

Spring NEWSLETTER

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THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD
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 stedwardschurch.org



WE ARE ST. EDWARDS
Serving God with Gladness

MINISTRY FAIR

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another
as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Thank you for your support for last fall's annual financial stewardship program! Our stewardship of talent will be celebrated at our Ministry Fair on May 4 & 5, after Masses in Shallbetter Hall.

The Ministry Fair will give you the opportunity to gather information on all of the ministries at St. Edward.

Each of us has time and talent we can offer in service to the Lord.
Find out where your hands are needed at the Ministry Fair!



ENTRANCE 4 LANDSCAPING PROJECT

by Beth Schorle

Last October the sound of chainsaws filled the air as several overgrown evergreens were removed from around the perimeter of the church building and along the sidewalks leading to entrance four. The removal of the evergreens will make way for new plantings this spring.

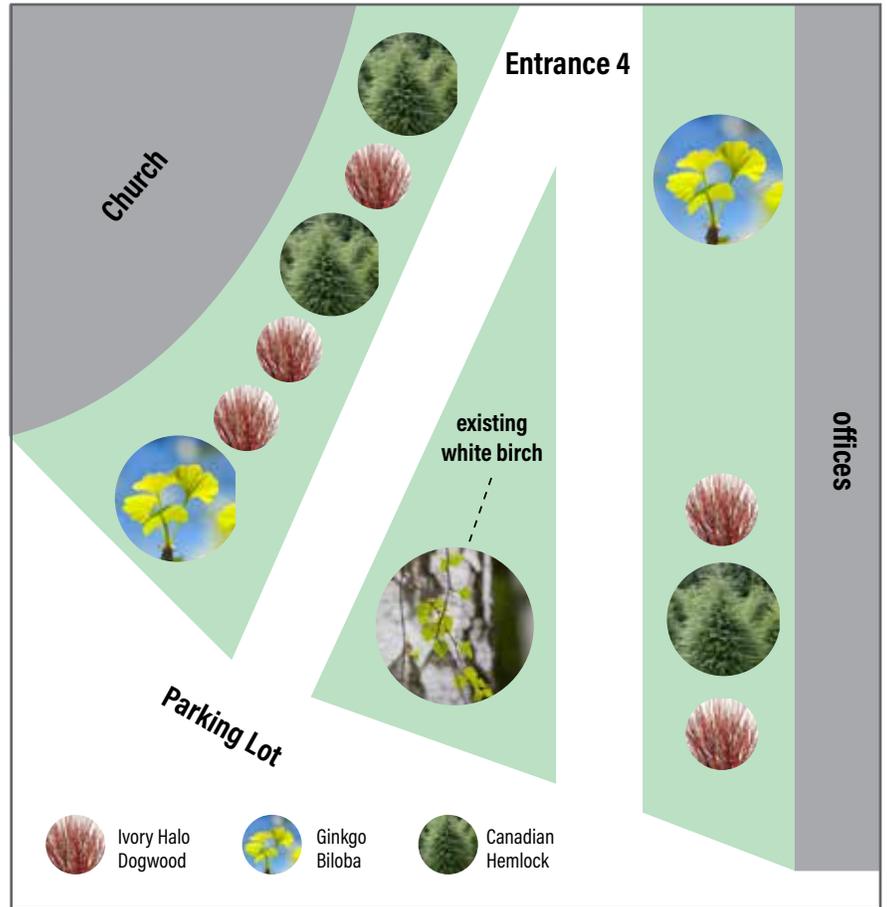
The trees and shrubs proposed are intended to give the area beauty without feeling crowded. Included in the plans are several possibilities for vegetation:

GINKGO BILOBA: A slow-growing deciduous tree that has a unique leaf structure in the summer. In the fall the leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow.

IVORY HALO DOGWOOD: Provides a variegated white-edged foliage in the summer. In the winter, beautiful red twigged stems will peek through the snow for a wonderful contrast with the surrounding evergreen shrubs.

CANADIAN HEMLOCK: This slow-growing evergreen thrives in partial shade and will provide pleasant year-round color.

The goal of the Entrance 4 Landscaping Project is to provide an open and welcoming space with year-round color.



