

The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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The Rector's Focus on... Christian Healing

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest . . . [w]henver you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'the kingdom of God has come near to you'". [Luke 10:1-2, 8-9]

Dear Friends,

I find myself captivated by this passage of Scripture. In it Jesus, travelling with a crowd of his followers, sends seventy of them out to the towns where he is intending to stop on his way to Jerusalem – and the Cross. His mission for them is short and direct: heal the sick, and then tell those who are healed and their families, friends and neighbors that the kingdom of God has come near to them. Notice that the seventy aren't expected to preach long sermons or harangue people at the marketplace, they are simply to heal and to proclaim that – in that healing – the Kingdom of God has appeared. The mission of the seventy was a complete success (Luke 10:17).

After Jesus' death and resurrection, and the infilling of his disciples with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, those disciples found that they were now empowered to continue the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of healing. One of the first examples of this was the healing of a lame man through the ministry of Peter and John (Acts Chapter 3), but examples of the healing ministry exercised by followers of Jesus abound in the New Testament, and beyond. Indeed, in the first three centuries of the Church, a time when Christians were being persecuted by the Empire, followers of Jesus became renowned for risking their lives by openly praying for the healing of pagan friends and neighbors. It was this ministry, and the boldness and effectiveness of Christian prayer, that helped convert the citizens of the Roman Empire to followers of Jesus Christ.

While it is clear that some individuals in the early church were given specific *gifts* for healing (I Cor. 12), it was part of the everyday practice of all Christians to be involved in the *ministry* of healing (Acts 4: 29-31).

As the centuries passed, the ministry of healing prayer began to be limited to clergy and other "holy" people, so that by the 20th century, the practice of praying for healing with the laying on of hands became something done only by some clergy and "Pentecostals". The idea and the practice that all Christians should be involved in healing ministry had passed from the consciousness of the mainline church. By the grace of God, the practice of the ministry of healing prayer by all Christians was rediscovered and is now part of all the practice of all mainline denominations. In the Episcopal Church, this rediscovery was popularized in 1956 when Emily Gardiner Neal, who was both a reporter and a skeptic, began to investigate the claims of the church's healing ministry. In her investigation, Mrs. Neal went from skeptic to practitioner, and was one of the leaders of the revival of healing ministry in the Episcopal Church. Late in her life, Mrs. Neal was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church and resided at the Community of the Transfiguration in Glendale. You can read more about Emily Gardiner Neal and her ministry at www.episcopalhealing.org .

When I first came to St. Stephen's, I was impressed that a ministry of healing prayer with the laying on of hands was already part of the 10:30 service. While the intercessory prayer team members have changed over the years, the ministry has remained the same: two persons stand ready to pray with anyone who desires prayer for themselves or for others, with the ritual acts of anointing with oil (blessed by a bishop) and the laying on of hands. However, over the years I have noticed that the ministry may appear to many in the congregation to be one that only certain persons are "qualified" to do. This is nonsense! All Christians are qualified by their baptism to participate in the laying on of hands and to pray for healing.

I will have more to say about the ministry of Christian Caregiving in future Stone's Throw articles, but for now I would like to invite all members of the congregation to participate in the healing ministry with the laying on of hands. For those who attend the 10:30 service, this is a specific invitation to be part of the prayer station ministry at Communion time. The qualifications for doing so are to be a practicing Christian and ready to "seek Jesus, Share Jesus, Serve Jesus". If you are interested, please contact me and I will make sure you have the appropriate training.

In closing, let me quote this statement from the website of the Episcopal Healing Ministries: "The ministry of healing is the Church's fundamental ministry and the world's fundamental need." May we at St. Stephen's live into this ministry – and live it out in our words and deeds!

Your brother in Christ

David+

Stone's Throw Available on the Web

We are sending an email with a link to the Stone's Throw online to everyone for whom we have an email address. In an effort to reduce the cost of printing, stamping and mailing hard copies of the Stone's Throw, we are encouraging all of our readers with access to the Internet to switch to the on-line version. If you are currently receiving the Stone's Throw as a hard copy, and would like to receive it electronically, please contact the office at office@ststephens-cinci.org. Thank you for helping us make the parish a little "greener".

Are You Behind on Your Pledge?

Since pledge giving is lagging behind projections for 2010, we are asking that all of you review your pledge donations to date and make every effort to catch up to your commitment before the end of the year. We know that times are tough economically for many, and that circumstances may have changed for some during the year. However, we are a small church and we rely on our parishioners to help us pay our bills and remain a parish in good financial standing. If you're unsure what your pledge status is, contact Piet Elmendorf, pledge secretary, at 513-521-8644. Thank you!



