



# St. Stephen's Epistle

February 2010

Beloved of Christ,

This month we begin our Lenten Journey once again. It is a time to clean up and prune our lives. The Ash Wednesday service in our Prayer Book invites us to do this clean-up and pruning by: "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." It is not a time of doom and gloom but a time of refreshment and renewal. Refreshment and renewal take time, commitment and pruning.

I was reading "The Way Ahead: Grown-Up Christians". In this book the author, Ian Fraser, tells of the clandestine Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia. This Church was forced underground by the communist regime and could no longer be what it had always been. Rather than collaborate with the Communist occupation the church was forced "to prune back the life of faith to its essentials" (p.59). In Short those essentials were:

Prayer ~ Liturgy ~ Koinonia- community-togetherness-sharing ~ Leaders formation

These elements made for a strong and vibrant Church in spite of and because of the persecution that was being experienced. These elements make for a strong and vibrant church even without persecution.

This Lent I invite you to partake of one or all of these essentials. How?

Prayer- during Lent there will be a service every week day in which we will offer prayer for your specific prayer requests so that the whole congregation will be prayed for by name and intention. (Look for a letter with prayer request form early this week.)

Liturgy: I invite you to feast on worship. Come to one or more of the weekday liturgies in addition to Sunday Morning.

Koinonia: Men's Dinner, Community Dinner, Saturday breakfast, Family Service, Soup Supper - these are all ways in which to build up the body of Christ

Leaders Formation: Soup Supper, Class on "10 things they never told me about Jesus ", Convocation training for worship leaders. \*

Faithfully,

*Jusant*

\* These trainings will take place on two Saturdays in March at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis. More details will be available when we get them.

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Richard Smith  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Leonard Eaton  
 4<sup>th</sup> Jackie Anderson  
 5<sup>th</sup> Larry and Donna Cox Anniversary  
 7<sup>th</sup> Maria Elena Muñoz  
 7<sup>th</sup> Louise Barton  
 12<sup>th</sup> Kay Kinneavy  
 13<sup>th</sup> Jerry Moore  
 15<sup>th</sup> Anne Hoeflin  
 15<sup>th</sup> Alfredo Rodrigues  
 17<sup>th</sup> Janis Goad  
 18<sup>th</sup> Cindy and Alan Wasner Anniversary

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT and BAC NEWS

The following were elected at the annual meeting on January 24, 2010:

To BAC: Dawn Pavitt – term ending 01/2013  
 Clay Richman – term ending 01/2013  
 Joaquin Varo – term ending 01/2012

As Convention/Convocation Delegates (D)  
 and Alternates (A):

Irene Shipley and Margaret Wells (D)  
 Kay Kinneavy and Jan Sedlacek (A)

At the BAC meeting held immediately following the annual meeting, the following were elected:

Senior Warden – Ethel Myers  
 Junior Wardens – Jorge Hernandez and  
 Clay Richman

Clerk – Dawn Pavitt  
 Treasurer – Patty Adsit

We are thankful that these people stepped forward and accepted nomination and hope you will keep them in your prayers during this year as they represent us in the business of the church.

- Jan Sedlacek, 2009 Senior Warden

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	December	YTD
Income	\$ 6,662	\$ 80,007
Expenses	\$12,969*	\$ 82,192*

\* Includes \$3,025 unpaid Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) which was due December 15, 2009.

Birthday and Anniversary Offerings: These offerings in 2010 have again been designated for the Joaquin Varo Theological Education Fund. During the past three years we have raised over

\$2,000 to help Joaquin when he begins his path to the priesthood. Please keep him in your prayers, and give generously at these times of celebration.

Loose Plate Offerings Reminder: Cash put in the offering plate for *Food Share* must be an envelope so designated. Envelopes may be found on the card table in the parish hall. Checks, with the designation "Food Share" need not be in envelopes and can be placed in the offering on any Sunday.

Susan's+ Discretionary Fund is the recipient of the loose plate offerings on the second Sunday of each month. Checks so designated may be placed in the offering on any Sunday.

- Patty Adsit, Treasurer

## FROM THE OFFICE

Directory: If you were not at the annual meeting nor in church on Sunday, January 31, to review your entry in our church directory, please take a moment to look at your copy of the directory and let the office know if there are any changes to be made in your information. Please report any changes/additions/deletions no later than February 4, after which the new directory will be printed.

