

# Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



## The Servant

April, 2004

Volume 12 Issue 6

West Valley City, Utah

### Notes From Fr. Lee

Alleluia. Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen Indeed. Alleluia.

First, I want to thank all of the individuals who worked so hard to make our services and fellowship during Holy Week and Easter such a wonderful series of events. So many people did so many things "behind the scenes" to make all of this come together. Thank you very much for your work on the behalf of the parish and our guests during those days.

Through Eastertide we will have a number of opportunities to continue to grow in the faith proclaimed at Easter. On Sundays we will have our Sunday School for the children continue with the creative leadership of several adults.

Our Sunday School continues to grow and I encourage parents to bring their children to this time of learning, but also of fellowship with other Episcopalian children.

The Adult Education Class will actually have two offerings. Martin Willcocks will screen a very fine video series on the history of the Church of England/Anglican Communion as well as the Episcopal Church. I will be doing an Inquiry Class in the large youth classroom.

This class will differ from the one offered this winter. It is designed for people who would like an introduction (or a "refresher course") to the Episcopal Church and also those interested in baptism at Pentecost, May 30. It is not too late to join in on either of these classes. Come next week and jump in!

On Worship on Wednesday, WOW, we will have a series of conversations about a topic that is very current in the church: relationships and sexuality. Please see the article inside about this series. I hope you will plan on joining us for these conversations. These issues are very much a part of our life in the Diocese of Utah and at St. Stephen's. Just as in other matters in the church, I do not expect us to all agree. We are Episcopalians after all! But I do hope that these conversations will open the doors to understanding and further exploration of these issues. As in other issues, my hope is that even in our disagreements over theology or tradition, that we will continue to maintain our fellowship and care for one another as we strive to "respect the dignity of every human being."

Episcopalians can disagree about any number of issues, from

theology to church polity. But we still can gather around the altar with one another and share in our table fellowship, be it at the altar or in the parish hall.

For these WOW conversations, if you cannot make it for the dinner or the service, I hope you will come at 7:30 p.m. for the program and discussion. The Rev. Dan Webster, Diocesan Communications Director, will lead our conversations.

I am also available to meet with individuals privately to discuss this or other matters.

There is one other very important parish program that will happen in June, June 5 & 6 to be exact. It will be a time for us to look

at the history of St. Stephen's from as far back as you want to go up to what happened the previous week. We will look at this time-line in terms of sacred conversation about the history of this community, the hopes, fears, successes, losses, joys and sorrows of this parish. Please plan on attending these very important sessions. These sessions are part of our parish discernment for the future and your voice is very important. You will be getting more information on this shortly.

Peace and Blessings this Eastertide,

The Rev. W. Lee Shaw †

### To Follow the Christ

"Wake up. Perceive love. Get rich by becoming poor. Take risks. Forge community incessantly. Play. Question Dogma. Expect the unexpected. Follow the Christ.

Search the Kingdom within you. Let go. Welcome feelings. Take your own spiritual inventory, letting others deal with theirs. Nourish the earth. Untie resentments. Offer blessings. Sing ... even off key! Embrace your shadow. Follow the Christ.

Confess your vulnerability. Celebrate life. Gift yourself with quiet contemplation. Accept your universal family...all equal, all loved. Pray ... by listening. Love yourself ... really ... and your neighbor. Follow the Christ.

Delight in other faiths, noticing the connecting threads. Enjoy your sexuality. Remember that everyone has their story. Look into children's eyes, finding yourself. Laugh uproariously. Grieve openly. Follow your heart. Share, rather than compete. Create beauty. Eat with crazy friends...and enemies. Be a spendthrift with compassion. Liberate your priorities. Just be. Follow the Christ.

Excavate joy. Study scripture, not worship it. Wash feet. Consider death as a gentle birth. Establish sacred places anywhere, everywhere. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked. Commit random acts of kindness. Disdain seeking permission. Lean toward balance. Acknowledge the divine in your soul. Stand in an enemy's shoes. Avoid labels and confining roles. Follow the Christ.

Live on the edges of respectability. Be holy (wholly), not holier-than-thou.

Cherish someone. Personify the Good News. Consider the lilies of the field. Resurrect. Live passionately. Follow the Christ.

Heal. Squander charity. Receive Grace. Make things new. Visit a prisoner. Live simply. Refuse war. Grin. Review absolutes. Be a servant not a sermon. Follow the Christ.

Seek justice. Eschew idolatry. Acquire courage. Wander. Melt swords into ploughshares. Allow. Reach out to others in all sorts of embarrassing ways. Marvel. Follow the Christ.

Continue the journey, wherever you are, a step at a time. Follow the Christ.”

– Fr. Thomas L. Jackson

(Color posters of “To Follow the Christ” have been available in the past. For information as to availability contact: St. Dismas House, The Order of Christian Workers, P.O. Box 4155, Tyler, TX 75712)

*The foregoing was used in Fr. Lee’s sermon on the Great Vigil of Easter, April 10, 2004*

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. Amen

*The foregoing was used in Fr. Lee’s sermon on the Second Sunday of Easter, April 18, 2004*

## **Vestry Report**

No report submitted.

