

# The Sentinel

May 2009



St. Stephen's Episcopal  
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

1432 S.W. 13th Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97201

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## WONDERFUL NEWS

Our Parish faith community is truly blessed in the many and varied ministries that are carried out in the name of our Risen Saviour at the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Clay in downtown Portland. Opportunities abound for newcomers and old-timers alike to become more deeply involved in our corporate life as the vestry and I continue to identify areas of ministry on which we can focus our limited resources. Additionally we have consciously chosen to act from a stewardship of abundance and the sharing of our gifts with the much greater needs of our neighbors and friends. These are the ones with whom we are called to offer our care and concern in the name of the One who called us to “Love each other, just as I have loved you.”

It has been a number of years since an ordained Deacon served St. Stephen's. In discussion with The Rev. Ken Arnold and our Assisting Bishop +Sandy Hampton, I am thrilled to be able to announce that Ken will be joining the family of St. Stephen's to live out his diaconal ministry among us. The Book of Common Prayer defines the duties of the Deacon as follows: “...*a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. As a deacon in the Church, you are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.*”

Ken hails from the East Coast where he was associated with parishes in Philadelphia, Massachusetts and New York. Ken's career background has been as a writer and publisher – most recently associated with Church Publishing Corporation. We are blessed indeed that Ken has offered his servant ministry among us. All ordained clergy in the Diocese are required to pass a “background check” and upon the successful completion of that piece of business Ken will begin to serve at the Table on Sundays – and in on-going discussions with the Bishop and myself, develop other areas of ministry appropriate to his gifts and the needs of our Parish. Ken and his wife Connie (Kirk) relocated to Portland and make their home in the Kings Hill neighborhood. Ken has defined his focus in ministry in many areas during his time as an ordained Deacon; among those are congregational growth and development and healing ministries in hospital and parish settings. These areas fit well into the ministry at St. Stephen's and we look for his assistance in helping us to revitalize those areas in our parish life. We are grateful for Ken's presence among us and for his generous spirit and willing hands to serve as our deacon. Please make sure that you seek him out the next time you are in church and extend to him the heartfelt welcome that St. Stephen's is famous for!

With blessings and gratitude for ALL that God has given us!

Dennis j.+

## 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 Koinonia Catholic Community* meets 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 to March the *Church under the Bridge* meets on Sundays at 12:30 PM in the parish hall. Information can be obtained from [Ken@141pdx.org](mailto:Ken@141pdx.org).

## MAY ADULT INQUIRY

### WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: Profiles in Courage and Commitment

**Sunday, May 3:** Esther: the Cinderella of the Old Testament, who rose from obscurity to become queen to one of the most powerful emperors in history, and save her people from genocide.

**Sunday, May 10:** Ruth, the loyal daughter-in-law: “For wherever you go, I will go...”

**Sunday, May 17:** The Song of Deborah and the story of Jael: “Hear this, you kings! I sing to the Lord, I will sing!”

**Sunday, May 24:** Two Marys: The Mother and the Magdalene.

Join us for lively conversation and discussion in the Parish Hall at 9:00 between the services. 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.

The Vestry meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:15 PM in the Parish Hall. Meetings are open to everyone.

## **INTEGRITY OREGON will gather for its Spring Meeting at St. Stephen's on Saturday, May 30th at 7:00 PM.**

Integrity is a national advocacy organization that lobbies for and supports L/G/B/T individuals and their families and friends in The Episcopal Church (TEC). The organization was founded over 30 years ago and is still working toward the inclusion of all baptized members of the Episcopal Church in all of the rites and sacraments that the Church offers Her members. Please come and join us for an evening of socializing and strategizing on behalf of L/G/B/T Episcopalians in the Diocese of Oregon.

## **DIOCESE OF OREGON AWARDS GRANT TO ST. STEPHEN'S**

A “Congregational Growth & Visibility Grant” in the amount of \$500.00 has been awarded to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Parish from the Funds of that Diocesan Committee. In awarding the Grant the Committee noted that they were “impressed with the amount of study that has gone into the location and size of signs that you propose.”

Parishioner Ed Magner took a great deal of time, effort and expense to study, design and work with Vestry on the placement of the sign on the Clay Street side of the Church building. If you happen to drive up Clay Street as you are approaching 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue the name, times of services and website address are clearly visible to the general public. We express our gratitude to all who worked so diligently to increase our visibility in the neighborhood. The grant monies will help to defer the costs associated with our new sign – and the increased visibility will surely help us to become more visible to our neighbors and potential visitors!

## Call for Musicians!

Do you know a performer looking for a venue? St Stephen's staff and vestry members are preparing the lineup for a 2009-2010 concert series and would like to know about instrumentalists or vocalists who are looking for recital opportunities.

Talk to Matt Smith, Mike Zula, Fran Angiulo, or Robert Taylor for more information.

