

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

Parishscope

On the Village Green
3 Main Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
802 388 7200
www.ststephensmidd.org

"Do you see what I see?"
The Rev. Carole Wageman

May 2019

Ever wonder where the children are hanging out during our worship service? They always show up right before communion but where are they before that time? Who is with them or are they running free through the offices and meeting rooms?



I decided to visit our children's program and it was wonderful to watch. Here is what I saw: Children are greeted by one or both of the teachers (Beth Davis or Barb Wood) in the upstairs meeting room. If a family is new to St. Stephen's, there might be an usher, a parishioner, or one of the clergy who assist new families to find the upstairs meeting room and feel welcomed. Might be anyone at any time but ministry is an art and happens all the time, especially when you are not looking!

The meeting room morphs from a room filled with a circle of chairs leftover from Adult Ed to become a children's space as a circular rug is rolled out, materials are brought in from the closet for the day's lesson, and all are gathered in a circle and welcomed. Sometimes Moms and/or Dads are present until their child is comfortable staying on their own with the teachers and other children.

A few songs are sung (thanks to the help of technology) and all join in since the music is simple and easy to learn. Some children are known to keep singing these songs at home during the week as they move through their day. Nice way to keep God and Jesus close by!

The story of the day has been prepared by the Lead Teacher. She places the materials that accompany the story out in front and looks down at them as though she can see the story unfolding right in front of her. The children watch carefully and so do I. Today's lesson is about the tradition of coloring of Easter eggs, what the colors stand for, what the symbols mean,

why eggs are used during Easter, and ways in which people color eggs for this celebration. The children are creatively engaged in the wondering and conversation. Following the story, everyone moves to a small table where crafts are available that support the lesson. Today we are coloring pictures or decorating blank wooden egg models. We get out markers, colored pencils, chalks and the children know exactly what to do. The youngest children are guided to use materials that they can manage and one young man keep telling us that he is making his picture for his mama who is downstairs in the the worship service.

The Assistant Teacher helps out with encouragement, picking up on children who are a bit shy, getting snacks ready, putting out craft materials, and helping to clean up and roll up the carpet at the end of the session. It is important to have two adults in the room not only for extra hands to help, but also to ensure the safety of our children which is important to the St. Stephen's community.

The Lead Teacher keeps track of the service by live streaming the service on her phone (YES!! It is being live-streamed!!). We watch together as the preacher finishes and the celebrant continues to lead the congregation in the rest of the service. Clean up commences quickly as we get ready to go back downstairs in time for the Peace and to re-join our parents and grandparents, aunts, uncles and all those who are so glad to have these children in our parish.

Do you see what I see? I see love at work: caring, teaching and learning taking place. I see adults passing on to the next generation the love of God and the wonder of God's story. Thanks be to God...and to our teachers who care so deeply.

We are your stewards, O God. Guide us in your grace!

For those of us worshipping this Easter season at 10:30, the Prayers of the People include these lines. Have you noticed? Do you identify yourself as a “steward?” In the same service, the Eucharistic prayer asks that we might be God’s “faithful stewards” and reflect God’s bountiful grace.

I don’t use the word steward or stewardship a whole lot day-to-day. Once upon a time flight attendants were “stewardesses” (they were most always female) and if you’ve ever been on a cruise you probably encountered a “steward” who assisted you. But it *is* a word we use in the church and too often it gets associated more with money, as in the annual Stewardship Campaign, i.e., what are you *giving to* the church.

But let’s pay close attention to what our liturgy is saying this Easter season: “We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth you have given us to cherish and protect; nourish in us your love for all you have made.” That’s a pretty expansive notion of what it

means to be a steward – we are to love **ALL that God has made**, care for it, protect it, support it. Stewardship, it seems to me, encompasses all that we do to serve God and care for what God has created – and that means everything!

