



GUEST COLUMNIST

Several parish staff members will be writing bulletin articles this month, while Fr. Brian is away. Today's article is from St. Edward's Director of Communications.

Dear St. Edward's Parishioners,

It has been an exciting five months. I began working as Director of Communications in early September and have learned a lot about this parish in that short time.

St. Edward's Church has a great number of leaders who want only the best for their parish. There are so many involved and invested parishioners who give of their time and energy, and it really shows! We have an incredible staff—committed, efficient, smart—who truly care about the spiritual well-being of St. Edward's parishioners. This parish boasts beautiful facilities that are lovingly cared for and maintained.

Each morning when I arrive for the workday, I look around me and think, "I've got to help others discover this beautiful parish!" My goal each day is to reach someone who isn't thinking about what St. Edward's Church can provide—liturgically, spiritually, educationally and socially—and help them to either learn about us or reflect on our "message of Christ in love and service to all."

But I need your help. I need to know about your experiences. I need your ideas for spreading the word about St. Edward's Church. I need your photos so they can be shared. I need your constructive feedback about communications. I value hearing about uplifting experiences from other churches, too; not necessarily with the expectation that we should replicate what is being done elsewhere (St. Edward's programs are top notch!),

but so that I can point a brighter spotlight on what is already happening at St. Edward's Church.

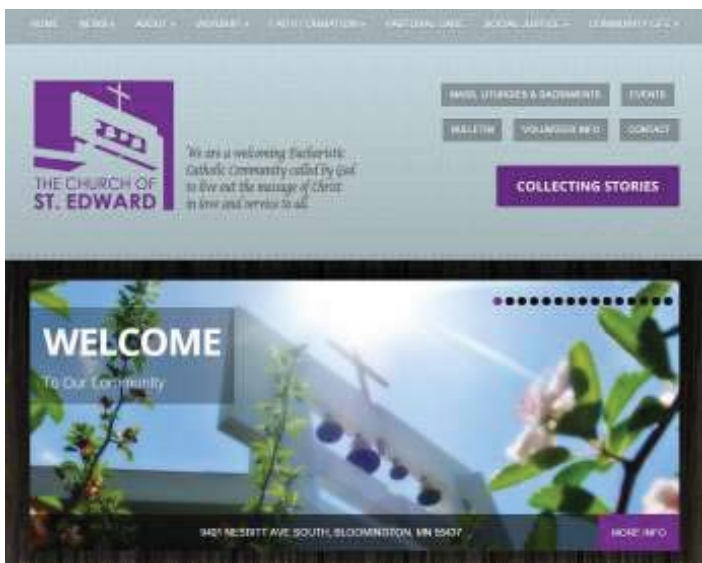
But most of all, I want to get to know the people who make up this parish by hearing their stories of compassion, healing, learning and service. I need those stories so I can authentically inject true compassion and enthusiasm into the communications produced for St. Edward's Church.

So please feel free to contact me. I love email because it helps me manage many sources of information well; but I'll happily arrange a meeting time with parishioners who have a story to share. Recording your own story is a great way to make sure the sharing of it stays true. Write or type your story and bring or mail it to the parish office; or use our online story submission form by going to www.stedwardschurch.org and clicking "Collecting Stories." The online form is easy and safe to use. If you prefer to remain anonymous, that works, too.

Whether or not you have a story you wish to share there are other ways to help promote this parish. Send me photos from a parish event you have attended. Let me know when fresher information is needed online. Support St. Edward's social media presence by liking and sharing posts from our Facebook page. Receive and read our weekly e-blasts.

I want to thank everyone for welcoming me to St. Edward's Church. Leadership, staff and parishioners have been so supportive of my brand new role and I am grateful. Together we can share the inspiring works of faith and love that this parish community offers so well!

~Melissa Cavanaugh
Director of Communications
mcavanaugh@stedwardschurch.org
952-835-7101 x201



Visit www.stedwardschurch.org often to learn about all that is happening at this parish.

READINGS: WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2016

- Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-5, 7-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11
- Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-10/Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3-5, 10-11/Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-6/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

76 DRESSERS FOR BRIDGING

Melissa Cavanaugh, Director of Communications



for families in need. He thought St. Edward's parish ought to give it a try, too. So he recruited 35 team captains, who in turn recruited three other members for their building team. The result—all ages represented! From the infant who loved watching the activity around her, to teenagers who worked with their parents and grandparents, to Fran Heitzman, Bridging's founder, who happily shared his age of 90 years, generations were working together.