### Choir Easter Schedule

Many thanks to the choir for enhancing the Holy Week liturgies with the best music from ancient times to the 20th century. Did you know that the choir chants Psalm 114 to the Tonus Peregrinus between the epistle and the gospel during the Easter Vigil? The tonus peregrinus is one of the most ancient chants with some scholars positing that it may have even been in use at the Hebrew temple in Jerusalem. Also called the "wandering tone" because it has two reciting tones instead of one, it seems especially appropriate for the psalm which begins "When Israel came out of Egypt..."

The choir's last Sunday before the summer break will be June 7, Trinity Sunday.

## Online with St. Stephen's

Here are some 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>
- Get the daily lectionary readings and other short messages from St Stephen's **Twitter feed** ([www.twitter.com/ststephensPDX](http://www.twitter.com/ststephensPDX)).
- 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>).
- 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](mailto:music@stst.org).

The choir always welcomes new members. No experience necessary. For more information, please speak with Matt Smith after church or call 503-593-7006.

## **Singing at Carnegie Hall**

When I recently returned from singing with an Oregon chorus at Carnegie Hall, I told people (tongue in cheek, of course) that I was now “famous.” The only problem is that my “fame” had to be shared with 234 other singers from seven different choral groups, and our individual names were not listed in the playbill, so future historians will have to take my word for it that I was there! Our wonderful concert (Haydn’s *Mass in Time of War*) was not listed in either the New York Times or the New Yorker magazine, but somehow close to 3,000 people managed to find out about it and fill the hall (with ticket prices ranging from \$40 to \$94!) With over 8 million people in New York City plus millions of tourists just wanting to attend something at Carnegie Hall, I guess that’s not too surprising. Needless to say, we did not get reviewed in either of the above publications, so you will have to judge for yourself when the DVD is available. Maybe I’ll play my copy for you at the coffee hour some Sunday morning after I receive it.

It was a whirlwind visit to the Big Apple, from Thursday morning to Monday night, and full of activities including three rehearsals, two at the Hotel Hyatt Grand where we were staying, and one at Carnegie Hall on Sunday morning before our afternoon concert. The only disagreeable part of the experience was having to stand in line in a crowded waiting area for over an hour before the concert with no water fountains anywhere in sight.

Since I had lived in NYC for four and a half years when I was in the Army and attending General Seminary, and went back for four summers for another advanced degree at GTS in the mid-80’s, I skipped most of the touristy outings planned and explored the city on my own. I went back to the Seminary in the Chelsea district of

Manhattan and had a chance to view their housing project which is being built over a new library, and also tour the new Bishop Tutu Center for Non-violence and Social Justice that was built in one of the old dormitories on the campus. On Sunday morning I attended St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue where I had done fieldwork while in seminary, and heard a special mass by William Byrd sung by the men and boy's choir plus a sung Great Litany and procession up and down the aisles of that huge edifice which would be a cathedral in any other city. On Monday before heading for the airport I toured the Museum of Modern Art, which has been tripled in size since the last time I visited.

One of the events included in the tour package for the concert was a dinner cruise around New York harbor after the performance which would have been more enjoyable if it had not been foggy, rainy, cold, and windy. However, I did get a nice photo of the Statue of Liberty in the fog. Every day I walked at least a couple of miles, which is a great way to see the city up close. I was reminded of what it is like to thread your way across the street with hundreds of people charging toward you from the opposite direction. Downtown Portland seems almost deserted by comparison. I took one subway trip, and noted that the train was clean and free of graffiti. My final comment is that I did get to see the Lutheran parish church built underneath the Citicorp building, and saw first hand that a beautiful worship space can be created below street level. They did have outside light streaming into the worship space from above.

The Rev. Palmer Parkinson

### Birthdays in May

|                  |        |                |        |
|------------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Cindy Kerr       | May 4  | Stephen Snyder | May 20 |
| Ann Seelye       | May 9  | Hisa Iwata     | May 23 |
| Kathy Barless    | May 11 | John Marks     | May 28 |
| Marcos Domingues | May 18 |                |        |

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

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

I would like to thank everyone who supported me in my effort to raise money for research for children's cancer. Portland raised over \$60,000.

It is not too late to donate to St. Baldrick's. You can donate 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 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

## **How Radical is Christianity?**

The message of Jesus was a radical one, but the movement he founded and the Church that grew from it had various and sometimes conflicting attitudes toward that radicalism.

The early Jesus people, the ones who followed shortly after Jesus' death, were highly radical and equalitarian. In at least some Christian groups all wealth had to be shared. We learn in the Acts of the Apostles of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira, who concealed some their money and were struck dead in punishment.

Alongside this kind of communistic sharing, the early Church had other radicalisms. They dined together breaking various dietetic laws. You will remember Simon Peter vision of the sheet containing various kinds of forbidden foods (including reptiles!) being lowered from heaven with the command “Take and eat”. Women were prominent in the practice and governance of the early Church - in contrast to accepted orthodoxy of Jewish patriarchalism.

