

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

February, 2006

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West Valley City, Utah

Rector's Reflections

I was very pleased at the turnout and the participation at our Annual Parish Meeting last month. I believe it shows a renewed vitality and awareness of our community and community needs as we all gathered to look at our life together as St. Stephen's/San Esteban. These are new and exciting times in the parish as we expand our circle of hospitality to the members of San Esteban who moved to St. Stephen's on the First Sunday of Advent, 2005.

These are very exciting times for St. Stephen's. I have the sense of renewal and freshness as we move into 2006 together. Our Stewardship Program this year has been very successful, allowing us to move ahead in many programs in the parish. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in supporting our ministries.

I have been so impressed with the willingness of members of St. Stephen's to come forward and help in our programs, from Sunday School to Youth Group to WOW to Altar Guild to liturgical assistance in bulletins, music and lay assistants to any number of ministries seen and unseen that help keep our parish going. I am so grateful for each of you that give of yourself so generously for the benefit of the broader community.

Throughout the diocese I hear over and over how welcoming and friendly St. Stephen's is. Your hospitality over flows into the ways you show hospitality to our parish through your various offerings of help and service. Thank you.

2006 is going to be a very good year for St. Stephen's.

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Vestry

Following the Annual Meeting last month, I am honored to be serving you as Senior Warden for another year. We welcome Glenn Hollander and Virgil Knight to the Vestry. The new Junior Warden will be elected at the vestry meeting on February 21. My hope is that this will be a year of continued growth in community and fellowship. With Father Lee Shaw now our Rector, we can move forward on our journey in Christ. - Isabel Sullivan.

Worship Committee

At the last Worship Committee meeting, we discussed the format for Lenten services. The Ash Wednesday service will be bilingual, held jointly with San Esteban, with only minor changes from last year. During Lent we will be using the Rite I liturgy. The first Sunday of Lent, March 5, we will use the Great Litany. Throughout the season of Lent we will be using a simplified bulletin. If you have a personal Book of Common Prayer, you may wish to bring it with you on Sundays for your use.

The new bulletin format was also discussed, and the decision was made to use the Prayer Book for most of the Lenten liturgy, with only those items not listed in the BCP being included in the bulletin. We will not have service music, and the psalm will be said, not sung.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is still in need of a few people. Please see Betty Johnson if you are interested. We could also use extra ushers.

Youth Group

Our Youth Group has a meeting scheduled for March 11 at 5:30 p.m. Becky Ball is the SWAP director, and the last meeting, a party on February 11 held jointly with another parish, was very well attended.

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

We owe many thanks to Marjorie Ball for initiating, developing, and maintaining our most successful Worship on Wednesday program these past few years. Now that she is unable to continue her regular presence in our kitchen, I will be coordinating the food preparation and service. We have people signed up for meal preparation through Ash Wednesday. It has been decided we will do "soup and bread" suppers at WoW during Lent. We will again have a signup sheet in the parish hall for bringing (or preparing in our kitchen) soup, salad, or bread. Our regular kitchen team will still be available for setting up, assisting with preparation and service, and clean up following. We will need three or four pots of soup each week, and probably about three or four loaves of bread (depending on size). - Isabel Sullivan.

Adult Sunday School

This year, the consensus seems to be in favor of continuing a video series during Lent. The recent programs, “Sisters: Portrait of a Benedictine Community” and “Cathedral: Lincoln” featuring Hugh of Avalon who rebuilt it after an earthquake, and also challenged Kings Henry II, Richard, and John, were very well received. Most recently, a program about Dietrich Bonhoeffer was shown and discussed. We hope to keep it educational and inspirational, with a repeat of the video miniseries “Peter and Paul” starring Anthony Hopkins during Easter.

Annual Meeting Summary

On Jan. 29, we met for the Annual Parish meeting for St. Stephen’s. This year for the first time we also had members of San Esteban meeting with us. To reflect the expanded nature of our parish, a change in our bylaws was passed to allow for the addition of 2 members from San Esteban with seat, voice and vote on the Vestry.

Isabel Sullivan was reappointed as Sr. Warden. New Vestry members elected were Glen Hollander and Virgil Knight. Amy Penrod’s and Isabel Sullivan’s terms on the Vestry expired, but Isabel will remain on as Sr. Warden. The Vestry will elect a Jr. Warden at their meeting in February.

The following people were elected as delegates to Diocesan Convention: Carly Burton, Deanna Anderson and Fran Crookston. Dan Herron and David Evans were elected as alternates. Two members from San Esteban will be appointed as delegates by their congregation. The reduction in total St. Stephen’s delegates reflects the recent audit of membership records in the parish as reported on the Parochial Report.

At the close of the meeting, we dedicated and blessed the former conference room as “The Rev. Marjorie Black Memorial Library.” This dedication honors her memory and ministry at St. Stephen’s and her continued legacy to the parish.
- Lee Shaw

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

By a show of hands during church services on Feb. 12, 2006, it was determined we should have a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, February 28, beginning at 6 p.m.. Let us know if you have a griddle. There will be a sign-up sheet in the parish hall for those preparing pancakes, sausages, eggs, etc., and for setting up and cleanup. A free will offering will be graciously accepted to cover costs. We always have enjoyed these pancake suppers, so come along, and join in the fun.

Following supper we will also burn the palms from last Palm Sunday to be used on Ash Wednesday. If you have palms at home, please bring them with you on Shrove Tuesday.

Articles – by The Rev’d Lee Shaw.

