

The Ambassador

March 2018

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

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



From Fr. Jamie

As I write this, it has been four weeks since my mother died. It has been a very hard and difficult month. But I can say that I have been surrounded by love during this hard time. The congregation of St. Stephen's stepped up and held me close, just when I needed to be held close.

I was amazed by the turn-out at her Requiem, by the outpouring of prayers and love and condolences. I was so impressed with the flowers and the wonderful meal after the Requiem.

Thank you all for your love and concern for my mother and for me. I am grateful for all of you. And I am very grateful that this was my mother's last church home.

Sandy Holbrook gave me a wonderful daily meditation book for people who are mourning. In one of the meditations, there was a wonderful quote from Emily Dickinson's poem, "After great pain, a formal feeling comes"

"This is the Hour of Lead -
Remembered, if outlived,
As Freezing persons, recollect the Snow -
First - Chill - then Stupor - then the letting go -"

Lent, like grief, is truly a prolonged "Hour of Lead." And that is all right. These moments of "Lead" are just part of our process of living. We can't escape them. So, we must just live them. The challenge is how to live these "Leaden moments" with grace and purpose, strengthened by our faith in God's all-powerful love.

As we continue to journey through Lent toward 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 Lent, 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. Stephen's will once again be the most beautiful and glorious services we celebrate during the year and this year is no exception. 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 weeks of Lent. Know, as we do so, that each of you are in my daily prayers. And thank you again for your love and your concern for me during this difficult time.

-peace,

Jamie+



**EASTER AND
HOLY WEEK**



HOLY WEEK, 2018 AT ST. STEPHEN'S (all services at St. Stephen's)

SUNDAY MARCH 25 - *PALM SUNDAY*

11:00 a.m. - **Holy Eucharist**

Blessing/Procession of Palms + Reading of the Passion Gospel

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 - *MAUNDY THURSDAY*

7:00 p.m. **Holy Eucharist** + Foot washing + Stripping of Altar

FRIDAY MARCH 30 - *GOOD FRIDAY*

12:00 p.m. - **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

+ Solemn Collects + Veneration of the Cross + Eucharist of the Pre-sanctified

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 - *HOLY SATURDAY*

10:00 a.m. - **HOLY SATURDAY SERVICE**

8:00 p.m. - **EASTER VIGIL**

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

SUNDAY APRIL 1 - *EASTER*

11:00 a.m. - **HOLY EUCHARIST**

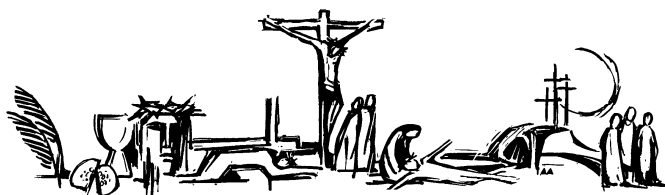
Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Baptisms at Easter at St. Stephen's

This year we will be celebrating both an Easter Vigil service on Saturday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m. and our usual Easter Day Eucharist at 11:00 a.m. on April 1.

Since we do not usually celebrate baptisms during the season of Lent, these Easter 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.





Dedication of the Peaceable Kingdom Window

On Sunday, March 11, Laetare Sunday, we will bless and dedicate our seventh (and second-to-the-last) stained glass window in the nave. The so-called “Peaceable Kingdom” window honors St. Stephen’s long-time ministries dedicated to the promotion of peace and social justice.

Dedicated to the memories of Dr. John and Elizabeth Spur (Betty was a long-time and very faithful member of St. Stephen’s), the window features many symbols of our ministries dedicated to peace and social justice.

The center piece of the window is a representation of Bishop Paul Jones (1880-1941), former Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary District of Idaho, who was forced to resign as Bishop of Idaho in 1918 for his pacifist views regarding World War I. Bishop Moore later founded the Episcopal Peace Fellowship. His feast day is commemorated in the Episcopal Church’s liturgical calendar on the anniversary of his death, September 4. The illustration of Bishop Jones is based on an icon done by the Rev. Robert Two Bulls.

