

St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

www.stpaturbana.org

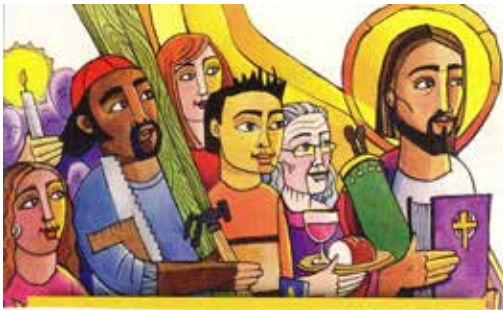
September 2017

What holds us together?

Here at St. Patrick's, we have such a wonderful variety of people. Some of us have been part of the parish since its founding in 1901, while others have been here a few weeks. Some of us are inquirers into the faith, whereas others of us are cradle Catholics. Our backgrounds include most of the nations of the world, and we have brought with us a variety of foods, music, and celebrations. There are many occupations, many hobbies, many ages, and many ways that we interact with one another. So what holds us together?

We are held together because that is how God made us. We are made in the image of God, although no one of us is a complete image of God. We are each like a sliver of glass in a mosaic. Sometimes, when you look at all the people around you, you can begin to see the vastness of God, the all-encompassing love of God, the creativity of God,

the strength and resilience of God. Sometimes you may not be feeling very creative, or loving, or resilient, but you are part of the picture, part of the image of God.



We are held together by the love of Christ. Jesus knows – no one better! – the things that divide us. When

he lived among us, he was distrusted as a foreigner. He knew conflicts within his faith tradition. He experienced the lasting impact of political conquest. He saw his followers strive for places of honor among themselves. He saw people isolated by illness, poverty, and choice of occupation. And yet he loved every person he encountered. The gospels tell us that Jesus was sometimes angry and sometimes wept, but they never tell us that Jesus failed to love.

We are also held together by our love of God. It is, perhaps, the most intimate thing that we share. In choosing to love God, in choosing to respond to God's love, we use the power to love that comes with being made in God's image. God has made us free to use this power or not. We are free to quarrel and to criticize, to isolate ourselves and to spread falsehoods. We are also free to love one another, to reach out to others, to share what God has given us, to be one.

A warm welcome to all new parishioners!

On behalf of the St. Patrick Parish Council, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all who have joined our parish community in the last few months.

Our parishioners represent diverse cultures and backgrounds, and we are also a community at various stages in our individual faith development. We are ready to welcome you wherever you may be on your own faith journey!

Along with our diverse cultures and backgrounds, St. Patrick's offers

a wide variety of ways you can become involved in parish ministries and activities.



Please consider prayerfully where your talents and interests are calling you.

Perhaps you could assist with our worship services as a lector, a Eucharistic minister, or an usher. Or you might like to work with the unemployed support group, join our outreach to Vietnamese, Congolese, and Latinos, or participate in activities supporting respect for life. Your talents may be helpful at Coffee Shop on Sundays, the St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra, or Market-at-the-Square. Children's religious education, RCIA, or youth minis-

Supplement

**Report on CREW's
Mission Trip Inside!**

see **Together** on page 5

see **Welcome** on page 11

Hooray for summer and VBS!

VBS or Vacation Bible School was conceived more than 100 years ago. It was a totally Protestant endeavor and stayed that way for many years. Protestant and Catholic kids alike flocked to VBSs in their neighborhood.

If the schools' time schedules were staggered throughout the summer months, kids could participate in a vacation bible school every week! Moms were delighted that their kids could be enrolled in a safe, fun place for summer mornings, be taught Christian values, and have a good lunch.

When the Catholic parishes saw their kids enjoying the Protestant program so much, they decided to start Catholic Vacation Bible Schools. These sprouted up in Catholic

parishes throughout the U.S.A. Just like the Protestant VBSs, they were summer places where kids sang silly songs, played games, ate a good lunch, listened to Bible stories, and made new friends—but at the CVBS, kids learned a lot more about their Catholic faith.

Keeping up with Catholic tradition, St. Patrick's Parish held the 2017 Vacation Bible School July 17-21. The theme this summer was EarthKeepers, caring for our common home. The program, based on Pope Francis's newest encyclical, included engaging Bible stories, catchy songs, fun games, creative activities, yummy snacks, and friendship building.

The proof can be seen in the pictures.



Presenting the 2017-18 Parish Council

Every year, members who have completed their three-year terms rotate off the Parish Council, creating vacancies to be filled by new members. This year five new members were chosen to fill vacancies. Their names, selected blindly from those of a group of volunteers, are Mardia Bishop, Lynn Black, Stephanie Daniels, Mary Hittmeier, and Jean Mboma. (You can find their self-introductions starting on page 4.)

Our thanks to outgoing members Joe Hinchliffe, Craig Goad, Theresa Williams, Kais Mbuyi, and Katie O'Toole in gratitude for their service

to St. Patrick's on the Parish Council.

At the May Council meeting the new members were seated and officers for the coming year were acknowledged.

All members except the officers also serve on ministry leadership teams for the six key ministry areas of the parish. This helps to keep the Council and staff abreast of interests and activities of parishioners. Here are the ten parishioners who serve three-year terms and the ex-officio members (pastor and trustees) who make up St. Patrick's Parish Council for 2017-18. All will be grateful for

your interest, your communication on matters of concern, and (especially) your prayerful support.



