

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

## THE PARISHSCOPE MAY 2020

*Editor, Mike Davis*

*Associate Editor, Kitty Davis*

*Editor Emerita, Jennifer Nelson*

### SENIOR WARDEN'S UPDATE *from Mike Davis*

The Website Migration Team, under the leadership of Ryan Nevius, has begun the process of working with consultant Bob Larson of Sustainable Digital in Putney, VT. Our intent is to migrate from the current WordPress platform to Squarespace, which is easier for non-professional volunteers (like us!) to maintain. In the process we are striving to make improvements in the site along these lines;

- ✓ easier to maintain.
- ✓ easy to navigate.
- ✓ designed with the most common audiences in mind – visitors, locals seeking to learn more about St. Stephen's, new residents and college students, and of course members of our parish. And right now, there is another important audience – potential clergy candidates – who are almost certainly looking at the site as well.

I share this to help you think about some of our big questions: what do folks see when they look at St. Stephen's? What do we want them to see? If our Mission is about worship, learning, and service, in the Anglican tradition, how do we share that message on our website? Do guests visit our website and say to themselves 'that's an organization I'd like to be a part of? We hope so, and after we complete the migration our hopes are even higher. We are looking forward.

Thanks to all of you who have continued to meet your Giving Goal, both in quantity and timing. It's important to have the income we plan for; it's also important to have it come in steadily, reliably month to month. Thank you.

Word on the street is that our organist George Matthew, Jr., has been playing the Middlebury carillon on a fairly regular basis in recent weeks. Music is food for the soul, and George is feeding the town of Middlebury, and us, in a way that few can. Thanks, George.



Photo © Brett Simison

Finally, remember the staff that we rely on to 'keep the wheels on the wagon' of St. Stephen's. The church is spotless (thanks, Peter) and the administrative challenges of operating remotely are met every day (thanks, Annemarie).



**Peter Dempewolff**



**Annemarie Deering**

**photos Ryan Nevius**

To repeat from page one: The church is spotless (thanks, Peter) and the administrative challenges of operating remotely are met every day (thanks, Annemarie).

## **Ministry Discernment Team Update**

The MDT has been meeting weekly via Zoom during April and May. We are now in the Initial Screening part of the search process. The clergy position has been posted on national websites and interested priests have submitted their resumes and profiles to the Diocesan Transition Minister. During this time period, the MDT has been honing its “human resource” skills, including interview role-playing exercises and planning for the questions we will ask.

Late June will mark the start of reviewing resumes and clergy profiles from potential candidates. Depending on the number of candidates we may make an initial “cut” to focus on those who seem best suited to the parish’s profile. Zoom interviews will be held with candidates later in June.

While the search process is transparent, all information about the candidates is strictly confidential. In other words, the MDT will do all it can to communicate to the parish about the status of its work, but anything and everything about the actual candidates must be held in confidence. This may cause some anxiety for those of us outside the process, but it is a fair way to proceed for both the parish and the candidates.

Please reach out to any MDT member if you have any questions. Team members *Ann Cooper, Beth Davis, Meg Fitch, Jessie Gallipo, Paul Horn, Beth Stanway, Winky Thomas, Alice Van Tuijl, and Barb Wood.* We ask that you continue to pray for us.



# The Fruits of Silence

by Barbara Clearbridge

I have been participating in the Thursday afternoon meditation and prayer group for some years now. My weekly Sunday worship is with Middlebury Friends Meeting (Quakers). When I heard about the meditation group, it was announced as open to people of any faith. The first time I attended, I found people from St. Stephens along with Buddhists, Jews, Quakers, and some with multi-faith and interfaith backgrounds.



Our practices before and after the silent meditation change from time to time. For a while, someone spoke briefly or read something before we began, and we talked about it after the meditation. Later, we began in silence and someone spoke or read something afterwards. For a while, we tried chanting before our silence: Taizé chants, Buddhist chants, modern chants. Sometimes we read a book together.

Anyone who experiences something they think the group will find meaningful, brings it. We have shared poetry, personal revelations, and readings from every possible kind of book about religion and spirituality. I treasure the interfaith aspect. I have learned so much from everyone.

I depend upon this group as people who are serious about prayer and meditation. They seem to me to be dedicated to God, as I am, and to God as the center of our lives, and to having this become deeper and truer and more constant as we practice it. This is how I experience them.

