

The Ambassador

November 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

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



From Fr. Jamie

As we celebrate the many saints of the Church and in our lives during the month of November, I thought it would be a good time to share some information about the icon that is located in the apse of the church. Occasionally someone asks about this icon, and every so often someone draws close to it to examine it more closely.

The image of Mary in the icon is called Our Lady of Vladimir. I found this wonderful description of the icon from www.orthodoxmonasteryicons.com/products/theotokos-of-vladimir-icon which tells not only the history of the icon and its importance to the Orthodox Church in Russia, but also its artistic value.

When you have a moment, take a look at the icon in the church and examine it more closely.



The icon of Theotokos of Vladimir also known as Our Lady of Vladimir, Vladimir Mother of God, or Virgin of Vladimir and "The Vladimir Madonna" - is one of the most venerated Orthodox icons and a typical example of Eleusa Byzantine iconography. The Theotokos (Greek word for Virgin Mary, literally meaning "Birth-Giver of God") is regarded as the holy protectress of Russia. The icon is displayed in the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow. Her feast day is June 3. Even more than most famous icons, the original has been copied repeatedly for centuries.

Many copies now have considerable artistic and religious significance of their own. The icon is a version of the Eleusa (tenderness) type, with the Christ child snuggling up to his mother's cheek. The current location of the icon is in a church building on the grounds of the Tretyakov Gallery. About 1131 the Greek Patriarch Luke Chrysoverges of Constantinople sent the icon as a gift to Grand Duke Yury Dolgoruky of Kiev. The image was kept in the Mezhyhirskiy Monastery until Dolgoruky's son Andrey Bogolyubskiy brought it to his favourite city, Vladimir, in 1155.

The icon of the Theotokos of Vladimir is sometimes described as expressing universal feelings of motherly love and anxiety for her child. By the 16th century, the Vladimirskaia (as the Russians call it) was a thing of legend. A pious custom of the church asserted that the icon was painted by St Luke. The venerated image was used in celebration of coronations of tsars, elections of patriarchs, and other important ceremonies of state. As a work of art, the Theotokos is widely regarded as the most important icon produced during the Comnenian period. Scholars believe that it expresses deeper humanity and emotionality than that typical of contemporary Byzantine religious art, and may hint at the style of the lost secular art of the empire.

As David Talbot Rice asserts in the latest edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, "it is of considerable importance in the history of painting, for it not only is a work of outstandingly high quality, but also is in a new, more human style, anticipating the late Byzantine style that flourished between 1204 and 1453."



Bishop Carol Gallagher's Visit

On Sunday, October 22, Bishop Carol Gallagher made her second official visit to St. Stephen's. We had a packed church as we celebrated the baptism of Julian Trent and the reception into the Episcopal Church of Deanna Berend Ragan (from the Lutheran Church) and Jessica Anderson (from the Roman Catholic Church). Bishop Carol also dedicated and blessed our fifth stained glass window, dedicated to the congregation's patron saint, St. Stephen, given in memory of the Peterson and Syler families, who were long-time members of the congregation. It was designed by our very own Gin Templeton. A potluck followed worship. Bishop Carol was especially pleased with the banner in her honor designed by William Weightman,

which adorned the front of the church.



Sunday, November 5-

All Saints Sunday

11:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

Fr. Jamie - *celebrant/preacher*

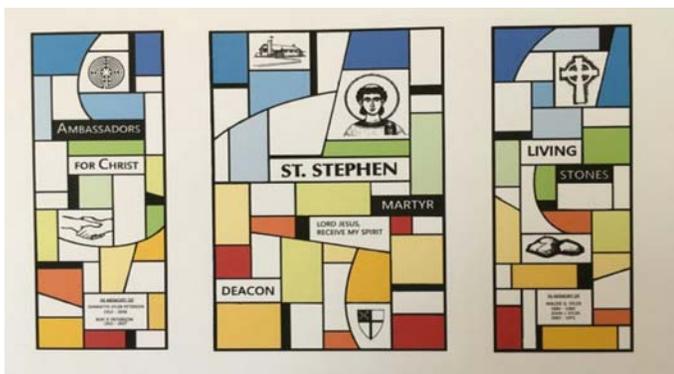
If you have not done so, please send any names of any departed loved ones you would like remembered to Fr. Jamie at apium@aol.com. He will make sure their names are placed on the altar on All Saints Sunday.