*Fr. Luke Spannagel
Pastor*



*Kathy Cimasky
2015-18, president*



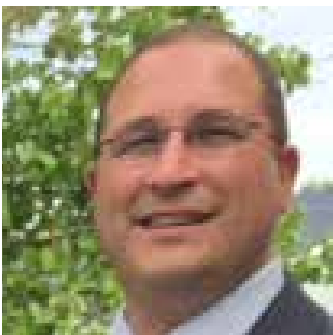
*Rachael McMillan
2015-18*



*Gary Wszalek
2015-18*



*Janet Althaus
2016-19*



*Jack Parisi
2016-19, vice-president*



*Lynn Black
2017-20*



*Stephanie Daniels
2017-20*



*Mary Hittmeier
2017-20*



*Mardia Bishop
2017-20, secretary*



*Jean Mboma
2017-20*



*Bruce Rogers
Trustee, 2005-*



*Ginger Timpone
Trustee, 2008-*

Meet our new Parish Council members

You've probably met some of the new members of our Parish Council, even seen them at Mass or in action around the parish. But here they introduce themselves with information you may not know about them. They bring a wealth of experience, a diversity of ways in which they've already been active in parish life, and a broad range of talents to share. We thank them for their readiness to serve the parish, and pray that they find in the Council a source of spiritual enrichment and growth.

From Mardia Bishop:

Our family (spouse Kevin Reeder, and children Jack, Matthew, and Leia Reeder) joined St. Patrick's in 2009 after moving here from Atlanta. We have served as lectors and musi-



cians at Mass and founded the St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra. I've also

directed several plays that were fundraisers for CREW's Mission Trips. I teach in the Communication Department at U of I.

What impresses me about St. Pat's is the enthusiastic singing, the welcoming staff and parishioners, and the parish's generosity and support for youth activities. My hope for St. Pat's is that we expand our presence in the Champaign-Urbana area so that others may experience our loving community and its commitment to social justice and the arts.

From Lynn Black:

A native of Champaign-Urbana, I grew up in the Holy Cross parish and attended grade school there. My three daughters and I joined St. Patrick Church about 20 years ago (they have all since grown and moved away).

I have been an usher for over 15 years, and became the Usher Coordinator at the end of last year.

After my husband passed away three years ago, I resigned from my job as the president of a small credit union and started my own business as a certified wedding and event planner.



I am excited to be a member of the Parish Council and to see what the future holds for St. Patrick's under the guidance of our new pastor!

From Stephanie Daniels:

I began attending St. Patrick's in the fall of 1998, when we moved to Urbana. My daughters, Regena and Janet, went through the religious education program, receiving their first Communion and joining CREW. I volunteered to teach kindergarten and first-grade Sunday school classes, assisted by my daughters.

When Sophia Ziegler was still running the pantry, I began volunteering for SVDP and did that for a long while before taking a break. I began delivering Meals on Wheels, and I was a small-group leader for Lenten bible studies for two years.



I returned to work in the SVDP food pantry with Ellen Abell, and my girls joined me. I have been with SVDP food pantry for a long time now and find it really rewarding to meet and know the customers that come for food. I also still volunteer to deliver Meals on Wheels.

Regena became a lector, and when she left to go to grad school, I took her place as a lector. I also served as a small-group leader for "Catch-

ing Fire" and for the parish's Lenten Conversion study this spring. I became a Eucharistic minister this year.

I love being a member of the St. Patrick community and look forward to serving on the Council as we get to know our new pastor.

From Mary Hittmeier:

A native of Salem, Massachusetts, I attended Catholic high school and Catholic college. Upon graduation from St Michael's College, I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the

United States Air Force. I met my husband, Mike, while we



were both stationed just outside of Oxford, England. This year we celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary. We joined St. Patrick's in 1990, but in 1991 we moved to Mansfield and joined the local parish.

Our daughters, Lindsey and Natalie, graduated from The High School of St. Thomas More. Lindsey also graduated from Xavier University and teaches music at a Catholic grade school north of Seattle. Natalie is a junior at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

Our family returned to St. Patrick's in 2011, and we are happy to be back. The parish is warm and welcoming and very active in living out our Catholic faith. We are impressed by the many opportunities to serve others that are offered here. There is truly something for everyone, a way for each parish member to share their unique talents in the service of others.

Over the years I have served as a Eucharistic minister and taught religious education (pre-K, kindergarten, and confirmation). I am a St. Patrick's Youth Orchestra Board

see **Parish Council** on page 5

Remembering Janet Lipska

On June 27 Janet Marie Lipska passed away in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the age of 69, surrounded by her family.

We at St. Patrick's were graced by Jan's presence among us for several years. Jan served the parish as coordinator of the children's religious education program from 1985 through 1994, and as coordinator of the high school religious education program from 1991 through 1994.

Her family recalls that the most rewarding occupation for Jan was the time she spent at St. Patrick's, where her boys, Brandon and Matthew, were confirmed through the high school religious education program, and where her husband, Lloyd, was received into the Catholic Church through the RCIA process.

Throughout her life, Jan helped countless young people to grow in faith. One of her students preparing for Confirmation thanked Jan for "being so understanding about my mixed feelings about religion and letting me know that God loves me and is always there for me."

