

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

January, 2007

Volume 15 Issue 2

West Valley City, Utah

Rector's Reflections

The cold days of the New Year are upon us as we put away our things of Christmas past and prepare for the activities ahead of us as we move into Epiphanytide. But before we let go of our December memories too much, let me invite you to read the following, "The Work of Christmas."

*When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes
are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To teach the nations
To bring Christ to all
To make music in the heart.
— Howard Thurman*

At Christmas we celebrate
the birth of Jesus, the Christ

Child. If we just leave Him in the crèche when we take down our Christmas decorations we have missed the message and meaning of the Christmas Story.

Now is the time "To bring Christ to all. To make music in the heart." As we enter a new year of our life together, I hope you will look at how you live into your faith and show it to those around you.

We have had some beautiful examples of generous spirited Christianity in our celebrations in December, especially with our outreach through the Angel Tree Program. Let us continue in the generous spirited Christianity even in the cold days of January and beyond.

May this year be full of blessings and of peace to each of you.

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Annual Parish Meeting

We will hold our Annual Meeting following the 10:30 service on **Sunday, January 28**. The meeting will include the election of two new members of the Vestry as well as five delegates to Diocesan Convention set for Oct. 27, 2007. Please see the related article of the "Job Description of a Vestry Member" put together by the Vestry.

Reports from committees and ministries will be received by title. A luncheon will also be served. More information on the luncheon will be forthcoming. The congregation of San Esteban will join us for the meeting.

Please have reports into the office no later than Jan. 21 to be included in the Annual Report of the Parish.

St. Stephen's Vestry Member Job Description

Qualifications:

- Is regular in attendance at worship
- Is 16 years of age or older
- Member of record for at least 6 months
- Communicant in good standing
- Pledging member of the parish

Responsibilities:

- Attends and is an active participant in monthly and special vestry meetings
- Attends the Parish Annual Meeting and Vestry Retreat
- Attends special and social events of the parish
- Has a good understanding of the various parish committees and activities
- Is interested and aware of the needs and concerns of the parish
- Is willing to do duties as assigned by the Vestry to accomplish the mission of the parish
- Is willing to oversee special projects that may be assigned to a vestry member
- Identifies possible candidates for future vestry membership

Points to Ponder

All glory, Jesus, be to thee for this thy glad epiphany.

— Caelius Sedulius, 13th C. (Hymn 132)

Vestry Clerk and Parish Treasurer

During the December 19 meeting of the Vestry a Clerk of the Vestry and Parish Treasurer were elected. Martha Rice will continue in her role as Clerk of the Vestry. Betsy Herron was elected as new Parish Treasurer. We thank both of these people for stepping forward to offer their talents to the parish.

We especially thank Dave Kelly for his work as Treasurer and his commitment to the parish. Thank you Dave!

2007 Stewardship Program

Our Stewardship Program for 2007 is nearly complete. To date we have received \$55,700 in pledges from 40 individuals or families. This means we are still \$4,300 short of our budgetary goal for this year. If you have not yet made your pledge, the Vestry asks you to consider your financial commitment to St. Stephen's as we complete our Stewardship Program. Thank you.

Sunday School at St. Stephen's

Our Sunday School continues to provide our children with opportunities for fellowship, play and learning more about Jesus and the Christian faith. All children are invited to come at 9:30 Sunday morning to take part in the programs. Martha and Eileen Rice are our Sunday School coordinators. Please see them for any questions you may have.

Sunday Adult Education

We have two adult class offerings on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Martin Willcocks' class meets in the Marjorie Black Library. They are currently viewing and discussing a video comparing Christian, Jewish and Muslim beliefs, "Three Faiths, One God."

Fr. Lee's class meets in the back classroom. We will be starting a review of the book, *The Language of God* by Francis Collins. Dr. Collins is head of the National Human Genome Project, which mapped out the human DNA. He eloquently and easily writes of the case to be made for the Christian faith from the perspective of a scientist. Among other things he covers such topics as evolution, creationism and Intelligent Design, all of which have been "hot button" topics in Utah and nationally. The book is very well written and very accessible.

Please see Fr. Lee for a copy of the book. The cost is \$16 and the class will begin on January 21, 9:30 a.m.

Articles – First Annual Day of Remembering

Our society gives us 30 to 90 days to grieve the passing of a loved one. Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross once said, "Grief can often take two to seven years, but we never, ever forget." On **Sunday January 7, 2007** at 12:30 p.m. we celebrated our first annual **Day of Remembering**. Many joined us to celebrate the remembrance of their loved ones, with stories, poems and songs. Please contact **Dan Herron** at 965-6885 or dannbet@comcast.net for additional information.