In coming months we’ll be “Shining Our Light” on the many ways we love and serve God in our faith community and in our lives, day to day. In the meantime, why not start saying this to yourself as you collect the recycling, as you bring food for the food shelf, as you serve at Community Lunch or Supper, as you collect treasures for Peasant Market, as you attend a committee meeting, or education forum, or as you greet a stranger in town:

**I am your steward, O God.
Guide me in your grace.**

Amy Hastings
For the Stewardship Ministry Team

Junior Warden’s Report by Tom Klemmer

It has been a busy time for me as we held our much anticipated “Keep The Bells Ringing” auction fundraiser on April 27th. Over two years of planning went into this event, and I think it was well worth it in the end. After all expenses we netted \$15,020 to go toward the preservation of St. Stephen’s facilities! I want to thank everyone again who volunteered their time and energy to make this such a success. I really could not have done it without all of your support. I especially want to thank my auction committee who stuck with me through the whole process of putting this together. **Barbara Blodgett, Alice Van Tuyl, Carol Calhoun, Linda Horn, Ann Cooper, Ryan Nevius and Tom Turley.** If you see these people, please thank them for all they did for this auction and for St. Stephen’s.

Now that the auction is finished I can refocus my energy towards finishing the chapel. Peter and I will be installing a new cherry hardwood floor at the end of

this month. Immediately following that, I will be finishing the cherry wood surround for the columbarium.

Speaking of the columbarium, we have had many calls from interested parties in reserving space in our new columbarium. A few niches have been sold already. If you’re interested in reserving space, please contact me directly or ask Annemarie for the request form. Also, it should be noted that since the chapel is now a sacred space, we will no longer be stowing Peasant Market goods in there. The chapel needs to be accessible at all times for people to pay their respects. I know PM intake is hectic, but with a little effort we can find other storage options so as to keep the chapel clear. Thank you very much.

Tom Klemmer



News from the Pews by Linda Horn

News from afar

Nick and Louisa Beaupre, children of **Dan and Amy Beaupre**, were both confirmed at Washington National Cathedral on May 11 by Bishop Mariann Budde. (Some St. Stephen's members might remember Nick being confirmed here as well, in 2014. Well, now he's doubly confirmed!) They will be going on a pilgrimage with their church school class to Costa Rica in June. Nick will then venture off to Mongolia for a month of service, desert and mountain trekking, horseback riding, and a homestay with a nomadic family. Louisa is finishing a year of study at International Connections Academy. She and Nick will return to Montgomery Blair this fall. Nick is eyeing colleges close to ski mountains. All the Beauprés look very forward to some Vermont time this summer and will surely be worshipping at St. Stephen's.

Wesley Nelson, Jennifer and Paul's grandson, was promoted to senior group of the Cincinnati Boys Choir. Talent runs in the family! Also, Wesley's dad, **Ted Nelson**, ran his first marathon in Cincinnati last weekend. Afterward he was quoted as saying, "I'm tired and my feet hurt." He always did have a way with words!

Austin Dempewolf has graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. with a master's degree in public policy. He and his wife, Yana, will stay in the D.C. area. Congratulations!

Going far

Alexander Horn, son of **Linda and Paul**, was in Hawaii for two weeks with his girlfriend, Mimi Eckenstein. Hawaii is Alex's 49th state to visit.

Both **Winky Thomas** and **Diane**

Nancekivell have spent some time in France recently. Winky was lucky enough to see Bishop Curry preach in Paris and Diane experienced the Notre Dame fire while in the French countryside.

Alice Van Tuyl is headed to Edinburgh with her younger daughter and son-in-law. They are hoping to see sun along with the other sights.

Welcome back and happy to see you goes to **Virginia Westbrook**. Virginia drove to California and back for the winter by way of Vancouver Island and the return trip through Canada.

David Pittuck and Debbie Groby, mother of **Claire** and grandmother of Dean and Taylor, visited for a month recently. David and Debbie reside in Switzerland but have become regular attendees of St. Stephen's when they are in town. They plan to be back in time for Pie Day and Peasant Market.

May 13th was the last of Middlebury College classes and graduation is coming up. Our students will be heading home and to other adventures. Sophomores **Ben Beese and Evan Killian** will both have junior years abroad next year so it will be awhile before we see them.

Going the extra mile

A special shout out to **Tom Klemmer** for all his work with the "Keep the Bells Ringing" auction in April. Tom and the committee worked on this for two years with Tom doing the lion's share. Thank you, Tom!

Good News

Dr. Amy Littlefield (Thatcher's wife

and Oprea's and Hartley's mother) has just opened her new office in the Marble Works. Amy is a Naturopathic Physician.

