



The Servant

St. Stephen's Parish Newsletter

Vol. 17, No. 7 November 2009

Rector's Reflections

So, how is your Christmas shopping coming along?

Christmas shopping? It is not even Advent yet!

This year it is not too early to be thinking about your Christmas shopping, especially regarding two specific programs. The first is our Angel Tree Program. We will have information on children to "adopt" for gifts on Nov. 29 and then our Angel Tree Christmas Party at WOW on Dec. 16. I hope all of St. Stephen's will take part in this incredible outreach program of our parish for children who have a parent in jail or prison. (See Carol Powell's article in *The Servant*)

The other part of Christmas shopping is for your family and friends. How many toys do your children and grandchildren really need? Does dad or grandpa really need another tie? Still wondering what to get mom or grandma? Well, here are some suggestions.

Episcopal Relief and Development is offering their annual "Gifts for Life" program to assist

people in third world countries.

Instead of more toys, why not get a mosquito net for only \$12. For just \$12 you can prevent the spread of malaria and possibly save the lives of three children. Can you buy anything better than that for \$12?

Or for that someone very special on your shopping list, how about giving a goat for only \$80 or a duck or goose for only \$35. These gifts offer food as well as milk or eggs for sale for the family. Or you can buy a share in a flock of chickens for only \$25 per share.

I told my son Matthew that this is the type of thing he can expect for Christmas this year. He liked the idea very much, but budding vegetarian that he is, he asked that his gift be "non-animal." He said he would like to have a share of a fruit tree given for only \$35 per share.

There are also other non-animal gifts oriented to services and health care. Postnatal care to safeguard against preventable illnesses is available for \$50 per infant. Or you can help sponsor a

roving medical clinic for only \$15 per person, which includes immunizations and medications that reach people wherever they live.

As we know how AIDS has devastated communities throughout Africa. For only \$50 you can provide AIDS prevention education by a trained health worker to go to villages to provide life-saving information. There are thousands of children orphaned by AIDS. For \$80 you can provide education for a year for one of these children orphaned in Africa.

To further help the children throughout Africa and Asia, for a mere \$15 per child you can provide food for young scholars. By establishing school canteens that serve two hot, nutritious meals per day, your gift ensures that children will be well fed, giving them the strength to learn and create a better future.

All of this is available from Episcopal Relief and Development, 1-800-334-7626, X 5129. You can go online to shop and order gifts: "<http://www.er-d.org/giftsforlife>".

Congratulations Sandy Garrard!

Sandy Garrard was elected Diocesan Treasurer by acclamation at the Diocesan Convention on Oct. 24.

Bishop's Visitation – Nov. 15

Bishop Irish will make her visitation to St. Stephen's on Nov. 15. We will have numerous confirmations. This will probably be our last official visitation from Bishop Carolyn prior to her retirement in 2010. Please come and support all of our folks who will be confirmed and received by Bishop Irish and have a time to say goodbye to our Bishop.

Online you can also shop by category or price limit.

The colorful catalogue with these and other suggested gifts for "Gifts for Life" is on the resource table in the parish hall.

Please consider giving a "Gift for Life" this year for someone around the world in the name of a family member or friend; a gift that could save a life and improve the quality of life for a child of God. With each gift you will receive an attractive card you can personalize and send to your friends and loved ones. When ordering online, E-cards are also available to send any time.

To assure delivery of your gift cards before Christmas, orders must be placed by Monday, December 7, 2009.

So, this Christmas I hope you will shop at ERD and not just at Target, Macy's, Penney's, K-Mart or other retail stores.

P.s. gifts are also tax deductible!

Blessings and happy shopping.

Peace,
Fr. Lee †

Angel Tree Party – Dec. 16

Our annual Angel Tree Christmas party for children who have a parent in prison or jail will be on Dec. 16. Please see the article about this tradition in the parish and plan to be part of this by purchasing a gift for a child and being with us on Dec. 16 for a Christmas Party at WOW with these children.

