

**ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
February 1, 2026
AGENDA**

Opening Prayer, Transitional Priest-in-Charge's Welcome

Transitional Priest-in-Charge Report

Distribution of Annual Report and Income/Expense Report

Appointment of Secretary and Counters

Nominations of Vestry Persons and Convention Alternate Delegates

Break for Lunch (there needs to be at least a 30 minute break before voting)

Minutes of 2025 Meeting

Treasurer's Report 2025

2026 Budget Presentation

Vote on Vestry Persons and Convention Alternate Delegates

Old Business

New Business

Other Business

Priest's Blessing

Close with Doxology

Adjournment

The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley Welcome

The text of Transitional Priest-in-Charge's Annual report will be sent out after the meeting Transitional Priest-in-Charge's Annual Report

The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley

February 1, 2026 (Originally meant to be delivered as the sermon on January 25, 2026.)

[Matthew 4: 12-23](#)

“Is the Church a stone building, a book or a pew? No, the Church is the Lord’s hands and feet and that’s me and that’s you.”

In the summer of 1993, I went to the Episcopal Youth Event in western Massachusetts and I learned this song, which has stuck ever since. I had one of those inexplicable, rushing, warmth-filled experiences of the Holy Spirit that I believed affirmed my call to the priesthood. Before I went to college, I told Bishop Hays Rockwell and we kept in touch and, well, here I am a priest for over 21 years, for better and for worse. (I think that phrase “for better and for worse” should be in the ordination vows, too.)

As I considered last week’s Epiphany Gospel [from Matthew 4] - the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in the Gospel of Matthew, I wondered, what compelled the disciples to follow Jesus so quickly?

Did Jesus simply offer them a chance to get away from the drudgery of fishing, generation after generation? Did Jesus offer Simon, Andrew, James and John the opportunity to explore their true vocations as religious leaders? Was it that Jesus was calling people to “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near”?

Did these four men feel the moment was right to repent - to turn around, to change directions, to choose a different path, to make a radical rupture with life as usual?

The context of the calling of Simon, Andrew, James and John is of utmost importance. Until his arrest, John the Baptist had been proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.” After John’s arrest, apparently fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah that we heard this morning, Jesus went to Galilee and took up the exact same proclamation: “Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near.”

When the Magi visited the baby Jesus as a newborn King, King Herod perceived him as a threat. Now the adult Jesus is proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is more powerful and more important than Caesar's Earthly Kingdom.

According to Professor Warren Carter, these sets of brothers were likely under contract with the Roman Empire. (QUOTE) “They would have purchased a lease or contract with Rome’s agents that allows them to fish and obligates them to supply a certain quality of fish.” (END QUOTE) Their actions in following Jesus were a disruption, even if small, to Rome’s economic interests.

Theologian Jillian Engelhardt claims (QUOTE), “By choosing Jesus, the brothers choose God’s rule over Rome. They choose to “fish” their land and the people in it for God’s purposes rather than exploiting it for Rome’s gain. They choose to join Jesus’ ministry in the Promised Land rather than to align themselves with the interests of the occupiers. Rome wanted the men to catch fish to advance their imperialist expansion. Jesus wants them to catch people for God’s rule, which as Jesus will demonstrate throughout the rest of the Gospel, is a rule of mercy and justice and plenty.” (END QUOTE)

Jesus wants the disciples to catch people for God’s rule, which as Jesus will demonstrate throughout the rest of the Gospel, is a rule of mercy and justice and plenty.

Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen, so Jesus said that he would make them fish for people. He called them - as they were, using a metaphor they could understand - and he put them to work disrupting the Empire, as they were. They were by no means perfect and yet they were faithful disciples who envisioned God's Reign - a Reign of mercy, justice and plenty.

God calls each of us - as we are, with our own gifts and foibles - to work collectively for the Reign of God. To make this world more like the Reign of God that we hope for, each using our God given talents and being our own true God-formed, God-created beloved selves.

