



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 17, No. 4 June 2009

Rector's Reflections

I write this as I finish my week of CREDO, a clergy wellness program sponsored and largely financed by the Church Pension Group. This is my second time at CREDO, the first being in 2004. For a week clergy are invited to look at their lives and their ministry in four general areas of clergy wellness: Spiritual, Health, Vocational and Financial. Then we develop goals and objectives for the coming years in each of these categories. This has been a very rich time for me to renew and refresh my own sense of self and calling as a priest.

I am at Roslyn, a retreat center outside of Richmond, VA. It was a 19th century horse farm with acres of beautiful rolling meadows bordered by woods which was given to the diocese for a retreat center in the early 20th century. New lodging, meeting rooms and dining hall dot the property. A new chapel is

currently under construction.

From the window in my room I have a view of a beautiful maple tree, perhaps 20 feet tall, perfectly proportioned and planted by itself in the meadow. Beyond the tree are rolling hills and then a wooded border that drops down to the river. I have spent much time contemplating this beautiful tree.

The chapel has several windows looking out onto similar wooded and meadow scenes. It is built on a rise, so the main floor is really above the lower ground level. I try to sit on the end of the second row so I can look out the window into the trees that shade the building. It is a different perspective of looking directly into the branches instead of up at them. I confess that during chapel time my eyes linger in the greens and shadows of the leafy confusion just outside the window.

These windows have given me an image of what this week

has been like for me: various windows into my ministry as a priest and life as a Christian. It has given me perspective for the longer look, an opportunity to examine my life up close and also a time to look deeply into my ministry and vocation.

This has been a very rich time of refreshment and renewal for me. I thank you for allowing me to take this time away from parish life for this opportunity. I also thank the Church Pension Group for funding this clergy wellness program. (CREDO also has a lay component that both Becky Ball and Susan Fischer have been to this year.)

This time away has allowed me to look with fresh eyes at myself and my ministry among you and within the broader church. It has also given me fresh eyes to see God working

anew in me and around me. During my time here I ran across the following quote from Anglican mystic and writer Evelyn Underhill. It resonates with my experiences of this week:

"The coming of the kingdom is perpetual. Again and again, freshness, novelty, power from beyond the world break in by unexpected paths bringing unexpected change. Those who cling to tradition and fear all novelty in God's relation to the world deny the creative activity of the Holy Spirit, and forget that what is now tradition was once innovation; that the real Christian is always a revolutionary, belongs to a new race, and has been given a new name and a new song."

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Hymn Selection Committee

The Hymn Selection Committee will next meet after Church on July 5th in the Library.

Summer Break for St. Stephen's Choir

The choir is on hiatus for the summer, beginning 2 Pentecost, and will resume in the fall. Please see Rob Trujillo if you are interested in joining the choir.

St. Stephen's Community of Care

The Community of Care meets in the Back Classroom on the first and third Sundays of each month. This group is for those in our parish who are hurting for any reason, and need an opportunity to vent — and be heard. What is said is confidential and not to be disclosed outside the group. See Dan Herron or Isabel Sullivan for details or any questions you may have.

Articles - “It was a Dark and Stormy Day” - by David Schultz

The rain came early and the rain came late. In between, we had the most fun you can have without lots of alcohol involved. (If you don't drink, you have fun watching the other stupid people!) All in all, I would say it was a success. We sold over 100 hot dogs and some of the most unusual but valuable (to somebody) collectible items. The final tally is now at \$934.00, which will help greatly with the repairs on the roof. The success of the fun time has prompted us to take a look at doing this again. July is out of the question, with all the holidays and the S.W.A.P.'s trip to California. It looks like a tentative date of August 1st. There will be more to follow on that date. My thanks go out to everyone who gave a helping hand in making this the fun and successful event that it turned out to be.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN, but without the rain!

The Coffee Prayer

Caffeine is my shepherd; I shall not doze.

It maketh me to wake in green pastures:

It leadeth me beyond the sleeping masses.

It restoreth my buzz:

It leadeth me in the paths of consciousness for its name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of addiction,

I will fear no Equal™:

For thou art with me; thy cream and thy sugar they comfort me.

Thou preparest a carafe before me in the presence of The Starbucks:

Thou anointest my day with pep; my mug runneth over.

Surely richness and taste shall follow me all the days of my life:

And I will dwell in the House of Mochas forever.

- *Author Unknown*

Sustained Prayer Ministry

The Sustained Prayer Ministry meets on the last Sunday of each month, in the chapel after church, to offer prayers of support and thankfulness for parishioners who request them. Please contact Judy or Zachary so we can have enough materials available. Discover how the praying community of St. Stephen's can help you in your time of need.