Barbara Clearbridge (“shulamith”) is an energy work healer and interfaith spiritual director in Middlebury (<http://www.feelingmuchbetter.org/>). The St. Stephen’s Meditation meets twice weekly via Zoom (St. Stephen’s at 4) at 4 PM Monday and Thursday.

Sitting in silence together is at the heart of many spiritual traditions. In Quaker practice, we have several different kinds of silence: listening for God (the “still, small voice within”), searching ourselves or asking God to search us, pondering wise words from others, blessing others, and praying.

For Quakers, being together in long periods of silence is the heart of our communal spiritual lives. We call this “waiting worship.” We wait for God to speak to us, or speak through us to the group. And it happens.

The silence is exciting! You may realize something essential about yourself or your life. You may have a blast of understanding about a person or situation. You may feel overwhelming joy, or communion with God, or know oneness with the universe.

Despite a wide variety of kinds of practices, all of us at the Thursday meditation group are striving to learn to have a quiet mind. We give each other support, companionship, and accountability. We grow together as we practice pausing our normal mental activities in order to make room for something different, something usually hidden, something precious and essential that gets neglected in the daily rush and noise. For me, that is the awareness of the presence of God.

Eventually having a quiet mind becomes more and more our way of life. This brings a peaceful heart. Then joy blooms.

I give heartfelt thanks to St. Stephens for offering this to the whole community.

# Interim Ministry Team Update

## Re-opening, Protocols, Rail/Bridge, and Summer worship

*from the Rev. Carole Wageman*

Hello all. Well, this has certainly been a wild season of Lent and Eastertide, hasn't it? The Interim Ministry Team (IMT): Diane, Catherine, Larry, Mike (senior warden), and myself continue to meet weekly by Zoom and we wanted to give you an update on things as they are at this moment in time. Of course, please remember that as soon as this article is published, something will probably change...being flexible and patient is something we all have had to practice quite a bit these days.

I will be honest with you. The plans to fully "re-open" are not going to happen very soon. Life will not seem "normal" for some time. At the very least, each congregation will need to establish (and have approved) its own reopening plan based on the protocols being established in "Guidelines For Reopening Churches in the Diocese of Vermont." This document is currently being developed by a small task force established by the Bishop with Clergy and Lay leaders who are integrating the information available from the governor's administration, current scientific advances, recommendations from the national Episcopal Church, and plans being developed by other Episcopal dioceses in our area.

At this point, it is clear that there are four phases related to re-opening. We are in Phase 1. Movement from one phase to the next will be based on still-to-be established benchmarks that will be impacted by the ongoing medical and social circumstance of this pandemic. The plan will be made public once it is finished but there are a few things that we anticipate will be required regardless of which phase we are in:

1. All clergy, staff, lay leaders, and leaders of outside groups will need to complete VOSHA health and safety training that is available on-line (<https://labor.vermont.gov/vosha>) and receive a certificate of completion that will be kept on file both in the church and at the diocesan office.
2. Contact tracing will be required and the names and contact information of people entering our building, attending services, etc. will need to be recorded and kept confidentially for short periods of time. There will be templates provided for the collection of this information. "Traffic control" entering and leaving the building will be an essential consideration.
3. Cleaning and disinfecting of all touchable surfaces must be continually addressed.
4. Safe physical distances and limits on the numbers of people allowed to gather at one time will be imposed along with wearing of masks, availability of hand sanitizer, and other safety features.
5. There will be other protocols that come into play for staff presence, group building use, office use, Sunday worship, Eucharist, pastoral care, indoor vs outdoor worship/gatherings, etc. but these are still under development.

Our Bishop meets weekly via Zoom with clergy serving congregations for updates and new information. The task force is working continually to finish their work so that can be distributed to all congregations.

Outside of this unexpected pandemic situation, we were already anticipating a ten-week disruption over the summer due to the rail/bridge construction. Here is the update on that as much as we know at this point: Construction work will be resuming very soon and might well be underway by the time this is published. The construction companies are under strict protocols in order to open and proceed safely on site. We do not yet have a revised schedule for the road closure but are hoping for that soon. As things firm up, we will provide more information, but you can keep track of things yourself through:

[http://www.townofmiddlebury.org/living\\_and\\_working\\_in\\_middlebury/downtown\\_bridges\\_project.php](http://www.townofmiddlebury.org/living_and_working_in_middlebury/downtown_bridges_project.php).

