



# St. Stephen's Epistle

March 2010

Beloved of Christ,

This month we continue our Lenten journey. I was just reading a blog as I was preparing my sermon for Lent 2 and I came across the following quote by Dwight Zscheile:

*"The Lenten image of the biblical wilderness has particular resonance for congregations this year. Not only has the Great Recession brought suffering and austerity to many communities, upending settled patterns of life and prosperity, but congregations are also wrestling with powerful currents of change sweeping through society and the wider church. This has brought conflict, displacement, and loss. Underneath it all is a deep and disquieting question: who are we in this strange new landscape?"*

*"This is the question of the biblical wilderness and a key question to ask ourselves as the church in Lent. Biblically, the wilderness (or desert) represents a between-space, a space of testing, trial, learning, discovery, and transformation outside of the established rhythms and norms of community life. God knows it is not an easy place to be. The wilderness is where comforts are stripped away. It is where God's people come face to face with who they are and have become—and in the process, come to know God in deeper and surprising ways."*

So often we get caught up in what it means to be the "institution of the Church" rather than what it means to be the "Body of Christ Church," so when we ask the question "*who are we in this strange new landscape?*" we worry about sustaining the institution that we knew rather than asking the questions: Who is God calling us to be in this strange new landscape? Where is God working in my life? What is God calling me to be and do?

May this time of Lent continue to be a time of discovery, renewal and encounter with God "in deeper and surprising ways."

Faithfully,

*Susan*

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Marina Gutierrez  
 3<sup>rd</sup> David Sampson  
     Richard Bailey  
 8<sup>th</sup> Marcus Spink  
 12<sup>th</sup> Nicky Sampson  
 17<sup>th</sup> Harold Lidbom  
 20<sup>th</sup> Mary Lee Scoville  
 28<sup>th</sup> Patty Adsit  
 29<sup>th</sup> Roy Robertson  
 30<sup>th</sup> Jan Sedlacek  
 31<sup>st</sup> Cathy Lidbom

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	January
Income	\$ 9,614
Expenses	\$ 5,466*

\* Does not include \$1,298 owed to the Diocese for our Diocesan Program Assessment (DPA) which was due January 15, 2010.

- Patty Adsit, Treasurer

## FROM THE OFFICE

There was a big THANK YOU that I should have included in our annual report, and that goes to Sofia Bonilla-Rios. Sofia prepares the lectionary in Spanish each week for the 5:30pm service, for which this non-Spanish speaking person is very grateful!

- Jan Sedlacek, Secretary

## BIBLE STUDY

The Lenten study from "10 Things They Never told Me About Jesus" just got under way on February 24, so it's certainly not too late to join in this study and discussion. The remaining chapters are:

A birth not a babyfest  
 Fully Equipped (fully human)  
 Christian Family Values  
 The Religious Reprobate

Classes are at 10:30am Wednesdays at the church. If there are enough interested in an evening session, they will be held at 5:30pm Wednesdays at La Roca.

## LENTEN SERVICES

The daily services continue through Wednesday of Holy Week (March 31). We hope you either are or are thinking about taking advantage of these

opportunities for additional prayer during Lent. And then we will move on to what is known as the Easter Triduum, which includes services on:

### Maundy Thursday, April 1

Holy Eucharist at St. Luke's at 5:30  
 Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's at 7pm.

### Good Friday, April 2

Stations of the Cross at St. Stephen's at 12:10pm  
 Good Friday liturgy at St. Luke's at 5:30pm  
 Good Friday liturgy at St. Stephen's at 7pm.

### The Great Vigil of Easter, April 3

Holy Eucharist at St. Luke's at 8:30pm

The Latin word Triduum (trih-doo-um) means "three days." The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter Triduum are from dusk on Maundy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). Each of those days calls us to reflect upon a different part of the story of Jesus' saving action. The scripture lessons for the liturgy of Maundy Thursday remind us of the first Passover meal of the Israelites as they prepare for their journey out of slavery in Egypt; recall the institution of the Eucharist; and, through the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, remind us of the mandatum (mandate) of Jesus to follow his example. At the end of the service, as the altar is stripped and the church placed in darkness, we enter into Jesus' final hours of suffering and are invited to "watch and pray" as Jesus' disciples tried but failed to do in the Garden of Gethsemane. Some churches have people watching and praying through the night – from the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service until the beginning of the noontime Good Friday service.

