

The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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St Stephen's Episcopal Church



OCTOBER

The Anglican Covenant: *Congregations asked to study text*

By Matthew Davies

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson and Executive Council member Rosalie Simmonds Ballentine are calling on all Episcopal congregations to engage in discussion of the proposed Anglican Covenant at some time during the next two years.

The Episcopal Church leaders suggested in a Sept. 3 letter that congregations consider organizing a discussion group on the covenant during Advent (2010 or 2011) or Lent (2011 or 2012) or at another time before General Convention in 2012.

“In order for General Convention to reflect the mind of the whole church, the bishops and deputies who participate in General Convention need to know the thoughtful and faithful reactions of the many and varied faith communities represented in this church,” the church leaders said.

A covenant first was proposed in 2004 as a way for the Anglican Communion to maintain unity amid differing viewpoints, especially on issues of human sexuality and biblical interpretation.

Executive Council, at its June 2010 meeting, approved and commended the Anglican Covenant study guide, which can be downloaded in English and Spanish at <http://generalconvention.org/ec>.

The study guide suggests questions for congregations to consider, such as: In what ways does the covenant strengthen the corporate life of the Episcopal Church and the common life of the Anglican Communion; and what are the positive and negative consequences of signing on to and living into the covenant?

The church leaders noted in their letter that if congregations engaged in this discussion and submitted their comments in the coming church year, it would enable the Executive Council Task Force, which Ballentine chairs, “to reflect the church’s initial response to the final draft of the Anglican Covenant, and to be included in Executive Council’s Blue Book Report to the 77th General Convention.” The Blue Book — which includes reports and proposed resolutions from the church’s committees, commissions, agencies and boards — is published several months before each General Convention.

Comments on the covenant, especially from bishops and diocesan General Convention deputations, are encouraged by April 24, 2011, to gcoffice@episcopalchurch.org.

“Discussion in the following year, leading up to General Convention, will continue to inform the bishops and deputies, even though individual comments will not be included in the Blue Book report,” the letter said. “Read the covenant document, explore the study guide, pray and discuss the issues you discern,

and talk to others. The mind of Christ is not discerned in isolated communities, but as we engage these matters more broadly, with those who agree, those who disagree and those who ask probing questions.”



General Convention 2009 passed Resolution D020 commending the covenant to the Episcopal Church’s dioceses for study and comment during the next triennium. It asked Executive Council to prepare a report to the 77th General Convention in 2012 that would include draft legislation concerning the church’s response to the covenant.

At the time of General Convention 2009, section 4 of the covenant still was being scrutinized after the Anglican Consultative Council, the communion’s main policy-making body, in May 2009 recommended appointing a working group to consider and consult with the communion’s provinces about its possible revision.

Representatives of the ACC decided that the latest draft, the Ridley Cambridge Draft, needed more work before it could be presented to the provinces for adoption because the disciplinary process outlined in its fourth section had not received the same degree of consideration and comment by the communion’s 38 provincial churches that sections 1 through 3 had.

Appointed by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams on behalf of the primates, a Covenant Design Group had met several times between January 2007 and January 2009 and produced three drafts of the covenant.

All four sections of the proposed Anglican Covenant were sent to the communion’s provinces for formal consideration on Dec. 18, 2009, after the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion approved a revised version of the document’s text.

In their Sept. 3 letter, Ballentine and the presiding officers noted that General Convention is the governing body that “will ultimately decide the Episcopal Church’s position with respect to participation in an Anglican Communion Covenant.”

At its January 2009 meeting, the church’s Executive Council said it predicted that such approval could not come until at least 2015 should endorsement require changes to the Episcopal Church’s constitution.

“We on the Executive Council entrust this work to the leading of the Holy Spirit and look forward to continuing our engagement in this process of discernment,” the church leaders said in their letter. “We thank you for participating as we grow more deeply into our common life in the Anglican Communion.”

—Matthew Davies is editor and international correspondent of the *Episcopal News Service*.

