



# The First Order

## St. Stephen's Parish

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OCTOBER 2020

The loss of our beloved John Tarrant reminds us of his presence, which will remain with us always. His spirit lives in each of us as we face the future.

During these difficult times, it is good to know that we are still moving forward. We have not stopped. The Rev. David deSmith will be joining us to help us in that journey. As some of you may remember, he served as Interim Music Director and then Interim Rector at St. Stephen's from 1998 to 2001. He was ordained priest in 1991 by the Rt. Rev. Andrew Wissemann. David retired in the Berkshires in 2017, and lives in Hinsdale, with his husband, Jim Alden.

They have two children and six grandchildren.

Our Bishop Fisher sent this note from the Diocese:

"I am glad that David is here to be with the people of St. Stephen's as they grieve John and dream a new beginning in faith."

In accepting his new position, David offers up his help:

"I am more than willing to return to St. Stephen's and be a part of the transition following the exemplary ministry of the late Rt. Rev. John Tarrant. The leadership and I are trusting

in the Holy Spirit to guide us at this time of 'change and challenge' for St. Stephen's, honoring John's leadership and looking forward to the time when a new rector is called."

As we heal, let us all slowly turn our attention to the future. Not only do we face challenges here at St. Stephen's, but in our county, our country, and the world. May we join together in hope, to help lead us all to peace, good health, and harmony in the future.

Constance Bullard  
Editor, *The First Order*

### David DeSmith's Greeting to the Congregation

September 19 & 20, 2020

*I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to the house of the Lord."*

- Psalm 122:1

*I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to St. Stephen's house of the Lord."*

Dear, dear Friends,

I have been praying for you, crying with you ever since I received the devastating news of our friend, John's sudden death. I am so very, very sorry.

In conversation with our terrific wardens (and they are truly terrific!), I told them that I would do whatever I could for as long as it takes. So despite the tragic circumstance of our coming together once again, I was glad when they said to me, "let us go to the house of the Lord."

The Wardens, Vestry and I are trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us at this time of "challenge and change" for St. Stephen's, honoring John's exemplary leadership and looking forward together with hope and expectation for the time when our new Rector is called.

I will continue to pray for you. Please pray for me.

“  
*I've learned  
that people will  
forget what you  
said, people will  
forget what you  
did, but people  
will never forget  
how you made  
them feel.*”

- Maya Angelou

# Stewardship Harvest Dinner

## October 17

The vestry and the Stewardship Committee requests the honor of your presence at the October 17, 2020 Harvest Dinner (by takeout) from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. followed by a virtual presentation which you can watch from your home computer while you eat a delicious dinner prepared lovingly by Dan Moon and his catering staff.

Once again, Dan will prepare a bounty of salad, rolls, pumpkin sage alfredo, butternut squash bisque, roast pork loin with volute, wild rice pilaf, green beans, carrot almandine and carrot cake and pumpkin bread. There will also be a vegetarian option. Yum!!!

We will have a sign up on the church's on line system, Realm. You can sign up to pick up the meal from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. If you can't or don't want to sign up through Realm, please call the church office at 413-448-8276 to sign up. Please also call the church office if you want a vegetarian meal.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m. we will host a virtual presentation on line. You can use Facebook or Zoom to access it, or visit [ststephenspittsfield.org](http://ststephenspittsfield.org). The church will email the zoom link, but we will not have a face to face meeting as it would be too unwieldy. Therefore, it may be best to access it by Facebook as people do for the church services. (You do not need a Facebook account to access it). A pre-recorded presentation will be made from your wardens, David DeSmith, and your stewardship committee.

We will have a pledge card and informational brochure to give out with each family's meal. If you cannot attend the dinner, we will mail your pledge card.

The ingathering for pledge cards is October 31 and November 1. If you do not feel comfortable coming to church, please mail in your pledge card.

In the midst of a world-wide pandemic that has sent our lives into a topsy-turvy spin, one thing remains steadfast. The Lord said "I am with you always" and so it is. As we reflect on the coming church year, let us ponder how we will sing the Lord's song: how we will lift up our problems and sorrows and blessings to sing with God's kindness and take care of each other. Stewardship means taking good care of something. We are blessed to be in a caring community of parishioners, clergy and staff. In this stewardship season, please prayerfully consider how you want to sustain and grow this loving community and what your role will be to take good care of it.

See you on October 17th.

