

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

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Rector's Reflections

As we continue to move through the long hot days of summer, I want to thank you for your continued ministries and work within St. Stephen's. This has not been an easy summer to even get to the church with the construction on 3200 West, and so your faithfulness AND patience is greatly appreciated.

As I have returned from the General Convention of the Church, I am more and more impressed with how our Church is dealing with issues that are important and vital to the life of the church, even though they may at times seem controversial and even divisive.

I am also keenly aware that the "church" is where two or more are gathered together for the breaking of the bread and the prayers, a community of prayer, service and fellowship. So, the church is yes, General Convention. But mostly we see the "church" as us, gathered along this now dusty stretch of 3200 West at St. Stephen's Church.

Some time ago I found a part of a sermon attributed to Lord George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury. It bears repeating at this time as we look at who we are and who we want to be as "church."

"The Church: May she be a church where it is good to live, where you can breathe, and say what you think. A church of freedom.

A church that listens before speaking, which welcomes without judging; which forgives without wishing to condemn; which announces rather than denounces. A church of mercy.

A church where the Holy Spirit will be able to feel at home because everything has not been foreseen, settled, and decided in advance. An open church.

A church of St. [Stephen's]. A church of suburbs and streets and housing estates. You may still be small but you are making progress. You are still fragile. But you are full of hope.

*Lift up your head and look:
The Lord is with you!"*

Peace,
Fr. Lee ^

The Rev. Deacon Isabel Gonzalez

The Rev. Deacon Isabel will be serving as Deacon one Sunday a month at our 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. The rest of the time she will serve San Esteban as Deacon.

Please welcome "Deacon" Isabel in her new ministry at San Esteban/
St. Stephen's!
- Lee Shaw

Combined Service and Parish Barbecue Aug. 6

We will celebrate the *Feast of the Transfiguration* with a combined service of St. Stephen's/San Esteban at **10 a.m.** on Sunday, Aug. 6. Following our service we will have a barbecue for the parishes.

The parish will provide the meat and there will be sign up sheets to bring salads and deserts. Please plan on joining us for this summer parish picnic/barbecue.

Vestry

The tenacity and fortitude of our congregation in demonstrating your faith by attendance at services and programs despite the difficulties during the current road reconstruction is most inspiring! I salute you all! Certainly we understand the need for vacations and outside recreation during this season, but enjoy the participation of each and every one of you, and what you contribute in various ways to our community.

Thanks to all who contribute to the "Lay Weeder" program for your help in keeping our grounds in order.

We hope to see a good turnout for our joint services on August 6, followed by a barbecue. It promises to be a good time for all.

The cookbook project is in the final stages, and being prepared to send to the publishers. We have almost 300 recipes, and I want to thank all who have shared some of their favorites. I also want to personally thank Wendy White and Tracy Jensen for all their work in typing recipes. It was a formidable task, and having them share with me really helped.

Blessings to all for an enjoyable continuation of summer.

- Isabel Sullivan, Senior Warden.

Worship Committee

We are continuing to use a simpler bulletin, relying on the Prayer Book and Hymnal for most of the service. No committee meeting has occurred recently.

If you have a personal Book of Common Prayer, you may wish to bring it with you on Sundays for your use. Use the ribbons provided by WoW! to bookmark the hymns in the hymnals
– *Martin Willcocks*

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

The attendance at Worship On Wednesday (WoW!) continues with enthusiasm during this summer of “How in the World Do We Get to St. Stephen’s?” It is gratifying to have the gracious response by various members to assist in the meal preparations, and I want to call everyone’s attention to the sign-up sheet for this in the parish hall. We have had some memorable meals this spring and early summer - and variety certainly does add spice to life! You need not fear working alone, as our regular kitchen crew continues every week, and deserves gratitude for all their dedication and hard work (although I must admit we have a lot of fun through it all).

Thanks also to Martin Willcocks and David Evans for conducting Evening Prayer while Father Lee was at convention. Also thanks to Fr. Lee for arranging our interesting program/discussion periods following the meal and worship service. To those who have not attended WoW! before, I heartily recommend it. It is another way to stay connected between Sunday Services.

