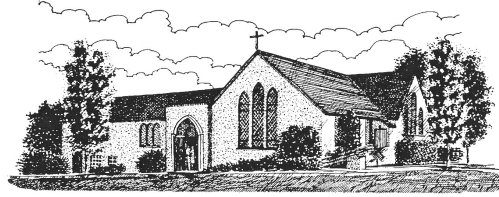


# The Sentinel

January 2010



St. Stephen's Episcopal  
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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

503-223-6424 • fax 503-223-4747

## FROM EXPECTATION TO NEW BIRTH

In many ways the Advent season that we have just completed mirrors the life of our faith community at St. Stephen's. We too have entered that period of introspection and self-examination that the preparation for the advent of our God come among us beckons us toward. After the discernment groups of the summer and the plan of action outlined by the Vestry and recommended to the Parish family we gathered our treasures, pooled them together and offered to God the oblations of our lives and labors. At the Annual meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of this month, the vestry will present the budget for our next year of ministry and mission in our downtown urban setting. Things will look a lot similar and things will look a lot different; that is just the nature of ministry. When we gather on Sunday and offer our prayers and praises, we trust that Emanuel – God with us – hears our cries and knows the deepest desires of our hearts. In that knowing, God sends into our midst those whom we are called to serve in Christ's name.

I hope all of us take seriously the commitments we made and will look around ourselves to see the one or two people in our lives (friends and family, or enemies and strangers) that we are called to invite into our Parish home to learn about the Good News and how we live that out. Many folks long to find a community where they can be truly welcome, and where their gifts are valued and given a chance to grow. Who is it that God is inviting you to extend that hand of welcome toward and help them to know about the wonderful work we do here? How can we, historically reticent Episcopalians, move out of our comfort level and truly evangelize the work of God's Church? I know that many of us; myself included feel uncomfortable with that "e" word. Yet the truth of that word is its root as one who tells good news. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in downtown Portland OR has some very good news to tell; however we have been typically shy and don't tell our story very well. If each of us were to invite one person to join us at Church this year we could potentially share that

good news with hundreds of people and tell our story about working for the good of God's Kindom come among us to those who otherwise might never hear about our work.

So, in this time of resolutions and renewals – I invite you to add one more action. Simply take the time in this next month to share the story of St. Stephen's and your passion for this place with someone else. If that person takes you up on your invitation that is wonderful, if not at least one more person knows the story of this incredible place on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Clay that is living out the Good News of God come among us. May our new year be filled with the joy of that Good News – Emanuel has come, our God is with us.

Blessings!

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.

Between the two Sunday services, please join us in the Parish Hall at 9:00 AM for our Adult Inquiry program.

*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.

## **January Adult Inquiry**

### **The Eucharistic Path: Celebrating the Journey to the Grateful Heart**

The Eucharist is the central focus of the service, but what is it really, and what does it mean? As a community of Christian believers at St. Stephen's we now face questions of change. What do we hold on to, and how does our weekly worship help us get through? The class proposes that the Eucharist works as an engine of encouragement and change in a community. The conversation will be based on the short, book (95 pages) **With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life**, by Henri Nouwen.

**January 3: The Road to Emmaus.** We will explore the themes and questions in Luke 24:13-53, which will set the frame for our further discussion.

**January 10: Mourning our Losses, “Lord, Have Mercy,” and Discerning the Presence, “This is the Word of God.”** (Pages 21-62)

**January 17: Inviting the Stranger, “I Believe,” and Entering into Communion, “Take, Eat.”** (Pages 63 –98)

**January 24: Going on a Mission, “Go and Tell.”** (Pages 99-122)

**January 31: No Class.** Please plan to attend the annual meeting at 11:30.

Deacon Ken will lead this exploration, Jean and Mic Fleming will facilitate on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Join the discussion Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall between the services. Although it won't be necessary to read the book in advance, the conversation will be based on its ideas. Copies of *With Burning Hearts* are available at the Multnomah Library as well as Amazon and Powell's. Illustrated with paintings of Duccio, it could actually make a nice gift.

## Weekday Activities

**Tuesday: Chili lunch (September – May): Bag lunch (May – August)**

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

**Wednesday sandwich preparation**

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

**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))

**Begin Within: Centering Prayer and Meditation** – 3:30 PM on **Wednesdays**

**For information on changed time and location contact:**

Mike Zula 503-772-2095 ([laslie471@comcast.net](mailto:laslie471@comcast.net)) or refer to August edition of *The Sentinel*.

**Saturday breakfast**

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

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.