Ellen Amberg, who served with Jan as a catechist, considered it a blessing to encounter Jan at the time Ellen's family arrived at St. Patrick's. For the children, ranging in age from 7 to 17 years, "Jan's welcoming presence was a joy, and



the programs offered for sacramental preparation were exceptional. Children's liturgy was 'icing on the cake,' offering a unique experience that deeply enriched their faith."

Jan was always open to continuing her own education. She completed her training for diocesan certification as a coordinator of religious education, in 1992 receiving the Outstanding Coordinator of Religious Education Award from the Diocese of Peoria.

It was truly a joy for me to work with Jan in my capacity as Director of Religious Education at St. Patrick's. Jan and I served together as well on the Diocesan Board of Education—our trips to Peoria for those meetings were followed by enjoyable conversation over dinner at Lum's.

I knew Jan to be a vibrant, deeply spiritual person of faith, a caring and joyful and sensitive leader. Few people have given so much to the children and teens of the parish as Jan Lipska did. She deeply and positively influenced the faith development of many children and teens and their families.

Remembering this woman of deep and abiding faith, let us continue to keep Jan and her family in our thoughts and prayers.

—Carolyn McElrath

Parish Council

from page 4

member and volunteer at our St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry garden. I look forward to serving the parish as a Parish Council member.

From Jean Mboma:

I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo. From 1998 to 2008 I was a leader of liturgy in Kinshasa Marie Auxilliatrice Parish and the director of song. At St. Patrick's I am a member of the Congolese choir; I

play the drums when the choir sings on fourth Sundays at the noon Mass.

I am happy to be able to serve my parish as a member of the Council, and I look forward to working with Fr. Luke.



Together

from page 1

Reflect on what holds us together as a parish family, and then carry that understanding out into the world. Let it affect the way you talk to people, the way you vote, the causes that you support, the things that you buy, and the decisions that you make. When you encounter divisions in community and in politics, when you encounter gaps in justice and peace, remember that what holds us together as a parish is what holds all of humanity together. We are, all of us, made in the image of God, we are – yes, all of us – deeply loved by God.



In Focus has served the St. Patrick community for 36 years! And Mary Lou Menches has been part of it from its beginning, when it was published in tabloid format (here she is with the very first issue) and mailed to every registered parishioner. It wasn't long before it received its name, "St. Patrick in Focus," chosen from those submitted in a parish-wide contest.

In Focus helps us to share our stories, our faith, and our history, to be more engaged with our parish family. Read it, enjoy it, share your suggestions and ideas for articles, and send photos!

Welcoming the stranger among us

Champaign-Urbana has one of the largest immigrant and refugee populations in the state of Illinois.

Urbana's population is 19.4 percent foreign-born, Champaign's is 17.3 percent. Immigrants and refugees are literally our neighbors, not only in the spiritual sense expressed in the parable of the Good Samaritan, but in an immediate geographical sense.

In the Old Testament, the people of Israel were enslaved by Egypt, and then they wandered in the desert for forty years with no homeland of their own. Because they had lived as homeless aliens themselves, God ordered his people to take special care of the strangers in their midst: "You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt" (Lev. 19:33-34).

The New Testament begins with Matthew's story of Joseph and Mary's escape to Egypt because of King Herod's threats against their newborn son. Jesus himself lived as a refugee as a child because his own land was no longer safe. Paul, for his part, asserts the absolute equality of all people, regardless of race or ethnicity, before God: "There is neither Jew nor Greek . . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

Welcoming and supporting displaced persons has been at the heart of Church teachings. In 1963, Pope John XXIII wrote in *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) that "among man's personal rights we must include his right to enter a country in which he hopes to be able to provide more fittingly for himself and his dependents. It is therefore the duty of State

officials to accept such immigrants and, so far as the good of their own community, rightly understood, permits, to further the aims of those who may wish to become members of a new society."

Following the recent refugee crisis, Pope Francis has repeatedly said that welcoming refugees is a Christian duty. On Good Friday of last year, he asked: "How can we not see the face of the Lord in the face of the millions of exiles, refugees, and displaced persons who are fleeing in desperation from

the horror of war, persecution, and dictatorship?" In an interview given to a Catholic newspaper in France, he also urged his readers to look at the social, political, and economic causes of the displacement of millions of people: "The fundamental question to be posed is why are there so many migrants today, and the problem is the wars in the Middle East and Africa, and underdevelopment of the African continent."

Documents from the Diocese of Peoria are closely aligned with the statements of Popes John and Francis. According to the social action section of the diocesan statutes, "the Gospel of Jesus proclaims that the relationship to neighbor is connected with the relationship to God The institutions, programs, and policies of the Diocese of Peoria should operate according to principles based on concerns for social justice and charity. The basic rights and dignity of every human person shall always be respected."

The diocesan statutes insist that "attention must be given to unjust and oppressive structures in society. Christians must struggle against not only poverty, racism, sexism,

and any form of exploitation of one person by another, they must also struggle against the structural causes of such injustices."

The immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers living in our community are our neighbors. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' pastoral document called *Welcoming the Stranger among Us: Unity in Diversity* (2000) includes a section called "Developing a Welcoming Plan for the Parish." It is designed to provide guidance to catechists and parishioners.

How should St. Patrick's respond to the Church teachings on the fate of displaced people? What could a welcoming plan for our parish look like?



Vocation Prayer

Dearest Father, thank you for all those who have shared their faith with me. Bless my parents, teachers, priests, deacons, sister, and brothers who have taught me about the faith, about Jesus and the Church. Help me to put into practice, to share with others, what I've been taught. Lead me, guide me, in being of service to others—I promise to follow where you lead!