– *Isabel Sullivan*

“Getting Real About Christian Education”

Join with other parents, teachers, volunteers and others in Salt Lake Region II who are curious and eager to explore values and vision for education, formation and spiritual development for everyone, but especially our children and youth.

Facilitators: Ms. Karen Cramer Van Winkles, diocesan Youth Coordinator and the Rev. Jessica Hatch, diocesan Education/Resource Officer. Region II workshop will be held **Saturday, Aug. 26** at St. James’ Parish, 7486 So. Union Park Ave., Midvale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information see Fr. Lee or obtain a registration form from Barbara in the office.

Parish Work Party, Saturday July 29

Please join us on Saturday, July 29, 8 a.m. to help clean up the clippings and trimmings from the orchard and grounds. We need to clear it up out of the northern lot so it can be plowed to control the weeds as a fire hazard. Join us in the morning to make quick work of our clean up of the north lot.

SWAP is going to Willard Bay for the day on Friday, August 18. Carly and Barbara will bring their boat for skiing and tubing. More information soon.

Articles – St. Stephen’s Sunday School Challenge by *Martha Rice*

How do I begin to explain the issues, no, challenges, St. Stephen’s faces in regard to our Sunday School program. The biggest challenge is to get enough children to warrant the resources spent on the program. I have noticed children in church services who are not attending Sunday School, or at least in the last year or two. This tells me that our program is not meeting their needs and I would have to agree.

Currently, we have six to eight regular students, ranging from preschool to junior high all in one class. Ideally, programs should be created for the four age groups; pre-school through kindergarten, first through third grades, fourth through sixth grades, and junior high. This would require a minimum of four teachers each Sunday; which brings me to the next challenge, finding enough leaders.

We are excited that San Esteban has joined us. However, this has brought to our teachers, Dorothy Alley, Becky Ball, Dave Barber, Amy Penrod, Eileen Rice, and me another set of issues. In the beginning, we had many San Esteban children join us but would leave during class to be with their families in the Fellowship Hall. At the end of May only two children attending Sunday School on a somewhat regular basis.

Many solutions have been discussed, mulled over, and prayed about. Still we don’t have a clear direction. So, as I begin to develop the 2006-2007 and five-year plans, I would like your input. What does St. Stephens Parish want for its children or see as urgent needs? What is the parish willing to sacrifice to see that these needs are met?

Take a few minutes to think and pray about your Sunday School. Write down your concerns and/or suggestions; then place them in the basket located in the Fellowship Hall. With your input and the Vestry’s guidance, I know that we can develop a program that will meet the needs of the parish. Please don’t put this off, Sunday School will begin in only seven weeks. God Bless,

– *Martha Rice*

Summertime Schedules and Activities

In the past we have adjusted our Sunday services to an earlier time for the summer. That is no longer possible with San Esteban meeting at 9 a.m. We will not have an 8 a.m. service this year either.

As you travel on vacation, take advantage of the local Episcopal Church to visit and worship. As always, Fr. Lee is interested in bulletins from other parishes.

Many will be traveling and taking time off during the summer months. Please remember, however, that our financial obligations continue. Please keep your pledge current so that we can maintain a healthy budget during the warm summer months.

– *Lee Shaw*

Special Events

Smoking Area is now the Gazebo!

The smoking area is in the Gazebo bringing us into compliance with the law and keeping our entrance way clear. Thank you for your cooperation in this change.

WoW! for the Summer

Our Worship on Wednesday (WoW!) continues through the summer. We have been blessed with a variety of chefs in the kitchen offering a delicious assortment of main courses and desserts.

Our summer programs will include a review of the life and ministries of the monastic communities in the Episcopal Church, information about our Christmas "Angel Tree" project of helping the children of prison inmates, and further exploration of the Bible, among other topics.

