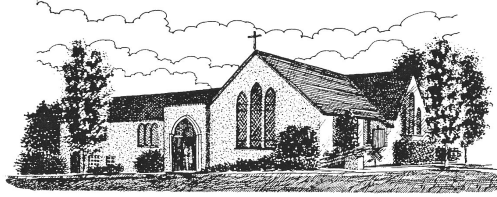


# The Sentinel

April 2009



St. Stephen's Episcopal  
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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## **APRIL SHOWERS BRING More Showers**

As we move through the weeks of Lent and deeper into Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem our hearts and minds become more and more focused on the passion and events marking the final days of our savior's earthly ministry. April begins with The Sunday of the Passion (or Palm Sunday) as we mark the ride on the back of a donkey and the crowds laying their branches before Jesus with shouts of "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest." That Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and the central story of our Christian calendar, the Triduum! This is from the Latin for three and comprises the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday liturgies which focus on the last supper, the 'way of the cross' and the crucifixion and burial in anticipation of the great celebration on Easter Sunday. The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the most ancient of our Christian liturgies and was often the time when those who had been preparing to join the Church were received through baptism into new life in Christ Jesus.

At St. Stephens we will re-enact these great moments of our faith tradition in liturgy and song throughout the week. All evening services will begin at 7:00 PM on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. In addition, we will gather at 12:00 Noon on Good Friday to "walk the way of the cross" and reflect on the great sacrifice made on our behalf by the One we follow as our savior and our guide. The Campus Ministry student group at Portland State University has been invited to join us for this Good Friday observation. This is one of the many ways we will look to broaden our reach into the PSU Campus in the months and years ahead.

The feast of the Resurrection (Easter Day) occurs on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> and we, of course, invite all of the members of our Parish community, their families and friends to join in the great celebration at either of our services (7:45 spoken Rite II Eucharist or 10:00 Festal Choral Eucharist). May God continue to guide our Lenten journeys toward the fulfillment of the promises of Easter – new birth, new hope and new life!

Blessings!

Dennis j.+

### **Spring Clean-up!**

The annual spring clean-up will be *Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon.*

Bring your garden tools, gloves, brooms and trash bags and help spruce up the church for Easter. The grounds need policing, the altar needs polishing and everything needs the winter dust wiped away.

Come for ten minutes, come for an hour, come for the day. There's enough to do for everyone to help.

To celebrate our work, stick around for the pizza at noon!

***See you there!***

## Noteworthy Duo in Concert at St. Stephen's Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 PM

Noteworthy Duo, consisting of flutist Lisa Schroeder and guitarist Michael Nigro, will perform a concert at St. Stephen's on Sunday, April 5 at 3:00 pm. Their program will feature flute and guitar duos from prominent and less-known Latin American composers that range from folkloric dances to sophisticated impressionism. The suggested donation is \$10 at the door.

Nigro has given performances at many esteemed colleges, universities, libraries, and guitar societies. Nigro's discography includes two solo recordings; *Homage to Piazzolla*, and *Guitar Sudamerican*.

Schroeder is a Los Angeles based performer, teacher, and clinician who has established herself as a first-rate artist and teacher, performing in concerts and giving master classes across the United States and Europe. In California, she is the acting principal flutist of the Golden State Pops Orchestra.

Lisa Schroeder and Michael Nigro are both on the faculty at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, California.

[www.noteworthyduo.com](http://www.noteworthyduo.com)

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/michaelnigro>

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/michaelnigro2>

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### Birthdays in April

Osita Egbukishi	April 7
Gayle Burrow	April 9
Dale Carr	April 12

*If we have omitted your name, please send your name and birthday to the church office. Errors should also be reported.*

## Sunday Services

**Holy Eucharist – Rite II at 7:45 AM and 10:00AM.** Coffee hours are held after both services in order to meet one another and to greet newcomers. All birthdays are celebrated with cake and song at coffee hour on third Sundays of the month.

*Journey and Koinonia Catholic Community* meet on Sundays at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. To contact them go to [www.journey-catholic.org](http://www.journey-catholic.org) or call 503-998-0808.

From November until spring *HomePDX* meets on Sundays at 12:30 PM in the parish hall. Information can be obtained from [Ken@141pdx.org](mailto:Ken@141pdx.org).

