

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Servant

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West Valley City, Utah

Notes From Fr. Lee

It has been wonderful seeing people filling up the church again with the beginning of Sunday School and the Adult Education classes. The Fall is a great time of new beginnings and fresh starts. I invite you to bring your children to our Sunday School for a time of learning, fun, music, and friendship. While they are in Sunday School, we have two adult classes. Martin Willcocks is doing a video series on the history of the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church. I am doing an overview of Episcopal history, theology and practice. All of our classes begin at 9:30 Sunday morning and end around 10:15 a.m.

By now most of you have heard about the expansion of the Latino congregation of San Esteban to include a Sunday service at 9:00 a.m. The Latino congregation from St. Mark's Cathedral will begin meeting in our church Nov. 27, the First Sunday of Advent. I hope you will welcome them and help

them to feel at home in their new worship and fellowship space.

Our fall rituals include many things at St. Stephen's: Trunk or Treat, the beginning of Sunday School, Adult Classes, moving our meeting time back to 10:30, etc. This year we are also planning a "Founders Day Dinner" for Sept. 22. See the article in "The Servant" for details on this party. In addition to all this it is also the time of year we talk more about stewardship and our sharing in the ministry of the church through our time, talents and treasure.

Again this year the diocese is reducing its assistance to parishes. For us to maintain our programs and grow our ministries, we need to have your support. I invite you to consider increasing your Stewardship this year. Consider increasing your time and talents in volunteer services at the parish, perhaps hosting coffee hour, teaching Sunday School, coming to the Tuesday and Thursday Morning Prayer, coming to *WoW!*, offering

to do a program for *WoW!*, helping with our fall yard work, etc. I also ask you to increase your financial contributions to St. Stephen's. We will need to increase our pledges this year to compensate for the decrease in diocesan funding. Your pledges will make a difference in supporting our programs and ministries, as well as such things

as keeping the heat on, lights going, and all the other things necessary to maintain our operations. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your pledge amount for 2006.

Thank you for your continued support of our ministries and community.

Lee Shaw †

Vestry Report

Just a few thoughts as we move into the autumn season and a very busy time at St. Stephen's. It is nice to see our Sunday School off to a new start under the able direction of Martha and Eileen Rice. What fun when they shared a song at the Sunday morning service that they had just learned. We are looking forward to the Bishop's visitation this month, and enjoying seeing new faces in our congregation. We are also preparing for the enlargement of the San Esteban congregation as the Latino group moves here from the Cathedral on the first Sunday in Advent. Let's make sure we give them a good welcome.

Please note the annual Stewardship drive mentioned elsewhere in the Servant. We all need to remember our obligations to the church for all it does for us.

- Isabel Sullivan, Senior Warden

Search Committee

The Search Committee has completed a Parish Profile, which will be presented at a joint meeting with the Vestry to the Bishop on Saturday, October 8th.

Altar Guild

We have a need for more people to join the Altar Guild. Please see Betty Johnson if you wish to participate in this essential ministry.

Youth Group

Our new youth group, SWAP, started by Becky Ball in September, has two October events - the St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals on October 1, already past, and the annual Trunk or Treat event this year, which will be on the evening of October 31. Because Halloween is on a school night, the vestry decided to have our Halloween observance just as the Trunk or Treat in the parking lot and not host a party in the parish hall this year. Please plan on coming and enjoying our fellowship with one another and the neighborhood for Halloween.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met on September 25, after the service. A new Sanctus Bell was dedicated on Sunday, October 2, as a new way to enhance our worship.

Adult Education

The Adult Education program began with three videotapes about the history of the Anglican Church, followed by two about the history of the Episcopal Church in America. Over the next year we hope to have some new video presentations, in December we will repeat the video about the Glastonbury Traditions, and during Easter we will repeat the miniseries "Peter and Paul", starring Antony Hopkins.