New Acolytes

We are pleased to welcome Cody and Kain to the ministry of Acolyte at St. Stephen's Church!

(pictured left to right: Cody, Bishop Rivera, and Kain).

[please note: we follow the guideline of NOT publishing the last names of those under the age of 18 when their pictures are published]

The Bishop was Here!

We were pleased to welcome Bishop Nedi Rivera to St. Stephen's Sunday, October 10. The Bishop and Fr. David are pictured here with our new confirmands.

(left to right: Fr. David, Debbie Smith, Catherine Hair Buckingham, Bishop Rivera and Cynthia Scheets).



Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

We will have a simple Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day, beginning at 10 AM. Please come and give thanks to God for the blessings He has bestowed upon you.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<h1>November</h1>	http://www.ststephens-cinci.org office@ststephens-cinci.org Father David B. Bailey 310-0127 revdbb@aol.com Monica E. Neiderman, publications secretary 937-474-2732 sewnsew313@yahoo.com					
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8:00 PM Al Anon	7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
7 19 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship 7:00 Taize	8	9	10	11	12	13
	8:00 PM Al Anon	5:30 Springfield Twp Trustees	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
14 Consecration Sunday 9:30 Brunch 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	15	16	17	18	19	20
	8:00 PM Al Anon		12:00PM Serendipity 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:30 Bible Study		
21 21 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship Vestry After the 10:30	22	23	24	25	26	27
	8:00 PM Al Anon	3:30 Building & Grounds	6:30 PM Evening Prayer	10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II		
28 23 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	29	30				
	8:00 PM Al Anon					

Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's

November 2010



ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):

November 7 Sharon Franklin
November 14 Lisa Elmendorf
November 21 Joan DeLisse
November 28 Sharon Franklin

Lay Ministers

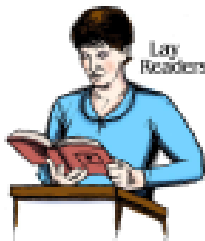
Lectors (L), Intercessors (I), Chalice Bearers (C)

November 7 Pieter Elmendorf (C), Vivian Templin (C), Molly Bailey (L&I)

November 14 Sharon Franklin (C), Don Welti (C), Carina Spendel (L&I)

November 21 Lisa Elmendorf (C), Pieter Elmendorf (C), Vivian Templin (L&I)

November 28 Molly Bailey (C), Sharon Franklin (C), Don Welti (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

November 7 Jeanne and Dick Meagher

November 14 Consecration Sunday

November 21 Nancy McCarthy & Vivian
Templin

November 28 Pat and Mike Murphy

Greeters

November 7 Arlene Gahn

November 14 Joan DeLisse

November 21 Arlene Gahn

November 28 Joan DeLisse

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.

Come to the “Make a Difference” Rally

The Mt. Healthy Alliance invites you to join them at their Make a Difference Rally on Saturday, Nov 13th. The guest speaker will be Sherman Bradley, VP of City Gospel Mission, and there will be special music by members of Team Lachey (from the TV show Clash of the Choirs). Afterwards, hear from others making a difference in our community, including Mt. Healthy Schools Mentoring, Cincinnati Works, Council on Aging, Ohio Benefit Bank, Healthcare Connection and others.

The event will start at 7 pm at Mt. Healthy South Elementary. No admission charge. Appetizers will be served.

Winter coats needed

Do you have any gently used winter coats taking up space in your closet? Members of the diocesan staff are collecting winter coats for Gabriel's Place, the Episcopal faith-based community mission project in Avondale. Every donation will end up in the hands of one of our neighbors in need. All children's and adult sizes are needed and welcome. Please bring donations at Diocesan House at 412 Sycamore Street in Cincinnati and ask for Erick Williams or Julie Murray. For more information, call 513.421.0311 or 800.582.1712.

Consecration Sunday - November 14th

We will follow a similar Consecration Sunday approach as in previous years for Consecration Sunday, which is the ‘treasure’ portion of our Stewardship giving. On Sunday, November 14th, we will start with a brunch at 9:30, followed by a single service at 10:30. Betsy Schram from the Diocese Stewardship Committee is arranging for a guest speaker to talk to us about our giving.

The new Consecration Sunday approach to stewardship focuses on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development rather than on the need of the church to receive. Reservation Cards will be on the table in the back of the church, so you can let us know if you will join us for this very special Sunday.

We'll also have a signup sheet for food – so if you can help by bring a breakfast casserole, muffins, coffee cake, or fruit – it would be greatly appreciated.

