

# The Ambassador

February 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

## From Fr. Jamie

When this issue of *The Ambassador* appears, I will be in Florida on vacation. While on vacation, I will celebrate a major milestone in my life. On February 21, I will celebrate 15 years cancer-free. Milestones like this are important for anyone who has been "brushed with wingtip of the archangel" (to paraphrase Steinbeck). When one is diagnosed, one wonders if there will be five year, or ten, or fifteen. And when we hit those markers, there is a feeling of great accomplishment.

The poems I wrote during that time went into my book, *Just Once*. In commemoration of my fifteenth anniversary of being cancer-free, here is a poem from that book. In many ways, it is sort of the perfect Lenten poem as well. The poem is an adaptation I made of a poem by the Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda.

### I Went

Only trees, a faint dank  
smell of thawing earth and, like that,  
a cold spring returns.  
With it, the usual vague  
hope, elusive and just beyond reach.

The sky dominates with a barely  
perceived horizon that goes on  
forever until it destroys itself. So!  
this is how creation cleanses itself –  
this is how it makes itself pure!

I walk into the afternoon, into  
gray sky and even grayer snow-covered  
earth. But not me – I am not gray.  
I am green – like a pine forest  
is green. Or my overcoat is  
anyway. And with my green self  
I carry a headiness that  
sways within me like a  
fever, while a heaviness clutches at  
my aching ankles with  
every step I take.

Snow! O snow! Come!  
Come to me in this place  
of such anguished stillness!

-peace, Jamie+

## Around St. Stephen's

### New Stove

A new stove was installed in the kitchen on January 19, replacing the one that has been in St. Stephen's since 1956.

### Deaths

**Helen Shroeder**, 96, grandmother of **Michael Eklund**, died January 12 in Parker, Colo. Her ashes will be buried this summer in Parshall, ND.

## Rescheduled Bishop Gallagher Visit

Bishop Carol will make her first visit to St. Stephen's on Sunday, March 5. A potluck will follow the Mass.

An Episcopal Visitation is an opportunity for us to connect with the whole of the Church in the person of our Bishop. It is a chance for us to show our Bishop the vitality of our congregation and share with her news of our common life. An Episcopal Visitation is also an occasion for people to be Confirmed and Received into the Episcopal Church.

### Confirmation

In Confirmation, we publicly reaffirm the promises we made – or which our parents made on our behalf – at baptism.

### Reception

Those who have been previously Confirmed by the laying on of hands of a bishop in another communion of the Church may be Received into the Episcopal Church.

We will also welcome any new members who would like to be recognized during the service that morning.

Anyone is interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, or recognized as a new member, please email Fr. Jamie (even while he is on vacation) so you can fill out a Confirmation/ Reception form.

## Shrove Tuesday

St. Stephen's annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held Tuesday, Feb. 28 starting at 5:30. Proceeds from the freewill offering will go to the Great Plains Food Bank. Vegetarian and vegan options will be available. The Burying of the Alleluia will follow the supper at 7 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday has a long and interesting history. *Shrove* is a form of the English word *shrive*, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confession and penance. Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the custom for Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent, called to confession by the ringing of the church bell.

The pancake tradition dates back to medieval England. Since Lent is a time of abstinence, Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge and to use up the foods that traditionally weren't allowed during Lent: fat and eggs.

"Pancake Day" is still celebrated in the United Kingdom, not only in churches but also in the streets. "Pancake Races" are held in many English cities and towns, when crowds in fancy dress race down the streets tossing pancakes. The most famous pancake race takes place at Olney in Buckinghamshire. According to tradition, in 1445 a woman of Olney heard the shriving bell while she was making pancakes and ran to the church in her apron, still clutching her frying pan.

At the Westminster School in London, the annual "Pancake Grease" is held. A verger from Westminster leads a procession of schoolboys into the playground where the school cook tosses a huge pancake over a five-meter high bar. The boys then race to grab a portion of the pancake and the one who ends up with the largest piece receives a cash bonus from the Dean.

## Fr. Jamie on vacation

Fr. Jamie is on vacation through February 27. While he is gone, Canon Zanne Ness will celebrate and preach at the Eucharist on February 26.

With the exception of Wednesday February 1, there will be no Wednesday night services during the month of February.

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Eucharist will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm

## Lenten Wednesday Eucharists

We will commemorate the 40 Days of Lent with special liturgies on Wednesday nights. Mass is at 6:00 pm each Wednesday, with soup and bread following the liturgy.

We will also hear a series of preachers at our Wednesday evening services.

Weds. March 8 -Sandy Holbrook

Weds. March 15 - John Anderson

Weds. March 22 -Jessica Zdenek

Weds. March 29 -Darcy Corbitt

Weds. April 5 - Dan Rice

## Stations of the Cross during Lent

We will once again be offering a service of the Stations of the Cross each Thursday evening during Lent at 6:00 pm. Please join us in this holy and solemn observation of our Lord's last moments.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The annual meeting of the parish of St. Stephen's was held Sunday, Jan. 29 following a potluck meal. The priest-in-charge's annual report, and other reports, were presented. The congregation approved a budget of \$99,560.00. Fr. Jamie Parsley thanked outgoing junior warden Bryan Gelinske and vestry member Sandy Kenz for their service.

Catherine McMullen was elected to a second term as senior warden, and Steve Bolduc was elected for a term as junior warden. Two new vestry members were elected: Amy Phillips to a three-year term and Darcy Corbitt-Hall to a one-year term.