Christmas Shopping at the “Open Bookstore” on Dec. 6

We will have merchandise and people from the diocesan “Open Bookstore” at St. Stephen’s during coffee hour on Dec. 6. This will be a time to shop for various gifts such as Prayer Books, religious art, crosses and crucifixes, icons, books, and other items during our coffee hour. We thank the folks from the Open Bookstore for coming and bringing their inventory to us to choose and shop. Be sure to visit the Open Bookstore on Dec. 6 during our coffee hour at St. Stephens!

The Rev’d Canon David Bailey to Preach on Dec. 13

The Rev’d Canon David Bailey (Dave) will be with us on Dec. 13 to preach and concelebrate. Dave has been chosen as the bishop-elect of the Missionary Diocese of Navajoland and will be consecrated in 2010 following formal action by the House of Bishops. Be with us to bid farewell to Dave who has been a good friend and supporter of St. Stephen’s throughout his tenure in the diocese.

St. Stephen’s Community of Care

Due to the many activities scheduled after Sunday services in November, the Community of Care will not be meeting again until December 6, 2009. If anyone needs to vent or have someone to listen in the interim, please contact Isabel Sullivan, 801-685-8822.

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.

Second Saturday and Kid’s Club

The next Second Saturday will be on **November 14th**. 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. Kids Club is also on Second Saturday.

Video Class

Martin Willcocks’ video class is currently viewing several programs from the PBS series “Closer To Truth: Cosmos, Consciousness, God.” In Advent, we will change to a different program, including “The Glastonbury Traditions”

Fellowship Hour

The youth of St. Stephens will host, not provide, coffee hour on most Sundays during the program year. **We will not provide food for coffee hour.** We will set-up, clean-up and put out any food provided. We hope the parishioners will help by celebrating special occasions or memorials (birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, etc; the possibilities are endless) and provide coffee hour goodies in exchange for a fabulous announcement of such celebration/memorial in the weekly bulletin.

If you would like to celebrate a special occasion/memorial, please complete a form at least two weeks prior to the celebration and give it to Becky Ball or George Johnson. Forms can be found in the parish hall near the coffee hour sign-up sheet or below this text. Thanks in advance for your support.

COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR

Name: _____

Date of sponsored coffee hour: _____

Celebration/Memorial: _____

Points To Ponder

Once he came in blessing, all our ills redressing;
came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.

Thus if thou canst name him, not ashamed to claim him,
but will trust him boldly nor dost love him coldly,
he will then receive thee, heal thee, and forgive thee.

- Jan Roh (1485?-1547), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), Hymn 53

Articles - Integrity Utah! A Home for the Holidays

There may be more Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual or Transgender-identifying persons, living in poverty now than at any point in US history. There are an estimated 60-70 million young people in the US between ages five and twenty, a youth population explosion not recorded in the US since the baby boom generation. Of these, youth; are drastically affected, one in three are members of a racial or ethnic minority. Social scientists generally estimate that 10% of youth are or will become lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The 2000 Census reports that youth younger than 18 comprise the largest number of people living in poverty in the US, and youth 18 to 24 had a poverty rate of 14.4%. Employer discrimination against youth based on age (which contributes to low youth wages and the income disparities between old and young workers); youth unemployment that can be as high as 33% in some cities; and government sanctioned employment discrimination in 40 states against self-identified LGBT populations ensure that LGBT youth and adults are well represented among communities of poor and working-class people. LGBT persons, particularly those of African-American, Native American and

Latino descent, may be disproportionately represented among LGBT youth living in poverty, given the high poverty rates for those communities, the disproportionately low wages paid to these workers, and the potential for racial discrimination in hiring and job promotion.

