

The following are histories submitted by parishioners as they looked back on 50 years of life in St. Edward's Parish.

In 1967, a house was purchased for the first rectory at 10508 Normandale Road. \$27,000 plus \$3,000 for furnishings was paid, and the headquarters for St. Edward were established. The parish officially came into existence at noon on September 12, 1967, and a few hours later, Father Dudley celebrated the first Mass in the basement of the just purchased rectory.

Confessions were also in the basement chapel, but Fr. Dudley considered it to be unsatisfactory, so he moved the confessionals to the laundry room.

Parishioners and Fr. Dudley decided instead to make the garage into a chapel and a place for meetings. When they built the altar, they constructed the confessional so that the altar would fit into it when the chapel was needed for meetings or social gatherings. Visitors to the garage during the building process were asked to contribute a dollar for carpeting. The first Mass held in the garage-turned-chapel was on October 13, 1967, the Feast of St. Edward.

Because of the traffic around the house and chapel, pressure built to build a separate rectory. Construction began on May 17, 1968. The new rectory was built on the land adjacent to the site selected for the eventual construction of the Church on Nesbitt Road.

Over the years the rectory was renovated and new furniture purchased. In 1999 the rectory was sold.

Community Life

DONUT SUNDAY

Donut Sunday started when Fr. Martin Shallbetter was here. Currently it is held the first and third Sundays of each month from September through May, and monthly during the summer months.

Donut Sunday has always been hosted by teams of parish members, the Youth Group, and the Young at Heart. Several families have taken on team leader role with 3-5 volunteers to assist them after Mass. Being on the team is a wonderful way to greet all the parishioners who partake in this gathering.

Sitting at table with long-time friends or parishioners who are new to you is a friendly experience.

A good will offering basket is available on the coffee/juice table and families have been generous in their contributions.

SARA GUILD

In the early 70's The Women's Club at St. Edward was formed under the direction of Father Dudley. Fund raisers by the craft and service guilds included the Autumn Boutique, Rummage Sale, and the Spring Fashion Show. The Guild donated funds to the church, paying for the chapel's stained glass windows, among other things.

Sara Guild, started in the 70's, was named for the Biblical Sara who miraculously conceived a baby in her older age. The Guild first hosted luncheons at St. Edward for Bloomington Nursing Home residents then moved the luncheons to the nursing home. They still play Bingo and bring treats and prizes to the residents.

Dues are \$10 per year and go to charities for women, children, and VEAP.

In the 90's they gave a gift of \$1100 to St. Edward for a gold-embroidered vestment to be worn at special celebrations. Fathers Shallbetter, Tegeder and Fier have all worn the vestment.

The Guild has a monthly cultural event planned by a variety of members. They also offer Spring and Fall Golf as well as Bridge, 500 and Luncheon in the Social Hall.

The Guild is open to anyone who would like to socialize, meet new friends and enjoy various parish activities.

ST. EDWARD'S DINNER CLUB

Inspired by the wish to foster a sense of community in this then new parish, members of the Women's Club formed the Gourmet Club which later became the less-intimidating sounding Dinner Club. The delicious menus have varied greatly over the years, sometimes representing different countries or pulled from a variety of cookbooks.

Dinner Club meets the first Saturday of the nine-month school year. All-member catered dinner gatherings happen in December and July. Eight people meet at the host house. All homes serve the same menu. The hostess prepares the entree' and buys the wine; guests bring the other courses. Costs are tallied at the end of the meal and shared evenly by all.

Volunteer members rotate the following jobs; Coordinator, Menu Planners, and Callers to get the monthly attendance to the coordinator.

More than 60 members are part of this flourishing group. New parishioners continue to join and more are always welcome.

THE NEWCOMERS' COMMITTEE

In 1988, two fellow parishioners approached Fr. Marty Shallbetter about the lack of a “welcome feeling” when new people joined our church (at the time you had to go into the church office to register.) A Welcomer’s Committee was formed and a meeting held shortly thereafter. The committee decided to have registration after all Masses on the first Sunday of each month in the narthex. Every three months or so an invitation was sent to all new registrants inviting them to a Welcoming Dinner. Members of other church committees were invited to some and speak. Eventually this became a Sunday Brunch after the 9:30 Mass. Unfortunately due to lack of funds, this function was suspended.

