

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

Epiphany, 2004

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West Valley City, Utah

From Our Priest-in-Charge

My first month at St. Stephen's has been one of the most enjoyable times in my ministry as a priest. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know you, sharing your ministries and worshipping with you. As we move into 2004, there are a number of new things for the coming year.

The Sunday adult education class will begin a course on "How do we Read the Bible Today." This is a video introduction by Bishop Paul Marshall, Diocese of Bethlehem, PA, followed by a class discussion. This promises to be a very interesting course on how we understand and appropriate Scripture in our lives.

Beginning on Wednesday, Jan. 14, WoW! will include a class about the history, worship, and polity of the Episcopal Church. This "inquirer's class" is for people interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church as well as for life-long Episcopalians as a refresher course on the church.

We will be using the book, **Welcome to the Episcopal Church** as the basis for our conversation. The books will be available shortly. I invite you to come and join us for a wonderful supper at 6 p.m., followed by the Holy Eucharist at 7 and then the class until 8:30 p.m.

Also, please mark January 25 on your calendar for our Annual Meeting. We will be looking at some proposed by-law changes (see related article) as well as electing new Vestry members and delegates to this year's Diocesan Convention.

I am still getting to know many of you and have asked the Vestry to help me get to know you even better. Lora Barber has agreed to organize a series of "coffee and dessert" evenings hosted by the Vestry for the parish so that I can meet more of you in a more relaxed and casual setting other than Sunday worship. I am looking forward to these evenings and getting to know you better.

Peace,
Lee Shaw †

Vestry Report

As of November, 2003, the Treasurer reported a deficit of \$13,731, with income \$10,602 below budgeted revenues and expenses running \$3,130 over budget. We hope to see an improvement in the final figures for 2003, to be released at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 25. All those who have not yet turned in pledges are requested to do so as soon as possible. See the insert and pledge card for additional details. — *Carly Burton.*

Altar Guild — No report was submitted.

Search Committee

The Search Committee has obtained a locked ballot box suitable for our collection of parishioners' inputs about what we want in a new permanent priest. — *Fran Crookston.*

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

Worship on Wednesdays will continue every Wednesday evening in January; while Marjorie is away, Isabel Sullivan will be responsible. The Inquirer's Class, led by Lee Shaw, will be the program for the next few weeks, leading up to the Bishop's Visitation on March 7. — *Lee Shaw.*

Worship Committee

The worship committee will have an "organizing" meeting on Sunday, Jan. 18 right after church to look at calendars and find a time/day when we can actually sit down together for the first official meeting. The Worship Committee is open to anyone interested in learning more about the liturgy and helping to shape the liturgy at St. Stephen's. — *Lee Shaw.*

Hymn Selection Committee

The Hymn Selection Committee comprising Barbara Burton, Sandy Garrard, Dona Pederson, Luis Rábago, Lee Shaw, and Martin Willcocks, met on December 30, 2003, and picked the hymns for January. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13 at 7 p.m. Anyone interested may attend.

— *Martin Willcocks.*

Points to Ponder

*Teach me, my God and King, in all things Thee to see,
And what I do in anything, to do it as for Thee.*

— George Herbert (1593-1633), Hymn 592

Send us your Story!

The Servant would like to hear from any of our readers and we invite you to share your views and experiences on ministry, in a regular feature in the Servant. — *Martin Willcocks.*

Articles

What is Church Without Ministry? (Part I of five) — *Martin Willcocks*.

We are taught, in the Catechism, that “the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.” (BCP Page 854). The emphasis placed on the laity by their being named ahead of those people many of us refer to as “The Minister(s)” is both important and revelatory.

For years after my initiation into the Church of England, I had little concept of what was meant by lay ministry. Ministry was something the Rector did, wasn't it? So how could my call to become a member of the Church bear any relation to this? Yet, unwittingly, I *was* performing a ministry in that church, All Saints in Ashdon, Essex, by serving as a choirboy. For me, with a good singing voice, that was fun, even though it meant going to church every Sunday for Matins at 11:00 a.m., Evensong at 6:30 p.m., and (after my confirmation) Holy Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. as well! - plus choir practice on Thursday evenings.

Another ministry I unwittingly performed was to befriend a number of the choirboys who were residents at a Church of England Children's Home close to the Rectory, All Saints House. These boys were mostly not orphans, but rather victims of broken marriages who were sent to homes because neither parent could take care of them. The Master and Matron of this particular home were kindly people, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who then had a teenage daughter who also helped in their duties as caregivers. Mr. Brown died in 2002, and his wife, who had become incapacitated in 2003, was moved to an Elder Home recently, according to two of those former choirboys who were my best friends in those years.