Beyond poverty, the LGBT community faces enormous obstacles in achieving resiliency. At a point when youth and some Adults are already struggling with the developmental and emotional challenges, including the phase of sexual awakening and intense pressure to conform to social norms, LGBT persons are additionally confronted with their same sex attractions and/or non-conformist gender expression.

Homophobia and heterosexism from socializing agents like family, church and school compound LGBT communities' challenges by enforcing rigid gender roles, condemning gender nonconformity and homosexuality. Perceptions and/or confirmation of a person's LGBT identity in school, or work can lead to verbal or physical assault, consequently making that family, work or social setting unsafe for many LGBT people. In response, to the known fact that many in our community are not in regular communication with their family of birth and we have through time formed our own family's of choice even with newly formed family of choice, the holidays can be very difficult for many.

Integrity Utah! will be hosting at St. Stephens Episcopal Church an Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Celebration, starting at 2:30 pm with Holy Communion. Join us in gathering around the Lord's Table and let us continue the Feast with turkey and mashes potatoes in the Parish Hall. We would ask you to bring your favorite side dish. Come join our Family, we will have football on the TV in the library and a movie showing in the gathering area. Please let us know if you can come, call Robb or Dex at 435-849-2961.

Integrity Utah! A Home for the Holidays

2:30 pm Holy Communion. 3:00pm to 5:00pm Dinner (Football and Movie).

Articles - Angel Tree Christmas Party 2009 - Carol Powell

Last year the parishioners at St. Stephens made the Angel Tree party a great success. Lorrin and I would like to thank everyone that participated; we couldn't have done it without you. This year we are planning on sponsoring 20 to 23 children who have a parent who is incarcerated in the prison or a jail. This number could change as we contact care-givers. It's important the children understand the gifts are from their inmate parent and the parishioners are the hands of the Spirit of Christmas.

Each child receives a "fun" gift and a clothing gift with each gift valued \$25 to \$30. The Prison Ministry supplies the Angel Tree Tags that list the child's name, age, sex and wish list to help the parishioner purchase item(s) for the child. We're still working on the wish list and hope to have it completed by November 29th. It is sometimes difficult to keep in touch with the care givers as the children often move. We will make every effort to keep in contact with each care-giver as the process moves along. On November 29th there will be an Angel Tree table in the gathering area. If you wish to participate, please

choose an Angel Tree Tag and sign the tracking sheet. Each tag will be assigned a letter and a number that will be matched on the tracking sheet. Please bring your unwrapped purchased gifts to the church on December 13th and we will have a gift wrapping party after church during coffee hour. This year we are going to host the Christmas Party for the children and their care givers at WoW! on December 16th.

The Angel Tree Program began at St. Stephen's in 2005 when Lorrin and I delivered the presents that the parish had purchased for children. Then in 2006 we began to host the Christmas Party with dinner and gift opening as part of WoW! This will be our fourth WoW! Angel Tree Christmas Party and each year this program has grown in number of participants and now includes carol singing as well. It is one of the most enjoyable and gratifying WoW! evenings of the year for many of us.

Please plan on joining us in the spirit of giving. The children of prisoners are numerous and need the support of their community. They need to know they are loved and not forgotten.

Vestry Communication - By Lora Barber

As I talk to parishioners and discuss vestry agenda items, it seems that sometimes information does not flow as expected to all persons who need to know that information.

One of our goals will be to continue working to make our communication processes more effective and timely. One example of getting information out to people is to use a software program already in use throughout the diocese to send email to appropriate groups. Initially, it seems that it will work well to be efficient, accurate, and timely.

Do you have other ideas? We welcome suggestions! Maybe you have experience with what doesn't work. That's good information too. Please talk to me or any vestry member - let us know what you're thinking.

