

# The First Order

## St. Stephen's Parish

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

JANUARY 2023

*Every great dream  
begins with a dreamer.  
Always remember,  
you have within you  
the strength,  
the patience,  
and the passion  
to reach for the stars  
to change the world.*

- Harriet Tubman

Save the Date

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29  
at the 10 am Service

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**January 29**  
at the 10 AM service.

Ministry Leaders: please submit your  
2022 ministry reports to Sarah  
by Tuesday, January 17.

**PLEASE ATTEND!** We will be electing  
a new Clerk, Assistant Treasurer  
and At-Large Vestry Member.

*If you need to submit a committee report,  
the due date is January 17.*



# Parish Property Status

From: John Garinther

As the year 2023 begins, it is an appropriate time to provide status for a couple of major projects happening in the parish property: the upgrade to the heating system and the protection of the stained-glass windows.

Boiler #2 of our two-boiler heating system continues to carry the full load of heating the entire facility. This has been the case for the last 18 months as boiler #1 has been in a state of disrepair due to a leaking manifold. Our heating system contractor, Laureyns United, has completed the troubleshooting of boiler #1 and proposed a repair. The Vestry approved the repair in November following a recommendation from the Property Committee and it is now on the schedule. Unfortunately, the lead time for the material is 20 weeks, so this will not happen until the spring. However, boiler #2 kept us warm last winter; let's pray it can do it again.

Hesnor Engineering is our consultant for upgrading the heating system. They are in the middle of developing a feasibility study that will provide the parish with options and the estimated cost for a significant upgrade. As previously reported, an upgrade is needed for many reasons aside from the boiler failure. A draft feasibility study is expected in the January/February timeframe.

The stained-glass window protection project contracted to Guarducci Associates remains on track to completion in mid-to-late summer 2023. To date, there has been some work completed at the interior of the clerestory windows (aka Bishop's windows) to take measurements for the window frames that will need to be replaced this year and



for general cleaning of the stained glass and interior plexiglass. Also, the windows in the chapel have been removed and delivered to the Guarducci studio for releading. Releading is the process by which the contractor disassembles every piece of the stained-glass pane, cleans each piece, replaces any damaged lead, and finally reassembles the pane. This process is only required for the chapel windows because they exhibit "sagging" and "buckling" that naturally occur over long periods of time. The chapel windows have not been refurbished in several decades. The remaining windows in the church nave were reled in the early part of 2000; that's relatively recent in stained glass window time and therefore no refurbishment is required.

The Property Committee will continue to provide you with periodic updates on all major projects. Please do not hesitate to ask any questions of the committee. Thank you for your ongoing support of these significant property issues.

# Safe Church Practices:

## Did You Know?

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and St. Stephen's require background checks for staff and volunteers who work with children.



## Sunday School is in Session

The children gather in the Sears Room at 9:45 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, January 8th and January 22nd.

*(Just follow the footprints in the Parish House.)*



## Coffee Hour Changes

In 2023 we'll have Coffee Hour twice a month – on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. This schedule matches our Sunday School offerings, so everyone can join in the fun.

Many thanks to our Coffee Hour hosts for their efforts! Should you be interested in hosting Coffee Hour in 2023, please contact Craig Reynolds for more information.

## January

### Happy Birthday

- 2 David Aldrich, David DeSmith, Cassidy Devitt
- 4 Andrea Appleton, Nancy Lamoureaux
- 9 Heather DiGrigoli
- 10 Cathy Carchedi
- 11 John Culver
- 17 Judith Washburn
- 18 Marcie Nevin
- 19 Zachary Turner
- 20 Judith Lamont
- 21 David Baker, Jasmine Hyatt, Raylene Shaw
- 23 Bryson Rose
- 24 Cassidy Goodwin
- 25 Alyvia Dowling, Soleil Laurin, Diana MacFarlane, Elliot Thompson
- 26 David Nevin, Christiana Perry
- 27 Teddy Carter
- 28 Simira Hanger, Nancy Zuber
- 29 Bertha Boos, Cameron Langsdale, Kaydence Shaw

### Happy Anniversary

- 7 Patricia & John Moynahan
- 9 Gwen Davis & Mark Ouillette

## February

### Happy Birthday

- 2 Sarah Moon
- 4 Derek Bodenstab
- 5 Edward Hughes
- 6 Angelina Pierce
- 8 Anna Hassan
- 12 David Ekstrom
- 13 Judith Culver, Anne Marcure
- 14 Landon Wilson
- 15 Maxwell Plankey
- 17 Henry Biegel
- 18 Mackenzie Ellis, Roy Stillman
- 19 Sophia Wilson
- 22 Robert Reynolds
- 23 Diane Forsyth
- 25 Douglas Demary, Terry LeClair
- 27 Veronica Fenton, Dawn Mathes
- 28 Lois Symonds

