

The Ambassador

March 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

From Fr. Jamie

As we journey together through Lent toward the glorious light of Easter morning, we do so with a sense of purpose and direction. Our eyes are set on the goal of the Light of Christ which shines in our hearts and gives us a hope that does not die.

As we near Holy Week and Easter I would like to invite each of you to join with me in commemorating Jesus' last journey to the cross and celebrating the glorious Event of the Resurrection. There will be plenty of opportunities for worship during Holy Week and the Easter Season. A schedule of Holy Week/Easter events is included in this issue of the Ambassador.

Our Easter Vigil and Easter Day celebrations at St. St. Stephen's will be the most beautiful and glorious services we celebrate during the year. We will have a truly special and meaningful service of liturgy and music that will be memorable for all of us.

Blessings on all of you in these last weeks of Lent. Know, as we do so, that each of you are in my daily prayers.

-peace,

Jamie+

Around St. Stephen's

Michelle Gelinske Patnode was nominated for YWCA Woman of the Year for 2017.

Matthew Patnode was promoted to Full Professorship at North Dakota State University.

Baptism

Rhiannon Lansing, child of **Phyllis Hashorns** and **Rodney Lansing**, was baptized by William Weightman on March 11th at Sanford Hospital

Wedding

Michelle Graham and **Jeremy Brotan** were married at St. Stephen's on March 11, with Fr. Jamie as celebrant at the Nuptial Mass.

Holy Week at St. Stephen's

SUNDAY APRIL 9 - PALM SUNDAY

11:00 am - **Holy Eucharist**

Blessing/Procession of Palms + Reading of the Passion Gospel

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12 - WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

6:00 pm - Holy Eucharist

THURSDAY, APRIL 13 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 pm **Holy Eucharist** + Foot washing + Stripping of Altar

FRIDAY APRIL 14 - GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 pm - **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** + Solemn Collects + Veneration of the Cross + Eucharist of the Pre-sanctified (*with St. Mark's Lutheran Church*)

3:00 pm - **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 - HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 am - **HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE**

8:00 pm - **EASTER VIGIL** (*with St. Mark's Lutheran Church*)

Lighting of the New Fire + Service of Light + Return of the Alleluia

SUNDAY APRIL 16 - EASTER

11:00 am - **HOLY EUCHARIST**

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

ER&D - a Lenten Focus



Our offerings from the Wednesday Lenten services as well as the loose offering on the Second Sunday in Lent are designated for Episcopal Relief & Development. In addition, you are encouraged to pick up one of the ER&D coin boxes at church and make contributions to the coin box during Lent.

The second of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is

Zero Hunger - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Over the years St. Stephen's has been involved in a variety of ministries related to reducing or eliminating hunger. This Lent we can use the accumulation of our Lenten offerings to address this SDG by providing \$175 to pay for one family's share in a community garden through ER&D's Gifts for Life. The family's participation in the community garden fosters growth and better health by helping them sustain a nutritious food supply. Training, techniques, seeds and basic tools are included as part of the gift. Be sure to get a coin box for your home and place it where you can remember to make this effort to address hunger in our world one of your Lenten observances. There will be an ingathering on one of the Sundays in Eastertide - exact date to be announced.

To see more about the Sustainable Development Goals and the ways in which ER&D works to address these goals, see:
<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/global-goals#sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

Meet the Vestry

Amy Phillips was recently elected to a 3-year term on the vestry. Amy, and her husband Dan Rice, both former United Methodists, became members of St. Stephen's two years ago. Amy is a social worker by trade and is currently the Site Coordinator of an undergraduate dual degree program at NDSU (social work and human development/family science).



Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday, February 28, we hosted our annual pancake supper. We served 43 people and raised \$340 (net of expenses) for the Great Plains Food Bank.

Many hands make light work and indeed many contributed time and resources to make the evening successful: some went shopping for food and supplies; others placed an ad in the newspaper and made and mailed postcards. Some donated food and supplies; others cooked sausages at home to simplify food prep the day of the supper. Some set up the tables and chairs in the undercroft and organized the kitchen; others mixed batter and cooked pancakes. Some greeted visitors and received contributions; others served pancakes and sausage. Some helped guests with plates and served coffee; others cleared and reset tables. Some washed dishes; others cleaned up the tables and put chairs away. Some collected the trash; others put the kitchen back in order. Thanks to all.

St. Stephen's and our finances

At the annual meeting in January, we discussed how to keep people in the congregation informed about our finances as a means to encourage timely pledge contributions. So every three months, *The Ambassador* will include a graphic illustration to show where we are in terms of both expected and actual pledge income. Watch the April issue for the first visual report on how we're doing.

Integrity Window Dedication

On Sunday, April 2, we will dedicate and bless our third stained glass window. The so-called "Integrity" window commemorates St. Stephen's pioneering ministry as a welcome congregation and church home for GLBTQ people. Commemorating St. Aelred of Rievaulx (1110-1167), the patron saint of Integrity (the GLBTQ organization in the Episcopal Church), the window will also feature an overarching rainbow, the Pride flag, and the St. Stephen's Noah's Ark float used each year in the Pride Parade.

The message of the window of "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect with the dignity of every human being?" comes from the

Baptismal Covenant of the Book of Common Prayer. A verse of scripture from the book of Galatians is also included in the window.

The window is designed by our own Gin Templeton and is being built and installed by the Michael Orchard Studio in Fargo.