Prayers of the People: While we certainly do want to offer our prayers for all in need, our list that we read on Sundays is getting quite long. Please take a look at the list on the insert in the bulletin to see if there is anyone for whom you have requested prayers who may not at this time be receiving active treatment, therapy, etc. and may be stable enough to be moved to the ongoing list or, praise God, may not need our prayers at this time. Some names have anonymously been turned into the office for inclusion on our prayer list, so it is impossible to contact everyone who has requested prayers to determine the status of the person being prayed for, so your assistance will be appreciated.

Office hours: You are reminded that the regular office hours are Mondays and Thursdays, 9am – noon (with some exceptions, which are noted in the bulletin, etc.) Please know that there was an offer made that the secretarial salary be reduced as a way of helping to balance our budget, but it was determined that when it comes time for a replacement secretary, there has to be a decent salary budgeted to offer. There are additionally many volunteer hours spent - all time spent on the newsletter, among other things, is volunteered. Some of this volunteered time is in the office,

giving the appearance that the secretarial position is full time which, at six hours per week, is not.

## PANCAKE SUPPER

With Lent fast approaching, that means it's almost time for our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. As has been done for several years now, this will be sponsored jointly by St. Stephen and Atonement Lutheran Churches. We have been promised the opportunity to enjoy sausage, scrambled eggs, applesauce, pancakes, butter and syrup, coffee, juice and milk. Details – please note because the location has been changed:

at St. Stephen's  
Tuesday, February 16  
5 – 7pm  
\$5 for adults / \$3 for children

Come on out, bring your friends and have a great meal and help us help those in need – proceeds will be donated to Samaritan House and Stone Soup Suppers.

## “10 THINGS THEY NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT JESUS”

John Bell, the author of the book we will be using for Lent, introduces his book this way: “The Western Church, in its understanding of Jesus, has suffered from three disorders.” They are:

1. Jesus has been portrayed as a passive person in both liturgical language and graphic depiction.
2. Many faith communities see Jesus through the eyes of St. Paul alone. While Paul writes about the theological implications of Jesus' life he says very little about Jesus actual life; his teaching, who he hung out with, his miracles. Paul must be read through Jesus, not visa versa.
3. That all of the answers about Jesus lie in the analytical tools of the experts.

In this study we will discover some things about Jesus that you may never have known or thought of (or if you did you may not have been brave enough to ask about).

Week 1 (February 24): Skeletons in the Cupboard the genealogy of Jesus

Week 2 (March 3): A birth not a babyfest

Week 3 (March 10): Fully Equipped (fully human)

Week 4 (March 17): Christian Family Values

Week 5 (March 24): The Religious Reprobate

Classes will be held Wednesday mornings at 10:30 and Wednesday evenings at 5:30.

## FROM THE LITURGY COMMITTEE

### Lenten Services

A reminder that during Lent this year we will have a daily service at St. Stephen's (except Saturdays), which we hope will provide you opportunities for a full and most holy Lenten season. The weekday services will be:

Mondays – Evening Prayer at 4pm\*

Tuesdays – Compline at 7pm\*

Wednesdays – H.E. at 12:10pm as usual

Thursdays – Vespertinas at 5:30pm  
(Evening Prayer in Spanish  
and English)\*

Fridays – Stations of the Cross at 12:10pm\*

\*These services will be lay led, and will begin the day after Ash Wednesday.

- The Liturgy Committee

## ALTAR GUILD

Please note that there is a 2010 flower calendar posted on the bulletin board by the 9<sup>th</sup> Street door, with lots of opportunities for you to contribute altar flowers. If possible, we would suggest a minimum contribution of \$25 be given toward the cost of flowers (checks payable to St. Stephen's). If you cannot give that amount, any contribution will be accepted. During the summer when we often use garden flowers the money given is banked for the winter-time when we have to purchase flowers and for Sundays when no one has signed up. Please let Jan in the office know if you would like something noted in the bulletin about the flowers being in memory or in honor of someone, or in thanksgiving for something specific. Otherwise the notation will be that they are given “to the Glory of God.”

We will have an Altar Guild meeting on Wednesday, **February 10**, following the 12:10pm Eucharist to coordinate our Lenten activities.

