



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 15, No. 8 November, 2007

Rector's Reflections

Fall is my favorite time of year: cooler weather, gray rainy days, the colors changing to gold and red, the prospect of holiday tradition and fun. In all of this I give thanks. I give thanks for a new church program year beginning. I give thanks for a sense of renewed energy in the parish following a long, hot summer. I give thanks for each of you.

There is not a Sunday that comes that as I stand to give the opening acclamation: "Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit" that I do not give thanks for all gathered together in our beautiful worship space. As I give thanks for those who have been there and are no longer with us. As I give thanks for those who are not present this Sunday, but will – hopefully – be present at our next gathering.

The gathering of community is very important to me. We are

called into community through our baptism and through our humanity. Human beings gather together. And as we gather as church we do so in a joyful manner with music, color, anticipation and grace. We at St. Stephen's have much to celebrate and to be grateful for. And I know I am blessed to be a part of all of this.

I am so grateful for my call to St. Stephen's and this community. I am awed and humbled by your faithfulness, your generosity and your spirit of confidence. I am also so grateful for your willingness to step forward and not only be "in" community but to "help" community be community.

I love the mission statement crafted by the Vestry: "St. Stephen's is a welcoming, confident community with a diversity of gifts; where all are equal in Christ. We live our baptismal vows through mutual respect, shared ministry, and joyful worship."

This says so much about how we see not only ourselves but our ministries in this community. I truly see this community living into the words of our mission statement and the words lovingly embroidered on our banner in the church.

In the next few weeks you will be hearing more of our 2008 Stewardship Program. This is "Stewardship" not fund raising. Stewardship is our response to the gifts given to us. Stewardship is what we do after we say, "We believe...." Stewardship is what happens out of thanksgiving and joy for our common life as well as our common laughter and tears.

Baptisms

The next occasion for Holy Baptisms will be All Saints Sunday, November 4, at the 10:30 service. If you desire baptism or if you have a child you would like to present for baptism, please see Fr. Lee at your earliest convenience.

Vestry

The Vestry will meet Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The previous meeting was on October 16.

Youth Group

St. Stephen's Youth Group, SWAPS – Scripture, Worship, Amusement, Prayer, Service, is staging a Murder Mystery Dinner and Play, on November 3 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a silent auction, beginning at 5:00 p.m. as part of the Annual Fundraiser. See the article page 8 in this newsletter.

Stewardship Luncheon

St. Stephen's Stewardship Luncheon will be on Sunday, October 28th, after the service. See the article on page 7 for details.

Wow!

The Worship on Wednesday staff need your help! Please see the article on page 9 in this newsletter for details. Programs are listed in the calendar.

Stewardship is our shared commitment to one another as we strive to live into the full stature of Christ. Stewardship is less about money as it is about our thanksgiving offering for all we have received from one another and all we have yet to share one with another.

So, I give thanks for each of you. I daily give thanks for my call to this community. I invite you to look at your stewardship as an offering of thanksgiving for what has been, for what is and for what yet will be in our common life.

Peace
Fr. Lee †

The St. Stephen's Columbarium

We have begun work on the new St. Stephen's Columbarium. (A columbarium is a place, either in the ground or constructed in a wall, where the cremated remains of a person is interred.)

The St. Stephen's Columbarium will be in a garden area west of the church, between the church west windows and the free-standing brick wall on 3200 West.

On Saturday, Oct. 13, a hardy group of 12 or so gathered to begin the work of creating this sacred space for our community. The weed-infested berm was leveled by Dave Barber in a bright orange tractor. This area will be re-seeded with grass in the spring. A clearing was made along the west wall which will be the starting area of the Columbarium. Two yellow climbing roses were planted to anchor this area. Eventually a cross will be placed between the roses to mark this space.

Other plantings included a small evergreen tree, 20 Rose of Sharon shrubs to create a private hedge and a beautiful maple tree. Next spring, we will continue the development with places for internment and more landscaping. A memorial plaque will be placed on the southern wall of the church listing the names of those buried in the Columbarium.

There will be a modest fee for burial in the Columbarium to help maintain the grounds and to pay for each memorial name plaque. These fees will be set by the committee and approved by the vestry. More information will be available as we move forward with this.

Fran Crookston has chaired the Columbarium Committee. We are grateful for the expertise – and connections – of Liz Johnson in the landscaping and purchase of plants.

St. Stephen's has had a line item in the budget of around \$1,000 for a Columbarium for some time. This work is now made possible by a very generous donation by the family of Dona Pedersen for the creation of the Columbarium. We are very grateful for their generosity. Dona will be the first parishioner interred in our Columbarium next spring.

If you would like more information on the Columbarium or information on how you can help, please see Fran Crookston, Deanna Anderson (Vestry Liaison) or Fr. Lee.