Mission Saturdays – Marjorie Ball

This new program at St. Stephen's is a new way for us to contribute to the many missions of our parish in a meaningful way, on the **second Saturday of each month, from 12 noon to 4 p.m.**

A chance for you to use or discover your own hidden talents and gifts, while being together with people you know and trust.

Hopefully, this monthly get-together will be rich, rewarding, and fulfilling for all who take part.

Our first meeting will be to identify what each of us would like to do, and how to best approach it. We will start out with a simple soup lunch, and of course, the coffee pot will be on.

If you have knitting to do, bring it with you, and we will be sure to have some extra supplies for those of you who would like to learn how.

If you have a yen to cook, we will figure out how to best go about preparing ahead and freezing meals which can be served at WoW!

Some people have wanted to know how I make bread for communion. This can be a forum for show and tell, not just the bread, but other things someone else can do and is willing to share.

We have been asked to make two quilts for the new Diocesan Center, and we will have some fabric, cutting board, and patterns and other supplies for whoever wants to be involved with this.

Some of the Latino children would like to have someone to read to in English. You may just have the right ear for that.

There may be lots of other things you can think of that we can do. I am sure there is a laundry list of things which need doing around the church.

This is just a starting place. Please plan to take part the second Saturday of every month and let's see what we can accomplish!

-Marjorie Ball

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, AND
WITH THE CONSENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

THE RIGHT REV. CAROLYN TANNER IRISH,
TENTH BISHOP OF UTAH,
WILL ORDAIN

ISABEL T. GONZÁLEZ
TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIEST
IN CHRIST'S HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH
ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2007
AT 6:30 P.M.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
4615 SOUTH 3200 WEST
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84119

YOUR PRESENCE AND PRAYERS FOR
HER MINISTRY ARE REQUESTED

CLERGY: RED STOLE

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

Wow!

Worship on Wednesdays continues to provide a meal, Midweek Eucharist, and program each Wednesday, starting at 6 p.m. Recent programs included a video about the Saint John's Bible, and the new video about the first four bishops of Utah by Craig Wirth. Join us each Wednesday evening for more!

Bishop's Visitation

Bishop Irish made her visitation on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17. Joining us for this service was San Esteban and St. Barnabas Church, Tooele, with confirmations of members of all three parishes and receptions for two parishes.

Altar Guild

We continue to need new people to serve on the Altar Guild. Please see Barbara Varner if you are interested in this ministry.

Senior Warden's Message

With the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 28, I approach the end of my term as your Senior Warden. This has been a very enriching experience and has given me a chance to work with so many of you as we endeavor to live our mission as expressed in our Mission Statement. I encourage each of you to consider where you fit in this scheme and determine how you can best serve St. Stephen's: on the vestry, altar guild, Sunday School, worship committee, becoming a "lay weeder" during the warmer weather, eucharistic minister, lay reader, hymn choosing committee, or any of the other tasks and groups that make up the community that is St. Stephen's. We appreciate all of your efforts and contributions, and you will find your life enriched in the process.

- Isabel Sullivan

Parish Prayers

Each Sunday we print the names of people we hold in prayer as a community. I invite you to take this home with you each week and remember these people throughout the week in your own prayer life.

WENDOVER DAY BUS TRIP. Our next bus trip to Wendover will be Saturday, January 27, 2007. We depart from St. Stephen's Church at 8:30 AM, and return about 7:30 PM. The cost is \$15, which includes the bus, bingo prizes, buffet or restaurant discount, Starbucks coupon, \$7 back, and more.

Invite your family and friends to join us for a fun-filled day. Sign up soon, and pay by **January 14th**. For more info, see Judy Carter, Betsy Herron, or Fran Crookston.

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Christian 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

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

- 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 - Contemporary Holy Eucharist
- 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 Misa - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. San Esteban Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

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

SPECIAL DATES

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|
| January 13 | 12:00 p.m. | Mission Saturday |
| January 21 | 9:30 a.m. | Fr. Lee's forum book discussion |
| January 27 | 8:30 a.m. | Wendover Day Bus Trip |
| January 28 | 12:00 p.m. | Annual Parish Meeting |
| February 10 | 6:30 p.m. | Ordination of The Rev. Isabel González. |

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, February 4, 2007.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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