CANA DINNER

Fr. Paul Dudley asked Jeanne and Tom Lickteig to organize a Cana dinner to celebrate marriage and recognize married couples. True to form, he added a challenge; he said he thought they should plan for 200 guests. The year was 1967; and 50 years later the Cana Dinner is still planned each February. Celebrating marriage and married couples (happy and successful one, thank you!) has remained the mission and central focus of the event. Thus the evening begins with a Renewal of Marriage Vows liturgy. A few other changes have been added and yet the event attracts between 80 and 100 people to this day; reminding us that good events have staying power.

Faith Formation

LIBRARY

Father Dudley asked parishioner Joan Black to start a library. He had purchased filmstrips on the sacraments and books and other materials for the staff and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers to use. Because all materials needed individual cards for the library catalog, parish volunteers helped with this project. The library is now well-stocked with books, periodicals and movies to give a spiritual lift to parishioners. With its comfortable furniture and good lighting, it is a welcoming room for meetings of all kinds, including the St. Edward Book Discussion Group, which welcomes parishioners who have read the book of the month to take part in any of the lively book conversations.

FROM EDUCATION TO FAITH FORMATION—EMBRACING ALL ASPECTS OF SPIRITUALITY

St. Edward has had a wonderful history of spreading the Gospel message to all those who came to be part of the faith community. In its beginnings, religious education was provided in structured classroom settings for school-age children and youth. In 1968 Father Dudley's prayers for teaching sisters were answered. They took on the religious education of the children of St. Edward, most of whom attended the neighborhood public schools. Sister Carol Dorff, along with five nuns from the Academy of Holy Angels, were the beginning CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) teachers. They taught 14 classes a week and offered monthly teacher training for the parent-teachers of CCD.

The following are nuns who also took part in forming the St. Edward's community: CSJ Sisters Suzanne Kueppers, Virginia Webb, Katherine Egan, Katherine McLaughlin, Madonna Egan, Joanne Tromiczak-Neid, Maureen Dudley Piekarski, Maxine Eckes, and Julie Delange.

Religious Education's focus on youth in classroom settings expanded to include adult and family faith formation.

- Sunday Pre-school, Vacation Bible School, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Intergenerational Theme Sessions, Annual Campout Picnic and Mass, Parent Nights, Family Events, Mass on the Grass, Annual caroling Party, Home Catechesis, Sharing & Support Sundays, Family Video Library, Tote Bags, Children's Choir.
- Youth Ministry expanded to include mission trips, service projects, retreats, and Peer Ministry.
- Adult faith offerings included speakers, bible studies, book studies, retreats, prayer experiences, labyrinth on the church grounds, and Stephen Ministry.

Pastoral Care

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

In the beginning, St. Edward was a young parish with few funerals, but when the need arose, we wanted to offer a luncheon to the family guests.

- A large open space with much natural light existed where the parish offices now are. It had a small kitchen with sink and stove inadequate for large meal preparations. Because the parish was divided into districts, each district took turns providing salads and/or desserts for a funeral. Small sandwiches were ordered from the grocery store located where Lund's & Byerly's is now.
- Members of the then St. Edward Women's club organized a Christmas Bazaar to raise money for 8' long banquet tables.
- Cold food was stored outside in the winter.
- When the City of Bloomington ruled that no homemade foods could be donated for public consumption, all food had to be purchased.

With the addition of the Shallbetter Social Hall, the purchase of round tables that can seat eight, and catered food, the funeral luncheons have become a comforting part of funeral ritual. Alternating by month, the funeral luncheon committees set up, graciously serve and clean up afterwards.

SHAWL MINISTRY

Shawls have been used for centuries to protect the head and shoulders from the elements and also for religious, symbolic meanings.

St. Edward joined this ministry in 1904 under the direction of Beth Duffy and Father Mike Tegeder. Florence Murray, Jennifer Postier, Marian Luisi, Jan Torrini, Joanne Kocon and Dorothy Wrona were the first to join this ministry here and wove their prayers into the shawls they knitted. The shawls were blessed and given to people who were ill or in need of comfort. Thus began the "Prayer Shawl Ministry" at St. Edward.

