

# The Ambassador

November 2011

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*A vital, eclectic Episcopal congregation committed to the ministry of all the baptized*

## From Our Priest

Just this past Sunday, we said goodbye to Joanne Droppers. It was certainly one of those bittersweet moments. Joanne has been a faithful member of St. Stephen's for six years and saying goodbye to someone who has been such a fixture in our congregation is always hard.

This is what transition is like, however. Transitions are never easy and when we are in the midst of them, we find ourselves wondering if we are going to recognize what life will be like again once we emerge into that "post-transitory" time.

For us, as Christians, transition is just part of our life. We are, day by day, month by month, year by year, through the liturgy and the scriptures we read and hear, being reborn and renewed. It is part of our nature. Transition and renewal are both simply a part of who we are as Christians.

At St. Stephen's, we are all going through a transition constantly it seems. Each week, we find new faces in our midst. And with each new face, we find another new story, another new perspective on who we are and what we can be and new opportunities for friendship and shared ministry.

As difficult as transition is, we should rejoice in it as well. We should revel in it and be thankful to God for the continued opportunities for renewal and rebirth.

Peace, Jamie+

Forgiveness involves giving up  
hope of a better past!

## Around the Parish

### Baptisms

**Caiden Wade Vaile**, son of **Georgina Gunville** and **Jeff Vaile**, was baptized at St. Stephen's on Oct. 13.

### Other news

**Annette Morrow** has been enjoying her sabbatical in Rome.

**Jim** and **Joy Coffey** were featured prominently in an article in the *Fargo Forum* in October about Jan Nelson from HeartSprings.

Our own **Joanne Droppers** moved to Portland, Maine on Oct. 27. Joanne, who was a vestry person, chair of the Evangelism Committee and organizer for the Brats at Hornbacher's had been a member of St. Stephen's for six years. She was recognized on Oct. 23 during the Eucharist with a special blessing and a farewell from the Vestry, and was honored at a special reception following the service.

## Meet our New Members

### Catherine and Michael McMullen

Catherine grew up in Fargo and teaches journalism and creative writing at Concordia College. Michael grew up in Illinois and is a professor and researcher in the Plant Science Department at NDSU. They both enjoy time at their Lake Cabin in Minnesota's Chippewa National Forest. They have three grown children, Kathy, John, Maureen and Ryan.

### Daniel Nygard

Dan lives in West Fargo with his wife, Nicole and daughter Genevieve. He recently received a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at MSUM *and* recently

found an agent in New York for his just-completed novel. He enjoys music, writing, fishing and spending time with his family.

## New Member Sunday

**November 6**

On All Saints Sunday we will welcome any and all new members to St. Stephen's. This will be our second New Members Sunday this year. If you would like to become a member of St. Stephen's, and/or would like to be welcomed as a new member, please contact Fr. Jamie.

## Stewardship Sunday

**November 20**

Once again, it is time for stewardship. This is the time when pledge cards and time and talent cards will be sent out. Please prayerfully consider your pledge to St. Stephen's. As you know, we are a steadily growing congregation and the financial contributions of the congregation are especially needed as the needs of the congregation grow. Also, please prayerfully consider the stewardship of your time and talents. St. Stephen's is a congregation that celebrates and depends upon the ministries of all our members. Please ponder prayerfully your ministry talents and how St. Stephen's can help you develop that ministry.

Please watch for the pledge cards and time and talent cards in the mail soon.

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

This year St. Stephen's will host the Annual Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist with St. Mark's Lutheran and Elim Lutheran. The service will be Wednesday November 23 at 7:00 pm (there will be no Wednesday night Eucharist that evening). Pastor Sue Koesterman will preach, Pr. Mark Strobel

will celebrate at the altar, and Fr. Jamie will preside at the Liturgy of the Word.

And following the service, there will be a pie social. St. Stephen's is responsible for pies this year, so if you would like to share a pie at the social, please do so.

## Brats at Hornbacher's

Joanne Droppers

In September St. Stephen's Church managed the bratwurst stand at the Northport Hornbacher's, earning \$338 for the church. This amount will be divided equally between two diocesan missions: the Guatemala medical work, spearhead by John Baird, and the East Africa scholarship fund, chaired by Thom Marubbio. Many thanks to all who worked at the stand or who gave moral support to this project.

## Thanksgiving – Our Weekly Celebration

William Weightman

Thanksgiving is of course a time for settling down, eating good food, and giving thanks for the blessings of the year. While we know today that the romanticized version of the Pilgrims and Native Americans is largely fictionalized, we do know that the starving colonists at Plymouth were indeed thankful to be alive, thanks in no small part to the generosity of the local tribe.