Come join us for a wonderful meal, informal worship and engaging conversation. Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. Eucharist, and program at 7:30 p.m. - Fr. Lee

Lay Weeders Appreciation

Thank you to all who signed up to care for a part of our property during the summer. It has been a challenge to get in and out of the parking lot due to the road construction. But we appreciate your faithfulness and work in keeping the weeds down and making our property look nice and fresh for all who come by.

EFM (Education for Ministry) to Begin in September

The St. Stephen's EFM program will resume on Monday, Sept. 11, at 6:30 p.m. Registration for current students and new students will begin on Sunday July 23. EFM is a program from the University of the South, Sewanne, TN that covers Bible study, church history and theology over a four-year period in a modified seminary curriculum. EFM also provides a specific form of theological reflection that helps students look at the intersections between the sacred and the secular in their lives. Although the complete program takes four years, registration is done on a year by year basis. If you had taken EFM in the past and did not complete it, now may be the time to resume your studies in EFM

For more information please see Fr. Lee.

Keep Pledges Coming!

As of June 30, your budgeted amount for pledges needed was \$25,400. We have received only \$23,232, or a shortfall of \$2,168. Our open plate is budgeted for \$6,375 as of June 30, and we have received \$5,904, or a shortfall of \$471. As we enter the second half of the year our total shortfall for pledges and offerings is \$2,639. Please keep your pledges current so that we can maintain our ministries and property for all to use.

Special Events

Road Widening

The project to widen 3200 West has continued for several weeks now, and is expected to end in September. Currently, both north and south entrances to the church are open, but the road is blocked to northbound traffic and essentially blocked to southbound traffic south of the church.

You can still enter from the west or the east, via diversions from 3600 West and 2700 West.

SWAP - St. Stephen's Youth Group Breakfast with the Bible

Please join us on Sunday, July 16 and 30, August 13 and 27 at 9:45 a.m.

Let's talk about our favorite Bible stories

Let's learn interesting Bible facts

Let's play - Let's eat!

I would like to thank Brian Bach, George Johnson and Leah Sanford for joining the Youth Group leadership.

Call Becky Ball 652-2300 for more information

Day of Discovery - Time of Discernment

Are you interested in looking at your call to ministry - lay or ordained - in a more specific way?

Day of Discovery is a day for re-looking at the mission and ministry of Christ and how the Episcopal Church expresses that ministry through lay persons and clergy. It is a day to rediscover and appreciate the daily work and ministry of every baptized member of the church. It will help you begin a simple process of discernment that will affirm what you do every day as ministry, as well as open new avenues of service. We believe that all baptized members perform the ministry of the church, regardless of place or order, at worship, at home, at work, and in the community. Believing this and practicing it daily are often worlds apart.

The *Day of Discovery* can help you discern your own sense of ministry and where God is calling you, as a lay person or as one exploring ordination.

The *Day of Discovery* will be held on Saturday, Aug. 26 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 261 So. 900 E. Brochures and registration forms are on the table in the Gathering Area. There is a cost of \$40 for the workshop, the materials and meals. Registration deadline is Aug. 11. For more information, please see Fr. Lee.

Points to Ponder - The Teen's lament!

Do not love sleep, or else you will come to poverty,

Open your eyes, and you will have plenty of bread.

- Proverbs 20: 13

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 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 Meeting "Breakfast with the Bible."

SPECIAL DATES

- July 19 7:30 p.m. Wrap-up of Peter and Paul video, discussion.
- July 29 8 a.m. Parish Work Party
- August 6 10 a.m. Combined Service for the Feast of the Transfiguration
- August 13 9:45 a.m. Breakfast with the Bible
- August 18 SWAP fun in the sun trip to Willard Bay
- August 26 10 a.m. Getting Real about Christian Education at St. James.
- August 26 8:30 a.m. Day of Discovery workshop at St. Paul's
- August 27 9:45 a.m. Breakfast with the Bible
- September 11 6:30 p.m. EFM starts for 2006-7 year.

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, 14 August, 2006.

Editor: Martin Willcocks. "The Servant" is St. Stephen's Church Newsletter and all materials in this publication are copyright © 2006 by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, except items from Diocesan Dialogue and other sources.