Summer worship planning at St. Stephen's received word recently from Middlebury College that the use of Mead Chapel (for which we had been negotiating) will not be available to the public over the summer due to their own coronavirus protocol planning which leaves us with a wide open schedule within which to be creative and inventive, if we choose to do so.

Bummer? Yep. Do we have an answer to what we will do? Nope. We don't have an answer yet, but the IMT is hoping we can all gather our collective ideas together and dream of what we might be capable of during this unique time of wilderness. To that end, we are asking for your help in generating ideas of how we worship, celebrate, lift our voices together somehow over the summer whether we are in the church building or not. Not just with one idea but perhaps with many different ideas. The IMT has begun to generate a list but want to be sure you are not left out of the idea creation. If you have an idea...or even a germ of an idea, please do send it along to me: Rev. Carole Wageman ([revcarolewageman@gmail.com](mailto:revcarolewageman@gmail.com)) so we can compile them together and see where the spirit might be leading us. Please send your ideas no later than the end of May.

SO....there we are. A challenging time? For sure. A time for faith? Absolutely. This is one of those times where faith and fear collide and we are called upon to remember that while this might be new to us, it is not new to God and the Holy One who is walking this path with us will continue to work in and among us continuing to create many things that are good and holy and blessed. We are in the midst of living on the edge of a sacred time that will take all that we have to offer—willingly, generously, graciously, and kindly. We are on a new path and while we cannot see where it will lead right now, if we trust in God, we will have the power to leave a story of hope and inspiration for the future generations who will come after us. We are a people of joy. We live on the resurrection side of the cross. Now, more than at any other time in our lifetimes, we are called to leave aside that which separates and divides us and actively seek out that which unites us and binds us into one people under the leadership and love of Christ.

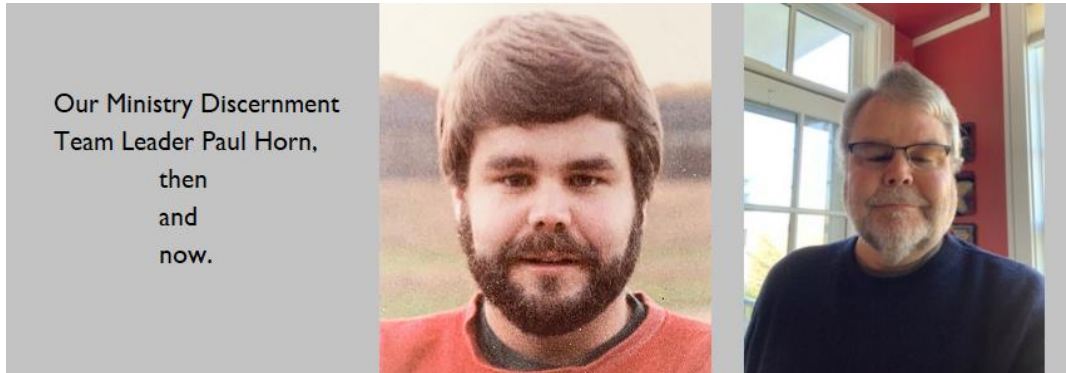


As always, we encourage you to reach out to members of the IMT (which includes Senior Warden Mike Davis) with questions, observations, or requests for pastoral care. We also encourage you to reach out to members of the parish and your neighbors—both to give and receive support.

In the meantime, I miss seeing all of you. Zoom worship just isn't the same as person-to-person contact that is alive with song, smiles, laughter, and greeting each other. We will get through, however. There is always a new dawn. There are always new seasons. There is always love. There is always a resurrection. Always.

## News from the Pews

We have all been cooped up for weeks now, and among other things we have in common, everyone's hair is getting long. Some people are choosing long facial hair on purpose, including **Ben Anderson-Ray**, **Steve Snider**, and **Paul Horn**. In fact, it feels like a return to younger days.



**Special News from the Pews Quiz: Can guess who the people are pictured on page 12!**

A few quiet, amidst Covid-19, celebrations for big milestones have been happening. **Holly Stabler** and **Bob Ruggiero** 30th wedding anniversary was April 28. Congratulations! And you won't believe this. **Dee Hodges** was 80 years old on April 27th!

One thing we have been allowed to do is garden. Last year **Susan** and **Ben Anderson-Ray** introduced **Amy Hastings** and **Larry Yarbrough** to a Lenten Rose. Now, look at what is blooming in their Easter Garden!