Conceptual depiction of the proposed plantings around Entrance 4.

ABOUT THE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION

by Barry Weber

The Administration Commission is responsible for coordinating the temporal affairs of the parish: how money is acquired, how it is spent, how the physical plant is maintained, and how the parishioners are kept informed about what is happening in the parish. The committees that handle these tasks are the Building and Grounds Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Money Counters, the Lock Up Committee and Communications.

As part of the Parish Initiative FY2020 our goal is to assist the Parish Administrator and the administration staff in implementing technology to increase efficiencies in the administration of the parish. In addition to working with the staff to maintain our facilities the Building and Grounds Committee is assisting with the Worship Technology project, the Faithful Beginnings construction project,

and the Nine Mile Creek Rain Garden project. They have also developed a capital budget plan through 2023. The Stewardship Committee coordinated the *Sharing God's Gifts* Fall 2018 renewal of our stewardship of treasure and is currently working on the talent portion of stewardship. Communications continues to create newsletters, weekly bulletins and eblasts, update our website, manage social media, and develop advertising and mailings to the community such as those for the Advent and Lent seasons.

Over 50 parishioners volunteer on the various Administration Commission committees. We are always looking for additional volunteers so if you have an interest in joining one of our committees, please let us know.

CONTACT US: If you want to learn more about the Administration Commission, please contact Barry Weber at 952-941-3806.

Administration

WORSHIP TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

by Craig Walker

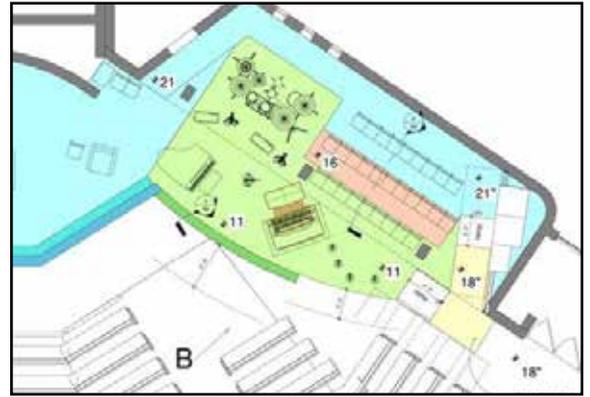
Our Worship Technology Team has spent the last 2½ years working to understand the needs of our church and how best to implement improved technology in our main worship space. Over this period of time, the scope and direction of the project has been adjusted at different times as our priorities have become clearer. The scope of the project currently includes a new sound system in our main worship space, video projection in our worship space, and the relocation of our music area to the front right side of our worship area.

We will be excited to see this project come to fruition in the middle of this year. The target implementation timeframe is late spring/early summer. During the implementation you may notice work in progress but effort will be made to keep any disruption to a minimum.

LEFT: Conceptual depiction of the video screens in the main worship space



RIGHT: Proposed floor plan of the relocated music ministry area in the worship space



THE PROJECT HAS THREE MAIN COMPONENTS:

SOUND: A new sound system will feature speakers that will fill our worship space with sound that is easy to understand without any spaces where coverage is inadequate. The system will include state of the art audio equipment that will support our mission to convey the word of God through the spoken word and in song. The new system will also include a new hearing assistance system that supports latest technology. In addition to traditional over the ear hearing assistance, it will also support T-coil technology that will work with compatible hearing aid devices.

Estimated Cost: \$271,000

VIDEO: The heart of our new video system will be two projection screens at the front of the church on each side of the altar. The words to our songs, acclamations, and prayers will be projected on these screens replacing our aging hymnal and worship aids. We will be able to display illustrations in support of the homily and video as appropriate to support our ministries. Through the use of the video screens, those in the assembly will be able to be more engaged in the worship experience by looking forward and participating instead of trying to follow along in a book or worship aid. The sound and video systems will be controlled from a new booth that will be constructed for that purpose near the back of the church on the current music area side.

Estimated Cost: \$80,000

MUSIC AREA RELOCATION: Our music ministry has evolved significantly over the last many months, but the goal remains the same; to lead the assembly in worship together. This will be more effective with the music area located in the front right of our worship space. A new space will be created for our music ministry in this area that includes space for our choirs, worship band, as well as our beautiful grand piano and the organ console. The space currently used by the music ministry will be replaced with relocated pews for assembly seating.