Garden News

We've had April showers (and May showers) so now it must be garden time. Lots of people have already started seeds. This is just what was "dug up" one Sunday.

Our vegetable gardeners include **Mary McGuire** who has started beans and **Dick Littlefield** peppers and tomatoes, **Meg Fitch** squash, and **Asa and Mike Davis** beets and carrots. **Barbara and Mike Kieran** have spinach already popping up and looking for warmth, along with a variety of lettuce that is still in the house. Barbara says Mother's Day was spent at Golden Russet Farm getting the rest of their plants.

Flower growers are also getting busy. **Dorothy Hayes** has started morning glories, **Kathy Sontum** a bee garden, **Meg Fitch** sunflowers and nasturtiums, and **Mary McGuire** with giant zinnias and forget-me-nots.

In the not a fruit or flower category is **Becca Holbrook and son Adler** who report trying strawberries this season.

Just hint, the author of this column is willing to take any extra of everything listed above!

--
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Bishop Candidates Answer Questions at Walkabouts

by Eric Davis

The three candidates for Bishop of Vermont – the Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, the Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, and the Very Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith – answered questions from members of the Episcopal Church in Vermont at walkabouts held during the last week of April. Total attendance at the four walkabouts – in Springfield, Manchester, Burlington, and Newport – exceeded 400 people. A wide range of topics was covered in these sessions, including the role of the bishop as pastor to clergy and congregations, demographic and financial challenges facing the church, the future of small parishes, recruitment and deployment of priests and deacons, public issues such as environmental stewardship and gun violence, prayer

book and hymnal revision, and the relationship between the bishop and the cathedral.

Videos of all of the walkabouts may be viewed online at <https://vimeo.com/album/5953189>

The sense of many of the clergy and lay people in attendance was that we are blessed to have three strong candidates, each of whom would bring her own unique set of gifts, talents, skills, and experiences to the role of bishop.

The Eleventh Bishop of Vermont will be elected at a special convention to be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m. The convention will be live-streamed on the diocesan Web site.



Next Parishscope: June 2019

Deadline for submissions: June 14th

Be in touch with editor Jennifer Nelson
(jgnelson@middlebury.edu) or 802 388 7008 or

Kitty Davis (kittychurchstuff@yahoo.com)

And give News from the Pews to Linda Horn
(lindahorn14@gmail.com) or 802 388 2300

Senior Warden's Report from the Vestry

I'm keeping this short and sweet so that we all get back outside and into Spring!

- Safe Church Training: We won't hold one here due to several others offered around the state which are free for us to attend. Register online or email Lynn Bates: lbates@dioceseofvermont.org Here are the dates, again:
 - June 8, 8:45-3pm - St. James Episcopal Church, Arlington
 - June 22, 8:45-3pm - All Saints, South Burlington
 - Sept 14, 8:45-3pm - St. Michael's, Brattleboro
 - Oct 19, 8:45-3pm - St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe
- We have an opening on Vestry for the remainder of this calendar year after which the new Vestry member would be eligible to stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting in January, 2020. Please write your letter of interest to Steve Sontum asap. Vestry will fill this vacancy at our

May 15 meeting.

- We will be hosting about 20 cyclists with the "Bike the US for MS" bike-a-thon from June 2-4. They need nothing more than the floor space in the Parish Hall and shower, but if you would like to offer some hospitality in the form of snacks or to welcome them when they arrive that Sunday, please let me know.

This final note is more than a bullet point. I want to sincerely and warmly thank many of you who have stepped up to support the Teen Center. At our last Annual Meeting, we heard an exciting presentation from representatives from the Teen Center. In response, we agreed at that time to become active supporters of this important work and have provided a significant grant of \$5000 from our Outreach ministry. Several parishioners have been providing groceries or meals to their after school program, and our St. Stephen's Boatwrights have spent two full weeks enabling them to build a sailboat for them to raffle

off as their own fundraiser. Linda Horn, who through her work with "Neighbors, Together" first noticed the opportunity, serves on their Board of Directors. So we're stepping into this ministry. But we don't yet have a "standard bearer", someone to keep us in the know about their needs and how we can be more engaged. We need a liaison and leader for this work. The Outreach Committee is discussing this and needs your engagement.

