

The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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The Rector's Focus

VISION AND MISSION

Dear Friends,

First, let me personally thank all of you who participated in the “Speaking in Love” worship services last month. The Vestry and I take all of your comments seriously, and will continue to discuss your concerns and suggestions in our meetings – and will let you know what actions we take. As I have told some of you, we may not implement all of the suggestions we heard, but each person who speaks will be given feedback on what we have decided, and why!

Nancy Healy made the observation that everything the Vestry implements – indeed everything we do as a congregation – should be explicitly linked to our Mission Statement: Seek Jesus, Share Jesus, Serve Jesus. I am in complete agreement with what Nancy said, and for my part will make sure that my sermons always relate back to our Mission Statement.

This is a good place and time for me to relate what the Vestry is doing to implement our Mission Statement. First, the Common Ministry team (Don Welti, Rick Meyers, Nancy McCarthy, Lisa Elmendorf and myself) are working with the Diocese to develop a Vision Statement and strategies for carrying out our Mission Statement. Let me be clear here: the Common Ministry program we have enrolled in is not meant to implement some “cookie cutter” Diocesan program here at St. Stephen's. Instead, we are using the resources of the diocese to help us develop our own strategies and vision for how we will carry out our mission. Second, the Common Ministry programs will be developed based on the prayers, ideas and gifts of each member of St. Stephen's. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months, particularly at the Annual Meeting.

Second, the Vestry will be developing strategies and goals for managing the resources we have at St. Stephen's. Clearly, our most significant resource is our members. Other significant resources include our building and the five acres of land we have on Daly Road. One resource that is receiving a lot of attention from the Vestry right now is our cash assets. How do we spend monies wisely? To that end the Wardens and I have appointed a Finance Committee consisting of Rick Meyers, Chuck Healy, Nancy McCarthy and chaired by Pieter Elmendorf. This committee will be developing a long range financial plan for the parish, and will also be leading our Stewardship Sunday program on November 13. More details on this program can be found elsewhere in the Stone's Throw.

Finally, the Vestry and I are committed to being as transparent as possible about our actions, and to communicate those actions on a timely basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Lisa, Don or any of the Vestry members. We want to hear from you!

Faithfully,

Your brother in Christ and Rector,
David+

SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

“ . . . speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” [Eph. 4:15-16; NRSV]

As followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are to “speak the truth in love”. Here are some practical guidelines for speaking the truth in love.

Speak:

- “When two or three are gathered in my Name, I am there among them”. [Matt. 18:20; NRSV]. When we gather as Christians, whether in worship, or a congregational meeting, or Vestry, or just about any other kind of meeting, Christ is in the midst of us. We need to remember that when we speak, we are addressing both God and each other – and God has the priority. To gather together as Christians is always an act of worship!

- “You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. “ [James 1: 19-20; NRSV] We are to speak audibly, holding our anger in check as much as possible when we are addressing God and each other, and we are to be silent when others are addressing God and each other.

- “Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. [James 1:21; NRSV] We should prepare to speak to God and each other using the disciplines of prayer, confession (both corporate and private), and Bible Study.

As a practical measure, we should limit our speaking to 3-5 minutes when there are others who wish to speak in a gathering of Christians.

The Truth:

- “Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free’” [John 8:31-32]. We should avoid both intentional falsehoods as well as treating unsubstantiated rumors as fact. It is one thing to say, “I have heard that the Vestry/Rector have . . . is this true?”, and quite another to say, “When is the Vestry/Rector going to tell us that they have decided to . . . “. The first statement is a question, the second is gossip.

In Love:

From I Corinthians 13, love is:

- Patient
- Kind
- Not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude
- Does not insist on its own way
- Is not irritable or resentful
- Does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but in the truth
- Bears all things
- Believes all things
- Hopes all things
- Endures all things.
- Abides forever!

If we speak the truth in love, even when it is “tough truth” or “tough love”, we will build up the body of Christ here at St. Stephens!

Meeting with Saving Grace

Some of you have asked how our recent meeting with Saving Grace turned out. In September, Father David, Lisa Elmendorf, Don Welti, Rick Meyers and Paul Gahn met with Saving Grace to talk candidly about some of the issues that are of concern to our congregation. It was a good meeting, with both sides listening to and respecting the other. A brief recap of some of the decisions made.

Use of Sanctuary Space – Pastor Trevor respects our desire to keep the space sacred, and has agreed not to use the space for any secular reason, and not to have lay persons and equipment in the altar space. He will continue to preach from this space, and to use the altar to prepare communion (about once monthly) since we agreed these were appropriate uses of the space.

