

The Ambassador

May 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

From Fr. Jamie

I love the month of May! We are now heading into longer, warmer days as summer approaches. Our lives are now most often revolving around a series of graduations, confirmations and weddings.

While summer is often a time for most churches to slow down as parishioners head off to the lake or on vacation, things remain pretty steady here at St. Stephen's. We continue our regular round of liturgies with Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Eucharists. We also have a series of weddings coming up throughout this summer, the first one being the wedding of John Anderson and Jessica Pitzel on May 20 at St. Stephen's. Although I sometimes long for quiet, lazy summers, I rejoice in these many activities in our congregation.

Please keep St. Stephen's and our many ministries in your daily prayers during this summer, even when you are not able to be here. And know that all of you remain in my prayers every single day.

-peace,
Fr. Jamie+

Episcopal 101

Fr. Jamie will be offering three nights of Episcopal 101 classes beginning on May 9. The classes continue at 6:00 pm on May 16 and 23rd.

Altar Guild Training

Training for the altar Guild has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 25 following services. Please let Fr. Jamie know if you are interested in serving on Altar Guild.

New Members/Pledge packets

If you are a new member and have not received your pledge card and time-and-talent sheet, please let Fr. Jamie know and he will get you one.

Around St. Stephen's

Baptism

Evan Tranversie was baptized at Sanford Hospital, Fargo, on Holy Saturday, April 15 by Fr. Jamie.

Heartfelt congratulations to our very own **Michelle Gelinske** for being named the YWCA Health and Wellness Woman of the Year! We are all so proud of you, Michelle!!!

There was some special music the first two Sundays of Easter. Kelson Demmons on cello and Paul and Kristofer Sando on trumpets joined James Mackay and Michelle Gelinske in some beautiful music.



Right: Kristofer & Paul Sando

Below: Michelle Gelinske, James Mackay, Kelson Demmons & Paul Sando



Vestry Adopts Non-Smoking Policy

In consideration of the comfort and health of all God's children, in recognition of the harm litter does to our good stewardship of the church yard, and out of respect to our dearly departed in the memorial garden who make our grounds their eternal physical dwelling, the Vestry of St. Stephen's voted unanimously on Sunday, May 7, 2017, to prohibit smoking in and on parish properties effective immediately. We appreciate the congregation's support of our effort and dedication to being good stewards of God's blessings.

Summer Education Series: Becoming an LGBTQ+ Ally

As a member of Integrity, the Episcopal organization fostering LGBTQ+ inclusion in our parishes, St. Stephen's has been at the forefront of the inclusion and support of our LGBTQ+ siblings in the Diocese of North Dakota and those who live in our communities. We believe that part of our dedication to inclusion and support should feature active allyship on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community of Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo. To this end, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Darcy Jeda Corbitt Foundation will be partnering this June to provide four free workshops geared toward training the members of our congregation, and those in our community, on how to be a good and effective ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

Training modules include: *Understanding LGBTQ+ Identity, Decoding Privilege and Biases, Current Issues and Outcomes, and Strategic Steps for Righting Wrongs*. Each 50-minute module stands independently of one another or can be combined for a more comprehensive learning experience.

The workshops were developed by Darcy Corbitt-Hall, BA, a developmental scientist, and Allison Bozovsky, MS, a couple and family therapist, and will be facilitated by Darcy. The Foundation is also pleased to offer complementary certification to all in attendance.

Workshops will be held each Wednesday in June from 5:00 to 5:50 pm. Participants are also invited to join St. Stephen's for Wednesday Mass at 6pm and dinner at a local restaurant afterwards. For more information about the workshops, visit www.DarcyCorbitt.org/ss2017.

Children's Chapel/Student Leader recognition

Join us on Sunday, May 21 as we recognize and thank all the students, leaders and helpers who have helped out this past year in Children's Chapel.

Rogation Sunday

Join us on May 21 for our annual Rogation Procession and Blessing of Seeds and gardening implements. At the conclusion of the service, we will process to the Memorial Garden of a blessing of the elements, including any seeds and gardening implements you would like to bring. So, please plan to bring any items you would like blessed at this celebration of the planting season.



Volunteers Needed for Adult Bible Study

St. Stephen's Vestry Education Committee, Mike Morrissey & Amy Phillips

Do you have a Bible story you've always wanted to talk about? Are you interested in discussing the application of Leviticus 24:19-20 in today's world? Perhaps you want to explore what the Bible has to say about a current social issue. If you can say "yes" to any of these questions (or others you can think of!) then the Vestry Education Committee wants YOU to volunteer to facilitate a conversation on your chosen topic!

Beginning September 2017, we would like to offer a once-a-month bible study on any topic. No expertise or experience is needed, just an interest in helping a small group of people discuss a topic, verse, or book of the Bible. The conversation would take place from approximately 12:45-1:45 in the Church office downstairs. You can pick the month and Sunday you are interested in and even co-facilitate with someone if you want. The Education Committee will take care of advertising your session.