Many of you probably already received the email from St. Stephen's parish inviting you to meet with members of the nominating committee to elect the new Bishop of Utah in 2010. This is just one example of information that can effectively reach all members of our congregation quickly. If you would like to receive information via email, please contact the office to have your email address added to our list. The phone number is 801-968-2731. - Lora Barber

Articles - Reflections on RVW, by Robb Trujillo

I had the pleasure of listening to the Mass in G Minor by one of my favorite composers, Ralph Vaughan Williams; on a late rainy night, it was enchanting. The first liturgical performance was at Westminster Cathedral under R .R. Terry, who took an instant liking to the work and, championed its liturgical use. The work is set for unaccompanied double choir and soloists. "The success of the Mass in G Minor as a liturgical work in post-war Britain is best summed up in Terry's own words to Vaughan Williams: "I'm quite sincere when I say that it is the work one has all along been waiting for. In your individual and modern idiom you have really captured the old liturgical spirit

and atmosphere.”

The early 1920's marked a pastoral interlude for Vaughan Williams. In 1921, Vaughan Williams wrote his Mass in G Minor. Its musical link with pastoral works cannot be missed, as the piece is full of the rich harmonies associated with the composer in his most “English” of moments, but the origins of the piece are also, as with Howell’s Requiem, in the revival of English polyphony. Our choir has spent the last several weeks working on Gregorian and Anglican Chant. We have been learning to read Numes, which are among the earliest forms of musical notation.

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born on 12 October 1872 in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire, where his father, The Rev. Arthur Vaughan Williams, was Vicar. He was also related to the Darwins, Charles Darwin being a great-uncle. Though born into the privileged intellectual upper middle class, Vaughan Williams never took it for granted and worked all his life for the democratic and egalitarian ideals in which he believed. As a student he had studied piano, “which I never could play, and the violin, which was my musical salvation.” If you look through The Hymnal 1982 you will find jewels of music; no less than twenty seven sacred pieces of music written or adapted by him. One that is very dear to me is #216, Hail thee, festival day, which first appeared in “The English Hymnal” in about 1906, of which William was a significant editor. The Text was written in the year 540 or so, we are not entirely sure of an exact date. The author of the text is Honorius Fortunatus. He grew up during the Byzantine reconquest of Italy and although the text was written so long ago it still rings true for us today.

Hail, festal day! To endless ages known,
when Christ, o’er death victorious, gained his throne.
Now with Lord, of new and heavenly birth,
his gifts return to grace the springing earth.
He reigns supreme, who died the death of shame,
and all created things adore his Name.
Fulfill thy promise, O King of love, we pray!
The third morn brightens, rise and come away.
No moldering tomb shall hold thee in repose;
no stone the ransom of the world enclose.

The Hymnal 1982 is a window into culture and creative power, when we gather in community and worship; we bring to life the timeless mysteries of our faith. Thank God for Ralph Vaughan Williams and thank God for you; together we give breath to the voice of God. - Robb Trujillo, RSCM
Choirmaster.

Articles - A View From the Other Side, by Jean Olsen

For quite a few years, long before I came to St. Stephen’s, I was a lay Eucharistic visitor. I visited people in their homes, in nursing homes, and in the hospital who were unable to attend church and be a part of the community at worship. I took communion to them, prayed with them, shared

the scripture readings and thoughts from the sermon, and helped them to continue to be a part of the parish community even if they could not attend regular services. Little did I think I would ever be on the receiving end of this special ministry, but never say never.

Two months ago I was struck down with sciatic nerve pain, severe pain in my left leg from my hip all the way down to my big toe. All I could do was sit in my recliner chair. Getting up to go to the bathroom, or going into the kitchen to get a cold drink was nearly impossible because of the pain. Going to church was completely out of the question. I was helpless, and because I did not know how or when I would get better, I felt nearly hopeless as well. That is why I was so grateful for the friends who came over to visit and fed my cats, fix me some sandwiches, and brought me my mail from downstairs. Best of all, I was most grateful for the lay Eucharistic ministers who visited me and brought communion. “We are all members of one Body for we all share one bread.” I was not alone – I was still a part of the worshiping community. I was fed with spiritual food at a time when I really needed that special nourishment.