Nancy McCarthy for the Stewardship Commission

A Thanksgiving Autism Event at St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's will be hosting a Thanksgiving Event for families with autistic children on Saturday, November 20th, at 2pm. The event will include a craft project, a simple worship service, and snacks. The event is being organized by Elizabeth Scholz. If you are able to help by assisting with the craft project or by providing a snack, please contact Elizabeth.

Operation Christmas Child

It's that time of year again when we begin to collect items for our Christmas Child shoe boxes. Since 1993 over 77 million shoe boxes have been provided to boys and girls in over 130 countries. Last year, St. Stephens packed over 20 shoe boxes with your generous donations. Your donations can be placed in the decorated box in the back of church. Here are some suggestions for what to bring:

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, markers, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books.

Toys: balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch-A-Sketch, Slinky.

Hygiene Items: toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap, comb, washcloth

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

Donations: \$7.00 is needed to ship each box. Envelopes will be provided for this in October.

Packing help: In November, we'll need volunteers to help pack the boxes.

Please contact Nancy Healy at 470-4930 or at nancycinti@hotmail.com for more information or to volunteer.



New (and updated) Addresses:

Frank and Debbie Smith
Cody Walling
Kain Rethman
3113 McGill Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45251
513-825-9516

Cynthia Anne Scheets
7928 Hickman Street
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-729-3901

Bill McMillan
666 Fleming Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45231
513-522-3139

Bill and Dorothy Boyd
Meadowbrook Care Center, Rm. A1
8211 Weller Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45242
513-247-9170 (Dorothy)
513-247-0460 (Bill)

Catherine Hair Buckingham
941 Springbrook Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45224
513-522-7488

Fr. Hank Perrin
81 Towne Commons Way # 13
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Joseph Beth Book Sale benefits Episcopal ministries!

Plan your Christmas book shopping for Nov. 18-19 at Joseph Beth's Rookwood store in Cincinnati. 20% of your bookstore purchase will go to the Episcopal Community Services Foundation for grants aiding parish and community ministries providing food, shelter, tutoring, job coaching and more in the year ahead. ECSF is your homegrown charity aiding Episcopal churches to meet urgent human needs in Ohio. To learn more, visit our website at ECSFSouthernOhio.org

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



Party time?

She was a regular patient at the Clinic who arrived about mid-morning. She didn't have an appointment. She was not sick. In fact she was feeling pretty good. She came to the Clinic because it was her birthday... and she wanted a party.

We seem to have a lot of parties here. There are the expected parties for staff (birthdays, achievements, etc. – we had plenty of those when I was at the University of Cincinnati), but here there are many more parties for patients, health promoters, and others.

People estranged from their families may seek out the Clinic staff to celebrate. Haitian and other immigrant workers may be far from home and family (some Haitian patients now have no family after the earthquake in Port-au-Prince the beginning of this year).

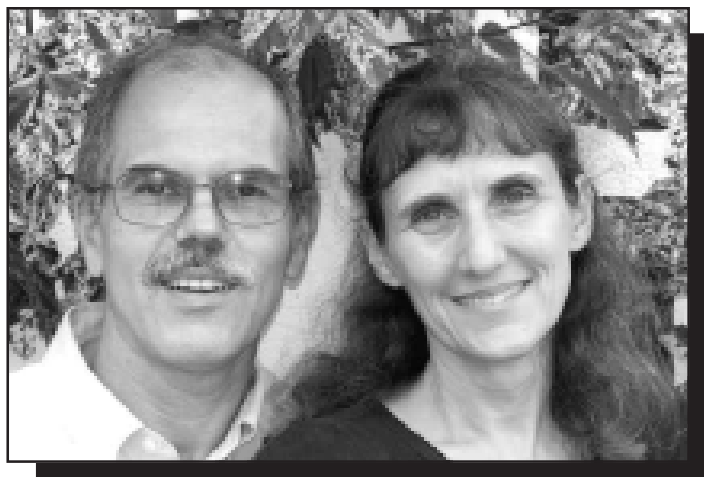
The volunteer health promoters labor throughout the year in their communities. The only real, tangible “thanks” that we have given to them over the years have been appreciation parties. In the budget it is listed as “volunteer incentives,” but we all know that means “party.”

The Latin American culture in which any gathering (business meeting, doctor's appointment, etc.) is an excuse for a social event contributes to this party tendency. There is also a sense that we have something to celebrate. The limitations and frustrations here are quite obvious, however visitors often remark about how joyful the people are.

It is good to pause at times to acknowledge what we have accomplished and done together, and what we mean to one another: even if it is simply a birthday marking another year of survival or just that we are all in this together and (despite conditions around us) that God is good.

Ooops ... Gotta go now ... just saw a cake being carried down the hall toward the corner office.

Keep praying, Michael





Birthdays

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

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Address Correction Requested