Speaking of Easter, we had a lovely Zoom service, but other gatherings weren't happening. That didn't stop **Bill Eichner** and **Alexander Horn** from separately making hot cross buns that morning. **Alex** has some other big news. He and his girlfriend, Mimi, closed on their first house May 1 in Salt Lake City.

**Sharon Tierra** shared a pandemic stay-at-home story about Scrabble tiles. Sharon has an online Etsy shop offering a variety of vintage goods as well as craft materials. Since the onset of the pandemic in the US, her shop's sales of individual vintage Scrabble tiles have gone through the roof -- or, shall we say "off the tile rack." Seems there are a lot of folks enjoying this marvelous game but finding, after years of sitting idle in the top of a closet, that there is a letter missing, or two or three...

**Sharon** and **Glenn Fulop** also shared some news about their daughter Hope, a graduate nursing student at UVM. Hope was recently invited to join Sigma Kappa Tau, the UVM chapter of an International Honor Society of Nursing. We're so very proud of her!

**Meg Fitch** is making the most of her Stay Home, Stay Safe order. She has been revising a children's novel and trying to re-learn French. She took French for five years so she reports it comes back in pieces and a lot of small things have changed in the last 52 years! Magnifique!

There is news from Switzerland and our member **Debbie Groby**! She attends Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Geneva. She says, "I thought you might be interested in one thing that has been a reward for me, and a success for our church. Our choir has managed to create a virtual choir thanks to the many talents of our director/organist and her partner. One gift of the Covid-19 situation meant that not only our current choir members have been recording ourselves at home using backing tapes for each part prepared by our director, but members who have since left and returned home to the US are participating too. We thus now include singers who used to be in Geneva, but moved home to Minnesota, Massachusetts, Ohio, Washington DC, and Washington state, even another from Australia!! I will attach our latest anthem which is now posted on YouTube (as are our weekly services that a small core team have been recording in advance for our Sunday worship, followed by a Zoom coffee hour just as I see you will be doing this Sunday)." Click on the title to view the YouTube of ["The Lord is my Shepherd" by Howard Goodall](#) shared by **Debbie**.

**Cathy Sontum, Sharon Tiera, and Winky Thomas** participated in a video choir performing *Set Me As A Seal* by Rene Clausen. Click [here](#) to view the YouTube.

Look who is preparing a "Welcome Back" sign for the construction workers. Might it be our Junior Warden and his daughter?

**May Morris** asks to pass along that UVM Master Gardeners are looking for people to help grow food for the hungry. Read about the program by clicking [here](#).

**Jay Parini** and **Devon Jersild** became grandparents again with the birth of Massimo Parini on May 9, 2020. Congratulations to parents Elsie Lynn Parini and Oliver Parini!



**Virginia Westbrook** has "de-camped" to North Adams, MA where she enjoys the watchful care of her son, Ben, the fellowship of his family, and daily access to grandson, Wylie, (now 9 months). This allows her younger son, Sam to continue his essential work for WPTZ-TV from their home base in Crown Point.



Stay safe out there everyone and please remember to send me your news next month. You know you want to! [Lindahorn14@gmail.com](mailto:Lindahorn14@gmail.com)

## Sophie Swallow: a young woman going places...already has, and will again

by Mike Davis, *Parishscope* Editor

Often, we see college students attend Sunday services occasionally, maybe almost regularly, but most do not 'get involved'. Sophie is not that college student. This passionately activist young person is just a Junior at Middlebury, but already her resume of real make-a-difference work with young people in Guatemala is inspirational, and furthermore has an air of seriousness that belies her smiling, upbeat disposition. You may remember her from the meeting several months ago after coffee hour, discussing how we might deal in a positive way with the homeless folks who hang around behind our church. She had things to say, the calm and engaging demeanor to persuade, and the experience to back it up.

Sophie's work has largely been with young adults in a slum that is essentially built around the biggest dump in Guatemala; the work that can be found there is the kind of salvaging, repurposing, barely-scraping-by that you might expect from families trying to eke out an existence from a dump. One consequence of that sort of life is a high rate of young, single motherhood. This has become the focus of Sophie's work there, and she is quick to share both the successes – and frustrations – of trying to change that reality in a permanent way.

