

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

December, 2004

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West Valley City, Utah

Notes From Fr. Lee

It is not uncommon for the poet to have the more eloquent message than the preacher. Given that reality, I share my Advent/Christmas message with you in the words of the poet Ann Weems from her book, **Kneeling in Bethlehem.**

“Who among us does not have dreams

that this year will be different?

Who among us does not intend to go peacefully, leisurely, carefully toward Bethlehem, for who among us likes to cope with the

commercialism of Christmas which lures us to tinsel not only the tree

but also our hearts?

Who among us intends to get caught up in tearing around and wearing down?

Who among us does not long for: gifts that give love? shopping in serenity? cards and presents sent off early?

long evenings by the fireside with those we love?

(the trimming devoid of any arguing about who's going to hang

what where, the aroma of cinnamon and nutmeg mingling with the pine scent of the tree, and carols gently playing over our idyllic scene)

and the children! the children cheerfully talking about giving instead of getting?

Who among us does not yearn for time for our hearts to ponder the Word of God? moments of kneeling and bursts of song? the peace of quiet calm for our spirit's journey?

This year we intend to follow the Star

instead of the crowd.

But, of course, we always do intend the best.

(And sometimes best intentions tend to get the best of us!)

This year, when we find ourselves off the path again

(and we invariably will!),

let's not add yet another stress to our Advent days,

that of “trying to do Christmas correctly”!

Instead, let's approach the birth of our Lord

With joyful abandon!

And this year

let's do what Mary did and rejoice in God,

let's do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams,

let's do what the Wise Men did and go to worship,

let's do what the shepherds did and praise and glorify God

for all we've seen and heard!

As for the Advent frantic pace, we don't have time for that.

We'll be too busy singing!

This year will be different!”

May you and your loved ones have a Blessed Advent and a Joyous Christmastide.

Lee Shaw ^

Vestry Report

Greetings from the Vestry at St. Stephens. We are hopeful going into the holiday season that you are all well and are blessed with hope and thanksgiving.

The Vestry has been busy over the past month. We have tentatively set the annual meeting for January 30, 2005. There will be two vestry vacancies to fill as Virgil Knight and Laura Barber's term will be ending. Also, Carly Burton will be stepping down as Senior Warden since his term limit is up as well. All of you should be thinking about who would be worthy candidates to fill these vacancies at the annual meeting. Please talk to vestry members if you are interested or have someone to recommend.

The Stewardship program is going well so far. We are still under our budgeted pledge amount by about \$5,000, so if you have not yet filled out a pledge card please do so if you are so inclined.

We are still discussing the status of the property north of the church buildings. We have talked to a developer about housing and we have also discussed possible building expansion for the Latino Community who would like to make St. Stephens their home at some point in the future.

The search committee will be revived right after the annual meeting. We would like to expand the committee and include a broad spectrum of the parish to be represented in this important task. Please indicate to the Vestry if you are interested in order for us to make appointments. Thanks to all of you for the hard work and dedication to St. Stephens.

- Carly Burton, Senior Warden

Worship Committee

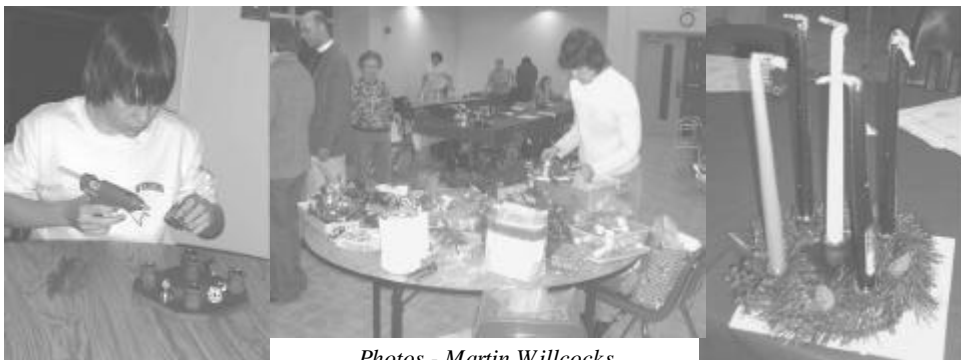
There has been no meeting since October 30. During Advent, we will have Thursday night Advent Vespers, with contemplative Taizé music. The Bishop's Visitation will take place on December 18th and 19th, with confirmations at St. Stephen's on the 19th. Some vacancies in our ministries have been filled, but there is always room for new helpers.