### *Services for Holy Week*

April 5, 2009	Palm Sunday	7:45 AM & 10:00 AM
April 9, 2009	Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM
April 10, 2009	Good Friday	Noon & 7:00 PM
April 11, 2009	Great Vigil of Easter	7:00 PM
April 12, 2009	Easter Sunday	7:45 AM & 10:00 AM

## Adult Inquiry

Join a lively conversation and discussion in the Parish Hall at 9:00AM between the services. The theme for Lent is the first part of the popular video series, *Living the Questions*. This is a guided study program that invites us to wrestle with the questions that may have been avoided in the Christianity we grew up with. The remaining sessions are:

**Sunday, March 29:** Evil, suffering and a God of love

**Sunday, April 5:** Intimacy with God

**Easter, April 12:** (No Class)

**Sunday, April 19:** Social Justice (facilitated by Brandon Bressi)

**Next up: Women of the Bible: profiles in courage and commitment.** What do Rehab, Deborah, Jael, Bathsheba and Esther-- five very totally different women-- have in common? Is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the same One as the God of Sarah, Rebecca and Rachel? Who was Ruth? Of the 188 women specifically mentioned in the Bible, how many can you name? Was Paul right about a woman's place? Join us to discuss the history and the questions starting April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Jean (and Mic) Fleming will facilitate.

## **Weekday Activities**

**Men's Bible Study** 12:00 noon – 1:00 PM on Wednesdays in the Library

For information contact: George Neavoll ([gneavoll@comcast.net](mailto:gneavoll@comcast.net))

**Centering Prayer** 4.00 PM on Wednesdays in the Parish Hall

For information contact: Mike Zula ([laslie471@comcast.net](mailto:laslie471@comcast.net))

**Tuesday: Chili lunch**

For information contact: Joyce Lew ([jlwlew@hevanet.com](mailto:jlwlew@hevanet.com)), Mary Komachi ([babamk@juno.com](mailto:babamk@juno.com)), or Stephen Snyder ([paradmin@aracnet.com](mailto:paradmin@aracnet.com))

**Saturday breakfast**

For information contact: Sue Rossiter ([rossitersusan@yahoo.com](mailto:rossitersusan@yahoo.com))

**Wednesday sandwich preparation**

For information contact: Mary Komachi ([babamk@juno.com](mailto:babamk@juno.com)), and Barbara Hart

Thank offerings made to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries are used towards defraying the cost of meals provided to all comers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

## Lenten Soup Suppers and Book Discussion

### ***THE LAST WEEK***

*What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus' Final Days in Jerusalem*

Join us for this St. Stephen's Lenten tradition. Supper and fellowship begin at 6:30PM in the Parish Hall with the discussion starting at 7:00PM and lasting about an hour. The discussions in March have been warm and lively; the suppers prepared by Merry and Dick Emlaw and Joyce Lew were simple – and simply yummy.

Discussions for the final chapters of the book will include:

Wednesday, April 1 – “Saturday”

Wednesday, April 8 – “Easter Sunday”

*“If there is to be one book for the redemption of Holy Week, this is it. Lent can not be better concluded than with this expert guide through the passion to Easter. This is a must read for clergy and laity”*—Peter Gomes, author The Good Book.

### ***OUR CUPS RUNNETH SHORT***

With the increase in attendance at our breakfast and chili lunch meals, we find ourselves short of utensils and china. We're looking for donors for:

- 20 coffee cups
- 20 rimless soup bowls
- 30 soup spoons

**Maybe you don't have the time or talent to serve, cook or clean for the meal service. However, is there a chance you could provide a spoonful of treasure for this St. Stephen's community service tradition? Can you spare a cup? Either bring your contribution during regular office hours or call Stephen in the office to arrange a drop time.**

*Thanks! A hundred, hungry Portlanders thank you.*

## St. Stephen's Joins the Social Web

There are a couple of new ways to stay in touch with your St. Stephen's parish family during the week:

- Get the daily lectionary readings and other short messages from St Stephen's **Twitter feed** ([www.twitter.com/ststephensPDX](http://www.twitter.com/ststephensPDX)). Twitter is a free social networking service that helps people stay in touch and communicate locally and globally through short updates to subscribers on the Twitter website or directly to your cell phone or other mobile device. To sign up, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and start an account, then visit the ststephensPDX profile page and click "Follow".
- Get the latest news, links and pictures from St. Stephen's, plan activities, and send messages to your friends at St. Stephen's on the **St. Stephen's Facebook group** (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=76885117904>). If you are not already a Facebook member, you may sign up free of charge at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and then join the St Stephens PDX group.