For text of the Anglican Covenant, go to www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/index.cfm

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

October

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Sunday Schedule of Services, unless otherwise noted 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour						1	2:00 2 Blessing of the Animals 
19 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship 7:00 Taize	3 4 8:00 PM Al Anon	5 7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	6 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	7	8	9	
20 Pentecost 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Reception for Bishop Rivera	10 11 8:00 PM Al Anon	12 5:30 Springfield Twp Trustees	13 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	14 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	15	16	
21 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship Vestry After the 10:30	17 18 8:00 PM Al Anon	19	20 12:00PM Serendipity 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	21 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	22	23	
23 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	24 25 8:00 PM Al Anon	26 3:30 Building & Grounds	27 6:30 PM Evening Prayer	28 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	29	30	
24 Pentecost 8:00 H E I 9:30 Adult Forum 10:30 HE II 11:30 Fellowship	31	 OCTOBER					

Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's October 2010



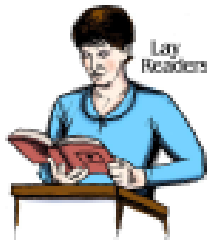
ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):

- October 3** Sharon Franklin, Shirley Dillon
October 10 Lisa Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf
October 17 Joan DeLisse, Joan DeLisse
October 24 Sharon Franklin, Shirley Dillon
October 31 Lisa Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf

Lay Ministers

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

Note Bene: We may have acolytes beginning sometime this month!



- October 3** Carina Spendel (C), Molly Bailey (C),
 Pieter Elmendorf (L&I), Vivian Templin (CP), Ann Grant (CP)
October 10 (Bishop Rivera's Visitation): Don Welti (C),
 Vivian Templin (L&I), Vivian Templin (CP), Ann Grant (CP)
October 17 Lisa Elmendorf (C), Sharon Franklin (C),
 Carina Spendel (L&I), Arlene Gahn (CP), Ann Grant (CP)
October 24 Molly Bailey (C), Pieter Elmendorf (C), Don Welti (L&I),
 Vivian Templin (CP), Shirley Dillon (CP)
October 31 Vivian Templin (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C),
 Sharon Franklin (L&I), Molly Bailey (CP), Ann Grant (CP)

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

- October 3** Tom and Sharon Franklin
October 10 Bishop's Reception
October 17 Paul and Arlene Gahn
October 24 Lisa and Pieter Elmendorf
October 31 Joan DeLisse and Sy Markowicz

Greeters

- October 3** Joan DeLisse
October 10 Louise Selden
October 17 Arlene Gahn
October 24 Joan DeLisse
October 31 Louise Selden

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.



The Bishop is Coming!

We are pleased to have Bishop Bavi "Nedi" Rivera and her husband Fr. Bob Moore with us on October 10 to confirm, preach and celebrate. As has been our custom when we have a Bishop with us, we will have ONE SERVICE at 10:30 AM. Bishop Rivera will lead Sunday Forum at 9:30, and we will have a reception after the service.

The Rt. Rev. Bavi "Nedi" Rivera was elected the Diocese of Olympia's first bishop suffragan in May 2004. She is the first Hispanic woman bishop and the 12th woman bishop in the Episcopal

Bishop Rivera came to the Episcopal Church in Western Washington from the Diocese of California and St. Aidan's Episcopal

Church, San Francisco, where she served as rector from 1994 until August 2004. Ordained to the priesthood in 1976, she served at various churches in the dioceses of California and El Camino Real. She has an M.Div. and a D.D. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, Calif.

During her "active ministry" bishop Nedi was known for her creativity and imagination, she enjoyed helping systems, whether they be congregations, committees or groups, develop their gifts for ministry. The process of Appreciative Inquiry played a strong role in this work (note: Fr. David is also trained in Appreciative Inquiry). Her spiritual discipline is that of a Franciscan Associate.

Rivera is one of three daughters born to a Puerto Rican father, the late Rt. Rev. Victor Manuel Rivera (Bishop of San Joaquin), and Anglo mother. She has worked hard to become conversant in Spanish (English was spoken at home) and now celebrates and preaches in Spanish. She is married to the Rev. Robert (Bob) Moore. Her interests include baseball, movies, theatre, music, dancing, good books, cooking and her children and grandchildren - not necessarily in that order.

Bishop Rivera has retired to Cincinnati to be closer to family. In her "retirement" Bishop Rivera serves as Provisional (acting) Bishop of Eastern Oregon and helps Bishop Breidenthal with Episcopal Visitations.