As the disciples learned, following Jesus & disrupting the Empire - disrupting all the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God, which we renounce at Holy Baptism - does not mean that earthly life will be easy - often quite the opposite. And yet, we follow Jesus & disrupt the Empire because that is our call, our mission, as God's people and as a Church. The mission of the Church (and now I am quoting the Catechism from that old, rigid 1979 Prayer Book) "is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ through prayer and worship, proclaiming the Gospel and promoting justice, peace and love."

I have only been here with you as your half-time Transitional Priest-in-Charge for a few months. I have witnessed your pain and frustration from having so many clergy transitions within just a few years. I have seen that you have persevered. I know that you all care deeply about caring for those who are hungry, lonely and marginalized - especially through the Food Pantry, the Clay Cafe and the Ferguson Warming Center. And, I know that the people who show up every week - you all - who do so much for the Reign of God through St. Stephen's and the Vine, need and want reinforcements, more co-workers in the Vineyard.

My guess - my educated guess from speaking with quite a few people - is that there are many who consider themselves members of St. Stephen's who are not in this room and who do not understand how much they are missed. Without whom, St. Stephen's may not continue to exist as a congregation. St. Stephen's cannot continue with 30 people at worship in-person every week. Nor can it continue with a \$60,000 budget deficit every year.

These are **not** insurmountable problems - all things are possible with God! - but they cannot be ignored. Anyone who has taken St. Stephen's & the Vine's continued existence for granted needs to be disabused of that idea.

There are plans in the works to raise money through a Capital Campaign. There are plans to expand the Food Pantry, deepen the ministry of the Clay Cafes, offer adult forums for the wider community, host the World Premier of a much anticipated new play and more. We will continue to try different forms of worship, Bible Study and Christian Formation on different days and times.

I am sure that the Music on the Vine program *will* generate new energy, participation and revenue for St. Stephen's & the Vine. And, I will be doing a significant amount of grant writing and donation solicitation this year for St. Stephen's & the Vine programs.

And, there new are opportunities for you all to become fishers of people, like Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John. Personal invitations to friends, family members and neighbors to come to worship and fellowship are the most successful way to bring new people into a Church congregation. Personal invitation - not advertising, not outreach programs, not community groups using our space. Personal Invitation. "Would you like to come to church with me on Sunday?"

And then we have to be ready to welcome visitors and newcomers - with a clean nursery, soft spaces for babies and children, and accessible facilities, with people willing to explain how we worship, with ushers ready to show someone around the building, with parishioners eager to greet ALL new people - Black, white, young, old, single, partnered, poor or rich - in the name of Christ.

When I was a single young person on vacation and when I was a new mother on maternity leave, I had terrible experiences of NOT being welcomed into the Episcopal churches that I visited - *unless* I introduced myself as a priest. No one's status in the Church or society should EVER be a requirement for being welcomed into the household of God.

Church growth is possible, but it does take intention and commitment for the long-term. Later in the meeting, Susan will talk about the Invite, Welcome, Connect program - which is one tool for church growth, as long as we remember that all we do and all we are is to God's glory and not our own.

"Is the Church a stone building, a book or a pew? No, the Church is the Lord's hands and feet and that's me and that's you."

May we, like Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, follow Jesus & Be the Church, a group of imperfect disciples striving to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. Amen.

Deacon Annual report

St. Stephen's & The Vine - January 25, 2026

2025 was a busy and exciting year! In February, the newly formed Pastors Collaborative facilitated by Together STL, began to meet. The collaborative consists of approximately a dozen clergy from different area churches who meet and pray together for each other and our ministries, and to identify ways to as a group to support the needs of the Ferguson community.

