

# St. Stephen's Herald

✦ *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church serves Christ as an inclusive, progressive community where peace, social justice and faith converge in our worship and urban ministries.* ✦

May 2017

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>!

## SWEM STROLL

Mark your calendars to take part in the SWEM walk for hunger this year. 90% of the funds raised will stay in SW Rochester and benefit SWEM's food programs: emergency food for those in crisis, monthly food for seniors, weekly "backpacks" of food for school students in three city schools in the SW, two community gardens (one on our own lawn), the summer Farm Stand and the monthly Mobile Pantry.



The starting point is at St. Monica's, 831 Genesee St. Registration at 2 pm. Walk begins at 2:30 pm. There is a long route (about 2.25 miles) and a short route (about 1 mile). Strollers and children welcome to walk with responsible adults. No skateboards or roller blades please.

The route goes through the 19<sup>th</sup> ward, PLEX and the U of R River Campus. This year's walk affords beautiful vistas along the south west Genesee River near Brooks Landing. The longer route includes two pedestrian bridges and follows the Riverway paved trail system.

If you want to donate, sponsor a walker, OR donate on-line, visit [crowdrise.com/swem-stroll-2017](http://crowdrise.com/swem-stroll-2017). We'll need many volunteers that day, so please make lend a hand if possible. Speak to David Morse.

Square Fair – Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Come Grow With Us, Come Sew With Us!

Please join us as we help the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward Community Association celebrate with their Annual Square Fair, a neighborhood tradition for over 40 years. The Pancake Breakfast begins at 8:30 AM and booths and displays are open from 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM. There is also a parade at 11:00 AM along Thurston,

Sawyer and Wellington. All events take place at Aberdeen Square.

St. Stephen's will once again have a booth this year along with SewGreen featuring Georgia and the traveling treadle sewing machine! We're hoping to plant seeds with our neighbors as we celebrate together.

Stay tuned for more information. Please contact Linda Dronsfield at [kelseed@aol.com](mailto:kelseed@aol.com) or 314-2136 at if you are able to help "work" at the booth. No one needs to work all day – short shifts are welcome!

## Scholarship Winner!

Congratulations to Te'vanni Davidson, who was awarded a \$500.00 college scholarship by the Rochester West Indies Festival Organization at their scholarship dinner on April 29th.

## Seeds of Faith Garden

Georgia has been working a bit, but more needs to be done to get the beds ready for planting! Join her starting Monday May 15<sup>th</sup> –

- ⊗ Mondays 6:30-7:30 pm
- ⊗ Thursdays 4 – 6 pm
- ⊗ Sundays after church

Bring your favorite work gloves and hand tools!



## Sew Green News

We are proud to be participating in an amazing art installation! It's a crochet project by Olek, an internationally known fiber artist. Over 200 crocheters in our area are collaborating with the



artist and with one another, creating 351 brightly-colored, 2-foot squares that will be attached together and hung on a wall near our shop in early May.

The Polish-America artist has covered buildings, sculptures, people, and an apartment with crochet

and has exhibited in the US, UK, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, France, Italy, Poland, and Costa Rica.

*"I think crochet, the way I create it, is a metaphor for the complexity and interconnectedness of our body and its systems and psychology. The connections are stronger as one fabric as opposed to separate strands, but, if you cut one, the whole thing will fall apart. Relationships are complex and greatly vary situation to situation. They are developmental journeys of growth, and transformation. Time passes, great distances are surpassed and the fabric which individuals are composed of compiles and unravels simultaneously."*

As an active supporter of women's rights, sexual equality, and freedom of expression, Olek has used the broad appeal of her work to display her solidarity with those stifled by oppressive laws worldwide. Through her body of work, Olek has always sought to bring color and life, energy, and surprise to the living space. ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocheted\\_Olek](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crocheted_Olek))

Follow SewGreenRochester for information about the final unveiling on Instagram, Twitter and/or Facebook. Many thanks to all the participants for visiting the shop and spreading your goodwill, and to our customers and students for your patience and understanding!

Visit the website for information about classes, summer camps, open knitting, open sewing and more! [www.sewgreenrochester.org/](http://www.sewgreenrochester.org/)

## May 7th is 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday!

The pastor's discretionary fund is used to help those from the neighborhood who come to the church in need, most often a type of assistance not available from the usual agencies or programs. On the first Sunday each month, any loose cash in the offering plate goes into that fund. Please be generous if you are able.

## Altar Flowers

There are no regular memorials/celebrations during May and most of June.

If you would like to commemorate a friend or family member, please get in touch with Elaine in the church office. The standard amount is \$40, and should please be paid in advance.