Bishop Carol Gallagher visits St. Stephen's



Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, made her first episcopal visit to St. Stephen's on March 5. While here she confirmed, received and welcomed 16 people into the congregation:

The Demmons family: Beth and Ken; Duke, Jacob, Kelson, Madison, and Nate

Sierra McLawhorn

Amy Phillips and Dan Rice

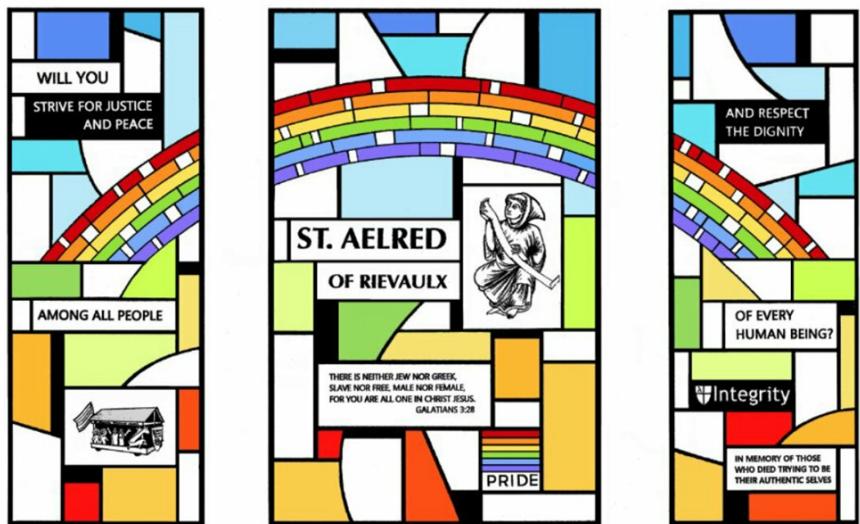
The Sandos family: Jean and Paul; Katie and Kristofer

Amanda Savitt

Jacque Stockman

The Eucharist was followed by a potluck dinner. She plans to visit again in October.

Bishop Carol writes a daily blog with meditations, often in the form of poetry, on the day's



Scripture readings: <http://www.mamabishop.blogspot.com>. With her permission, here is her blog from March 13. Her poem is based on John 4:27-42, in which disciples disapproved of Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman. John tells us that "Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony."

Speaking Woman

They were troubled, astounded and astonished
a woman from the enemy camp persisted
in talking with the incarnate savior of the world
the disciples took offence at their boldness.

He had told her of her broken humanity
yet loved her all the same, sitting and sharing
she brought water and he brought hope
then she ran and told her people the truth.

She called her family friends and neighbors
to meet the man that brought God with him
that welcomed strangers and distraught aliens
making a comfortable place for them
at the banquet table that is always ready.

His disciples were not happy since privilege
and proximity lead them to believe
only they were special and important
the only ones who could speak with him.

The love of God persists in the face of assumptions
in the face of authorities and privileges
in the shuttered hall of government and kings
love will persist in breaking down all barriers.



Photo by William Weightman

L to R: Jacob Demmons, Kelson Demmons, Madison Demmons, Amy Phillips, Beth Demmons, Duke Demmons, Dan Rice, Nate Demmons, Ken Demmons, Fr. Jamie, Sierra McLawhorn, Bishop Carol, Amanda Savitt, Katie Sando, Jean Sando, Paul Sando and Kristofer Sando.

Easter Baptisms at St. Stephen's

This year we will celebrate both an Easter Vigil service on Saturday April 15 at 8:00 pm and our usual Easter Day Eucharist at 11:00 am on April 16.

Since we don't celebrate baptisms usually during the season of Lent, these services are the services at which baptisms at this time of the year are normally celebrated. In fact, the baptismal rite is essentially one of the highlights at these services. Since there will be two services, we now have double the opportunities for baptisms this year.

If you know of anyone who would like to be baptized at either of these services, please contact Fr. Jamie.

Episcopal 101

Fr. Jamie will offer an Episcopal 101 class after Easter. This class is geared especially toward new members and anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. If you wish to participate in the class, please contact Fr. Jamie (apium@aol.com)



A potluck followed the service on March 5. Plenty of delicious food and good conversation and fellowship welcomed the newly confirmed and re-

*Visit our website: <http://ststephensfargo.org>
and blog: <http://ststephensfargo.blogspot.com>
Twitter: ststephensfargo.*

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

Schedule	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
Acolyte			Holbrook	Meister	
Altar Guild			Phillips	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/EM			Stewart	Weightman	
Lector			Anderson	Baird	
Usher			Anderson	Wilking	
			Pitzel	Wilson	
Euch. Visitor			Holbrook	Corbitt-Hall	
Coffee			Phillips	Demmons	
			Rice	Holbrook	
Cleaning			Stewart	Bolduc	
Children's Chapel			<i>Lead:</i> Tifanie <i>Assist:</i> Bryan	<i>Lead:</i> Jan <i>Assist:</i> Templeton	
TENTATIVE Schedule	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Acolyte	Rudnick	Corbitt-Hall	Holbrook	Meister	Anderson
Altar Guild	Nylander	Hauan/Holbrook	Hauan/Holbrook	Phillips	Phillips
Worship Ldr/EM	Wilking	Baird	Anderson	Holbrook	Corbitt-Hall
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:</i> Donna <i>Assist:</i> Rice	<i>Lead:</i> Tifanie <i>Assist:</i> Bryan	<i>Lead:</i> Jan <i>Assist:</i> McMullen	<i>Lead:</i> Donna <i>Assist:</i> Bolduc	<i>Lead:</i> Sue <i>Assist:</i> Tackling

*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) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.