Twice a year twenty to forty freshly made shawls are placed on the altar during Mass to be blessed. Shawls have been given to our sister parish in Nicaragua, Sandy Hook victims, St. Joseph Home for Children, and individuals world-wide.

As people posted patterns and prayers for knitting shawls on the Internet, the ministry has grown to include churches of all denominations throughout the world.

Anyone in need of a prayer shawl can contact St. Edward's church office.

ST. EDWARD'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

It is an alternative resting place for the cremated remains of parishioners and their families, those who had made their spiritual home here. It is a peaceful place of comfort and quiet. It is a reminder of the communion of saints when the thoughts

and prayers of those still on earth are given up to those who have moved into their new life.

The garden was first envisioned in 1998. The core committee, led by former pastor Fr. Mike Tegeder, met with the people of St. Joan of Arc, who had recently created a Memorial Garden on their property. Nine years later, after much study, work and negotiation, the garden was formally dedicated. Jim Kass's remains were the first to be interred. In 2012 a wall of names was added, etched with the names of those loved ones interred here. Parishioners contributed the laborious and creative work on the garden. Parishioner Marian Luisi designed the brick path in the shape of a Celtic Cross. Names can also be engraved on the walking-path pavers.

YOUNG AT HEART

Started in 1976, Young At Heart invites 55+ parishioners to celebrate Mass or participate in the Penance Service, followed by socializing with each other at a lovely luncheon.

- They meet at 11:00 on the second Tuesday of each month from September through May.
- The meal may be catered in the Shallbetter Hall, it may be a Pot-Luck, or it may be served in a local restaurant.
- The yearly dues cover the December Christmas luncheon and the May retreat, which also includes lunch.
- Since its founding led by Frank Sheehan and Gertrude Meyer, Arnie and Mary Strom and Joe and Mary Albarella have chaired this interesting group of people.
- Phil Gerlach is now the leader, assisted by Pete and Jane Olson and John and Phyllis Gray.
- In the 2016-2017 year there were 118 paid members.

STEPHEN MINISTRY, HOSPITAL MINISTRY AND GRIEF MINISTRY

In 1981 Sister Mary Obawa started the Stephen Ministry program at St. Edwards. For all these years it has provided one-on-one listening ministry in a confidential setting for parishioners going through a difficult time. In later years our pastoral care leaders as well as Stephen Ministers themselves spent a week of inspired training at the national level to take part in this ministry. Deacon Jim LeShane is now leading this ministry.

The following supports are offered to the Stephen Ministers themselves:

- Two meetings a month from September through May, one per month through the summer.
- Continuing education speakers each month for the whole group, then small sessions to see how relationships are working and what advice might be

needed for the ministers to better serve their care receivers.

- In the beginning 52 parishioners volunteered for the 40 hours of training and volunteers have continued to serve all these years.
- All Stephen Ministers feel that in their caring, listening ministry, they, too, receive from their care recipients.
- In 2017 we have twenty-five Stephen Ministers
- Six Hospital Ministers visit hospitalized parishioners and take communion to them
- Three Grief Ministers make follow-up calls to recently bereaved parishioners to see if St. Edward can be of help after their loss. These ministers meet every three months with people from local churches to receive insight from a speaker and from each other.

BAPTISM SEWING MINISTRY

For any parishioner who has been part of or attended the baptism of one of our newborn members, the placing of the baptismal garment over the baby is symbolic of being clothed in the Christian life that will be exemplified by her parents and her faith community.

- Led by Gloria Pope for the past 30 years, a group of dedicated women from our parish took on three parts of this job. Cut patterns out of a bolt of cloth. Hem all the garments. Embroider the delicate designs on the cloth. The original volunteers joining Gloria were Sharon Costello, Selma Feist, Mary Harris, Erma LoBello and Dianne Riley.
- Judy Foster suggested adding scarves for children to wear over their shoulders during religious ceremonies: three-foot scarves for ages 3-6, six-foot for older children and teenagers.
- To date nearly 3,000 garments and scarves have been sent to our sister parish in Nicaragua.
- In 30 years twenty-two bolts of cloth were used to make 2,874 garments, 95 scarves, 5 robes for RCIA, and 112 small altar cloths for classroom work.
- Twenty-two dedicated volunteers are currently working on 45 garments and 27 scarves.