Estimated Cost: \$140,000

Project Funding:

Funding for more than half of the project has been received largely through a bequest from Dottie and Earl Lillestrand. The remaining cost will be financed with a promissory note. Earnings from an investment established with the remaining Lillestrand gift and other bequests will be available to cover the note payments. Prepayments toward the principal of this note can be made as gifts are received.

Social Justice

SISTER COMMUNITY: HOGAR TERESA TODA

by Ann McGuire



LEFT: Jewel in 2004 at Campamento

RIGHT: Jewel in her own apartment in 2011

JEWEL'S STORY

Meet “Jewel”. She was found begging in the street by a woman in town. The woman stopped and asked her how old she was and why was she begging. Jewel was four years old and she was begging because she and her grandmother had no food. Moved, the woman bought some food and then had Jewel bring her back to her grandmother’s house. It was a wooden shack on the side of a hill. The grandmother was blind and very thin. The woman contacted the Carmelite Sisters who run the Teresa Toda home.

Jewel thrived at the home and Catholic school she attended. She attended one of our first camps. She was the valedictorian at her high school. She studied science in college and now has a job in a lab and her own apartment. Throughout this, the woman who found Jewel and the Sisters made sure the grandmother had all she needed. Because of the Sisters, Jewel was able to see her potential. Jewel is now a young woman with a terrific future ahead of her.

Jewel’s story is only one of the reasons St. Edward continues this ministry. Over the years, I have realized that the camp also benefits *travelers* in so many ways, it’s hard to convey them all. It makes us aware of third world poverty. It makes us aware of our material blessings. It also opens our hearts, when you really get to know the girls. I think even sharing our stories and pictures with people opens their hearts.

I frequently get asked the same two questions: “Flying is expensive! Why don’t we just send them money?”

“What would happen if we didn’t bring anything but ourselves—no donations in the form of shoes, money, or other requested items? Would we still be welcome?”

The answer to both of these questions can be found within the Principles of Sister Relationships—the first emphasizes relationships over resources. Yes, they are glad to get new shoes for “back to school”. But they’d be very disappointed if we decided to cancel camp just because we didn’t have the resources to give them that or other things. According to the director of the home, Sister Fifi, the girls talk about camp all year long. “We do this at camp, we do that a camp. The women who come are so much fun!” It’s not about the money, or the stuff, it’s about the people.

CONTACT US: If you want to learn more about campamento or the home, please visit www.campamento.blog or contact Ann McGuire.

BRIDGING

by Jerry Grebin

Bridging is a large non-profit organization that provides quality furniture and household items free of charge for families who are economically disadvantaged or are in transition. Over 4,000 families each year are served from warehouses in Bloomington and Roseville, with the help of more than 300 volunteers.

St. Edward supports Bridging through the Social Justice and Charity Commission. More than 20 St. Edward parishioners volunteer for a variety of jobs including:

- Picking up items from donor homes and businesses
- Warehouse and front office support
- Sorting donations of bedding, dishes, etc.
- Assisting clients select needed items



Volunteers unload a truck filled with donations

CONTACT US: If you want to learn more about Bridging, visit our website at stedwardschurch.org and choose Bridging from the Social Justice dropdown menu.

Social Justice



The high school graduation rate for Banyan youth is 98%, compared to 66% in the Phillips neighborhood

BANYAN COMMUNITY

by Jerry Grebin

Banyan Community is rooted in the Phillips Neighborhood to transform lives by developing youth, strengthening families, and creating community.

One of Banyan's programs is the Higher Ground Scholarship Program. Students that attend Banyan's after-school program through eighth grade can apply to De LaSalle High School. If they are accepted they are awarded a scholarship that provides them a four-year, tuition-free high school education. Banyan assigns a sponsor that pays for the tuition, and in return, the sponsor receives updates on the student's progress each semester, including a grade report, notes from the student and from school staff. Recently a current student, Virginia, sent this note to her sponsor, *"Thank you for everything. I am very happy and proud of my grades because I ended the semester without "C"s...I am excited about English because we are reading Greek mythology and I really enjoy that text."* Virginia is happy with her five "B"s and two "A"s, and happy that her life is one of many being changed, thanks to Banyan.