(from l. to r.) Leo Wilking, Catherine McMullen, Steve Bolduc, Sandy Holbrook, Fr. Jamie, Amy Phillips, Dan Rice, John Baird and Gin Templeton

Thanksgiving Eve at St. Stephen's

Join us as we celebrate the Eve of Thanksgiving with a special celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 22, (there will be no 6:00 pm Mass that evening). St. Mark's Lutheran Church will join us. A pie social will follow the service in the undercroft.



St. Stephen Window Dedicated on October 22, 2017

Our fifth window in the nave was dedicated and blessed during Bishop Gallagher's visit on October 22. The window is being dedicated in honor of our patron saint, St. Stephen. It has been given by John Peterson in memory of his parents and grandparents who were members of St. Stephen's. Designed by Gin Templeton and built by Michael Orchard Studio.

Diocesan Convention 2017

The St. Stephen's delegates to the Diocesan Convention gathered in Bismarck on October 20-21. After our traditional supper at Pirogue Grille on Friday night, we met for business at the Radisson and for worship at St. George's. Thank you to all our delegates who served so ably at Convention this year.



Wednesday Evenings during Advent

Join us for our regular Wednesday night Eucharist during the Season of Advent at 6:00 pm. James Mackay will be playing at each service and a special preacher will be sharing a message each night. Join us as we prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child. Supper will follow at a local restaurant.





Children's Chapel Meeting, Sunday November 5, 2017

A meeting of all children's chapel leaders and assistants will take place on Sunday, November 5, at approximately 12:45 p.m. in the lower level office. Parents are also invited to attend! This meeting will review children's chapel structure and materials and will discuss any new ideas that participants would like to present.



Treble Clefs

A news story on the Tremble Clefs Choir, led by **Michelle Gelinske**, was aired on Prairie Public Radio. You can hear it here: <http://news.prairiepublic.org/post/tremble-clefs-choir#stream/0>



Educational Wine Tasting, Wednesday, November 8, 2017

An educational wine tasting, featuring wines with ecclesiastical connections, will take place on Wednesday, November 8, from 7:00-8:30 pm, in the undercroft. The event will be led by Anita Bender, sommelier-in-training. All proceeds will go to the St. Stephen's capital campaign. The cost is \$30 per person which includes the featured wines and accompanying snacks (payment made at the event). A sign-up sheet is available in the undercroft, or RSVP by November 5, to Amy Phillips at kaphillip@gmail.com. Feel free to invite your friends!

Around St. Stephen's

Baptism



Bishop Carol, Jessica Anderson, Deanna Berend Ragan, Lisa, Bradly, and Julian Trent, and Fr. Jamie

Reception of New Members into the Episcopal Church



Bishop Carol, Jessica Anderson, Deanna Berend Ragan, and Fr. Jamie



*Holiness is not a luxury for the few; it is not for some people.
It is meant for you and me, for all of us. It is a simple duty because if we learn to love, we learn to be holy.*
— Mother Teresa



Stewardship and our Pledge

Please plan to be a part of both the Eucharist and the Stewardship Luncheon on Sunday, November 12. The luncheon will be hosted by the vestry. It will be an opportunity to hear about the many ways there are to participate in the life of our congregation, it's mission, and it's ministries.

This "pledge" time is an opportunity for each of us to consider our involvement and our commitment to St. Stephen's. It's also a time to reflect on the many gifts God has given us, both individually and as a community. The following excerpt, from a piece by the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, offers a valuable perspective about God's gifts, one we may tend to overlook:

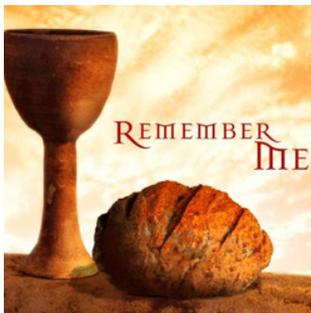
"GIFTS?!?!?! What do you mean, gifts? I've worked like hell to get what I have. Nobody ever gave me anything.