## Stained Glass Window News

In January, the Vestry approved four new stained glass windows.

The new windows depict St. Stephen, St. Aelred, Sts. Benedict and Scholastica and the Peaceable Kingdom.

The design for the window above the organ, the St. Cecilia window, has been approved and donations for that window have also come in.

Only one more window needs to be purchased, the Blessed Sacrament window, for the front of the church on the west side.

Heart-felt thanks to all the many wonderful contributors who have made these windows a reality. Thank you also to Gin Templeton for designing these beautiful windows and for the Michael Orchard Studio in Fargo who is building and installing them.

Installation of the St. Stephen and St. Aelred windows is tentatively planned for March, with the rest of the windows going up in the following months.

## Urgent Needs

One of the ways we at St. Stephen's "seek and serve Christ in all persons" is to support the ministries of community organizations such as the YWCA, The Emergency Food Bank, the Great Plains Food Bank, and the Gladys Ray Shelter. Below are the current or urgent needs of these groups. We will have a formal ingathering of items on the first Sunday of each month.

### **YWCA Shelter**

New women's underwear sizes 7 & 8  
Baby monitors  
Kleenex tissues  
Canned meat (salmon, chicken, ham)

### **Emergency Food Bank**

Canned tuna, canned fruit  
Peanut butter, rice  
Toilet paper, bar soap

### **Great Plains Food Bank**

Soup, stew, chili  
Canned meat products, peanut butter  
Cereal, pancake mix  
Tomato based products  
Boxed meals  
Canned fruits and vegetables  
Pasta, rice and instant potatoes  
Personal hygiene products  
Paper products, cleaning supplies

### **Gladys Ray Shelter & Veteran's Drop-in Center**

Razors, fingernail clippers  
Mittens and gloves  
Deodorant and feminine hygiene products

## Discussion of the Prophets

For 3 Sundays in Lent, Steve Bolduc and Amy Phillips will be facilitating discussion of the Hebrew prophets Jeremiah (March 5), Ezekiel (March 19), and Amos & Micah (March 26). Each discussion will last an hour starting at 12:45 in the office in the lower level of St. Stephen's. Everyone is welcome! If you plan to attend, feel free to read the prophet before attending and bring your Bible!

## Episcopal Relief & Development

The First Sunday in Lent is designated as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. Bishop Carol Gallagher will be with us for the First Sunday so we'll observe ER&D Sunday on the Second Sunday in Lent (March 12). You'll hear more about our observance closer to that date and about ways during Lent to contribute toward the work done by ER&D throughout the world.

For several years in our diocese we focused on one of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The eight MDGs targeted a range of issues such as poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to clean water and sanitation. Congregations in our diocese undertook a variety of activities and efforts to raise money for a specific effort - most often working through ER&D. One year, for example, we raised enough money in the diocese to build a well in an African community without access to clean water. More than once we focused on raising money to provide treated mosquito nets to help eliminate malaria in parts of the world where malaria is prevalent. ER&D has been a consistent and active partner in efforts to achieve the MDGs.

In 2015, the UN adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs build on the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but go further, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. And again ER&D is committed to the SDGs. More information about the SDGs and ER&D's work related to them can be found at:

<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/global-goals#sustainabledevelopmentgoals>.

As we move into Lent, you'll hear more about these goals and how we can participate in this worldwide effort through ER&D.

## Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for March-April

Schedule	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
Acolyte	Anderson	Corbitt-Hall	Holbrook	Meister	
Altar Guild	Holbrook	Phillips	Phillips	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/EM	Holbrook	Meister	Stewart	Weightman	
Lector	Wilking	Bolduc	Anderson	Baird	
Usher	Nylander	Phillips	Anderson	Wilking	
	Stewart	Rice	Pitzel	Wilson	
Euch. Visitor	Baird	Clark	Corbitt-Hall	Holbrook	
Coffee	Potluck	Stewart	Phillips	Demmons	
	Bishop's Visit		Rice	Holbrook	
Cleaning	Anderson	Stewart	Stewart	Bolduc	
Children's Chapel	<i>Lead: Jan Assist: Weightman</i>	<i>Lead: Donna Assist: Tackling</i>	<i>Lead: Tifanie Assist: Bryan</i>	<i>Lead: Jan Assist: Templeton</i>	
TENTATIVE Schedule	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Acolyte	Rudnick	Corbitt-Hall	Anderson	Holbrook	Meister
Altar Guild	Nylander	Hauan/Holbrook	Hauan/Holbrook	Phillips	Phillips
Worship Ldr/EM	Wilking	Baird	Anderson	Corbitt-Hall	Holbrook
Lector	Clark	DuFault	Corbitt-Hall	Hauan	Hill
Usher	Baird	Clark	Marubbio, T	McMullen	Phillips
	Bolduc	Hill	Nylander	McMullen	Rice
Euch. Visitor	Weightman	Baird	Anderson	Clark	Corbitt-Hall
Coffee	Tackling	Sando	Berend	Morrissey	Marubbio
	Tackling	Nylander	Anderson/Pitzel	Morrissey	Wilson
Cleaning	Bolduc	Clark	Clark	Holbrook	Holbrook
Children's Chapel	<i>Lead: Donna Assist: Rice</i>	<i>Lead : Tifanie Assist: Bryan</i>	<i>Lead : Jan Assist: McMullen</i>	<i>Lead : Donna Assist: Bolduc</i>	<i>Lead Sue Assist: Tackling</i>

\*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 ([evensong2@gmail.com](mailto:evensong2@gmail.com)) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.