### Happy Anniversary

- 3 Patrick & Danielle Shaw
- 5 Henry & Constance Biegel

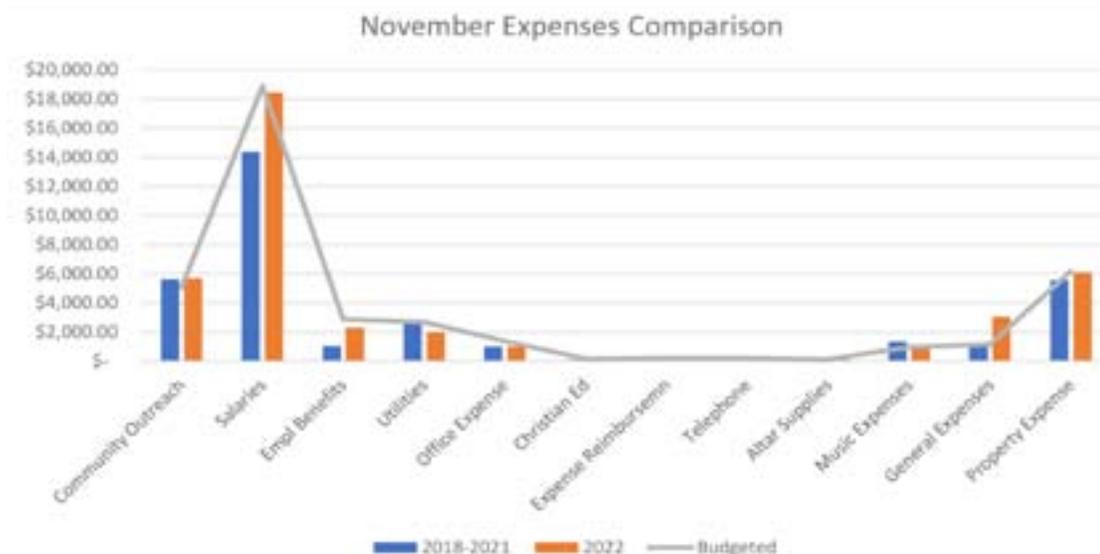
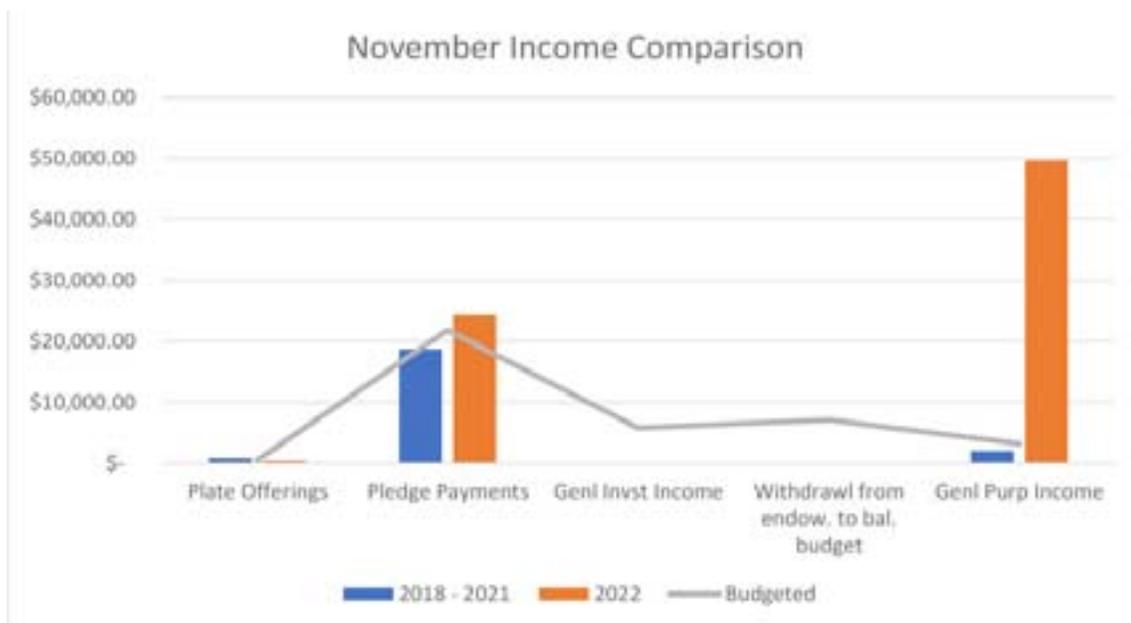
# Financial Update

*submitted by Leah Luczynski, Treasurer*

In November, our operating revenues totaled \$74,411. Of that, \$42,973 was given as a bequest by our beloved Gwen Sears. This tremendous gift will be transferred to our endowment. Our operating expenses totaled \$40,285 putting us under budget for the month by \$34,126. Year to date we are over budget by \$9,416. We will not need to take any money from the endowment to offset this year's deficit.