Social Justice and Charity

In 1987 St. Edward began their historic supportive relationship with Our Lady of the Angels in Jinotega, Nicaragua, during the second half of the devastating Contra Sandinista War. St Edwards has tried to maintain a financial as well as a spiritual relationship during these past 30 years. That we Minnesota Catholics care enough to send aid and to visit and be part of their lives gives them hope.

The people live in extreme poverty, picking coffee beans for only 3-4 months a year for the rich plantation owners they scratch to make a living the rest of the year. Because Nicaragua is a poor country, the peasants need outside help. This is where we come in.

In 2000 St Eds began a relationship with AVODEC (Volunteer Association for Community Development). It is a non-governmental grass roots organization in operation and ready to help us complete various social projects.

In 2008 St Eds was accepted as a partner of FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN. Twice a year two large containers with 60 pounds of food each at a cost of \$4700 per container is packaged up at the Chanhassen Center by volunteers, many of the members of St. Edwards. They love doing this!

Our Past projects have included the following:

- Subsidized the cost of solar lights (The people there pay 1/3 of their earnings for light.)
- Oxen Project (Villages received a pair of oxen and shared them.)
- Families received cabbage and tomato seeds, harvested their produce, and passed seeds on to another group of families.
- Training of midwives
- Paid for a doctor to accompany the priest to the countryside chapels on his monthly visits to celebrate Mass.
- Dug latrines
- Shipment of clothes and medical equipment
- Computer School- more computers needed.
- Toys for the disabled and the hospital.
- Home Construction

Current Projects

- Repairing the main Jinotega church and the more than 25 chapels in the countryside.
- Donate keyboards, accordians, guitar strings and other musical necessities for worship.
- Have a dental clinic in the church with donations from the U of Minnesota, two dental chairs, and tools donated from the family of dentist Roger Schultz.

When there is a clinic, graduates of the dental schools in Nicaragua must give two years of free dental care to the poor.

- Work with the ministers of the sick in Jinotega who deliver the food packets from Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) The church stores the FMSC food.
- Uncooked food to various poor families.
- Youth Retreats (Jinotega Church).
- Mission trips
- Wells and water systems
- Cook-stove project
- Sports equipment for poor neighborhoods.
- Work together receiving the FMSC containers and delivering the food to schools.
- We subsidize administration costs of AVODEC.

It is clear that our help is needed. It is a great blessing that more than 60 parishioners of all ages have traveled to Nicaragua in the past, looking to help and to share our faith and their work. When they return, they feel blessed at the change it brought in their lives.

JINOTEGA'S CHAPEL OF ST. EDWARD

The construction of the Chapel of St. Edward began in 2014. It was the 8th of 9 chapels begun with the money from the 40th Anniversary Fund. We send enough money, usually \$6000 per chapel, for the foundation, walls, roof trusses and zinc roof. The floor, windows and doors are the responsibility of the parishioners. They also furnish the manual labor to help the block-layer. We always hire a professional for this work because we want the chapel to be straight and strong.

The people work very hard to help build this chapel by digging the foundation, hauling materials, mixing cement and other heavy jobs. They say they don't mind because they do it for the love of God. While building the physical temple, they also spoke about building their spiritual temple so they are ready to meet their God. They believe it is necessary to live the sacramental life. We can learn a lot from their example.

The priest celebrates mass once a month and conducts funerals. Every Thursday and Sundays when the priest isn't there, a Eucharist Minister leads a communion service. Each chapel also has a coordinator who manages such day-to-day activities as faith formation classes, sacramental preparation classes for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation and for weddings and funerals. They are beginning to decorate it with flowers, curtains and statues.

Before this chapel was built, they recall walking up to two hours each way to attend mass. This distance made it almost impossible for older adults, the disabled and young children to attend mass regularly.

These people of great faith feel more united as a community with this chapel in their

midst. They are proud of it and send profound thanks to all of here at St. Edwards. We are in their prayers always and they will never forget us.

TERESA TODA HOME FOR GIRLS

Since 2002 St. Edwards has supported Teresa Toda, a home for girls in the Dominican Republic who have lived very difficult life experiences.

