

St. Stephen Herald

Stewardship Newsletter



On June 1, the **1ST ANNUAL SENIOR GAMES** were held to benefit the Trigg County Senior Citizen Center. The day included yard games, gospel sing-a-long, and a bake sale. This ecumenical event was sponsored by the churches of Trigg County and held at the United Methodist Church. St. Stephen hosted several games. St. Stephen's team (above) weathered the hot afternoon and proved to be quite competitive in their game playing.

St. Stephen continues its **OUTREACH TO AREA NURSING HOMES**. On July 6 a group from St. Stephen entertained residents of Shady Lawn Nursing home with songs and bingo games with prizes. Then on October 26, parish Halloweeners visited Better Senior Living where they sang & distributed candy WITCH was great fun! Cathy Khang knitted hats for door prizes for 7 lucky residents. It is always questionable who has the best time on these outings. Residents of the centers and parishioners all have fun! Join us. Contact: Bonny Prudhomme (931) 206-8029.



MOVIE SUNDAY on October 20 featured the movie **Unplanned** which is based on the life of Abby Johnson, one of the youngest Planned Parenthood clinic directors in the nation. She was involved in over 22,000 abortions and counseled countless women on their reproductive choices. Her passion re: a woman's right to choose led her to become a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood, fighting to enact legislation for the cause she so deeply believed in...until the day she saw something that changed everything. Heather Hawkins, formerly of Alpha Pregnancy and sponsor of Mercies Garden, spoke on local pro-life services and support. The office has a copy of the film available for loan. Heather can be reached at: (270) 719-0735



The **ANNUAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE** was held at KY Dam Village August 23-24. Parishioners Lana Bastin, Kelly Geist, and Marsha Petro attended. Author Kelly Wahlquist, founder of WINE (Women In the New Evangelization) spoke. She urged all to fully use their God given gifts to build relationships. She explained how everyone's call is different by comparing Peter and Paul and the importance of invoking the Holy Spirit to help us answer our call to follow Jesus. She continued that "we all listen to the Word in several ways, directly and indirectly". She recounted that Mary specifically told the servants at the wedding at Cana to "do whatever He tells you. Often we overhear conversations not meant directly for us, but we are influenced by the message". The service portion of her talk focused on Martha and Mary. Some of us tend to be *Marthas* and others *Marys*. It is important, however, for the Martha and Mary within us to adequately balance and serve Jesus. She concluded her talk by saying we must always follow Jesus so closely that "we are covered with the dust of my rabbi."



PASTOR'S CORNER: When we reflect on our parish activities, we see the gift of sharing God's love in our own unique ways. When we read Paul we see him saying a number of times that we are the "Body of Christ." Today we bring Jesus to the world around us and to each other. Our social times, our times of prayer, our reaching out to others, our worship and honoring of God with other Christians, helping those who are hungry and are in need are glimpses, but important moments, of us sharing the love we have received from our Lord. As Jesus has shown us, love is sacrifice. Let us be grateful for all the Lord has blessed us with and may we treasure the moments we have worked together to scatter his love and kindness in so many places and in on so many ways. This truly is our vocation as his adopted sons and daughters! As Paul tells us, "Let us always give him thanks and praise".



THE WOMEN'S GUILD continues to host funeral and social luncheons for the parish. Parishioners are most generous with cooking and serving. Outreach to the WAY (teen Christian youth center) continues. In addition to the monthly allocation our parish makes towards their operation, the Guild provides the WAY with kitchen volunteers and snacks on a monthly basis. The Guild helped host the annual parish picnic and continues fundraising efforts toward the parish hall kitchen renovation. Funding for the kitchen appliances portion has been met! The group's Christmas involvement included: baking cookies for the Advent Choral Sing-along at the United Methodist Church and collecting Toys for Tots to support the Trigg County Ambulance's efforts. Contact: Margie Tomalewicz (859) 585-3694.

