

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

June/July, 2007

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West Valley City, Utah

Rector's Reflections

As I announced in church on June 10, this is a summer of some changes for me. I have had to cancel my planned trip to Mexico as part of our companion relationship with the Diocese of Mexico as well as my vacation during July. This is not of my own choosing.

It seems that there has been a minor leakage in the graft on my aorta from my last trip to the Cleveland Clinic in 2005. For me this is a major disappointment on many levels. First is the need for yet one more surgery. But also is my absence from you due to illness. But in this there is still some "good news." As not the case in the past, there is no infection. This is a leak. I also plan to have the surgery done at St. Mark's Hospital here in Salt Lake City.

So, I ask your prayers and patience as I am absent once more from our community. Padre Pablo Ramos will take the

Sunday services, other than one Sunday when Fr. John Dillon from St. James' will preside. I have asked David Evans to officiate at Evening Prayer for WoW! during this interim period.

I ask you to continue to support the community in your ministries of presence and offerings. It is during this time that we really rely on you to step forward and support the community. This includes your ongoing financial support in your pledges and offerings during these long hot days of summer.

I go back again and again to two sayings which continue to take on added meaning for me. The first is from St. Augustine and I printed it on my ordination bulletin as well as my bulletin for Celebration of New Ministry at St. Stephen's: "What I am for you frightens me. What I am with you consoles me. For you I am a priest, with you I am a Christian."

The other is the African saying:

"I am who we are."

I am connected to this community in so many ways as priest and pastor as friend and confidant as Christian and fellow pilgrim and in so many other ways. I give thanks for each of

you in my life and my ministry. This year I celebrate 15 years as an ordained person, and I give thanks to share this time with you.

Peace,
Fr. Leet

Changes In The Vestry

The Vestry has appointed Nancy Belnap to finish the unexpired term of Dan Herron on the Vestry. Dan resigned so that he could give greater time and energy in preparation to be received as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church. His reception liturgy will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007 at 7 p.m. The WoW! dinner will precede the service and a reception will follow.

We welcome Nancy Belnap to the Vestry and look forward to her participation and input in our meetings.

There will be no Vestry meeting in July, rather we will gather again on August 21 at 6 p.m.

Lay Weeders at St. Stephen's

A thank you for all who have signed up as a "lay weeder" and adopted a portion of our grounds to keep weed free and clean this summer. Your work is greatly appreciated to keep our grounds attractive and a place of rest and beauty in our neighborhood. Please keep up your ministry during the long summer months. Thank you!

A special thank you to Dave Barber who has done our annual chopping of the weeds to the north of the church. Thank you Dave!

WoW! and You

Our Worship on Wednesday (WoW!) continues to be a very popular ministry at St. Stephen's and a means for many to become familiar with our community in a smaller more intimate setting. The following is a listing of the programs for the coming weeks:

July 4th - No program, Social Time

July 11th - "Utah Clean Energy" Bonnie Christiansen

July 18th - "Parish Lay Ministries" Deanna Anderson

July 25th - "HEAL (Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah)" Jessica Kendrick
August 1st - TBD

August 8th - "Multicultural Arch Foundation" M. Fethulla Erdogan

Isabel Sullivan and Judy Carter have overseen the meal for the last several months. It is a time to involve others in this important ministry of hospitality and welcome. Both Isabel and Judy will be glad to help you in developing a

menu and offer insights and help. It is important to involve more members of the parish in this important ministry of meal preparation for our WoW! communal dinner. Please consider volunteering for a Wednesday and share your talents. Thank you.

Something New with our Windows

You may have noticed a difference in the amount and type of light coming into our Parish Hall. The Vestry approved the installation of a professional copper-toned window film on the windows that block 98% of the UV rays and will help reduce our cooling and heating costs in this very large and spacious room with lots of windows.