The following is the prayer offered by Fr. Lee as work began on creating the sacred space of a St. Stephen's Columbarium:

Loving God, you call us to tell our stories and remember our past. We gather this morning to begin a new work at St. Stephen's Church. We remember that our patron Stephen was martyred for his faith and his proclamation of your

Word. As we begin this new work of setting aside sacred ground for the burial of those who have proclaimed your word through their lives, we ask your blessings upon our endeavors on their behalf.

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a sepulcher in the garden: We set aside this ground for those who will be buried here that they may dwell with Christ in paradise, and may come to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Francis Smiled on Oct. 6

We had a glorious blessing of the animals for the Feast of St. Francis on Saturday, Oct. 6. Due to rain and cold weather we met in the Parish Hall. A lively congregation of over 40 dogs and cats, plus two birds and two turtles gathered with their human companions for a blessing.

There was a general sense of holy chaos as the Fr. Lee blessed each animal individually. One very shy dog was blessed in her car as she refused to come into the parish hall.

In attendance were also two reporters from local media, the *West Valley Journal* as well as the *Deseret News*. In the Sunday *Deseret News* there was a nice photo of the blessing of Socks (a handsome black canine) and his human companion Glen Hollander (Jr. Warden).

A Thought about our Service Time

As a parish we have begun a conversation about the possibilities of changing our service time from beginning at 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. each Sunday. This conversation has taken place in the Vestry, the Worship Committee and on Oct. 15 in an informal "parish meeting." We will have another "informal parish meeting" on Nov. 18 during coffee hour.

Let me give you some background on the genesis of this idea of shifting our service time by 30 minutes.

Sunday School: For the children of San Esteban to join our Sunday School, they need to leave their service before Communion. Even so, they come in late to ongoing class conversations, crafts and activities. To move our service back will allow Sunday School to go from 10 to 10:45, thus allowing the San Esteban children to come in after making their communion following their service. It also makes it possible for adults from San Esteban to be involved as Sunday School teachers.

Altar Guild: It is a press to get in and set up for our 10:30 service by the time the church empties from San Esteban and our Altar Guild can begin to set things for our service. It is not practical nor polite to begin during the San Esteban service for it is disruptive for them. This will allow a more relaxed pace for the Altar Guild to do their ministry.

Choir: We have a new choir. They rehearse on Thursday evenings. To move our services by just 30 minutes, will allow them time to warm-up and rehearse in the church prior to our service. Our musicians are taking part in the San Esteban service and so are not available until after they let out. This would benefit the overall music program of our parish.

So, there are the positives. Yes, there are negatives. We start 30 minutes later and so would get out 30 minutes later. The morning is now basically gone for family activities, etc.

It is a change. It means a disruption of our routine. It means more of the day is gone by the time I leave the church and get home and get on with the rest of my weekend. Yes, we are putting everything back by 30 minutes.

I realize that many people like to have more of a Sunday to continue their weekend lives and activities. For two summers I offered an 8 a.m. service for those who would like to have an early start on Sunday with Eucharist and then have the day available for family activities, etc.

I have decided that I will offer an 8 a.m service beginning on January 6, 2008, the Feast of the Epiphany. This will be a shorter Eucharistic service that has no music, only one reading – the Gospel – and no sermon. I will offer a short reflection on the Gospel. I anticipate that this service will last approximately 30 minutes and so the church will be available for San Esteban to set up for their 9 a.m. service. This service will be initiated regardless of when the main service begins, either 10:30 or 11 a.m.

So, in addition to considering a change in our main service time, I am asking for your input for an early service. Please complete the questionnaire below and either put it in the offering plate, give it to me, or mail it to the church.

Thank you for your prayers, presence and part the life of St. Stephen's.

Lee †

I would like and would support an 8 a.m. service on Sunday morning.

I would like the service to follow the following rite:

BCP Rite I _____

BCP Rite II _____

WOW Liturgy (*Enriching our Worship*) _____

I would be willing to help set up for this service. _____

Name (optional) _____

A Change in our Sunday Readings Beginning on First Advent, Dec. 2, 2007

On Dec. 2, the First Sunday of Advent and beginning of the church's liturgical year, we will begin using the "Revised Common Lectionary" (RCL) for our Sunday worship. The following article explains the RCL and its history and purpose. This is the first of three articles about the RCL written by The Rev'd Dr. Ruth Meyers, academic dean and professor of liturgics at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois and member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for the Episcopal Church.

Where did the RCL Come From?

In 1963, the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, calling for major reforms of the liturgy, decreed that "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly" by reading a fuller selection of scripture at celebrations for the Eucharist. For centuries the Roman Catholic lectionary had appointed only an epistle and gospel, without a reading from the Old Testament, and the cycle of lessons was repeated annually. The lessons of the Episcopal Church's 1928 Book of Common Prayer followed a similar pattern.