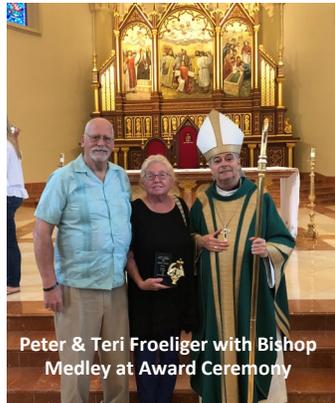


KITCHEN SUPPORT



GUILD HELP IN SOCIAL AND FUNERAL MEALS

The 2019 **SOPHIA AWARD** from St. Stephen for outstanding service to her parish went to Teri Froeliger. The presentation was made at the annual ceremony September 8th at the Cathedral. She was nominated by other parishioners for the gracious and outstanding hospitality and outreach she provides for our parish. Not only does she solicit dishes, organize food events, and coordinate kitchen support, but she also serves on Parish Council, Women's Guild, Relay for Life, Eucharistic Minister Team and links Stewardship Committee projects to other groups. Women's Guild Chair, Margie Tomalewicz, remarked that "Teri is their Angel". Other parishioners heartily agree.



Peter & Teri Froeliger with Bishop Medley at Award Ceremony

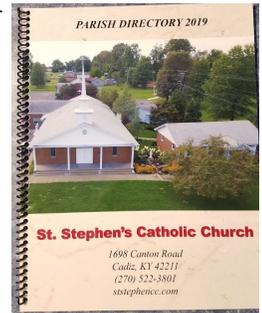
A RECEPTION FOR FR. WILL THOMPSON was held at his home parish of St. Stephen on June 2. Father Will was recognized on the 5th anniversary of his ordination and on receiving his degree in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America. Father Will's family and parishioner friends were in attendance. Reflecting on his recent assignment in Washington D.C, he commended St. Stephen on its Mass attendance, parish involvement and participation ... traits he did not witness in the bigger parish in Washington. He now holds a dual role by serving as pastor at St. Joseph & Paul Catholic Church in Owensboro and working in the marriage tribunal for the Owensboro diocese.



St. Stephen provides **OUTREACH TO THE WAY CHRISTIAN YOUTH CENTER**. Several parishioners actively participate in activities there. Once a month members of the Women's Guild prepare and serve food for up to 100 teens. Fr. Greg leads devotions and hangs out with the students. Marsha Petro and Rita Hammack (pictured) volunteer on a regular basis and also send birthday cards from St. Stephen to The Way students. Volunteers are always needed. Please consider spending time with the youth of our county through this worthwhile ministry.



The 2019 **PARISH DIRECTORY** was recently completed and made available. It has been 6 years since the last one was published. The update was much needed and anticipated. Jim Mullen was responsible for the directory and also provided the drone shot of our church. Approximately 115 good looking families from St. Stephen and 45 families from St. Henry contributed photos to the two-parish directory.



St. Stephen hosts an ecumenical effort called **LAUNDRY LOVE** two times per year. Its most recent event was on August 27 at the Cadiz Laundromat where parishioners Judy Garnett, Joann Harvey, Linda Copeland & Ann Curtsinger helped out. Families showed up early and eagerly stuffed 75 washers and dryers to capacity. The ministry assists participants by providing laundry products and up to \$200 (total expenditure for 1 night) in quarters for washer and dryer operation. This frees up the participants' limited income for other living expenses. St. Stephen is generous in providing volunteers and collecting donations from parishioners. The United Methodist Church provides snacks to participants each week. Contact: Ann Curtsinger (270) 206-8167.

ST. FRANCIS ASSISI'S ANIMAL BLESSING was administered on a cold October 5th morning on the St. Stephen parking lot. St. Francis believed that God created all life and, in turn, all life is important to God. The St. Stephen 4-legged population turned out to be mostly dogs this year with a single cat (though this author personally has a cat that needs the devil exorcised out of him ... he was a no show).