Being a lay Eucharistic visitor is one of many special ministries we have at St. Stephen’s. We have been selected and trained to take communion bread, and sometimes wine, to those among us who are homebound or cannot come to church. We are not meant as a substitute for a visit from our priest or deacon, but as a supplement to them. We bring with us the “Good News” from the Sunday service, and maybe a bit of parish news as well. We represent the people in the pews, and we are sent forth from the church just before the end of the Eucharist as members of the congregation going out to other members of the congregation who cannot be present at this time. We share what we have received – the Word, the sacrament, the celebration.

If you know of anyone who would like to have a visit from one of the lay Eucharistic visitors, contact the parish office or Fr. Lee. Please do not worry about cleaning up your house or having to look your best. We understand what is most important: to share the Bread of life with one another, because we are all members of Christ’s Body.

Articles - Life in Seminary, by Susan Fischer

Greetings to my friends and family at St. Stephen’s:

Many have asked for an update, so here is a little news of my life at seminary. Austin is a very eclectic town, as the University and Seminaries add to the already diverse culture. With 300 days of sunshine annually, the town is an energetic and alive community with southern hospitality and charm.

I live in a small, furnished 300 square foot studio apartment on the third floor of what is called College Court. Simplicity is good! There are approximately 50 students housed where I live, some are single, some married, men, women, some with dogs, some with cats, some with birds, and some just miss their cat! We conveniently walk across the street to chapel and our classes. And in contrast as I look the other direction from my balcony, I can see the University of Texas stadium. During football season I enjoy the lights and action of U of T, as well as those late night party goers at Dave’s

Famous Pizza Parlor at the end of my street. Gives me a taste of the noisy, sounds and flavor of what “living downtown” might be like. I wonder if this is what Benedict had in mind when he said to enjoy the sounds of the universe?

Patterned much like a monastic community, the seminary is a worshipping community that gathers as a people of God in corporate worship – morning prayer at 7:30, chapel every day at noon, and special events in between. We also have evening prayer and special services in Spanish. Students are in charge of organizing and structuring the worship of the week. All classes begin and end with a prayer.

My class schedule is full, challenging and exciting – Liturgy, Music, Writing, Hermeneutics for Preaching, Parish Field Assignment, as well as Liturgy and Ascesis: The way the Church Teaches. I’m just getting the rhythm of all the reading and assignments, as well as hours in the library doing research. The classes are deep and rich.

For new student orientation we read Michael Battle’s book *Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*. This was not only a great book to read, and I know many of you have read it, but it was also a meaningful initiation to life here in community. During orientation we shared our hopes and fears, our dreams and visions. We talked about identity and change of identity or identities lost as we had come from places all over the United States, left jobs, homes, security, money, families, church homes, children/grandchildren. Where are we and who are we now? Who will be become? Where are we going?

Through honesty, availability, and welcoming warmth of our group, we embraced one another and established a new covenant community of ‘Juniors’ at Seminary of the Southwest. The Ubuntu theology of ‘each individual’s humanity is ideally expressed in relationship with others,’ came to be personally known. “I am, because we are” is a familiar way of being in relationship I had known at St. Stephen’s.

In addition to our prayer life and academic studies, we share the work of the community. My two part time jobs are in the library, and yes, the kitchen! You taught me well and I feel a bit like Brother Lawrence as I slice, dice, chop, and wash dishes. I cook meals on Saturday’s for weekend seminarian students.

I am blessed to have this opportunity to immerse myself in studies and God’s Holy Word. God’s Grace is the vessel that holds me and sustains me each day.

