



ELECTRONIC EPISTLE
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
December 14 – December 28, 2011

DATES TO NOTE (other than the usual regularly scheduled services and Stone Soup Suppers):

Wed – Dec 14 Presentation by Kempton Hewitt to the *Confirm not Conform* class – and anyone else interested as all are invited. He will be speaking to the difficulties in choosing translations of the Bible – 10:30am
Noonday Service – 12:10pm instead of Holy Eucharist, followed by ECW luncheon at Agate Beach Hotel
Blue Christmas Service – 7pm, Atonement Lutheran Church
(see poster on bulletin board)

In the event of a pastoral emergency while Susan+ is gone (December 14-19) please contact Jan Sedlacek, who can assist in locating a priest should that be necessary.

Fri - Dec 16: Central Coast Chorale annual Wishes & Candles concert – 7:30pm at the PAC

Sun – Dec 18 Bishop Ladehoff will preside and preach at Holy Eucharist
On the schedule: Ushers – Larry and Donna Cox
 Lectors – Suzie Jenner and Clay Richman
 Eucharistic Minister – Allan Preece
 Coffee – Paulie Passmore
Central Coast Chorale annual Wishes & Candles concert – 2pm at the PAC

Tue – Dec 20 Advent Taizé service at St. Luke's – 7pm. Folks from St. Stephen's are encouraged to attend

Wed – Dec 21 *Confirm not Conform* -10:30am

Sat – Dec 24 Christmas Eve:
 Carols and Holy Eucharist at St. Luke's – 7:30pm
 Carols and Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's – 10:30pm
On the schedule: Ushers – Larry and Donna Cox
 Lectors – Barbara Wilson and Joaquin Varo
 Eucharistic Ministers – Jan Sedlacek and Allan Preece

Sun – Dec 25 Christmas day: usual Sunday schedule of services
On the schedule: Ushers – Jorge Hernandez and Sofia Bonilla-Rios
 Lectors – Jan Sedlacek and Jorge Hernandez
 Eucharistic ministers – Allan Preece and Jan Sedlacek

Mon – Dec 26 Office closed; open Wednesday, December 28 and Thursday, December 29

Wed – Dec 28 NO *Confirm not Conform* class

LATE THANKS

Anyone who periodically looks out the window at the patio area will have noticed a great improvement in its looks! Thanks go to Anne Hoeflin who spent all afternoon on a recent Wednesday and weeded, cleaned and rearranged so it is now a much more pleasant sight.

BAC NEWS

At the BAC meeting held December 12, it was moved that a Finance Committee be formed to:
have oversight of budget preparation;
implement a Gift Fund Policy, to have in place policies concerning the handling of any

gifts/bequests to St. Stephen's, to assure prospective contributors there are guidelines for the handling of such gifts – that they won't be "frittered away."

develop a form of fiscal responsibility for oversight of our ministries.

The BAC will host a thank-you dinner on January 27, 2012, at 6pm, for all those who volunteer on the Stone Soup Suppers. An invitation/sign-up sheet will be posted in the kitchen so that it will be seen by all volunteers, including those from other churches and the community.

With our annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, following so closely behind the thank-you dinner it was decided that we would have potluck finger food and not a sit-down plate meal.

Again there has been an occasion of a non-keyholder being in the building after everyone has left. All are reminded again and again that the last person or people to leave the building should make sure everyone else is gone and double-check to make sure ALL doors are locked. Please test them from the outside as a guarantee that they are, indeed, locked.

- Jan Sedlacek, Senior Warden

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	November	YTD
Income	\$ 6,088	\$ 62,542
Expenses	10,604*	68,872*

* Includes \$6,730 of unpaid DPA

We have received 26 pledges for 2012, three more than in 2011; they total nearly \$48,000

- Patty Adsit, Treasurer

WELCOME!

A warm welcome is extended to Ryan and Rachael Bashor, who first joined us on Sunday, December 11. They have asked to be included in our directory and email list, so please note this information in your directory: 1406 NW Nye Street, Newport, OR 97365; 708.261.6713; rwbashor@gmail.com.

AND WELCOMING

To all lectors: to make it less confusing for visitors unaccustomed to our St. Stephen's ways, it would be best to just refer to the Psalm as being on the bulletin insert. Because of our booklets, people are not holding a Prayer Book and by the time they pick up a Prayer Book and find the page number for the Psalm, the Psalm may be nearly over – that's why the page number is not noted in the bulletin. Also, so no one wonders if something is missing from their bulletin, it would be best not to refer to the Prayers of the People being an insert in the bulletin – because they aren't! The peoples' response is printed in the outline of service portion of the bulletin.