We have also covered some of the windows in the church with the same copper-toned film: the two large windows by the piano and the four upper windows on the east wall. In addition, an opaque copper-tone glaze has been applied to the four windows on the west side behind the chancel. The old vertical blinds have now been removed giving our space a cleaner, more spacious feel while still controlling the amount of light coming into our worship space.

As an aside, the company doing the work was so impressed with St. Stephen's that on the final day of the installation they gave a donation to the parish for our ongoing ministries.

A Barbecue With The Bishop

On June 10, we welcomed Bishop Irish and her husband, the Rev. Dr. Fred Quinn, to St. Stephen's/San Esteban for a joint service. Bishop Irish outlined for us the building and plans for the new Episcopal Church Center next to the Cathedral Church of St. Mark. The Episcopal Church Center (ECC) will be dedicated during our October Diocesan Convention.

We held a barbecue/potluck and Fran Crookston donated a beautiful quilt to be raffled as part of our fund raising for the ECC. Betsy Herron was the lucky winner of the quilt. This was a wonderful time of fellowship between St. Stephen's and San Esteban and at the end of the day we were able to send the diocese a check for \$500 as our parish contribution to the ECC. Each member has also received a pledge/contribution card and you are encouraged to make your personal donation to this important addition to our common life, witness and ministry as a diocese.

A New Choir at St. Stephen's

Rob Trujillo has accepted the invitation to be our new choir director. He joins Sandy Garrard as our Music Director, Barbara Burton as pianist and Julie Pitcher, flautist. We have had a choir for the past several weeks, including June 10 for our service with San Esteban and the Bishop. (Fred Quinn even sang with the choir for this special service.) The choir will take a leave of absence in the summer and return in the fall. If you are interested in singing in the choir or helping with the chanting of the psalm, please see Rob.

A Mad Hatter's Tea Party

On June 2, St. Stephen's hosted a grand "Mad Hatters Tea Party." We had a wide and very diverse collection of hats worn by men and women to the tea party. A very independent panel of judges awarded Edith Whitaker the award for the most original hat, totally woven from plastic grocery sacks. Susan Fischer took home the "classiest of bunch" category of a stylish black brimmed bonnet. Tammy Dimas, from St. Barnabas, won the award for best of show.

Marjorie Ball made sure there was plenty of wonderful tea (black, green and herbal) as well as English tea sandwiches in addition to cakes, trifles and other treats. It was a marvelous afternoon of tea and fellowship at St. Stephen's. Thank you Marjorie!

The proceeds from the Tea Party are designated for special ministries and outreach for the parish. A total of \$636 was raised in an afternoon of tea, cakes and hats. ... *More on Page 6.*

Calling all Acolytes!

Would you like to be an acolyte and serve in the liturgy? Are you an acolyte who would like a "brush up" on your duties? On July 8, following the services, David Evans will do a training for new acolytes and a brush up for current acolytes. If you are interested in serving in the Liturgy, please speak to Fr. Lee or David Evans and plan on coming to the training on July 8.

Morning Prayer Every Tuesday and Thursday

Morning Prayer is prayed every Tuesday and Thursday at 7 a.m. in the Chapel. This is a quiet and brief service, a wonderful way to start your day in prayer and community prior to your work day begins. The service lasts approximately 15 minutes and then we move to the Parish Hall for coffee and fellowship until other schedules call us to get on with our day. Please join us for this very Anglican approach to beginning the day.

Changes in the Playground

We have noticed an increased amount of vandalism done in our playground. For this reason there is now a locked gate at the playground. The gate will be opened on Sunday mornings and locked again following coffee hour. The lock has been keyed to the key that opens the outside doors of the church. If you are the one to open the playground, please also lock the gate as you leave. This will keep our investment in playground equipment safe and available for years to come. Thank you George Johnson for arranging this for us.

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. *– Lee Shaw*

Articles: *I Had Seen Her Before* - by Dan Herron

I had seen her before.