Food Needed for Bishop's Reception

We need volunteers to provide goodies – crackers & cheese, punch, cookies and other easy edibles – for the Bishop's Reception on Oct 10. Please see the sign up sheet on the hall bulletin board if you can contribute.

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 online 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".

A Pastoral Letter from the House of Bishops

Phoenix, Arizona, September 21, 2010

There shall be for you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the Lord. You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance (Numbers 15:15-16).

So [Christ] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-19).

Dear People of God,

Throughout our meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, we have reflected on the immigration crisis facing our host state, the United States, and all nations globally. A number of us visited the United States-Mexico border and saw first hand the many troubling and complex issues that face migrants, immigrants, the border patrol, local ranchers, and Christian communities seeking to minister to all of these groups. We are also mindful that similar border issues confront other nations represented in The Episcopal Church, especially countries in Europe, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and Colombia and Ecuador.

Holy Scripture teaches us that all human beings are made in the image of God, and that Jesus Christ gave his life for all people. Furthermore, both the Old and New Testaments declare the importance of hospitality to resident alien and strangers, a hospitality that rests on our common humanity. All human beings are therefore deserving of dignity and respect, as we affirm in our Baptismal Covenant (Book of Common Prayer, p.305). So our gracious welcome of immigrants, documented or undocumented, is a reflection of God's grace poured out on us and on all. In this light:

(1) Ours is a migratory world in which many people move across borders to escape poverty, hunger, injustice and violence. We categorically reject efforts to criminalize undocumented migrants and immigrants, and deplore the separation of families and the unnecessary incarceration of undocumented workers. Since, as we are convinced, it is natural to seek gainful employment to sustain oneself and one's family, we cannot agree that the efforts of undocumented workers to feed and shelter their households through honest labor are criminal.

(2) We profess that inhumane policies directed against undocumented persons (raids, separation of families, denial of health services) are intolerable on religious and humanitarian grounds, as is attested by the consensus of a wide range of religious bodies on this matter.

(3) We call on the government of the United States and all governments to create fair and humane immigration policies that honor the dignity of people on all sides of this issue. In the United States, we seek a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented workers; a plan to reunite families; and a viable system for receiving temporary or seasonal guest-workers, with clearly identified points of entry. These measures would free the United States border patrol to concentrate its efforts on the apprehension of drug traffickers, terrorists, and other criminals, and not on ordinary people who are simply seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

(4) We acknowledge the duty of governments to protect their people, including the securing of borders. The church has always respected this duty, which is grounded in government's God-given duty to protect innocent people and punish wrongdoers (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

A Pastoral Letter from the House of Bishops (continued)

(5) We recognize that racism and bigotry impact debates over migration and immigration. The Episcopal Church is committed to the eradication of all forms of racism, and decries the use of racial profiling in the arrest of persons suspected of being undocumented.

(6) We confess our own complicit sinfulness as people who benefit from the labor of undocumented workers without recognizing our responsibility to them. We passively tolerate an economic and political system that accepts this labor from millions of undocumented workers, and which has received approximately \$520 billion in social security revenue from them-- revenue from which they will never benefit. Yet at the same time we treat them as a threat.

(7) We do not discount the concerns of our fellow citizens regarding the danger uncontrolled immigration poses to our safety and economic well-being. We insist, however, that these concerns be approached within the broader context of a national commitment and covenant to inclusion and fellowship across all lines for the sake of the common good.

(8) We take seriously our commitment to and responsibility for our fellow citizens, as we strive to face the spiritual, moral and economic challenges of life in all sixteen nations represented in The Episcopal Church. We call on our fellow citizens to remember that the good of a nation lies beyond its own self-interest, toward a vision of a humanity restored in Jesus Christ, for in him “you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13).

(9) We offer for additional study a theological resource, “The Nation and the Common Good: Reflections on Immigration Reform.”

God’s grace be with us all.