Lay Ministries

There will be a training for all acolytes and all who would like to serve in this important ministry on Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. It will last no more than 1 hour. This is a follow up training to that of the lectors and Eucharistic Ministers held earlier.

Acolytes, assistants, are a vital ministry in the flow of the liturgy. This ministry is open to all. If you would like to become an acolyte, please see Fr. Lee or just come to the meeting on Oct. 29.

WoW! Worship on Wednesdays

Our Worship on Wednesday (WoW!) continues to flourish. We have some special guests scheduled during the next few weeks to offer their perspective on specific topics:

Oct. 12, the **Rev. Canon Ivan Cendese** will make a second presentation on the Eastern Religions, their history, teachings and culture.

Oct. 19, **Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish** will join us for dinner, Eucharist and then spend the evening visiting with members of the parish. This will be an informal get-together with no set agenda or program, just visiting with our bishop.

Nov. 2, **Rabbi Tracee Rosen** of Congregation Kol Ami, will be our guest. She will give a presentation on the spirituality and culture of Judaism.

The other Wednesdays will be program material from Fr. Lee.

All are invited to these Wednesday gatherings. We begin at 6 p.m. with a delicious dinner. At 7 p.m. we have an informal service of the Holy Eucharist. From 7:30 to 8:30 we have our program. Please join us for WoW!: Food for the body and soul.

Bishop at St. Stephen's, Oct. 9. Bishop Irish will make her visitation to our parish on Oct. 9. She will preside and preach at the 10:30 service. She will also meet with the Sunday School children at 9:30.

News and Events

San Esteban Congregation Moving to St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's has hosted the Saturday evening service for San Esteban for over two years. Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, the Latino congregation from St. Mark's Cathedral will move its services as well to St. Stephen's. They will meet on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. The Saturday evening service will continue as well.

The Rev. Pablo Ramos has moved his office from the cathedral to St. Stephen's early in October. He will also participate in some 10:30 Sunday services.

With the additional service on Sunday, it is planned to have the children from San Esteban also attend the St. Stephen's Sunday School.

In the future, a separate chapel for San Esteban will be built adjacent to St. Stephen's. In the meantime we will be sharing worship space as well as parish hall and classrooms. There will be opportunities for the congregations to meet each other for fellowship as they host their coffee hour and the St. Stephen's congregation arrives for the 10:30 services.

Our Stewardship Program for 2006 will begin in October under the guidance of John Sanford. With the decreasing amount of diocesan funding for parishes, your pledge is of vital importance to St. Stephen's to keep our programs active, our ministries vital and our lights and heat on. Please respond positively and promptly with your pledges as we begin our Stewardship this year.

On Sunday October 2, we presented and blessed a new **Sanctus Bell** for use in our services. This is not the traditional type of Sanctus Bell, rather it is a Tibetan "singing bell." It will be used during the course of the Eucharistic prayer to mark specific moments of the prayer for observance. The bell, not unlike a cross, candles, incense, and gestures such as crossing oneself or genuflecting, is part of the total involvement of the individual and our senses in worship. Sights, sounds, and smells as well as music and vestments are designed to enrich, focus and set apart our time of worship.

Sanctus Bells, or Sacring Bells, have a long tradition in Christian worship, dating from the 12th century. Originally they were used to direct the congregations' eyes forward while the Mass was being said in Latin so that they would know when the elements of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Christ, were being presented by the priest.

Baptisms on All Saints Sunday: The next Sunday for baptism will be **Nov. 6**, All Saints Sunday. Please see Fr. Lee ASAP if you or a child desires baptism.

Special Events

Come to the Party!

St. Stephen's will host our first "Founders Day Party" on Saturday, Oct. 22 beginning at 6:30 p.m. We will gather for a great spaghetti dinner by Carly Burton and have an evening of food, drink and fellowship.

Founders Day is designed to remember our history as a parish and to recall the people, events and times that have shaped who we are today. If you have any photos, news articles, bulletins, etc, from years gone by, please bring them. We can then enjoy seeing how St. Stephen's has grown from its early days to where we are today.