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School is going great! We have a good number of kids each Sunday. Our last day will be May 30. Thanks to all of our dedicated kids and teachers!

## **Youth Group**

The youth group has met several times. First, we had an introduction party and got to know one another, then we went bowling and had great fun. On April 17 we helped the food bank can three tons of potato flakes. It was a great service project and lots of fun too. On May 8 at noon we will do a baking project for a fundraiser for Mothers Day, May 9.

## **Search Committee**

The Search Committee met on March 28. We discussed the survey results we had received. On Saturday, June 5 in the morning and Sunday, June 6 in the evening the congregation will be lead in a sacred conversation by Tom

Thompson of the Samaritan Counseling Center of Utah. The search committee has been asked to promote the congregation's participation in the hope that this will advance healing of our community. I have met with Mr. Thompson since the last search committee meeting and now have materials to distribute to committee members. Please hold June 5th and 6th open to join our group. - *Fran Crookston, chair.*

## **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild, as Betty Johnson is in an extended stay in California, is currently led by acting director Barbara Varner.

## **Worship Committee**

St. Stephen’s Worship committee has been meeting to help Father Lee in planning services for the next church season. Episcopal worship is based on the prayer book, hymnal and lectionary, but may have various traditions established within the parish. As we meet and discuss – the topic of sacred cows – is always brought forth. What traditions do we hold as unchangeable here at St. Stephen’s? We will be meeting on May 2 at 5 p.m. to plan our worship opportunities throughout the next season - Pentecost.

A few changes the worship committee has developed with Father Lee are the arrangement of the pews in the sanctuary, more visibility of the baptismal font, the area for the children during services, an Easter Choir, and the possibility to offer special memorials and thanksgivings for the Easter services. Beginning the second Sunday of Easter we are only using one acolyte and the two chalice bearer’s at the altar during services. Chalice bearers and acolytes now have designated robes – please be responsible for yours. They are easy to keep clean being machine washable and don’t wrinkle if removed from the dryer and hung-up immediately.

Help is needed. It has become a tradition at St. Stephen’s that we offer prayer at the northwest end of the communion rail during communion. We are in need of others that feel called to or are interested in being trained for this ministry to come forward. Betty Johnson is currently in California for an extended period and Deanna Anderson will be in and out throughout the summer season. Contact Father Lee or Deanna Anderson (966-1177) for more information.

## **WoW! Worship on Wednesdays**

WoW is sponsoring a new program, “Conversations,” beginning April 21:

April 21 & 28, May 5: “How do we Read Scripture Today” video of Bishop Paul Marshall and discussion. How do we understand scripture and how has this evolved over time. This is a thoughtful and engaging video with time for discussion afterwards.

“Beginning the Conversation: Relationships, Sexuality, the Church and Us.” The Rev. Dan Webster will lead these conversations.

May 12 “Scripture: What does it say, does not say and how do we understand it regarding human relationships and intimacy.

May 19 “Marriage, Blessings and the Church: What is the sacrament of Marriage? What do we mean by blessings? What is the tradition of the church?”

May 26 “General Convention 2003 Beyond the Sound Bites: What did the Episcopal Church REALLY do? And what does this look like for us today?”

The topics of marriage, blessing of unions, sexuality and the church dominate conversations in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. These sessions begin the conversation at St. Stephen’s using scripture, tradition and reason as we look past the rhetoric and examine the theology and implications of these issues. Please come to these important and timely conversations. If you feel you cannot come to the dinner and service, please come to the conversation at 7:30 p.m.  
- Lee Shaw

### **Points to Ponder —**

The Genealogist’s Prayer: God grant me the serenity to accept the ancestors that I cannot find, the courage to find the ones that I can, and the wisdom to document thoroughly. — *posted recently on the Suffolk genealogy list.*

### **Special Events**

**Summer Camp Dates** at Camp Tuttle: Register at [www.camptuttle.org](http://www.camptuttle.org).

High School Moab Trip Camp (9th-12th)	June 20-25	\$250
3rd-4th Grade Mini-Camp	June 27-30	\$175
5th-6th Grade Camp	July 4-9	\$225
7th-8th Grade Camp	July 11-16	\$225
High School Leadership Camp	July 18-23	\$250
Family Camp August 6-8	\$35/person, \$100/3, \$25 each additional.	

**Salt Lake Episcopal Congregations** began a joint Education and Fellowship Program on the last Tuesday of each month, and it will continue through June at various parishes, with a meal, a video series about “Living with Money,” followed by discussion. The video, introduced by The Rev. John A. Dally, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Seabury Institute, will allow for healthy, open dialog about money. The next session is at All Saints, 1710 Foothill Dr., on Tuesday, April 27 at 6 p.m.