Designed by our very own Gin Templeton and built by the Michael Orchard Studio of Fargo, the window will be located on the rear west (liturgical north) side of the nave.

The final stained glass window of the series, The Blessed Sacrament window, is in the planning stages and will hopefully be installed this summer.

Heart-felt thanks to all the many wonderful contributors who have made these wonderful windows a reality. Thank you also to Gin Templeton for designing these beautiful windows and for the Michael Orchard Studio in Fargo who are building and installing them.

Lenten Wednesday Night Eucharists & Soup Suppers

We continue the 40 Days of Lent with special liturgies on Wednesday nights. Mass is at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday, with soup and bread following the liturgy.

We will also be hearing a series of preachers at our Wednesday evening services. The remaining dates are:

- Wednesday, March 7 – Sandy Holbrook
- Wednesday, March 29 – Annette Morrow
- Wednesday, April 5 – Amy Phillips

Great Plains Food Bank in March

We have two opportunities in March to serve at the Great Plains Good Bank:

On Thursday, March 15, four volunteers are needed from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. to help stuff a mailing. If you are available, please contact Sandy Holbrook at (slholbrook@cableone.net).

On Saturday, March 31, we will be repackaging food from 10:00 a.m. - noon. There will a sign-up sheet in the undercroft. We need at least 12 volunteers but more are most welcome.

Around St. Stephen's

Deaths

Joyce Parsley, 81, mother of Fr. Jamie, died January 28. Her Requiem Mass was held on February 2 at Gethsemane Cathedral. Her ashes will be buried in the family plot at Maple Sheyenne Cemetery, Harwood, ND, in the spring.

Lois Hokana, 93, died on February 18 in Oakes, North Dakota. Her funeral was held on February 24 at Grace Lutheran Church, Oakes, with Fr. Jamie officiating (the Episcopal Church of Sts. Mary and Mark closed in December). Her ashes will be buried near Frederick, South Dakota at a later date.

Raymond Rerick, father of Steve Rerick, died February. 21. The funeral was held on February 26 at St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church, Moorhead.

New Vestry Installed



We installed our new Vestry on February 18. Our vestry is made up of Senior Warden Steve Bolduc and Junior Warden Donna Clark. Vestry members are Mike Morrissey, John Baird, Annette Morrow, Laura Nylander, and Amy Phillips.

March Adult Education Session

William Weightman will be facilitating an adult education session on Sunday, March 11, on the topic of "Mark: The Gospel to the Out-Casts." The session will take place at approximately 12:45 p.m. in the church office and no prior preparation is necessary. Everyone is welcome!

stewardship

*All that we do with all that we
have all of the time.*



Shrove Tuesday Update

On Shrove Tuesday, February 13, we hosted our annual pancake supper. We served approximately 54 people and raised \$471 (net of expenses) for the overflow housing program at Churches United for Homeless. Many contributed time and resources to make the evening successful. Some went shopping for food and supplies; others 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.

thank you!

Dearest Father Jamie and all the dear St. Stephen friends who remembered me and my family during the loss of my dear friend Robert Gisvold. Your thoughts and prayers and memorials were much appreciated, as were all the get well messages. Your kindness will always be remembered and cherished. God bless all of you. Love and prayers,
Rosie Lubenow

From Bishop Carol Gallagher's Blog

Mamabishop (Feb 20, 2018):
a reflection on Mark 1:14-28

In every old movie or television show where a woman is pregnant, she usually waltzes in to where her husband is and says with a smile, "honey, it's time." Real life doesn't work like that. There is often pain and confusion, and we can surely misread signs. The work of discernment is complicated and often confusing. We ask ourselves, "is this the time for a change, or am I doing the right thing?" Clergy are particularly conflict avoid-ant. We don't want to hurt anyone, but we feel in our hearts that God is calling us to do a new thing, to challenge the old ways and to unintentionally cause pain in those we love. And yet, we must say, "the time has come!" In these days when innocents are dying, it is really time to say, "it's time!"

