

The Ambassador

July 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

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



From Fr. Jamie

I usually try to avoid inflicting my poetry on you, but a few parishioners asked if I would share the poem I wrote for my friends, Mike and Linda Hall, on the 10th anniversary of their ordination. This poem was read at their anniversary celebration at Shepherd of the Hill Episcopal Church in Lecanto, Florida on July 2. So, here it is.

On the Feast of St. Alban

For Linda and Mike Hall on the 10th anniversary of their ordination to the Diaconate

There was a change.
It was an electric charge we felt

above us
subtle as a breeze.

There was a spark
as it came upon you

with anointed hands
laid upon your sweating heads.

It kindled a flame
among the husks

and tinder
of former lives.

Everything in you that was not needed
was shed

so that you could
without doubt

embrace that one holy moment
when the veil –

that ephemeral barrier
between us and that other place –

was lifted,
and heaven

drew close.

In that moment

the ground at your feet
was sacred as Sinai.

In that moment,
the earth and all its promises

fled. What happened

there, before the altar
was fire. We saw it

as it shook its wings
and spread.

– Jamie Parsley June 22, 2017

I hope you are having a wonderful summer.



Going-Away for Darcy Corbitt

As you may know, Darcy Corbitt will be moving back to Alabama at the end of July. We will formally say goodbye to her on Sunday, July 30, with a special coffee hour. Please join Darcy on this day so we can thank her for her many contributions to St. Stephen's over the last two years.

Going-Away for the Stewarts

Jan and Mike Stewart will be moving to Pennsylvania at the end of August. We will bid them farewell and thank them for their many years of companionship and service at St. Stephen's on Sunday, August 27, with a special coffee hour following Mass. Please join us that day to say good bye.



Confirmation/Reception into the Episcopal Church

On Sunday, October 21, we are very grateful to have Bishop Carol Gallagher visiting us on her second official visit to St. Stephen's.

An Episcopal Visitation is an occasion for people to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church. In Confirmation, we publicly reaffirm, in the presence of our local community and the Bishop (whose presence represents that of the whole Church), the promises we made—or which our parents made on our behalf—at baptism. Those who have been previously Confirmed by the laying on of hands of a bishop in another communion of the Catholic Church, may be received into the Episcopal Church. In anticipation of the Bishop's visit, Fr. Jamie will be offering his ever-popular Episcopal 101 class for anyone who wishes to be Confirmed or Received.

If you are interested in being Confirmation or officially received into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Jamie.



Education Committee Update

The Education Committee of the vestry met with Children's Chapel leaders this past month to discuss the various elements of this important program for our preschoolers and younger elementary students. The findings were that the greatest need is for additional adult leaders to help with the program. There are many established curriculum materials available for use by leaders, and the committee assures any new person stepping forward that she/he will have an experienced leader working with them as they assume this engaging and vital role in our parish. Please note that this role only requires 1-2 hours per month, or as much time as you would like to give it!

Also discussed was the potential for establishing a formal youth program for the elementary age school children and teen members of the parish. Perhaps you are that needed person? We can't make this thing work without you. Contact Amy Phillips or Mike Morrissey for more information.

Around St. Stephen's

Baptism

James Bryan Anderson Gelinske, the son of Tiffanie and Bryan Gelinske, was baptized at St. Stephen's on June 2.



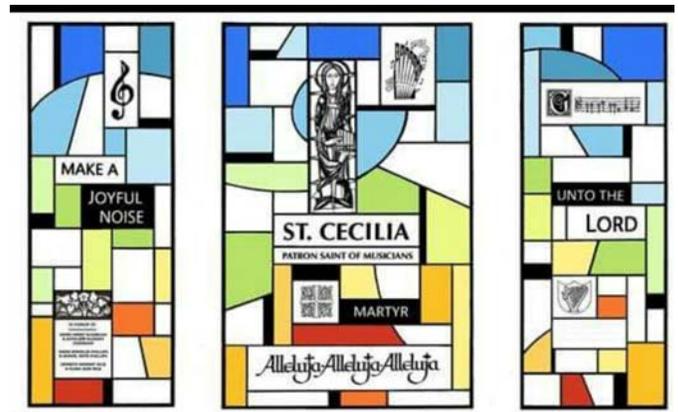
Wedding

Matthew and Elena Kuschel were married at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, July 11.

Burial

The Burial Liturgy for Marlys Lundberg, who died June 10, in Yuba City, CA, was held on Friday, July 7, at Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, with Fr. Jamie officiating. Following the service, her ashes were buried in Riverside Cemetery, Fargo, beside her husband Lowell.

Window Dedication



An update on the stained glass progression: the St. Cecilia window will be dedicated on Sunday, August 27. The St. Stephen window will be dedicated in October. The remaining three windows will (God willing) be dedicated next year. Thank you to Gin Templeton for her dedication to this wonderful project.

Other News

Our very own Sue Morrissey's painting was named "Best of Show" at the 58th Annual Midwestern Invitational at the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead on Sunday. We are so proud of you, Sue!