Contact Amy Phillips at kaphillip@gmail.com if you have questions or to volunteer!

Thank you for helping to grow the educational ministry of our wonderful congregation!

Outcome - Lenten Offerings

Our Lenten focus on offerings for Episcopal Relief & Development garnered a total of **\$372**. That amount included the Lenten Wednesday service and the ER&D Sunday (2nd Sunday in Lent) offerings and the household offerings from the coin boxes provided for home use during Lent. The total of our Lenten offerings exceeds our goal to provide one family share in a community garden; instead, we have enough to provide **two family shares**. Many thanks for your generosity and your commitment to help address hunger worldwide.

Great Plains Food Bank (GPFB)

Update

Fourteen St. Stephenites* gathered on Saturday, May 6, at the Great Plains Food Bank to participate in a new service opportunity there. To get started the group had an interesting and informative tour of the very large warehouse and learned about the GPFB operation. Following the tour, the group spent about an hour and a half re-bagging 2,855 pounds of potatoes (nearly a ton and a half), moving potatoes from 50 lb. bags into 5 lb. bags for distribution to shelters, food pantries and other outreach stations across the State of North Dakota (and in Clay County Minnesota). Bagging 2,855 lbs. of potatoes means that each St. Stephen's person bagged on average 204 lbs.; the 2,855 lbs. of potatoes will serve 2,379 individuals.

There are three more opportunities this year to participate in similar repackaging of bulk food into portions for distribution through GPFB. We are scheduled for 10 am - noon on the following Saturdays: July 29, September 30, and December 30. Watch for a sign-up opportunity as these dates come along. And watch *The Ambassador* for additional ways we can contribute to the work of GPFB.

*John Baird, Steve Bolduc, Darcy Corbitt-Hall, Beth, Kelson and Jacob Demmons, Diane Hill, Sandy Holbrook, Dan Rice, Jean, Paul, Kristofer and Katie Sando, and Leo Wilking

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

Healing Mass

Beginning in June, we will offer a Healing Service and Holy Eucharist every first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Healing prayer, laying-on of hands and the Sacrament of Holy Unction with anointing with blessed oil will be offered by Fr. Jamie.

Following the prayers for healing, we will continue the service with our celebration of Holy Eucharist as we gather as the Body of Christ at the Altar to share in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

You are most welcome to come and join us as we seek the wholeness of Christ within our lives and the life of the world, for yourself or for those in your life in need of healing.

A note for our Integrity Window

Our Integrity window garnered some national attention in the Episcopal Church. Among the congratulatory comments, we received this wonderful note from a couple in San Francisco.

Dear Rector and People of St. Stephen's,

Thank you so much for the great lgbt window. You have turned your church into a lasting shrine, a testimony to our connectedness, a sermon in itself to the whole communion.

Peace, John and Gary

Silk Dyeing for Guatemala

Although Dr. Baird and the medical team will not be going to Guatemala this year, the full dental team from Manitoba will continue the mission of healing.

Funds are always needed for supplies and referrals to local specialists, so we will continue the silk dyeing booth at the Fiber Arts Festival, scheduled this year for Saturday, August 12.

A new activity for the Festival this year is designed to help us celebrate our uniqueness and strengthen our ties to each other. Learn more about the **Unity Project** on the Festival's web page, www.fiberartsfest.com



Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for May-June

Schedule	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Acolyte		Corbitt-Hall	Meister	Holbrook
Altar Guild		Nylander	Hauan	Hauan
Worship Ldr/EM		Meister	Weightman	Stewart
Lector		McMullen	Meister	Morrissey
Usher		Baird	Wilson	Clark
		Bolduc	Wilking	Hill
Euch. Visitor		Baird	Anderson	Clark
Coffee		Clark	Phillips	Nylander
		Templeton	Rice	
Cleaning		Nylander	Marubbio	Marubbio
Children's Chapel		Lead: Clark Assist: Holbrook	Lead: Stewart Assist: Rice	No Chapel
TENTATIVE Schedule	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Acolyte	K. Demmons	N. Demmons	Anderson	Corbitt-Hall
Altar Guild	Holbrook	Holbrook	Marubbio	Marubbio
Worship Ldr/EM	Anderson	Wilking	Corbitt-Hall	Baird
Lector	Nylander	Phillps	Rice	Templeton
Usher	Marubbio	Nylander	Phillips	Pitzel
	Marubbio	Baird	Rice	Anderson
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Weightman	Anderson	Baird
Coffee	Stewart	Phillips	Tackling	Clark
		Rice		Templeton
Cleaning	Anderson	Anderson	Rice	Rice

*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.