



The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

Ph 413.448.8276 // Fx 413.442.5374 // mail@ststephenspittsfield.org // www.ststephenspittsfield.org

APRIL 2021

Hello! I'm Craig Reynolds, the new Co-Warden at St. Stephen's. It's my honor and privilege join a remarkable parish leadership team: Co-Warden Erin Sullivan, your Vestry, and of course our new Rector, The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley.

For my first contribution to the First Order as a co-warden, I considered sharing inspiring leadership insights. You know the stuff: familiar quotes, cutting edge theories, insightful anecdotes. The stuff of which mediocre blogs (and a few really good ones) are made.

Instead, I'm going to tell you about when I slipped and fell on the ice a few weeks ago.

It was one of those bitter cold February mornings. There was still snow and ice around, even on the roads. My wife Christine and I were walking our dog in the dark, flashlights in hand. And then BAM! Before I knew what had happened, I was on the ground.

My right elbow throbbed. My right hip ached. My hand and knee had scraped along the pavement and burned. Fortunately, none of my injuries was serious. Chris helped me up off the ground, checked my wounds, and made sure I hadn't hit my head. I cleared my mind and realized I was still holding the leash. Our pooch gave the leash a tug. He wanted to keep walking, so obviously I was OK.

What in the world might any of this have to do with leadership and St. Stephen's? I'm glad you asked! (Otherwise, I was going to have to make the connection myself – awkward!)

I can see at least three lessons here:

- It's not about being perfect. We all slip and fall at times. It's about getting back up. How many times in the past couple of years have we at St. Stephen's found ourselves on the ground? And each time we've gotten back up.
- It's about relying on one another. It's hard to pick yourself up off the ground. Thankfully, I had Chris to help me. What a blessing to have people willing to offer a hand – and what a blessing to have a hand to offer. I've lost count of the number of outstretched hands we have here at St. Stephen's. It's even in our mission statement!
- It's important to be careful, but it's also important to keep moving forward. In the past year we've been properly cautious, but we haven't let our vigilance keep us from worship, mission, fellowship, and all that makes St. Stephen's a faith *community*. We've even learned some new things along the way!

I'll conclude with a quote from John Quincy Adams. (Raise your hand if you saw that coming!)

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

Thank **you** for leading!

HONOR ROLL

Taconic High School

High Honors

Nicholas Trapani
Grace Garinther
Anthony Trapani

Honors

Simira Hanger

Wahconah RHS

High Honors

Meghan Doane
Brody Kaley
Lily Hasiowski

BART

High Honors

Cameron Langsdale

Honors

Nathaniel Gillman
Braydon Billetter

College

Grady Pederson, Dean's List at
James Madison University

Submitted by Joan Kurber

Monthly Finance Report

As of the end of February, we continue to be net positive! While I like to show full transparency, at the beginning of the year the numbers are a little skewed. One example is that we receive tens of thousands of dollars in one-time pledge payments that cover the full year. Going forward, I'm working with Nina to develop a clearer way to show our patterns/trends of income and expenses so that it is easier to see if we are on track or not...stay tuned. As always, if you have specific questions or would like a copy of the YTD revenues and expenses as compared to the budget, please feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Leah Luczynski, Treasurer
leah@leahinteriors.com
413-464-9333

April

Happy Birthday:

- 1 Noreen Reynolds
- 2 Valerie Anderson, John Crane
- 3 Matthew Reynolds
- 4 Craig Smith
- 5 Leslee Brennan, Victoria Shaw
- 7 Bella Currie, Mark Trapani
- 8 Scott Haviland
- 9 Maribeth Barney
- 10 Lexi Dadak, Kaytlyn Samuels
- 11 Jayne Church III, Elizabeth Leonard, Skylar Reynolds
- 12 Susan Coles, Florence Prouix
- 13 Mary Adams, Rachel DiGrigoli, Christopher Sanders
- 14 Anna Black
- 15 Aiden Champagne
- 17 Elizabeth Trapani
- 20 Scott Ellis
- 22 Mary Gillman
- 23 Michael Laurin, Kieran Coscia
- 25 Aaron Cassavant
- 26 Abigail Fenton
- 27 Seth DiGrigoli, Josie Ellis
- 29 Bill Carter

Happy Anniversary:

- 8 Catherine and Daniel Doyle
- 14 Claudia Austin and Gary Curry
- 28 Mark and Osneyda Miller
MILESTONE!

Hello dear Friends at St.Stephens, it's nearing one year since I left Pittsfield to be nearer to family. Of course, the Pandemic didn't allow for being together without precautions, masks, social distancing, etc., but we were able to celebrate Christmas on my patio with a patio heater making everyone somewhat comfortable. Certainly a different Christmas Celebration !

This Sunday, second Sunday of Lent, I worshipped at a local Church for the first time, Grace in the Desert Episcopal Church. Service was outdoors in the Church Garden, everyone wearing masks and keeping social distancing. There was Eucharist, wafers only and because of the Pandemic there was no wine. The Service was lovely and thankfully short, it was a very windy day and quite cold. Yes, it gets cold here!

The Rector said they are desperately seeking Altar Guild Members, how about that ?

The Lord works in mysterious ways and always opens a window after a door has closed.

My heart will always be with St.Stephens, but I will also find comfort in having a Church home here in Las Vegas.

I'm enclosing a few photos of Grace in the Desert Church, I hope you'll find them interesting, it's physically very different from St.Stephens, but still the same in the message of the Lord.

Love and Peace to All,
Edie Mingalone

