



# *St. Stephen's Epistle*

*January 2009*

Beloved of Christ,

As I was reflecting on Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi and all who gazed on Jesus and loved him my thoughts turned to how God looked on us when we were born and how God still looks upon us. In her poem, *Let your God Love You*, Edwina Gately expresses this profound love beautifully:

## *Let Your God Love You*

Be silent.  
Be still.  
Alone.  
Empty  
Before your God.  
Say nothing.  
Ask nothing.  
Be silent.  
Be still.  
Let your God look upon you.  
That is all.  
God knows.  
God understands.  
God loves you  
With an enormous love,  
And only wants  
To look upon you  
With that love.  
Quiet.  
Still.  
Be.

Let your God—  
Love you.

Blessed Christmas and Epiphany to all of you.

Faithfully,

*Susan+*

Susan+

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

2<sup>nd</sup> Gabriela Gutierrez  
 13<sup>th</sup> Gary Thompson  
 16<sup>th</sup> Eric Simpson

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING January 18, 2009

Our annual meeting will be held immediately following the service on Sunday, January 18, and it will be a potluck. Patty Adsit has volunteered to cook a plentiful main dish, but other main dishes as well as side dishes (veggies, salads, desserts) should be brought. If there is someone who feels we need a more "disciplined" potluck than chancing that not everyone will bring the same thing and is willing to coordinate this by making a sign-up sheet for specific dishes, please let Jan in the office know. How about a volunteer to coordinate the clean-up? Again, please let Jan in the office know if this is something you will do. At this meeting we will be electing two people to serve three-year terms on the BAC (Bishop's Advisory Committee) and two delegates and two alternates to our 2009 diocesan convention. Our convention this year will be an important one, not only transacting our annual business, but also electing a new bishop for our Diocese. Our delegates vote on behalf of the congregation, so it is important for the delegates to be able to attend the various Convocation meetings (please refer to the information in the December newsletter) in order to be informed and able to reflect the wishes of our congregation by their vote(s).

## BAC NEWS

The regular meeting of the BAC was held on Sunday, December 21, following the service. Highlights to report:

- Patty Adsit was appointed to fill the remaining two years of the term to which Phoebe Hein was originally elected (expiring 2010) and Dennis Moler was appointed to fill the remaining one year of the term to which Marlene O'Neal was originally elected (expiring December 2009). Technically a BAC term expires at the annual meeting following the end of the calendar year, when successors are elected, but since the date of the annual meeting three years in the future is never

known at the time of election, the end of the calendar year is used as the term end.

- Preparation of the 2009 budget was in progress at the time of the December 21 meeting, in the hopes that more pledges would be received; otherwise we'll be looking for corners to cut.

- Jan Sedlacek, Senior Warden

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

As of the composition of this newsletter we have received 31 pledges totaling \$52,504 – this represents more pledging units but less total income than 2007. We understand these are hard financial times and very much appreciate your commitments.

	November	YTD
Income	\$ 6,108	\$ 72,001
Expenses	\$ 7,575*	\$ 74,815

\* DPA not paid.

The December finances and proposed 2009 budget will be available at the annual meeting.

## MORNING PRAYER January 25, 2009

Now that we've gotten used to Morning Prayer as Ante Communion and as the Liturgy of the Word, we'll get better acquainted with the rest of the service of Morning Prayer on January 25. That is the date of the St. Luke's annual meeting and by our celebrating Morning Prayer, Susan+ will be able to attend the full meeting at St. Luke's.

## STUDY OF SMALL CHURCH TEAM MINISTRY

It was out of our study group that the idea arose for Susan+ to be at St. Luke's for their entire annual meeting while we celebrate Morning Prayer at St. Stephen's. One of the great benefits of our working together in this study group is to both maximize and minimize time - it gives the representatives of both churches more time to spend with Susan+ in calendaring, and it takes less time to coordinate events at each church, especially those that involve Susan+. Where there may be a conflict of events, that conflict can be

resolved in one meeting without back and forth time-consuming communications. It was wonderful in the group setting to be able to decide on the dates of our annual meetings, for instance. And if Susan+ needs to be absent, she can in effect notify both churches at the same time. These are examples of ways we have been able to work together, which is an affirmation that we are on the right track in studying how best to partner in a formal way. We will be keeping you posted throughout 2009 on our continuing study.

- Jan Sedlacek, Senior Warden at St. Stephen's
- Jeanne St. John, Senior Warden at St. Luke's

### CONFIRMATION

Tentative plans for a service of Confirmation in late March while Assisting Bishop Sandy Hampton is in our Central Convocation are being made. If you are interested in participating in a Confirmation class, either because you want to be confirmed or as a "refresher course," please let Susan+ know. Classes will last six to eight weeks and will be scheduled as much as possible on a day of the week and at a time most convenient for participants.

### TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

You've all most likely seen plaques and posters with the "house rules," such as "if you get it out, you put it away," "if you get it dirty, you clean it," etc. Well, we must ask you to keep such rules in mind in the use of our building – particularly when it comes to locking doors. Recently on more than one occasion a door or two has been found unlocked. This obviously creates an open invitation for others' use of our building when none of us are present. So as you leave the building, especially if you are the last to do so, please, please, please double-check all the outside doors to make sure they are locked.

