

# Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



## The Servant

February, 2004

Volume 12 Issue 4

West Valley City, Utah

### Notes From Fr. Lee

With the cold and snow it seems improbable to be thinking and planning for Lent and our preparations for Easter. But, we now enter into the forty days and forty nights of fasting, self-examination, penitence and preparation for the Easter feast.

I think of Lent in terms of simplifying our lives as a means of coming into touch with those things that really matter for us. It is a time of quieting ourselves and going deeper into ourselves. Disciplines of fasting, study, reading, and worship help us focus on those aspects of our lives that we all too often take for granted.

I invite you to the observance of a Holy Lent as you prepare for the Easter feast. But this does not mean we can't enjoy ourselves as well! Our parish Lenten Program, "Jesus of Hollywood," offers a time for us to sit back, watch a movie and then reflect on how this image of Jesus fits with our own mental

### Points to Ponder

He was the word that spake it;  
He took the bread and brake it;  
And what his word did make it;  
That I believe and take it.

image and understanding of him. I did this program several years ago at St. James' and found it to be a very enjoyable and thought provoking series of evenings.

We will begin with a simple supper and then watch the movie. There will be child care available for those children too young to stay with us for our own program. Each evening we will conclude with Compline to close the day. I hope you will put these evenings on your calendar and plan on joining us for "Jesus of Hollywood." This is also an excellent opportunity to share the community and life of St. Stephen's with family and friends by inviting them to join us for these evenings.

I am looking forward to our time together this Lent, on Wednesday evenings as well as Sundays as we come together as a community to worship, learn and prepare ourselves for the Paschal Mystery.

Lee Shaw †

- Queen Elizabeth I

### Vestry And Annual Parish Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting was held on January 25 after the service. Current Vestry Members Lora Barber (2005), Amy Penrod (2006), Isabel Sullivan (2006), and Junior Warden Virgil Knight (2005) continue in office to the stated year. New Vestry Members elected for a three-year term (to 2007) were Wendy White, and Louise Stowe, who completed Alison Moffat's term last year. Carly Burton, whose Vestry term expired, was re-appointed as Senior Warden as a member of the Parish at large under the revised By-Laws, which were passed by a vote of the 61 members present. Cindy Scharman announced that she would step down as Parish Clerk after the meeting. We thank Cindy for her many years of excellent work as clerk of the Vestry. The new clerk of the vestry and the treasurer will be elected by the vestry per the amended bylaws.

Convention Delegates elected were Marjorie Ball, Dave Barber, Barbara Burton, Sandy Garrard and Reed Scharman; alternates were Deanna Anderson, George Johnson, Louise Stowe, Martin Willcocks, and Martha Rice. The Treasurer, Dave Kelly, presented his report, showing a deficit of \$17,180 for 2003, but a budget of \$161,864 for 2004 will probably be reduced as several items were not exactly known at the time the budget was prepared. It is clear from the budget presented to the parish that we need to increase the pledges for the current year. If individuals have not pledged, there are pledge cards available on the table in the gathering area. The loss of income is due to a variety of reasons, including the loss of revenue from Vida Nueva since they left St. Stephen's last year. We hope that during the course of the year that some expenses will be reduced and more pledges will come in to help balance the budget for 2004. Several other reports were included in the Annual Report, which can be obtained from the church office.

### Search Committee

The Search Committee has not met since the last issue. A survey form is in this newsletter (pp. 5-6). If you are a current member of St. Stephen's, you can fill out this form by listing in order of importance to you on the reverse side the letters corresponding to as many of the characteristics listed on the front as you feel to be desirable for selection of our next rector. If you consider that additional characteristics are important, please list them as well; or you can, if you wish, write a short outline of your preferences, considering the following questions: What do I want in a new rector? What does St. Stephens need in its next rector? What characteristics are most important for the new rector in order for St. Stephens to be the kind of church/congregation that would grow as I envision?. You can then place the filled-out survey anonymously in the locked box on the table in the Gathering Space. - Fran Crookston.

