

Blue Divinity



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025

New Beginnings!

THE APOSTLE PAUL says in Philippians 3:13-14:

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

We ever look forward in more light and understanding for ourselves and for others. ✠



ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY

August Worship Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 AM
WEDNESDAY SERVICES AT 11 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD
RESERVE SACRAMENT SERVICE
Service Leader, Jena Young

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH
PENTECOST EUCHARIST SERVICE
Our Missioner, the Rev. Meghan "Mo" Trimm

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH
RESERVE SACRAMENT SERVICE
Service Leader, Karen Ettenhofer

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH
MORNING PRAYER
Service Leader, Charles Guenette

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST
PENTECOST HOLY EUCHARIST
The Rev. Paula Marvic with Karen Ettenhofer

EVERY WEDNESDAY
HOLY EUCHARIST SERVICE
IS HELD AT 11 AM IN THE CHAPEL
with The Rev. Paula Marvic

As is it summer season or just whenever—
please check for any unexpected changes or
further scheduling updates at our website:
<https://www.ststephensescanaba.org>.

OUR STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

ST STEPHEN'S FACETED STAINED GLASS was created by the stained glass division of the T C Esser Paint Company of Milwaukee. The design depicts two calendars superimposed: nature's seasonal beauty of winter's dark blues transitioning through the aesthetic beauty of spring, summer and fall; and the liturgical seasons of the church from the dark blues of Advent leading to the triumphant sunrise at Easter - reflecting the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These windows are truly a stunning representation of our faith and give us pause for reflection.

In early July of this year, **Jeff's Glass** completed the installation of a new plexiglass covering for St Stephen's stained glass windows. Volunteers from St. Stephen's removed the old plastic covering, cleaned and painted the surrounding trim in preparation for the installation.

Donald C. Cook was a major contributor to the original installation of the stained glass windows as well as **St Stephen's Trust**. He was an Escanaba native who was a member of St. Stephen's. He had a distinguished career as both chair and vice-chair of the SEC serving under two presidents and as chair of the American Electric Corporation, the nation's largest public utility. He was an early advocate of nuclear power, and there is a nuclear generator in lower Michigan named for him. He is also responsible for *The Rapture Sculpture* in the narthex of the church.

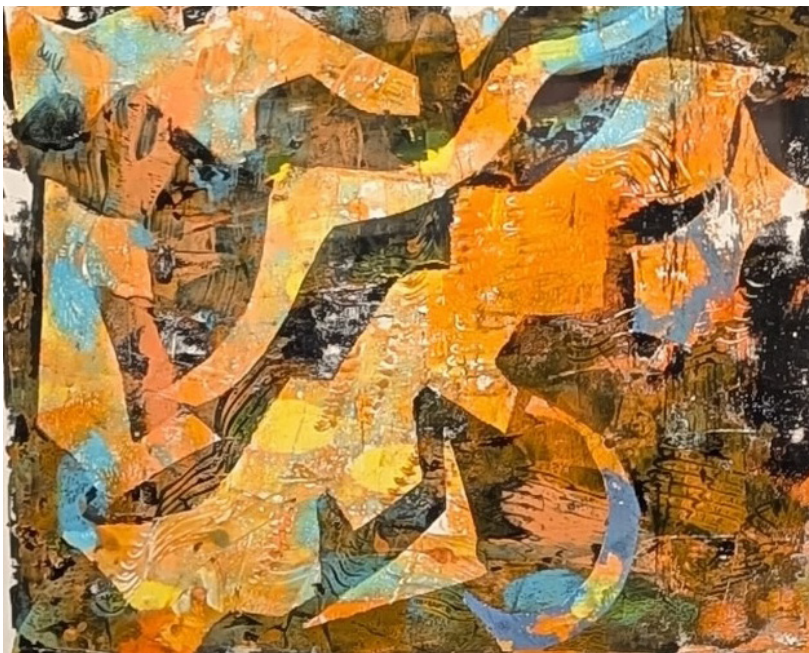
For insurance purposes, and to save energy the stained glass windows were covered with plastic in 1977. Hopefully our current investment will last another 50 years!

Jon W. Flath
Sr. Warden
St. Stephen's Episcopal
Escanaba, Michigan



THE PUZZLE OF OURSELVES

An interview of Nancy by her friend Lani



"UNTITLED" BY NANCY OLEXICK (ACRYLIC AND COLLAGE)

"MY LOVE OF ART and color was born of, either great color, joy or deep pain..."



Nancy, at the time of her dreams of being an Artist

says **the Rev. Nancy Olexick** from our congregation, who had always dreamt of being an artist from a young age.

Yet, **Nancy**, (being so kind as to share some of her internal thoughts with us), packed her dreams inside herself for more than 50 years, after studying art for 2 years professionally as an "Painting and Printmaking" Art Major at Virginia Commonwealth University. The famed artist **Gerald Donato** was her mentor, AND interested in developing her talent!!

For some reason her mentor's name sounded familiar so, I thought there might be more to this story and....there is.

It is surprising to **Nancy**, yes, but not necessarily to us, who KNOW that God has a way of bringing one face to face with His plans, that **Nancy**, having recently joined the Bonifas Art Center, entered their current **Member Open Call Exhibition** and won not one but TWO "**featured artist**" awards. Sometimes, God speaks, but we are not ready to hear what He has to say.