The Triduum continues through the services of Good Friday which draw us to Jesus' suffering and death. The solemn Proper Liturgy offers prayers for the whole world and all its people, retells the passion story, and, through a time of meditation, invites us to earnest prayer at the foot of the cross. We also gather for the Stations of the Cross, symbolically walking the last agonizing steps of Jesus.

The great three-day liturgy concludes with the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday and the Festival Eucharist of Easter Day. On Holy Saturday, some congregations gather for a brief, somber service at noon representing waiting at the sealed tomb, recalling the disciples' despair in spite

of Jesus' promise that "after three days I will rise again."

That evening, the Triduum liturgy reaches its culmination with great rejoicing. During the Great Vigil, scripture reminds us of our salvation history.

A fire is kindled and the new Easter candle is lit. That light, carried into a darkened church, symbolizes Christ ... the light that banished our darkness. The Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) - one of the finest surviving examples of liturgical poetry - is chanted, proclaiming our redemption from darkness into the light of the Risen Christ. It recounts the great events of God, beginning with the Old Testament story of the exodus from Egypt, and continuing through the marvelous salvific acts of Jesus, the new Paschal Lamb. The Vigil is also a time for welcoming new members through the Sacrament of Baptism, and for renewing our own Baptismal Covenant.

The Festival Eucharist on Easter Day continues the celebration as we proclaim, "The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!" Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, our historical and metaphorical journeys through darkness and desert end and the promises of redemption and eternal life begin.

*[Borrowed from St. John's Episcopal Church Florence S.C.]*

- The Liturgy Committee

## EASTER SERVICES – APRIL 4

8:45am Easter Festival Eucharist at St. Luke's  
10:45am Easter Festival Eucharist at St. Stephen's  
5:30pm Misa en Español

On the last Sunday of Epiphany I preached about "This is my Son my chosen, Listen to HIM" and what it might be to listen for the voice of God/Jesus. I just found this great quote by Desmond Tutu:

*"Hear God's Voice*

*"All of us are meant to be contemplatives. Frequently we assume that this is reserved for some rare monastic life, lived by special people who alone have been called by God. But the truth of the matter is that each one of [us] is meant to have that space inside where we can hear God's voice. God is available to all of us. God says, 'Be still and know that I am God.' Each one of us wants and needs to give ourselves space for quiet. We can hear God's voice most clearly when we are quiet, and then you begin to see with the eyes of the heart.*

*-Archbishop Desmond Tutu"*

*[from God Has a Dream, A Vision of Hope for Our Time]*

- Susan+

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The annual World Day of Prayer service in our community will be held at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church this year, on Friday, **March 5**, at 1pm. The women of Cameroon developed this year's theme: "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God." Women from various churches in the community, including ours, are participating in the service. You are all – men and women - invited to attend.

## WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING

Have you ever wondered why some prayers are used in one of the daily offices (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, etc.) and some are not? Have you ever wondered if YOU could lead such a service? Yes you could! - and this training is for lay people who want to learn how. Whether you think you'd like to be able to lead a service or whether you are just curious about the preparation for such services, we have a wonderful opportunity coming up in our Central Convocation. On two Saturdays in March, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, there will be some worship leader training sessions at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Corvallis (333 NW 35<sup>th</sup> Street), from 9:30am until 2:30pm each day. Sessions will include general information, planning a service, reading, leadership and presentation skills and practicum. There is a poster on the bulletin board with a few more specifics and some brochures, which include a registration form, on the card table in the parish hall. If a box lunch is desired, the cost is \$6.75, or you can take your own lunch. Presenters will be The Rev. Court Williams from St. Thomas, Eugene, and Deacon Peggy Bernhard from Good Samaritan.

