

The Ambassador

August 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Monthly Newsletter

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

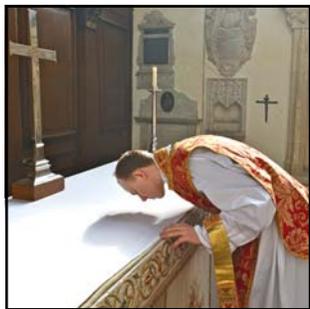
I take **JOY** in doing
your will,
my **GOD**,
for your instructions
are written on my heart.

Psalm 40:8

From Fr. Jamie

Occasionally I am asked, "Why do you kiss the altar on Sunday mornings (or Wednesday evenings) during the procession?"

It's a great question and one I have tried to answer in various ways, depending on the person who asks. Recently I came across this article that explains the reasons for kissing the altar very well. It also gives a great reason why we show such respect for the altar itself.



This is Why the Priest Kisses the Altar at Mass

By Philip Kosloski

The liturgical custom is one of the oldest, dating back to the 4th century.

Before celebrating every Mass, the priest (and deacon) approach the altar and kiss it. To some this practice seems rather odd, as altars are material objects of stone or wood and don't seem to warrant any particular reverence

What is the significance behind this ancient custom? Kissing holy and sacred objects has been part of various world religions for thousands of years. The practice comes from cultures where the kiss was viewed as a sign of respect or used as a greeting and was naturally applied to objects that represented the divine.

Outside of pagan worship, there also grew a tradition in some cultures of kissing the dinner table at special occasions. As Christians developed the liturgy they adapted customs from our own culture and gave them new significance. Kissing the altar was one of them and was quickly attached to the actions of the priest at Mass.

The altar receives its importance in connection with the [Holy Eucharist] that is celebrated upon it. It has been set apart for this purpose. Symbolically the altar is often said to represent Jesus Christ, the "cornerstone" of the Church (cf. Ephesians 2:20). During the history of the liturgy, the priest would sometimes kiss the altar before blessing the people, symbolizing how the blessing came from God, not the priest.

So while it is true that altars are material objects, they have been set apart for a specific purpose and kissing the altar recognizes its privileged role and relation to the divine sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



Going-Away for the Stewarts

Jan and Mike Stewart will be moving to Pennsylvania at the end of August. We will be 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 confirmed or officially received into the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Jamie.



New Member Sunday

On Dedication Sunday, September 10, we will welcome any new members who would like to be recognized. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Stephen's and would like to be recognized as a new member on September 10, please contact Fr. Jamie to fill out a new member form.



Dedication Sunday

Dedication Sunday will be Sunday, September 10. Please join us as we celebrate our 61st year of ministry. A potluck will follow the Eucharist, so please plan on bringing something delicious to share.

Around St. Stephen's

Roxanne Geavreau and Amanda Mohs were married at the Courtyard Marriott in Moorhead on Saturday, July 29. Fr. Jamie officiated.



Deacon Phyllis Manoogian, who currently serves in Guatemala, visited us again this year. We always enjoy having her visit.



Deacon Phyllis and Sandy Pearce



Nate Demmons served as acolyte for the first time on Sunday, August 6.

We bid farewell to **Darcy Corbitt** on Sunday, July 30, before she moved back to Alabama. We will certainly miss her.



On July 29, a St. Stephen's team of 12 individuals – old and young and in between – packaged 1,650 pounds of granola bars, corn on the cob, frozen cheese, and bottled juice and also sorted 1,550 pounds of canned food to identify outdated and/or dented cans. Some repeaters in the group were joined by some first timers, and we completed 5 projects in less than 2 hours. The group handled a total of 3,204 pounds of food or the equivalent of 2,670 meals.

Our next opportunity for repackaging at the Great Plains Food Bank will be Saturday, September 30. They can accommodate up to 20 volunteers at one time, so if you're interested in participating, mark your calendars. There will be a sign-up sheet in the undercroft shortly after the Labor Day weekend.



Blessing of Backpacks

On Sunday, September 10, we will bless backpacks once again. Please come and have your backpacks blessed during the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist.

Window Dedication

On Dedication Sunday, September 10, we will be dedicating and blessing our fourth stained glass window. The window commemorates St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, and will honor our long-time music ministry at St. Stephen's.



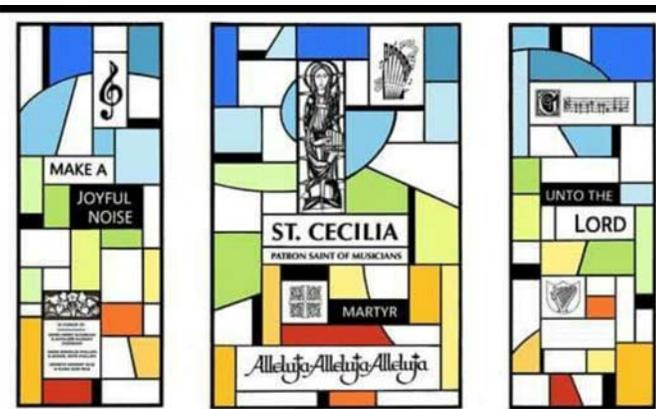
Children's Chapel Begins

Children's Chapel will start up again on September 10. We will commission and bless Children's Chapel students, leaders and helpers on that Sunday.



Sundaes on Sunday

Sundaes on Sunday is August 20, from 2-6 p.m. We will once again offer different flavors of ice cream with all the toppings. All proceeds will be going to the Pride Collective and Community Center. All are welcome – invite a friend!



Take Heart

The quiet interrupted in the blueberry patch
anxious folks who cannot see the miracles
the abundance that weighs each laden branch down
is the life that we are given every single day.

Take heart you who worry and flail in pain

the one who walks on water and heals everyone
also watches over your waking and sleeping
the terrors of the night are no match for him.

Life is never easy but always overflowing
our problems like winds and waves dominated
by love that does not sleep or ever waiver
love that renews us again and again.

Take heart for the incarnate divinity stills
both storms of body and storms at sea
calms the children in their frantic joy
and holds you close as you weep and sigh.

(by Bishop Carol Gallagher, posted to her blog,
mamabishop.blogspot.com, on August 2, 2017,
(Mark 6:47-56))



A Sunday School teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."



Contact Update

If your email address book still includes Darcy Corbitt-Hall's ndsu.edu email address, please note this is no longer in use. Please use the one in the new St. Stephen's directory: dcorbitt@me.com.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

120 21st Ave N, Fargo 232-2076
Fr. Jamie's 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		Katie Sando	Anderson	Kristofer Sando
Altar Guild		Huan	Huan	Marubbio/ Sando
Worship Ldr/EM		Wiling	Baird	Weightman
Lector		Hill	Meister	Morrissey
Usher		Hill	Marubbio	Phillips
		Nylander	Marubbio	Rice
Euch. Visitor		Holbrook	Weightman	Anderson
Coffee		Phillips	Sando	Tackling
		Rice		
Cleaning		Clark	Clark	Rice
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	Wiling	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 (evensong2@gmail.com) now who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.