By early spring, the collaborative had identified ways for areas where we might serve the needs of our community and become a unifying voice for the Gospel:

Churches connecting and building relationships

- **Showing deep love** for one another—including toward those who carry the negative stigma of Ferguson
- **Retell the narrative** of Ferguson
- **State the positive loudly**—amplify the good
- **Bring people into Ferguson**—invite engagement and show them the real Ferguson
- **Show public unity** by supporting each other's church and ministry events (*Examples: May 31st Forgive STL Event and January Wabash Park and June 1st First Baptist Worship Service*)
- **Promote other church events**
- **Collective activity by the Church in Ferguson**, such as:
 - Michael Brown Memorial
Worship/Prayer Event
 - Broad promotion across churches with participation
- **Do more joint services** to demonstrate visible unity

In April, I attended the national AAPI Leadership Conference in Kansas City. Afterwards, Rev. Clive Sampson and I collaborated and put together the first ever diocesan AAPI Heritage Month Celebration, held May 28th at FCCI in Ballwin. Noriko Utsunomiya and Yas Nishiwaki were among the small group of 15 people who attended. Bishop Deon addressed the group and we enjoyed a meal and fellowship afterwards. I am already working on the event for 2026, which is set for May 20, 2026 at Hope Episcopal Church in

Town and Country.

I continued serving as Bishop Deon's chaplain, accompanying him to parishes that do not have an assigned deacon. Our Requiem and Renaissance team completed its program work. In November, I was elected to serve as a clergy delegate at General Convention in 2027. I am the first AAPI and the first deacon since 2018 elected to serve represent our diocese.

These are only a few of the highlights. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to have served at St. Stephen's & the Vine since August of 2024. I have been reassigned by Bishop Deon to help with our rural ministries, so today will be my last day as your deacon. This congregation will always have a special place in

my heart. Since we are a Jubilee Ministry church, I will remain active in that ministry and will still see many of you! I pray with and support you as we enter 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Loretta Go

Senior Warden Annual Report 2025

When I reflect back on 2025 at St. Stephen's, the first thing I think of is that it was a year of goodbyes and hellos. We said goodbye to some loved ones, parishioners, and Pastor Aaron (and his family). We said hello to some new loved ones, new parishioners, and Pastor Teresa (and her family). I like to think of this as the "Circle of Life". Elton John even wrote a song about this for Disney's *The Lion King*. It says:

" It's the circle of life and it moves us all
Through despair and hope, through faith and love
'Til we find our place on the path unwinding
In the circle, the circle of life"

As Christians we believe we take this walk through life with Jesus, alongside our neighbors. We try to walk in the way of Jesus, following His light, to the places we are meant to be. For those of us at St. Stephen's our walk has led us here, to each other and to our community in Ferguson. It is our responsibility to figure out the "why". Why am I here at St. Stephen's and the Vine? What is my role here in supporting the life of this place, those who worship here, and those who live in this community?

There is a sign outside a church in Hazelwood that I see regularly as I drive by on my path through life. It says "Relationship, not Religion". I think they have it wrong. Religion IS Relationship. Relationship between us and God, relationship between God and His people, and our relationship with others. It is God who teaches us how to build and maintain these relationships. It is God who desires these relationships to not only be planted, but to be fed and watered so they can grow into more than we can imagine them to be. I would say that in a church, relationship and religion are interconnected at the core, and that core is God.

What relationships has God planted at St. Stephen's and the Vine? What can we do to feed and water them, to grow them into more than we can imagine them to be? These are a few of the questions we asked ourselves during our Requiem or Renaissance Team meetings. These are also questions the groups, committees and vestry considered as they pondered decisions throughout the year regarding our worship services, parish administration and management, parish activities, care of our building and grounds, Food Pantry, Clay Café and planning our new Music on the Vine ministry. A huge thank you to everyone who has been a part of this important work, and those who have given so generously to St. Stephen's and the Vine in time, talent or treasure!

These relationships will have the opportunity to grow into more than we imagined them to be if we all work together. Please continue to consider **your** important role in supporting the life of this place, those who worship here, and those in our community so that we can grow into a place where the kingdom of God flourishes.