**We welcome submissions to the Servant** - see page 11 for e-mail address. Tell us your story!

## **Worship Committee**

The Worship Committee met February 1 at 5:30 p.m. and agreed to try out a new pew arrangement, which is now in place. The pews have been rearranged closer to the altar, and in a more circular pattern, to reinforce the feeling of community in our worship. The children's area has also been moved so that they can be more involved in the service. As our music area no longer accommodates La Vida Nueva, the piano has been located centrally for better acoustics. Committee members are Lee Shaw, Luis Rabago, Deanna Anderson, Barbara Burton, Fran Crookston, Betty Johnson, Amy Penrod, Louise Stowe, Isabel Sullivan, and Martin Willcocks. The next meeting is February 29 at 5.

## **Catch Me if You Can Program Modified**

Our very popular and positive "Catch Me If You Can" Program has been modified with some changes in how it operates. Please see the new guidelines posted in the parish hall. Then, be on the look out for our young people doing something good and helpful in church and sign their card.

## **EFM at St. Stephen's**

Fr. Lee is preparing to start an Education for Ministry (EFM) group at St. Stephen's beginning next Fall. EFM is a four-year program from the University of the South, School of Theology at Sewanee, TN, that examines Scripture, Church History and Theology. It is a comprehensive look at these topics that is based on a seminary curriculum. Although it is a four-year program, individuals register for just one year at a time and take a break from the program as needed.

EFM also has a method for theological reflection that helps to bring the study of these topics into the daily life of the participants. It is an exciting and enjoyable program of study and reflection.

Enrollment is through the School of Theology and there is a tuition of \$325 which includes all materials. Scholarships are available.

This will be an evening class with Fr. Lee as the mentor. Please see him for further information.

## **WoW! Worship on Wednesdays**

During Lent, our program will be modified to dinner at 6 p.m., a movie at 6:45 p.m., followed by a discussion. See Special Events in this issue.

## **Youth Group to be Formed**

Lee Shaw and Amy Penrod will be forming a new Youth Group at St. Stephens. Watch The Servant for details!

## **Article-The Importance of Women in Ministry by Deborah Apodaca.**

My Creator has given me a gift, and that gift is the use of my intellect, my education, my life experience and my fearlessness to share information. I am a woman who has been involved in women's ministries for over 20 years.

I am still waiting for women my age and younger to show up. Where are they?

When I first came to the Diocese of Arizona 10 years ago I soon became involved with the Diocesan Board of the Episcopal Church Women. The reason given for the lack of involvement was "Women are working." That didn't ring entirely true as women, from my generational viewpoint, have been working always. Not having the answer I put that thought to ferment at the back of my brain as I continued in my spiritual journey. Now all these years of experience later I have found myself led to do some serious research and I've read books, surfed the Internet, periodicals, on-line discussion groups; the whole gamut. What I have discovered is rather troubling and yet easily remedied if we as a community are willing to do what it takes to bring the women back.

First we need to acknowledge there is a difference in genders. Physically, men and women are different, emotionally men and women are different, and would it be any surprise to say we are also different spiritually? We are. Men created the Christian Church and all you need to do for proof is to read scripture. Why are there so few stories about women? Why is the tradition that Mary Magdalene was a whore when it says that nowhere in scripture? Why do we continue telling our daughters from the pulpit that because of a woman, Eve, sin came into the world? Why? Why? Why!!

Apparently I am not the only woman asking these questions. I discovered from a survey done by Wade Clark Roof, a professor of religion at the University of California, that he found that 42% of the 76 million baby boomers, one-third of the population of the US, are religious dropouts. Most of these are women. Women who know that their feminist spirituality proclaims wholeness, healing, love and spiritual power not as hierarchal, as in overpower, but as Power For, as an enabling power. Spiritual development for woman, unlike for men, is not about surrendering self so much as to coming to self. The way we do this is through community. A community where we also see God, our creator, as feminine, a sacred safe place free of the stain of sexism, with imagery that empowers the feminine, a community that welcomes women to places of power, engages us fully as equals, that helps heal our wounds and empower our loves. In practical terms this means the use of feminine pronouns also when speaking of God. This means when it comes to making community decisions it is through discussion and consensus, not from the top down. It means a radical change from traditional ritual and an honest look of all that we currently hold sacred.