Pledging continues to stay on track, we are even doing slightly better than budgeted and, as you will see from the chart below, slightly better than the past 3-year average! Your gifts are truly appreciated by all. It is not too late to send in your 2023 pledge card. If you need a pledge card or would like to set up online giving, please contact Sarah in the office. If you have signed up for online pledging, please be sure to still send in your pledge card so that your gift is appropriately documented.

Below are graphs of November's average income and expenses from 2018-2021 as compared to November 2022 actual, while showing what we budgeted per month (gray line) in 2022.



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 (Treasurer) directly e: [leah@leahinteriors.com](mailto:leah@leahinteriors.com) or ph: 413.464.9333 or Suzanne White (Assistant Treasurer) e: [smwhite@gmail.com](mailto:smwhite@gmail.com)

# WORSHIP

The weekly prayer list may be found within the Weekly Worship Bulletin on the [website](#). Please contact the office to add a name to the prayer list.

**Compline will return  
January 11, 2023, 6:30 PM**



*Where your  
treasure is,  
there will  
your heart  
be also.  
Matt. 6:21*

## My Offering

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

2023 Giving Envelopes Delayed! Supply chain problems have gotten the better of our envelope company this year. But don't let that hinder your giving. Your name on the outside of one of the generic envelopes found at the church or a spare envelope you have at home will allow the counters to correctly credit your gift.



## Snow/Inclement Weather Policy

Services at St. Stephen's will be held as long as a celebrant or worship leader can get to the church safely. If at any time you don't feel safe traveling to church, please stay home. Even if you are scheduled for a task (e.g., lector, altar guild, etc.) do not feel compelled to come to church against your better judgment. We will improvise and all will be well.

**If a service is canceled, notification will be posted on the [website](#).**

The Parish Office will be closed when Pittsfield schools are closed.

# Giving is easy

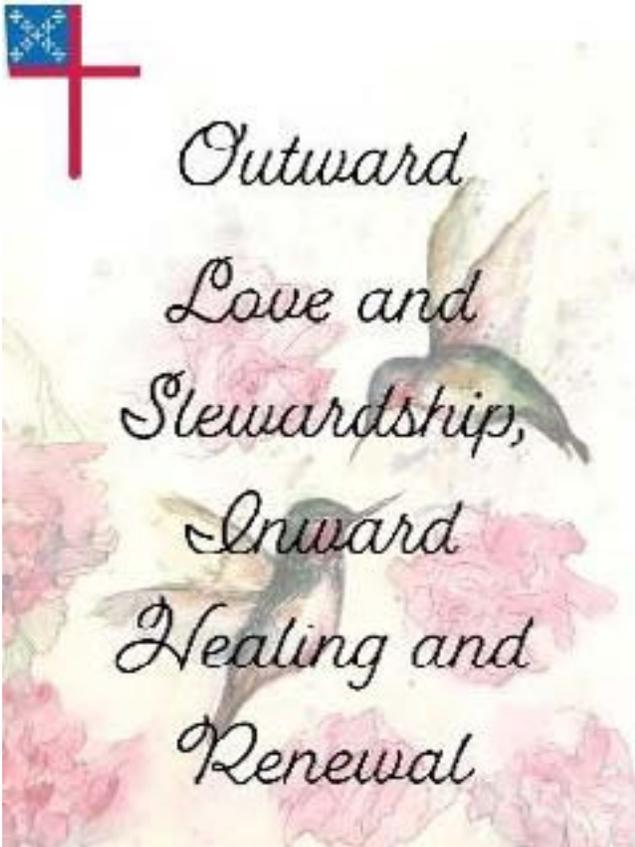


Use the QR code to go right to our giving page!

OR text "giveststephens\$amount" to: 73256.

example: giveststephens\$50 to donate \$50

St. Stephen's  
**COVID Protocols** are tied to  
local statistics. Please check  
the **website** for updates.



## Pledges Still Needed From Online Donors

Whether it's for convenience, sustainability, or other reasons, many of you have switched to online giving rather than using the traditional envelope. Thank you for this decision: Setting up regular contributions via our secure online giving page is easy and contributes to the fiscal stability of St. Stephen's. However, because this page is completely private and secure, your intention to pledge is not communicated to the church office. Therefore, it's important to still fill out your pledge card. If you can't find yours, there's still time to pick one up at the office Monday-Thursday or at the back of the church on Sundays.

Regardless of how you choose to contribute, please know that - by pledging in advance - you've enabled Rev. Nina and the lay leadership of our wonderful parish to budget and plan with confidence - something that's always appreciated, but never more so than during a once-in-a-generation pandemic and its lingering economic effects.

*With gratitude from your Stewardship Committee*