Memorials: we are all familiar with people contributing to the memorial fund in memory of someone who has died, and then perhaps some large item purchased. However, did you know that you could contribute a memorial at any time? Have you had a friend or relative die and want to remember them in some way? Perhaps you've already sent a contribution to a charitable organization but wish they could also be remembered at

St. Stephen's. As an example, we are often in need of small linens; perhaps you would like to consider buying a linen or two. We recently ordered some purificators (the "napkin" used with the chalice) and they were \$9.50 each, so it is possible to honor or remember someone at nominal cost, and at the same time help with the budget.

- Tia Richman, Directress

### GOD TALK CONTINUING

These interesting discussions are continuing, but not in the weekly, over-coffee format but, rather, monthly. The January discussion included talking about where God is in disastrous events such as the earthquake in Haiti. The next topic will depend on what happens in the world or in our lives between now and when we next gather, which will be: Monday, **February 22**, 4pm, at Georgie's. Hope you will join in the discussion and socializing over a "cuppa" or glass of....

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. For 2010 the country of Cameroon has developed the theme "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God." Sacred Heart Catholic Church will be the host for this year's service. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, you are invited to attend the initial meeting on Thursday, **February 4**, at 10am at Sacred Heart, 927 North Coast Highway, Newport. The meeting will be in the Fireside Room, located next to the parish office (up the ramp to the left of the parish office door). Virginia Fisher and Martha Embley are heading up this committee. Please call Virginia if you have any questions (541-265-3783). And please mark your calendars for **March 5** to attend our observation of World Day of Prayer.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

At the January meeting the decision was made to alternate meetings between a business meeting and an educational/social meeting – getting better acquainted with one another. At the February meeting (**February 17**) we will be talking about Lent and some of our childhood Lenten observances.

Following the annual meeting there were several people who requested the potato casserole recipe, so...

Cook 8 potatoes in jackets with 2 bay leaves. Cool, remove jackets and grate potatoes, then cover with mixture and stir in.

Mixture: 1 can Cream of Chicken soup  
1-1/2 cups sour cream  
1 small onion – chopped  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1/4 cup melted margarine

Bake at 350 for 30 minutes; take from oven and sprinkle 1-1/2 cups grated cheese and 2/3 cup bread crumbs. Put back in oven for 5 minutes.

- Paulie Passmore

Thanks once again to all who are willing to take a Sunday now and then to furnish and set up the coffee hour after church. If you need instruction on the new coffee pot or anything else, please contact Annabelle Tobey, Denise Williams or Paulie Passmore.

To wash the cups, silverware etc.: fill one sink with hot soapy water and the second sink with hot water and one capful of bleach (under the sink) to sanitize.

If you drain the dishes before drying them, be sure the opening part of the drain tray is over the sink so the water drains into the sink. Please dry and put away everything used; the Monday night Stone Soup Supper teams do not have time to finish your job before they start cooking.

- Annabelle Tobey

### ! EVENTS and REMINDERS !

Remember to look on the bulletin boards for updated information about various community events and organizations. Information about the diocesan camping/retreat opportunities, Samaritan House, Habitat for Humanity, and Senior Center activities are on the bulletin board by the TV.

**February 3** – Dine-Out for Samaritan House: "The Newport Café (across from ProBuild on Hwy 101) will sponsor the February Dine Out for Samaritan House. They will contribute 20 percent of proceeds on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. Open 24 hours; they serve breakfast, lunch and dinner or join them for a midnight snack!"

- Rose Davies/Samaritan House

**February 6:** A master at the piano, Richard Bosworth, will be giving a concert at the Performing Arts Center in Newport on Saturday, February 6, at 7:30pm; preceded by a pre-concert lecture at 6:45pm. The proceeds from this concert will be shared between the Pacific Sanctuary at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital and the 1000 Flags project in Newport. [Please see the poster on the bulletin board for other specifics.]

- Brenda Wills, M.Div. BCC  
Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator  
Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital

**February 7:** Central Convocation meeting, 2:30pm at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis; convention/convocation delegates are encouraged to attend.

**February 7:** The third annual "Gift from the Heart" Classic High Tea will take place at 2pm at the Pacific Shores Motorcoach Resort Clubhouse, 6225 North Highway 101, Newport. Tickets are \$25. Proceeds from this event, hosted by the Concerned Friends of the Homeless and Needy, will be donated this year to the Samaritan House, Stone Soup Suppers and the Newport Backpack Program. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for other specifics.

**February 13:** Enjoy a "Bella Noche" Spaghetti Dinner at St. Luke's from 5:30 – 7pm. Cost: \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 5-12, and free for under 5. Please see the poster on the bulletin board for other specifics.