## Sunday Supper

A representative from the Center for Community Health UC Medical Ctr. came to the meal on Aril 23rd and had a lot of information for our folks, mainly

around health care and service. She will be back in May.

Representatives from Rochester Rehabilitation center and LawNY (NOEP: Nutrition Outreach and Education Program - helps get SNAP benefits for folks) will be coming to the meal in May and June.

**SSSS needs for May** – juice boxes, and bags! Recycle your plastic shopping bags with us!

June 12

## Episcopal Senior Life 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

Join ESLC for their 21st Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 12, 2017 at Shadow Lake and Eagle Penfield/Fairport.



**Special Guest Emcee:** Brett Davison, New10NCB evening news anchor

Online registration at [www.EpiscopalSeniorLife.org](http://www.EpiscopalSeniorLife.org). For more information, contact Jennifer Rougeaux at [jrougeux@EpiscopalSeniorLife.org](mailto:jrougeux@EpiscopalSeniorLife.org) or 546.8439 x3160

Proceeds will support rehabilitation services enhancements at ESLC sites for those being served through Episcopal Senior Life Communities.

A colorful poster for a square fair. The background is a mix of blue, purple, and pink geometric shapes. At the top, it says "19TH WARD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESENTS 'THE BEST OF THE 19TH WARD' SQUARE FAIR". Below that, it says "Saturday, June 3rd 2017 | 8:30am - 4:30pm". In the center, there's a circular logo with "19TH W.C.A. PRESENTS SQUARE FAIR" and "ABERDEEN SQUARE SINCE 1985". To the left of the logo, it says "PERFORMING LIVE JIMMY HIGHSMITH JR. AND OTHER LOCAL ARTISTS". At the bottom, it says "PANCAKE BREAKFAST @ 8:30AM ALL BOOTHS OPEN @ 10:00AM" and "SQUARE FAIR PARADE STARTS AT 11:00AM THURSTON -&gt; SAWYER -&gt; WELLINGTON -&gt; SQUARE FAIR". At the very bottom, it lists "ROC-STARS" DUNK TANK | PETER EVANS ARCADE ZONE | OVER 30 VENDORS". On the right side, there's a vertical credit line: "designed by UTCHATVISON.COM".

## Who's Up... in May

The Ministry Schedule is on the website, or refer to the copy that was in the mail.

### REGULARLY SCHEDULED PARISH ACTIVITIES

Holy Eucharist: Sundays @ SS	10:00 AM
Mindful Meditation: Tuesdays @ SS	7:00 PM
Weekday Eucharist: Tues. & Thurs. @ TS	12:05 PM
The Sewing Work Shop: Saturdays @ SS	10 AM-2 PM
St. Stephen's Sunday Supper @ SS	1:00-2 PM
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	

### Prayers for Our Parish Neighborhood and Community

#### Please keep these people in your daily prayers:

Jim Fallesen, Ann Cavallo, Shelia Morse, Jim Ahearn and family Jason Mills, Joan Gardner, Lynne & Brian McNulty, Kathy Robinson, Doris Schrader, Dennis Price, Maelee Bowman, The Sullivan family, Tom Bohrer, Kathy Clarke, Karen Witkowicz, Debbie Bonomo, Rachael Bisson, Karen Prave, Elizabeth Robinson, Michelle Flowers; Amber Worthington, Beverly Kluge, Virginia Rockwell, Joe and Jessie & family, Mary Cleary, Jesse Alston, and Kristen Kinsella.

**Those serving in our armed forces:** Joseph Scheidt, Jason Brown, & Jeff Fallesen.

**Those Celebrating Birthdays:** Jamie Dye (5/1), Lori Ahearn (5/3), Nea'Ven Clarke (5/7) Cyril Robinson (5/15), Michelle Robinson (5/15) Padric Collins-Bohrer (5/23), Karen Woodward, SWEM (5/28) and **Anniversaries:** Chris & Mary Jo Brach-Farnum (5/1), and Peter & Wendy Sullivan (5/3), Chuck & Linda Dronsfield (5/14).

#### Readings for Sunday, May 7

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

1: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 Psalm 23  
2: 1 Peter 2:19-25 G: John 10:1-10

#### Readings for Sunday, May 14

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter & Mother's Day

1: Acts of the Apostles 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 16  
2: 1 Peter 2:2-10 G: John 14:1-14

#### Readings for Sunday, May 21

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter

Rogation Sunday

1: Acts of the Apostles 17:22-31 Psalm 66:7-18  
2: 1 Peter 3:13-22 G: John 14:15-21

#### Readings for Sunday, May 28

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter &

The Sunday after Ascension Day

1: Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36  
2: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 G: John 17:1-11

## From the Pastor –

*He calls his own sheep by name, and he leads them out...When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.* -John 10.3-5

In preparing for Christ the Good Shepherd Sunday this week, I was struck by something I never noticed before. In this particular passage, Jesus is actually not “Christ the Good Shepherd!” He actually says later in the passage, “I am the gate” (which is its own metaphorical challenge, to be sure!).

