



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 9 Advent, 2007

Rector's Reflections

This is my favorite time of year, as it is for many people. However, we each have our own reasons for this being so high on our personal list for favorite times of year. For me it is partly the traditional of getting ready for Christmas. I am a BIG believer in Advent and try very hard to keep Advent as preparatory and Christmas as celebratory. For me Advent is that time when I can settle in and feel the movement of the church year leading to the grand celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas. I love the music. I love the colors. I love the anticipation.

It is also a time for me to remember Advent fifteen years ago. I was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 5, 1992. We will be celebrating these 15 years this year at WOW and I hope you will come to help me mark this milestone in my ordained ministry.

I admit, 15 years is not that remarkable of a time span. But I

am celebrating this point in my ordained life because during the last three years I did not know if I would live to see this point in my ordained life. So this is a celebration on many levels. But the fundamental level is the celebration of community. I have had the privilege of serving three parishes: St. Michael's, Brigham City; St. James', Midvale and now St. Stephen's. In each parish I have walked into an ongoing conversation, an ongoing community, and ongoing ministries. For me, this is as much a celebration of the ministries of St. Stephens, St. James' and St. Michael's for each of these communities have helped to shape and form me as a priest.

We do not do ministry in a vacuum. We do ministry in community. We do ministry as community. As I have noted several times the African proverb, "I am who we are."

We are in this together. We

minister together. We pray and break bread together. We rejoice and grieve together. I am blessed to give voice to our sacramental life and to offer a pastoral ministry here. I rely and give thanks for the blessings of gifts and talents you bring in this place to help all

of us live into our callings as ministers of the Gospel.

Thank you for being part of our common life and ministry.

Peace
Fr. Lee †

Baptisms

On All Saints Sunday, November 4, at the 10:30 service, we welcomed three new members by baptism, Craig Allen Martin, Tammy Jane Calder, and Devic Kristin Reigh Eccles.

Vestry

The Vestry will meet Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The previous regular meeting is on November 27.

Youth Group

St. Stephen's Youth Group, SWAPS – Scripture, Worship, Amusement, Prayer, Service, staged a successful Murder Mystery Dinner and Play, on November 3, with a silent auction to raise funds for the youth program.

Fr. Lee to Celebrate 15 Years as a Priest

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, the Feast of Clement of Alexandria, Fr. Lee will celebrate his 15th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at St. Michael's Church, Brigham City, Utah. He has since also served at St. James' Church, Midvale.

This celebration will be part of the Worship on Wednesday (WOW) program with dinner at 6 p.m. If you are not a "usual" part of WOW, please RSVP (801-968-2731) for meal planning. A festive celebration of the Holy Eucharist will follow at 7 p.m., followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Please join us for the celebration of Fr. Lee's 15 years of ministry in the priesthood.

Proposed Change in Service Time

Two Special Parish Meetings have been held recently after church, so that parishioners could further discuss the suggested change of service time to 11 a.m. The Worship Committee will meet on Sunday, November 25th, and the Vestry will have a meeting after that to act on the recommendations made. Any approved change in service times will take place after the New Year.

WoW!

We have a very full and varied series of services and programs for WoW! through the end of the year. Here is a summary of our upcoming events:

Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Eve with a full Eucharist with music as well as a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. No program that evening.

Nov. 28 – Padre Pablo Ramos will present a video and discussion on the Christmas traditions of Mexico. This is part of our ongoing desire to help St. Stephen’s people understand the culture and customs of our San Esteban friends.

Dec. 5 – The 15th Anniversary Celebration of Ordination for Fr. Lee. See related article.

Dec. 12 – The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. Padre Pablo will share the story and impact of the vision of the Virgin Mary to the peasant Juan Diego and its impact on the spread of Christianity and the Catholic faith in Mexico.