Carmelite Sisters run this home in Azua, Dominican Republic, for 40 very poor girls. "During the school year the girls live at the home, visiting their families monthly to maintain relationships with their birth family and their neighborhood. During the summer, the girls live with their families."

After their summer stay at home, the girls returned to the home malnourished, with skin diseases, sores, and lost academic progress. To give the girls a mid-summer break, the sisters started a two-week "Campamento" to give the girls a health check and a return to nutrition basics.

But with the help of St. Edward's over-18 women and mother-daughter pairs for daughters over 14 years old, this has turned into an energetic, spirit-filled Vacation-Bible-School type of experience for the girls. They do Bible study and reflection; they sing, dance, do crafts; receive tutoring in math; explore science, engineering and health issues; they build community.

This has been a mutually enriching experience for the women and girls of St. Edward as well as for the girls of the Teresa Toda Home.

MEALS ON WHEELS

In the autumn of 1969, Father Dudley decided something must be done for those people who went days with no hot meal because they were physically unable to prepare one. He asked parishioner Mary Larranaga to develop a program to aid them. She brought together St. Edward, Oak Grove Presbyterian and Saint Stephen's Lutheran churches, and they became the nucleus of Meals on Wheels.

Beginning in 1970 noon meals were delivered to seven people twice weekly. Now the program has expanded to eleven churches, the City of Bloomington, and Bloomington civic organizations, businesses, and industries. In 2015 Bloomington merged with Eden Prairie Meals on Wheels.

- Noon meals are delivered by volunteers Monday through Friday. For the recipients there are no restrictions on age, income or church/nonchurch affiliations.
- St. Edward volunteers drive every 6 weeks with a pool of 35 drivers who serve as needed.
- Parishioner Peter Haberstick served as president of the Board of Directors for 10 years or so. St. Edward currently has two members on the board, one serving as Treasurer.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

St. Edward was involved with FMF for over 25 years. Like one of about 80 congregations in the Twin Cities, we hosted families for one week at a time, two times per year. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, these guests were provided a safe place to sleep and a thoughtfully prepared dinner in the evenings. They were also provided care for their children through activities, and a place for the adults to relax and watch TV or have time alone. Each morning, the families received breakfast before returning to one of the program centers. Here the children were picked up for school and the parents would head to work, or if needed, work with program directors to search for jobs. The program's goal was to create stability and success and secure stable housing within 60 days of arriving in the program.

Worship

LECTORS, COMMENTATORS, GREETERS AND COMMUNION DISTRIBUTORS

In 1967 male parishioners were asked to be lectors and commentators. Lectors were the bridge between the written scripture and the congregation. Jack Horner, parishioner and WCCO radio personality, trained the lectors in how to read in such a way that all parishioners could clearly hear the sacred readings of the day. Commentators would read the Prayers of the Faithful and the announcements.

The Greeter Ministry, started by Fr. Marty Shallbetter, provides a sense of community as we gather to worship. "Hello", "Good morning" and "Welcome, glad you can join us" are familiar sounds from the greeters.

In 1970 men were invited to become Eucharistic ministers, an unheard of privilege.

The Second Vatican Council invited laity into all liturgical ministries, which meant women would be included in all of these. A very dynamic time in our church!

USHERS

Since 1967, Ushers have been supporting parish services, and today over 40 men and women continue this service at weekend masses. Most of today's ushers have been helping for over 15 years, but several members have been active for 40+years. Over 15 years ago the ushers established a memorial honoring deceased parish members who served as ushers; their names were placed on the offertory urn brought to the altar at each mass. This urn symbolizes parishioner gifts and the gifts of time given by former ushers.

FROM ALTAR BOYS TO ALTAR SERVERS

Father Dudley first called for altar boys to serve during the celebration of Mass both at Olson Junior High and in the converted garage of the Normandale house. He personally trained and helped them during their masses. Eileen Romano, seeing fellow students (boys) serving at Mass, asked Father Dudley if she, too, could be an altar server. "No, not in my lifetime," he replied. He would be interested to note that we now have boy and girl Altar Servers.