Use of the Building – Pastor Trevor will continue to notify us if they want to use our space outside of agreed-on times and, if there's a conflict, St. Stephen's need for the space will take precedence. They will also note their meetings/functions on a calendar on their bulletin board.

Bulletin Board – Saving Grace asked if we could make a bulletin board available for their use. It was discussed at vestry and, after evaluating what was up there, the vestry concluded that two bulletin boards would be adequate for our use, and approved their request. Their bulletin board will be the second on the left as you enter the church. The first one, as well as the one in the fellowship area, will be reserved for St. Stephen's.

Supervision of Children – This is an area of concern for them as well, and they are making every effort to insure that their children are busy and well supervised. Pastor Trevor admits there are challenges because many of his families, and their children, have been unchurched prior to this and haven't had the church 'training' that many of us grew up with. He, however, feels strongly that our building is a House of God, worthy of respect, and continues to emphasize that message to his congregants.

Early Arrival – They will hold to their agreement not to enter the building prior to 12 noon. In cases where people arrive earlier (due to the need for multiple bus runs), they will wait respectfully outside or in the van.

This relationship is, as we all know, a work in progress, but we will continue to have dialogue with Saving Grace and to discuss issues of concern. If you have specific concerns that haven't been mentioned, feel free to talk to Father David or any of the vestry members named above.

A second meeting with Saving Grace was held on October 19. In attendance were Fr. David, Lisa Elmendorf, Rick Meyers, Paul Gahn, Pastor Trevor and Jessica, a young worship leader from Saving Grace.

We talked some specific issues related to the sharing of space and ministry. Pastor Trevor sketched out for us the Autumn Festival event to be held on the grounds of St. Stephen's on Saturday, October 29. The event is a joint effort of Saving Grace and the Lexington Heights Civic Association. He assured us that the building and grounds would be ready for Sunday services the next day. We agreed on a new sign to be hung from the St. Stephen's sign containing the street address for the congregation. [Fr. David's note: it may be hard to believe, but many people have trouble finding St. Stephen's on Daly Rd. Hopefully this will help us as well as Saving Grace!]

We then spent a lot of time discussing the differences in worship styles and governance polity between our two congregations. Pastor Trevor relies on a contemporary application of Biblical principles, while Anglicans/Episcopalians rely on Scripture, Tradition and Reason in our polity and our worship style. Fr. David reemphasized that for Anglicans/Episcopalians, the area behind the altar rails is considered sacrosanct by our tradition and that only Pastor Trevor should be behind the rails as he preaches, teaches and celebrates Communion. Singers, dancers and amplification equipment are to remain in front of the altar rails.

Finally, both congregations will be reviewing our Letter of Agreement in preparation for our November meeting.

In Christ+

Lisa Elmendorf, Senior Warden

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

November

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		1	2	3	4	5
		7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
21 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	8:00 PM Al Anon	5:30 Springfield Twp Trustees	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
22 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship Vestry meeting	8:00 PM Al Anon		12:00PM Serendipity 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	8:00 PM Al Anon	3:30 Building & Grounds	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:00 Thanksgiving Service		
27	28	29	30			
24 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	8:00 PM Al Anon		6:30 PM Evening Prayer			

November



Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's October 2011



ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):

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

Lay Ministers

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

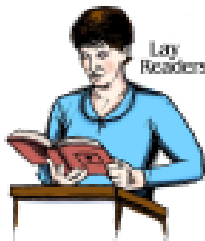
November 6 Pieter Elmendorf, Molly Bailey, Sharon Franklin

November 13 Lisa Elmendorf, Pieter Elmendorf, Vivian Templin

November 20 Vivian Templin, Don Welti, Molly Bailey

November 27 Sharon Franklin, Lisa Elmendorf, Don Welti

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

November 6 Dick & Jeanne Meagher

November 13 Paul & Arlene Gahn

November 20 Vivian Templin/Bebe Hales

November 27 Mike & Pat Murphy

Greeters

November 6 Arlene Gahn

November 13 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz

November 20 Arlene Gahn

November 27 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz

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.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Do you enjoy young children (for short periods of time)? We want to institute a Sunday School program for our youngest parishioners (Timmy, Daphne and JJ) but we need some help. We're going to keep it simple to start – just a 20-30 minute lesson and craft to take place during the scripture readings and sermon. We hope to have a core of four teachers, so we can rotate weekly and no one person will have to miss too much of their worship time. We are reviewing some curriculum options right now and will purchase one of them, so you'll have lesson plans and activity suggestions readily available. Please talk to Nancy McCarthy or Lisa Elmendorf if you would like to be part of our team.



