

# The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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## January

## **The Rector's Focus**

### **THE INCARNATION**

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. . . and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. . . No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.*  
[NRSV; John 1:1-5, 14, 18]

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this Stone's Throw Focus, we will be in the midst of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Many of our friends, family and neighbors will have already moved beyond the gift-unwrapping, the dinners and the "cute baby" emotions that characterize much of the Christmas season and are well on their way to celebrating the New Year – and white sales. For Christians, however, these twelve days are the time when we ponder the mystery of the Incarnation; that is, of the Word made Flesh, of what it means for the True God to become True Human.

As with many of the core beliefs of our faith, the Incarnation is not a puzzle to be solved, but a mystery to be embraced. God used flesh – our own frail flesh – as the means of His self-manifestation (that is, His revealing of himself to us), and in doing so validated the worthiness of His creation. In this season of Christmas, we celebrate the event of the Word made flesh 2000 years ago, and we ponder the wonder that the Word made flesh now abides with us as the Body of Christ. We as the Church are called upon primarily to show ourselves to be the Word made flesh to our hurting world until the time that Jesus returns in his glory. So let's give thanks for this season of Christmas, and pray for the grace to show in our lives the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in all that we say and do as the Body of Christ here at St. Stephen's.

With Christmas blessings, your brother in Christ and Rector,

David+

### **Rebuilding the Cathedral in Haiti**

*St. Stephen's vestry recently approved a \$500 donation to help rebuild the Episcopal Cathedral in Haiti. The following is a message from the diocese on the project.*

Like our Lord, born in a stable, the people of Haiti are spiritually without a home. The 2010 earthquake destroyed nearly all of Port-au-Prince, ruined the food stocks of humanitarian organizations, and made millions homeless; it also virtually leveled the Episcopal cathedral.

The cathedral in Port-au-Prince was not only a center of worship but was also a central and critical hub for educational, cultural and social institutions serving the entire community — not just Episcopalians, but anyone in need. A place of enlightenment and action, the cathedral has educated thousands of Haitian children and young adults, thereby providing a solid foundation for the nation's future. Equally a source for shelter, food, healthcare and effective anti-poverty initiatives, with your support, the cathedral will be restored, rebuilt and renewed. The need is great.

Many Episcopalians in the U.S. do not realize that Haiti is the largest diocese numerically in the church. Our brothers and sisters in Haiti need our help in rebuilding their cathedral. From now through the season of Epiphany, we will be heading the effort to gather in the gifts to help rebuild that absolutely vital building and provide a safe place for ministry. The Diocese of Southern Ohio is joining with every diocese in The Episcopal Church to make this effort a successful one. To really reinforce our efforts, *all money given by parishioners from now through the end of Epiphany will be matched by our bishop.*

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

January	<a href="http://www.ststephens-cinci.org">http://www.ststephens-cinci.org</a> <a href="mailto:office@ststephens-cinci.org">office@ststephens-cinci.org</a> Father David B. Bailey 310-0127 <a href="mailto:revdbb@aol.com">revdbb@aol.com</a> Monica E. Neiderman, publications secretary 937-474-2732 <a href="mailto:sewnsew313@yahoo.com">sewnsew313@yahoo.com</a>
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1 <b>1 Christmas</b> 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	2 8:00 PM Al Anon	3 7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	4 5:45 PM Evening Prayer	5	6	7
8 <b>1 Epiphany</b> 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship Vestry meeting	9 8:00 PM Al Anon	10 5:30 Springfield Twp Trustees	11 5:45 PM Evening Prayer	12 10:30 Bible Study	13	14
15 <b>2 Epiphany</b> 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	16 8:00 PM Al Anon	17	18 12:00PM Serendipity 5:45 PM Evening Prayer	19 10:30 Bible Study	20	21
22 <b>3 Epiphany</b> 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II Annual Meeting	23 8:00 PM Al Anon	24 3:30 Building & Grounds	25 5:45 PM Evening Prayer	26 10:30 Bible Study	27	28
29 <b>4 Epiphany</b> 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	30 8:00 PM Al Anon	31				



# Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's

## January 2012

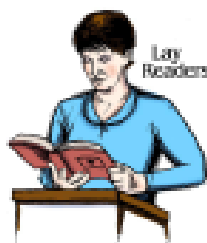


### **ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):**

<b>January 1</b>	Sharon Franklin
<b>January 8</b>	Joan DeLisse
<b>January 15</b>	Lisa Elmendorf
<b>January 22</b>	Bebe Hales
<b>January 29</b>	Sharon Franklin

### **Lay Ministers**

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



**January 1** Lisa Elmendorf, Don Welti, Vivian Templin

**January 8** Molly Bailey, Pieter Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf

**January 15** Don Welti, Vivian Templin, Molly Bailey

**January 22** Pieter Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf, Don Welti

**January 29** Vivian Templin, Molly Bailey, Pieter Elmendorf

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**

<b>January 1</b>	Nancy and Chuck Healy
<b>January 8</b>	Dick and Jeanne Meagher
<b>January 15</b>	Paul and Arlene Gahn
<b>January 22</b>	Vivian Templin and Bebe Hales
<b>January 29</b>	Mike and Pat Murphy

### **Greeters**

<b>January 1</b>	Arlene Gahn
<b>January 8</b>	Joan DeLisse
<b>January 15</b>	Arlene Gahn
<b>January 22</b>	Joan DeLisse
<b>January 29</b>	Arlene Gahn

**Head Usher** Chuck Healy

### **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.

## **An Update from your Common Ministry Team**

At the November Stewardship meeting, I reported that we were about to do a “Community Needs Assessment” as part of the process in the Common Ministry program. Since that time, the team has met with Lisa Hughes, our diocesan consultant, Kathryn Roosa, the interim director of the Mt. Healthy Alliance, the Lexington Heights Civic Association, and Gwen McFarlane, Springfield Township trustee. All of them provided insights into the character and the needs of the community that surrounds us. One important insight – there are many, many needs!

In addition, Father David attended a program at Mt. Healthy Elementary South that focused on the Developmental Assets that children need to succeed, and how and where our local kids fall short.

We plan to sift thru all this information so that we can provide an overview of what we’ve learned at the Annual Meeting in January. We also have our third workshop at Procter on January 14, so we’ll recap that for you as well.

This is all part of a process of learning about ourselves and our community that we hope will enrich our ministries and ultimately strengthen our St. Stephen’s community.

Lisa Elmendorf, Common Ministry Team

## **Epiphany Service**

Saint Stephen’s will once again host the Cincinnati West Deanery service on Friday, January 6. Fr. Jim Strader, the new Rector of St. James’ Episcopal Church will preach, and Fr. David will be the celebrant. After the service we will celebrate the Burning of the Greens out by the Way of the Cross.

## **Annual Meeting January 22nd**

On Sunday, Jan 22, we’ll be holding our annual parish meeting immediately following the 10:30 worship service. At that time, we’ll be electing new wardens, vestry members and convention delegates. We’ll also be updating all of you on our financial status, our outreach and other ministries, and the progress of our Common Ministry team. A potluck lunch will be served. Please make every effort to attend.

## **Bishop Breidenthal Visits in February**

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, February 12th. Bishop Breidenthal will be sharing and celebrating with us that day. Currently he plans to meet with the vestry (and other interested parishioners) at 9:30 am, and to celebrate with us at the 10:30 service (only one worship service that day). A light reception will be served following the service. We hope everyone can join us!

## **Address Changes**

Jeanne and Dick Meagher  
891 Augusta Blvd.  
Loveland, Ohio 45140  
Tel. # Home 513-583-1239

Gordon and Ann Grant  
10642 Talisman Drive  
Noblesville, IN 46060

## **Rest in Peace**

We have just received word that Fr. William Worstall, former Rector of St. Stephen's, died on August 28, 2011 in Sandusky, OH. More information will be in the February Stone's Throw. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, in the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



## Birthdays

Jim Peffer	January 4
Beth Scholz	January 5
Adrienne DeLisse	January 12
Bill Kuhrt	January 13
Megan Elmendorf	January 15
Cathy Skiba	January 28



Charlie and Gerry Tucker	January 23
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Address Correction Requested