

# The Stone's Throw

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

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St Stephen's Episcopal Church



# September

## The Rector's Focus on . . .

### Healthy Congregations

*[Jesus said] "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: . . . 'I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. ' And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: . . . 'I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.' [Revelation 3:1-3, 7-8]*

Dear Friends,

I get to read newsletters from a lot of different congregations, both Episcopal and others. I recently read the Rector's article for a large Episcopal congregation that is in another Midwestern diocese. In the article, the rector listed "seven marks of a healthy parish, attributes which, in my admittedly biased opinion, [his parish] – and many other parishes – possess in abundance." The rector then went on to list these seven marks: diversity, unity, hospitality, generosity, sagacity, stability, and sanctity. I have to admit, I was pretty impressed with the list, until I reread the article, looking for the name Jesus. I didn't find Jesus, or Christ, or any combination of the two anywhere in the article (although "the Lord" got mentioned three times).

Let me tell you my own bias: any congregation where the saving power of Jesus is not explicitly proclaimed is like the church in Sardis. Yes, we do need to be marked with diversity, unity and all the rest, but first we need to be marked with the sign of the Cross. We need to serve our community and our world, but we need carry out that service in His Name. If we don't carry out everything we do in the name of Jesus, we may appear to be alive, when we are really dead in the eyes of our Lord.

The fact that we have grown smaller in the last few years is no reason to think we are dying: some of the most alive congregations I have experienced are much smaller than we are today! And that is because they are like the church in Philadelphia, which had but little (worldly) power but was able to do great things because they kept the word of God and did not deny the name of Jesus.

Between now and Easter I will be focusing on what it means to be a "Healthy Congregation". In September during Sunday Forum we will be looking at some of the family systems aspects of our life together. We will also as a parish be looking other aspects of our life together, such as stewardship of time, talent and treasure, styles of worship, and our portfolio of outreach ministries. All of these aspects are good to study and review, but they all amount to nothing if we do not have Jesus at the center of our lives, our ministries, and our decisions for the future.

More – much more – in the months ahead, but for now I leave you with the Mission Statement of St. Stephen's, a statement that is more than words; it is a recipe for life.

At St. Stephen's we are committed to:

Seek Jesus

Share Jesus

Serve Jesus

Your brother in Christ,

David+

Sunday    Monday    Tuesday    Wednesday    Thursday    Friday    Saturday

# September

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



# Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's September 2010

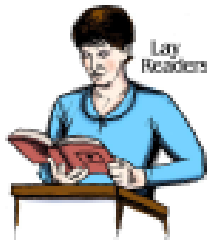


## ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens):

- September 5** Joan DeLisse, Joan DeLisse  
**September 12** Sharon Franklin, Shirley Dillon  
**September 19** Lisa Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf  
**September 26** Joan Delisse, Joan DeLisee

## Lay Ministers

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



- September 5** Molly Bailey (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C), Pieter Elmendorf (L&I), Vivian Templin (CP), Shirley Dillon (CP)  
**September 12** RALLY DAY Carina Spendel (C), Vivian Templin (C), Don Welti (L&I), Molly Bailey (CP), Ann Grant (CP)  
**September 19** Sharon Franklin (C), Molly Bailey (C), Lisa Elmendorf (L&I), Vivian Templin (CP), Shirley Dillon (CP)  
**September 26** Pieter Elmendorf (C), Carina Spendel (C), Vivian Templin (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

- September 5** Dick and Jeanne Meagher  
**September 12** Pat and Mike Murphy  
**September 19** Nancy McCarthy and Vivian Templin  
**September 26** Louise Selden and Bebe Hales

## Greeters

- September 5** Arlene Gahn  
**September 12** Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowicz  
**September 19** Louise Selden  
**September 26** 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.



## **The Bishop is Coming!**

On Sunday, October 10, we will be honored to have the Rt. Rev'd. Bavi Edna "Nedi" Rivera with us to preach, celebrate, baptize, confirm, receive . . . and to do all such things that Bishops do when they visit! Bishop Nedi is the first Latina bishop in The Episcopal Church, and, although she is "retired" here in Cincinnati, Bishop Rivera is currently serving part time as the provisional Bishop of Eastern Oregon.