By the Second Century the Church had given rise to a welter of beliefs and practices, many of them quite distinct from what had gone before. There were groups of Christians, the Gnostics, who believed that Jesus could not have been human since he was pure spirit. In the succeeding centuries there was further speculation and divisions about the nature of Jesus. Agreeing that he was the son of God the Church Fathers (and Mothers) split as to whether he was, in his inmost nature and history, made of the same divine substance as God the Father or of some independent Christ substance. This wasn't settled until 325 C.E. at the Council of Niceaea, called by the Emperor Constantine to establish a unified Church which would, in turn, confirm him as Emperor of a unified Roman Empire. Christianity was favored as a support of Roman authority. . So the Church gained in power at the expense of its radicalism.

The defeat of Gnosticism was, in some aspects, a radical step. The Gnostics saw the Christ figure as pure spirit uncontaminated by the fleshly material world. The defeat of Gnosticism was a victory for the flesh as over against pure spirit and so it legitimized a concern for the nitty gritty of human life.

Over these three centuries the governance of the Church was tightened. Bishops were appointed as successors to the Apostles, the men who had known Jesus personally. As far as we know, the bishops were all men and they assumed authority over beliefs and practices. They were the Church Fathers revered now and later. Women became companions and supporters subordinate to them. Christian radicalism was at a low ebb.

In doctrine there had been some tidying up. The original Christian emphasis on poverty as a way to holiness became transformed as Church bodies became richer and holiness was linked to asceticism and fasting rather than with the simply shared meals of the Communion. Saints were dour self-deniers rather than the joyous companions St. Paul knew. The Church may have been admirable but cheerless.

In those days of the Nicene compromise the Church had come to terms with imperial power. Losing its radicalism it became secure in the world. Gone were the simple, cheerful faith and the Church's unworldliness. The Church settled by accepting the world as it was.

Until our times the Church oscillated between accepting the world and trying to redeem it. Over the ages the tension has remained, but it seems that gradually the balance has moved toward that of the Kingdom of God. The Christian challenge to the way of the world has not triumphed but it has become stronger. The radical aspects of Church teaching have slowly but steadily gained.

First Christianity spread with the Roman Empire converting the pagan peoples already resident or pouring in from the East to a monotheistic faith more advanced than their local cults. The collapse of the slaveholding rural aristocracy came next. St. Paul's Letter to Philemon was, in a sense, the spiritual sign of a radical political change. Human slavery had become ethically condemnable as it became economically unprofitable. Feudal serfdom afforded more freedom than slavery, and monastic institutions, vows of poverty and all, afforded an economic security better than either.

Out of the monasteries came learning and philosophy. Ancient teachings were preserved and challenged. Both preservation and challenge were important. Thomas Aquinas summed up the old wisdoms but radicalized them as he borrowed from the Arab and Jewish translations of the Greeks. Scholars like Duns Scotus and Abelard at the medieval universities found radicalism in the teachings of Aristotle.

Then, of course, the Middle Ages ended with the Reformation. Scholars like Wycliff Erasmus provided radicalism within the bounds of the Catholic Church while Reformers like the monk Luther challenged the Papacy directly. It is not to be forgotten that the late Reformation figures like the Quakers and the Anabaptists were radical advocates for social and economic equality as well as thorns in the flesh of theologically conservative prelates.

The Roman Catholic response was the Counter Reformation. The Renaissance Church which had been fat and magnificent under Popes coming from the Medicis and the Borgias, tightened its belts and became radical reformers vowed to poverty in the Jesuit followers of Ignatius. They, in turn, became powerful and corrupt until they regained

their souls in the Latin-American liberation theologians of our time, or in radical pacifism like the Berrigans of the US peace movement. .

It is a long and striking procession. The Church exists in the world and is corrupted by the world. Then radical currents in the Church defy the world and try to reform it.

The struggle continues.

John Marks

## **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.

**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](mailto:revdennisj@comcast.net)

**The Rev. Ken Arnold, Deacon**

**The Rev. G. Palmer Pardington, III, PhD.,**

*Assisting Clergy, BOC Chair*

[gpardington@mindspring.com](mailto:gpardington@mindspring.com)

**The Rev. Dale Carr, Assisting Clergy**

[revdalecarr@comcast.net](mailto:revdalecarr@comcast.net)

**The Rev. William North, Assisting Clergy**

[revbillnorth@comcast.net](mailto:revbillnorth@comcast.net)

**Matt Smith, Director of Music**

[msmith215@gmail.com](mailto:msmith215@gmail.com)

**Sue Rossiter, Treasurer**

[susanrossiter@yahoo.com](mailto:susanrossiter@yahoo.com)

**Kathleen Barless, Assisting Treasurer**

[kbarless@appleisp.net](mailto:kbarless@appleisp.net)

**Stephen Snyder, Verger & Parish Administrator**

[paradmin@aracnet.com](mailto: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 June/July Sentinel will be Saturday, May 23rd.