SCHOLA CHOIR

Sarah Langer and Judy Hodgson formed the Schola in the Fall of 2013 through invitation to several singers not involved in the adult choir. Sarah led and directed the Schola for that first year. They rehearsed approximately twice a month and sang once or twice a month that first year. It had three men and seven or eight women. Part of the mission of the Schola was to sing some traditional sacred choral repertoire with an emphasis on a cappella literature. It also required a commitment from the members that they would rehearse the music on their own before the group met for rehearsal.

FUNERAL CHOIR

In the early years of our parish Father Paul Dudley asked Pat Swirtz to organize a choir to offer the gift of music to those celebrating a loved one's life. The first members were volunteer women who were full-time homemakers; in recent years, many of the men and women are retired and some have been in the choir since the beginning.

The music is planned by family members in consultation with the Deacon and a worship aid containing the requested music is created for each funeral.

The Funeral Choir has been invited to sing for the annual Mass of Remembrance and the Advent and Lenten Reconciliation Services.

Cantors lead the singing from the Sanctuary, intoning the Psalm and Gospel Acclamations.

The choir members are there because they share a sense of belonging to the St. Ed community. They have a common interest in and love of music. They find purpose in serving their fellow human beings, and thus, God.

Members have commented: "Funeral Choirs are rare in this day ... There were no tryouts, so I accepted the invitation to join... Each family is different from the others; we see families grieving in their own ways ... We hope we are helping them through a very sad time ... The reward is too great to measure."

Choir director Roger Burg's calm, humorous presence during rehearsal and performance brings smiles amidst the singing.

FUNERAL HOSPITALITY

During the visiting time at past funerals Nadine Lackey commented that several grieving family members would drop into the kitchen, seeking a cup of coffee or a glass of juice or water. In 1995 "Funeral Hospitality" was born when Phyllis Hufnagle took on the responsibility of organizing the 200 rooms in the narthex for family members to come and regain their composure during this difficult time. The hospitality team provides a listening, compassionate ear, as well as coffee, water, juice and coffee cake, doughnuts, and cookies. Many other parishioners have been part of this ministry; Dorothy Wrona, Joan Black, Merrie and Phil Gerlach, Marellen Farsund. Currently Mary Culhane heads up the team.

ST. EDWARD PORTABLE PIANOS

- At present a seven foot Mason and Hamlin grand piano along with a metal frame, a humidification system and a keyboard lamp is in place in our main church. A pancake breakfast sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and individual donations made this purchase possible. Organist Roger Burg attests to its "magnificent sound."
- In 1990 a six foot Kawai grand piano was given to St. Edward in memory of former music director Larry Gully. The piano now resides in Shallbetter Hall for

use as a rehearsal piano and to accompany programs held there.

- A Hamilton studio piano is now in place in the chapel to accompany services held there.
- In 1987 a parish family donated a Paul Schmitt spinet piano is in the auditorium to be used as needed.
- A digital keyboard kept in the Youth Room accompanies Mass on the Grass and music at the Annual Pet Blessing in October.

ST ED'S AUSTIN ORGAN OPUS 2649

For St. Edward first twelve years discussion over an organ to enhance the parishioners' aesthetic musical experience resonated through the parish and its changing parish councils. By 1980 along with Pastor Dick Wirth, the Parish Council, Liturgy Coordinator Jerry Stahl, the Liturgy Commission and the organ subcommittee, the Austin Organ Opus 2649 was chosen and installed.

The Austin Organ Company's organ "provided the best tonal qualities for the money;" the company "demonstrated a desire and earnestness of purpose to accommodate our parish;" and they were "the only company to submit drawings."

After 26 years the parish initiated communication with the new president of Austin Organs to explore the possibility of renovating the organ. It was discovered that there were plans in place for enlarging the organ and space for it had been included in the 1980 construction. In 2008 a contract was sent to Archbishop Flynn for approval, and the signed contract was sent to Austin Organs in March of 2008.

This organ provides a greater variety of tones and a wider range of volume, enabling the organists to provide suitable instrumental accompaniment and better support for congregations, choral, and solo vocal singing. In 2010 pipes custom-made from copper and mounted horizontally on top of the organ case were installed and named "Corde Jubilee" by former liturgist Lonnie Murphy in honor of St. Edward 40th Anniversary Celebration. The console was custom-built to blend with the rich oak wooden furniture at St. Edward.