

The Stone's Throw

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The Rector's Focus on

SILENCE

“Be still, and know that I am God” [Psalm 46]

“For God alone my soul in silence waits” [Psalm 62]

Dear Friends,

At the risk of stating the obvious, we live in a very noisy world! This point was brought home to me while I was on vacation with two very different experiences.

The first experience happened when the entire Bailey family drove down to Myrtle Beach. In order to save gas, the four of us were in Molly's Honda and were feeling very “cozy”. As I was driving through part of Kentucky, I saw in the rear view mirror that Beth was listening to her iPod, Ginny was listening to her iPod, while “old school” Molly was sitting next to me listening to a portable CD player. All three of them plugged into their individual noise generators. Of course, I must confess that about every ten minutes one of them would ask me to turn down the volume on the oldies station I was listening to on the car radio! Granted, this happened on one of the less scenic parts of the drive, but I found it interesting that all of us preferred listening to something – anything – rather than travel in silence.

The second experience happened in Chicago. My friend Anna McKinley had arranged for the two of us to attend a Taize worship service at a church in the Oak Park neighborhood. That evening, we entered a church that was full of people of all ages. The sight and sound of several hundred people softly singing a simple chant in Latin was profoundly moving. As the singing continued, we each took a lit candle and placed it in one of several bowls that were arranged around a cross. After the last candle was placed, the chant quietly ended, and a ten minute period of silence began. It was a hot August night, and the church was not air conditioned, but other than the sounds of the fans moving air (and the very occasional cough), the church filled with silence for the entire ten minutes. Some prayed quietly, some meditated, while others (myself included) took in the candlelight and the silence as balm to our souls. The service concluded with more singing and prayers. I left that church with my soul refreshed.

This experience and others I have had of Taize worship is why I have been so enthusiastic about our new Taize service. There is no preaching or teaching, no complicated prayers or music, no Communion of bread and wine, just simple words and simple tunes to refresh our souls. The ten minutes of silence reminds us of just how badly we need to “be still” and know God, and gives us incentive to carry that silence into our busy lives.

I invite all of you to attend our first Taize service on Sunday, September 21, beginning at 7 PM. The service will last about an hour. As with any new service, we anticipate some “glitches” in the format, but I am committed to this service for the long term. Come join us and learn afresh that it is “for God alone that our souls in silence wait”.

Your brother in Christ,

David+

Why Taize?

Last month we attempted to introduce you to Taize, its history, its growth, its content. Now we hope to explain “Why Taize?”.

As was said last month, the Taize service is Christian. It is also non-denominational. Just as the Brother’s, in the town of Taize, France, hoped that their community, of various Christian backgrounds, would be a sign of reconciliation between divided Christians and separated people, so too we hope that our offering of this service will bring together those of different faiths, and maybe, those with no faith at all.

The simplicity of the service, the bible reading, prayers, and uncomplicated hymns are recognizable to all Christians. The one item that is not frequently experienced in most churches are the periods of meditative silence. Unlike most worship services, instead of coming together to talk to God, at a Taize service the community gathers to *listen*, to do as the bible tells us to, “ Be still and know that I am God”.

One tends to leave the service feeling refreshed of spirit, and in today’s hectic world this is a rare occurrence.

After much research, emails to other churches, phone calls & meetings we pray we are ready to do justice to this offering.

The first Taize service will be held on Sunday, September 21 at 7PM here at St. Stephen’s. Please join us.

Deacon Jeanne, Betty Kattmann, and I look forward to your response to the service.

Thank you,
Cathy Skiba

Parish Leadership Retreat Planned for Sept 13

St. Stephen’s is planning to hold a Leadership meeting on Sat, Sept 13 from 9 am to 3 pm. We have been asked to fill out a “self-assessment” form by the Commission on Congregational Life. All congregations in the diocese have been asked to do this, so that COCL can learn more about the mission and ministry happening in our churches, and can then discern ways to assist us in these areas.

The self-assessment will cover our vision and mission statements, the types and number of ministries we’re involved in, how many people are involved, our enthusiasm for and engagement with these ministries, how our leadership is structured, what our financial health looks like, etc.

Your vestry, wardens and clergy will certainly be there, and anyone else who is interested in participating in the discussion and the assessment is enthusiastically welcomed. Please mark it on your calendars. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

Lisa Elmendorf, Sr. Warden

A Note from Ed & Amy

Dr. Ed Cook is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Semitics at the Catholic University of America . . .

Hi David,

Our new address is:
4400 Fishermans Ct.
Olney, MD 20832

Our new phone (which is not yet activated) will be 301-260-1897.