CONTACT US: if you want to learn more, visit our website at stedwardschurch.org and choose Banyan Community from the Social Justice dropdown menu.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES LUNCH PROGRAM

by Bonnie Strand

Treating the poor with justice and charity has always been close to my heart. And I identify strongly with those who are poor in knowledge of the Lord, sympathy toward others and poor in listening skills!

That being said, Wendy Cotter and I and various volunteers provide lunches to the homeless poor on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We do this at Catholic Charities Opportunity Center on 17th and Chicago Ave in Minneapolis. It's an amazing place that offers much beside a lunch. This location offers job counseling, medical referrals and lockers where people can keep their stuff, as well as showers and a chance to visit and warm up on cold days.

Wendy orders the meat (sliced) the day or so before we need to pick it up. The day of our volunteering all of us shop for everything at Cub on France and Old Shakopee Rd in Bloomington. We offer the clients sandwiches; turkey or beef with cheese made on hamburger buns, chips, cookies and a banana to each person. The drinks are milk or coffee; mustard and mayonnaise are provided by the organization.

We are grateful to St Edward for providing the financial support for this. Although food prices are volatile, we have always been below budget.

We have a good time, because we are together in the car, Wendy sharing her recipes and I eating donut holes; all the while facing the road construction on 35W. And most important—we always get a "thank you" or multiple thanks from the clients.

I have a verse from the Bible (New International Version) that has really sunk into my heart—the verses about the poor are easy to find!

Proverbs 14:31. *"He who oppresses the poor show contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honor God."*

And this blessing from Jesus:

Luke 6:20-21 *"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied."*

CONTACT US: For more information email Wendy Cotter at wencotter@hotmail.com



Bonnie (left) and Wendy (right) assemble lunches at the Catholic Charities Opportunity Center in Minneapolis

Social Justice

SISTER PARISH: UPDATE ON OUR LADY OF ANGELS IN NICARAGUA

by Sue Kellett

Nicaragua has been in turmoil since last April. Nationwide demonstrations that reportedly broke out over pension cuts have widened into broad discontent with the regime. Hundreds were prosecuted under new anti-terrorism laws. Hundreds more have been killed, thousands injured and 550 arrested only for disagreeing with the president. The only news coming out of the country is through social media. All this adds up to a country in crisis with nothing to resolve the situation in the immediate future.

In our sister parish of Jinotega and elsewhere there are no bank loans available for investing in business, buying seeds for planting, no loans available for vehicles, homes, or inventory for their stores. This trickles down to the poorest of the poor whose jobs are now gone.

Unfortunately we were unable to send the most recent donation from FMSC in January because it was very uncertain that it would pass customs and enter the country and the cost would have been at minimum \$10,000. This was another blow to the at-risk people we serve there in our feeding programs.

One bright spot is the most recent rural chapel that was funded in part with a donation of \$2000 from The Church of St. Edward. Padre Eliar, the parish priest expressed his appreciation, commenting, “The Chapel is beautiful, today we began to stucco it and then we will continue with tiling. We have already celebrated three Eucharists there and many (new parishioners) have come to us. All the parishioners are happy with the new Chapel.”



Although still under construction, parishioners recently celebrated Mass in the new chapel in rural Nicaragua

In the near future we are hoping to be able to invite a group of travelers from Jinotega to come to St. Edward. This will make it possible for many parishioners to see the faces of our sisters and brothers there and interact with them even though they are unable to travel to Nicaragua. We will share the liturgy with them and be able to ask questions about their lives and share our common bond of faith. They will be able to share their stories and feel the solidarity that they so desperately need and that we need to communicate.

It has been said that no one is so poor they have nothing to give and no one is so rich they have nothing to receive. May God be with the lovely and faithful people of Nicaragua and may we be able to share our time, talent and treasure with them and receive what they have to give us.

CONTACT US: For more information email Sue at surfinsioux2@msn.com.



