

The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

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MAY 2022



Founded by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, **Laundry Love** is a joint ministry between Zion Lutheran Church, Cathedral of the Beloved and St. Stephen's, that provides free laundry services to people who often cannot afford to wash their clothes. Only recently, we learned that children in the Pittsfield area not attending school, because they don't have clean clothes to wear. We are making a strong outreach to the parent community and letting them know that Laundry Love can help them provide clean clothes for their children. Currently we spend about \$350 each month for laundry and with this outreach we expect that our costs will increase. Please consider a gift to our Laundry Love fund as you are able during the weeks and months ahead.



St. Stephen's 2022 Vestry Review

For those who are new to St. Stephen's and those who wish to see old friends, we bring you biographies submitted by our current vestry members. Here are two, with more to follow in the coming months.

Feel free to make new friends, but keep the old.

Angie Moon

Hello! I am Angie Moon, and this is my sixth year in the Vestry. I began coming to this church in 1992 when I married my husband Dan, so that will be 30 years this year. Dan and I have raised two daughters Sarah, and Abby. I'd say being a wife and mom has been my greatest joy in life. I have been working at Crosby Elementary school in Pittsfield for 21 years as a teacher of Special Education, ten years in preschool, ten years teaching students with emotional/ behavioral disabilities, and now working with students with learning disabilities. I hike every morning before school and watch the sunrise from Kennedy Park with our dog, Cosmo. I love playing games of all kinds, reading, cooking, music, and nature.

I feel the church is not the building but the people; I am always glad to be among all of you during the service. Some of my favorite times at church are times of fellowship, sharing meals. I have gone white water rafting with a group of parishioners. I have played drums with members. I have created, crafted, and painted. Opportunities to connect with others in real ways and lift each other up or share each other's joyful moments is one of the best things.

Craig Reynolds

Hello! I'm Craig Reynolds, in my second year as your Co-Warden. My wife Christine and I landed at St. Stephen's over 20 years ago after moving to the Berkshires with our two then-young sons. I am a cradle Episcopalian, Chris and I were married in the Episcopal Church, and our two children were baptized at St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA. So, when we landed in Lee late in the last century we, unsurprisingly, went searching for an Episcopal church.

It took a few visits to a few different churches, but when we finally made our way to St. Stephen's, we knew we had found our spiritual home. (Ask me sometime about our first visit to St. Stephen's and I'll tell you the story of how Claudia Curry and Sue Smith, among others, made us feel SO welcome!)

Our sons - Josh and Matt - are now 28 and 24 respectively and we've added a now 10-year-old terrier/retriever rescue pooch to the clan. Many of you also know that my mother, Joan Morrow, lives with us in an apartment we added to our home back in the early 2000s. Chris' parents - Janice and

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Vestry Review

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Peter Furcinite - live about a quarter-mile down the road from us.

Over the years, I've served on Vestry, as a LEM (remember those?), website coordinator, St. Stephen's Table volunteer, with the Healing Prayers ministry, on the Stewardship Committee, and on various profile and search committees.

I've been a marketing manager for a small publishing firm for more years than I care to count. Chris and I take our dog Belton for a hike every morning, often ending up at a large but seldom-used gravel pit down the street from us. It's like Disney World for dogs. And here's something very few people know about me: last year Spotify shared that I was in the top 2% of global listeners to Taylor Swift.

I'm a member of St. Stephen's because it's been my experience that our faith community embodies the sentiment of that classic hymn... "they'll know we are Christians by our love." We're fortunate, blessed even, to have a magnificent building, a generous endowment, and a deep, rich liturgical and musical heritage. But to paraphrase St. Paul, without love, we have nothing. Here's to love.

Avoiding danger
is no safer in the long run than
outright exposure. Life is either
a daring adventure, or nothing.
- Helen Keller



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.

Stay safe and take care,
Connie Bullard, Editor of *The First Order*

May

Happy Birthday:

- 1 Kareen Billetter
- 2 Leila Drury, Michele Rousseau
- 4 Caden Monterosso
- 8 Meagan Ellis
- 9 Naoma Sammons,
Marjorie Van Dyke
- 10 Marie Sutton
- 11 Dorothy Lambert, Judith Lussier,
Craig Reynolds
- 12 Kristine Rogers
- 15 Andrew Gillman, Ella LaMalfa
- 16 Alexander Gillman,
Cole Harrington
- 17 Bill Chandler, Thomas Smith
- 23 Ann Phipps
- 24 William Travis
- 26 Jack Haviland
- 27 Marilyn Barnaby, Melissa Patnode
- 28 Sara Garinther
- 30 Constance Bullard,
Stephanie Talanian
- 31 Andrew Macfarlane

Anniversaries:

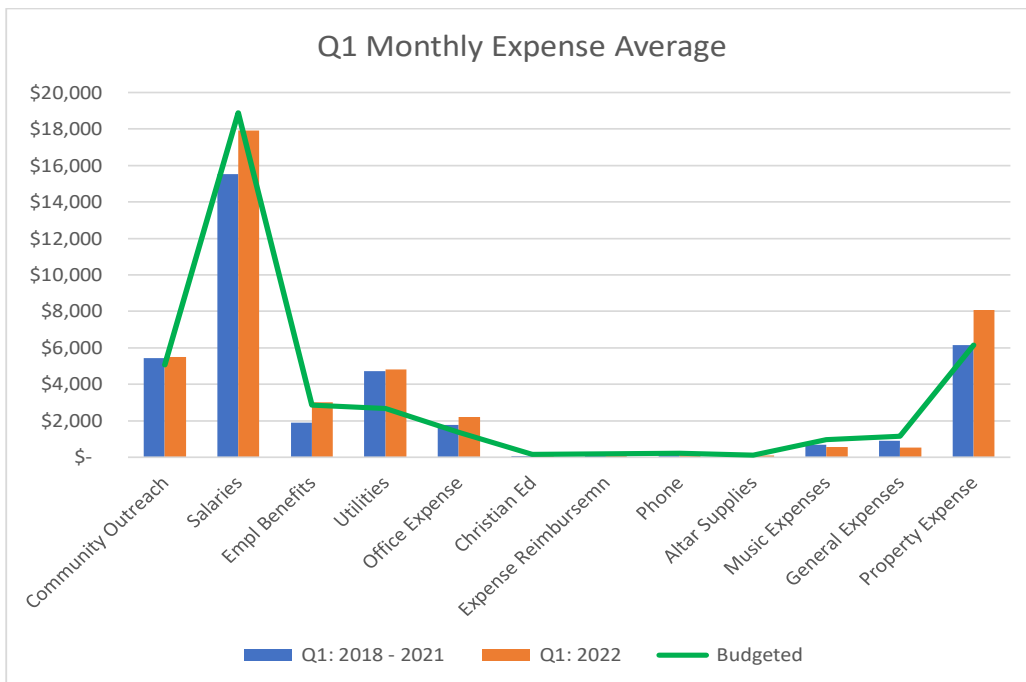
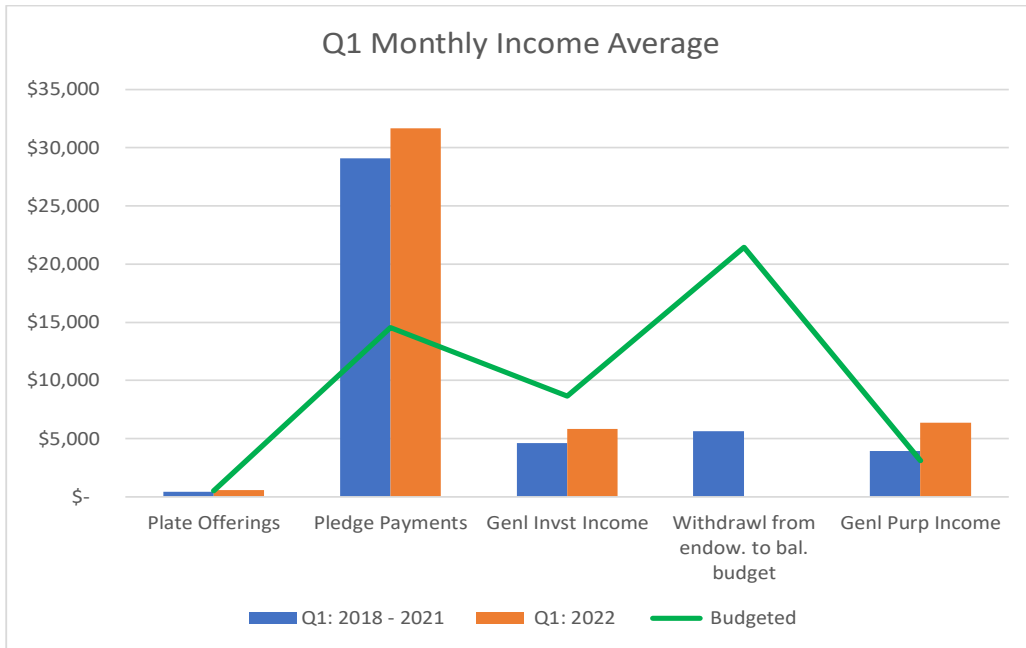
- 23 William & Linda Engle
- 22 Mike & Joan Evans
- 7 Peter & Janice Furcinite
- 3 Myron & Jean Gray
- 24 Peter & Andrea Stasiowski

Financial Update

submitted by Leah Luczynski, Treasurer

In the month of March, our operating revenues were \$34,993. Our operating expenses totaled \$43,531. This put us over budget for the month by \$8,538. However, at the end of the first quarter, we are net positive \$4,191 YTD.

Below are graphs showing the first quarter monthly average income and expenses from 2018-2021 as compared to Q1 2022 and compared to what we budgeted per month. While there are several large pledge payments that are paid in full at the beginning of the year (skewing the bar graph), March pledge payments remain strong and above average for what was budgeted. We had some unforeseen expenses in the first quarter with significant heating repairs. Additionally, during the office remodel, asbestos was found requiring an abatement we had not anticipated.



If you would like to see a full itemized report of the income, expenses, savings accounts, and the balance sheet, please feel free to contact Leah Luczynski directly e: leah@leahinteriors.com or ph: 413.464.9333