We finally got all moved in today. We’re a bit homesick for our old haunts, but we really like our new house and new neighborhood. I hope you’ll come by and see us if you’re ever in the area.

Best,
Ed

Website Redesign

We are in the process of redesigning our parish website (www.ststephens-cinci.org) and want to ask all of you for your help.

Please visit the website and give us your feedback, both in terms of style and content. Specifically:

- How can we change the layout to be more attractive to visitors and newcomers?
- What additional content would you like to see?
- What additional content would you be willing to create?
- What graphic images (photos and other) should we add to the site?
- What images can you provide?
- What additional links would you suggest?

Send your suggestions and offers to help populate the website to: webmaster@ststephens-cinci.org. Our own “VR” Bailey of Gee Boo Productions will take all suggestions and offers into serious consideration.

Starfish Fund

Three years ago, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast and wrecked havoc in Louisiana and Mississippi. Three years later, the Gulf Coast is still devastated by the aftermath of Katrina (there are still people living in FEMA trailers). We have designated the month of September to collect our special offering to assist those who are rebuilding their lives and communities in the Mississippi towns of Pass Christian and Long Beach. This offering (The Starfish Fund) goes to the Episcopal congregations of Trinity, Pass Christian (www.trinitychurchpc.com), and St. Patrick’s, Long Beach (www.stpatrickslongbeach.org) to help them in their rebuilding efforts. Please make your checks out to St. Stephen’s with the notation that the offering is for the Starfish Fund. Thank you for blessing our brothers and sisters in Christ with your offering.

A short video of the aftermath of Katrina can be seen on the website for the Diocese of Mississippi – www.dioms.org/katrina/ .

Thursday Morning Bible Study

What is a prophet? Is a prophet someone who foretells the future? Maybe someone who announces doom and gloom? How about someone committed to social justice? Or maybe a prophet is just a crackpot! This year we will be exploring the lives, ministries and messages of the Biblical prophets. As always, no former knowledge of the Bible is needed; we will fill you in as we go along! Our first session will be on Thursday, September 11, starting at 10:30. We will also begin our Thursday morning Eucharist service the same day, starting at 10:00. We are always done by 11:30. If you have any questions, please contact Min Silver, Fr. David or Deacon Jeanne. Come, enjoy and learn in a relaxed atmosphere!

Sunday Adult Forum

We will resume our Forum class Sunday, September 14, beginning at 9:30. The Forum topics for September and October are as follows:

- Sept. 14: How Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church spent their Summer Vacation (GAFCon and the Lambeth Conference)
 - Sept 21: What is Taize worship (Part I)
 - Sept. 28: What is Taize worship (Part II)
 - Oct. 5: How do Anglicans understand the Authority of Scripture (Part I)
 - Oct. 12: How do Anglicans understand the Authority of Scripture (Part II)
 - Oct. 19: How do Anglicans understand the Authority of Scripture (Part III)
 - Oct. 26: How do Anglicans understand the Authority of Scripture (Part IV)
- [The October series will be based on the books “The Last Word: Beyond the Bible Wars to a New Understanding of the Authority of Scripture” by Bishop N.T. Wright (21st Century) and “The Lawes of Ecclesiastical Politie” by Richard Hooker (16th Century).]

Come join us as we seek to understand our roles as Christians, Anglicans and Episcopalians in the 21st Century!



Blessing of the Animals

2008 Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 4, 2008
2:00 PM

This year St. Stephen's annual Blessing of the Animals will be at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 4. This year, the Blessing falls on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi whose love for all creatures inspires this annual event.

All creatures are welcome but they should be on a leash or in a crate. The ashes of departed pets can be scattered or interred in the Animal Memorial Garden.

Volunteers are needed to help with publicity, set-up, greeting visitors, serving refreshments and clean up. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Even if you can't physically volunteer, your prayers for good weather are needed.

After organizing this event for several years, Cathy Skiba has turned that responsibility over to Nancy Healy. Cathy and Steve both worked diligently to make this annual event a well-organized success. Please take the time to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

If you have questions, please contact Nancy Healy at (513) 470-4930 or nancycinti@hotmail.com

Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animal on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.

Thanks for the Warm Welcome....

Paul and I would like to thank the whole St. Stephen's congregation for helping us make the transition to a new church family.

We have been able to become involved in several programs and ministries. It has been good for both of us.

We truly appreciate the warm welcome.