Common Ministry Prayer

We wanted to share the Common Ministry prayer with all of you – which we pray at the beginning of each of our meetings – because it struck us how well it echoes our vision statement – Seek Jesus, Share Jesus, Serve Jesus.

Holy Trinity, you have created us in your image,
so that we might have communion with you,
and so have communion with one another.

Give us grace to make the move from communion to common life.

Help us to know the story of your saving work in Jesus Christ.

Open our hearts to share our journey toward you with one another.

Inspire us to offer prayers as one people united in service.

Grant us courage to face whatever hardship may come our way
as we seek to follow you more closely, and make us instruments
for the furtherance of justice, equity and tolerance.

We ask this in thanksgiving for the common life we share with you,
Father, Word and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Change of Address

As of November 8, Louise Selden's address will be:

Louise Selden

1115 South Ridge Drive

Cincinnati, OH 45224

Louise's telephone number remains the same.

Operation Christmas Child 2011

It's that time of year again. Time to begin collecting small items that go into a shoebox for a needy child.

What is Operational Christmas Child?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse that ships shoeboxes full of small gifts all over the world. The boxes go to countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. To learn more visit: www.samaritanspurse.org.

What goes into the boxes?

School supplies: Writing pads, unlined white paper pads, solar calculators, coloring books, activity pads (look for these at Walgreens or dollar stores).

Toys: Balls, 11" fashion dolls (ex. Barbie), small soft dolls, jump ropes, Slinky, yo-yos, plastic cars/trucks suitable for a 3 year old, Matchbox cars. (No stuffed toys are needed, we already have a lot.)

Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap in a plastic bag, comb, washcloth

Other: hard candy and lollipops, mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches

NOT INCLUDED: used or damaged items, war-related items, toy guns, knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, breakable items, aerosol cans.

What can I do?

1. Provide any of the above items by Sunday, November 13, 2011. A collection box is in the back of church.
2. Provide \$7.00 for shipping costs for a box. Nancy Healy will have special envelopes for the checks in late October.

Rest in Peace

Long time parishioner Bob Cooper died on October 5. Services were held by Fr. David on October 10 at Paul Young Funeral Home.

Jack Williams, a former member of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and a decorated World War II veteran (Battle of the Bulge) died October 14. Fr. David led services for Jack at Arlington Gardens on October 20.

Nancee Cole, mother-in-law of George Selden Jr. (son of George "Pat" Selden and Louis Selden), died October 22. Her funeral was held in Michigan on October 25.

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, in the mercies of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Thanksgiving Service

There will be a service at church on Thanksgiving Day, starting at 10 AM. Come give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received!

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



Civil Engineering

Health promoters meeting in Hoyo del Toro (a smaller, rural community) identified flooding as the major current health priority. It was the middle of hurricane season (daily rains and frequent thunderstorms). All the

water seemed to be collecting in one low-lying area. Houses flooded, the water deposited silt everywhere, standing water developed (with an increase in mosquitos), and sometimes latrines flooded and overflowed. Not to mention the dirt streets turning to mud.

The health promoters kept the messages circulating about using purified water for consumption and about good hand washing technique, but there is a limit to how much that accomplishes under these circumstances.

The discussions at the meeting revolved around various suggestions to divert the water to avoid its pooling in the low-lying area. Essentially, they were trying to design a storm-water drainage system without the benefit of civil engineering, a system that they could construct using hand tools available in the community.

I was reminded of the visit several years ago by the sub-director for the Caribbean Region from USAID (United States Agency for International Development). It was an official visit with many USAID and embassy staff following along while the sub-director and I walked around a different rural community.

Mostly he wanted to talk about his church and how Anita and I became missionaries. When I asked if he wanted to know about the community, he said, "Not particularly. I can see that they are doing the best that they can with their own resources and on their own initiative in circumstances where their government either can't or won't provide the basic services for people."

We trained the group in Hoyo del Toro to be health promoters, not civil engineers. However, they are now organizing work teams to dig diversion ditches around their community. They are trying the best they can with the resources available. At least (thanks to all who support this mission) that community has that group of health promoters as a resource it can count on.

Keep praying, Michael





Birthdays

Dick Meagher	November 3
Nancy McCarthy	November 10
Beth Bailey	November 10
Tim Murphy	November 11
Mike Murphy	November 15
Jimmy Duncan	November 18
Jim Healy	November 18
Debbie Smith	November 10
Lisa Elmendorf	November 23
Charlie Healy	November 25
Megan Meyers	November 25
Elizabeth Scholz	November 29

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Address Correction Requested