## Online with St. Stephen's

Here are some other ways you can stay connected with St. Stephen's electronically during the week:

- Weblog where Fr. Dennis' sermons can be viewed <http://revdennisj.blogspot.com>
- See the choir schedule at <http://www.stst.org/choir.html>
- See some pictures from Bishop Hampton's visit at <http://www.stst.org/bishop.htm>
- What would you like to see on the St Stephen's Website? Let Matt Smith know at music @stst.org <<http://stst.org>>.

**The choir** always welcomes new members. No experience necessary. This is a great time to join as we ramp up for Holy Week and Easter. For more information, please speak with Matt Smith after church or call 503-593-7006.

## How Radical Was Jesus?

When we speak of Jesus here we mean the First Century human Jesus, which includes both the body and the spirit as in other human beings.

As we speak of radical we mean dealing with the roots of all issues, both the political ones of our life together and those of the deepest individual longings – how we would live in the Kingdom of Heaven.

How the human First Century human Jesus approached these questions is told in Scripture. He was a human being with all the depths and variety that suggests. He saw himself as a child of God, the son of a good parent. We can think of this as a relationship of love but certainly it is not a sentimental relationship, nor that of a tough love. Rather it is that of a parent who loves realistically, who may suffer the sorrows of his children but who does it in terms of eternal principles. Scripture gives us the outlines of Jesus asking the father for his will, “not my will but thine be done”. This was a son who, though suffering, was always ultimately obedient to the father.

The Scriptures give us a multitude of fairly consistent themes.

First, Jesus developed in his understanding and performance of the will of God.

The interaction with the Syrophenician woman shows both his sensitivity and his ability to grow in understanding of his mission. When this Gentile mother came asking him to heal her daughter, possessed of a demon, he good-naturedly tried to put her off with the excuse that he had come to minister to the lost among the nation of Israel. It was not fitting, he thought, to throw the children’s food to the yapping dogs below the table. But she trumped him with her clever reply: even the dogs can eat the crumbs that fall from the children. He had to acknowledge that her faith was great and he broadened his mission. Always he was against the racial particularism that was endemic to the Israelites in spite of the messages of the Prophets and the Old Testament stories of Ruth and Esther.

This broadening of sympathy was demonstrated in his use of the Samaritans as a case in point. They were not quite Gentiles but they were not really of the right ancestry for the Jews at the temple at Jerusalem. A good Jew would have as little to do with them as

possible. But when Jesus was asked who would be a good neighbor, one who loved his neighbor as himself, Jesus produced the story of the Good Samaritan. It was he who had rescued the man who'd been set upon by highwaymen who had robbed him and left him bruised and bleeding by the wayside. Others, including a Jewish priest guarding his ritual purity, had passed him by. It was the Good Samaritan who stopped and took care of him.

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman is even more dramatic. She met him by a well outside the town and he asked for a drink of the water she was drawing for her own use. She recognized him as a Jew and asked him why he was so broadminded as to accept water from her, a member of an outgroup of the Jews of the temple city of Jerusalem scorned. In his reply he revealed that he knew about her. She had lived with three men, none of them her legal husband. That made her an adulteress who was probably in trouble with her neighbors. That didn't faze him. He saw here as another human being in need of acceptance and the Gospel. It was that acceptance which led to her conversion and that of her neighbors.

Over and over again Jesus in his teaching showed his compassion for the humble and deprived. He told the people that Lazarus, the beggar, would go to heaven before Dives, the rich man. The proud Pharisee who proclaimed his piety in the temple comes in second to the man who cried out "Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy of me, a sinner."

The Sermon on the Mount gives Jesus' concept of human holiness and the Beatitudes are a paean to the blessedness of the poor.

The ruling powers found Jesus' message disconcerting and his choice of companions downright subversive. When he was dining with prominent Pharisees they were shocked that he did not recognize a woman of the town, perhaps a prostitute, who crashed the party and proceeded to wash Jesus' feet with fragrant oils and with her tears. Jesus probably recognized who she was but he defended her for her service to him and for her signs of repentance.