Paul and Arlene Gahn

Debby Csiszar

For those who wish to send condolences to Debby Csiszar's daughters, their addresses are:

Jorja Kremer
91 Dudley Rd.
Edgewood, Ky 41017
Esther Kater
2551 Buttermilk Pike
Villa Hills, Ky 41017

Joyful Noise News

It is about time to think about choir starting up for the new year. I would like to have a rehearsal on Wednesday, August 27th at 7:00 P.M. and a second rehearsal the following Wednesday, September 3rd. September 7th, will be the first Sunday we will sing in church, with a warm-up at 10:10 either in the Library or the office in which our music is stored. This information will appear on the August Stone's Throw calendar. As we get closer to the time, I will email a reminder of the two rehearsal and the first Sunday dates.

I hope you are having a relaxing summer.....

We all can look forward to a happy and musical season,

Bette

Bart Jones

All is going well here. Dad is getting stronger everyday, but not quite strong enough to be on his own. He has decided to stay at Atria Northgate Park until Sept 20, 2008. By then he should be strong enough to be on his own, maybe not to drive or grocery shop but to live, with doing his daily activities. He is quite content, having physical therapy everyday, talking to other residents. He really is enjoying himself very much.

Address: 9191 Roundtop Dr

Cincinnati, Ohio

45251

room: 305

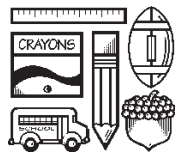
phone: 513-245-5782

he has an answering machine, if you miss him.

Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Cathy



School Supplies

Thanks to all who provided school supplies for the DuVall Students.

Steve

IHN Host Date is Friday, September 26

IHN's next hosting date was recently moved up from Oct 10 to Sept 26. We'll need the usual corps of volunteers to help us with food prep, serving, and hosting. A sign-up sheet will be on the hall bulletin board by early September. Thank you!

Way of the Cross

THANK YOU to Boy Scout Troop #857 for completely mulching the Way of the Cross and Chapel areas of our property. It looks great! Thanks also to the scoutmaster of Troop #857, Don Welti, for arranging the service project.

Mount Healthy Alliance News

**Follow up the
“CELEBRATE MT. HEALTHY” PARADE
with an afternoon of
FAMILY FUN**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
3:00 – 6:00 PM
at Mt. Healthy Park**

Food, Entertainment (music, puppets, dance teams,
magician, juggler and more!)
Face Painting
Fun Games for kids
AND IT'S ALL FREE!!!

(Sponsored by Mt. Healthy Alliance, Inc.)
Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected
during the event. All donations will go to support the
Mt. Healthy Alliance FOOD PANTRY.

Mount Healthy Alliance would like each congregation to bake some cookies for the meal offered at the picnic on Sept. 14th from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. About 2 doz. cookies from about 8 to 10 people would be a big help. A sign-up sheet for cookie bakers is on the bulletin board at church. Cookies must be at St. Stephen's before 10:00am on Friday, Sept 12th. Deacon Jean will then take them over to the Methodist Church in Mount Healthy and hand them over to Silvia Lawson. If members of St. Stephen's want to volunteer more of their time to helping at the picnic please call Sherri Horton at 521-0410 to ask for more information . She is in charge of the games, tickets and etc.. If you just plan to attend the picnic to support the Alliance please think about bringing a canned good for the Food Pantry barrel collection.”

Thank you,
Deacon Jean

From the Mt. Healthy Alliance July Newsletter -

The month of July saw new records in numbers of clients served. God blessed us with enough food to feed 642 clients in 184 households. We welcomed 59 new clients. Thanks to all our benefactors, July was very successful. Please pray that God will continue to bless us with items needed to feed our clients.

Current Pantry Needs -

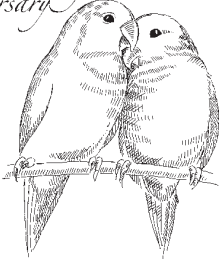
All donations are welcome. The pantry especially needs the following items.

Food items: canned fruit, canned meat/fish, pancake mix & syrup, spaghetti sauce, rice mixes, pasta, rice, boxed potatoes, soup, jelly.

Personal and Cleaning items: dish detergent, laundry detergent, deodorant, toothbrushes, diapers, razors, shampoo, paper towels, toilet paper.

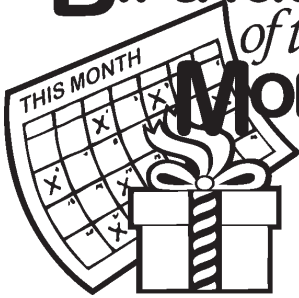
It is only because of your generosity that we are able to continue to meet the needs of our community. Thank you!

*Celebrating an
Anniversary*



Beth & Michael Scholz September 2

Birthdays of the Month



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
Rex Van Alstine	September 29
Erik Elmendorf	September 30

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Address Correction Requested