My prayers are with you, as I pray yours are with me. Peace be with you.
- Yours in Christ, Susan

Address for Susan Fischer (St. Stephen's Candidate for Holy Orders):
3001 Duval, apt. #303 Susan will be in seminary for the coming
Austin TX 78705 year and welcomes cards and letters.
Dan and Betsy Herron are at:
Raton KOA, 1330 South 2nd Street, Raton, NM 877

Articles - The Church and H1N1 Flu and Other Diseases

There have been several concerns raised locally and nationally about how churches may respond to the pandemic of H1N1 flu. Following guidelines issued by the Diocese of Utah we will implement the following guidelines during this flu season.

1. If you or your children are sick or feel sick, STAY HOME. Get better then rejoin the community.
2. Wash your hands regularly. We will also have anti-bacterial lotion available at the credence table by the Paschal Candle each Sunday for your use before church and after the exchange of the peace.
3. The Peace: Shaking hands is one of the main ways for the transmission for germs and bacteria; therefore, shaking hands during the Peace is strongly discouraged. It is fine to bow to one another. It is also safer to give a gentle hug than to shake hands as far as the transmission of germs. Please respect the desires of those around you. Exchange peace with those around you and do not roam about the church during this time.
4. Holy Communion. We will maintain the use of the Common Cup for Communion. The Lay Eucharistic Ministers (along with the priest) will have used anti-bacterial lotion prior to the distribution of Communion. Given the alcohol content of the wine and the careful wiping of the silver chalice, it is fine to take the chalice. If you have any doubts or questions, there are other options available. It is, of course, fine to take the bread only and make a full and complete Communion. If you do not want the wine, please place your arms in a cross over your chest as a sign for the Eucharistic Minister. If you wish to intinct (dip the bread in the wine) please do so carefully so your fingers do not touch the wine. Or you may leave the bread in your hand and allow the Eucharistic Minister to do it for you.
5. Again, please wash your hands often. Use the anti-bacterial lotion in the church and in the parish hall for coffee hour. Respect the desires of those around you who wish to limit physical contact during this season.
6. It is safe to come to church, to be with your friends, to make your Communion and to share in our common fellowship. We are asking for you to look at some common sense ways to stem the spread of the flu and other diseases during this season.

- Fr. Lee

Additional Dates for Calendar

Dec, 20 – Fourth Advent – The Blessing of Crosses, 11 a.m. and the Greening of the Church for Christmas following services.

Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve – The Feast of the Nativity: 6 p.m. Family Service with Sunday School presentation; 10:30 p.m. Carols; 11 p.m. Christ Mass

Dec. 27 – First Sunday of Christmas, Festival of Lessons and Carols, 11 a.m.

Jan. 6 – WoW! – Feast of the Epiphany

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. San Esteban - Santa Misa
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Class in the Library: Closer to Truth video series.
- 10:00 a.m. San Esteban - Coffee Hour; SWAPS
- 10:00 a.m. Book Study in Back Classroom: "Jesus was an Epicopalian ..." - Fr. Lee
- 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II - Fr. Lee
- 12:00 p.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.
- 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

- 1st & 3rd Sundays - Community of Care - No meetings Nov., resumes in December
- 2nd. Sunday Hymn Selection Meeting, unless otherwise noted
- 3rd. Tuesday Vestry Meetings
- Last Sunday Sustained Prayer Ministry

SPECIAL DATES

- November 4&11 WoW! Mary June Nestler "Can You Dig This?"
- November 15 11:00 a.m. Bishop's Visitation with Confirmations & Receptions
- November 25 WoW! Thanksgiving Dinner 6 p.m. with Worship at 7 p.m.
- November 26 3 p.m. Thanksgiving Dnner hosted by Integrity/Utah
- November 28 First Advent: Angel Tree names available for adoption.
- December 6 Second Advent: The Open Bookstore, with merchandise for sale
- December 13 The Rev'd Canon David Bailey, guest speaker; Angel gift wrapping
- December 16 WoW! Angel Tree Party with dinner and gift giving, worship after.

Deadline for the next "Servant" is Monday, September 14, 2009.

Editor: Martin Willcocks. Phone: 969-6418, or E-mail to church.

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