Please RSVP to the office, 968-2731 so we can be sure to have sufficient food and drink for everyone. The cost will only \$6 per person and \$3 for children under 12.

There will be a sign up sheet in the parish hall to help with the set-up and clean-up for our party. Please join in helping as well.

Come join us for this party of good food, fellowship and memories.

Confirmations on Nov. 12: St. Stephen's/San Esteban will host the liturgy for confirmations for the Salt Lake South Region on Saturday, Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m. Bishop Irish will confirm individuals from various parishes during the service. If you are interested in confirmation, please see Fr. Lee ASAP. This will be a bi-lingual service.

At the **Prayers of the People**, as we have been listing the names of people each Sunday, we are now inviting the congregation to say the first name of each person for whom prayers are requested out loud, with the intercessor.

If you see any errors or omissions on our web site, please notify David Evans at sinuhe@gnu.org to suggest corrections.

The **Comfort Ministry** of St. Stephen's is a movement where people make items to give comfort and express love to others, while developing their own spiritual lives. We will hold a "learn-to" session the third Saturday of each month, beginning October 22. If you want to learn to knit, teach knitting, or work on fleece blankets, we will meet in the Sunday School classrooms, from 2 to 4 p.m. This ministry is open to everyone, men and women, so bring a friend or spouse and plan on having a good time. If you have questions, or wish to volunteer to help, please call **Judy Carter** at 908-7079.

Special Events

Introducing the St. Stephen's Prayer Circle Ministry

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- *Philippians 4: 4-7*

In the passage Paul is calling us to a ministry of intercessory prayer, rather than a "ministry of worry". We are to take people and situations to Jesus instead of sweating them out on our own. And he will give us peace.

Shared burdens are easier. In the past, many of us have been part of phone prayer-chains.

It sometimes took a long time to get the message to the next person on the list. This time I am making the suggestion, that we primarily use an email list. So that everyone is contacted at once. I also think we could accommodate phone-numbers if you want to participate and do not have or do not check an email address. If you would like to participate, contact any of us at the email addresses or phone numbers below:

Bill Pitcher (kingofcupsAThotmail.com) 966-1713

Deanna Anderson (dlanderson2001ATyahoo.com) 966-1177

Betty Johnson (georgerandbettyATpeoplepc.com) 269-8182

Points to Ponder

Who would true valour see,
Let him come hither;
One here will constant be,
come wind, come weather.

There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound;
His strength the more is.

No lion can him fright,
He'll with a giant fight,
But he will have a right
To be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
Can daunt his spirit,
He knows he at the end
Shall life inherit.

Then fancies flee away;
He'll not fear what men say;
He'll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan (1628-1688) (from the Oxford Hymn Book, 1908.)

Calendar

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Christian Education
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist – Rite II
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour – Coffee, Refreshments, Celebrations
- 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAYS

- 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 (or Evening Prayer on occasion) - Rite II
- 7:30 p.m. 1 Hour scheduled program or discussion

FRIDAYS:

- 8:30 p.m. Granger A.A. Group

SATURDAYS:

- 5:30 p.m. Spanish Holy Eucharist - Santa Eucarista - Rite II
- 6:30 p.m. Spanish Fellowship Hour

MONTHLY

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

SPECIAL DATES

- Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Meet the Bishop at WoW! No agenda.
- Oct. 22, 2:00 p.m. Comfort Ministry “How To” meeting
- Oct. 22, 6:30 p.m. Founders Day Party
- Oct. 29, 10:00 a.m. Acolyte Training
- Oct. 31, 6:00 p.m. “Trunk or Treat” for Halloween in the parking lot.
- Nov. 6, 10:30 a.m. Baptisms at All Saints Sunday Holy Eucharist
- Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m. Confirmations from various parishes

Deadline for the next “Servant” is Monday, November 15, 2005.

Editor: Martin Willcocks.

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