Dec. 19 – Angel Tree Party. We will host 20 children and their caregivers for our Annual Angel Tree Party. These are children of parents incarcerated at the State Prison. (See related article about how to participate in buying gifts for these children.) We will open gifts, have a dinner together and worship. For many people this was the highlight of WOW last year, an “early Christmas” as many people noted in sharing this time and gifts with these children.

Dec. 26 – The Feast of St. Stephen. Our Patronal Feast comes on Wednesday this year. Join us for a festive Holy Eucharist and special program for our Feast Day as a parish.

.A Change in our Sunday Readings Beginning on First Advent, Dec. 2, 2007

On Dec. 2, the First Sunday of Advent and beginning of the church’s liturgical year, we will begin using the “Revised Common Lectionary” (RCL) for our Sunday worship. The following article compares the RCL with our traditional BCP lectionary. This is the second of three articles about the RCL written by The Rev’d Dr. Ruth Meyers, academic dean and professor of liturgics at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois and member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Church.

Articles - How does the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) Compare with the 1979 Book of Common Prayer? -Dr. Ruth Meyers

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) follows the same three-year pattern as the current lectionary in the Prayer Book. Very few changes have been made to the appointed gospels. There is more variation in the selections from the Old Testament and the epistles. As in the Prayer Book lectionary, Year A begins on the First Sunday of Advent in years evenly divisible by three (2007, 2010, etc.)

Gospels

Following the lead of the Roman Catholic lectionary, both the 1979 Prayer Book and the RCL assign a different gospel to each year in the three-year cycle. Year A is the year of Matthew; Year B, Mark; and Year C, Luke. John appears each year during Christmas, Lent and Easter, and a series of readings from John is also appointed during the season after Pentecost in Year B, supplementing Mark, the shortest gospel.

Old Testament readings

The major difference between the lectionaries comes in the Old Testament readings during the season after Pentecost. In the Prayer Book lectionary, the Old Testament is usually related to the gospel, whether as a parallel, contrast, or background. The RCL includes this pattern of readings as one option, using many of the same readings as the Prayer Book. But the RCL also introduces an alternative: a semi-continuous series of readings from the Old Testament. In Year A, the lectionary moves through Genesis and Exodus, concluding with Deuteronomy, Joshua, and Judges in the final weeks of the year. Worshipers will hear key narratives of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel, the exodus from Egypt, and the Israelites’ journey through the wilderness and into the promised land. Year B begins with stories of David, using readings from 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 Kings. In the latter months of Year B, selections are from the Wisdom literature, including Proverbs, Job, and Ruth. Readings in Year C cover the prophets in chronological order, beginning with Elijah and Elisha, then turning to Amos, Hosea, and Isaiah, and finally focusing on Jeremiah for much of the second half of the year; Joel, Habakkuk, and Haggai each appear once in the final weeks.

Congregations may choose each year whether to use the semi-continuous Old Testament readings or the readings that are related to the gospel. They should remain with the pattern for the entire lectionary year and may make a different choice in another year.

The optional semi-continuous pattern of readings the Old Testament during the season after Pentecost is the most significant difference between the two

lectionaries. During the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter cycles, both lectionaries employ a thematic approach, and the lessons and psalm are more closely related to one another and to the season.

During Easter, the readings from the Old Testament are appointed only for the great Vigil, Easter Day, and the Day of Pentecost. On the remaining Sundays of Easter as well as Ascension Day, the first reading is always from Acts. The Prayer Book alternative of the first reading from the Old Testament and second reading from Acts is not included. Acts narrates the formation and growth of the early Christian community in response to the resurrection, and its use in place of the Old Testament during Easter dates from the early centuries of Christian history. Many Episcopal congregations will be familiar with this practice because they are already using the 1979 Prayer Book option of a reading from Acts and an epistle throughout Easter.

Psalms

As in the Prayer Book lectionary, the psalm is a response to the first lesson. Many of the RCL psalms are similar or identical to those assigned in the Prayer Book, except for those responding to the semi-continuous selections from the Old Testament during the season after Pentecost.

