is a fun way to learn about individuals who have been important in the history of the Church, or have demonstrated the application of Christian principles in their lives and work. Sign up now, and decide who you think deserves the Golden Halo for 2020.

— Eric Davis

From Mary

Feb 5, 2020

Dear St. Stephen's friends,

Mike Davis graciously offered me a space to write a last bit, and I'm taking him up. The past three years have been years of tremendous personal and spiritual growth. Thank you for helping me serve as Senior Warden. You have reinforced my belief that our parish is one of passion and energy. We care about our church, and our diversity is a strength. God blesses us as we talk, listen, pray, and move to serve God's people. May we all trust each other as we trust God's spirit in each other. Let us support our Vestry and MDT and remember that helping St. Stephen's live into our next season of ministry is not all on them. We share the work, the responsibilities, and the joys. May we all know God's peace and joy.

With love, *Mary McGuire*



One Senior Warden Present - One Senior Warden Future - One Senior Warden Past

Peasant Market 2020 Needs You!

Whether you are new to St. Stephen's, or an old hand at PM, Liz Cleveland or Linda Horn would love to talk to you about how you can help make Peasant Market 2020 a success. Since the 1940's this summer event has focused the energy of the parish on raising funds for outreach. The event itself is a great way to get to know more of your fellow parishioners, and to feel a part of this faith community.

There are a variety of ways to participate; from baking in your own kitchen to helping sell used books, linens, clothing, flowers, crafts, lemonade, jewelry and antiques...and much more. You can choose where and when you'd like to work, or we can point you toward one of the many teams that are looking for willing hands.

As with the many unknowns at St. Stephen's right now, we can add Peasant Market to the list of experiments we are approaching with creativity, kindness, open hearts and open minds. Due to the downtown construction we are relocating Peasant Market to the newly renovated Middlebury Memorial Sports Center (also known as the town hockey rink). There are actually some benefits to this new venue, things like adequate parking(yay!) and rain or shine reliability (indoors!).



- Please mark your calendars: **Peasant Market 2020 - Saturday, July 11th**
Middlebury Memorial Sports Center
296 Buttolph Drive
- Please tell everyone you know about the new location and date.
- Please tell your neighbors, friends & family to set aside their boxes of resalable goods to contribute to this year's Peasant Market!

For more information contact: Liz Cleveland or Linda Horn

A note of thanks to Annemarie Deering for the photo above, and to Ryan Nevius for several photos in this edition.

Safe Church Training to Be Offered

The Safe Church Training program of the Episcopal Church in Vermont, known as Honoring Our Relationships, covers policies, procedures, and best practices for working with populations vulnerable to abuse, as well as situations considered high-risk for sexual misconduct. All clergy, lay church employees, and vestry members, as well as volunteers working with the elderly, children and youth, and other populations vulnerable to abuse are required to obtain Safe Church Certification within their first six months of service, and re-certification every five years.

The program is grounded in principles of our Baptismal Covenant: “to seek and serve Christ in all persons,” and “to respect the dignity of every human being.” Members of St. Stephen’s who have participated in the program in recent years have found it to be very enlightening, and to cover very useful information about maintaining honor and dignity in our relationships with those whom we serve in Christ.

The program will be offered in the following locations. All programs are on Saturdays and last for six hours. There is no charge to enroll. Registration information for the March 28 program will be available soon. Please speak with Rev. Carole if you have questions.

- St. Stephen’s, Middlebury – March 28
- St. Andrew’s, Colchester – June 6
- St. Paul’s, White River Junction – September 12
- St. James, Arlington – November 7

What story do we want to tell? *A quick reflection from The Rev. Carole Wageman*

In the past few months, we have been welcoming more and more folks who have been seeking out St. Stephen’s as part of their spiritual journey. This is a wonderful thing, for St. Stephen’s is a welcoming and vibrant parish. As we help these fellow seekers find a place to belong at St. Stephen’s, how can we help our initial hospitality of welcome go beyond the basics of “Hello, how are you? What is your name? My name is _____. Do you live in Middlebury?” to become one of radical welcome? How can we learn more about them and help them meet others? Do we make an effort to remember their names and the names of their children or spouse? Do we listen carefully for clues as to their concerns and interests? This is not to get more worker-bees for committees. I doubt people need a boost to find new ways to



Photo by Chris Liverani on Unsplash

spend their time, but it is more an opportunity to figure out how God is leading in their lives and what brings them to our red doors. It is an opportunity to share our individual stories about what God has meant in our own lives at St. Stephen’s. How have you been changed, uplifted, helped in some way? Sometimes sharing our own story of faith is the best advertisement we could offer. “Be careful how you live your life (and tell your story). You might be the only Bible some people ever read.”