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

WoW! has a special Advent program this year. We will look at what each of the Gospels has to say about the coming of Jesus into the world. The traditional WoW! supper and Eucharist will precede the Bible study.

A recent WoW! program that was very interesting was a presentation by Elvie Nelson about her 2001 pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, on which she was accompanied by her father, former Bishop of Utah, Otis Charles. With a photo album from the trip and a framed Pilgrim's Passport stamped at each of the refugios along the Way of St. James, she told us it was nothing like the book written by Shirley MacLaine about her experiences.

The last two Wednesdays in November, we put together our Advent wreaths, with some interesting designs (see photos below.)



Photos - Martin Willcocks

Diocesan Convention 2004 - Elections

Diocesan Council: Indra Hill, Matthew Otten, Rev. Suzanne Duffield, Rev. Michael Mayor.

Ecclesiastical Court: Rev. Mark Brinkmann, Rev. Libby Hunter, Rev. Gwyneth Murphy, Reed C. Stock, Ph. D.

Standing Committee: Stan Ver Straten, Patricia Vidiella.

Treasurer: Barbara Losse. *Secretary of Convention:* Sandy Allen.

Delegates to 2006 General Convention: Rev. Lee Shaw, Rev. Dave Bailey, Rev. Adam Linton, Rev. Pablo Ramos, Stephen Hutchinson, Russell Babcock, Karen Cramer, Jay Stretch. *Alternates* - see page 6.

Diocesan Convention Report - Martin Willcocks

This year's Diocesan Convention was held in downtown Salt Lake City, November 12-13, 2004, at the City Centre Sheraton Hotel. As an alternate for this year, I was able to attend and visited two of the pre-Convention workshops on the Friday, as well as participating in the several sessions and other events, though not as a voting delegate. Our delegates this year were Deanna Anderson, Marjorie Ball, Dave Barber, Sandy Garrard, Reed Scharman, Louise Stowe, Junior Warden Virgil Knight and Clergy Lee Shaw. Unfortunately, the Burtons were unable to attend.

The first workshop I attended was conducted by Frederick Quinn, and the main speaker was Meg Brady, on the topic "Preserving Your Church's Story." This will be a Diocese-wide project, allowing for church members to record their faith journey and church stories informally, and confidentially. Transcriptions will be made, and the subjects will be allowed to vet and edit these before archiving in the church's records. A special story booth will be set up, allowing those who use it to receive a CD of their interview immediately afterwards. Or, interviews may be conducted in a private setting at your church. Participants will be invited to bring photos that may be scanned and added to their story transcript, and will be asked to sign a release form.

The second workshop, entitled "Smells and Bells: Candles, Vestments and Parades - What Does It All Mean?" was a liturgical primer and included a guide book for acolytes. Several pages of the handouts gave definitions and pictures of the various vestments, items placed on the altar, the seasons of the church year, and many other details of interest to anyone who wishes to participate fully in our traditions. It was presented by The Rev. Suzanne Duffield, Vicar of St. Elizabeth's, Whiterocks, and also included the real story behind the favorite Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

The Friday afternoon session of Convention, after lunch, was devoted to presentations by each of the candidates for Diocesan office. Each candidate present was able to give a short summary of their church career and their goals if elected. Since the voting for candidates took place in the first official session on Friday evening, this was an important forum for meeting and learning about the candidates.

At dinner, one of the main themes of the Convention was broached in a discourse by "Bishop Daniel Tuttle" after the lights suddenly went out and the spotlights were turned on. The story of Tuttle's ministry was told in first person form, by the costumed actor. This was a lead-up to the announcement by the Bishop of a new "Daniel Sylvester Tuttle Society" at the Saturday afternoon session, with an additional presentation by three actors portraying Bishops Tuttle, Spalding and Jones.

After dinner came the elections for candidates, a brief list is printed on page 3.

