



The First Order

St. Stephen's Parish

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JULY 2016

Thank you, Jenny!



Did You Know?

- That **Celeste Wheelock** earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Communications at MCLA—with a concentration in broadcast media. In addition to several noteworthy pursuits, she received the Phi Theta Kappa honor Society Induction Award in 2006 and a critical Writer award in the English/Communications department at MCLA. Well done!
- That **Kevin Coakley** earned High Honors at Lenox Memorial High School for the third quarter. In addition, he was one of 13 college-bound students to receive an award from The Greylock Federal Credit Union, through their “Treat Everyone Better Than They Expect” scholarship program.
- That **Matt Reynolds** shared the Alba A. Pasco Memorial Scholarship and won the Forfa Family Scholarship for Basketball at Commencement Exercises.
- In the updated Track and Field Honor Roll of June 6, **Grady Pedersen** was named for the 110 Meter Hurdles (2nd place). And **Paige Gray**, tops in the girls for the Shot Put and the Javelin, is our own Jean Gray’s granddaughter! In the Final Track Honor Roll, Grady remained in the outstanding 2nd place and Paige was still tops in Shot Put and Javelin!
- That **Matt Reynolds** (Lee) and **Kevin Coakley** (Lenox) were both selected for the All-South County Boys Basketball Team!
- That graduation time is here (perhaps “was” is the better word) and we have a few students to congratulate: From Lenox Class of 2016 – **Kevin Coakley** was awarded Summa Cum Laude, the Greylock Federal Credit Union Scholarship, the James Herrick Memorial Scholarship (with 5 others), the Lenox Community Center Jane P. Layton Leader’s Club Scholarship (along with several others), the Lenox General Fund Scholarship, the Lenox Memorial Basketball Booster Club award, the Lenox Youth Basketball Scholarship, and the Lenox Police Association Anthony J. Salvatore Sr. Award; from Pittsfield High School: **Peyton Doyle** graduated and was on the 2016 Class Council, **Selah Ekstrom** was given the Outstanding Vocal Student Award. **James Donovan** (Taconic High School) was named to the Academic Excellence in Art Award along with 5 classmates. We are so proud of all our students and wish them well in their continuing education – at school or in life!
- (Editor’s note – I tried to catch every name, but if I have missed someone, accept my apologies and let me know so that the good word can be published in the next issue of *The First Order*.)



Selah Ekstrom and Heather Macfarlane

July

Happy Birthday:

- 2 Wendy Coakley
- 3 Samantha Reynolds (11)
- 4 Bill Gaither (96 years young!), Kira White
- 5 James Donovan (18), Felyce Stetz (9)
- 6 Arysa Maloney (12), Barbara Smith
- 7 Gabriel Carrington (15), Karen Wallace
- 8 Carolyn Sawyer
- 9 Janous Slonski (9)
- 10 Karla Ann Boudreau (4), Tom Drury
- 11 Jillian Croce (8), Paula Morey
- 13 Bill Frazier, Jennifer Stokes (a milestone!)
- 14 Mike Coakley (a milestone!)
- 15 Amy Barnes
- 17 Joseph Farnes (a milestone!), Randy Thomas
- 18 Horace Harris, Olivia Roberts (10)
- 20 Austine Bodenstab, Michael DiGrigoli, Shaun Kysor, Heather Macfarlane (17), Joan Morrow
- 22 Philip Blanchard, Elizabeth Chisum, Joan Kurber, Josh McFalls (13), Jazmyn Wesley
- 23 Trinity Cookis
- 24 Jayvon Dillard (8), Sarah Fenton (16)
- 25 Isabella Ameen, Lynne Blanchard, Emma Doane (15)
- 26 Leah Luczynski (a milestone!), Katherlyne Welch
- 28 Beverly Appleton (a milestone!), Jennifer Laurin
- 30 Molly McNeil (9), Edie Mingalone

Happy Anniversary:

- 2 Elizabeth and David Oakes (2005)
- 11 Mary and David Adams (1964)
- 12 Karen Wallace and Jeff Pringle (1986)
- 13 Marietta and Jim Cawse (1974)
- 14 Evelyn and John Pieloch (1973)
- 17 Tonya and Robert Reynolds (1994)
- 21 Heather and Seth DiGrigoli (2007)
- 23 Jamie and Steven Bannon (2005)
- 28 Ursula and Michael Champagne (2007)
- 29 Nancy and Gary Lamoureaux (1978)



from Joseph

July marks a year that I've been here at St Stephen's and in the Berkshires! It's been a wonderful year, even though it has flown past!

Ministry is contextual; it is the people and events around us who "call out" our gifts and highlight the ways in which Christ is working through us to help the church to serve the world. As they say, "when the student is ready, the teacher appears," but not in the sense that the sage will simply appear out of thin air but in the sense that when we are ready to learn we begin to see that the people around us are already helping us to learn (about the world, about ourselves, and about God).