Cellar-to-Garret Sale a fantastic team effort

The annual St. Patrick Cellar-to-Garret sale was held August 10-12 this year. Thanks to the many volunteers and the parishioners who donated items to sell, it was a good event, bringing in more than \$8000 for the Women of St. Patrick's parish fund. There was a good crowd on Thursday, the opening night, and a steady flow of customers on Friday. At Saturday morning's Bag Sale, 350 bags were sold!

Setup for the sale was done fairly quickly, thanks to help from the Knights of Columbus and the Urbana High School football team. The football team returned to make Saturday's tear-down and clean-up go well.

As always, there were challenges. On Friday, the sale coincided with the funeral of a long-time parishioner, and many workers wanted to attend the funeral or were needed to prepare and serve the dinner afterwards. No problem: other volunteers stepped up to fill in!

Sale co-chairs Bernadette Nelson and Anna Conner attribute the sale's success to "fantastic team effort." Many thanks to all who helped!



The SVDP Friends of the Poor Walk needs you!

It's often said that to understand someone, you need to walk a mile in his shoes. That is part of the inspiration for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run fundraiser. While this is a national program, the money raised by each SVDP Conference or Council event stays local to fund the work they do helping the poor in their own communities.

St. Patrick's SVDP conference held our parish's first Friends of the Poor Walk in September 2015. Fifty participants enjoyed a beautiful morning of walking in Busey Woods, followed by fellowship and snacks. The walk raised \$5500 for the SVDP Food Pantry, which was put toward the purchase of new refrigeration equipment.

This year the goal is to raise \$8000 for the Food Pantry.

The walk, to be held on Saturday, September 30, will once again take place at the Anita Purves Nature Center at 1505 N. Broadway in Urbana. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., with the walk starting at 10:00



a.m. The walk itself will take place on the boardwalk in adjacent Busey Woods. The boardwalk is about one-third of a mile long and provides accessibility for people with limited mobility.

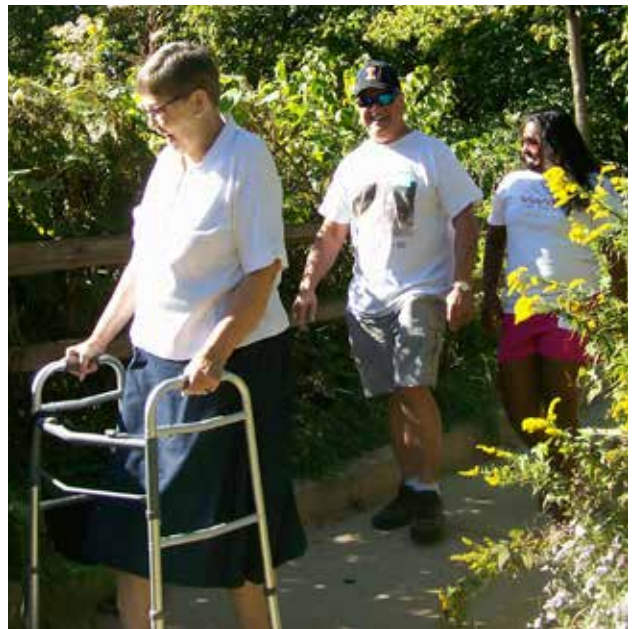
Co-chairs are still needed for this event! If you would like to help with the planning and preparation of this event, please contact

Jim Urban (217-367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).

To register as a walker for the event, or to donate, go to www.fopwalk.org/ and choose "Illinois" from the "Find a Local Event" menu. On the "Event List" page for Illinois, search for "Urbana"; then you can click on the "Urbana walk" and find buttons there for registering or donating. You can also find information at the parish website (www.stpaturbana.org), and of course, keep watching the weekly bulletin for the

latest information!

We are so blessed to be able to serve our neighbors in need through our SVDP Food Pantry. The walk gives us a chance to show our support. Again, all donations to this event will go to the St. Patrick's SVDP Conference. Can you help by registering as a walker, sponsoring walkers, making a donation, and/or volunteering to help with the event? Contact Jim Urban (217-367-2665 or jim.urban@stpaturbana.org).



Bill and Ruth Plymire celebrate life together

On August 31, Bill and Ruth will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary; in 1957 they were married at Holy Cross Church in Champaign.

The Plymires have three children: Deanna Uphoff (Doug), Patricia Houseworth (Steve), and Teresa Moore (Dean). In addition, they enjoy seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, so there may be a great celebration on that day!

The Plymires have been very active members of St. Patrick's Parish,



setting a great example for the rest of us in giving generously of their time and talent. They served in several parish groups and helped where they saw the need. They were Eucharistic ministers and lecturers; Bill was active with the Knights of Columbus, and Ruth with the Women of St. Patrick, whatever its name then.

They volunteered to help with the Cellar-to-Garret sales, the SVDP Food Pantry, and funeral dinners. They carried Communion to Catholic patients at Carle and

to shut-ins at home or in nursing homes. And much more!

Along the way they established a get-away home in Florida, where for many years they enjoyed warm weather while the rest of us here shivered and shoveled. Although they're no longer "snow birds," Bill sometimes gets down to Florida for a few days at a time.

They've had long life together, lived and loved together, served and worked together, enjoyed their children and children's children together, and now they are celebrating it all—together. Congratulations, Ruth and Bill, may you enjoy many more years together in love and happiness!