**February 14: St. Valentine (c.269)**

A Christian priest named Valentine was martyred on this day on the Flaminian Way near Rome, probably in 269. Later, this day was also associated with another Valentine, the Bishop of Terni, also a martyr of Rome. The custom of sending "valentines" to lovers derives from the pagan feast of Lupercalia, a fertility festival which honored the god Fauna (Pan to the Greeks) and which fell on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

(from *Saints Galore: Character Sketches for the New Calendar of Saints*)

-Ethel Myers

**February 26-28:** "Sheltering Our Souls: A Retreat for Women" will be held at Camp Magruder. The cost of the retreat is \$115 and some scholarship assistance is available. Please see the poster and related information on the bulletin board.

This is a short but busy month – please refer to the calendar for all the special Lenten services and coming events in March and April.

## HYMN HISTORY

### Awake, my soul; stretch every nerve Hymn 546

*Awake, my soul; stretch every nerve* has been chosen for February's hymn. This old hymn by Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) is especially appropriate for pre-Lenten Septuagesima Sunday. Doddridge, the youngest of an oil merchant's twenty children (!) was interested in religion even as a small child. He learned Old Testament history from pictures on Dutch tiles in his parents' house before he could read. As an Evangelical minister he wrote 370 hymns, usually sung at the end of the service and based on the biblical text from which he had just preached.

The music for *Awake, my soul*, is from George Frederick Handel's opera, *Siroe*. Handel's music has provided a rich source for hymnal melodies down through the ages. One of the lessons for Septuagesima is *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*, where St. Paul asks us to run a race, striving to obtain an incorruptible crown.

Now, read the words of Philip Doddridge's hymn and imagine the sermon he has just preached:

Awake, my soul; stretch every nerve,  
and press with vigor on;  
a heavenly race demands thy zeal,  
and an immortal crown.

A crowd of witnesses around  
hold thee to full survey;  
forget the steps already trod  
and onward urge thy way.

'tis God's all-animating voice  
that calls thee from on high;  
'tis his own hand presents the prize  
to thine aspiring eye.

Then, wake, my soul, stretch every nerve,  
and press with vigor on;  
a heavenly race demands thy zeal,  
and an immortal crown.

- Ethel Myers

[Editor's note: a little "homework" for you – to look up "Septuagesima Sunday" in your 1928 Prayer Book, if you have one, or dictionary, since we no longer use that term.]

## MEETING (BEATING?) OUR BUDGET

Once again we have adopted a deficit budget – but with the cuts that have been made, and Susan's+ generous offer to remain at her 2009 salary level – the deficit is not quite as large as last year.

We are so appreciative of all who are able to help with the expenses at St. Stephen's – whether by pledge, or whatever and whenever you can. We know that times are hard for nearly everyone. However, there are some pretty minor ways that you might want to consider as ways to help out occasionally. For instance:

Do you buy printer ink and/or paper at Staples? Do you recycle empty ink cartridges at Staples? If you do and you do not personally have a Staples Rewards Card, if you give them the church's phone number (541-265-5251) we would get a quarterly reward based on those purchases and recycled cartridges. Our Staples Reward Card has been upgraded to "premier" because of the purchase of our printer, so for a while at least we get a \$6 credit for each empty ink cartridge turned in for recycling! A Staples Reward check for \$24.50 has just been received based on our purchases last quarter, plus a rebate of \$15 for half the cost of the last carton of paper, both of which will be applied on our next purchases. So you see, those little bits do add up.

When you pick up your newsletter off the table, do you see one or two there for people you know are not in attendance? Maybe you could pick those up and mail them. Yes, you would save the church "only" 44 cents each, but that postage does add up during the year.

Did you wish you had a bigger cup for water or juice at coffee hour? Maybe you could pick up a sleeve of paper cups along with your groceries.

And, once again, if any of you would be willing to receive the newsletter via email instead of snail mail, that would surely be appreciated, saving us printer ink, paper and postage.

These are but a few thoughts – perhaps you have some additional ideas. Any and all of these contributions would be helpful to our budget and hopefully of minimal effect on your own.