In response to the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church developed a three-year lectionary with three readings and a psalm for each Sunday. Soon after the church introduced this lectionary in 1969, other churches, including the Episcopal Church, began to adopt it. However, each church that did so produced its own variation, hampering ecumenical efforts in sermon-study groups and publication of preaching resources.

By that time, formal avenues for ecumenical dialogue were well established. The Consultation on Common Texts had been formed in the mid-1960's to develop ecumenically agreed upon English-language liturgical texts. In 1978, the Consultation formed a working group of Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and United Methodist clergy and scholars to produce a common lectionary. Using the calendar and basic structure of the Roman Catholic lectionary, the committee produced the Common Lectionary published in 1983.

The Consultation on Common Texts invited experimental use and criticism of the Common Lectionary. After six years, a new ecumenical task force, with representation from Canada, the United States, and Great Britain, reviewed the critiques and made revisions, resulting in the Revised Common Lectionary published in 1992.

The Episcopal Church first adopted the Revised Common Lectionary for trial use at the 71st General Convention in 1994. Each subsequent convention re-authorized trial use. Resolution A077, adopted in 2006 by the 76th General Convention, made the Revised Common Lectionary our official lectionary, effective on the First Sunday of Advent 2007. Congregations may, with the permission of their diocesan bishop, continue to use the current lectionary until the First Sunday of Advent 2010.

Next month: How does the Revised Common Lectionary Compare with the 1979 Book of Common Prayer? What Difference Will it Make?

It Must Be Fall! — by **David Schultz**, Stewardship Committee

The leaves are changing and falling all around us. Sunday school is up and running at full speed. The choir is in fine voice. Even Father Lee's robes are changing color. So it must be time for the Stewardship Committee to start their annual drive.

For those of you unfamiliar with the words “Stewardship Committee”, it means we are the ones that will now be asking for you pledge for the next year.

STOP! Before you go on to the next article, please allow me to say that we will always understand that times are tough for you, your family, as well as our church family.

We have all been given so many wonderful blessings. If you are honest with yourself, you know the Lord looks down on us everyday and gives us all so many blessings to be thankful. All we are asking is that you share with your church family a little of what the Lord has provided.

If you have never given before, please start small. If \$5.00 a week is what you feel comfortable with, pledge \$260.00 for the year. Yes we in the committee would like more, especially with the challenges facing out little congregation in 2008, but as I said we understand the challenges you face, too.

We consider you part of our family and we want you feel part of everything we do at St. Stephens. This is a good first step to jumping into the pool; although be it at the shallow end. So go slow and we will be there to catch you if you start to sink.

And best of all, we looking forward to seeing you at the Stewardship luncheon on October 28th, right after the service. So come hungry and prepare to eat your fill of spaghetti and many different salads and desserts.

It's going to be a great year in 2008. Please come and be a part of St. Stephens, as we start to move forward together.

Thank you for your time and help,

- *David Schultz*, Stewardship Committee

Points to Ponder

Lord, thy word abideth, and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth light and joy receiveth.

- *H. W. Baker (1821-77)*

Hear ye! Hear ye!
All ye Kings and Queens
Knights and Nobles
Serfs and Servants

SWAPS Presents

A Knight of Murder and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 3, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

A tournament celebration is planned to honor the noble marriage of Baron Bartholomew to Lady Diana of Dunnsberry in the manor of Fernwood. As a resident of the manor, you are not only invited to be there, but your attendance is required by the request of your lord.

Whether it is to see knights jousting or to partake in the food and entertainment, your business is but your own. . .that is until you find yourself in the middle of a murder.

With only one night to find the guilty, you will soon figure out that there is a lot more at stake, for murder in the manor is punishable by death. Whether you are guilty or not, there will be others trying to finger you as the culprit as you try to find the real murderer, and only you can defend your innocence. Who do you trust? Who will betray you before the night is through? Everyone is a suspect and no one is safe in this mystery of medieval madness.

Be careful in attending. Your life will depend not only on your innocence, but your ability to defend it.

Tickets for A Knight of Murder are \$5/person or \$20/family of 4 or more and may be purchased from any SWAPS member. Purchase by Saturday, October 20th if you want to participate as a character in the mystery.

This is our annual fundraiser. Proceeds from the auction will help fund our activities for the 2007-2008 program year. The name of our youth group is SWAPS, (Scripture, Worship, Amusement, Prayer, Service)

We are also seeking items for our silent auction and hope you will consider donating something. We would like to have all auction items should be delivered to the church by Friday, October 26th. Bidding for auction items will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Nov 3.