[or, as "Rev Deb" Gamble often reminds me, there are no part time ministries, only part time salaries!]

More on Bishop Rivera's visitation will be in the October Stone's Throw, but if you are interested in baptism, confirmation or reception (which I will explain next month!), please see me when I return from vacation in September.

Fr. David

## **Episcopal Relief Aids Flood Victims in Pakistan**

After three weeks of what appear to be the heaviest monsoon rains in 35 years, over a third of Pakistan is now under water. This flooding is the worst natural disaster in the country's history. According to recent estimates, nearly 14 million people are affected, and the figures are rising. The death toll has reached over 1,600 and around 2 million people are homeless.

"The scale of this disaster is tremendous," said Nagulan Nesiah, the International Program Officer overseeing Episcopal Relief & Development's response. "Especially for those who are more at risk in a disaster, like women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities, the need for relief is great." ERD and others are working through local implementing partners to provide food and other critical items to over 86,500 people, shelter kits for 25,500 persons, and health care to 36,500 individuals.

In a place where food insecurity is already widespread and the celebration of Ramadan has led to price increases, food aid is especially important at this time. The food kits being distributed include rations of wheat flour, rice, cooking oil, pulses, sugar, tea and salt. In addition, families are being provided with jerry cans, plastic buckets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, hygiene kits and plastic floor mats and sheeting to protect against the rain.

Additionally, Episcopal Relief & Development is in touch with the Diocese of Peshawar of the Church of Pakistan. There are ERD funds available in the Diocese which are being redirected for flood assistance to 1,340 families in affected areas where the church has a presence and can deliver assistance. We continue to offer our prayers and stand in solidarity with their efforts.

Those wishing to assist Episcopal Relief & Development in this and similar disaster relief work can do so at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org).

Click on "Donate Now" and then select "Disaster Response."



## Thursday Morning Bible Study

Sometimes it's easy to forget that Paul was not the only letter writer in the New Testament church! Besides the fourteen letters (more correctly called epistles) that are traditionally attributed to Paul, there are seven additional epistles that are attributed to the writers James, Peter, John and Jude.

The Thursday morning Bible Study this Fall will "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" these seven epistles. We will begin our study on Thursday, September 16 with the epistle from James. Bible Study begins at 10:30 and concludes no later than 11:30. For those who are interested, we will worship God with the Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer before Bible study begins (10:00 AM).

No previous participation in a Bible study or knowledge about the Bible is required. Just bring a Bible with you - or borrow one of ours - and we will help you with the rest! Any questions, please contact either Jeanne Meagher or Fr. David.

## Sunday Forum

Sunday Forum will begin on Sunday, September 12, beginning at 9:30 AM. The topic for September is: "Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and First Communion - What Does the Episcopal Church Teach?" These sessions are open to everyone, but are required for anyone who desires to be confirmed or received by Bishop Rivera on October 10. Please see Fr. David for details.

## New Address and Telephone Number:

Bill & Dorothy Boyd  
Valley Creek Apts.  
Apt. 238  
10620 Montgomery Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45242  
791-3079  
Please update your phone books.



## Rally Day Breakfast Sept 12

Sunday, September 12, will be the first day of our 'school year' and we'll be kicking off the year with a Rally Day Breakfast between the two services. We encourage everyone to come – whether you plan to attend Sunday School classes or not. We need people to bring food and to help with setup and cleanup. Please see the signup sheet on the hall bulletin board if you're willing to bring a breakfast casserole, fruit, muffins, coffeecake, etc.

## A Note from Bebe

My family and I would like to thank our St. Stephens family for their support during Louis' illness and passing. Most of all, we thank you for your prayers. Knowing friends were lifting us up in prayer sustained us through a difficult time. We thank Sharon Franklin for hosting and organizing a lovely reception. Many people have asked if our church is in the catering business. To all who helped--THANKS. Bebe



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## Prayer Request from Monica

I have been having vision issues since last spring. It's been a long journey, but I am beginning to find out why. I still have to have an MRI for confirmation, but something is pressing on my optic nerve where it meets together in my brain making my visual fields and color perception off, leaving me having difficulty seeing anything close, far and in between. It's a challenge and I ask your prayers and your patience as I attempt to put together your newsletter and bulletins. If anyone has any ideas of adaptive measures since I make my living looking at this computer screen, I'd appreciate your help and prayers. Thanks for all you do!