### ! NEW – DSL CONNECTION !

With many thanks to Centro de Ayuda, the church computer is now on a DSL connection shared with Centro de Ayuda. And many thanks to Jorge Hernandez for doing all the connecting and technical "stuff." Fortunately, we have been able to

retain our same email address (whew!). Now phone calls to the office can be answered even if work is being done on line. What a blessing!

### CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

More thanks to express: to all of you who contributed your time and/or money to buy gifts and food for the two families we sponsored through the Salvation Army. We pray that our efforts helped the families to have a happy Christmas.

### ANNUAL REPORTS

Again, an appeal is made to all you who typically prepare an annual report to please get these into the office as soon as possible and certainly no later than January 11 so there will be time to copy and assemble them into a booklet format of annual report to be distributed at the annual meeting on January 18. You may email these or give Jan in the office a handwritten copy – if handwritten, the earlier the submission the better.

### "HABITAT CORNER" HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPDATE JANUARY 2009

"We are presently in the process of selecting two new families to partner with Habitat for our two new homes to be built in Toledo. Although three informational meetings were given in the past month to help spread the word to potential partners, it is NOT TOO LATE for families to apply. We will be accepting applications from interested families until January 15th." This information has been provided by Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County. A copy of their full announcement is posted on the bulletin board.

### ! EVENTS TO NOTE !

#### Dine Out For Samaritan House

Mo's at both the restaurant and annex in Newport, will be sponsoring the January dine-out. They will be donating 20 percent of the cost of meals that day to Samaritan House. This is a delicious and yet painless way to assist the ministries offered by Samaritan house.

### **Epiphany Party**

You are invited to an Epiphany party at the Adsit/Wells home on Sunday, January 11, at 2pm. Everyone is invited. This will not be a potluck, however, if you wish to contribute towards the event, please see Patty Adsit.

### **Class on the Gospel of Mark**

Unfortunately, bad weather made it necessary for many people to cancel their attendance at the December 15 class on the Gospel of Mark led by The Rev. Dr. Kempton Hewitt. A few people struggled through ice and snow so a modified version was offered on the originally scheduled date. For all others, however – and for those who want the “full meal deal” – this class has been rescheduled for mid-March; full details will be in the February newsletter.

### **Annual BAC Retreat**

The annual retreat for the BACs from both St. Stephen's and St. Luke's has been set for February 20 and 21. Specifics have yet to be determined, so this is just notice for all current members and nominees.

### **A PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE WHILE IN TRANSITION**

Almighty God, we pray that the power of Christ's love may be present in our lives as we, the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, enter a time of prayerful discernment and transition to new leadership. May the Holy Spirit illumine the hearts and minds of those who have the responsibility to lead us as we prepare to build on the vision that is before us. Let not the prospect of change be an occasion for fear and confusion, but rather a time to build trust and increase understanding that Christ's love may be made known between us and among us that your will may be done. Amen.

-The Rev. Alcena Boozer, Rector,  
St. Philip the Deacon, Portland  
written while a member of the Standing Committee

### **WHEN TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE**

**Reminder.....please call the church office (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 JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

[as of preparation date of Monday, January 05, 2009]

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS	FLOWERS	BAC COUNTER	COFFEE HOST(S)	JUNIOR ACOLYTE(S)
Jan 4	Ed Bedford Allan Preece	Ed Bedford Marcus Spink	Dennis Moler Kate Sannella	<b>Available*</b>	Jan Sedlacek	<b>Available</b>	Kolby Spink Brock Spink
Jan 11	George Goold Jan Sedlacek Dede Mettle	Jan Sedlacek Phoebe Hein	Paulie Passmore Carol McDowell	<b>Available*</b>	Ethel Myers	<b>Available</b>	Alden Yale Cesar Muñoz
Jan 18	Ethel Myers Joaquin Varo	Tia Richman Clay Richman	Don and Carol Williams	<b>Available*</b>		<b>Available</b>	
Jan 25	No EMs Morning Prayer	Patty Adsit Joaquin Varo	Ed Bedford Denise Williams	<b>Available*</b>		<b>Available</b>	Jakob Spink Brock Spink
Feb 4	George Goold Janis Goold	Barbara Wilson Kate Sannella	Sofia Bonilla-Rios Jorge Hernandez	<b>Available*</b>	Jan Sedlacek	<b>Available</b>	Ayite Mettle Cesar Muñoz

\* as of the preparation of this schedule, no 2009 sign-up calendar was posted

**Lectors:** Both lectors will come forward at the same time. The first lector will read the lessons. S/he will come forward to the lectern and remain there until both lessons have been read. The second 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. **NOTES: We are no longer reading aloud the names of those in need of ongoing prayer – and – the appropriate response is included after each petition, so you don't have to "wing it."**

**Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers:** If you are not able to serve on the date scheduled, please find a 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. An extra copy of the Prayers of the People is placed in the sacristy. **Please check that copy on Sunday to see if the prayers have been updated subsequent to the copy mailed you.**

Coordinators of the schedule are: **volunteer needed** for the Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors, Denise Williams for the ushers 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 you've signed up for.