In peace,
Susan Fazio

Junior Warden Report

The following items have been inspected and repaired as needed:

- The alarm company tested all the smoke detectors and heat sensors
- Enclosed the window in the Altar Guild room, thanks to Mick O'Hare
- Unclogged the sewer line servicing the hall restroom by the office (paper Towels)
- Put the Narcan box given by Deacon Go by the parking lot
- Watched the repairman fix the dishwasher
- Watched the replacement of 2 A/C units on the roof of the office
- Set up a service Schedule with Nu-Way to service the heating and cooling throughout the year
- Replaced the doorknobs for the clergy office, thanks to John Kavanaugh
- Replaced burned out bulbs throughout the building

Annual Meeting Minutes 19 January 2025

Opening

- Distribution of Annual Report and Income Expense Report
- Prayer
- Moment of reflection on all of those who are not with us today, especially due to physical/medical trouble.
- Meeting called to order at 11:43 a.m.
- Appointment of Secretary: Emily Benner

Business

- Approval of minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting
- Motion to approve: Stephen Robin 2nd : John Kavanaugh Passed/approved
- Review of 2025 Financials: Mike Sebright (Treasurer)
- See Finance/Budget Report
- Line item budget for 2026 can be given upon request
- Presentation of 2026 Budget
- Nomination of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates
- Introduction of Nominating Committee (chairman John Kavanaugh)
- John reported that the nominees for Vestry were:
 - Jerry Benner
 - Mike Hubbard
 - John Kavanaugh
- (All are eligible and have agreed to run for a 2nd term.)
- Larry Robinett resigned during 2024 leaving another opening on Vestry.
- Motion to open floor for nominees for Vestry: Bill Layher/2nd : Mike Sebright Motion passed
- Motion to nominate Mick O'Hare for Vestry: Stephen Robin/2nd : Mike Sebright Motion passed
- Nomination for Convention Delegate (One delegate is needed because Mick O'Hare has one more year to serve on a 2 yr. term)

Motion to open floor for nominees for Convention Delegate: Mike Sebright/2nd : Stephen Robin
Motion passed

Motion for Charles Schumacher to serve another 2 year term: Jerry Benner/2nd: Bill Layher
Motion passed

Lunch Break from 11:57 a.m. - 12:27 p.m.

Business Continued

Motion to close floor for nominations to Vestry: Mike Sebright/2nd: Stephen Robin
Motion passed

Motion to elect nominees for Vestry by acclamation: Stephen Robin/2nd : Mike Sebright

Motion passed to elect Jerry Benner, Mike Hubbard, and John Kavanaugh to Vestry by acclamation for 3 year terms and Mick O'Hare to Vestry by acclamation for a 2 year term.

Motion to close floor for Delegate nominations: Mike Sebright/2nd : Stephen Robin
Motion passed

Motion to elect Charles Schumacher to a 2 nd 2 year term as convention delegate: Bill Layher
2nd : Mike Sebright

Motion passed to elect Charles Schumacher to another 2 year term as Convention Delegate.

-Priest Report: Aaron Rogers (See Annual Report)

-Senior Warden Report: John Kavanaugh (See Annual Report)

-Junior Warden Report: Charles Schumacher (See Annual Report)

-Deacon Report: Loretta Go (See Annual Report)

-Reports from Committees (See Annual Report)

Altar Guild: Ginger Simmons

Communications: Kate Kavanaugh

ECW AM and PM: Ginger Simmons and Laura Watt

Food Pantry: Jerry Benner and Kate Kavanaugh

Men's Club: Jerry Benner

Ushers: Jerry Benner

Personnel: John Kavanaugh

Liturgical Leaders: John Kavanaugh

Archives: Laura Watt

-No changes to the By-Laws

-Priest in charge Aaron Rogers asked Susan Fazio to serve as Senior Warden for the next year, while John Kavanaugh receives a break.

-Election Results Report

Vestry Members: John Kavanaugh, Mike Hubbard, Jerry Benner and Mick O'Hare.

Convention Delegate: Charles Schumacher

Closing With no further business, the meeting closed at 1:40 p.m. with Pastor Aaron leading the congregation in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Benner, Clerk to the Vestry.

Treasurers Report

I'm pleased to report that, thanks to a very generous, anonymous gift last year St. Stephen's finished 2025 with a little cash in the bank and with no deductions required from our investments. That, plus our 2026 pledges and an Operating Budget Support Grant from the Diocese for \$20,000 gives St. Stephen's a reasonable footing for the coming year. Even so, our 2026 Budget predicts a deficit of some \$89,0000. The Executive Committee and the Finance Committee are investigating ways to increase our annual revenue.