Articles - Living Wisely ... A program for Episcopalians in these economic times - by Toni Marie Sutcliffe

(An offering at WoW! Beginning July 22)

Are you frightened by the financial news of the past few months? Do you want a financial check-up to make sure you are managing your finances appropriately? Do you have teen-agers or young adults in your family that need some financial education? Are you worried about your retirement income? Are you interested in the connection between finances and spirituality?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, or if you are just interested in financial management, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has an opportunity for you. This program is being offered to All Saints and St. Paul's Parishes as well to come to St. Stephen's.

For four consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning July 22, Toni Marie Sutliff – parishioner at All Saints and former Minister of Finance for the Diocese of Utah – will lead the Living Wisely program that she described during the 2008 Diocesan Convention. This program was developed by the Stewardship Office of The Episcopal Church and has the following objectives:

- Introduce participants to key principles of managing personal finances
- Outline basic budgeting principles
- Create an opportunity for participants to assess their current financial situation
- Assist participants in understanding their own money story, the helpful and unhelpful information and habits they have accumulated since childhood, and the effect those habits have on their adult behaviors
- Assist participants in creating financial goals and beginning the process of creating a plan for meeting those goals
- Identify new financial habits that can assist participants in building a more secure financial future
- Share a biblical perspective of handling money

The Living Wisely workshop will be part of St. Stephen's WoW! program (Worship on Wednesday), which begins with supper at 6:00 pm and continues with Eucharist at 7:00 pm. The Living Wisely event will begin around 7:40 p.m.

You will get the best results by attending all four workshops, although any of the weeks will be informative.

The cost for the Living Wisely program is \$10 for each couple, family group, or individual that attends. This cost will cover the materials provided. Scholarships are available, please see Fr. Lee. You may also attend the sessions for free, as usual with WoW!

To register for Living Wisely, please send a check for \$10 to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 4615 South 3200 West, West Valley City UT 84119, by Friday, August 17, 2009, to allow time for preparation of the materials. Invite your friends and neighbors – this is not just for Episcopalians!

If you have any questions, please contact Toni Marie Sutliff at 801-502-7672 or tmsutliff@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!

This is a very good program offered to St. Stephen's as well as All Saints and St. Paul's to guide folks through these changing financial times.

Points To Ponder

O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy Name.

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.

He speaks; and, listening to his voice, new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

Hear him, ye deaf; ye voiceless ones, your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold, your Savior comes; and leap, ye lame, for joy.

Glory to God and praise and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.

- Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. (Hymn 493)

Second Saturday

The next Second Saturday will be on **July 11th**. We meet at 12 noon for a lunch, and then work on needed Parish projects. Although the Parish Hall is available until 4 p.m., just come for as long as you need to and enjoy the fellowship and food.

General Convention Links

On July 7, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church will convene in Anaheim, CA. There will be various news stories in the local press about our gathering. Among issues the convention will take up will be prayers for companion animals (sponsored by Fr. Lee and supported by the Diocese of Utah), revisiting the prohibition of ordaining a gay/lesbian person to be bishop, major changes in Lesser Feasts and Fasts (our calendar of saints to be re-named "Holy Women, Holy Men"), new family prayers and liturgies under the title "Hannah's Hopes, Rachel's Tears," as well as looking at the rite of blessing of unions between two men and two women. There will be a lot to keep track of!

To help you monitor what is going on at General Convention, here are some links for you to use.

This link gives you a short video introduction and explanation of General Convention. It will give you some background into what will happen in July with the Episcopal Church.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AY91g9W_YAg

Main General Convention site:

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gc2009.htm>

Episcopal Café with essays and opinions:

<http://www.episcopalcafe.com/>

Integrity's Site for Information (news regarding glbt issues):

<http://sites.google.com/site/allthesacraments/Home>

Diocese of Virginia (a very good summary of news):

www.centeraisle.net

The Diocese of Utah will also have a "Convention Blog" edited by Toni Marie Sutliff. When this is up and running the link will be published in the bulletin and elsewhere.

There are just a few of the many sites from which you can get information on General Convention happenings. Both Fr. Lee and Padre Pablo are clergy deputies to convention, for specific questions feel free to email Fr. Lee directly (WinstonLS@aol.com). He will have his computer with him at Convention.

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 9:45 a.m. Green Planet/Dead Planet? Ecology programs in the Library
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour
- 10:00 a.m. Book Study in Back Classroom
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II - Fr. Lee
- 12:00 .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 - Fr. Lee
- 7:30 p.m. WoW! 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

- June 28 12:00 p.m. Sustained Prayer Ministry in the Chapel
- July 5 12:30 p.m. Hymn Selection Committee
- July 7-17 General Convention in Anaheim
- July 11 12:00 noon - 4 p.m. Second Saturday - bring Parish projects
- July 22 7:40 p.m. Living Wisely - Toni Marie Sutcliffe

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, July 13, 2009.

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