INTER-CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Paulie Passmore represents St. Stephen's on this outreach group, which is working to incorporate as a nonprofit and to locate a hub site to which homeless and others in need can be referred for direction to various needed services, so they don't need to check with every church and agency. This is the group that has also spearheaded the opening of the emergency warming center at the fairgrounds. The group has asked for our prayers in support of its efforts.

HOMELESS PERSONS MEMORIAL GATHERING

On Wednesday, December 21, there will be a gathering from 3-4pm at Don Davis Memorial Park to remember those who have died or who are living without a home. This will be hosted by the Interfaith Community for Peace & Justice, and will include a Native American Gathering Ceremony; Homeless in Lincoln County – Commissioner Bill Hall; songs and prayers, and refreshments.

Since 1990 the National Coalition for Homeless has sponsored National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day on the first day of winter to bring attention to the issue of homelessness in communities across the United States. Last year 141 communities participated in the 21st Annual National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

A free Christmas dinner, sponsored by the Nazarene Church, will be served at the Newport Elks on Christmas day from 11am-3pm.

PUSHPIN SHOW

Don't forget to check out the annual PushPin Show in the Runyon Gallery at the Visual Arts Center, which includes entries by Dennis Moler and Susan+. The Gallery hours are 11am – 5pm Tuesday through Sunday and this show runs through the end of December.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Last call for information to be included in the Christmas services bulletins if flowers donated are in memory of someone, to honor someone, or in thanksgiving.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

The shepherds came from the fields bringing only themselves and their sheep. Yet their interest in Jesus was enough to win them a place in the Christmas story for all times. What is their stewardship message to us? Even if all we have to give is our interest, our caring, and our time to come and visit; those are important gifts to give. [Archstl.org]

COMING EVENTS

Specific information will be given in future Electronic Epistles about these upcoming events:

- January 1: Lessons and Carols at the usual Sunday service times at both churches
- January 4: Dine Out for Samaritan House – Original Mo's on the bayfront
- January 7: Family Service – at St. Luke's, 5:30pm – evening events: discussion about Epiphany and burning Christmas trees
- February 12: Bishop Hanley's visitation; Confirmation

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Our church honors and welcomes lay ministries. Here are some opportunities you may already be doing or for you to consider as ways you can contribute:

- ❖ Serve as a Eucharistic Minister
- ❖ Usher on Sundays – Larry and Donna Cox, coordinators (contact them at home: 541-764-3504, or by email: donnacox1@centurytel.net)
- ❖ Teach Sunday School – training and materials provided! (contact Joyce Atchley, 541-265-5222; masterjeans1@charter.net)
- ❖ Volunteer for the Christian Connection ministry to provide transportation to church (contact Barbara Wilson, 541-265-2186; devirama77@gmail.com)
- ❖ Work with the Stone Soup Supper team on Monday nights
- ❖ Join the ministry of the Altar Guild
- ❖ Sing in the choir during Lent and Advent
- ❖ Bring food on Sundays for Food Share
- ❖ Sign up for coffee hour (the schedule has several available dates)
- ❖ Accept nomination for the BAC and/or convention delegate or alternate

* * * * *

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

* * * * *

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
PO Box 1014 (SW 9th and Hurbert Streets), Newport, OR 97365
541-265-5251 – ststephen@peak.org – www.centralcoastepiscopal.org

MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH
The people of St. Stephen's
Eric Simpson – Choir Director and Organist
Mary Lee Scoville – Organist
The Rev. Susan C. Church – Vicar
The Rt. Rev. Michael J. Hanley – Bishop of Oregon

SERVICE SCHEDULE
Holy Eucharist 10:45am Sundays and 12:10pm Wednesdays (with healing 1st Wednesday)
Misa en Español 5:30pm Sundays

VICAR'S HOURS
Mondays, Wednesdays and Sunday services
At St. Luke's (541-563-4812) Tuesdays and Thursdays

OFFICE HOURS
Mondays 9am – noon and Wednesdays before 10:30am Bible Study and after 12:10pm Eucharist
(please call to confirm)

EDITOR
Jan Sedlacek (home: 541-265-2189; jansed@peak.org)

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE: Please call the church office (541-265-5251) when:

- * You are ill or a member of your family is in the hospital.
- * You learn of a death in the church family.

KEEP US POSTED: Please call the church office (541-265-5251) when:

- * Your group plans to meet at the church.
- * Your address, phone number or email address is changed.
- * You learn of someone who may be interested in church membership.