

The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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St Stephen's Episcopal Church



The Rector's Focus



Seek Jesus

Share Jesus

Serve Jesus

Dear Friends,

As most of you are aware, the three line statement above has been our Mission Statement for over seven years. When the Vestry and I met with Canon Anne Reed for our Mutual Ministry Review, everything that we talked about was viewed through the lens of that Mission Statement. Toward the end of the review, Anne told us that our programs and ministries fit extremely well with our Mission Statement. In answer to the question of what constitutes “critical mass” for St. Stephen’s, Anne’s answer was “about four”. She then went on to explain that, while the specific ministries we engage in will depend on the relative size of the congregation, as long as there are 3-4 persons with passion to “seek, share and serve Jesus”, St. Stephen’s will remain a viable congregation.

Of course, if our numbers continue to dwindle (a common phenomenon in all mainline Protestant congregations), we will need to make critical, even painful, decisions about what ministries to support so that we can continue to “seek, share, and serve”. These decisions will need to be made by the congregation as a whole, under the leadership of the Wardens and Vestry. There is a consensus that 2011 will be a critical year in evaluating where we – both priest and people – are being led by Jesus to carry out our mission and ministry.

The Sabbatical time for both me and for the congregation is an important component of that evaluation. For me, the sabbatical will be a time to dream, vision, and to discern what God is calling me to do as your priest. I plan to spend my three months of sabbatical time immersing myself in Latino culture and language, in the “new sciences” of chaos, complexity and emergence, and in volunteer work at a “best practices” non-profit organization in the Greater Cincinnati area. The congregation, in turn, will have the opportunity to dream and vision with the Vestry, to experience the voices and ministries of different clergy and laity, and to worship God in both old and new ways. When I return from Sabbatical and vacation in September, we will have an opportunity to get reacquainted, to discuss what God has revealed to us in the previous four months, and to make plans for the coming months and years that center around our Mission Statement.

And, lest anyone think that I plan to use my sabbatical time to “interview” with other congregations, rest assured that I have promised the Vestry that it is my full intention to return to St. Stephen’s and to remain here for as long as you want me to be your priest and pastor.

Here are our annual statistics that we will report to the National Church: Our Average Sunday Attendance decreased from 49 in 2009 to 41 in 2010. This decrease was caused by a variety of factors: conflict over same sex blessings, folks deciding to worship in larger parishes (usually closer to their homes), marriage, illness and death.

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated 99 times on Sundays and 13 times on weekdays. The decrease in weekday celebrations was due to dropping the Thursday morning Holy Eucharist from our services. Holy Communion was carried to our sick and shut-in on 36 different occasions – we have had a lot of sick and shut-ins this year! Evening Prayer was offered by our Worship Leaders 23 times in 2010.

The Rector's Focus (continued)

There was one baptism: Kain, foster son of Frank and Debbie Smith. Besides Kain, we also added Frank and Debbie Smith as active members, as well as their other foster son, Cody. We also added Cindy Scheets and Cathy Buckingham. Both Cindy and Cathy were confirmed by Bishop Nedi Rivera, while Debbie Smith was received by Bishop Rivera from the Roman Catholic Church. Other regular attendees seen in 2010 included Terri Cerimele-Rieger, Jim Davitts and Sy Markowitz.

Rex van Alstine and Duane Lewis have transferred their membership to Calvary Church in Clifton. Other members of our parish who now worship elsewhere include Steve and Cathy Skiba (St. Anne's West Chester), Bill and Nancy Kuhrt (St. Anne's) and Pat Welti (Christ Church Glendale). I miss each and every person who has left and commend them to their new worship communities.

Carina Spindel continues to serve as our choir director and overall music expert, and I thank her for her ministry with us.

As I mentioned above, we have had a lot of sick and invalid persons in the parish this last year. We commended to God the souls of: Louis Hales, Verneice Magruder and Amy Scholz (sister-in-law of Tim and Elizabeth Scholz). In addition to those in the parish, I was also called upon to provide the ministrations of the Church to those who were without a church family: Nina Dietrich, Tiffany Brians and Addison Brians. It is with great sadness, but a greater hope in the Resurrection, that we commend all of the above to the mercies of God. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace. Amen.

This past year I finished my term as President of the Mt. Healthy Alliance, and also concluded my leadership role in both Diocesan and local Latino ministries.