Notes from your Vestry

We have covered a lot of territory in the last two Vestry meetings. Subjects under discussion include:

- Clergy and Congregation Renewal (also known as Fr. David’s Sabbatical) – what should the goals of the congregation be? What do we hope to achieve while Fr. David is absent? How will we divide his current tasks to make sure everything gets done?
- Mutual Ministry Review – It’s been 7 years since Fr. David joined us, and the vestry feels it is an appropriate time to do a Mutual Ministry Review. Basically, this is a forum for the “Rector, Wardens and Vestry to assess how well they are fulfilling their responsibilities to each other and to the ministry they share.” We are exploring the best way to do this, but it will likely involve a neutral third party consultant.
- Building & Grounds – a number of issues have been under discussion, such as how can we achieve more flexibility with our Air Conditioning system? How are we currently being billed for our electric use? We are also planning to do some painting, electrical work, and tree removal before winter hits.
- Relationship with Saving Grace – we will be conducting a 6-month review in the next month or so to assess how well the relationship is working.
- Music – there has been interest expressed in adding some contemporary music. We are going to incorporate some hymns from the ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing’ hymnal.
- October Events – Plans are afoot for the Blessing of the Animals, the Bishop’s Visit on Oct 10, and an event with local autistic families that would combine crafts, a nature hike, and a simple worship service. Tentatively planned for Oct 16. See Elizabeth Scholz if you would like to help with this.

Vestry meetings are usually held the second Sunday of each month. All parishioners are welcome to attend.



Blessing of the Animals

St. Stephen's annual Blessing of the Animals will be Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2010. If you are interested in helping with refreshments or with set up, please contact Nancy Healy at 470-4930 or at nancycinti@hotmail.com.

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.



Taize Service

Our Taize Services on the first Sunday of the month will begin again on October 3 at 7:00 pm. Please come for some contemplative song, scripture, and silence. Come for spiritual refreshment and to offer prayers for world peace.

Altar Flowers

Thanks to all who have given Altar flowers.

We have two openings in October.- the 24th and the 31st.

Sign up for these dates or call Min Silver, 681-6172, if you would like to give flowers on either Sunday.

Min Silver

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



Hurricanes and Wisdom

We prayed about hurricanes this morning. In the final prayer at the Wednesday morning devotional time at the Clinic, the leader asked for protection from ‘tormentas’ which would include hurricanes as well as any forceful tropical storms. The tropical storms this time of year can cause a lot of problems. Particularly for people living in simple shacks with walls of wooden clapboard or corrugated metal and tin roofs, the rain and wind can be really destructive. Even without the wind, the steady rain from a slow-moving tropical wave will eventually dampen everything inside. There are some things simply out of our control that we have to turn over to the Lord to handle.

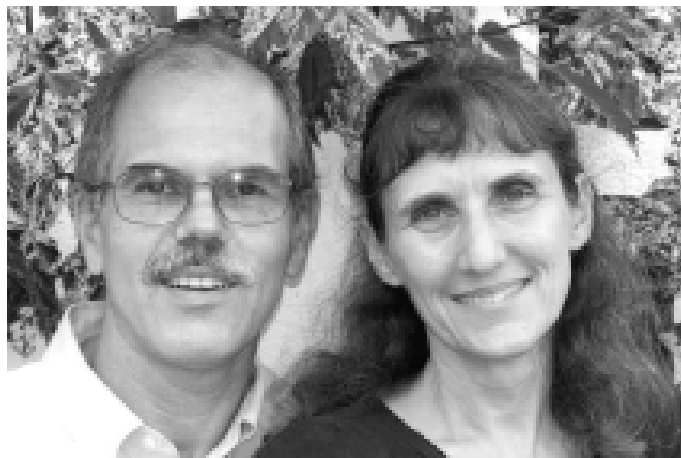
She added several other uncontrollable elements to the prayer list as well, including power black-outs, the government, and general strikes (general strikes? – I started to wonder if perhaps I should have been reading the daily newspaper more closely recently).

A lot of things are out of our control here. One of our frequent prayers, usually attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr, is often called the “serenity prayer.”

God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

We are approaching the end of a three-year cycle and will be checking results of the health promoter program. So far, it looks as though there were things we did change and some that we did not. At the least, we will enter the next three years a bit wiser.

Keep praying, Michael





Ralph and Lois Tuttle
Mike and Pat Murphy
Joe and Kathy Rose

October 4
October 8
October 31



David Bailey October 4
Charles Tucker October 8
Molly Bailey October 9
Tom Franklin October 12
Jeanne Meagher October 21
Eric Meyers October 22
Dave McCarthy October 27

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Address Correction Requested