## FAMILY SERVICE

The next Family Service will be Saturday, **March 13**, at 5:30 pm at St. Luke's. Our guest will be Pamela Filbert, who will be using "Godly Play" to tell the story of the Last Supper as we celebrate communion together. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm followed by the service.

## GOD TALK CONTINUING

These interesting and unformatted discussions are continuing on a monthly basis. Topics depend on what happens in the world, in our lives, etc. during the month between gatherings. Our next Newport gathering will be Monday, **March 22**, at 4pm at Georgie's. Feel free to stop by and join in the discussion and socialization.

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Members of ECW are going to participate in the "Great Oregon Coast Potluck-Off!" Recipes are being gathered and plans are being made. Please let Paulie Passmore know if you are interested in joining in this preparation.

## GREAT OREGON COAST POTLUCK-OFF

Looking ahead, and as mentioned above, there is going to be a **Great Oregon Coast Potluck-Off** on April 17 from 5 – 8pm the proceeds of which will go to Project Homeless Connect. Stay tuned for more specific information closer to the event.

## NEWS FROM OUT-OF-TOWNERS

From Jessica Sampson: I am very much enjoying my time in Chicago. My classes are very interesting and a welcome challenge. I've been taking care of requirements, but at present my classes are Human Being and Citizen; Self, Culture and Society; Calculus; and Honors General Chemistry. I'm living in a small dorm which consists of a couple of different "houses." I am in Salisbury House with about 38 other people, and I really like where I am living.

From Janet Hodel: We are still in Albany and I think about St. Stephen often. Please tell everyone hello from us, and if anyone is around Albany, please feel free to call me. My cell number is 541-974-6045. Things are going well here. I am working at Corvallis Manor Nursing and Rehab Center. Heather is in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and enjoys violin lessons, Girl Scouts and does well in school. Ron has not been able to find a job here but does keep busy with a huge garden in the summer, and we eat all sorts of canned and frozen items all winter. [new email: jahodel@gmail.com]

## ! 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.

**March 3** – Dine-Out for Samaritan House [location not known as of print time].

## ST. PATRICK

(372-466)

We celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17, when everyone is Irish. Here is *St. Patrick's Breastplate*, the prayer attributed to Patrick:

Christ be with me,  
Christ within m,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to comfort  
and restore me.

Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of  
all that love me,  
Christ in mouth  
of friend and stranger.

-Ethel Myers

## HYMN HISTORY

### *O for a closer walk with God* Hymn 683

The Lenten season is, indeed, a time to strive for a closer walk with God.

*That ye would walk worth of God, who has called you into his kingdom and glory. Thessalonians 2:12*

*O for a closer walk with God* was written by William Cowper (1731-1800) in 1767 and included in the "Only Hymns," an important Evangelical hymnal of the late eighteenth century. He wrote in a letter that he fell asleep after composing the first two stanzas and "when I awakened again, the third and fourth were whispered into my heart in a way I have often experienced."

As a young man Cowper began to be affected by severe bouts of melancholia, and these continued, with increasing severity, for the rest of his life, alleviated only by his strong Evangelical faith. In 1767 he was invited by John Newton to come to Only, Buckinghamshire, where Newton was Evangelical curate. Cowper was looked after by a clergyman's widow and did what he could to assist the life of the parish. Together, Newton and Cowper collaborated in writing the Only Hymnal. Cowper wrote 66 hymns and Newton, the remaining 282, including the most famous, *Amazing Grace*.

Despite periods of severe depression, Cowper's years at Only were distinguished by his great achievements as a poet, hymn-writer, letter-writer and translator. He was one of the greatest English letter-writers of political and literary events, as well as everyday life. Here are some of his familiar lovely words:

*God moves in a mysterious way,  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps on the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.*

The music we sing for *O for a closer walk with God* is *Beatitudo*, composed by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Dykes became assistant organist at St. John's Church in Hull at the age of 12! He was president of the Cambridge University Musical Society and earned a degree in Classics. He was canon of Durham Cathedral and later became vicar at St. Oswald's, Durham.