The officials thought he consorted with subversives. The apostles weren't a group of scholars such as the other rabbis led. They were humble men, many of them fishermen. Those with any money had made it tax collecting for the Romans. They broke the Sabbath by pulling heads from the grain and munching on them as they walked through the fields on the holy day. Jesus seemed like a failure as a Jew but it didn't seem to bother him. He preferred to run around with people who seemed to enjoy themselves without

standing on their dignity. People contrasted his carefree approach unfavorably with the penitential air of John the Baptist and his disciples. Women approached him on a basis of equality. He simply lacked gravity.

His relations to the poor were always close and compassionate. He knew the temptations of wealth. The rich found it hard when he told them to sell all they had and to follow him. He knew that the camel could go through the eye of the needle more easily than the rich could change their way of life. To the Establishment he must have seemed like a rabble-rouser.

A paradoxical life and a radical one. He still challenges the way of the world.

John Marks

## **St. Baldrick's Foundation – Shaving the way to Conquer Kids' Cancer**

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, I am going to shave my head bald to raise money for St. Baldrick's to help with research for kids with cancer. If you would like to see me bald, then please donate any amount that you feel you would like. You can start donating at any time by going to their website at [www.StBaldricks.org](http://www.StBaldricks.org), by phone at (888) 889-Bald, or by giving me a check or cash. I will have a before and after photo on the website so you can see my beautiful new look.

I will also have donation forms for you with my ID number on it: **S-62969**. It's important to include my ID #, so I'll get credit for the donation amount.

Thank you,

Choi Marquardt



## William Temple House

Since 1965, William Temple House has offered a hand up to Portland's working poor families and individuals. Today we offer mental health counseling, emergency social services, and pastoral care to those in need. William Temple House has been blessed with extraordinary volunteers in every aspect of our organization, giving William Temple House the ability to grow and continue providing outstanding services.

Volunteering is a powerful force for change and for community growth and development. The commitment of time and energy our volunteers have given reflects their dedication to improving lives.

Consider helping a hungry family, a mom struggling with depression or a young father who has been laid off, by becoming a **William Temple House volunteer**. There are a variety of positions available and opportunities are available seven days a week. Volunteering just a few hours a week is all it takes. Contact Dana LaBoy (503.226.3021 ext. 235 or [dlaboy@williamtemple.org](mailto:dlaboy@williamtemple.org)) for more information.

### **Note from Fran Angiulo, Junior Warden:**

There is a special need at this time for donations of all sorts to the Thrift Shop run for the benefit of William Temple House. Donations, especially of furniture (which they will pick up), are way down as people are not replacing items. It was William Temple House which helped us get most of the furniture for the parish hall – it would be really good to help them in these hard times.

And don't forget the **Food Barrel** in the back of the church for offerings of non-perishable foods. These items are given to local non-profits providing food for those in need. In these current economic conditions your generous donations are needed more than ever.

**Sermons Online:** Did you know that you can read Fr. Dennis' sermons and other musings on the Web? Look for Fr. Dennis' blog at <http://revdennisj.blogspot.com>.

### ***Parish Leadership***

**The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Priest-in-Charge**  
revdennisj@comcast.net

**The Rev. G. Palmer Pardington, III, PhD.,**  
*Assisting Clergy, BOC Chair*  
gpardington@mindspring.com

**The Rev. Dale Carr, Assisting Clergy**  
revdalecarr@comcast.net

**The Rev. William North, Assisting Clergy**  
revbillnorth@comcast.net

**Matt Smith, Director of Music**  
msmith215@gmail.com

**Kathleen Barless, Treasurer**  
kbarless@appleisp.net

**Fran Angiulo, Assisting Treasurer**  
angiulof@comcast.net

**Stephen Snyder, Verger & Parish Administrator**  
paradmin@aracnet.com

### ***The Vestry***

*Senior Warden* Mic Fleming

*Junior Warden* Fran Angiulo

Molly Bartlett

Sabin Belknap

Sam Ganczaruk

Darragh Lalich

Robert Tayler

Barbara Wrench

Mike Zula

***Parish Calendar:*** events to be added to the Parish Calendar should be sent to the church office before the deadline shown below.

***The Sentinel:*** please send news and information for the next Sentinel to [EditorStSt@gmail.com](mailto:EditorStSt@gmail.com) by the third week of the month.

The deadline for the May Sentinel will be Monday, April 20th.