Our Bishop has called us to be the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement, and we've said that we want to be God's hands and heart in our community. I encourage us to talk about what this means when we get together in Foyers, at coffee hour, out on a walk... Do we mean what we say and pray? If it's not the Teen Center, that's ok! Let's figure this out.

OK, I promised short and sweet. Thanks for reading to the end, and may we all continue to seek God's will, peace and joy,

--Mary

PS: Next Vestry is May 15, 6:30-8:30. Open to all!



Getting to Know ... Ann Cooper

by Mike Davis

***What a delight, this sudden green,
splashed extravagantly across our
world
so recently, so long brown and
gray.
Not subtle this spontaneous display,
or tentative,
no hesitant haze of unfurled
leaves.
in our face as startlingly as if
we'd opened the door into emerald
Oz....***

Ann Cooper is a poet, among many other things. Her 'minority' bonafides include growing up as a secular Jew (more about that later), and being a Mets fan (similar minority status to being a Twins fan...). Thus, unlike some of us who have come from other Christian traditions to this one, Ann has made the 'great leap of faith' from (secular) Judaism to (very involved) Christianity.

I for one was not aware of the degree of anti-Semitism present in post-war America. Ann grew up in that era, in the city, and experienced persistent anti-Semitism in school in particular, but even as she approached adulthood. The private school she attended sixth through twelfth grade was mostly populated with 'social register types', and they (and their parents) imposed an 'other' status on her both socially and hierarchically – she possibly was 'not quite as good' as the goyim. She talks about a Christian man she was very fond of at one point and hoped to marry, whose parents promised to disown him if he married her. Hard to imagine.

Ann studied History, with a degree from Wellesley and a Masters from



Columbia. She taught History at The Calhoun School, a private girl's school in NYC. In the process of her education she learned a lot about Christian churches and what they believed, which was of a piece with her search for a God of unconditional love. In her search she experienced at least two dramatic revelations of this God, once at the cathedral in Chartres during high school, the other while in college. Sometime during that journey she got to know Charlie Scott, Chaplain at Middlebury for many years. Charlie was an Episcopal priest, and their acquaintance eventually led to Charlie leading Ann through the discernment and study that culminated in baptism. The rest, Ann would probably say, is History. She was drawn to the Episcopal Church by 'the unconditional love' she experienced there...and from my reading of the remembrances of Father Scott, he was among the clearest examples of that love.

Ann's CV at Saint Stephen's, and the Diocese, pretty much checks all the boxes...Vestry, led the MDT that called Terry, Stones for St. Stephen's, Interfaith Chaplain at Fletcher-Allen, Diocesan Commission on Ministry, Standing Committee, Diocesan companion to congregations in transition, . Badda-bing! In and amongst all those churchy activities, Ann has done a lot of consulting with non-profits, grant writing, and was for a time editor of the Journal of the New-ork Historical Society. In that same vein she, with

fellow-historian Deborah Clifford, founded, edited, and published *Historic Roots*, a magazine of Vermont History created to provide reading material for adult new readers and is now available online at the Vermont Historical Society web site. And if that's not enough, during her time living in New Jersey she was the first woman/Democrat/Jew on the town council where she lived. Probably surprised a few paternal/conservative/Christian citizens with that one!

In this interim time between clergy, Ann reminds us that – from her perspective – we are not hard on priests, as some have said. We should be less concerned about any perceived 'reputation' we might have (undeserved, as Ann says) and more focused on continuing to be 'the nicest people in town', as Ann remembers others referring to us when she first came to Middlebury. Nice, in this case, means the way in which we model, in the wider community as well as inside our congregation, how loving our neighbor translates into social service and advocacy for social justice and the recognition of the dignity of every human being.

If you want to get Ann going on a subject dear to her heart, ask about her kids and grandkids. When she's not in church, that's probably where she's at. Or ask to see/hear/read some of her poetry...