## PARISH MINISTRY LUNCH

Everyone is invited to a parish spaghetti lunch January 10, following the 10 AM worship. The clergy will be cooking and serving! Something like it may not happen again in your lifetime. We will celebrate the ministry of Stephen Snyder at St. Stephen's as he heads into a much-deserved retirement at the end of January. As you know, Stephen does a lot to support the parish; the other purpose of the lunch will be to create ministry support teams to carry on his work. The parish leadership is asking you to prayerfully consider offering your support for:

**Worship**--meet with clergy and music director to help plan worship

**Altar Guild**--care for linens, altar service, altar preparation, cleanup, etc.

**Flowers**--order and arrange flowers for worship

**Office staff**--volunteer to work in the office during the week, prepare bulletin, etc.

**Acolytes**--serve at the altar; serve as chalice bearer (training provided)

**Lectors**--serve as a reader of lessons during worship (training provided)

**Parish Care team**--become a member of the team that supports the pastoral care efforts of the clergy, including prayers for healing during worship (training provided)

**Choir**--serve as a member of the choir

**St. Stephen's Table**--volunteer to help with the Tuesday chili lunch and the Saturday morning breakfast

As you can see, there is a lot to do. No, Stephen was not doing all of this himself, but he organized much of this work. Now, we as a community will need to come together to ensure that our worship and our service meet the needs of the congregation and our neighborhood. This is a small church community made up of committed and talented people. In the end, every one of us should be able to find a place where our talents can be used to sustain our congregation and build the *kingdom* here at SW 13th and Clay. If you know of other work that needs doing, and that you want to do in support of the mission of St. Stephen's, let us know.

*Deacon Ken*

### Birthdays in January

Deborah Patterson	January 8
Sam Ganczaruk	January 16
Ken Ballard	January 28

*If we have omitted your name, please send your name and birthday to the church office so we may celebrate with you next year.*

## **January Men's Bible Study: Self-esteem - Made in the Image of God**

*No matter what others do to show their love for me, I just can't seem to accept it. People say that since God created me, I'm special. I want to believe that, but I'm having a hard time feeling it.*

We all have at least occasional doubts about our worth. We sometimes question how we fit into God's grand scheme. We may wonder if such a scheme exists at all. January's men's Bible study will explore these and other challenging questions. The men will take turns leading the Wednesday noon sessions in the library. "Special needs" will be addressed in closing prayers before the sessions close promptly at 1 p.m.

**January 6** – Chosen by God: Chosen and blessed (Ephesians 1: 1-14)

**January 13** – Healthy Humility: Humbled by grace (Ephesians 3: 1-13)

**January 20** – Gifted and Endowed: My gifts and me (Romans 12: 1-8)

**January 27** – Making a Contribution: Important to the body (I Corinthians 12: 12-31)

### **INTEGRITY OREGON MASS FOR THE FEAST OF ST AELRED**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 12, 2010

St Stephen's Episcopal Parish  
1432 SW 13th Avenue, Portland

The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Celebrant  
The Rev. Robert Bryant, Preacher

*Reception to follow*

## **St Stephen's Music News**

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

## JOIN THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP

*“Consider your own call, brothers and sisters...Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone...To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good... to make up the mystical body of Christ.”*

*--From 1 Corinthians, 12*

With the new year upon us, it is time for those with the gift of leadership to share their talent for the good of the community. At the Annual Meeting we will elect five new members to the vestry. Fran Anguilo, Molly Bartlett and Sam Ganczaruk are completing their three-year terms. Sabin Belknap and Bob Tayler have resigned from the vestry for personal reasons.

We are all grateful for the service of these five dedicated members. There is a one-year commitment to replace Sabin and two years to complete Bob's term. The others are for three-year terms. Members are expected to run the secular business of the church with ideas, oversight and commitment to work on specific committees.

In addition to new vestry members, we are looking for a Treasurer. Bob Burrow led us out of our difficulties two years ago, and Sue Rossiter has brought our record keeping and budget control to a new level. The work generally involves one to two hours per week and attendance at the monthly vestry meeting to report on our financial status.

Please forward your expression of interest or nominations to any member of the current vestry or directly to Mic Fleming, Senior Warden at [mmfleming@comcast.net](mailto:mmfleming@comcast.net).

### PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with Section 1 of Canon 6.6 of the Diocese, our annual meeting will be held in the Parish Hall immediately following the ten o'clock service on **Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**. The purpose of the meeting is to elect new members to the Vestry and to hear and act on reports of our Priest-in-Charge, Treasurer and ministry teams. Eligible voters are members of six months standing who are at least 16 years old at the time of the meeting and who have participated in communion during the previous year. Also eligible are those of similar age who have made a direct contribution in their names to the support of the parish in the previous six months. Only votes of those present will be counted, as proxy votes are not permitted under the canons. This is an important meeting for our congregation and we urge everyone to attend.