I mention her work because she recently sought and received a grant from the Outreach Committee from funds generated at the 2019 Peasant Market. Read her thank you letter here: [Guatemala Youth Initiative](#). She is now home with her family in Milwaukee, but if she were here, she would share a compelling story of how this money helps make positive changes in the lives of these folks. I won't go into a lot of detail on how she ended up working in this setting, but it's fascinating – and I hope that all of you will get a



chance to talk to her in person again, and learn more about her first hand.

I also want to save some space to talk about Sophie the Middlebury student, and where she thinks St. Stephen's fits into the lives of these students. She acknowledges that a student's time here is fleeting – 5 years at most, usually less – and so whatever we hope to do together needs to start early, and needs a built-in transition so that incoming students can jump into a 'working' program. Sophie thinks we are uniquely suited to relationships with a certain kind of student; one who is not just involved in outside activities to check a box on a resume', but those who want to dig deep into an outreach type of work because it satisfies a desire they have for an 'authentic' introduction to how volunteers working outside the College can make a real and lasting difference.

Sophie describes one of her first, and most rewarding, work experiences in Guatemala as one where 'all of her talents were used'. She encourages St. Stephen's to showcase our activist chops, and to be a place where students can say that 'all of their talents were used' in service to a serious and consequential mission. She's very familiar with the now common pushback among students towards 'organized religion', but thinks that this authentic activism can be the thing that brings students to an authentic faith in the process.

Several of you know Sophie well, and so when she says to tell you that 'she misses you all', it's personal. 5 or 10 students like Sophie could change our church in remarkable ways, and I think she would be willing to 'coach us' on moving in this direction. She's in the new directory and would love to hear from any of you.



# Gratitude for Peasant Market Grants: Open Door Clinic

From Open Door Clinic: ...” Ever grateful for your tremendous support and Thank You! Am enclosing a patient story that illustrates (to some degree) how we’ve been caring for our patients during this harrowing time. Also, Julia and one of our volunteers and board member have been distributing “COVID boxes” to farms over the past few weeks. They have visited 42 farms and given out 57 bags of supplies to farm workers!”

Eliel’s story: as reported to Senate Health and Welfare and House Health committees on 4/22 and to Senate Agricultural Committee on 4/23:

“Eliel called us on a Tuesday afternoon. He reported having trouble walking from his trailer to the barn without gasping for air. He felt like his heart was beating strongly in his chest and he just didn’t have an appetite. He didn’t have a cough or chest pain and didn’t think he had had a fever but felt like he had been getting progressively worse over the past week. At 48 years old, Eliel was healthy, fit man. He hadn’t smoked since he left Mexico 4 years ago. He didn’t have hypertension, diabetes, or underlying respiratory or cardiac issues. As he spoke to us, he stopped frequently to catch his breath. While his demeanor and voice were calm, it was obvious that he was deeply troubled by his symptoms. The outreach nurse encouraged him to go to Porter Hospital’s ER. He agreed and arranged for his boss to take him. The outreach nurse notified the ER of his impending arrival, providing them with clinical and demographic information and allowing them time to set up the interpreter video iPad.

Eliel crashed soon after his admission to the ER. His oxygen saturation fell, his breathing became extremely labored and he was febrile. He was sedated and intubated. UVM Medical Center was contacted and Porter transferred Eliel via ambulance directly to UVMMC’s Covid-19 intensive Care Unit. ....”

Long story short, between Eliel’s outreach nurse, ODC, UVM, and interpretation facilities, Eliel’s



son in CA, was updated on his father’s condition., His case manager would help start his financial assistance paperwork.

Later the farmer called saying he was concerned about the other 6 workers on the Farm. Although each had a private room, they shared a kitchen and bathroom and had been exposed to Eliel. The outreach nurse reviewed Covid-19 signs and symptoms, infection control basics, and how to protect the farmer, his family, and his workers and delivered a Covid box with thermometers, sanitizers, and soap.

Eliel survived and returned to work about 3 weeks later. He lost 3 weeks of pay, does not qualify for Medicaid. He may get a hospital discount, but not an ambulance discount. He is paid too much for Medicaid as a single person and cannot count his family in Mexico. The farmer would like to be able to pay sick time, but cannot due to the price of milk.

Basically, this is a story about a typical farm employee needing ODC care, which they offer in an all-inclusive package, from initial contact, through to follow-up, help with insurance, and support for the employers. They accompany patients to interpret, hold their hands through the intake process, follow up, and find insurance for them.