But the first time I met her, she had that same smile that attracted me the first time.

On this day, Pentecost 2005, she was being Baptized.

She wanted to belong.

She wanted to belong to a believing community that would accept, period.

She had read the same Baptismal Covenant that we have come to live and love.

Her emotions were strong, and so were everyone else's.

So strong you could reach out and touch it.

When each question of the Baptismal Covenant was read, Jody "blinked" her YES and there was that smile again.

Finally, when water was poured on her head, she smiled so brightly you could hear it.

What was so special about Jody's Baptism?

Jody had ALS and was preparing herself and everyone around her for her death.

Jody was a lesbian and together with her partner Jessica, made a stunning team.

Some of us had the incredible joy of spending many Monday afternoons sharing the Gospel and our lives with the two of them. In reality it was they who shared and taught us.

It was during one of these afternoons I realized where I had seen them before. My wife Betsy and I have for years have loved the Pride Day celebration and have more than once gone to the parade and the party afterward. It was on one such Sunday afternoon I first saw Jessica pushing Jody in her chair. What I noticed most was their joy. They were happy because they were among people who accepted them. I only saw them for a split second, but just like in the movies, time seemed to stop as they crossed my path.

The smile they had that day was the same smile and joy they shared with us on that incredible Pentecost Day two years ago.

Thanksgiving Day 2006, Jody, a lighthouse to those who have come to love her, went home. Now, whenever the sun streams through the clouds I remember that smile and those eyes blinking, YES!



DAY of DISCOVERY

A special day for you to explore discovering and/or rediscovering the mission and ministry you are called to as a baptized Christian. The deadline for registration for the "Day" is **July 23**. The place is **St. Paul's**, Salt Lake City. The time is **8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4**. Please check with the church office for a brochure with registration form, or go to the diocesan website at www.episcopal-ut.org.

Mission Saturday

The next Mission Saturday is July 14. Come and help with your gifts and callings as we enjoy a simple lunch and beyond.

Points to Ponder

And this is law I will maintain,

Until my dying day, Sir

That whatsoever King may reign,

I'll still be the Vicar of Bray, Sir.

- *"The Vicar of Bray", traditional, words not attributed.*

Regional Confirmations

During the Regional Confirmations at St. James, on May 12, Kimberley Hellan, from St. Stephen's, was confirmed by Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish. Several people from St. Stephen's attended the service, including Lee Shaw, Isabel Sullivan, Martin Willcocks, and others (see photo).

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

During the event, Rob Trujillo, Zachary Johnson and Martin Willcocks joined in singing a rousing song encapsulating some of our church history, "The Vicar of Bray." Thanks to Kaye Willcocks for her piano accompaniment for this and some rounds, and thanks to Marjorie

for the music book containing these and other songs. There was also a silent auction including teapots, tea cozies, and a set of Apostles' spoons.



Photo: Martin Willcocks

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: (after Easter)

- 6:00 p.m. WoW! Dinner - come, eat and enjoy, you don't have to bring food.
- 7:00 p.m. Midweek Holy Eucharist
- 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

- 1st. Thursday Hymn Selection Meeting
- 3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings (except July)

SPECIAL DATES

- July 5 7:00 p.m. Hymn Selection Committee
- July 8 11:30 a.m. Acolyte Training - David Evans
- July 11 7:30 p.m. WoW! Program - "Utah Clean Energy" Bonnie Christiansen
- July 14 12:00 a.m. Mission Saturday
- July 18 7:30 p.m. WoW! Program - "Parish Lay Ministries" Deanna Anderson
- July 25 7:30 p.m. WoW! Program - "HEAL (Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah)" Jessica Kendrick
- August 4 8:30 a.m. Day of Discovery at St. Paul's - register by July 23.
- August 8 WoW! Program - "Multicultural Arch Foundation" M. Fethulla Erdogan

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, August 6, 2007.

Editor: Martin Willcocks..

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