Epistles

In another similarity to the Prayer Book lectionary, the RCL calls for semi-continuous reading of epistles during the seasons after Epiphany and Pentecost. Readers will notice the same sequence of books each year but differences in the particular chapters and verses selected week by week. For example, both lectionaries work through Romans in Year A after Pentecost, but only the RCL includes Paul’s discussions in Romans 10:5-15 of the righteousness that comes from faith.

[The Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers is academic dean and professor of liturgics at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL.]

Next month: Are there other distinctive features of the Revised Common Lectionary?

Points to Ponder

Once he came in blessing, all our ills redressing; came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy; bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.	One who thus endureth, bright reward secureth. Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us; Let us here confess thee Till in heaven we bless thee.
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– Jan Roh (1585?-1547) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) Hymn 53

Status Report on our 2008 Pledge Drive

So far, as of November 11, we have received 42 pledge cards for a total pledge of just over \$56,000. The Vestry set a \$75,000 stewardship goal in pledges in order to balance our budget for 2008. As you can see, we still have a ways to go in order to enter 2008 with a balanced budget.

For 2007 we set \$60,000 for the pledged amount. We project that we will exceed that by \$3,000 this year, but not in pledges but through the increase in non-pledge offerings on Sunday. The Vestry felt if we could move people to making pledges that we could help meet our 2008 goal.

Reasons for the increase in the need for pledges is through increased costs at the church as well as a continual decrease in assistance from the diocese. It is not known at this point what the diocesan grant (money given to the parish by the diocese) will be. That will be known by the end of the month.

You will see a letter below from Dave Schultz, our Stewardship Chair, on the need for our pledge drive. Attached to the newsletter is blue pledge card. Please fill it out and return it to the church. Part of our commitment in community is to pray for one another, share in the breaking of the bread and to financially support the ministries and mission of the community. Please consider prayerfully your pledge amount to St. Stephen’s.

Stewardship Continues - by David Schultz

We started our drive to “make the budget” just a few short weeks ago. It started with a great spaghetti diner and still continues.

We have met the task at hand with great enthusiasm from all involved, but there is still more work to do. We can’t stop now. We are close, but not close enough. With the diocese tightening the purse strings, one more time, our wonderful little church needs all the help it can get, to accomplish its goals for 2008.

Please take the time to fill out one of our blue cards and return it to the church. We need all of you to make it a successful year. We are counting on you and we want your input as well as you offerings.

To walk with the Lord starts with a single step. This could be YOUR first step. Matter of fact: Let it be your first step to getting closer to God. We would like to go along with you, if you will invite us.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon. Please call me with any questions you might have at 955-3373.

David Schultz, Stewardship Committee

Time, Talent and Treasure - by Martin Willcocks

When I joined St. Luke's in Park City, back in 1990, I had not been a pledging member of any church for 30 plus years. It seemed like churches always wanted money, but I had no idea what they gave back for it. But I pledged a substantial amount towards the new church building fund, and served on the vestry there for three years.

One Sunday in February 1992, there was a severe snowstorm, and we decided it was not advisable to travel to Park City before the snow ploughs could address the overnight heavy snow. I found my way to St. Stephen's, with several inches of slushy snow on the valley floor, and found another very friendly church community. My very first Sunday here I donated a small amount to church funds. In August, we moved into the house where we still live, and during that period we were traveling to St. Luke's almost every Sunday, as Kaye was playing piano for the church. After that, I alternated between St. Luke's and St. Stephen's for a while, until my vestry term ended. By May 1993 I was a pledging member of St. Stephen's, also contributing to the Building Fund for the changes to our sanctuary, and to the Pews fund. I have pledged varying amounts ever since. Because the church year starts with 1st Advent, why wait till the first of the year? Why not start *your* new or increased pledge in December?