Blessings,

Your Stewardship Committee

# October

## Happy Birthday:

- 1 J.D. Herbert
- 2 Jeff Pringle, Peter Rousseau
- 3 Dennis Carney, Jennifer Gregg
- 6 Isiaha Hartman-Caesar, Ed Wilder
- 7 Claire O'Connor
- 8 Matthew Oakes, Rory Shea
- 10 Jeannette Ward, Zachary Wheelock
- 13 Theodore Caesar, Michael LaMalfa, Scott Luczynski
- 15 Michael Laurin
- 18 Dion Bianco, Anthony Trapani
- 19 David Harrington, Sabrina Reynolds, Michael Wheelock, Carol Wilson
- 22 Brian Cooper, Keith Cooper
- 23 Colin Behnke, Martie Ekstrom
- 24 Barbara McShane, Dona Senecal
- 25 Quinton Cookis, William Sosa
- 26 Robert Talanian
- 28 Sue Jenkins, Calvin Luczynski
- 29 Jeffrey Hine
- 30 Chrystal Hassan
- 31 Jasean Davis, Catherine Doyle, Jordan Hamilton

## Happy Anniversary:

- 3 Everett & Ann Heiss (1954)
- 4 Bill & Teddy Carter (1970 - 50th!)
- 6 Michael & Jennifer Laurin (1995 - 25th!)
- 11 Craig & Christine Reynolds (1986)
- 12 Marc Britt & Frances Hills (2013)  
David & Aloha Winchester (1963)
- 13 Scott & Leah Luczynski (2006)
- 23 Joseph & Cathy Carchedi (1982)
- 25 Gerald & Claire O'Connor (1952)
- 27 Roy & Marie Sutton (1978)
- 29 Bill & Donna Chandler (1977)
- 30 Phillip & Lynne Blanchard (2010)

# Revenues and Expenses

for St. Stephen's through August 31, 2020

## Revenue

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**Actual Income** (budgeted and unbudgeted) through August 31, 2020 - \$304,531\*

**Budgeted Income** through August 31, 2020 - \$285,937

(Overbudget by \$18,594 or 6%)

### **Pledge Income**

Actual Pledges (Plate Offerings and Pledge Payments) Received through August 31, 2020 - \$176,995

Budgeted Pledges (Plate Offerings and Pledge Payments) through August 31, 2020 - \$189,947  
(Underbudget by \$12,952 or 6.5%)

*\*The Diocese gave us assistance due to COVID-19 for a total of \$30,981.76. This is accounted for in the above income total.*

## Expenses

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**Actual Expenses** (budgeted and unbudgeted) through August 31, 2020 - \$244,640

**Budgeted Expenses** through August 31, 2020 - \$285,937

(Underbudget by \$41,297 or 14%)

As of August 31, 2020 - net positive \$59,890.98

## Share Your Voice

Please feel free to send us any news, photos, thoughts, poems, or jokes to help us all keep in touch. This forum is yours and we'd love to hear from you. Please send them to mail@ststephenspittsfield.org. Got any tips on how you're getting through this time? Got some good news or an upcoming event to share? Consider this your First Order Blog.

I wish all of you peace and the hope that we will be together again safely and in good time.

Connie Bullard, Editor of *The First Order*.

## The Thanksgiving Angels

The Thanksgiving Angels have already started working on this year's baskets and St. Stephen's is responsible for 1000 rolls of toilet tissue!

We prefer to purchase the rolls so they are all the same. (about \$.50 - \$.60 per roll) This way we can have them delivered to South Congregational Church.

If you would like to donate money towards either the purchase of toilet tissue or turkeys, please make your check out to the Thanksgiving Angels.

We appreciate your generosity and thank you again for helping the "Turkey Angels"!

Joan Evans and Jean Gray

If you have any concerns, please call Joan at 413-822-0889

Dear St. Stephen's family:

My son, Tom was in a horrific car accident on September 2, 2020. You may have seen the article in the paper. The accident was at the intersection of Dalton Ave and Benedict Road. He was a passenger and they were struck by a drunk driver as they moved into the intersection when the light turned green.

Tom is doing fairly well and is doing Rehab at Fairview Commons. He has a scar down the center of his forehead that required stitches and a probable TBI as a result. He fractured his neck at C6 and C7 requiring surgery to put in a metal bar for stabilization. He also has 10 broken ribs and he punctured his lung as well.

I am sure this sounds familiar to many of you as these injuries are very similar to mine from my car accident 5 years ago. This has been a very scary time for my family and me and I've been pretty stressed out trying to deal with all of this. I am hopeful that Tom will be released next week but will need physical therapy at home. I ask for your continued prayers right now for both Tom and me.

Thank you so much everyone,  
Helene Robillard