



*ELECTRONIC EPISTLE*  
*ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

*January 4 - January 18, 2012*

Beloved of Jesus,

Howard Thurman, civil rights leader, author, theologian, educator and Honorary Canon of St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City, wrote the following:

*When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the Kings and Princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To teach the nations  
To bring Christ to all  
To make music in the heart.*

He got it! The work of Christ is not about "defending Christmas," or prayer in school or the Ten Commandments in courthouses. The work of Christ is to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to teach the nations, to bring Christ to all, to make music in the heart. We live in a time when these ideals seem to be lost. In the words of W.B. Yeats we have "lost our centre":

*(Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.)*

The centers of: financial security, health security, home security, etc. in our personal and political lives are on shaky ground or no longer exist.

Let us not "lack all conviction" but let us com-compassionately engage in the work of Christmas, in our lives, in our communities, and in our politics. Let us engage in this work with the music of Jesus in our hearts.

Faithfully,

*Jusant*



**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION:**

*Each of us makes one of two choices in life. We either become emotionally attached to our money or we become emotionally attached to the God who gives us our money. [Herb Miller, TheParishPaper.com]*

**COMING EVENTS**

- January 29: Annual Meeting following the 10:45am service – finger-food potluck
- February 12: Bishop Hanley’s visitation; Confirmation
- February 17 and 18: St. James – Santiago in Lincoln City will be holding a “First Annual – All You Can Eat Crab & Shrimp Feast.” Admission will be by pre-sold ticket only and tickets must be purchased by February 1. There are order forms on the bulletin board.

**FROM THE OFFICE**

Papers, papers, papers – we have an overabundance of papers in the office that need handling. If anyone could volunteer some time once in a while, the welcome mat is out. The office is open Monday mornings and Wednesdays before Bible Study and again after the 12:10pm Eucharist.

**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](mailto:donnacox1@centurytel.net))
- ❖ Teach Sunday School – training and materials provided! (contact Joyce Atchley, 541-265-5222; [masterjeans1@charter.net](mailto:masterjeans1@charter.net))
- ❖ Volunteer for the Christian Connection ministry to provide transportation to church (contact Barbara Wilson, 541-265-2186; [devirama77@gmail.com](mailto: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

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At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

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ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,  
PO Box 1014 (SW 9<sup>th</sup> and Hurbert Streets), Newport, OR 97365  
541-265-5251 – [ststephen@peak.org](mailto:ststephen@peak.org) – [www.centralcoastepiscopal.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.