I learn so much from you all, and I am incredibly grateful to journey alongside you all! You encourage me in my gifts, and I hope to encourage you in your gifts (the gifts you know you have, and all the gifts you haven't seen yet!).

Peace, Joseph

Paint & Sip at St. Stephen's!

August 14th, at 4:00 p.m.

A Midsummer Fundraiser

\$40 includes all your equipment and a gala "appetizer bar"!

Have you ever gone to a Paint & Sip event?

Have you wanted to go to one?

We are working with Berkshire Paint&Sip to bring you this summer event! We will host the event here at church and paint pictures of our beloved parish.

Non-painters? You won't believe how well you'll do with some tutelage!

Grab a pal and save the date today!

Summer FaithXchange Fieldtrips

We are planning an engaging series of field trips to some of our neighboring congregations throughout the summer, followed by conversations about the intersections between the Episcopal Church and other traditions. These are open to ALL parishioners although we strongly encourage anyone wishing to be confirmed in September to join us.

LAST year's confirmation graduates can join us, and everyone else please be in touch if you would like to be a part of this upcoming confirmation service.

Email Cricket or call the office **today** to be on the info list for this series of jaunts to worship with our neighbors.

Confirmation is Coming!

Bishop Fisher will be with us on Sunday, September 11th!

Do you, or a member of your family, want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, or simply reaffirm your baptismal vows?

All of these options will be possible on the 11th.

Children's Summer Church Seating

Keep your eyes open for our new "child-friendly" seating areas in the sanctuary. Being planned now, we should have the new spaces ready to go by July!

A Thought

Ringo Starr asks that everyone honor his July 7th Birthday, as he does each year, by saying "Peace and Love" at noon. There is strength in numbers!



A Reminder

Gifts are welcome to support Laundry Love, our ad at the Beacon Cinema and/or the fund for updating the elevator. Simply make checks out to "St. Stephen's Parish" with a notation in the line to the left of your signature, describing where you wish it to be applied. Thank you, our ever generous parishioners!

And don't forget that donations to the food basket and the personal items box are always welcome.

We Get Letters

From Naoma Sammons:

"Many thanks to the St. Stephen's Birthday Angel who, without fail, sends me a lovely birthday greeting.

Much appreciated"

And, do you know who that resident Angel is? Joan Morrow – to whom we send kudos for her faithful service in this ministry!



Why did you search for me?
Did you not know I had
to be in my father's house?



Summer Sunday School Is Coming!

Starting July 3 at 9:00 AM, Summer Sunday School will be in session! We will be using a simple, fun curriculum called *An Illustrated Earth: Celebrating God's Creation*. Each week we'll read a Bible story related to an environmentally-friendly theme and work on a related coloring project.

The curriculum is designed for pre-K through elementary-age children, but all ages are welcome! The program will be held in the Guild Room each week and run through the end of August. Pre-registration is not required. Just come!

Volunteer assistants are needed. (No teaching required. Sign up for one Sunday or several.) Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like to color during church!



A Farewell to Jenny

(for those who missed it – or couldn't hear)

Dearest Jenny, that time has come
When we're asked to say Good-bye.
It isn't something we want to do,
So we'll do so with one great sigh.

We know we can see you on St. Joseph's lawn
at least that once a week.
But that's not the same – it's quality time
That we most obviously seek!

You've brought so much to our St. Stephen's:
Your youth, your pep, your heart.
And I think you've grown over these 9 years,
Though we loved you right from the start.

Each thing you say – in a sermon or not,
Comes from deep in your inner you.
You truly believe and you live those beliefs
And happily share them – yes, you do.

You reach out to every human you meet,
The young or old, rich or poor.
And in your gentle, kindly way,
You change them that's for sure.



Your stated interest right from the start
Was to walk with the folk on the street,
To understand the very depths
These people live, head to feet.

You instigate programs to back you up:
You feed and launder and pray.
And each and every thing you do
Is heartfelt, for that's your way.

We know you've faced both happy and sad
In your journey here over the years.
I hope we've been the support you sought
Through questions and laughter and tears.

You have a wonderful family –
Your Derek, Austine and Noelle.
But did you know that an artist exists
In Derek? Well, I shall tell:

Each week the crew who count the cash
Are treated to colorful pics
From Derek, on the paper substitute
For envelopes – our weekly fix!

We envy the Diocese – their gain, our loss
And we know you'll make us proud,
For this is like letting our own child go –
And we say "farewell" out loud.

But we'll follow your exploits – all that you do –
In your new Diocesan role,
And we'll gloat and say, "She once was ours,"
And murmur "bless my soul!"

Go in peace, to love the Lord,
As you've often said to us.
And forgive us all the tears and hugs
And heartfelt farewell fuss!

Lots of love,

Joan for St. Stephen's
May 21, 2016

St. Stephen's Parish

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