I became a novice in two organizations that serve to "feed my soul". The name of the Society of Ordained Scientists (www.ordainedscientists.org) is pretty self-explanatory and has been part of the reason I plan to read science during part of my sabbatical. The other organization is the Oblate program at St. Meinrad's Archabbey in Indiana. Although St. Meinrad's is Roman Catholic, the Oblate program is an ecumenical offering to all Christians who desire to live a life grounded in Benedictine spirituality. More information about Benedictine Oblates can be found at: (http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/monastery_oblates.aspx)

In conclusion, let me thank all of you for your prayers during this year – for me, my family (especially my mom who remains in Hospice in South Carolina), and for our Parish. Know that each of you remains in my prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

David+

For Those without Email

Almost everyone in the parish now has access to e-mail, and this has become our primary means of communicating events to parishioners. We want to make sure that everyone hears of timely news, and so Fr. David has asked Mike and Pat Murphy to head up the telephone calling committee for those without e-mail. The Murphys' have graciously accepted, and they will be the communications voice for all those without email. Much thanks to Mike and Pat for taking on this new ministry!

The Episcopal Service Cross

By Bill McMillan

Some 60 years ago, as I was about to join the fracas in Korea, Dr. Wayne Snoddy, our Rector at the Church of Our Savior, paid the obligatory visit to my home to pray for me and give me his Blessing. He also presented me with the Episcopal War Service Medal that could be worn with my dog tags. I wore that medal all through my Korean service and for many years afterwards.

When my grandson, Christopher McMillan, was alerted to go to Iraq last year I searched for a supplier of the Episcopal War Service Medal (now called The Episcopal Service Cross). After many dead

ends, technology prevailed in my favor and Google directed me to St. Paul Church, Augusta, Georgia. A phone call to St. Paul brought me in touch with the administrator who knew exactly what I was looking for and could arrange delivery. It would seem they do a brisk business.

The Episcopal Church Service Cross carries the design of the ancient Crusader's Cross, the five-fold cross symbolic of the five wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ at his crucifixion. The words embossed upon it are taken from the service of Holy Communion: "Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee and feed on him in thy heart with thanksgiving. The medal was originally designed under the direction of Mrs. James DeWolf Perry, wife of the late Bishop of Rhode Island, during World War I for the Army and Navy Commission of the Church. Each Episcopalian was presented with one and the same cross was presented for military serving in World War II and the Korean War. Although the Episcopal Church Service Cross was originally designed for U.S. military personnel, it can now be worn by anyone. With the support of the Rector, we at St. Stephen's are reestablishing the custom of providing service medals to two groups of people: military personnel and our acolytes. So far these medals have been given to: Capt. Jason Buckingham, Major Paul Grant and to our two acolytes, Cody and Kain. If you have a loved one serving overseas and would like them to have a Service Cross, please contact the Rector.

More information on the Episcopal Service Cross can be found online at:

<http://www.saintpauls.org/shop/item.php?id=1>



Food for Thought

Pope John XXIII's private secretary, Mgr. Loris Capovilla, reported that the pope, every evening, after his heavy daily duties, and the endless round of challenges that often granted no clear solution, would examine himself in prayer, and would finally close by his bedside saying, "Well, I did the best I could... It's your church, Lord! I'm going to bed. Good night."

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

February

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		1 7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	2	3 10:30 Bible Study	4	5
6 5 Epiphany 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	7 8:00 PM Al Anon	8 5:30 Springfield Twp Trustees	9 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10 10:30 Bible Study	11	12
13 6 Epiphany 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship Vestry After the 10:30	14 8:00 PM Al Anon	15	16 12:00PM Serendipity 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	17 10:30 Bible Study	18	19
20 7 Epiphany 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	21 8:00 PM Al Anon	22 3:30 Building & Grounds	23 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	24 10:30 Bible Study	25	26
27 8 Epiphany 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	28 8:00 PM Al Anon					

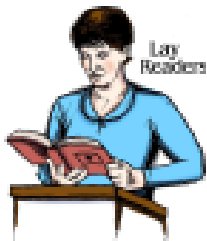
Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's February 2011



ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):

February 6 Lisa Elmendorf
February 13 Joan DeLisse
February 20 Sharon Franklin
February 27 Bebe Hales

Lay Ministers



Lectors (L), Intercessors (I), Chalice Bearers (C)

February 6 Sharon Franklin (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C), Don Welti (L&I)
February 13 Vivian Templin (C), Molly Bailey (C), Carina Spindel (L&I)
February 20 Pieter Elmendorf (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C), Sharon Franklin (L&I)
February 27 Don Welti (C), Vivian Templin (C), Molly Bailey (L&I)

L&I = Lector (first lesson) and Prayers of the People. Please check with Fr. David before the service for the form to be used for the prayers.