So then...who is the shepherd? The one who knows the sheep by name? The one who leads them out of the safe confines of the pasture and out, through the gate,

into the vast expanse of the surrounding countryside? The one who is not a stranger, but a trusted guide and leader?

Traditionally, preachers and scholars have noted that the pastor here is the shepherd, and that the parishioners are the sheep. Often in scripture (see Ezekiel 34!), shepherd imagery is used to contrast a god-fearing leader with the corruption and deception of bad priests, false politicians, and other bad leaders. Here in John, Jesus is in the midst of an ongoing struggle with the Pharisees who will eventually catalyze his crucifixion. We don't need to look far to see that the battle continues today.

But. I think there's also another way we can - in fact, that we have to hear this pastoral imagery in our moment as a community at St. Stephens. After all, while you have a part-time priest, there's a sense in

which my ability to intimately know each of you and even to be the one who leads you out into the mission field is limited. Nor do I wish to view you, or imply, that you the good people of St. Stephens are merely sheep.

Sometimes it can be comfortable to just be a sheep, even with a part-time shepherd. Especially when safely inside the pasture, protected by familiar walls and surrounded by fellow members, it can be tempting to just stay inside the pen, seek to be fed spiritually, and keep looking fabulous in our wool coats.

But St. Stephens has never been that kind of community. You are passionate about the world outside the walls. You want to be together - but you don't want to keep that gift of togetherness to yourselves. And, I get the feeling that, while you wish you could just rest and graze within the walls, you are eager to be, well, more than sheep.

I think so too. I think God wants all of God's children to become co-shepherds, as part of what Martin Luther and other Reformers called "the priesthood of all believers." Incidentally, the reason there's so much sheep imagery in the Bible is because, for the most part, a vast majority of the people in that ancient world were shepherds. Abel, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Amos - so many of the greats cut their teeth tending sheep. The good news of Christ's birth came first - wait for it - to shepherds.

Likewise, I think St. Stephens is called to be a congregation of sheep who are also able and willing to be shepherds. We are a priesthood of all believers. It's more work. It's not as comfortable. It's downright challenging at times. But it's an amazing and glorious calling. And here's why.

When sheep hear a good shepherd, they trust them. Because s/he knows their name. They know his voice. There is a familiarity, an intimacy, a relationship there that creates community. That leads to action. Imagine if, in the pasture of the 19th Ward, our neighbors knew that at St. Stephens, they were known, they were named, and they could trust us to lead them out into a challenging, heartbreaking world - even through the valley of the shadow of death in the presence of enemies - because we led them through the gateway of the love and grace of Jesus?

What if we say our work of mission, outreach, the work of being church, of being a community of priests and

shepherds, not as trying to get the sheep to get back into the pasture of our beautiful building, but rather, to go out into the valley of the neighborhood, and get to know it, to dwell in it, explore it, and ultimately, to love it?

In the coming months, I hope we'll let go of the imagery of growth, of finances, even of sustainability and survival. I hope that instead, we'll focus on learning the names of our neighbors. Of being present to them in a way that they will know our voice and we will know theirs too. That we'll develop a curiosity and a passion for the beloved children of God who come to St. Stephens for Sunday Suppers, Meditation, the garden, SewGreen, SWEM, and for recovery.

What if we were known as The Church Where I Am Known By Name?

This past Easter, a beautiful little girl named Taziyah was baptized into the family. She was named, both for who she was, but also, as a beloved child of God. We taught her that above all else, she could say to the world, "I am a beloved child of God, and nothing else gets to tell me who I am." I pray that throughout her life, she will know that she is part of God's flock, that she has a community here who will name her, know her voice, and help her remember the truth of who she is when the world tries to do otherwise. Just as we have done with many many children, guests and friends in our midst. I hope that in feeling loved, Taziyah will also be led out into the world to become a shepherd to others.

That's our wonderful, joyful work. To take the sweetness and peace and beauty and joy of our pasture, follow one another out of the gate of Christ's Gospel and into the world, and to become shepherds for other sheep, so that they too can become shepherds. And we will be good shepherds, not because we are perfect, or because we are large, or because we are sustainable, or because we are attractive, but because we have ourselves listened, believed and followed the voice of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who calls us beloved, and knows our names and our voices.

I look forward to this exciting work of becoming shepherds together. People need what we have to offer. They thirst to be named. They hunger to be known. They long to find a purpose. God has given us these gifts, and now we get to give them to others. Thanks be to God!

- *Matthew*