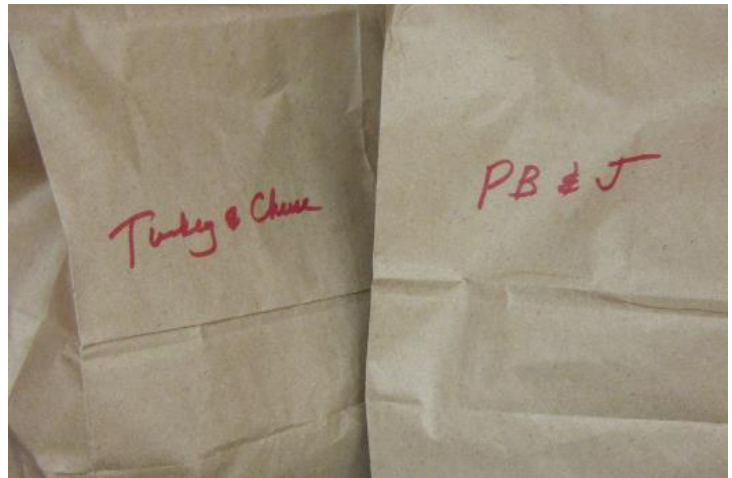
Want to know more about the Open Door Clinic? You can read their newsletters online at <https://opendoormidd.org/newsletter/>

# Community Lunch in Transition

submitted by Holly Stabler

So...what's happened to St. Stephen's community lunch in the new world of Covid-19? Since mid-March, our routines – lunch bags for HOPE and CVOEO and parish hall hot lunches for walk-in guests – have been relocated (several times) and curtailed or suspended. And with the resumption of construction on the rail-bridge project more change may be in store. But we are still making lunches and many of our regular patrons have remained faithful. Moreover, some of our processes have been streamlined to the benefit of our volunteers as well as a local business. These initiatives will stand us in good stead when we are ready to resume full-scale operations or even expand this ministry.

Lunch bag preparation for HOPE and CVOEO proved to be the most difficult part of this ministry to adapt to our new circumstances. Usually, the 24 lunch bags were assembled in the parish kitchen by two parishioners (who also delivered them) with ingredients provided by at least three different parishioners. When the church closed along with the kitchen, we tried moving the operation to the bag assemblers' homes. But after a few weeks, the challenge of delivering ingredients from different sources including the church



pantry to different homes each week became too daunting and also entailed more contact with others than was wise. We consulted with CVOEO and HOPE and with their blessing suspended this operation until more propitious times. ***We told them, however, that we were resolved to step up our St. Stephen's or individual donations of cash or foodstuffs to CVOEO and HOPE to help make up for the lost lunch bags as well as the contents of the Sunday collection baskets.***

The hot lunches are a different story. As churches and their kitchens closed along with Charter House and its kitchen, the Monday-Thursday sit down lunch gatherings rapidly turned into bag lunches (a bit heartier than formerly) distributed in lines with 6-foot intervals at the Charter House kitchen door. For a couple of weeks, the Monday bag lunches were made at the homes of our St. Stephen's lunch coordinators. (Demand from our former patrons rose from 10 to 24 and now hovers at 18.) Then our clergy entered into negotiations with the bishop and thankfully, our kitchen has reopened under a regime of strict observation of social distancing by no more than a few workers who wear masks, gloves and thoroughly disinfect surfaces.

We are not sure how long these arrangements will remain viable. The planned closure of Main Street and Merchants Row with the resumption of rail-bridge construction may deny us easy access to our kitchen. The number of meals needed by former food-insecure and homeless patrons of Charter House and John Graham facilities may suddenly increase significantly if Middlebury College, as scheduled, stops preparing meals on June 1 for this inn and motel sheltered population. Perhaps

this latter contingency will open up new opportunities for St. Stephen's parishioners to participate in food preparation for those in need. Prior to the pandemic, about 30 or more parishioners were involved on a regular basis in some aspect of the community lunch program. Currently, the number is about a dozen.

In the meantime, the Monday community lunch program has benefitted significantly from the creative intervention of Amy Hastings, Larry Yarbrough and Mike Davis and the entire Interim Ministry Team to simplify and upgrade our operations. Lunch coordinators can now charge lunch ingredients, or indeed entire lunch bags, at Greg's and receive a ten percent discount on their purchases. This will make accounting for lunch expenditures easier. At the same time, our patronage will benefit a local retailer struggling to survive in this challenging business climate. And for parishioners looking to get involved in this program, participation will appear more accessible.