As my involvement with this church continued, I found myself serving in a variety of new ways; not just with pledges, but with service, and the EFM course which I started in 1995. At that time I had no idea what else I could do, but when I was asked, I started doing the weekly service bulletins, as our previous bulletin editor was sick. Later he retired and moved away, so preparing Sunday bulletins became my main weekly ministry for the last seven years or so. I have more recently been responsible for the Servant newsletter, and also have taught a Sunday adult class for several years now. The monthly hymn selection committee is another activity which I participate in regularly. Since Fr. Lee has been here I have served on the Worship Committee. I have also been involved in the choir, and as a Diocesan Convention delegate or alternate. I love what I do, but there is always more opportunity than my time permits! So I'd like to suggest that many of you could do a lot more than you think you can, and might find it very rewarding, being drawn into our community.

Try coming to Second Saturday meetings, and learn how to do service projects. Help with the catering on Wednesday evenings for WoW! Sign up for a Sunday for the coffee hour. Join the Lay Weeders, or help with the Columbarium. Add your name to the Sunday School teachers or helpers. Do what you can to help the church serve all comers. And above all, enjoy our common worship and fellowship, stay for the coffee hour, make new friends!

Prison Ministry Angel Tree 2007 - by Carol Powell

It's that time of year again. The Christmas party is scheduled for December 19th during WoW! Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. The Angel Tags will be available December 2nd and December 9th on a table in the Gathering Area. Each tag will list a child's name, age and gift request. Each child will have two tags, one for a clothing item and one for a gift item. If you wish to participate, please choose one tag and purchase the gift prior to our Gift Wrapping Party which will be held after services on December 16th. You may wish to donate a cash offering in lieu of a gift to help pay for the Angel Tree party.

If you are new to our congregation, the Angel Tree program is where an inmate sends in the name of his/her child, the child's care-giver and a personal greeting to the child. Parishioners purchase the gifts for the inmate and present the gifts to the child at our annual Angel Tree Christmas Party. The gift is from the parent to the child. Please join us in this wonderful celebration of love.

Our Mitten Tree

During Advent we will have a "mitten tree" in church. Please bring caps, scarves and mittens, etc. to "decorate" this tree. All donations will be taken to the homeless shelter for the upcoming winter months.

Workshop with Dr. Weil - by Sandy Garrard

Some of us from St. Stephens went to a workshop at The Cathedral Church of St. Mark's on November 3, 2007. Dr. Weil is amazing.

One of the first things we learned was that you can't take something out of an environment and expect it to work the same in a new environment. For example, if something works for 12 people in a certain size space, the experience will be entirely different with 60 people.

Hymns need to match the lectionary and the preaching of the word. They need to match the integrity of the liturgy. The liturgy, by its nature, should be a whole cloth. Many clergy have never heard of this. They think the liturgy is the word and meal and that music is just there to fill in and doesn't have to match anything. This is very wrong. Hymns are part of the liturgy and are prayers in themselves. There needs to be a structure to the service. The word is fairly uniform in liturgy. If laity and clergy are unaware of that or ignore it, the congregation suffers from inconsistency. Hymns should support the scripture, not overpower it. The service suffers when the hymns are not in balance to the size of the space and the service that is being used.

Dr. Weil also pointed out that the use of silence in liturgy is very important. Liturgical silence after scripture is important. The people need to know if it

is a norm, custom, or liturgical in how you do your hymns, silence and other structures of the service. Otherwise they might think you just lost your place!

There were many, many other points in the use of music in the service. Dr. Weil spoke of types of music, instruments, chants, etc. that can be used to enhance the liturgy and preaching of the word. If you ever have the chance to hear Dr. Weil speak, don't miss it!