Peasant Market Craft Table

Calling all crafters!!

Please consider making a few extra of whatever you are up to these days. We would love to feature a Craft Table at this year’s Peasant Market 2020.

News from the Pews



We have some Special Olympic heroes in our midst! **Craig Davis** won a silver medal and two bronze medals in a recent track meet. **Shawn Fahey** also medaled. Way to go!

More athletic feats from **Oprea Littlefield** and her dad, **Thatcher**. They will be performing at the Ice Show during Middlebury College's Winter Carnival. The duo will be part of a parent/child figure skating show.

We can enjoy another virtuoso performance by attending a concert in the afternoon of Friday March 27th at the Residence. **Nat McVeigh** and his Jazz Combo will be playing. They are a real treat to listen to.

Becca Holbrook reports she will be graduating from Northern Vermont University in May with a bachelor of science. She has already started her student teaching at the Parent Child Center and will end her schooling with a license in early childhood education. We are proud of you, **Becca!**

There is more good news with the continued recovery of **Claire Groby**. She will be back to work soon and is down to only one crutch! **Linda Horn** is starting to walk without her cane, but not all the time.

Liz and **Bo Cleveland** are looking forward to their second Christmas on the last weekend of February. Their kids from Montana, North Carolina, and Vermont will all be visiting. Happy Holidays!

World travelers, **Steve** and **Suzanne Snider** are heading to Mongolia! Daughter **Sarah** is going for one of her master's classes from Miami of Ohio. The class is researching zoo conservation in different countries. Got yak milk?

This may come as a surprise, but it is often difficult to pry news out of the people who sit in the pews! That is why I often have a theme on which parishioners can chime. This month it is good movies. The Oscars are coming up, too, and we are mostly hearing about the best film category.



New parishioner **Pete Wynn** says *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* was phenomenal. If you are a Quentin Tarentino fan you will be sure to enjoy it. He also says give *The Joker* a miss. It had great acting but no story.

Lots of people saw *Little Women*. **Joe** and **Nancy Smyrski** liked it. **Joe McVeigh** loved it as did **Mary McGuire** and **Elizabeth Oettinger**.

The movie *1917* was a disappointment to **Ryan Nevius**, **Linda Horn** and **Paul Horn**. We just didn't care about the characters. If you are a war buff, though, it is worth seeing.

There are many votes for *Ford vs Ferrari* for best picture. Raves came from **Craig Goddard**, **Liz Cleveland**, **Linda Horn**, **Paul Horn**, and **Elizabeth Oettinger**. It is a great film even if you aren't into racing, we all say!

Not in the Oscar running but highly enjoyed was *Knives Out*. **Jessica Hoagland** has seen it twice. **Sandy Archibald**, **Sandy Ketcham**, and **Susanne Peck** also loved it. **Barb** and **Rex Stratton** recommend *Harriet* which was a benefit showing in town a while back. **Lorraine Abramson** recommends *Uncut Gems* which is crime thriller about a NYC jeweler.

Next opportunities for baptism

The next two scheduled dates for baptism are Saturday, April 11 at the Easter Vigil (this will be an evening service beginning at 7:00 p.m.) and the Day of Pentecost, May 31. If the rail/bridge construction creates a need to change that date, it will be announced later. Please speak with one of the clergy, or the Rev. Carole Wageman if you are interested for yourself or your child



The World Community for Christian Meditation, a Brief Introduction by Sharon Tierra

Among the many forms of prayer in Christianity, Christian meditation has been called “the prayer of the heart.” The roots of Christian meditation can be found in the desert tradition of early Christianity dating back to the 4th century. Learning to meditate in this Christian tradition has been described as the pilgrimage from the mind to the heart.

“In the silence of meditation, when you go beyond thought and imagination, you begin to understand that being is what life is about. In meditation you are learning to be. To be is to live as the person you are, without trying to justify your existence or make excuses for your personality. Just to be, as you are. The wonder of it is that the simpler you become, the more you are able to enjoy to the full, the gift of your being.” - John Main, OSB



In 1975, John Main, an Irish Benedictine monk (1926-1982) founded the first Christian Meditation Center in London, where people met weekly for group meditation, and seminars were held that attracted people from all over the world. Over the next 15 years, this network of Christian meditators grew to become a global, inclusive, contemplative family and became known as The World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) <https://www.wccm.org>. The symbol of the Community is two birds on a chalice looking in different directions - a modern version of an ancient way of representing the union of the contemplative and active dimensions of life.