Fran and Jerry, along with Bridging's Community Relations Manager Diana Dalsin, pumped up an already very motivated group, eager to support Bridging's goal of one dresser per bedroom. Along the way, songs were sung, music was played, door prizes were won, and the Minnesota Vikings beat the Detroit Lions. A free social membership at the Minnesota Valley Country Club was given away, along with gift cards and bottles of wine, with all prizes having been donated by local merchants.



A total of 76 dressers for Bridging were assembled by St. Edward's parishioners on October 25th! St. Edward's social hall was filled to the brim with people, boxes, hardware and activity. So many pitched in to help—lunch and refreshments were served, refuse collected, and assistance offered, with dressers rolled away to be inspected and inventoried upon completion. Along every step of the way, Jerry Grebin was there, leading the charge.

Much like his involvement at St. Edward's Church, Jerry Grebin has been working with Bridging for decades. He knew that companies often worked with Bridging in order to assemble dresser kits

Dressers were built from kits purchased by St. Edward's Church via outreach dollars set aside for social justice and charity. St. Edward's Community Life and Social Justice & Charity commissions were instrumental in offering this event. Although assembly wasn't easy for every team, it was memorable for everyone involved. Teams of four patiently, and with care, followed pages of assembly instructions to make each dresser. And when that dresser was completed, teams gamely opened a second kit to do it again! The determination and fortitude displayed was truly inspiring.

As the largest furniture bank in the United States, Bridging effectively reuses donated items to improve lives by providing quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. Demand at Bridging is growing and they have not yet attained their goal to have one dresser per bedroom for each family who utilizes their services. But St. Edward's contribution of 76 dressers went a long way towards moving closer to that goal!



FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Forty-Nine Years and Counting

Mine has been an eventful year (plus a few months) at this parish! I can honestly write that it has not ever been dull. Parishioners have continued to be supportive and helpful—incredibly so, and I am grateful. I am especially enjoying the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee in action. They are detail-oriented, committed and hard working—all qualities essential to good planning—and they know so much history about this parish. I’m looking forward to this year’s 50th Anniversary Celebration on September 10, 2017!

In addition to all the stirring Masses, liturgies and blessings, thought-provoking special speakers, and interesting events geared for all ages, there was a particularly unexpected opportunity for many to gather inside our building this past summer. As many of you know by now, Fr. Mike Tegeder, former pastor at the Church of St. Edward from 1998-2011, passed away after a short battle with cancer. Our current pastor, Fr. Brian Fier, beautifully wrote at the time, “his prophetic voice will be missed as we continue in our efforts to build a better Church and world.” Archbishop Hebda presided at the funeral Mass. Although all funeral Masses are special, this one was particularly beautiful and inspiring. It brought together so many and added another layer to the overall story of this lovely parish.

As someone who still felt like an outsider looking in, I heard music seemingly from the heavens and witnessed clergy gathered from near and far; along with Catholics of all ages and backgrounds brought together to honor a man who loved pastoral ministry and connected to people from all walks of life. I watched our whole parish staff—many of whom did not know Fr. Mike well and had not worked for him—respectfully and lovingly work together to offer a Mass that would be unforgettable for those who did know and love him. What a fitting tribute for a priest!

Truly this parish, on a regular basis—as further evidenced during our recent Christmas Masses—continues to offer beautiful music and liturgy to all those who come to us for worship. Please help spread the word about our very special parish. Talk

to your neighbors and friends. Programming in 2017 will not disappoint and in fact begins with a special appearance from Archbishop Hebda on February 1st at 6:30pm. Our faith formation staff will be releasing a few new details soon and will offer ways for all ages to engage that evening. So plan to bring your whole household!

For all those who haven’t yet, please consider how your family can be included in our pictorial directory, which will be published in time for our 50th celebration. Also, if you would like to share any historical context to the evolution of this parish, please feel free to contact our 50th Anniversary Planning Committee chairperson, Joan Black, or anyone in the parish office. For myself, I am always collecting—that is, collecting stories and information that can be used in a wide variety of areas, especially as we move closer to our celebration of fifty years—so please share your stories!

In this our 49th year, let’s celebrate the memories of old while creating brand new ones as we continue to “build a better Church and world!”

Melissa Cavanaugh
Director of Communications

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JAN. 1, 2017

- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98/Jn 1:19-28
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29--3:6/Ps 98/Jn 1:29-34
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98/Jn 1:35-42
- Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100/Jn 1:43-51
- Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
- Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149/Jn 2:1-11
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