St. Stephen outreach to veterans continued by entering a float in the **CADIZ VETERANS PARADE** on November 11. Weather thankfully held out until after the parade. Parishioners Jim Ethridge (left) and Gerard Bilodeau (right) took places of honor on the float. Jim was a WWII/Korean War Army Veteran (1945-48 and 1950-53) who enlisted at age 15. Gerard is an Army Veteran who served with 82nd Airborne (1962-2003) and spent much of his career in the Dominican Republic. They were joined on the float by parish youth. The float was decorated with flags representing each of the armed forces branches. K of C Men, Stewardship Committee and interested parishioners worked on the float which earned them community cheers and a monetary prize.



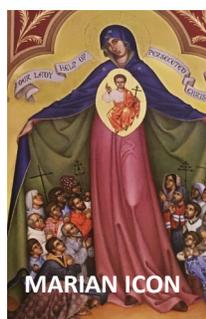
Parishioner, Command Sergeant Major Staci Rea served as **GRAND MARSHAL OF THE PARADE**. Staci served 35 years in the Army National Guard and retired on December 31. She was attached to the 149th Brigade Support Battalion. During the program that followed in West Cadiz Park, Staci addressed the crowd and Norm Geist retold the story of the American flag showcased on the float. It had flown at an American Outpost during the Vietnam War and Norm had helped save the flag from the Viet Cong.



The **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ORGANIZATION** has been busy in 2019. On August 11th, 4th degree Knights **ESCORTED FATHER** to Mass during a procession at St. Henry. On October 4th and 5th they conducted their **ANNUAL TOOTSIE DRIVE** at Benton and Hopkinsville. Weather was cool, but sales were hot and it turned out to be a good fund raiser. **AURORA FESTIVAL DAYS** took place October 17 to 19 and the 4th degree Knights held their annual BBQ Sales. Though sales were slow most of the week, on the last day the Lord came through and they finished in the green. On October 27 the Knights held their **1ST ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER**. They pre-sold tickets and had a sellout crowd. All in attendance had a good time and some went home with baskets of goodies won in the raffles. The 4th Degree Knights helped out the St. Stephen Stewardship Committee in a recent **BBQ PULLED PORK, CHICKEN AND RIBS FUNDRAISER** which ended on November 18. Sales went well and funding will be used on numerous Stewardship Committee projects. The **CADIZ VETERANS DAY FLOAT** (see above article) not only won local acclaim but was also featured in an article on the State Knights of Columbus website. It will be posted in the Monthly Newsletter because of the efforts of the Knights Round Table group in designing and constructing the float. The photo and battle flag's history was also sent to the Western Catholic Magazine for all to enjoy. The Knights also donate to the Pennyroyal Home for Veterans in Hopkinsville. The Knights solicited and distributed both **THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS**. Over 326 persons in the St. Henry and St. Stephen areas benefited from the food. Additional services by the Knights include: 100% funding of one funeral meal for both parishes annually, doing the behind-the-scenes work in securing contractors for parish work, and arranging to host the Marian icon at both parishes (the future dates are in January, 2020). The K of C group works for our Lord through the direction of Mother Mary. This is where they draw strength. For information visit kofc.org or contact Tom Kell (217) 891-2110



KNIGHTS AT FUND RAISING DINNER FOR H.O.P.E. PREGNANCY CENTER



DAY WORKSHOPS



Fr. Greg hosted a Q & A session on September 21 over the book **LETTER TO A SUFFERING CHURCH** by Bishop Robert Barron. The book examines the sexual abuse crisis within the Catholic Church. Books were made available to all parishioners. On October 25, Maryann Joyce, Asst. Director of the Mt. Saint Joseph Retreat Center, presented a **WORKSHOP ON AGING**. It was well attended by St. Henry & St. Stephen parishioners. Participants discussed how we as seniors still have a lot to offer to our family and community, though some of our society treat us as burdens. Our presenter shared a personal life-threatening story and her subsequent reflections on mortality. As we pondered the questions and listened to the presentation, memories of the past resurfaced and we more clearly recognized moments of grace our Lord has blessed us with and continues to do. On November 3, Fr. Greg hosted a session on **PLANNING YOUR OWN WAKE**. The group discussed funeral music, readings, burial customs, cremation, living wills, end of life decisions and more. Handouts are still available.



COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND



Joyce Kotarek attended a retreat at Mount St. Joseph on "Listening to Yourself and Listening to Others". It was good and time well spent! Joyce and the **HEALTH CARE TEAM** stay busy with visits and delivering Eucharist to the homebound, Trigg Co. area nursing homes and hospital. Parishioners are encouraged to join their efforts. A courtesy phone call is suggested before visits. Blood pressures are taken every 2nd weekend after Masses in the cry room.



PARISH PHYSICAL FITNESS

Fr. Greg is available for confessions, sacrament of healing, blessings before/after Mass if having surgery or other health problems. If meals are necessary, delivery is possible upon request. For assistance with spiritual or health needs, call: Joyce Kotarek at 270-498-0599 or leave a message for Fr. Greg through the office.

PARISH PHYSICAL FITNESS is a group effort at St. Stephen. This group meets weekly and its main exercise focuses on three things: stretching muscles, breathing and concentration. Our body has more than 600 muscles, but we do not use all of them in daily life. The muscles we do not use degenerate & harden. Hardened muscle blocks the flow of nerve and blood, specially in the gastrointestinal tract which is an unseen force circulating in our body. Many health problems (i.e. pain) come from the hardened muscle which necessitates the stretching of our muscles daily. Contact: Cathy Khang for more information.



PARISH PICNIC

The **PARISH PICNIC** was held on September 22. About 65 attended. Bingo games and prizes led off the festivities. Midway through the event, Fr. Greg greeted the crowd and led them in prayer before the grilled food and side dishes were served up. Desserts were in abundance (or it would not be a St. Stephen event). The day closed with the cake walk. The prizes were baked by parishioners Norm & Kelly Geist.



MUSIC FESTIVAL

Several of our parishioners helped out during the **CADIZ MUSIC FESTIVAL** July 27. Over 140 children came to play games at the Kids Corner during the festival. St. Stephen volunteers included Kathleen Johnson, Linda Copeland, Judy Garnett, Tom & Bonnie Kell, and Ann & Judy Curtsinger. Kudos to Tom & Bonnie for supervising the sack races. Volunteers from Delmont Baptist and the American Legion Auxiliary also helped out.

THE GARDENERS FOR GOD have been very busy past 6 months. They pulled all the weeds and mulched the gardens around the Parish Hall and Church, planted 3 boxwood bushes and irises and numerous colorful annuals around the Hall. The group trimmed trees and pulled bushes by the main sign. They also purchased 2 new benches for the front of the Hall for a safer and better look. Upcoming projects include: more tree trimming by the Hall and the area beside Father's garage. Additional hands are also welcome. Contact: Anna Mullen at (270) 350-5421



GARDENERS FOR GOD

SPIRITUAL DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY during the month of the rosary, closed on Oct. 30 with an International Rosary recited in Spanish, German, Latin, French and Korean (Stephen Washer promises to add Southern Drawl). The event was followed by a potluck. Another practice is hosting the pilgrim statue of our Lady of Fatima. For a week from May to October, families volunteer to gather at home and recite a daily rosary. The Holy Rosary and 1st Saturday Mass attendance is a storehouse of countless blessings says Sister Lucia of Fatima.



BEN, ABIGAIL & MOM MICHELLE



Home of Bobbi & Ray Ward



STEPHEN WASHER



YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S CORNER

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS

PRE-SCHOOL CLASS: Samuel Ethridge, Clara Roeder, Aulden Washer

INTERMEDIATE CLASS: Anna Roeder, Joseph Ethridge, Garrett Boling, Livia Breckel

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Gavin Alexander, Morgan Alexander, Joseph Duncan, Luke Washer, Benjamin Longdon, Lance Breckel, Audrey Alexander, Timothy Anderson. Not pictured: Connor Wallace & Shane Wallace



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

MAEVE BALLENGEE earned 16 ribbons and cash prizes for her artistic efforts during the recent Cadiz Ham Festival October 11-13.