Fr. Lee offered the following invocation at the Utah State Senate on Wednesday, Feb. 15:

Legislature Prayer
Utah State Senate
Feb. 15, 2006

Gracious and loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose will is love and grace and whose law is truth and justice: We ask you so to guide and bless the Utah State Senate, that they may enact such laws as shall please you and thus serve your holy people. Give them wisdom and grace to respect the dignity of every human being and to see the goodness and equality of all people: of all races, languages, sexualities and social standings; and thus to heed the word of your prophet to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with you their God; to the glory of your name and the benefit of this people, through Jesus Christ our Lord who with You and the Holy Spirit lives one God in glory everlasting. Amen.

Affirmations Events

Lenten Retreat for Men and Women

The Rev. Gwyneth Murphy

March 10-12, (Friday evening through Sunday noon); Our Lady of the Mountains

Lent invites us to slow down and enter deeply into the mystery of the Spirit, to contemplate the mystery of Christ within. During this weekend we respond to Lent's beckoning, through movement and stillness, conversation and silence. Registration deadline: Friday, March 3. Retreat limited to twenty people. Each retreatant will have a private room. Cost: \$115.00, includes two nights lodging and five meals; \$35 dollar deposit non-refundable after Friday, March 2nd; Limited scholarships of up to \$35 available.

To register, please call Julia at the Diocesan Offices (800-343-4756 or 801-322-4131) or download the registration form from the Diocesan website (episcopal-ut.org) and mail to Julia at EDU, P.O. Box 3090, SLC 84110-3090. Letter or e-mail with details and directions to Our Lady of the Mountains will be sent out on March 3.

Special Events

Via Media, 2006

We will host the *Via Media* program again this Lent. We will have the program on Saturday's, from 9 a.m. to noon. The programs will run on March 11 and 18 and then April 1 and 8. Each Saturday we will watch and discuss two of the video conversations on theology and the church. On the final Saturday, a light lunch will be provided.

Via Media is a wonderful introduction to the Episcopal/Anglican expression of the Christian Faith. It is presented in the format of taped conversations that are then continued in the small groups gathered around tables. It offers a comprehensive look into the teachings, practices and polity of the Episcopal Church.

Individuals interested in Baptism or Confirmation are encouraged to come to the *Via Media* programs this year. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of copying the media and refreshments.

This is also an excellent (and easy) way to invite your friends and neighbors to come with you to learn more about the Episcopal Church and your life at St. Stephen's. Invite a friend to come with you on these SwSaturdays.

Two Ash Wednesday Services, March 1

We will hold two Ash Wednesday services on March 1. There will be a 7 a.m. services of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist for those who wish to observe this day prior to going to work.

At 7 p.m., we will have a joint Ash Wednesday Service with San Esteban. This bi-lingual service will also have the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist.

Worshipping with Children

Our parish continues to be blessed with an increasing number of families with children in worship. We have a "quiet area" set aside for small children during the service. We invite parents to sit close by to monitor their children in this area. We also ask that parents keep children with them during the worship service and help them to worship with you. There is a pamphlet, "Children and Worship" on the table in the Gathering Area that offers suggestions for you.

Services

Since the Rev. Pablo Ramos is now Assisting Priest at St. Stephen's as well as San Esteban's Vicar, he will regularly preside at one service each month and preach at another. On March 19th, he will preside and preach. We are also inviting candidates for ordained ministry to preach at one service each month.

Special Events

WENDOVER ON THE BUS:

We had so much fun on our last trip to Wendover, we're going again! On Saturday, May 13, we'll leave the parking lot of St. Stephen's at 8:30 a.m. We'll return to the parking lot about 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person, and covers the bus trip, buffet, cash back, drinks, and bingo prizes. Invite your family and friends to join us. Hint: this might make a good, early Mother's Day gift! Sign up soon, and pay by May 1. For more information, talk to Fran Crookston, Betsy Herron, or Judy Carter.

St. Stephen's Cookbook:

Do you have a favorite family recipe that others have asked you to share? Now is your chance. Submit your recipes to Wendy White, Martha Rice, or Isabel Sullivan in person or by e-mail before March 15 for inclusion in our own St. Stephen's cookbook. Include a note, if desired, about a family tradition associated with your dish.

Do you have a clever name for our cookbook? Submit suggestions to me. The one with the winning suggestion will receive a free St. Stephen's cookbook, with all the mouth watering recipes you contribute! We need your recipes for our cookbook. If you have e-mail capability, send your recipes to Wendy by e-mail to meowmommy@prodigy.net. Our hope is to have this published and ready for sale by June. - Isabel Sullivan

Creation Theology in a New Era

The Right Rev. Carolyn Tanner Irish

March 3, 6:30-9pm; Ascension St. Matthew's, Price

March 31, 6:30-9pm; Grace, St. George

Human beings have long responded to the natural world, "our island home" with fear and wonder, manipulation and appreciation, contempt and reverence. Christian theology has only recently begun to face into the full challenges of living faithfully in God's household. This class offers an occasion to reflect on some of these challenges and to discover their implications for present and future generations.

Points to Ponder: From a recent genealogy list posting:

THE SENILITY PRAYER:

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
the good fortune to run into the ones I do,
and the eyesight to tell the difference. - Anon.

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Missa
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Education
- 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

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS

- 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 - 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. Santa Eucarista - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. Latino Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

- 2nd. Tuesday Hymn Selection Meeting
- 3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings
- 2nd. Saturday SWAP - Youth Group Meeting

SPECIAL DATES

- February 28 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 1 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy (bilingual)
- March 4-5 Sr. High 30 Hour Famine at St. James
- March 10-12 Lenten Retreat - Our Lady of the Mountains
- March 11 9:00 a.m. Via Media begins, weekly except March 25.
- March 11 5:30 p.m. SWAP Youth Group Meeting
- April 8 9:00 a.m. Via Media final program and lunch.
- April 13 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Liturgy
- April 14 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy
- April 15 Easter Vigil (time to be determined.)

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, 13 March, 2006.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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