St. Patrick's Treasure, the SPYO

Saturday, August 5, was the last performance for four members of the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra, seniors who will be leaving for college this fall. The performance was entitled An Evening in Hollywood. It presented selections from movies including "Les Miserables," "West Side Story," "Harry Potter," and "The Phantom of the Opera."

The St. Patrick Youth Orchestra is the only youth orchestra in the country that was founded and is run by students. It was founded in March 2013, and has grown from the original twelve students to today's membership of forty students. These musicians come from every middle school and high school in the CU area. They have a passion for their music and it is displayed in their performances.

This season's music director/conductor is a viola player, Renata Herrera. She is the only musician left who has been in this orchestra from its inception. Renata has matured into a great communicator, displaying poise and intelligence. She explained the pieces the audience was going to hear and thanked them for attending. Then she led the orchestra, not just with her arms, but with a smile and twinkling eyes at appropriate tempos. In fact, Renata says her favorite part of conducting is interpreting the music and leading with passion.

After several pieces, Renata passed her baton to Sarah Grosse Perdekamp, a violinist, to lead the next three pieces. Sarah will be the music director/conductor for next season. Renata said she is leaving the orchestra in good hands, and Sarah thanked Renata for being so welcoming and helpful. Before the final piece, which Renata conducted, both fathers brought up big bouquets of flowers to their daughters. Sarah gave Renata a gift from the orchestra, and Renata presented flowers to the other seniors who are leaving. Renata then led the orchestra in the beautiful but melancholy, "Ashokan Farewell" from Ken Burns's

Civil War movie. It began with a long, wistful violin solo, beautifully played by Elizabeth Atkinson.

The SPYO does more than just play music for our pleasure; it lays a foundation for each member to build on in college and in life. Renata Herrera will be attending Northwestern University this fall, majoring in Music Education and studying voice. This past spring semester of high school, Renata has worked with our Music Director, Frank Gallo, as a senior project. He mentored her an hour each day in the skills of conducting, which included many related tasks: One has to select and buy the music for all the musicians. One has to listen to other orchestras' interpretations of the music. One has to rehearse with the orchestra, warning them of tempo changes and correcting their mistakes. One also has to arrange for rehearsal space, be prepared to find substitute musicians, create posters, and advertise the concert.

The other three musicians who leave this year for college have also built a strong foundation for their future. Jonah Herzog, who plays trombone, is going to St. Olaf College in Minnesota, where he will study Music Performance on the trombone. He has won the prestigious Christiansen Scholarship. Devin Epstein, who plays viola, is attending Amherst College in Massachusetts. He will study physics, but will continue to play viola. He was selected to be a member of our State Honors Orchestra. Annemarie Michael, who plays horn, will be attending Washington University in St. Louis. Her major is undecided pending results of her audition there.

These student musicians have learned much from playing in the St. Patrick Youth Orchestra. And we have received much pleasure from their performances. We wish the graduating seniors future success and look forward to the next SPYO concert this fall.



Daily joy defined

Joy is the way Karen Pickard described volunteering at The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in her presentation to St. Jeanne Jugan seniors. She didn't use the word "joy"—her face showed it as she described serving the approximately 250 members of the local community who come for lunch. Lunch is served seven days a week in the new facility at 116 N. First Street, Champaign.

The founder of The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is Ellen McDowell, who at age 93 comes to work and to "engage with fellow citizens." Nothing in Ellen's life prepared her to become a fund-raiser, nothing except



her determination to help those in need. When she became aware that the homeless women and children who were sheltered as guests at the fledgling Catholic Worker House might be turned out on the streets, she agreed to become a fund-raiser. This was nearly 40 years ago. She succeeded in that work and has continued to succeed in guiding The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

Money for the food for lunches comes completely from donations. The group shops at the Illinois Food Bank and receives donations from multiple locations such as UI dorms, nearly expired donated foods that are immediately used, and local

restaurants, including some who prepare and donate specialties. Farmers and gardeners drop off fresh produce.

C-U has the third highest poverty rate in Illinois; 23.4% of the people living in C-U live below the poverty level. Many community members who come to lunch are the "working poor." In addition to food, people may get guidance in finding jobs or learning how to get a birth certificate.

To take part in the joy of volunteering at The Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, go to www.dailybreadsoupkitchen.com to sign up or to donate. Or phone 217-356-7687. Tasks range widely: putting crackers for soup onto trays, washing dishes, picking up donated food, cooking.

There is lots of joy for all.

Young Adults do good, enjoy good times

The Young Adults of St. Patrick Parish is a very active social group. Its members range in age from 20 to 40. Some are graduate or undergraduate students at the University of Illinois or Parkland; others are permanent residents who live and work in Champaign-Urbana. The Young Adults group maintains a busy social calendar. Every Thursday night for the last seven years the Young Adults have met for their weekly potluck dinner, which brings together not only St. Patrick's Young Adults but also family and neighbors living throughout the CU community.

Other social activities include going to the movies, hiking in local parks like Allerton, Meadowbrook, and Kickapoo, and attending cultural events such as plays and concerts held both on- and off-campus.

During the summer season the Young Adults regularly have BBQs at least once a week. They also have a tradition of going out in a big group to watch the blockbuster movies, especially franchises like the Star Wars series.