REMEMBER OUR  
**Missionaries**



## **Anita and Michael Dohn, Missionaries in Health Ministries**

June 2010 Mission E-mail

Anita and Michael Dohn are physicians serving as South American Missionary Society missionaries with La Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana at the diocesan Clínica Esperanza y Caridad. They live along the southern coast in San Pedro de Macorís in the Dominican Republic.

For more information, visit their website: <http://dohnfamily.org>

### **Team Work**

Our daughter Elizabeth is playing soccer. She was even elected co-captain of the team. The time and transportation commitment is taxing for us as parents (Michael actually does the driving and is the “Soccer Mom,” though he does not really like to be called that). There is a constant pressure to balance sports time with academic time and leisure time.

To be committed to a soccer team, and to follow-through on that commitment even when it is inconvenient, is an experience that builds character even as it builds muscles and coordination.

Most often we work in teams here. Those fortunate enough to be employed where a work team functions as a team know what a blessing it can be, as well as how productivity and job satisfaction are enhanced. In a Christian ministry, teamwork is evidence of the message in action. Remember the old song “They will know we are Christians by our love”?

Patients coming to the Clinic recognize the loving care that they receive. The patients at the HIV/AIDS treatment center are generally also aware of the team effort of the physicians, nurse, psychologist, peer counselors, lab technician, and community outreach workers (many of whom they may interact with on a single visit).

The community health team also exemplifies the team concept and tries to model it as a basis for successful community group action. Love, commitment, and team effort can be as visible as conflict, disorder, and fragmentation. In the sphere of Christian evangelism, our actions often speak louder than words.

If I complain about the impact of soccer on our family schedule, please remind me that being a committed member of the team is a high calling – it is worth trying to work it out.

Keep praying, Anita

## **Anita and Michael Dohn, Missionaries in Health Ministries**

August 2010 Mission E-mail

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

E-mail: [DohnFamily@sams-usa.org](mailto:DohnFamily@sams-usa.org)

REMEMBER OUR  
**Missionaries**



### **Food Baskets**

“We had no food in the house at all. What a gift from God when they came to the door!” exclaimed Rosaria.

Rosaria was the recipient of one of the food baskets distributed by the AIDS Support groups. She explained that her family had eaten the last of the food and there was nothing left. When the food basket was delivered by other PVVS (personas viviendo con VIH/SIDA, people living with HIV/AIDS), she could not help but see it as God acting in her life through the PVVS community. The first baskets were delivered this week. People received the baskets with mixtures of relief, disbelief, thankfulness, and tears.

The AIDS Support groups have a new grant to assist PVVS like Rosaria who need help with nutrition (among other things). The AIDS Support groups are in a good position to know where the greatest needs lie. The AIDS Support group members will be involved with determining who receives the monthly food baskets, shopping for the food items, assembling the contents of the baskets, delivering them to other PVVS, and handling the paperwork.

The grant’s purpose is to enable the PVVS community to identify and act on issues to improve HIV treatment literacy and therapy results. Besides the food baskets, the grant will also provide assistance for transportation costs for patients to attend appointments, training for four HIV adherence peer counselors, programs to encourage HIV testing and entry into treatment, and the formalization of the support groups’ status so that they can seek independent funding. The Clinic is administering the grant on behalf of the support groups’ while working on their organizational development so that they can do it themselves in the future.

This whole endeavor requires grant writers, approval of the request, funding from an international treatment coalition, monitoring and evaluation functions, administration, accounting support, and willing volunteers. Rosaria’s viewpoint is more along the lines of: “I was hungry and you gave me food.” Actually, that is pretty much our viewpoint, too – despite the complexity of the whole process.

Keep praying, Anita and Michael



Beth & Michael Scholz

September 2



Duane Dillon	September 12
Sally Morse	September 12
Bart Jones	September 13
Steve McCarthy	September 13
Pat Murphy	September 19
Sudy Irvine	September 21
Bebe Hales	September 26
Erik Elmendorf	September 30

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Address Correction Requested