Until then, women will continue to create their own sacred circles outside of mainstream Christianity. I use to kid that if I were to leave the Episcopal Church I would have to create the "Church of Deborah." Now I understand what I was saying. I have never felt totally accepted by mainstream Christianity. Why? The stories and rituals tell me how unimportant I am, as a woman, every week.

So where are the women? They are off doing spiritual things their way somewhere else and along with them their children. When we are committed to meeting the needs of woman spirituality, along with the men's, church will again become a priority for women. Yes, women are working, but they always have. Today we are simply empowering ourselves with different choices. We empower ourselves to feed our souls our way. — *Deborah Apodaca, Episcopal Church Women Diocesan Board President.*

### St. Stephen's Preference Questionnaire

- A. Teaches and works directly with adults in adult religious education classes and/or special seminar series.
- B. Participates in community projects and organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity, community involvement).
- C. Ministers to the sick, dying, and bereaved.
- D. Works with congregational boards and committees.
- E. Oversees church office activities, church bulletins, correspondence, records, etc.
- F. Preaches sermons.
- G. Visits new residents and recruits new members.
- H. Counsels with people about their personal problems.
- J. Teaches and works directly with children, visits Sunday School, preaches children's sermon, etc.
- K. Teaches and works directly with young people Junior High and High School age in classes and/or fellowship groups.
- L. Administers baptism and communion, conducts weddings and funerals.
- M. Leads financial drives and building programs.
- N. Talks with individuals about their spiritual development, religious life and beliefs.
- P. Participates in denominational activities and conferences.
- R. Helps plan church budget and manage church finances.
- S. Maps out objectives and plans overall church strategy and program.
- T. Interests capable people in church activities; recruits, trains, and assists lay leaders.
- U. Visits regularly in the homes of the congregation.
- V. Counsels people facing major decisions of life, such as marriage.
- W. Supplies new ideas for activities and projects.

### St. Stephen's Preference Questionnaire

Please rank the questions on the previous page in order of your preferences for the qualifications you desire in a new parish priest by placing as many of the corresponding letters as you wish against the priority numbers below. This survey is anonymous - do not identify yourself. Place the questionnaire in the locked ballot box when you have completed it.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
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- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_

## Articles

***What is Church Without Ministry?*** (Part II) — *Martin Willcocks.*  
(The first part of this article detailed my experiences of my early church life in England.)

Faith and doubt seem forever opposed. But doubt, ultimately, strengthens faith, and leads one to a fuller and more intimate relationship with God, as I have found.

I started this wrestling with God after leaving home for a strange city and a different culture from the small village of Ashdon, where I had lived for four years. I had been accepted into a Special Honors B.Sc. program at Bristol University (this was a four-year course in Physics, crammed into three years.) Armed with a smaller than necessary grant from my State Scholarship, I sought out “digs” in a suburban area close to the university, so that I could bicycle to the lectures and recreational facilities. The initial value of this grant left me only enough to pay for rent, with nothing over for books or outside food (the guest house provided my regular meals.)

In my first term, there were some social functions within the University, and I joined several social groups, but I would also spend time in the evenings at a coffee bar called “The Bolero” in the center of Bristol. It was there that I met Janet, who was a Roman Catholic daughter of an often drunken bookmaker and his submissive wife living in Bedminster. She was pure light to me, and the girl of my dreams (literally), but the relationship became stormy later when she felt I was getting too serious about her. Every day we met after our respective school days ended, and walked three miles back to her home together. One Sunday, we visited Bristol Cathedral for a Latin Mass. Despite my four years learning Latin in school, I found this impossible to understand and follow, a fact that has to this day made me thankful that Henry VIII effected a change to the vernacular in the English church! I wrestled, among other things, with the concept that to marry her, I would have to convert to Roman Catholicism, and even if I didn’t, would have to commit to bringing up our children in that faith. But marriage was not on the cards at all until we both finished college. The relationship was suspended abruptly when one morning I saw her wave to me from a bus headed for Gloucester, from whence she didn’t return (nor did she write.)