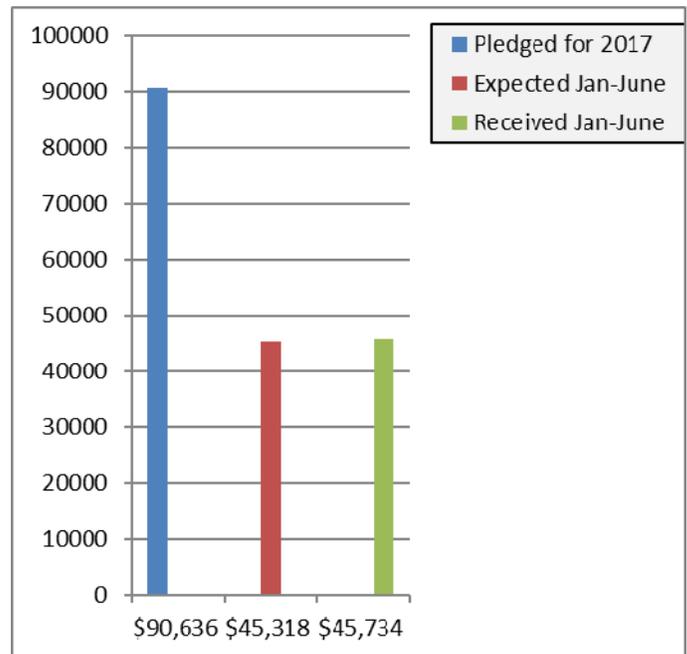
Ken Bennett's latest book of poetry, *Grandma's Rebellion*, was published in June. The book is now available at Zandbroz Variety in Fargo, or just ask Ken. Copies are \$10.

Darcy Corbitt's Wednesday night "Becoming an Ally" class at St. Stephen's was featured on WDAY on June 9. Please check out the story: <https://www.wday.com/news/4283755-woman-hosting-series-others-learn-about-metro-lgbt-community>



Great Plains Food Bank—July 29

We will need a team of St. Stephen's folks - at least 10-12, on **Saturday, July 29, from 10 am - noon**. We'll be repackaging food again as we did in April. There's a sign-up sheet in the undercroft. Join us as we make our contribution to the ongoing need and effort to alleviate hunger not only in our community, but across the state. THANKS.



Pledge Update

Many thanks to all those who are faithful and timely with their pledge payments for 2017. The graph above shows that, as of the end of June, we are on target in terms of expected and received pledge income. Please remember to keep your pledges up-to-date as the summer continues.



Thanks to William Weightman

William has organized St. Stephen's participation in Pride weekend events for many years. Other projects are demanding his attention so he will pass this project to Steve Bolduc. We extend our gratitude to William for his devotion and ingenuity.

Thanks to Kim Baird

Kim Baird has served as editor of the *Ambassador* for many years, but the time has come for her to pass the baton. We extend our gratitude for her excellent work and faithful service. With this issue of the *Ambassador*, Sandy Kenz takes over as the new editor. Our thanks go out to Sandy for taking on this role.



Save the Dates

- Fiber Arts Fest, Aug 12, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Pride in the Park, Aug 12, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Pride Parade, Aug 13, 2:00 pm
- Sundaes on Sunday, Aug 20, 2:00 pm



New Church Directory

A new, updated 2017 directory is now available. Thank you to Donna Clark for compiling the information and to Sandy Kenz for preparing and printing the directory. Directories may be picked up at the church.



An old Episcopal grandmother finally decided to read the Bible. She purchased a large-print edition and read it cover-to-cover.

When she finished, she pulled the rector aside at coffee hour and confided, "I really enjoyed reading the Bible, but I was surprised how much it quotes the Book of Common Prayer!"



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

120 21st Ave N, Fargo 232-2076
Fr. Jamie cell 793-1953

Rectory

117 20th Ave N, Fargo 235-5970

Priest-in-Charge	Fr. Jamie Parsley
Senior Warden:	Cathy McMullen
Junior Warden:	Steve Bolduc
Treasurer:	Sandy Holbrook
Financial Secretary:	Laura Nylander
Organist:	James Mackay
The Ambassador:	Sandy Kenz

St. Stephen's web site: ststephensfargo.org
St. Stephen's blog spot: www.ststephensfargo.blogspot.com

Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for August-September

Schedule	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Acolyte	Demmons, N.	Kristofer Sando	Anderson	Katie Sando
Altar Guild	Holbrook	Hauan	Hauan	Marubbio/ Sando
Worship Ldr/EM	Wilking	Anderson	Baird	Weightman
Lector	DuFault	Hill	Meister	Morrissey
Usher	Bolduc	Hill	Marubbio	Phillips
	Clark	Nylander	Marubbio	Rice
Euch. Visitor	Clark	Holbrook	Weightman	Anderson
Coffee	Nylander	Phillips	Sando	Tackling
		Rice		
Cleaning	Bolduc	Clark	Clark	Rice
TENTATIVE Schedule	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24
Acolyte	Anderson	K. Demmons	Holbrook	Meister
Altar Guild	Marubbio/ Sando	Phillips/ Bolduc	Phillips/ Bolduc	Nylander/ Anderson
Worship Ldr/EM	Wilking	Anderson	Baird	Holbrook
Lector	Morrow	Nylander	Phillips	Ragan
Usher	Wilson	Bolduc	Anderson	Hill
	Baird	Clark	Pitzel	Nylander
Euch. Visitor	Baird	Clark	Holbrook	Weightman
Coffee	Anderson	Baird	Clark	Marubbio
	Pitzel	Holbrook	Templeton	Wilson
Cleaning	Rice	Holbrook	Holbrook	Clark
Children's Chapel		TBD	TBD	TBD

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