Jesus has been finding his footing in his ministry. John has been arrested and it is his time to use the gifts he has been given. He first gathers some friends to help him and then, Jesus, still very human, goes to worship with his friends. It is the unstable person who sees most clearly who Jesus is, and shouts it out. The evil spirits say to Jesus, "it's time!" His time of healing is made real in this very conflicted and uncomfortable situation. God invites us today to discern in the midst of our great discomfort and to expect the Creator to show us who we truly are to be.

Today, I ask God to help me face the uncomfortable situations and see God's hand in the darkest places. May we all hear the invitation to use the gifts we have been given to help heal a very broken world.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

120 21st Ave N, Fargo, ND 701-232-2076 Church
701-793-1953 Fr. Jamie's cell

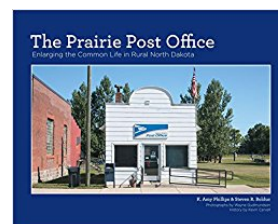
St. Stephen's web site: ststephensfargo.org
St. Stephen's blog spot: www.ststephensfargo.blogspot.com
St. Stephen's Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/52039214842/
St. Stephen's Twitter: twitter.com/ststephensfargo
St. Stephen's Instagram: www.instagram.com/ststephensfargo/



Episcopal Relief & Development

During the season of Lent we have a special focus on Episcopal Relief & Development. Households are encouraged to use the ER&D coin boxes (Hope Chests) as a part of their Lenten observance and a way to help address the many needs of others in our world. We will have an ingathering on the Second Sunday of Easter (April 8).

During Lent the vestry has also designated the Wednesday evening offerings for the work of Episcopal Relief & Development. The special Lenten meditations offered by ER&D continue to be available. You can download the meditation booklet at episcopalrelief.org/lent.



St. Stephen's Authors Participate in NDSU Press Party

Steve Bolduc and Amy Phillips will be participating in the 3rd annual NDSU Press Party on Thursday, March 1, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., at the NDSU Alumni Center in Fargo. Their book, *The Prairie Post Office: Enlarging the Common Life in Rural North Dakota*, is one of six books being launched by the Press at this event.



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour.

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

Schedule	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25	
Acolyte	Anderson	Holbrook	Meister	Rudnick	
Altar Guild	Sando	Sando	Nylander	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/EM	Baird	Meister	Holbrook	Sando	
Lector	Clark	Phillips	P. Sando	Templeton	
Usher	Marubbio	K. Sando	Hill	Wiling	
	Marubbio	P. Sando	Nylander	Wilson	
Euch. Visitor	Clark	Holbrook	Weightman	Baird	
Coffee	Marubbio	Tacklings	Andersons	Baird	
	McMullens			Holbrook	
Cleaning	Bolduc	Clark	Clark	Marubbio	
Children's Chapel	Leader: Bolduc Assist: McMullen	Leader: Rice Assist: J. Tackling	Leader: Clark Assist: Templeton	Leader: Gelinske Assist: Gelinske	
Schedule	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Acolyte	Katie Sando	Kristofer Sando	Anderson	Holbrook	Meister
Altar Guild	Bolduc	Bolduc	Huan	Huan	Holbrook
Worship Ldr/EM	Weightman	Wiling	Baird	Anderson	Huan
Lector	Wiling	Weightman	Bolduc	Baird	Clark
Usher	Anderson	Baird	Clark	Marubbio	McMullen
	Anderson	Bolduc	Hill	Marubbio	McMullen
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Clark	Weightman	Baird	Clark
Coffee	Clark	Marubbio	Morrissey	Phillips	Sandos
	Templeton	McMullen	Huan	Rice	
Cleaning	Marubbio	Phillips/Rice	Phillips/Rice	Bolduc	Bolduc
Children's Chapel	No Chapel	Leader: Morrissey Assist: Holbrook	Leader: Rice Assist: McMullen	Leader: Bolduc Assist: J. Tackling	Leader: Clark Assist: Templeton

*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.

NOTE: January schedule is based on 2017 Time/Talent pledges since 2018 Time/Talent pledges are not yet available.