The School of Meditation <https://www.theschoolofmeditation.org> is part of the WCCM family. At their website is a free resource guide for new and continuing meditators, complete with books, articles, audios, and videos. There are meditation resources, teaching resources, and resources for contemplatives in action (including sections on interfaith, social justice, addiction and recovery, business and leadership, and children and education). For example, there is “Like a Child, why we should help the young to meditate”, available as an audio CD or MP3 download. Another example, is a free course called “How to Meditate.”

About two months ago, I downloaded the app of The World Community for Christian Meditators to my smart phone. This app has a meditation timer with a lovely bell sound to begin and end my sessions, and provides easy online access to short daily readings for inspiration, weekly readings for personal formation, John Main talks for personal or group meditation, podcasts, online courses, and more. It was one of the best things I have done recently to support and deepen my meditation practice.

I know that online resources are not accessible to everyone and that many prefer a book in hand even if they go online often. Some members of the Thursday meditation group have books on meditation and related topics they would like to donate to our parish library. As these books are added to the library, we will let you know.

**St. Stephen’s meditation group meets weekly on Thursday at 4 p.m. in the upper meeting room.
All are welcome.**

Picturing the Word (#2) - Epiphany 2020 by Jennifer Nelson

Both Renaissance patrons (the people who paid for the painting) and artists liked the Adoration of the Magi as a subject for paintings. It gave them a subject that allowed a lot of imagination in showing the splendor and finery of the kings, both exotic and rich. Theologians also liked the subject in that it showed and contrasted the magnificence of the kings with the lowly origins of Jesus, and the mighty kings humbling themselves before the Holy Child.

Giotto di Bondoni (usually called just Giotto) painted the example here using tempera paint with a gold ground. Giotto's importance in the world of art can hardly be overestimated. One source I consulted called him "The father of European art!" His figures have solidity and weight, and they make meaningful gestures. He paints faces that show emotion in contrast

with the figures in earlier Medieval paintings who usually are two dimensional and all but expressionless. Ghiberti, a later important Renaissance painter, said of Giotto, "[He] made [art] natural and gave it gentleness."

The Adoration of the Magi tells us a story in paint.

The Magi (Kings) have just arrived at the stable and they push forward for a view of the infant. The first in line has removed his crown and thrown it on the ground and lifts the babe out of the manger. Mary lies above and looks on with concern. Her expression says both "Please be careful!" and "I can't tell a king what to do!" Joseph stands at the head of the manger making a perfect "Here! Let me help you with that!" expression and gesture toward the king lifting the baby. The two kings in line look tired, a little bored. Behind the manger the ass and ox look on, and a couple of goats and a sheep stand in front. Angels fly above the stable, and two figures stand in the upper left, probably shepherds. One carries something that I can't make out, and the other one looks up at the angels, with a "sore afraid" expression. There is a dog between the shepherds and Joseph's halo. Dogs often signify fidelity. Every figure, every object, every gesture and expression adds depth and richness to the story. "O come let us adore him."



Giotto di Bondoni (1266 or 67—1337) Adoration of the Magi, possibly 1320

**The next issue of The Parishscope will be published in late March
Planned content: preparations for summer services, building maintenance update,
news about the “What is My Legacy?” program in May**

**Copy deadline for the next Parishscope is Wednesday, March 25th
Send copy to Kitty Davis, kittychurchstuff@yahoo.com**

**To submit article ideas or to discuss recent content, talk to
Editor Mike Davis, windmikevt@gmail.com or **802.989.9820****

Submit News from the Pews to Linda Horn, lindahorn14@gmail.com

*Our current scheduling plan is for an issue approximately every six weeks,
unless a Special Edition is needed.*

New Vestry to Begin Work

A Vestry is in a position to have a positive impact on the parish, both in pursuing its mission, and growing its capacity to serve both inside and outside our walls. Our newly elected members are eager to join in this work, and are beginning with two meetings; a new Vestry member orientation held on Monday, 2/10, and the February regular Vestry meeting, on 2/19.

Our newest members are Mary Jane Simpson, Michael Reeves, and (sharing one seat) Rebecca Mitchell and Andrew Demshuk. If you are not yet familiar with these individuals, I encourage you to greet them next time you see them, and offer your input on the priorities that you feel should guide the Vestry. You should also go back and read their bios, prepared and distributed ahead of the Annual Meeting, to better understand where they are coming from.

Finally, a shout-out to some other important players in lay leadership;

- Barbara Stratton, reelected Treasurer
- Tom Klemmer, elected to the one-year seat and continuing as Junior Warden
- Alice Van Tuyl, reelected Clerk
- Cathy Sontum, reelected recording Secretary

Join me in welcoming all of these folks, who are committing time and thought to an important part of Parish leadership. To ALL of you who commit time, talent, and treasure to Saint Stephen's,

thank you. - *Mike Davis*



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