*But we live in a rich country where you can work and see the gain of your work.
In a place where the wind or the rain or a mudslide hasn't swept it all away -- not yet, anyway.
In a place where we could learn how to make a living, where we could go to school.
It's not really true that nobody ever gave us anything, no matter how self-made we think we are.
God has given us everything. There are millions -- billions -- of people who have worked
even harder than we have and have none of these things to show for it.
People who have lost everything. People who never had anything in the first place.
We weren't placed among them. We were placed here. A gift."*

Making a pledge of time and talent, as well as money, is a significant way we each acknowledge that we are recipients of God's gifts and are thankful for them. A pledge also demonstrates our commitment to full participation in the life of St. Stephen's. Pledge packets with both financial pledge cards and time and talent pledge forms will be available at the luncheon on November 12. The vestry looks forward to this time together. Please join us on this important day.

Pledge In-Gathering on December 6

We will have a pledge in-gathering on Sunday, December 4. Please plan on bringing your pledges that Sunday (or any time before that Sunday).



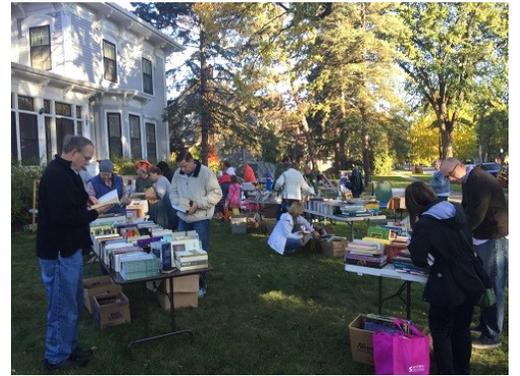
Prayer for St. Stephen's During Stewardship Time



Lord Christ, surround us with your love. Be present in this congregation of St. Stephen's as you have been since our beginning. Let us know your presence among us— in the sacrament, in your Word and in those who have gathered here in your name. Let your Spirit be present with us and in all we do. Open our hearts and our minds to the goodness you are doing here through us. And let us respond appropriately. Bless St. Stephen's with abundance and with the resources needed to do the ministries we do here. Let us, in turn, do good. Let peace reign here with us, even as wars and rumors of wars rage about us. And let your words of assurance to us to not be alarmed calm our hearts and souls so that we can do what you have called us to do. In your name, we pray in confidence. Amen.

The Book Jumble Yard Sale on October 7

It was a beautiful fall day and our event was a huge success! We raised \$1,415 towards the capital campaign!



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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Fr. Jamie's cell 793-1953

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

Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for November - December

Schedule	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26	
Acolyte	Holbrook	Anderson	Katie Sando	Kristofer Sando	
Altar Guild	Marubbio	Bolduc	Bolduc	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/EM	Weightman	Wilking	Anderson	Baird	
Lector	Phillips	Rice	Paul Sando	Jean Sando	
Usher	Baird	Nylander	Marubbio	McMullen	
	Bolduc	Hill	Marubbio	McMullen	
Euch. Visitor	Anderson	Clark	Holbrook	Weightman	
Coffee	Baird	Stewardship	Clark	Morrissey	
	Holbrook	Lunch – VESTRY	Templeton	Morrissey	
Cleaning	Rice	Rice	Anderson	Anderson	
Children's Chapel	Leader: Bolduc Assist: B. Gelinske	Leader: Clark Assist: Holbrook	Leader: T. Gelinske Assist: McMullen	No Chapel	
Schedule	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Acolyte	Anderson	Holbrook	Meister	Katie Sando	Kristofer Sando
Altar Guild	Nylander	Sando	Sando	Bolduc	Bolduc
Worship Ldr/EM	Holbrook	Meister	Weightman	Wilking	Anderson
Lector	Templeton	Weightman	Wilking	Anderson	Baird
Usher	Phillips	Sando, K	Wilson	Anderson	Baird
	Rice	Sando, P	Wilking	Anderson	Clark
Euch. Visitor	Anderson	Baird	Clark	Weightman	Holbrook
Coffee	Nylander	Phillips	Sando	"treat potluck"	Tackling
		Rice			
Cleaning	Bolduc	Bolduc	Clark	Clark	Holbrook
Children's Chapel	Leader: Morrissey Assist: Tackling	Leader: Rice Assist: Templeton	Leader: Bolduc Assist: Weightman	Leader: Clark Assist: Wilking	Leader: Gelinkse Assist: B. Gelinske

*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.