The Saturday morning session began with Holy Eucharist right after breakfast, and was followed by the resolutions. Resolution 1 requiring candidates to be resident in the Diocese was withdrawn. Res. 2, changing the status of the Dean of St. Mark's to be the Rector, was passed. No. 3 was withdrawn and replaced by a substitute resolution to audit parish congregation records, which was passed, after an amendment was passed and then withdrawn. Resolutions 4 and 5, re Convention Planning Committee and revisions to Title IV Canon 36.1.2 were both passed, as was a new resolution to move St. Barnabas into the northern Utah region.

The most controversial resolution 6, which requires the Diocese to pay all regular full-time employees a living wage by 2006, as a follow-up to the Diocese's adoption of the Decency Principles in 1996, drew two motions; the first, to refer it, failed; the second, proposed by Reed Scharman, brought attention to the lack of an adequate fiscal note, but also failed, and after a spirited call for prayer by The Rev. Gwyneth Murphy, the resolution was passed by a large majority.

Resolution 7 regarding status of an interim priest was withdrawn and its replacement was referred. The final resolution, to allow 30 days before Convention to have a reasonable review of proposed resolutions was also passed.

The final session, after Saturday lunch, began with a short presentation of Via Media, and a breakout session to give more details of this new program, which will include a DVD for each parish. This will help us to "tell our story" better, and aims to double our membership by 2020. After this, the Bishop presented her appointments and awards to many who have served the Diocese in various ways. All in all, the tone of this Convention seemed to me to be very positive, and much was accomplished.



Three Bishops of Utah

Bishop's awards

Photos - Martin Willcocks

Alternates for 2006 General Convention: Rev. Susan Wiltsey, Rev. Suzanne Duffield, Rev. Mike Mayor, Rev. Steve Anderson, Toni Marie Sutliff, Nancy Appleby, Ann Ellingson, Barbara Losse.

Special Events

Dec. 8, 15 & 22 - Advent WOW. We will look at what each of the Gospels has to say about the coming of Jesus into the world. The traditional WOW supper and Eucharist will precede the Bible study.

Dec. 9, 16, & 23 - Advent Vespers. Join us for a quiet service of scripture, prayer, Taize music, quiet and candle light as we gather to reflect on the coming of Christ into the world and into our lives.

Dec. 19 - Bishop Irish's Visitation. Our bishop will be with us this Sunday for her annual visitation with confirmations and receptions. Join us for this important day in the life of the parish and celebrate with those who will be confirmed and received this day.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve. We have a full series of services and fellowship this holy night:

5 p.m. Christ's Mass Family Service with special presentation by our Sunday School children.

6 p.m. Christmas Open House.

10:30 p.m. - Christmas Carols. Join us for a half hour of singing familiar and new carols to celebrate the birth of Christ.

11 p.m. - Festive Christ's Mass for the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Invite your friends and family to join us in this beautiful service of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Dec. 26 - The Feast of St. Stephen. Join us for our Patronal Feast and Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Our celebration of Christmas will continue throughout the Twelve Days of Christmas and will conclude on January 6 with the Feast of the Epiphany.

*St. Stephen's Annual
Christmas Eve Open House*
6:00 p.m. Until 10:15 p.m.
in the St. Stephen's
Parish Hall
4615 South 3200 West, WVC, UT

*Come as you are, by yourself, or with friends/family
Dress is Casual.
Come for a little while or spend the evening.
There will be fun, food and festivities for all ages.
You may join us afterwards for our Christmas Eve Service.
Carols start at 10:30, the service at 11:00 p.m.*

*Admission is free, but we are
accepting food for the food bank.*

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 Church conference room)

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

THURSDAYS:

- 7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers (December only)

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

Sunday, 19 December, 10:30 a.m. Bishop's Visitation

Friday, 24 December:

- 5:00 p.m. Children's Holy Eucharist
- 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Open House
- 10:30 p.m. Carols before Eucharist
- 11:00 p.m. Christ's Mass Festive Holy Eucharist

Sunday, 26 December, 10:30 a.m. St. Stephen's Day, Festival of Lessons & Carols.

Deadline for the "Servant" is Monday, 10 January, 2005.

Editor: Martin Willcocks. Phone: 969-6418, or E-mail to St. Stephen's
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