Although Dykes wrote many sermons and articles on religion he was best known for composing over 300 hymn tunes.

*Hymn 683*

O for a closer walk with God,  
a calm and heavenly frame,  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessedness I knew  
when first I saw the Lord?  
Where is the soul-refreshing view  
of Jesus and his word?

Return, O holy Dove, return,  
sweet messenger of rest;  
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,  
and drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,  
what'er that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne,  
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,  
calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

*-Ethel Myers*

*Forty Days*

Come with me, dear Jesus, to my desert;  
I'm much too weak to go there all alone.  
Stand, O Lord, between me and the tempter,  
beguiling with his aromatic stone.  
Scramble up my mountain with me, Jesus;  
let me lean against you on that dizzy peak.  
Help me scorn the worldly wasteland spread below;  
your eyes reveal the only kingdom that I seek.  
Drive out and overturn my tables of  
rebellion, Lord, relieve me of control.  
Release the floodgates of my fragile faith  
and stretch the very fibers of my soul.  
O lead me to the Resurrection Feast,  
True Son of God, our Risen Great High Priest!

*- thanks Ethel*

**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

## FROM BISHOP-ELECT HANLEY

"Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

"As February arrived in Minnesota, with its sub-zero temperatures, Marla and I were glad to climb into our car, loaded with boxes and our faithful sheltie dog Bailey, and begin our journey to Oregon. On our way, we encountered the extreme cold of Fargo, North Dakota and the vast expanse of Montana's big sky country. We also saw road signs proclaiming the route as part of the Lewis and Clark Trail and other signs noting the Oregon Trail. We smiled often, knowing we were on the right path.

"During our trip we began to see signs that the land we were entering was quite different from the Minnesota we have known for the past 20 years. The white snow slowly gave way to green grass, and the temperatures moderated. Marla especially noted the arrival of flowers ...outside ... in February! Driving into Oregon along the Columbia River at sunset was breathtaking, a blessing we will long remember....

"Michael Hanley"

*[the full letter is posted on the bulletin board]*

## WHEN TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Reminder.....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.
- \* 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.

## ST. STEPHEN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE MARCH 7 – APRIL 4, 2010

[as of preparation date of Thursday, February 25, 2010]

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS*	LECTORS	USHERS	JUNIOR ACOLYTE(S)	FLOWERS	COFFEE HOST(S)
Mar 7	Allan Preece	Ed Bedford Patty Adsit	Larry and Donna Cox	Kolby Spink Brock Spink	<b>No flowers during Lent</b>	Jean Bishop
Mar 14	Barbara Copfer	Joyce Thompson Graham Joaquin Varo	Don and Carol Williams	Marielle Lichtenberg Cesar Muñoz	<b>No flowers during Lent</b>	Paulie Passmore
Mar 21	Jan Sedlacek	Ethel Myers Patty Adsit	Dennis Moler Kate Sannella	Ayite Mettle Eli Jimenez	<b>No flowers during Lent</b>	<b>Available</b>
Mar 28	Allan Preece	Ed Bedford Barbara Wilson	Betty Fraser Denise Williams	Marielle Lichtenberg Brock Spink	<b>No flowers during Lent</b>	Carol McDowell
Apr 4	Jan Sedlacek	Allan Preece Kate Sannella	Jorge Hernandez Sofia Bonilla-Rios			<b>Available</b>

\* Ed Bedford is unable to serve as an EM during March; Ethel Myers and Joaquin Varo are singing in the choir and Deacon Janis Goold is leading Sunday School while Jean Bishop sings in the choir. Therefore, only one person per Sunday through Easter has been named to serve with Deacon George Goold. A second EM would be welcome to volunteer.

**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 Goold 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 Goold 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.