Capital Management Trust (CMT)

CMT Mission: The mission of the trust is to manage parish money that is not immediately needed for operating purposes. The goal is to produce capital appreciation at a higher rate of return over time than interest accrued in a traditional checking account. The Trustees' job is to manage our investments for liquidity, to address reasonably foreseeable short-term needs: and for long-term securities to provide asset growth and higher profit yields.

The Trustees are comprised of the Senior Warden (Chair), The Parish Treasurer, and three additional members elected by the Vestry, currently:

Susan Fazio Senior Warden

Michael Sebright Treasurer

Jerry Benner

Charlie Caspari

Karen Warren

Stewardship Committee

Our 2026 Stewardship Pledge Drive resulted in another generous year of support from our membership. We received 21 pledges amounting to approximately \$76,000, demonstrating once again our membership's strong commitment to St. Stephen's and its outreach ministries!

The Stewardship Committee also spent a great deal of the year representing St. Stephen's in support of the Episcopal Community Garden project on the grounds of St. Barnabas in Florissant. The garden delivered over 500 pounds of produce that went directly towards feeding our surrounding communities. The harvest included several varieties of tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes, okra and assorted greens. In addition, we grew an additional 30 pounds of produce from our small garden plots here at St. Stephen's including tomatoes, cucumbers, beans, assorted greens, peppers, cantaloupe and honeydew melons.

The Stewardship Committee will also provide support for anticipated fundraising efforts in 2026.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, FERGUSON, MISSOURI

FINANCE/BUDGET REPORT

The following figures represent a summary of our finances in 2025 and a summary of the budget approved by the Vestry for 2026. Complete reports with all line items are attached.

2025 Income Expense and 2026 Budget

	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Operating Income	254149	121455	91875
Restricted income	17225	19852	41975
Operating Expense	149583	117339	160196
Restricted Expense	55786	66980	62840
NET OPERATING INCOME	104566	4116	-68321
NET RESTRICTED INCOME	-38561	-47128	-20865
NET CONSOLIDATED INCOME	66005	-43012	-89186

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Jan 1, 2025	Jan 1,2026
Assets		
Total Current Assets	22705	88406
Total Other Assets	66456	66456
Total Fixed Assets	588435	588435
TOTAL ASSETS	677596	743296
Liabilities and Equity		
Total Liabilities	441	135
Total Equities	743737	677732
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	743296	677596

Requiem or Renaissance Team Report 2025

St. Stephen's was a part of Cohort 3 for the diocesan Requiem or Renaissance program with a goal of helping us ascertain areas of Requiem or Renaissance in our parish...i.e. what things at St. Stephen's need a holy ending and what things do we need to focus on and try to grow. Our team includes Susan Fazio, John Kavanaugh, Sandy Schmidt, Laura Watt, Deacon Loretta, and Pastor Aaron (moving forward Pastor Teresa will be joining us). We had four sessions with the entire cohort and multiple other meetings with just our St. Stephen's team. The sessions helped us to explore our faith and listen for God's call to us. It gave us the tools to deeply discern what God is calling us to do next at St. Stephen's. The team discerned that we are seeing renaissance in our Food Ministries (Food Pantry, Clay Café, and our Blessing Box). We also discerned that the things God is calling our faith community to do and be next includes:

- 1) Supporting our community in relational ministry
- 2) Engaging in community enrichment ministry
- 3) Considering alternative uses for our building that can provide additional income
- 4) Fundraising & creating partnerships to support our ministry
- 5) Improving communication and marketing
- 6) Hiring a priest to be our shepherd

We have started working on most of these things but will need your help and support along the way. We would like each of you to consider the following question:

“How do YOU feel called by God at St. Stephen's and the Vine to support this work in our church?”

Our Requiem or Renaissance Cohort 3 work is done, our work in our parish and in our community continues. Will we succeed? I believe we will, with God's help. Let us pray:

“Direct us O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify

thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” – BCP pg. 832

In Peace,
Susan Fazio

Altar Guild

“Liturgy begins and ends with the work of the Altar Guild.” The ministry of the Altar Guild includes the care of the vessels, the bread and the wine, the fair linens, the candles – all things used for worship. We prepare the altar for every service during the year including Sunday Services, Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals/Memorials, and we clean up afterwards. There's a place for you on the Altar Guild if you are interested.

