



ELECTRONIC EPISTLE
ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
February 1 - 15, 2012

Beloved of Christ,

I was reading a blog by The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi that caught my attention, so much so that I sent it to our BAC for their consideration. Now I am sharing it with all of you. In this blog the following Questions were asked:

- 1: What would be lost, and how would the world be worse off, if our church ceased to exist?
- 2: How does our church add value to people's lives that they cannot live without – whether they know it or not?
- 3: What challenges in the fulfillment of mission does our church face and what can we do to bring about that new thing God wants our church to be?
- 4: What are the barriers to seeing reality that our church needs to move beyond?
- 5: What issues does our church need to face within the next year so that five years from now, we won't have to say, "We wish we had..."
- 6: If money were not an issue, where would you like your church to be five years from now?
- 7: In what ways can we affirm "Jesus is Lord" without appearing to be bigots?

These are challenging questions. I invite you to ponder them. Or better yet, Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and it marks the beginning of Lent, I would invite all of you to prayerfully consider these questions during the 40 days of Lent. Write down your reflections and at the end of the 40 days share them with me and with the BAC.

I also invite you to participate in one or more of the Lenten Study/Worship opportunities.

Blessings,

Jusant

On Wednesdays at 10:30am at St. Stephen's we will be using *A Season for the Spirit*, by Martin L. Smith, beginning on February 29. This book contains daily reflections and each week participants will choose one of the reflections from the past week to report on and share why it struck a chord with them. This book may be ordered through Amazon.com – there are some used ones for as low as \$.01 plus \$3.99 shipping!

There will be three Taizé services at each church during the season: at St. Stephen's on Wednesday evenings (February 29, March 14 and March 28) and at St. Luke's on Tuesday evenings (March 6, March 20 and April 3). If you are interested in being involved in the planning of these services please let Susan+ know.

WOMEN OF ST. STEPHEN'S

Save the date ... March 17 ... Episcopal Women Leader's retreat at Shalom Prayer Center, Mt. Angel, Oregon. This is a one day retreat, 9am – 3pm. Our featured speaker will be Marla Hanley, and worship will be led by Susan Church+. So you know this is going to be a great day. We'd like every church in the Diocese to be represented at this retreat. Your ECW President will be given free registration. She may bring lots of friends. Cost is \$10 per person, which includes registration and lunch. Please come. It will be an interesting and worthwhile day. Registration will open in February.

Please note: although registration forms have not yet been sent out, we have learned that if anyone would like to reserve a room at the Shalom Prayer Center, to perhaps stay the night of March 16 to save driving a long distance in the wee hours of the following morning, NOW is the time to call the Center to make a reservation (503-845-6773) both for a room and for any meals you wish to have at the Center other than lunch on March 17; the retreat registration fee will include that meal.

- Kay Kinneavy,
Diocesan ECW President

OTHER COMING EVENTS

February 19: BAC meeting
February 22: Ash Wednesday

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.
[Winston Churchill, former British prime minister]

HYMN HISTORY

I want to walk as a child of the light

Hymn #490

From the 1700s to modern times, women have played a rich role in the writing of many hymns we love to sing. Some of these impressive female writers include Charlotte Elliott (*Just as I am without one plea*), Sarah Adams (*Nearer my God to Thee*), Cecil Francis Alexander (*All things bright and beautiful*), Elizabeth Clephane (*Beneath the cross of Jesus*), Katherine Hankey (*I love to tell the story*) and Kathleen Thomerson, the author of this month's hymn, *I want to walk as a child of the light*.

Kathleen Thomerson was born in 1934, and is an example of the many contemporary composers who write their own lyrics. The writing of the words to *I want to walk as a child of the light* began in the summer of 1955 in St. Louis during a heat wave and an airline strike. Thomerson's mother had been visiting, and unable to fly home; her daughter decided to drive her back to Houston. Kathleen Thomerson, joyfully looking forward to returning to Houston, family and close friends at the *Church of the Redeemer*, was inspired to write this hymn.

She later wrote of the experience, "it was at that point that I started hearing the words and melody of this hymn. I remember walking around the house with paper and pencil in hand humming and writing while my mother said, 'Kathleen, if we are leaving soon, shouldn't you be packing?' We drove to Houston, during which time I began to work out harmonies in my head. I finished the harmonization at my parents' piano."

The text was introduced in the summer of 1966 at the *Church of the Redeemer* and has since been published in several hymn collections. It first appeared in an Episcopal collection, *Songs for Celebration* (New York, 1980)

The music was named *Houston* by Thomerson to honor that city, her family's home and the location of the *Church of the Redeemer*, where the hymn was introduced. The tune was first published in *Sound of Living Waters* (London, 1974).

Here is the hymn we have been singing during this Epiphany Season:

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God sets the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

-Ethel Myers

FROM THE OFFICE

Stewardship of our limited resources has been my strong emphasis in the office this past year – resulting in the elimination of the Prayers of the People insert in the Sunday bulletins and the creation of the *Electronic Epistle* instead of a monthly printed newsletter. The difference in the 2011 budgeted amount for office expenses vs. actual reflects some of the savings. There are other savings that could be accomplished – and by you! If you buy any supplies at Staples and/or recycle empty printer ink cartridges there, if you give them the church's phone number you could help build up Staples Rewards – and if you buy something for which there is a rebate, I would be happy to submit the rebate electronically. Example: I recently purchased two reams of colored paper; I had an \$8 Staples Reward coupon as well as a 15 percent off coupon and there was a rebate on each ream of paper – the end result is that our rebate will be a more than the outlay for the paper = free paper.

- Jan Sedlacek, 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:

- ❖ 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)

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"Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world." [From Church signs posted on the internet; compiler unknown.]

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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.