They celebrate together special Church days like Christmas, Ash Wednesday, and Easter in addition to the more secular holidays, like Thanksgiving and Super Bowl Sunday. The group also has a long

record of volunteering at the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen during the weekends and at various St. Patrick's events throughout the year.

And of course, at the Sunday morning Coffee Shop there's usually a table of Young Adults sitting together, sharing stories, exchanging recipes, and planning next week's social events. It may well be a combination of the Holy Spirit and good food that keeps the Young Adults together!

Since many of the Young Adults are university students, we do have to say goodbye to many of our members each May when they graduate and move on to other places, jobs, and parish communities. But August also brings new members as young people come for the start of the new school year. If you would like to get involved with the Young Adults, please contact Bao Bui (longbui2@illinois.edu).



St. Jerome, patron saint of students

Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus, later known as St. Jerome, was born around 342 AD in modern-day Croatia or Slovenia. He was brought up in a Christian household, and at age twelve began studying Latin and Greek in Rome.

At one time, Jerome considered a career in law, but by his own admission found himself indulging in women rather than in his studies. He carried a lot of guilt over his actions, so every Sunday he would visit the Roman crypts and imagine himself in hell.



Around the year 366, a close friend guided him to Christianity and he was baptized by Pope Liberius. It was after his baptism that he began studying matters of the faith, eventually joining a monastery in Aquileia overseen by Bishop St. Valerian. It was at this monastery that he developed a knack for translating Greek works into Latin. Jerome used many of his translations to build a personal library.

He traveled to Antioch, where he began writing his first book, Concerning the Seven Beatings. While

there, he became ill and began seeing visions. These visions made him even more religious, but Jerome wished to remain a monk and did not want to become ordained. Urged by Pope Damasus, however, he was ordained on condition that he wouldn't have to serve in a ministry.

Later in his life, Jerome served under Pope Damasus as his secretary. After the pope's death, Jerome was accused of having an inappropriate relationship with one of his students; he left Rome in hopes of fleeing these accusations and returned to Antioch.

There his comprehensive knowledge of classical languages enabled him to produce an Old Latin translation of the entire Bible, which came to be known as the Vulgate. He died peacefully in 420 on September 30 and was buried under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, but his remains were later moved to Rome.

The Church commemorates St. Jerome on September 30, celebrating this patron saint of students, librarians, biblical scholars, translators, and archeologists.



Q: What is the Intentions Book mentioned at Mass during the Prayers of the Faithful?

A: The Intentions Book is really just what it sounds like, a notebook in which parishioners have written intentions they'd like us all to pray for. Most often those listed are people, living and deceased loved ones, some named and some represented by initials with only the writer knowing who is represented. But also there are prayer requests for "peace," for "justice in our society," for "refugees," for "a miracle."

Who may write in it their intentions for prayer? Everyone—you, for instance. And no, the name of the person writing the prayer request is not included—unless as someone for whom we are asked to pray! The Intentions Book is open on the lectern on the upper level of the Gathering Space, just outside the church doors. Is there someone or something you'd like us all to pray for?

* * *

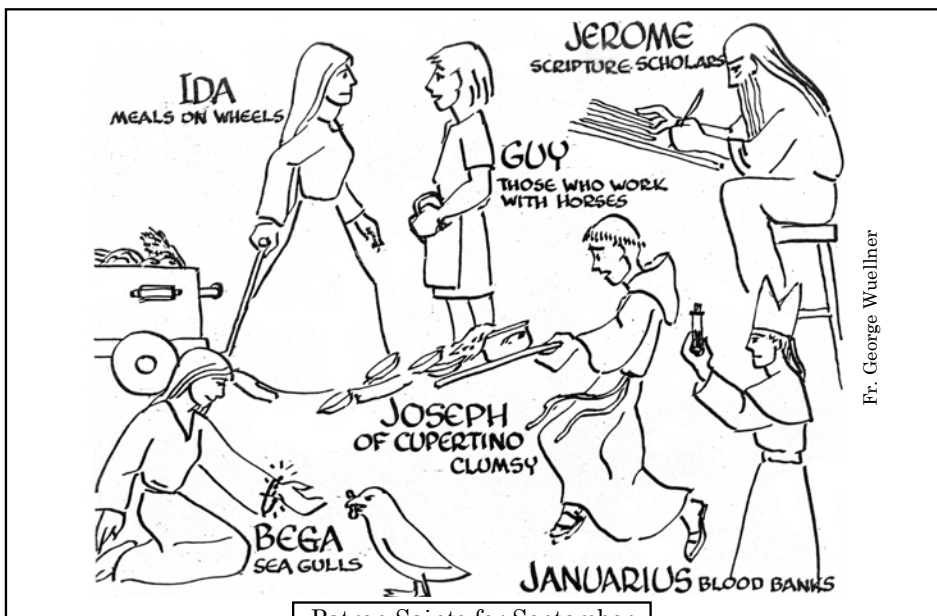
Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to any Communications Committee member or left in care of the parish office.

Welcome from page 1

try maybe calling you! The parish Prayer Chain, Bible studies, or book clubs may hold special interest for you. Serving on our Financial Affairs Committee, the Archives Committee, or the Grounds Crew, even helping to shovel snow, may be very satisfying!

However you choose to participate at St. Patrick's, know that you are very welcome here. We are glad that you decided to join our parish, and we look forward to getting to know you!