Noriko Utsunomiya, Sandy Schmidt and Ginger Simmons

Episcopal Church Women

All women of the church are members of the ECW (Episcopal Church Women).

Our ministry involves bringing the women of St. Stephen's together in service to others within the church and to our neighbors.

Our activities include two money making activities each year, our English Tea and our Rummage Sale, that provide us with the opportunity to work together and to engage with those who come to these events. The money we make goes toward donations to organizations we support in our community and in our diocese including All Among Us, Haven of Grace and Episcopal City Mission. For 2025, we have chosen to support our own church – St. Stephen's. If you have an organization, you think we should consider for 2026, come join us and let us know about it.

Hospitality is a big part of what we do. Besides the English Tea and the Rummage Sale, we also organize and provide for receptions that may occur after a church service or when we have a visit from another church, organization, or individual, i.e. In 2025 we hosted Stephen Robin's book launch. Hospitality to us means making our space look welcoming and usually involves feeding people. We get a lot of practice doing both of these things.

During the year, we encourage and celebrate one another in our church family with birthday cards, anniversary cards and cards of support. We also support students in our community each year by collecting donations for backpacks and school supplies and then filling backpacks and distributing them in time for the first day of school.

We meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for lunch, fellowship and sometimes business.

Come join us.

Susan Fazio, Ruth Benner and Ginger Simmons

Food Pantry Report

The Food Pantry at St. Stephens is a supplemental food pantry, one that delivers a pre-set bag of food to a family once every 28 days (or a month). With the SNAP changes, we moved to people being able to come weekly, a few have, but most people are staying with coming monthly.

The food pantry crew consists of about 25 people, they are members of St. Stephens, Girl Scouts, North Hills, St Andrews UMC and even people who receive bags offering to help in the pantry. In 2025 we distributed 1067 bags of food to 333 families. Of these 333 families, 132 were new to the pantry.

Our shoppers are St. Stephen's Parishioners and Girl Scout Leaders.

We have a lot of support for our pantry from the community as well as you here at St. Stephen's!.

The Food Pantry Ministry is being reviewed at this time with several changes to the better that may be coming in 2026.

Clay Café Report 2025

The Clay Café hosts two free community meals each month. The brunch is held on the third Tuesday of each month from 10 am to noon, and the dinner is held on the third Sunday of each month from 4 to 6 pm.

We served 745 meals in 2025, which included 337 brunch meals, and 408 dinner meals. A wide variety of meals were served. We partnered with seven outside groups who helped in some way with at least one meal including Chef Lisa/Felicia, Christ Church Cathedral, Scouting America, Just Food Truck of the Diocese of Missouri, Ferguson Human Rights Commission, ENAL tutoring, and Dedicated Senior Medical Center. We look forward to partnering with more organizations this year. If you, or a person or group you know, would like to partner with us for a Clay Café meal(s) in 2026 please refer to the options below:

HOST: Plan meal, shop and pay for necessary food items (approximately \$200 for brunch and \$300 for dinner, depending on the cost of the meal planned), cook meal, set up, serve meal, visit with guests, and clean up (groups of at least 5 to 10 people preferred).

SPONSOR: Make a donation to cover the cost of the meal (approximately \$200 for brunch and \$300 for dinner, depending on the cost of the meal planned).

VOLUNTEER: Help to cook, set up, serve, visit with guests, and/or clean up (can be an individual or groups of 5 to 10). Volunteers may also plan and prepare an approved activity for our guests (ideas include games, puzzles, crafts, and entertainment).

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported Clay Café this year. Your presence was noticed and greatly appreciated!! Please feel free to forward my contact information to anyone interested in hosting, sponsoring, or volunteering at Clay Café in the coming year.