That's the story to date. PLEASE, when you are shopping for groceries for your families and friends, keep CVOEO and HOPE and GREG's in mind. You can also make a donation to St. Stephen's in support of the community lunch program. Thank you!

News from the Pews  
GUESS WHO?

answers on back cover  
page 12



# Faith Filled Living

The Stewardship Ministry Team (SMT) believes that stewardship is a year-round mission for all faithful Christians. The story of Jesus' life is about sharing the abundant love of God with the world. Presiding Bishop Curry encourages us to follow the Jesus Way. To this point, the SMT has chosen a theme for this year that asks us how we, as the people of St. Stephen's, can live a Faith-Filled Life. One which in Bishop Curry's words is "loving, liberating and life-giving and committed to going into the world to help this world to become one that is loving, liberating and lifegiving." \*

We have been meeting weekly since February, most recently by Zooming. We've learned through our active and often boisterous meetings that they have in no way been diminished by our separation. We have been actively looking at ways that we at St. Stephen's can respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are particularly focused on how we can help all of us find ways in which we can fill our lives with the giving and sharing of God's love which is the heart of stewardship.

We will be focusing over the rest of the year on how we can better follow a "Faith-Filled Life" in our own ways and how we can bring our individual and corporate time, treasure, and talents to live "a way of love that is not self-centered, ... a way of love grounded in compassion, and goodness, and justice, and forgiveness."\*



We invite anyone in the parish to join us in our search and activities. Contact any of us: *Amy Hastings, John Hammer, Winky Thomas, Elizabeth Oettinger, and Barbara Stratton.*

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\* Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, "The Jesus Movement," Sept 15, 2016

"Faith Filled Living is..." – sentence completed and illustrated – view at <https://tinyurl.com/Faith-Filled-Book>

## Picturing the Word (#4) by Jennifer Nelson

Domenikos Theotokopoulos (1541-1614) was a native of Crete and intended to be an icon painter. But he moved as a young man to Venice and from there to Rome where he studied masters of the Italian Renaissance. From Rome he went to Toledo, Spain where he lived and worked for the rest of his life. In Spain he was called El Greco or The Greek.

Most histories of art put a period called Mannerism between the Renaissance and the subsequent Baroque period. El Greco is probably the most readily recognizable Mannerist painter, making a break from Renaissance artistic rules of beauty and order to much more emotional and expressive figures, and facial expression of other deep emotions.

The painting called *The Pentecost* includes typical El Greco features: it is dark, the viewer is below the figures which all twist and turn upward toward Mary in the center, on a raised podium. The figures are elongated, a characteristic of El Greco's paintings. The facial expressions project intensity--anguish, fear, and amazement. The man in the top row, second from the right, who looks neither toward the Virgin nor the dove above them all is a self-portrait of El Greco, the artist. Above the top row of figures are flames of fire presumably from the golden dove above them (the Holy Spirit). (Acts 2: 3-4)

Obviously, El Greco sees Pentecost as a somber occasion. The arrival of the Holy Spirit in the world fulfills Jesus's promise that when he finally left them (Ascension) he would send something into the world that would help his people: The Holy Spirit. Other artists and interpreters see Pentecost as a joyous happening, but El Greco begs to differ. The picture says it all.



**Copy deadline for the next Parishscope is Wednesday, July 1, 2020  
It will be published in early July**

**To submit article ideas or to discuss recent content, talk to  
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*Our current scheduling plan is for an issue approximately every six weeks,  
unless a Special Edition is needed.*

## **ANSWERS TO “Guess Who?” on page 10 – a News from the Pews Quiz**

**A-** Ben Anderson-Ray  
**B-** Joe McVeigh  
**C-** Matthew Snider  
**D-** Steve Sontum  
**E-** Tom Klemmer  
**F-** Mike Davis  
**G-** Paul Horn  
**H-** Larry Yarbrough

**I-** Beth Stanway &  
Tom Klemmer  
**J-** Cathy Sontum  
**K-** Mary McGuire  
**L-** Beth Davis  
**M-** Barb Wood  
**N-** Susan Anderson-Ray  
**O -** Mary McGuire



## **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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