Wampanoag historians will tell you that for their tribe, every day was one of thanksgiving, offering a prayer of thanks for each piece of food collected. And for Episcopalians, so too is every service. Indeed, a great part of our worship is devoted to thanks. Consider our Psalms (Psalm 92 for example) and Hymns that offer thanks and praise. And just a few excerpts from our very own *Book of Common Prayer*:

- ✠ Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.
- ✠ The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.
- ✠ Let us give thanks to the Lord our  
God. It is right to give him thanks  
and praise.
- ✠ It is right, and a good and joyful  
thing, always and every-  
where to give thanks to you, Father  
Almighty, Creator of  
heaven and earth
- ✠ We give thanks to you, O God, for  
the goodness and love which you  
have made known to us in creation
- ✠ And we offer our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of  
all
- ✠ Take them in remembrance that  
Christ died for you, and feed on him  
in your hearts by faith, with  
thanksgiving.
- ✠ Almighty and everliving God, we  
thank you for feeding us with the  
spiritual food
- ✠ Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

It is core in our very worship, and let us remember that we call communion "The Great Thanksgiving." The word "Eucharist" actually means thanksgiving. Like the Wampanoag, every day is Thanksgiving Day for Episcopalians. Thanks be to God.

## New Member Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, November 6** at our **11:00 am celebration of the Holy Eucharist** as we welcome **any new members** to St.

Stephen's.

If you, or someone you know, would like to become a member of St. Stephen's either by joining or having your membership transferred from another congregation, please let Fr. Jamie know.

## Octave of All Saints/All Souls at St. Stephen's

This year at St. Stephen's we will once again have an entire week to celebrate the saints in our lives. In preparation for the Feast of All Saints (which is one of the most important feast days in our Church year), we will be remembering all of the saints in our lives (those whom we have loved and who have shown us something of who God is). We will be offering several opportunities at St. Stephen's to honor those who have passed on before us to the larger Communion of Saints.

+ A few weeks before the Octave, a list will be placed in the Narthex for you to write the names of your deceased loved ones so they may be remembered at the special Requiem Eucharist on Wednesday November 2. You can also send any names to [apium@aol.com](mailto:apium@aol.com) and he will make sure they are remembered at the Requiem Eucharist and their names placed on the altar on All Saints Sunday.

+ A special altar will once again be placed in the Narthex. Please bring a photograph or other memento of your loved one to be displayed there from October 30 through November 6.

+ Attend the Requiem Eucharist at 6:00 pm Wednesday Nov. 2 and the All Saints Sunday Eucharist on November 6.

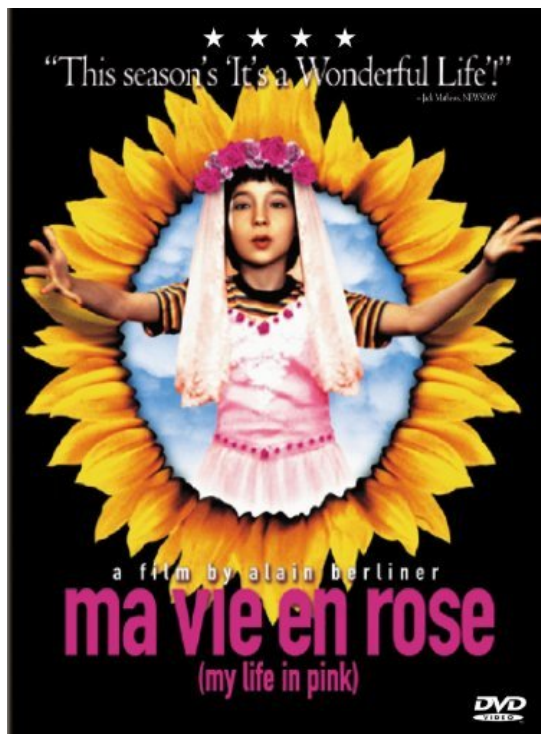
## Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Transgender Day of Remembrance

William Weightman

This November St. Stephen's is starting a new tradition of remembering the victims of hate crimes over the past year for transgender people. The greater International Transgender Day of Remembrance is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year.

It is important to stop and take note. 56% of hate crimes against transgender people are listed as violent, compared to only 30% for racially motivated hate crimes.

Transgender people are often the most looked down on and poorly treated minority in our society, often because people don't understand them. To help facilitate our own understanding, we will be watching the movie *Ma Vie en Rose* on Sunday, November 13, at 1 PM in the undercroft after coffee hour. This movie follows a middle class family who discover their son is transgender, and how they cope with it.



The Red River Transgender Society has been sent a special invitation to visit St. Stephen's on Sunday, November 20. We will hold our normal service complete with added prayers for the victims of transgender hate crimes during the past year, an after-service reading of names, and displays to celebrate their lives and increase understanding. I am fully confident that St. Stephen's will help these people feel welcomed and loved.