**Walk the Walk–Talk the Talk.** Come join the Bishop and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Frederick Quinn, for a Five Mile Pilgrimage Walk in June, for Jr. High and Sr. High students, from St. Mark’s to All Saints. Register by May 30, 322-4131.

### **Points to Ponder —**

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,

The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;

let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,

for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.

– *John of Damascus (8th cent.) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) (Hymn 210)*

## **Articles**

**What is Church Without Ministry?** (Part IV) — *Martin Willcocks.*

*(The second and third parts of this article detailed my sojourn in the wilderness of doubt.)*

Early on, St. Luke’s was for me a haven, a place where I drew a great deal of comfort from the friendship of the small congregation, and started to join in many activities and ministries as my faith was restored. Father Ed Howlett became the Interim there shortly after the departure of Fr. Lincoln Ure. Three months after my arrival in Heber, the job went south — I was on half time and half pay — and after five months or so, my wife initiated our divorce, which turned out in the end to be messier than I’d expected. The people of St. Luke’s supported me in many ways during this period, and when the divorce became final in early September 1991, Fr. Ed officiated at my remarriage to Kaye at the end of that month.

And I was surprised to learn that I was considered faithful because of my regular attendance, becoming a member of the Outreach Committee and later a Vestry member. I also served as a Diocesan Convention delegate. My present wife, Kaye, traveled regularly every other Sunday to play the piano there for the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist (quite an undertaking in winter conditions!) We started coming to St. Stephen’s one snow-laden day in early February 1993, when the weather prevented a visit to St. Luke’s. It was also shortly before our son, Kenny, was born. He was baptized at St. Luke’s on Easter Sunday, 1993.

At first, this was a time of reorientation for me. I was serving on St. Luke’s vestry and felt an obligation to continue being involved with the life of that community, though I was also drawn to the kind and friendly people at St. Stephen’s. The church was then equipped with pews too long to be placed straight across facing the altar, set on the platform that is now where our musicians stand, so they were oriented diagonally, herringbone-fashion. The church was also very “live” acoustically, so that a child dropping a book in a nearby pew could completely drown the reader’s voice as the noise echoed for several seconds.

After the short period when the church congregated in the old Parish Hall (now the Sunday School wing) while the sanctuary was being reshaped into the present format with pews on three sides of the altar on its new platform close to the center of the nave, I had begun to take more responsibility, and become more frequent in my attendance. Father Walt Ellingson reminded me a great deal of that other Walter, The Rev. Walter Lane, who had baptized me in Ashdon. Sadly, after a memorable “Weekend With The Bishop” at Snowbird, which we had all enjoyed, during a “routine” hospitalization, Fr. Walt suddenly died the following week.

We now faced a period of flux, as a new Vicar was to be found. The Rev. Peter Van Hook came as our Interim Vicar for a significant period, before Fr. Patrick Ward was installed. Shortly afterward, we were introduced to The Rev. Julie Fabre, who became our Deacon, and The Rev. Erika Meyer, a young woman priest who became our Assisting Priest. We also developed a choir which I was pleased to join, and this became a part of my ministry at St. Stephen’s. I had also ventured my name to serve on the vestry, but there was a slight complication – Fr. Patrick wanted to see my baptism and confirmation records from England, which took several weeks to obtain, long after the Annual Parish Meeting. But I had a new ministry – service booklets!

*(To be continued)*

## **Calendar**

### **EVERY SUNDAY**

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Adults and Children
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments, Celebrations
- 3:00 p.m. Bible Study (At Pearl Patrick’s home)

### **WEEKDAYS**

#### **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 (or Evening Prayer on occasion) - Rite II
- 7:30 p.m. 1 Hour scheduled program or discussion

#### **FRIDAYS:**

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

#### **SATURDAYS:**

- 5:30 p.m. Spanish Holy Eucharist - Santa Eucarista - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. Spanish Fellowship Hour

### **MONTHLY**

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

### **SPECIAL DATES**

- Apr 27, 6 p.m. “Living with Money” Part II - All Saints
- Apr 30, 3 p.m. Book Club Fellowship “Order of the Phoenix” at Fran’s
- May 1-2 “Seeds of Love” retreat at Sojourner House for Jr. High & Sr. High
- May 2, noon Youth project - baking for Mother’s Day fundraiser
- May 2, 5 p.m. Worship Committee meeting
- May 9 Mother’s Day fundraiser project - Youth Group
- May 25, 6 p.m. “Living with Money” Part III - Location TBD
- May 30 10:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday - Holy Baptism

### ***Deadline for the “Servant” is Monday, May 17, 2004.***

*Editor: Martin Willcocks.*

*“The Servant” is St. Stephen’s Church Newsletter and all materials in this publication are copyright © 2004 by St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, except the “Points to Ponder” (out of copyright), article on page 6, copyright © 2004 by Martin Willcocks, article on page 2, copyright © 2004 by St. Dismas House, and items from Diocesan Dialogue.*