A few years ago, I was able, almost by chance, to contact these two former friends by searching the British telephone directories for their names and phone numbers. Surprisingly, I found both of them listed, with no conflicting entries of like-named people! Since then, we have been in regular correspondence. I little knew then, as I do now, how much that friendship with people outside their boys home environment meant to them! They were invited to my birthday parties (and I to theirs) and when they left, I traveled by bicycle on my vacation specifically to visit them in their new homes, Peter in Burgess Hill, Sussex, and Roger in Colnbrook, Berkshire.

After three years at Ashdon, I started to go four miles further to Saffron Walden's formidable St. Mary The Virgin Church. My voice had broken, and I joined their choir as a bass. I also began organ lessons under the organist, Donald Burrows, F.R.C.O. A few of my former Ashdon friends had somewhat happier times as their parents had been able to restore a family life with them.

But in my self-centered way, after I went to Bristol University, I became a non-churchgoing Christian/agnostic with some very serious doubts about my own belief system and how it fitted with Church teachings. I remained in this self-imposed wilderness for thirty years, yet though I was not attending any church regularly, I still believed in the basics and was praying, or rather talking to God whenever I felt a need. Perhaps I wasn't doing enough listening!

(To be continued).

Articles

Authority: Clergy and Laity in the Emerging Church for the 21st Century — *Deborah Apodaca, Episcopal Church Women Diocesan Board President*.

This summer I attended the National Convention & ECW Triennial meeting. On the agenda was Spiritual Learning where we had the opportunity to attend workshops. I attended several and taught one too. One I would like to share with you is the information I learned from Rev. Kevin Martin who taught “Authority: Clergy and Laity in the Emerging Church for the 21st Century”. What I learned was very interesting. According to Rev. Martin 130 years ago a Bishop's answer to the question of laity's role in the church was to play cards, attend parties & let the clerics tell you what to believe. My, how times are a changing...

Why the change? Here are some of the points discussed.

- Currently only 1 of every 10 people in our society are currently involved in a church community.
- Today there is no denominational loyalty.
- Building community through intimate relationships within that community is more important to the younger generations.
- Only 35% of church members are really active. The rest are nominal. The question becomes: of these two groups, which do you want to be out there representing Christ to our unchurched neighbors?

Here are some suggestions we were given to consider:

- We now live in a world that needs Christian missionaries and you only have to go as far as next-door. Therefore we must make very sure we build a community of people who empower, enable and support each other in ministry.
- If your community is about controlling members then you are not talking about living the Trinity. You are talking about who has the power.
- We need a church community that helps us discover our spiritual gifts, nurture and train these gifts, and help mentor us in the use of these gifts.
- Small groups within our larger church community are a place to build such support and provide a place to find accountability in our faith journey.
- Discipleship is having a sense of calling to follow Christ and do ministry in Christ's name.
- Living the Trinity is living a life of service in Christ's name.
- Church communities today need to run Leadership Training Classes. There is a leadership famine, not only in our churches but in the secular world too.

Today, all of us must learn:

- That we live in a society that is largely unchurched.
- To be missionary leaders.
- To become trained leaders who can create vision.

(Continued on Page 9)

Special Announcements

Proposed By-Law Changes

At a special vestry meeting on Dec. 16, the vestry agreed to several changes to the parish by-laws to be voted on at the Annual Meeting, Jan. 25. These proposed changes are included in “*The Servant.*”

The changes outline the duties of the Sr. and Jr. Wardens. They also provide for the appointment of the Sr. Warden from the parish at large and not necessarily from the membership of the vestry. The Sr. Warden is appointed by the rector/priest-in-charge and the Jr. Warden is elected by the Vestry from its membership. Under the proposed change the Sr. Warden may be selected from outside the vestry. The appointment would then be confirmed by the Vestry. This change allows for the clergy to balance the gifts, talents, and skills of the Vestry with a person who may or may not be a Vestry member.

This system is very common in other parishes and is provided for in the new diocesan canons as well.

The proposed changes also gives a five-year limit to any Vestry member/Warden as to term of office, either by appointment or in filling the unexpired term of a member who has resigned.

Two other changes are proposed as well. The first would give seat and voice on the Vestry to the assistant/associate clergy of the parish. This formalizes the custom of the parish.

The other change is mandated for us by the new diocesan canons. This is how the Clerk of the Vestry and Treasurer are selected. Previously these individuals have been elected at the Annual Meeting. The new diocesan canons stipulate that they be elected by the Vestry. — *Lee Shaw.*

Proposed By-Law Amendments St. Stephen’s Parish

Article IV

Section 2. The Vestry shall consist of the Rector/Priest-in-charge [Vicar/Priest-in-Charge] of the Parish and six (6) Vestry members, unless the Senior Warden is selected from the parish at large, in which case the Vestry will have seven (7) members. The curate/assistant/associate priest shall be an ex-officio member of the Vestry with seat and voice.