## All Saints Liturgies for 2011

### Tuesday November 1

The Feast of All Saints

**Wednesday, November 2-** The Feast of All Faithful Departed (All Souls)

6:00 pm – Requiem Eucharist for all our deceased loved ones

Fr. Jamie – *celebrant/preacher*

The names of all those buried from St. Stephen's throughout the years as well as those written on the list in the Narthex will be read.

*Incense will be offered at this Mass.*

*Supper afterward at a local restaurant*

**Sunday November 6 – All Saints**

*Sunday/New Member Sunday*

11:00 am – Holy Eucharist

Fr. Jamie – *celebrant/preacher*

Children's Chapel

## Meal serving ministries

### Churches United

Members of St. Stephen's will join members of St. Mark's to prepare and serve the evening meal at Churches United for the Homeless on Friday, November 4. We need 2-3 St. Stephen's people to work that evening (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.). If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Sandy Holbrook ([slholbrook@cableone.net](mailto:slholbrook@cableone.net) or 232-1667).

If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the food, please put your contribution in the offering on Sunday marked "Churches United." Donations are always welcome. Thanks.

### Salvation Army

You are invited to join those at St. Stephen's who participate in our serving ministry at the Salvation Army. For the past several years St. Stephen's has prepared and served the noon meal at the Salvation Army in those months that have a 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday (usually about four times during the year).

On each of these Saturdays we need at least 6-7 people. Two or three start the food preparation about 9:30 am on Saturday; serving is from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and more people (4-5) are needed then. Usually members of Shepherd of the Prairie Moravian church provide 2-3 people to do the clean-up after the meal service is complete. It's great to have some "fresh" people to help with the clean-up.

This is a long standing ministry of our congregation and those who have not participated in this ministry are encouraged to consider participating. It is an important ministry but also a chance to enjoy some fellowship and get acquainted with others from the congregation. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Gin Templeton ([gin-su@hotmail.com](mailto:gin-su@hotmail.com) or 371-5544).

## Jubilee USA

Stephanie Ness has agreed to serve as St. Stephen's Jubilee USA contact. Joanne Droppers has served in that role for the past several years and has helped increase awareness at St. Stephen's of Jubilee USA and its efforts on behalf of economic justice and the elimination of poverty in the world. St. Stephen's observed Jubilee Sunday just two Sundays ago (October 16) and in her role as the congregation's contact with Jubilee USA, Stephanie will help us continue in that annual observance and in our role as a Jubilee congregation. Thanks to Joanne for her service and for Stephanie's willingness to take on this role.

## New Directories Coming

New St. Stephen's directories will be available beginning on All Saints' Sunday, November 6. Be sure to pick up a copy in the entry way or downstairs after the service. If you find any omissions or mistakes, please pass them along to Fr. Jamie or to Sandy Holbrook ([slholbrook@cableone.net](mailto:slholbrook@cableone.net) or 232-1667).

Editor Kim Baird  
[kbaird@cableone.net](mailto:kbaird@cableone.net)

### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Prayer Chain - 2011

If you would like to request prayers for any reason, please contact any of those listed below, and they will contact others on the Prayer Chain:

Betty De La Garza	218-456-2293	<a href="mailto:bettypatnaude@yahoo.com">bettypatnaude@yahoo.com</a>
Sandy Holbrook	232-1667	<a href="mailto:slholbrook@cableone.net">slholbrook@cableone.net</a>
Lavonne Marubbio	280-0436	<a href="mailto:mlavonnemarubbio@msn.com">mlavonnemarubbio@msn.com</a>
Laura Nylander	h: 233-6016 w: 284-2276	<a href="mailto:lnyles@aol.com">lnyles@aol.com</a>
Jamie Parsley+ (cell)	701-793-1953	<a href="mailto:apium@aol.com">apium@aol.com</a>
Betty Spur	235-3917	(none available)
Gin Templeton	701-371-5544	<a href="mailto:gin-su@hotmail.com">gin-su@hotmail.com</a>

## United Thank Offering

Alice Hauan,  
St. Stephen's UTO Coordinator

November is fast approaching and that means All Saints Celebration and that means United Thank Offering. United Thank Offering, often referred to as UTO, is a ministry of the Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. The prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. The United Thank Offering Committee is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world. Every three years, (the period between General Conventions) the offering totals between two and a half and three million dollars. This is quite a challenge in that grant requests generally total between five to seven million dollars!

The discipline begins in the homes by dropping coins into a special container, fondly known as the Blue Box. At the "In Gathering" each year, people bring their Blue Boxes or envelopes with the monies that have been deposited, to their local congregations. These are collected together from across the diocese and forwarded to UTO. The designated time for these In Gatherings in the local congregations is to be on All Saints Sunday, or at least sometime in November.

