



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 17, No. 2 February, 2009

Rector's Reflections

I love Lent. I really do. For me it is not an issue of fasting and giving things up that I really, really like. It is rather for me a season of looking at what is really meaningful for me. Whether I fast and give it up is one thing. The main thing for me in Lent is looking at my life; what are my priorities, my issues, my "talking points" for the world. What matters to me?

During Lent I try to look intentionally at all of this. Yes, I know, a more disciplined person would do that on a regular basis. Well, I know myself, and so Lent is my time for listening to my inner ear, for introspection and for self-reflection.

For me, Lent is less a time of fasting and self denial than a time of looking at what is important, key in my life. Why are they there? What status do I give them? What changes could/should I make? Where am I in the big picture of life?

I love Lent, for it impels me to look inside, to look in all of the

dusty corners of my life. What needs to be cleaned up? What needs to be built up? What needs to be put in place?

I love Lent, for it gives me the time and excuse to do that interior work. It is not a matter of legalistic fasting and giving up stuff. Although that may well be a part of the whole of Lent, perhaps giving up coffee or alcohol or meat or whatever, in order to simplify and focus my life. But the fasting is secondary to my looking at my life: my life with you and others, my life with my God, my life in myself.

I love Lent, for it gives me the space to do this. I pray Lent will also give you the space to do this type of interior work. No, not out of a sense of looking at your relationships with your God, with your family and friends, with your community, with your world.

Please join me in this season of Lent in looking and discovering anew who you are. Discovering anew how God sees you as a beloved child. Discovering how you relate and interact with our

community of faith at St. Stephen's.

Please join me in the observance of a holy Lent, a time of looking at relationships and connections with each other,

within ourselves and with our God.

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Lenten Beginnings

Shrove Tuesday – Feb. 24

We will gather for our traditional pancake supper of Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. If you would like to help cook or set up/clean up, please let Marjorie Ball know.

This is our symbolic feasting prior to the season of Lenten fasts. As part of our Shrove Tuesday activities, we will burn the palms left over from last year's Palm Sunday. These will be the ashes for use in our Ash Wednesday service the following day. Please bring your palms with you on Tuesday. We are encouraging folks to bring various paper products as the "admission" to Shrove Tuesday. This will help us in our budgetary considerations this year. Please consider bringing:

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| Toilet paper | Three fold paper towels (to fit in the dispensers) |
| Napkins | Paper Plates: dinner size, small |
| Paper cups (maximum size 12 oz.) | Soup Bowls |
| Reams of Legal size white copy paper (8½ x 14) | Plastic Forks, knives and spoons |
| Reams of letter size white copy paper (8½ x 11) | #10 business envelopes (white) |
- Paper money is also acceptable if you don't have time to shop

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 25

We will gather as a community of St. Stephen's and San Esteban to mark the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. This will be a bilingual service with the imposition of ashes.

Please join us as we prepare ourselves for the Lenten season with a period of introspection, prayer and imposition of ashes to remind us of our mortality and finitude. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Sundays in Lent

During the season of Lent we will use Rite I of the Book of Common Prayer. This Rite brings us to mind of our rich tradition as a faith in the language of our past and the hope of our future. It is a very rich and beautiful liturgy, one we cannot afford to forget or neglect. Join us for this time of tradition and beauty of language in our liturgy.

On the first Sunday of Lent, March 1, we will chant the "Great Litany," the first of our liturgies translated into English by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the 16th Century. On this Sunday we will also have a guest preacher, Susan Fischer, Postulant for Holy Orders from St. Stephen's Parish. Please join us for this important feast day.

Youth Group Doings

During the past couple of weeks our youth group (S.W.A.P.S.) has repainted their room in the education wing. It is now a delightful light blue. Drop by and take a look. Then thank our youth group for their efforts. Many thanks to the folks – young and not so young – who helped in doing this. It is a very beautiful addition to our buildings.

During the coming weeks S.W.A.P.S. will be providing the refreshments for our coffee hour. Do enjoy the goodies and please donate to help sustain this important ministry in our community.

Prayer and Praise and Music

We have a new worship offering for members of the parish: Prayer and Praise and Music. The first gathering will be at the home of Deanna Anderson, 4807 S. 3730 W., Friday, March 6 at 7 p.m. (801-966-1177). This will be a casual evening of music, prayer, praise and joy in worship. Please join us to lift your hearts and voices in praise and song.

Lay Assistant Training

We will have a training/refresher course for ALL lay assistants on Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m. at the church.

This is for all lectors, intercessors, lay Eucharistic ministers (chalice bearers) and acolytes. We will review and practice your ministries. ALL lay assistants are to be at this meeting. We will have training for all groups at the same time to make the most of our time together. Individuals with multiple callings will move among groups.

In our liturgy we offer our best to God and to our neighbor. We are called to prepare and serve to the best of our abilities.

All lay assistants need to plan to be at this training session on March 21, 10 a.m. Thank you.

WoW!

WoW! kicked off the New Year with a Bible study moderated by Bill Pitcher, on the First Letter of John. There will be no WoW! on Ash Wednesday. Watch the bulletin for future programs.