Kathy Cimakasky
Parish Council President



Patron Saints for September



in our parish library

The first Monday in September, Labor Day, is a day to ask God to bless our work, to recognize the work so many others have done for us, and even perhaps to reflect on our call to serve others, whether in our homes, our church, or our community. We need to be open and willing to listen to how God plans to use our talents. A handful of books in the parish library may help you discern how you are being called to stewardship. Among them are the following.

Everyday Stewardship: Reflections for the Journey, by Tracy Earl Welliver. Jesus Christ calls us constantly in our everyday lives through ordinary and sometimes seemingly mundane circumstances. Learning to respond at these times can lead us to transformation as mature disciples and everyday stewards. 264 Ear

Evangelizing Catholics, by Scott Hahn. In this practical “mission manual” Dr. Hahn presents a guide to understanding what the New Evangelization is, and who it’s really for; a road map that leads to where it all happens (hint: it’s closer than you think); and a simple, beautiful message to share in both words and actions. You don’t need to master a new set of skills. Evangelization, for Catholics, is simply friendship raised up to the highest level. 264 Hah

The 33 Laws of Stewardship, by Dave Sutherland. All too often the word “stewardship” is given a very narrow

definition, focusing on the management of money. Yet stewardship encompasses the wise, purposeful management of all that we have and all that we are. To understand stewardship is to grasp the essence of life’s meaning. To practice stewardship is to fulfill that meaning in a way that pleases God and satisfies the most profound human longings. 248.6 Sut

Stewardship of Talent, by Stan Toler. This book is a treasure chest brimming with golden quotations for use in sermons, on retreats, and in teaching sessions. Church leaders can share the importance of being God-directed stewards of those grace-given tools that we call talents. 245.8 Tol

33 Days of Morning Glory, by Michael Gaitley. The author summarizes the teachings of St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and St. John Paul II, making them easy to grasp and simple enough to put into practice. He weaves their thought into a user-friendly, do-it-yourself retreat for even the busiest people. You may find this exactly the right book to read and the perfect retreat to make. 269.6 Gai

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If you have questions, contact our parish librarian, Megan Raab (raab41987@gmail.com); she will be happy to assist you. The door to the parish library is always open—come in and browse to your heart’s content!

Newlyweds at home in Ohio

On July 15, 2017 Carol Conaghan and Zachery Matesich were joined in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. The wedding celebration took place at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Carol served St. Patrick’s as a Pastoral Associate from August 2016 to August 2017. Zack attended St. Patrick throughout his six years of graduate school at the University of Illinois. In late August the newlyweds moved to Ohio, where Zack is now a professor of chemistry at the College of Wooster.

They loved being a part of St. Patrick’s faith community and will miss living in Urbana. You can keep in touch with Carol and Zack by emailing to carolmatesich@gmail.com



More from the St. Jeanne Jugan seniors

On June 28, some members of the group and a few friends spent a delightful afternoon at the Myers Dinner Theater in Hillsboro, Ind., for the luncheon matinee of *Sisters of Swing*, a tribute to the lives of the Andrews Sisters, a popular trio of singing sisters of the mid-1900s.



St. Patrick Parish IN FOCUS

St. Patrick's Parish In Focus is published on the last weekend of the month in Urbana, Illinois. News items and information may be submitted by mid-month for the next issue. Materials must include the name and telephone number of the person submitting them.

Please send news items to infocusst-pats@gmail.com. You may also send them to a Communications Committee member, leave them in the committee's mailbox in the parish center, or call a committee member. All submissions are subject to review and/or editing by the committee and staff. By-lines are generally omitted.

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Articles, information and photos for this issue were provided by Ellen Abell, Mardia Bishop, Lynn Black, Bao Bui, Kathy Cimakasky, Anna Conner, Stephanie Daniels, Judy Fierke, Denise Green, Elizabeth Hendricks, Renata Herrera, Mary Hittmeier, Jean-Philippe Mathy, Carol (Conaghan) Matesich, Jean Mbomba, Carolyn McElrath, Rachael McMillan, Mary Lou Menches, Chuck Milewski, Susan Nagele, Bernadette Nelson, Bill and Ruth Plymire, Jhane Reifsteck, Cathy Salika, Patsy Schmitt, Adam Smith, Shirley Splittstoesser, and Jim Urban. Patron Saints by Fr. George Wuellner. This issue was edited by Mary Lou Menches, page layout by John Colombo.

Quick fixin's from the kitchen of . . . Anne Britsky

Tomato Pie

- 1/2 (15 oz) pkg refrigerated pie crusts
- 2 large tomatoes, sliced
- 1 egg
- 1/2 c heavy cream
- 1/2 c mayonnaise
- 1/2 c shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 t garlic powder
- 1/4 t salt
- 1/4 t black pepper
- Parmesan cheese for sprinkling



Unroll piecrust and place in 9-inch pie plate; fold edges under and crimp. Prick bottom and sides with a fork. Bake 8 minutes at 450; remove from oven, and reduce oven setting to 350. Arrange tomato slices in crust. In a medium bowl, combine egg, heavy cream, mayonnaise, mozzarella cheese, garlic powder, salt, and pepper; mix well and pour over tomatoes. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake 35-40 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Let sit 5 minutes, then cut into wedges and serve.

* * *

If you have a recipe you'd like to share, please send it to Mary Lou Menches (344-1125, mmenches@illinois.edu). The only requirement is that it be easy and quick to prepare!