Nancy continues in her own words (unedited) **"...not touching a brush or other art materials, fearing either success or failure! I put it [Art] aside for 50 years. There is nothing more threatening than blank paper."** As a performer and musician, myself, I understand the anxiety and just EXACTLY how she felt, but, I am

(cont. on back)

ENJOYING FR. MARK

ON SUNDAY JULY 13TH, at Karen's Reserve Sacrament Service we had what is probably our only visit this year C from **Father Mark Inglot**, (pictured above with the Rev. Paula Marvic), a retired Catholic priest, who wants to remain more retired perhaps, than we'd ideally "prefer." **Fr. Mark** is a motivating speaker with fresh insights on the Gospel.

ON THAT DAY, THE GOSPEL was Luke 10:25-37, which tells the parable of the Good Samaritan and **Fr. Mark** clarified to us that the Samaritans, at that time, were a people passionately hated, not loved, by the Jews, similar in a way to how we, in our society today, create irrational off-the-wall divisions, judgments and relationships between people and ethnic groups that share the earth with us.

FR. MARK'S SOLUTION or suggestion to this problem was really to be guided by Jesus' two main commandments "**Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself**". His take on this took an interesting and original turn, though, in that he considered that Jesus never told us to 'LIKE' our neighbor; he told us to "LOVE" our neighbor and his sermon was in explaining to us what form that could take.

ST. STEPHEN'S WOULD LIKE to thank him for coming out of his retirement to share his insights about Jesus with us, most especially because he is a Roman Catholic priest, not an Episcopal one. That being said, we hope to hear from him again, God Willing.

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

—John Wesley (1703-1791)

("Puzzle"... cont. fr. p. 3)

not so sure that God just wants us to exchange our dreams for our fears at the marketplace, either. There are many ways to interpret God and it would not be my way to interpret Him for anyone else, but, this severe anxiety is common to artists around this world everywhere, so **was there no one to understand?**

A good hearted grandma sent her to business school after Art school & when that didn't work, her own introspective and **HUGE** amounts of work gained her a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology, from W. Virginia University in 1989. All this is a fascinating achievement, for sure, and a big

help for others....but Jesus does say...**"Love thy Neighbor as THYSELF"**....hmmmn.

It would appear that while trauma stole **Nancy's** huge gift from herself, it also returned her artistic gifts to her, when her daughter Rachel became seriously ill a couple of years ago. **Nancy** says (unedited) **"2 years ago, the paper [her art] called again when Rach [her daughter] was so ill. I began working again in watercolor, lino print, and mainly gelli printing with mixed media."**

Beside the Bonifas awards, **Nancy's** work was also selected to be shown on the **TV Art Whisperer**

program. She says (unedited) **"These days, I say, Bring on the white blank paper. I'm up for the joy of the splashing brilliant colors!"**



Nancy Olexick

You can view **Nancy's** Art work at **The Bonifas Arts Center**, (700 1st Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829). Their **Member Show** lasts for approximately 8 weeks, from **July 11 through Sept. 4**. After that, she will be showing her work at the **East Ludington Gallery** (1000 1st Ave S, Escanaba, MI 49829). †

"HI" FROM THE ADVENTURERS

St. Stephen's former Pastor, the Rev. Tom Lippart his wife Peg and her youngest sister Linda have just returned to back to Hershey after their 8-night cruise on the Danube which was certainly exciting! They stopped in Munich and thought of Lani's younger years, so they emailed me.

Although Munich sits technically, not on the Danube river, but

on the Isar River which flows into the Danube, it is a still popular place for the Danube river cruises to begin. Tom said that they still love to travel and Escanaba is on their list!



The Rev. Tom Lippart with his wife Peg (right) and her sister Linda (left)

It is still possible that he may be able to preach again for us. He is now 88

years old, still in good health and loves to figure out ways for senior citizens to do things before they can't! Kudos to him! I hope they are able to visit us again. ♥



ST. STEPHEN'S AUGUST SCHEDULE

WED. AUGUST 6th 12:30 PM

Outreach Committee will meet to discuss possible dates for 5 wishes and several new opportunities.

WED. AUGUST 13th 12:30 PM

Ministry Support Team will meet

WED. AUGUST 20TH 12:30 PM

Covenant Group meets

WED AUGUST 27th 12:30 TO 1:30 PM

Vestry Meets

1:30 TO 2:30 PM

Communications Committee meets

FEEDING AMERICA WEST MICHIGAN'S MOBILE FOOD PANTRY will be held on **WED, AUGUST 20, 2025 at 10:00 AM**, at the **Salvation Army 3001 5th Ave S. in Escanaba. DRIVE-THRU DISTRIBUTION.**

ESCANABA SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: 210 S Lincoln Rd, Escanaba, MI 49829. Open Monday and Friday from 1 PM to 4 PM.

PHOTO: (left) by **Mark Royer**

Vestry Snr. Warden Jon Flath and Tony Quist receiving a Thank You Award presented by **Deacon Liz Deneau** from the St. Stephen's Outreach Committee in the 7/20 Sunday Service. We thank you so very much **Jon and Tony** for going way beyond the call of your duties...painting the eaves, removing trees growing on our roof among other things!