Points to Ponder

O Light of Light, Love given birth; Jesus, Redeemer of the earth:
More bright than day your face did show, your raiment whiter than the snow.
Two prophets, who had faith to see, with your elect found company;
the heavens above your glory named, your Father's voice his Son proclaimed.
May all who seek to praise aright through purer lives show forth your light.
To you, the King of glory, now all faithful hearts adoring bow.

– Latin, 10th.cent. Tr. Laurence Housman (1865-1959); Hymnal 133, 134

Egyptian Beef Recipe from the Annual Meeting

The following is from Deanna Anderson. It is her recipe for what she brought to the annual meeting, and had several requests for the recipe

Egyptian Beef

1 lb ground beef	1 cup seedless raisins	1 tsp salt
1 tsp curry powder	1 cup onion slices	½ cup diced green pepper
2 tbsp. butter	2 bay leaves	⅔ cup cashews
1 can peas	1 (4 oz) diced pimiento	1 orange sliced
Cooked rice (1-2 cups)		Chutney (optional)

Brown hamburger slightly and drain excess grease. Remove from skillet. Add 2 tbsp butter, and sauté onion and green pepper until tender. Add hamburger, curry, salt and cook until meat is brown. Add raisins, cashews, and bay leaves. Add peas (including liquid) and pimientos. Place orange slices over the top and simmer for 10 minutes. Serve with hot rice and chutney (if desired). For the dinner at church, I mixed the rice into the meat mixture for easier serving.

– Deanna Anderson

Annual Meeting Held Jan. 25, 2009

The parish gathered for the Parish Annual Meeting following services on Jan. 25. Luncheon was provided as a very diverse potluck with many distinct and delicious dishes. Following lunch, the meeting was called to order by Fr. Lee and opened with prayer.

The main business of the day was the approval of the budget and election of new vestry members and delegates to diocesan convention. Becky Ball and Dex Trujillo made the budget presentation to the congregation. The budget was approved following considerable conversation regarding the computer program, Church Windows, now required by the diocese.

Fr. Lee thanked the two wardens, Virgil Knight and Glen Hollander, and others going off Vestry. He then announced the appointment of Lora Barber as the new Sr. Warden. At the organizational vestry meeting, Feb. 17, Deanna Anderson was elected by the vestry as Jr. Warden.

In the elections Sandy Garrard and Brian Bach were elected to the vestry. Sandy had been filling a one year unexpired term and was elected for a full three-year term.

For diocesan convention we needed to have three delegates, in addition to both wardens who serve ex officio. The elected delegates are Robb Trujillo, Virgil Knight and Bill Pitcher. Alternates are Sandy Garrard, Martin Willcocks and David Evans.

Articles

ERDS and the Millennium Goals – by Susan Fischer



Episcopal Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday Bulletin Announcement

March 1, Sunday, Lent I will be a special day at St. Stephen's!

We're pleased to announce that March 1 will be Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. The Presiding Bishop has asked congregations across the country to set aside this Sunday to support Episcopal Relief & Development's life-saving work through prayer and a special offering.

All gifts collected for Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday will be designated for the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund to

fight deadly diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, and provide basic health care that saves lives every day.

Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday is a special opportunity for us to help heal a hurting world. Offering boxes, prayer cards, bookmarks and information packets will be available. For more information go to the web site below:

www.er-d.org

Articles

Past Hope – A Poem by Leah Sanford

Pews rubbed

Stained shiny
With hymns and knees

Hope hides here

Woven cross-grained
In altar cloths

Puddled warm and deep
In votive glass

Back-echoed far
From nave and choir

Held hard in hearts
Never God-broken

Hope's not past
No more than spring.

Broken hearts act like the broken spines
Of these prayer books that fall open in my hand:

"The Lord be with you."

"And also with you."

– by Leah Sanford

Calendar

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children (except Dec. 28)
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour
- 10:15 a.m. SWAPS for 6th-12th grades (except Dec. 28)
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 12:00 noon Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments.
- 3:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pat Pitcher

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

WEDNESDAYS: Worship on Wednesday (WoW!)

- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 p.m. Program

FRIDAYS:

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

SATURDAYS:

- 5:30 p.m. Santa Misa - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. San Esteban Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

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

SPECIAL DATES

- Feb. 24 6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Paper requested!
- Feb. 25 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy, with San Esteban (bilingual)
- Mar. 1 11:00 a.m. 1 Lent - Great Litany, Holy Eucharist Rite I
- Mar. 6 7:00 p.m. Prayer and Praise and Music - see article for details
- Mar. 8 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time begins - Spring forward!
- Mar. 21 10:00 a.m. Lay Assistant Training - All Lay Assistants required!
- Apr. 5 11:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Liturgy
- Apr. 9 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday bilingual service.
- Apr. 10 12 noon Stations of the Cross
- Apr. 10 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy (San Esteban 8 p.m.)
- Apr. 12 6:00 a.m. Easter Vigil, followed by Brunch
- Apr. 12 11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, March 16, 2009.

Editor: Martin Willcocks. Phone: 969-6418, or E-mail to church.

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