*- Jan Sedlacek, Church Secretary*

## 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:

- ✓ Volunteer for the Christian Connection ministry for/to temporary or permanent shut-ins or to provide transportation to church – contact Barbara Wilson, 541-265-2186.
- ✓ Be part of a newsletter assembly team, typically the last Thursday or Friday of each month.
- ✓ Maintain the plants on and the appearance of the patio area.
- ✓ Work with the Stone Soup Supper team on Monday nights.
- ✓ Sing in the choir during Lent and Advent.
- ✓ Bring food on Sundays for Food Share.
- ✓ Sign up for coffee hour (the schedule has lots of available dates).
- ✓ Be a behind-the-scenes welcomer by assembling visitor bookmarks, which could be done at home.
- ✓ Be a behind-the-scenes welcomer by keeping pew cards and sharpened pencils in the pews.

## A PRAYER FOR OUR BISHOP-ELECT

Now that our transition time is over we can put our prayer during transition aside and instead offer a prayer for our Bishop-Elect, from now until his arrival in the Diocese and/or until his consecration as our Bishop:

Almighty God, who sent your Son Jesus to shepherd your people, and the Holy Spirit to make your people one: May your Holy Spirit be present with our Bishop-Elect, Michael Joseph Hanley, that he may unite the Diocese of Oregon in love, truth and wisdom. Give him a true shepherd's heart, like that of Jesus, that he may give strength to the weak, heal the broken-hearted, console the lonely, and bring back the wandering. May our bishop-elect teach all members of this diocese, to sanctify them in the truth, and nourish them with your Word and Sacraments. And grant that we may all be lead in hope, challenged to ever greater faithfulness, and equipped with love for mission and ministry in the church and in the world. All this we ask, in the Name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.

*-- Written by Rob Stoltz,  
Parish Administrator, St. Aidan, Gresham*

## ST. STEPHEN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE JANUARY 31, - MARCH 7, 2010

[as of preparation date of Friday, January 29, 2010]

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS	JUNIOR ACOLYTE(S)	FLOWERS	COFFEE HOST(S)
Jan 31	Barbara Copfer Allan Preece	Clay Richman Tia Richman	Don and Carol Williams	Marielle Lichtenberg	Available	Jean Bishop
Feb 7	Allan Preece Ethel Myers	Kate Sannella Ed Bedford	Dennis Moler Kate Sannella		Available	Paulie Passmore
Feb 14	Jan Sedlacek Allan Preece	Marcus Spink Jorge Hernandez	Carol McDowell Paulie Passmore	Kolby Spink Brock Spink	Dawn Pavitt	Available
Feb 21	Ethel Myers Joaquin Varo	Joyce Thompson Graham Barbara Wilson	Myrna Gidlund Denise Williams	Marielle Lichtenberg Cesar Muñoz	Available	Carol McDowell
Feb 28	Barbara Copfer Jan Sedlacek	Leonard Eaton Allan Preece	Jorge Hernandez Sofia Bonilla-Rios	Ayite Mettle Eli Jimenez	Available	Available
Mar 7	Allan Preece Joaquin Varo	Ed Bedford Patty Adsit	Larry and Donna Cox	Kolby Spink Brock Spink	Available	Available

**Lectors:** Both lectors will come forward at the same time. The first named lector will read the lessons. S/he will come forward to the lectern and remain there until both lessons have been read. The second named lector will lead the Psalm and the Prayers of the People. S/he will stand on the opposite side of the lectern (by Susan+); both will return to their pew after the second lesson is read. The Prayers of the People will be led from the lector's pew. If you are leading the Psalm and would like a large print copy, please let Jan in the office know and one will be prepared – please do not remove the one from the lectern.

**Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers:** **If you are not able to serve on the date scheduled, please arrange for your own replacement.** And if a substitution is made, it would be most helpful if you would notify the office so the posted schedule(s) can be revised. This would assure that the appropriate person is mailed an advance copy of the readings and prayers, and let all know to expect someone other than is shown on their personal copy of the schedule. A copy of the Prayers of the People is placed in the sacristy. **Please use that copy on Sunday, they are often updated subsequent to when mailed to you.** **Ushers** please note that the altar party receives Communion *after* the congregation, so you are the first to be served (after the choir if there is one). **Eucharistic Ministers:** Deacons George and Janis Goad have indicated they can be called if you need to make a substitution (541-614-0169).

Coordinators of the schedule are: Tia Richman for the Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors (541-765-3460), Denise Williams for the ushers (541-765-3028) and Deacons Janis and George Goad for the Junior Acolytes.

If you have signed up for flowers and they are in memory or in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for something, etc., and you want that information included in the bulletin, please provide the information to the office by the Sunday preceding the Sunday for which you are providing the flowers.