Volunteers plant, water and harvest the VEAP garden

VEGGIES 4 VEAP GARDEN

by Wendy Cotter

Spring has arrived and soon it will be time to plant the garden! Our garden, located on the south lawn of the church grounds, is our VEAP garden. Members of our parish volunteer their time starting with spring clean-up and planting all the way through the fall harvest. We contribute our time and labor and donate ALL of the produce to the food shelf.

Our garden is just one of the many ways our parish serves the community. Consider becoming part of the many hands who make light work of this community and faith building experience! We are looking for anyone who might want to help—get the garden ready to plant, donate starter plants, plant, water and weed, or just learn the difference between a vegetable and a weed! Look for more information soon.

Isaiah 61:11 *“For as the soil makes the sprout come up and the garden causes seeds to grow, so the Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”*

CONTACT US: For more information email Wendy Cotter at wencotter@hotmail.com

Ministry Highlights

FAITH FORMATION

by Nicole Smalley



In March we had a retreat with our Confirmation class. Despite the blizzard we had a great time growing closer to each other and deeper in our faith!

NEW THIS YEAR: CAMP EDDIE!

A day camp at St. Edward for kids entering grades 1-5

August 19-23, 9am-4pm

As summer winds down and we get excited for Faith Formation to begin again join us for a week of games, Bible stories, music, and so many special surprises. Kids can come for a full or half day and if you can't make it for the whole week, no problem! There are leadership opportunities for middle and high school students. Visit our website for all the details and registration! Of course, as always, friends are welcome!

CONTACT US: For questions or information about Faith Formation, Birth to Grade 8, contact Nicole Smalley at nsmalley@stedwardschurch.org. For questions or information about High School & Adult Faith Ministries contact Patrick Smalley at psmalley@stedwardschurch.org.

COMMUNITY LIFE

by Donna Rubio

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

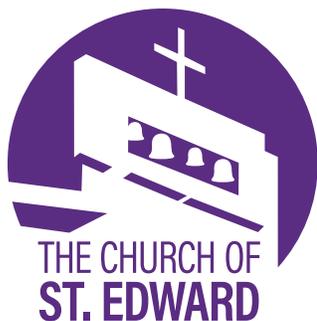
Saturday, June 8 | After the 5pm Mass

If you missed last year's celebration, put this date on your calendar now! If you have volunteered this year, please make sure we have your correct contact information to send you an invitation to the celebration! Plans are underway for another great event this year thanking all our great volunteers who make our ministries happen. Check the website or upcoming bulletins for details as we get closer to summer.

CONTACT US: For more information contact Donna Rubio at drubio@stedwardschurch.org or 952-835-7101 x219.



Volunteers enjoyed eating—not serving—dinner in the Social Hall at last year's Volunteer Celebration on Saturday, June 6, 2018



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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

Our spring newsletter features information from Administration and Social Justice. Our next edition is planned for summer and will focus on Faith Formation and Community Life.

For the most up-to-date information, visit our website at stedwardschurch.org. Our website features areas for special events and news articles, a parish-wide calendar, information on our commissions and staff, and much more!

Parish Ministry Staff

Phone: 952-835-7101; extensions listed below

Pastor.....	Fr. Rick Banker	x234
Deacon	Dc. Jim DeShane	x220
Parish Administrator	Beth Schorle	x222
Receptionist / Administrative Assistant	Sue Kruchten	x200
Director of Communications	Celeste Morris	x201
Director of Community Life	Donna Rubio	x219
Director of Liturgy	Mary Kay Hird	x217
Director of Music	Craig Walker	x231
Director of Pastoral Care.....	Mia Ah Sani	x223
Director of High School & Adult Ministries	Patrick Smalley	x211
Director of Faith Formation: Birth to Grade 8	Nicole Smalley	x210
Faith Formation Assistants.....	Forrest Schrader / Tim Larson / Aaron Hove	
Director of Facilities & Maintenance	Steve Brown	x224
Maintenance Crew	Miguel Ponce / Juan Carlos Reyes / Gene Vavra	
Coordinator of Sunday School & Nursery	Bridget Grotins	
Worship Aids	Beth Schmidt	
Director of Children's Choir	Emma Shukle	
Parish Accountant	Dc. Mark Johanns	x208