Fellowship Hour

February 6 Jeanne and Dick Meagher
February 13 Tom and Sharon Franklin
February 20 Bebe Hales & Don Welti
February 27 Lisa and Pieter Elmendorf

Greeters

February 6 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz
February 13 Arlene Gahn
February 20 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz
February 27 Arlene Gahn

Head Usher Tom Franklin

Reaching Fr. David

The best (and most effective) way to reach Fr. David is by calling his cell phone (310-0127). When Fr. David is out of town or otherwise unavailable, please call the Sr. Warden who will contact the priest on call. Please do not call Fr. David's home telephone number for pastoral care issues.

Mt Healthy Alliance

For quite a while now I have been trying to keep the Mt. Healthy Alliance Food Pantry in each parishioners mind. In continuing with this effort I hope this article will allow everyone to catch up on where the Alliance stands today, and how we envision it for the future.

Most of you well remember how just a few short years ago St. Stephen's really outdid themselves by "adopting" several families and providing them with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter food baskets. As the congregation aged, and we no longer could continue this ministry, we sought a new approach.

St. Stephen's solicited other churches in our area that had similar ambitions, and faced similar problems. Through the leadership and efforts of our rector, Father Bailey, we successfully joined together with several churches to pursue these efforts. This resulted in what became known as the Mt. Healthy Alliance.

The Alliance agreed to open a food pantry in the basement of the Methodist Church,. This allowed what once was a twice a year program, to become a year-round effort to provide healthy food to persons of need within the 45231 zip code. The success of this venture soon required that we expand to larger quarters in the Mt. Healthy Christian Church, where we remain today.

This program has increased benefits from 3,944 individuals in 2007 to 13,130 individuals in 2010. Each person applying for assistance is screened and records maintained on the amount of assistance they receive. Each family approved for the program is now entitled to receive food enough for three meals for three days a month for each individual in the family. They also receive personal items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, bathroom tissue, etc.

The pantry's success has made the Alliance realize the need to explore other ways to help our neighbors in need. The Alliance board established a Development Committee to lead this effort. The committee's first efforts occurred in November 2010 when the Alliance sponsored a "Make a Difference Rally". Local businessmen and individuals were invited to an evening of snacks, fun, and a program that provided information on the Alliance and how the attendees could provide much needed support to the Alliance. Follow up with attendees continues, and ways and means of adding to the list of schools, businesses, and groups involved continues.

The Alliance has already been taking advantage of St. Stephen's Benefit Bank ministry by referring families to the bank for help in the areas that the Benefit Bank supports. This is a service provided by Father Bailey, Paul Ghan, and Vivian Templin.

Next on the Alliance's agenda is a series of programs aimed at helping families cope with living with less. This series of programs are being held in the pantry's quarters, and presented in collaboration with the Catholic Charities. The programs address simple steps in handling Money Management, Stress, Recipes and other appropriate topics..

I have placed a flyer on the church bulletin board that outlines dates, times, and a complete schedule of topics for the programs being held in February. The program is open to any interested party. It is NOT restricted just to persons living in our service area - all are welcome. If you are interested in any of these programs, or if you know of friends, neighbors, or relatives who could benefit from them please plan on attending any or all of the sessions, Just RSVP requested (details are on the bulletin board flyer). Future support programs are under study.

The Alliance is the largest outreach ministry St. Stephen's is currently supporting. For the past few years we have provided the Alliance with large amounts of food, personal items and cash. I'm hopeful that we can continue to step up to the plate with this support..

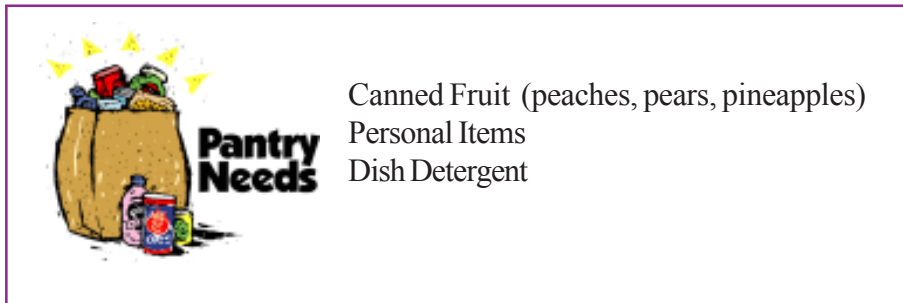
Mount Healthy Alliance (continued)

I want to emphasize that new programs are planned as add-ons to the pantry, NOT in place of. We visualize the pantry continuing to expand, and increasing service to meet the communities needs.

Your generous support in the past is much appreciated, and we look forward to this support to continue in the future as the Alliance continues to grow.