Parish youth (L to R): **AUDREY & MORGAN & GAVIN ALEXANDER AND LUKE WASHER** rode on the Veterans Day Float November 11.

LIVIA BRECKEL has been busy on a travel softball team called the Talons and on the 5th & 6th grade TCYAA basketball team. She received December All STAR award for demonstrating responsibility. Brother **LANCE BRECKEL** has played trumpet for 3 years at TCMS and is shown at the 8th grade Christmas Concert. He also competed in the 8th grade basketball tournament at Livingston Middle School.

TIMOTHY ANDERSON played trombone in the 8th grade Jazz band for the Christmas Concert at the school.

MARY ELIZABETH ROEDER & MICHAEL COLEMAN plan their wedding March 21, 2020 at St. Paul Church in Princeton, KY.

CONNOR WALLACE was selected as one of 20 Trigg Co. High School's 11th graders as part of Murray State University's Thoroughbred Program. This honor allowed Connor to take college classes through Murray. He maintained a 4.0 GPA with Murray while still a high school student.





Festival of Trees



Angel Tree Collections



Advent & Christmas

The Advent Season led off with an inspiring 6 week study group discussing the book **"GAZE UPON JESUS"**. Twelve women participated. Discussion was lead by Staci Rea and Lana Bastin. The Lenten study group promises to be just as spiritually uplifting and will focus on another book "Walk in Her Sandals" by Kelly Wahlquist of WINE (women of New Evangelization).



Mrs. Claus Cookie & Candy Bazaar



St. Stephen participated in the **FESTIVAL OF TREES** again this season at the Janice Mason Museum. We joined several other local organizations in a beautiful exhibit with a variety of themes. St. Stephen continued with its ANGEL theme this year. The Museum also served as the base for St. Stephen's **RELAY FOR LIFE 2019 WINE TASTING**. Purple Toad Wines served up several of their wines alongside Trigg County Liquors which featured a sampling of bourbons. It was a great night at the Museum enjoying music, the tree exhibit and comradery with friends. Over \$800 was raised for a good cause.



Church Decorating for Christmas

Parishioners showed their Christmas spirit by donating Christmas packages in the annual **ANGEL TREE COLLECTIONS**. The lives of 88 people (22 families) were considerably brightened over the holidays.



As usual, St. Stephen did itself proud at the annual fundraiser for the Way at the **MRS. SANTA CLAUS COOKIE & CANDY BAZAAR** Dec. 7. Rita Hammack and Jan Petro manned the St. Stephen table. Marsha Petro worked with cooking class members from the WAY on Christmas Mug Chocolate Cakes which netted \$75. Thanks to parishioners who baked, purchased goodies or contributed mugs. The Way made over \$3500.



West Park Christmas Display



Christmas Mass at Night

THE SOUNDS OF THE SEASON ADVENT COMMUNITY CHORAL SERVICE is a tradition that began humbly at St. Stephens 6 years ago and has grown to include 12 area choirs with 300+ attendees. The event was held at the Cadiz United Methodist Church. Thanks to those who contributed songs, cookies, and behind the scene help in spreading the joy of the upcoming birth of Jesus.

Saint Stephen's Elf Squad made the holidays bright by efforts that ranged from erecting the crib scene at the annual **WEST PARK CHRISTMAS DISPLAY**, to **DECORATING** the inside and outside of the church, to **CONTRIBUTING** poinsettias, children's gifts for the Angel Tree, bags of food for the K of C collections, choir time & performances, church ministries and MORE. Thanks to all!



A Christmas time and always, may you feel God's presence everywhere and find His love in everything



Sounds of the Season Advent Choral



Christmas Choir at St. Stephen