Susan Fazio 314-954-3706 fazfam6@aol.com

Girl Scout Troop 2648

Girl Scout Troop 2648 is a multi-level troop for girls in 8th through 10th grade who are currently homeschooling or have previously been homeschooled. We currently have 13 girls registered with our troop. We meet biweekly at St. Stephen's on Fridays from September through May. Our troop attends Girl Scout camp 3+ times a year. Our focus is on the outdoors, service, arts and crafts, and travel.

Service items of note: Troop members work two Tuesdays a month at the food pantry. We also shop once for personal care items to fill the pantry shelves. This year, one of our scouts earned the Silver Award by making and distributing feral cat shelters that she made from recycled styrofoam coolers and other work related to helping feral cats. The blessing box in the parking lot is a past Silver Award project from a scout who has since graduated from our troop. The scouts are also now of an age where they get to volunteer to be aides at camp, so many volunteer for the annual Cadette Camp A Rama weekend.

Our big focus this year is planning the troop's trip to Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia in August, where the girls will visit the birthplace of the founder of Girl Scouts.

Mens Club

The Mens Club of St. Stephens consists of all men in the parish who wish to be active. In 2025 we held a Valentine Day Breakfast of the women in our community. We also held the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. We have both events planned for 2026 and would hope to add a Bar-B-Q sometime in the Spring or Fall.

St. Stephen's Archives Update for Annual Meeting 2026

Not much progress has been made to report, since this time last year due to the change in Priests and obligations on my time so I will include a review of our progress to date. I have given Pastor Teresa a tour of my progress and the space and plan to create a proposal for the vestry before June 2026 on the changes that need to be made, in order to make the space adaptable for a historic archive collection.

I have processed papers, documents, and files and organized these into acid free archival file folders. These are grouped by subject for eventual placement in archival boxes. This is an ongoing process for a living archive but I am at a standstill, waiting for changes described below.

Several collections are sorted, filed and ready to be boxed into archival safe boxes. These include:

- Vestry Minutes which are currently filed in a metal filing cabinet containing records from the late 1940's to present with a few missing years.
- Annual Reports
- Approximately 12 to 20 folders containing the history of the founding of the church in Ferguson, the buildings associated with St. Stephen's, and early church records and newspaper clips.
- Files on each Rector which are incomplete. I have asked both Steve Lawler and Aaron Rogers to save any papers that might be of historic value.
- The Parochial Reports are also in files by year on Individuals joining St. Stephen's from other churches and persons/families leaving St. Stephen's and transferring to other churches. These are rather incomplete after the 1990's.
- The church Newsletter from the 1950's to present.

I have an idea to propose for obtaining boxes through donations and will include this in my report to the vestry.

With so many folders needing to be boxed and being in need of some sturdy metal shelves, I have temporarily stopped processing and need to get minor renovations completed before we can arrange the boxed collections.

To get the space converted into a workable archive research center, the following need to be addressed:

1. The old wooden cabinets on the east wall will need to be removed,
2. Removing at least one metal file cabinet,
3. Relocating the bells to a more appropriate music room (hopefully utilized in worship),
4. Removing the large painting of the Virgin Mother and Christ,
5. Securing 4 to 6 metal shelves (Would like to find free or donations)

This year and last, Judy Herzog has spent time identifying some of the photos with me and with Susan. I am in the process of putting photographs of various sizes, into temporary shoe boxes by decade, so we can eventually host a parish event to get assistance with identifying the people and places.

I have conducted an oral history with Doris Kieffer and am willing to work with anyone who would like to share their family story with us.

Finally, the timeline that was created shortly after Father Aaron started his ministry with us, needs to be framed and a place designated to display it in such a manner that information can be added as needed.

The ECW will continue to update the Memorial album we have been working on for the last 15 years. This spring we will compile a list of pages we are missing. Anyone can work on a page for a loved one.

In the future, it would be nice to have a Pictorial record/album of Weddings and Baptisms held.

Submitted by Laura Watt, Church Archivist, January 21, 2026.

Usher Report

Ushers provide a service at all church services. Ushers include: Emily Benner, Jerry Benner, Ruth Benner, Charles Caspari, Stephen Robin, Mike Sebright and Ginger Simmons.

We are always interested in having new members.