Our food bags continue to be available in the Narthex, and envelopes are also available on the table in the Narthex. for your tax deductible cash gifts..

Richard Meagher



Election Results

CONGRATULATIONS to all those who have been newly elected to offices within the Parish:

Lisa Elmendorf as Sr. Warden

Don Welti as Jr. Warden

Paul Gahn and Rick Meyers as members of Vestry

Molly Bailey and Nancy McCarthy as Diocesan Convention delegates

Don Welti and Lisa Elmendorf as Convention alternates.

Beth to Study Abroad

Elizabeth C. (Beth) Bailey, daughter of Fr. David and Molly Bailey, is currently a junior at Denison University. For her spring semester, Beth will be studying at the University of Jordan in the mid-East country of Jordan. Here's what Beth has to say about her study abroad:

For the next four months, my spring semester, I will be studying Arabic language and culture in Amman, Jordan. Amman is a fairly new, up and coming city in the Middle East, exploding into commerce and growth after Beirut fell in the Lebanese Civil War. I am enrolled in the Language and Culture Program through CIEE, a study abroad network that fosters many programs all over the world. While in Amman, I will be living with a host family and studying at the University of Jordan, the oldest university in the country and one of its most prized achievements. I may also be traveling to other parts of the region throughout my stay, but my main focus remains on increasing my Arabic language proficiency and immersing myself in the Arab-Muslim culture. I will be taking 9 hours of Modern Standard Arabic, 3 hours of Colloquial Jordanian, and 6 hours of area studies each week while I am in Jordan. I will have a peer tutor through the university whom I will work with to further increase my speaking and listening skills. More than anything, my four months in Jordan will expand my cultural horizons, teach me how to live in a major metropolitan area, study at a university with over 30,000 other students, and immerse myself in one of the most critical, ancient, and beautiful languages in the world.

Anita and Michael Dohn, Missionaries in Health Ministries

August 2010 Mission E-mail

Web-site: <http://dohnfamily.org>

E-mail: DohnFamily@sams-usa.org

REMEMBER OUR
Missionaries



What's the job description again?

Why is Michael spending hours doing routine data entry?

He is a boarded internist, published in mainstream medical journals, with training and experience in pulmonary and intensive care medicine, HIV/AIDS, and epidemiology; as well as training and experience in medical missions, social ministries, public health, and development.

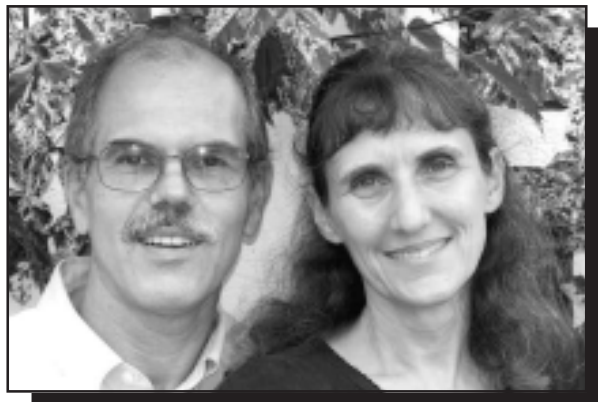
It appears that the Lord is using the secretarial and computer skills honed during his many years on the university faculty. In fact, it is obvious sometimes that all of the many experiences leading up to his time on the mission field have been valuable and probably part of God's plan.

Within the past few weeks, Michael has been the chauffeur for the community health team; served food at appreciation dinners; designed a database and programmed PDA's for a survey (I'm not even sure what PDA means) as well as taught four personnel how to use them; written a grant to assist with ancillary expenses (materials, transportation, etc.) for people living with AIDS who are getting continuing job education; designed a "Branding Strategy and Marking Plan" that must be approved by USAID; been interviewed for a promotional video for the diocese's endowment drive; registered the Clinic with the US government's "Central Contract Registry" as well as with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency in Luxembourg (why he had to do this might be a story for another time); written several year-end project reports; attended budget meetings for 2011; done airport pick-ups (and made videos while he was there); and even donned a reconditioned, paper Burger King crown to play Melchior in a Christmas pageant.

The majority of long-term missionaries end-up doing something entirely different than what they had anticipated and planned to do. We are least still involved mainly with health ministry.

Being a missionary doctor has let Michael wear many different hats in health (and non-health) ministry. Our experience is that answering God's call has stretched us. Sometimes when we let our light shine, it goes in directions that surprise us.

In Christ, Anita





Birthdays

Frank Smith	February 5
Joan DeLisse	February 6
Judy Risner	February 21
Katie Elmendorf	February 24

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Address Correction Requested