Peace, Sandy Garrard, Musician

A Ministry of Sustained Prayer - by Judy Carter

Every Sunday at St. Stephen's, the congregation participates in both the Prayers of the People and Healing Prayers. While these are both meaningful and effective, some of us have become aware of a need for a more intimate, intense manner of praying for some people. Those who are care-givers, experiencing chronic illness, or struggling with other long-term concerns often are helped when they feel surrounded by prayers and support from others.

We are now starting a Sustained Prayer Ministry at St. Stephen's to better meet the needs of these members of our community. Beginning in January, we will offer sustaining prayers one Sunday each month right after the Sunday Worship Service.

At each meeting, a tangible gift will be offered to the person(s) being prayed for as a symbol of our prayers, love, and support. This may be a shawl, lap robe, prayer beads, or other appropriate item. After an opening prayer to bless the person and the gift, anyone present is welcome to offer up prayers. We will close with a prayer of thanks and the Passing of the Peace.

We also plan to use this as an opportunity to visit some members of our congregation in their homes if they are unable to attend church services. These will be very short visits, with prayer being our main intent, and limited to two or three visitors.

To facilitate this prayer service, we will need offerings of shawls, lap robes, or other appropriate gifts to use in prayer. Zach Johnson and Judy Carter will be making Anglican Prayer Beads to use. If you would like to assist with this ministry in any way, contact Judy.

If you or someone you know is in need of a service of Sustained Prayer, please contact Judy Carter, 908-7079. Any one interested in praying with us is welcome to join us in the Chapel area immediately after Worship. The next date will be announced soon.

Food Bank Donations for Children Requested

Many Utah children go hungry on weekends and holidays. Participate in the Utah Food Bank's BackPack Program. Donate nourishing food for children on their long holiday break.

Fill the bag with CHILD FRIENDLY, HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS, and NON PERISHABLE FOOD.

JOIN SLCC IN A CAMPUS WIDE HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECT

DONATE NUTRITIOUS SNACKS TO FILL A BACKPACK FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN by December 13

Suggestions:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| granola bars (fruit/nut are best) | whole-grain crackers |
| breakfast bars | small cans of fruits/vegetables |
| fruit cups (low in sugar) | Trail and/or granola mixes |
| small packs of peanut butter | single-serving soups, stews, and prepared entrees |
| unsweetened apple sauce | 100% fruit leathers/juice boxes |
| mini-cereal boxes | shelf-stable produce (apples, baby carrots, oranges) |
| instant oatmeal packs | |
| tuna fish packets | |

All items must be snack size and/or have pop-tops that children can open themselves.

Here's how you can help:

Donate filled, zipper-lock storage bags (quart or gallon sizes)

Pre-fill bags with NUTRITIOUS SNACKS.

Deliver donations to the Thayne Center/Redwood Campus Student Center #020.

Please include inside the bag a small treat (candy, chocolate, etc.) In addition, include a small gender-neutral toy. Please attach the toy separately from the bag.

For more information, call the Thayne Center for Service & Learning at 957-4555.

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments
- 3:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pat Pitcher

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

WEDNESDAYS:

- 6:00 p.m. WoW! Dinner - come, eat and enjoy, you don't have to bring food.
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 p.m. WoW! Program

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 p.m. Granger A.A. Group

SATURDAYS:

- 5:30 p.m. Santa Misa - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. San Esteban Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

- 2nd. Tuesday Hymn Selection Meeting
- 3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings

SPECIAL DATES

- Nov. 21 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and Service (no program)
- Nov. 28 7:30 p.m. Christmas Traditions in Mexico - The Rev. Canon Pablo Ramos
- Dec. 2 10:30 a.m. 1st Advent - Revised Common Lectionary - Angel Tree
- Dec. 5 6:00 p.m. Fr. Lee's 15th Anniversary WoW! Special Event
- Dec. 12 7:30 p.m. Padre Pablo: Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Dec. 13 Deadline for Children's Food Bank Donations
- Dec. 19 6:00 p.m. Angel Tree Party
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services (see next Servant for details.)

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, December 10, 2007.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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