Deadline for submission of information, articles and news items for the next issue of *In Focus* is **September 17.**

CREW ON MISSION 2017

Supplement

This year the CREW Mission Trip changed things a bit from years past and joined five other groups at Young People Who Care Ministries, run by the Anawim Community in Frenchville, Pennsylvania. Fifteen St. Patrick's teens made the trip: Sarah Acklin, Jakob Arend, Sam Arend, Ellie D'Andria, Sophie Dowling, Karlee Feinen, Sarah Grosse-Perdekamp, Luke Herzog, Aliyah McDaniel, Johnson Nguyen, Paul Nguyen, Kayley Schacht, Noelle Schacht, Lucas Simpson, and Justin Smith. They were accompanied by five chaperons: Patrick Hatch, Theresa McDaniel, Randy Pankau, Lesley Schacht, Adam Smith.

Frenchville is about nine hours east of Champaign in the Pennsylvania Appalachians. The mission trippers arrived on Sunday, June 25, and left on July 1. Daily activities for the 77 participants that week included construction projects, painting, nursing home visits, and house visits. The following are testimonials from two of the chaperons and two of the mission trippers that were not able to speak at church.

Theresa McDaniel, chaperon When Adam Smith first asked me to chaperon for the mission trip, it was only as a last resort because they could not find another female chaperon. By the end of the mission trip, I was ready to volunteer for the next mission trip. I wanted my daughter to have her own experience and not rely on me to help her get the most out of the trip. By the second night I witnessed my daughter growing closer to God all on her own. I loved the time and opportunity to grow closer to God. I have to say that watching these young teens growing

in their faith and relationships with God and each other was so rewarding I can't wait to do it again next summer. As my daughter grew closer to God and other teens, I watched her become more confident with herself. It was priceless for me to watch my daughter grow in such a way. I would encourage any parent to chaperon a mission trip and witness Christ in your own child as well as in other teens. It is also such a wonderful time to serve as you strengthen and grow in your own faith journey. I was talking to someone at work almost two months after we returned and I still had tears in my eyes telling my co-worker about what my daughter and I experienced this summer growing closer to God.

Sarah Acklin, teen This was the first mission trip that I have ever been a part of and now it won't be the last. It was such a special and revealing trip for me. I think I am a better person because of it. The parts I enjoyed most



about the trip were the relationships I formed, the joy I found in helping others, and the connectedness I felt with our Lord. It was an amazing, incredible trip and I hope I have an opportunity to go back someday.



Lesley Schacht, chaperon When Adam Smith shared with me in October 2016 that he was in need of a female chaperone to go on the mission trip to Pennsylvania, I thought to myself that such an opportunity to provide service, spend time with my two daughters experiencing our faith, and traveling with a group of teenagers could be a lot of fun. I was right. Watching the students become fast friends with strangers from other parts of the country, as well as work side by side with needy community members, was truly a



joy. What I most enjoyed about the trip though was spending time with the community members that Young People Who Care had lined up for us to serve. I met Mari Jo, a spirited 85-year-old woman living in the home that she had once shared with her parents. Mari Jo was full of great

stories and good humor and the students appreciated spending time with her. She was in need of some major yardwork, but it became obvious that sharing a meal and conversing with us was perhaps a greater need. It was an amazing experience. Since I returned home I have spoken with Mari Jo a couple of times and we are exchanging letters. At age 43, this was my first-ever mission trip. It was everything I had hoped it would be, and more. I highly recommend making the time for a mission trip. I would jump at the chance to do it again.

Ellie D'Andria, teen I am one of the lucky ones from the parish who went on the Pennsylvania mission trip this year. Over the past few years I have struggled with my



faith, but I can honestly say that this trip has changed me. We began the experience defining and discussing miracles. I said that a miracle is something fantastic that can only be described through God. While writing my definition I thought to myself, miracles happen to saints and perfect people; I would never experience one. I learned two days later that I was wrong.

It was Tuesday on our trip, and a group of us were scheduled to do yardwork at Jim and Jane's home. They are an old couple, and during the day they take care of children who need somewhere to



stay. I pulled weeds throughout the morning, but after lunch I met a young girl swinging in the backyard. I introduced myself and told her that I liked her hair as a passing comment before heading back to work. I don't recall how it happened, but by the end of the day I had learned almost everything about her. I pushed her on her swing for hours as she told me everything—from her favorite foods and animals, to her hopes and dreams, to her family life. Her name is Nina, and she's ten years old. One of the things that stood out to me was that she collects seashells. At the end of the day she gave me a hug, and she gave me one of her seashells. I remember that at some point I told her that purple is my favorite color. The shell she gave

me was purple and white, and about the size of a penny. It was such a thoughtful and selfless gift, and when she gave it to me I almost broke down in tears. It was indeed a miracle.

I learned in that experience how much small gestures of kindness can do. She needed someone to talk to, so I talked with her. It was not

a heroic or difficult act, and yet it meant so much to her that she felt the need to give me an incomparable gift. It meant a lot to me too.

The night before, I had prayed for the first time in a long time, trying to find my faith again. I didn't ask God for a sign, I felt that would be selfish of me. But I did wonder, if the Lord shows himself to so many people, why haven't I witnessed him? When Nina gave me that seashell, I knew that the Lord was showing himself through another. This trip has changed my faith and my life, and I am lucky to have been

a part of it!

If you feel the call to join the mission trip either as a teen or chap-
eron, please send an email to Adam
Smith (missiontrip@stpaturbana.
org).