Some seven years later, after living in Cambridge since failing to graduate in Bristol, I took a vacation trip to that city and learned her parents’ phone number. At that time I had just moved to Newmarket, and was working in London, so I had a lengthy two-hour commute each morning and evening. Tentatively, I called the number, talked to her mother, who gave me her address, and I wrote to her. Her 22-page reply confirmed that she had waved from the bus, and wondered if I had seen her, and detailed her story since that time. She was about to depart for Australia with her older sister, Wendy, and I had one more chance to meet her before she left. I corresponded with her over the next seven years, but eventually a Christmas card was returned – she had told me she was considering becoming a nun.

During this period, doubts multiplied – I doubted even the virgin birth as contrary to science; I had never believed in transubstantiation; I even wondered whether God really existed, though I tried to talk to Him every day. What I didn’t know was that He was there with me throughout my long trek in the wilderness.

*(To be continued)*

## Special Events

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Feb. 24

Join us for the traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. The pancake supper derived from the practice of using up all of the animal fat in the home prior to Lent, and so pancakes were cooked to use it up. Regardless of what you are planning to give up or take on during Lent, come join us for fun and food and lots of pancakes!

### Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25.

We will have the Holy Eucharist and imposition of ashes on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. Please come to this simple and powerful liturgy as we enter into the Season of Lent and preparation for the Easter Feast.

On Ash Wednesday we will continue the WOW dinner at 6 p.m. Following the liturgy we will gather back in the parish hall to finish our discussion on the book “Welcome to the Episcopal Church” as part of our Inquiry Class.

### “Jesus of Hollywood” - This Year’s Lenten Program

Come join us this year in a special and fun Lenten program as we examine how Jesus is portrayed by Hollywood and how that image reflects our own view of him and his teaching. The program is open to all members of the parish and your neighbors and friends as well. This program will begin on Wednesday, March 3 and continue for the following six weeks, ending on Wednesday of Holy Week.

We will begin each Wednesday at 6 p.m. with a simple supper and then watch the latter part of various movies of Jesus, from the entry into Jerusalem to the resurrection. We will watch a different one each week. We will then have time for conversation about the film: Did you like it? How was Jesus portrayed? Is this the image you have of Jesus? Did your find it comforting? Inspiring? Disconcerting?

We will end each evening with Compline. Child care will be provided.

### Bishop Irish’s Visitation - March 7

Bishop Irish will make her annual visitation to St. Stephen’s on Sunday, March 7. Please plan on attending and supporting those members of the parish who will be confirmed or re-affirm their Baptismal Covenant.

If you are interested in being confirmed or making a public affirmation of your Baptismal Covenant while the Bishop is with us, please see Fr. Lee as soon as possible.

### Baptisms during the Great Vigil of Easter - April 10

The Great Vigil of Easter is the traditional time for baptisms. If you or a member of your family desires to be baptized at the Vigil, please see Fr. Lee as soon as possible.

## Special Events

### *Affirmations for Spring*

#### Poetry, Hymnody, and Prayer: Voices of the Heart

*Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish*

Among the feast days of the Lenten Season, we celebrate the great Anglican poets who have enriched our worship for centuries. This Lent Bishop Irish will visit congregations in the diocese to share some of the richness of our tradition. This class offers an opportunity to discover the distinctive gifts they bring to our prayers and praises of God. Please bring notebooks or journals; we may let our own hearts find voice as well! All are welcome.

Saturday March 6, 7:00 - 9:00 pm St. Stephen's, West Valley City

#### Origins of the Anglican Way: Elizabethan Politics of Religion

*Prof. Norm Jones*

The Anglican Via Media, or middle way, has characterized who we are as a denomination and group of believers from the beginning of our church. Come hear Prof. Jones talk about the fascinating history that helped create and shape who we are as a people today, and set the stage for some of our great strengths of the Episcopal Church as well as some of our deep disagreements.

Norm Jones is a Professor of History at Utah State University in Logan, with a special interest in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries and a passion for the impact and formation those years have on our Anglican identity. He is a member of St. John's Logan.