I will be sending out a mailing in the next week or so with more information on the United Thank Offering, its history (the

program began 122 years ago) and prayers and a collection envelope. **Our In Gathering will be on November 13** at our regular service.

## Thank You for Donation of Towels

**Alice Hauan**

Following is a thank you note I received from Jan Eliassen, Director of the Gladys Ray Shelter. Since the need for towels, etc., is on-going I'm leaving the collection box for the towels in the narthex so anyone who wants to donate may do so at any time. I'll leave it at least through November and then perhaps put it out again sometime during the winter.

Dear Alice,

The guests and staff of the Gladys Ray Shelter and Veterans Drop-in Center would like to send a big thank you to you and everyone at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for your donation of towels. At one point we had so few towels that people had to wait hours to take a shower so the towels could be washed and dried. Now we are all stocked up and things are running smoothly thanks to generous and thoughtful people like you.

THANK YOU!

Guests and staff of GRS.

## Farewell

Joanne Droppers

Thank you to everyone at St. Stephen's, now or at any time during the past six and half years, for making this parish such a pleasant home for me. Thanks also to Fr. Jamie for the recognition prayer Sunday, to those who prepared the coffee hour, those who signed leaves with messages, those who left cards, and for the special gifts: a Templeton original, a Concordia DVD, a Fargo magnet, and cards with scenes of the downtown. God is good.

## Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for November - December

Schedule	November 6	November 13	November 20	November 27	
Acolyte	Meister	Weightman	Holbrook	Marubbio	
Altar Guild	Hauan	Hauan	Nylander	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/ EM	Baird	Hauan	Meister	Holbrook	
Lector	Stewart	Wilking	Weightman	Coffey	
Usher	Marubbio	Holbrook	Nylander	Wilson	
	Stewart	Coffey	Wilking	Holbrook	
Euch. Visitor	Hauan	Holbrook	Baird	Holbrook	
Coffee	Wilson	Coffey	<b>Vestry</b>	Holbrook	
Cleaning	Stewart	Ranney	Ranney	Marubbio	
Children's Chapel	Nylander	Hegge	Ranney	Stewart	
Schedule	December 4	December 11	December 18	Christmas Eve December 24	December 25
Acolyte	Meister	Weightman	Holbrook	Marubbio	Weightman
Altar Guild	Spurbeck	Spurbeck	Holbrook	Holbrook/ Hauan	Holbrook
Worship Ldr/EM	Meister	Stewart	Marubbio	Hauan	Baird
Lector	Marubbio	Baird	Johnson	Stewart	Hauan
Usher	Baird	Holbrook	Stewart	Marubbio	Hauan
	Marubbio	Nylander	Wilking	Wilson	Coffey
Euch. Visitor	Baird	Holbrook	Hauan		Holbrook
Coffee	Nylander	Mackay/ Weightman	Templeton		Baird
Cleaning	Marubbio	Nylander	Nylander		Holbrook
Children's Chapel	Templeton	Nylander	Hegge		no children's chapel

\*Communion is available for those who are unable to attend Sunday worship. Please call the church to request communion after the Sunday service.

\*\*If you are unavailable to serve on a date when you are assigned, please find a substitute and let James ([evenson2@gmail.com](mailto:evenson2@gmail.com)) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.

# November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 ALL SAINTS	2 All Souls	3 Richard Hooker	4 <i>Fr. Jamie's day off</i>	5
6 ALL SAINTS SUN-DAY 11 AM H. E.	7 Willibrord	8 <i>J.T. Holly</i>	9 6 PM H.E.	10 <i>Leo the Great</i>	11 <i>Martin of Tours</i> <i>Fr. Jamie's day off</i>	12 <i>Charles Simeon</i>
13 22 PENTECOST UTO SUNDAY 11 AM H. E.	14 <i>Consecration of S. Seabury</i>	15 <i>Ashbury &amp; Whitefield</i>	16 <i>Margaret</i> 6 PM H.E.	17 <i>Hugh &amp; R. Grosse-teste</i>	18 <i>Hilda</i> <i>Fr. Jamie in Jamestown for COM</i>	19 <i>Elizabeth of Hungary</i> Wedding (off site)
20 LAST PENTECOST (CHRIST THE KING) STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 11 am H.E	21 <i>Byrd, Matbecke, Tallis</i>	22 <i>Cecilia/C.S. Lewis is</i> 6:30 pm Healing H.E.	23 <i>Clement</i> 7 PM Thanksgiving Eve H.E. @ St. Stephen's	24 THANKSGIVING	25 <i>James Huntington</i> <i>Fr. Jamie's day off</i>	26 <i>Isaac Watts</i>
27 I ADVENT 11 am M.P./H.E 12:45pm Vestry	28 <i>Kamehameha &amp; Emma</i>	29	30 ST. ANDREW 6 pm H.E.			