***....now we, almost forgetting
late April's persistent, grinding
cold and snow and rain,
ignoring itchy eyes and runny
nose,
breathe in deep, smile,
and sigh "At last!"***

Notes from the Treasurer

Barbara Stratton

At the end of our first quarter, St. Stephen's operating revenues and expenses are above target:

January - March 2019

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income			
Operating Revenues	69,449	66,698	2,751
Operating Expenses	63,068	64,171	-1,103
Net Operating Income	6,381	2,527	3,854

Prepaid pledges at the end of 2018 totaled \$25,400 and are being held temporarily in our savings account. In years past, the prepaid pledges were reclassified to current income and the monies were moved to our checking account in January. That gave us a large beginning-of-the-year income boost. This year I decided to hold off reclassifying the prepaid pledges so that I could better see how we were doing with weekly cash flow. So far so good. I haven't needed to reclassify and transfer from savings any of the prepaid pledges yet and will hold off until doing so until they are needed to cover seasonal cash flow fluctuations.

We are now approaching the time of year where the need for stable cash flow typically begins: we take time off for vacations, to travel or to play with family and friends and we sometimes forget that our church's financial needs continue even if we aren't there. Our Vestry and Finance Committee are committed to talking more transparently about money and our monthly needs. At St. Stephen's we fulfill what God is calling us to do in the world through our time, talent, and treasure. But as we all know, it takes money to do almost all the ministries we share as a community. Our expenses are not clustered at the beginning and end of the year. In fact, our staffing costs are our largest operating expense, and they are quite stable month to month. So here is our request for your prayerful consideration: If you are giving annually (especially at the end of the year) or semi-annually and could change to monthly, that would be helpful. I know that there are legitimate timing considerations for some of us. I have also heard from several parishioners that they were unaware how much attention cash flow management required and that changing the timing of their contributions made no difference in their lives. So much of our annual income is received in December that I did not know last year whether we would break even until the first week of January.

Besides proactively thinking about cash flow management, there are a couple of other financial events to note that occurred during the first quarter: We received the first quarterly Diocesan Unit Trust payment of \$9,500 and we disbursed \$19,750 from last year's Peasant Market to local grant recipients. If you would like additional financial information or have questions, please get in touch with me at the email below.

Respectfully,
Barbara Stratton, Treasurer



Peasant Market 2019 and Beyond!

Joe McVeigh (Chair) and Liz Cleveland (Co-chair) are hard at work making arrangements for this year's Peasant Market to be held on July 6th. Intake will be held from 9am-1pm from June 17-22 and June 24-29. Evening hours will be Tuesday, June 18 and Thursday, June 27 from 5-7pm. As usual, we hope that everyone will clear out their closets, attics, and basements and donate clean used items including clothing, linens, books, furniture, and odds and ends. We will sort and sell it all to benefit our local social service agencies.



Each year our outreach budget is dependent upon the monies raised by this event. The entire enterprise relies on your willingness to put in the volunteer hours needed to help advertise, clean, sort, and sell the goods that come our way. If you are new to the parish or are looking for a way to get more involved, boy do we have opportunities for you! Please contact Joe McVeigh (388-1244, joe@joemcveigh.org) or Liz Cleveland, 989-5977 ecleveland@middlebury.edu and we will set you right up.

This year our indefatigable boatwrights have become boardwrights and are hard at work creating a beautiful paddleboard to be raffled off. Your help in selling those raffle tickets is also greatly appreciated.

In the summer of 2020, due to the rail tunnel construction project, it will not be possible to hold Peasant Market on the green just after the 4th of July. Liz and Joe have been diligently exploring various options. Stay tuned for word on what we'll do next year. But first, please help out for 2019!

Thanks!

Spring Cleaning for a Cause

Clean out your closets for
St. Stephen's Peasant Market



INTAKE DATES

June 17 - 22	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
June 24 - 29	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
June 18	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
June 27	5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

We DO Accept

Antiques,
(by appointment only)
Books
Linens
Glassware
Toys, CDs, DVDs,
or anything for kids!
Jewelry
Clothing in good,
clean condition
White Elephants
Furniture in good condition
Sporting Goods
Vinyl records (no Classical)

We CAN NOT Accept

Stuffed animals
Computers and accessories
VCRs, televisions, or
DVD players
Microwaves
Large appliances
Luggage
Cassette tapes
Magazines
Textbooks
Shoes
Plastic containers
Anything that is not in good,
clean condition

PLEASE REMEMBER: If you would not give your items to a friend, please do not donate them to us.

Where do all our profits go?

All of our profits from the Saint Stephen's Peasant Market fund grants to local non-profit groups. When you donate to or shop at Peasant Market, you are directly supporting many important local organizations.