Section 3 (c) No member of a Vestry who is elected for a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election to the Vestry until one year after the term for which he/she was elected. No Vestry member or Warden shall serve more than five (5) consecutive years in any capacity, appointed or elected.

Section 8 (a) [Two Wardens shall be annually chosen from the six Vestry members at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.] The Senior Warden shall be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting, pending confirmation by the Vestry. The Jr. Warden shall be chosen at the first scheduled Vestry meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting.

(b) [The Senior Warden of the Parish shall be appointed by the Vicar/Priest in charge from the Vestry (unless the Parish By-Laws permit the appointment to be made from the Parish at large.)] The Senior Warden is the chief lay officer of the Parish and shall be appointed by the Rector/Priest-in-charge and confirmed by the Vestry. He/she shall preside at all Vestry meetings, and be responsible along with the Rector/Priest-in-charge for all orders and resolutions of the Vestry. The Senior Warden may be appointed from the elected Vestry members or from the Parish at large. The Senior Warden may be appointed annually to a limit of three (3) consecutive one-year terms. He/she will be a communicant in good standing.

(c) [The Junior Warden of the Parish shall be elected from the six Vestry members by the Vestry members at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.] The Junior Warden shall be elected from the elected members of the Vestry by the Vestry. The Junior Warden may succeed himself/herself until the expiration of his/her term on the Vestry. If not re-elected as Warden, and a portion of his/her term on the Vestry remains, the term of services is to be completed as a Vestry member. He/she shall be a communicant in good standing.

[(d) Each Warden may succeed himself/herself until the expiration of his/her term on the Vestry. If not re-appointed or re-elected as Warden and apportion of his/her term on the Vestry remains. That term of service is to be completed as a Vestry person.

(e) Warden shall be communicants in good standing.]

to be replaced by

(d) Vacancies occurring during the year among officers of the Vestry (Junior Warden, Clerk, Treasurer) shall be filled by election by the Vestry at the next regular monthly meeting. Such Vestry officers will hold their office until the first Vestry meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting when new elections are held. A vacancy in the office of Senior Warden shall be appointed by the Rector/Priest-in-charge and confirmed by the Vestry.

Proposed changes in Section 9 - The Clerk, and Section 10 - The Treasurer, to bring the parish by-laws into conformance with newly adopted Diocesan Canons, Title IV, Sections 36.3 and 36.4:

Section 9. The Clerk

(a) shall be elected for a term of one year by the Vestry [voting members at the Annual Parish Meeting].

Section 10. The Treasurer

(a) shall be elected for a term of one year by the Vestry [voting members at the Annual Parish Meeting].

[Definition - Communicant in Good Standing: A member of the Episcopal Church, who for the previous year, has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. (Title I.17.3.) An adult Communicant in Good Standing is someone who is sixteen (16) years of age or older. (Title I.17.2.)]

Editor's Note: Text inside [brackets] is to be deleted and underlined text is to be added except the underlined words in the Definition above.

The Serenity Prayer

**God, give us the grace to accept with serenity
The things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
Which should be changed,
And the wisdom to distinguish
The one from the other.**

**Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.**

Amen.

— Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

OBITUARY

It is with regret that I inform you of the death of a founding member of St. Stephen's. Richard G. Graham, born January 27, 1920, died on June 21, 2003 in Christiansburg, Virginia. Dick was the leader of the first choir of St. Stephen's, being the only member of that group who could sing on pitch.

Dick had been transferred to the Bacchus Works of Hercules from the Radford Works in Virginia about 1960 and transferred back about 1970. A veteran of WWII and Korea, he was the winner of the Silver Star and two Bronze Stars. He is survived by his wife, Geneva, who was also a founding member, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Stan Daniels

We regret to announce that Marjorie Ball's sister Sheila died on Monday, December 30, in England. Please keep Marjorie and her sister Thora and other family members in your prayers. She will return to Utah on January 24.

Special Events

Lenten Retreat for Men and Women

Friday, February 27 to Sunday, February 29, 2004

Our Lady of the Mountains, Ogden.

Led by The Rev. Gwyneth MacKenzie Murphy

Cost: \$110. Scholarships available.

Diocesan Elections

St. James' Episcopal Church, 7486 S. Union Park Ave (1300 East), Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m.

For candidates statements and other information, please see the *Diocesan Dialogue*, January Edition.

St. Stephen's Louise Stowe is standing for At-Large, Lay Member of the Diocesan Council; The Rev. Pablo Ramos is also standing for the Diocesan Council, and Ann Ellingson is standing for Lay Member of the Standing Committee, among other candidates of interest to St. Stephen's.