Saturday February 28 9:30 - 12:30 St. Paul's, Salt Lake City

#### Utah's First Four Bishops

The Episcopal Church's first half century of history in Utah was colorful, dramatic, tense at times, and never dull. It produced several leaders of national importance and a vibrant local worshiping community. Frederick Quinn, Priest Associate at All Saints Episcopal Church, is a historian who has written several books on history, law, and religion. He will offer a fascinating look at our early Utah history through the lives of our first four missionary bishops.

Saturday March 6 9:00 - 12:00 St. Michael's, Brigham City;

Saturday March 20 9:00 - 12:00 St. Peter's, Clearfield

Saturday March 27 9:00 - 12:00 St. Mary's, Provo

#### Middle-Earth Spirituality: The Fragrance of Ithilien

Following on his introductory presentation on J.R.R. Tolkien of two years ago, the Rev. Adam Linton will lead a reflection and discussion on spiritual

values to be found in the Middle-Earth mythology: reverence for creation, delight in its diversity, acceptance of life's risks and limits, non-possessiveness, compassion, loyalty, and the vocation to foster a re-mythologized vision of the world — "seeing as we were meant to see."

Friday March 26 7:00 - 9:00 pm Good Shepherd, Ogden

Saturday March 27 10:30am - 12:30pm All Saints, Salt Lake City

#### Lenten Quiet Day

The Rev. Mike Mayor

A day for a time apart during the season of Lent. Come prepared to enjoy the quiet, the thoughtful reflections and the marvelous light and space of this peaceful environment. Bring a lunch, beverages will be provided.

Saturday March 13 9am - 2pm All Saints Church, Salt Lake City

#### Sojourner House

During this season please consider taking take advantage of our wonderful diocesan Center for Spiritual Development and Renewal - Sojourner House. It is available for quiet study and individual retreats not just during Lent but throughout the year. If you would like to set up time for an individual quiet day or private retreat please call the Rev. Cheryl Moore at 322-4131x362.

#### Multiculturalism and Pluralism : A New World for the Church

Rev. Dr. Frederick Quinn

Once upon a time our experience of church was a place that we went to worship and share with people who were 'just like us'. If we traveled from one state to another, the people we met at church would still be 'just like us'. In the world we live in today that is still true in some places, but in many places urban, suburban, and rural it is no longer the case. Today's world of ease in travel, moving for employment and educational opportunities and international immigration has changed the face of many communities and along with that the churches in their midst. Come and learn about how these changes are part of who we are in the Episcopal Church and in our own community.

The Rev. Dr. Frederick Quinn is a historian and author and once a member of the Foreign Service. He will bring his years of experience and understanding about these issues to this topic.

Saturday February 28 7 - 9 pm Grace Church, St. George

It helps if we have an idea how many are coming - please call Ms. Azra Zencic at the Diocesan Office at 801-322-4131 or 1-800-343-4756 for any of the above activities.

For questions about Affirmation Offerings or suggestions and requests for Diocesan Programs please call the Rev. Cheryl Moore, Director of Campus and Community Education at the Diocese at 322-4131 x362

## **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 - Rite II
- 7:30 p.m. 1 Hour scheduled program or discussion (note changes for Lent)

#### FRIDAYS:

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

#### SATURDAYS:

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

### **MONTHLY**

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

### **SPECIAL DATES**

- Feb. 24 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Feb. 25 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy, after WoW! Dinner at 6.
- Mar. 3 6:00 p.m. WoW! Lenten Program: Jesus of Hollywood.
- Mar. 6 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vestry Retreat.
- Mar. 6 5:30 p.m. Bishop's Visitation to the Santa Eucarista
- Mar. 6 7:00 p.m. Bishop's Lenten program at St. Stephen's.
- Mar. 7 Bishop’s Visitation - Confirmation, Reception and Re-affirmation
- Apr. 10 Great Vigil of Easter - Baptisms

***Deadline for the March “Servant” is Monday, March 14, 2004.***

***Editor: Martin Willcocks.***

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