Please contact Becky Ball, our adult coordinator, if you have questions or would like us to pick up any donations for the silent auction. Her phone numbers are: Work - 581-0380 Cell - 652-2300

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

In the past three years, thirteen parishioners and members of the extended community of St. Stephen's have died. Some others have moved away or for other reasons have left us. We have a number of friends who are too busy working or too sick to attend church with us on a regular basis.

We've been very fortunate in having more people join our worship. I've been excited to see these new faces and all the gifts they've brought to St. Stephen's. But the one thing they can't do is fill that feeling of emptiness we experience when we realize that we'll never spend time with our lost friends again here on earth.

When I worked with the VA Hospital and nursing homes, I discovered that the things we regret most as we age are the things we never did. People didn't usually say "I'm sorry that I did this or tried that..." Instead, they most often said "I regret that I didn't do this" or "I'm sorry I never tried that."

I believe that's where our sense of loss and mourning is the heaviest when we lose someone. We have forever lost the opportunity to share an experience with that person. There won't be any more talks over a cup of coffee, no more insight into who that person was, and no more second chances.

The best way to remedy this is to take advantage of opportunities. Add these very important tasks to your list of things to do or enter them on your calendar. Don't wait until you have the time...make the time!

Make that phone call and let someone know you miss seeing them at St. Stephen's. Spend an extra ten minutes in the Parish Hall after church to speak with that person you've been meaning to get to know better. 'Do lunch' with those friends that keep asking you to join them. Go on that mini-vacation with the girls (or guys) for a long week-end.

There is nothing more important on earth than the friends and family we share our time with. This is one way we show our love for them...the love that Jesus commanded we have for our neighbors. Do it soon...before it's too late.
– Judy Carter

*“Life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts
of those who make this
earthly pilgrimage with us;
so be swift to love
and make haste
to do kindness.
And the blessing of God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.”
Amen.*

A Request from Deacon Dan Herron

On the evening of September 5, 2007, those in attendance said the following at the beginning of the service: “Bishop Carolyn, we have come together today to welcome Dan Herron, to be received as a Deacon of this Church. We believe that he is well qualified and that he has been prayerfully and lawfully prepared”.

Never in my life have I felt more welcomed, more accepted, than at that moment. I thank you.

In attendance that evening were members of the Catholic Church, the Latter Day Saints, the Episcopal Church and others. There was at least one bishop, several laity, priests and deacons. There were friends, family and neighbors. They came from Montana, Arizona, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Utah and some even from West Valley City.

I have a request of you. I ask that you let me know how I can serve you and the parish in general. For example, one person has asked me to look into putting together a smoking cessation group. I'm working on it. Just please remember, I have a full time job and a full time wife, and Betsy has a mean “Left-hook”. We try our best to keep Friday night as “Date Night”, so, in most cases Friday nights belong to Betsy – remember that “Left-hook!”

I can not thank you enough for welcoming Betsy and me into your lives and especially as your deacon.

“Deacon Dan The Religious Man.”

Myanmar needs our help.

Bishop David and the people of Myanmar have been in our Prayers of the People for quite some time. Now they are experiencing even harder times, due to their oppressive military regime. **The Rev. Kitty Babson** reports that the people in the Diocese of Myitkyina (north) are in desperate need of clothing and blankets for the upcoming cold weather.

Bishop Caroline has requested that all Parishes in the Utah Diocese bring as many fleece items as possible to the Convention so they can be sent to Myanmar when Kitty travels in November. **Vests, jackets, blankets, or any other fleece items will be welcome, for adults and children, new or gently used.**

Please do not donate parkas, wool items, etc., but **confine your donations to fleece only.** If you'd rather make a cash donation, please see Judy Carter, Marjorie Ball, or Isabel Sullivan. Monies collected will be used to buy items at local thrift stores and fleece blankets from Ikea. This is an excellent opportunity to serve these people whom we have prayed so diligently for.

The Cotton Shop at 6150 S. State St., Murray, will give 50% discount if you ask Dixie, the Store Manager. Phone # 266-6942

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 11:30 a.m. 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:

- 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

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

SPECIAL DATES

- Oct. 28 11:30 a.m. Stewardship Luncheon
- Oct. 31 7:00 p.m. All Hallows Eve Service (instead of Midweek Eucharist)
- Nov. 3 5:00 p.m. Silent Auction for SWAPS
- Nov. 3 6:00 p.m. A Knight of Murder and Dinner - SWAPS Fundraiser
- Nov. 4 10:30 a.m. All Saints Sunday service - Holy Baptism
- Nov. 21 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Dinner and Service (no program)
- Nov. 28 7:30 p.m. Christmas Traditions in Mexico - The Rev. Canon Pablo Ramos

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, November 19, 2007.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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