Articles

Authority (Continued from Page 4)

- To win relationships through trust.
- To be able to create strategic alliances (ECW, Interfaith ministry, Outreach) with Christ-centered groups outside our church community.
- Understand the wider culture.
- Understand the internal life of our congregations.

The transformation-taking place is happening because we are moving from:

- A homogenous to a pluralistic society.
- Professional Pastors to Missionary Leaders.
- Lay Leaders to Volunteers for mission.

What this points out is that the cleric/laity roles are blurring and are breaking down. It is no longer we the laity seeing ourselves below the priest in our ministry, but we are now seeing ourselves empowered to do ministry as all ministry, although different, is equal. The past where a Bishop saw us, the laity role, as strictly a social one, is long gone. The days of where we the laity looked to our Priests, Bishops and perhaps a Deacon to tell us how to believe and to direct us what to do for ministry is long gone too. I believe this to be true as this has been and continues to be my experience. — *Deborah Apodaca.*

Editor's Note: *Deborah is a former member of St. Stephen's, now living in Arizona.*

Special Events

Episcopal Day at the State Legislature Tuesday, January 27, 9 a.m.

How would you like to make a DIFFERENCE?

- *Ensuring tax fairness for low income families*
- *Passing payday lending regulations*
- *Getting more money for affordable housing*
- *Supporting passage of hate crimes legislation*

Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC) invites you to participate:

- CORC encourages all Episcopalians to commit to social justice by visiting the legislature on this special day and participating in the legislative process. On the spot training and materials provided.

Anyone interested in attending should meet in Room 4112 of the **State Office Building** (grey building behind Capitol) **at 9 a.m.** — Look for the CORC sign! Bring a picture ID. Call Linda at 364-7765 if you have questions or need directions. **If you cannot attend** your CORC day, join others on 1/29/04, 2/5/04, or 2/10/04 at 9 a.m. in the State Office Building, Room 4112.

Special Events

Affirmations

You Can End Poverty Saturday January 24, 2004, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Diocesan Center. Call the Rev. Cheryl Moore at (801)322-4232 ext. 362 for details.

The Diocese was one of the first to endorse the Decency Principles project ten years ago. It is a practical way of empowering people to bring an end to poverty in our community. A priest of this Diocese, The Rev. Ronald Thomas, was one of the catalysts of the Decency Principles project. Linda Hilton, executive director of the Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC), offers the challenge to us to recommit ourselves to ending poverty in our lifetime.

Center Reading Group

The Gospel of Magdala by Karen King. Begins January 7.

Center for Spiritual Development and Renewal, 75 S. University Street, Salt Lake City, Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:00

The Wednesday Reading Group at the Center for Spiritual Development and Renewal has completed their study of *Beyond Belief* and are moving on to Karen King's book *The Gospel of Magdala* which is about one of the fragments of text found in the cache of documents at Nag Hammadi. Discussions of this gospel will include:

Its history in the early church.

How it has been interpreted and its meaning when first written.

Theological reasoning for its non-acceptance as part of the scriptural canons of the church.

Implications and the Gospel's relevance for Christians today.

Reading and discussions will begin Wednesday January 7th at the Center. For more information please call Ivan Cendese at 359-8104.

Monday Reading Group

Beyond Belief, by Elaine Pagel. Begins January 12.

Diocesan Center, 80 S 300E, SLC. Mondays, 12 noon - 1 p.m.

The ongoing Monday reading group at the Diocesan Center each week will begin the New Year reading Elaine Pagel's interesting and thoughtful book about the early church and its impact on our beliefs today. For more information, call the Diocesan Office at 322-4131 or 800-343-4756.

Coming Soon:

Utah's First Four Bishops — The Rev. Dr. Frederick Quinn
Middle-Earth Spirituality: The Fragrance of Ithilien — Rev. Adam Linton

Why Anglicans do the things they do — Dr. Norman Jones, U.S.U.

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 with Pat Pitcher (At Pearl Patrick’s home)

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS:

- 6:00 p.m. Garden Guild (mainly during spring through fall months)
- 7:00 p.m. Hymn Selection Meeting (when scheduled)
- 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting (when scheduled.)

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 - Rite II
- 7:30 p.m. Inquirer’s Class - *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*

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 |
| Tuesdays | Vestry Meetings |

SPECIAL DATES

- January 10, 2004 9:30 a.m. 98th Diocesan Convention Elections, St. James
- January 20, 2004 7:30 p.m. Vestry meeting.
- January 25, 2004 12:00 noon **Annual Parish Meeting.**
- January 27, 2004 Episcopal Day – Utah State Legislature
- March 7, 2004 **Bishop’s Visitation**

Deadline for the February “Servant” is Monday, January 26.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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