## STEPHEN H. SNYDER

Born – May 20, 1938

Retires – January 30, 2010



Stephen, our Parish Administrator, was born in Ann Arbor, MI. In 1946 the family moved to Portland when his father became a member of the faculty at the Dental School of OHSU. After high school in Milwaukie he attended Brown University in Providence, R.I. Geology was his major field of study, music history his minor. He sang in several choirs with different denominations.

Stephen was baptized by a Presbyterian in a Seventh Day Adventist Church. At Brown his girlfriend was an Episcopalian who prevailed on him to attend the Episcopal church with her where the chaplain impressed him. At his grandfather's funeral the language of the Book of Common Prayer inspired him. Later a mystical experience at Pentecost moved him greatly. All this persuaded Stephen to be confirmed on December 21, 1958. He has been a faithful Episcopalian ever since.

After graduation and different people-oriented jobs, Stephen returned to Portland. In 1965 he went to St. Stephen's and joined the choir. Stephen left his job with an office supply company in 2000 and was unemployed for three years. He continued to be active in the church. When the positions of Sexton and Parish Administrator became available at the end of 2003 Rev. Larry Falkowski offered them to Stephen. He was also appointed Clerk of the Vestry - a position he still holds.

As Parish Administrator Stephen has tracked activities, taken care of communications - phone, computer, paper (including the bulletin), attended to the altar, flowers, etc. He has most enjoyed the people - parish members and guests at the Tuesday chili lunch. He most dislikes Easter and Christmas with too many bulletins! It should be noted that Stephen has provided hospitality at home for some of the distressed persons coming to Tuesday lunch. Usually his guests have been cooperative, but one robbed him. Still, he believes in providing personal charity when he can.

Stephen is dedicated to needlework. He has been a winner at the State Fair and we have photos of one winning piece in the church album. This avocation started in 1973 when he visited a store run by Merry Emlaw and saw needlework there. He is a

member of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America. He has ten projects now - all of which need to be protected from his new cat!

Stephen is planning a move to a smaller apartment. When he retires he will have a two-month hiatus to visit other churches and reinvigorate himself. In April he plans to return and will sing in the choir at Easter. He knows that he will be a choir member and a volunteer at the Tuesday lunch. Other activities have not been determined. Stephen says the best thing about St. Stephen's has been the parish support. This support will surely continue into his retirement!

### **A WONDROUS BEQUEST TO ST. STEPHEN'S**

Guin Hall, a long-time faithful member of the Parish, passed away on November 1, 2009 at the age of 90. On November 27<sup>th</sup> Fr. Dennis presided at a memorial service for her at Hoyt Arboretum followed by a celebration of her life hosted by her family at Terwilliger Plaza where she had resided for the past 18 years.

In her will she very generously left an endowment to St. Stephen's of \$100,000, the proceeds of which are to be used for the work of the church. It comes at the difficult time of our discernment and can only be seen as a very positive statement of faith in the future of St. Stephen's. We are joyfully thankful for this gift and for Guin's long association with our little community.

Perky Kilbourn knew Guin and has talked about her amazing career in a brief reminiscence in this issue. Becky Short, another St. Stephen's member at Terwilliger, remembers Guin fondly as very active and always doing things. Growing up as friends, she recalls they shared an interest in painting. She remembers how Guin joined the Coast Guard and, after being stationed in New York, stayed there to build a career in journalism. A quick Google search still shows references to Guin from the Newspaper Women's Club, a few articles on women's issues and a squib from *The New Yorker's* Talk of the Town.

We give thanks for this generous and unexpected gift and join Guin's family in remembering her life of so much meaningful action that now touches us all.

### **TWO SAINTS**

St. Stephen's lost two "Saints" this year.

The first was **Jo Southworth** whose memorial service was held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on November 1, 2009. We could not attend because we

were out of town but I did get a copy of Jo's obituary from Sharron. For several months I had been sending copies of *The Sentinel* to Jo's daughter Sharron to read to Jo. My memory of Jo is that she was quiet yet always available to help. I don't know how many events at St. Stephen's we worked together on but it seems to me that "many" would be a good number.

The second is **Guin Hall**. My memory of Guin is that she was one of the women from Terwilliger Plaza that came to St. Stephen's. Guin seemed to know "something" about writing and made several helpful comments about *The Sentinel* at that time when I was editing it. I think that Guin was editing the Terwilliger Plaza Newsletter at the same time.

Guin always seemed interested in our family since our elder daughter, who was also an alumni of Jefferson High, had studied Journalism at U of Oregon and I owned my own laboratory. The Obituary from *The Oregonian* states that in 1959, Guin was appointed deputy commissioner in charge of the women's program for the New York state commerce department under the administration of Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

The program was started to aid women who had lost business-owning husbands during the Second World War. Later the program was expanded under Guin's leadership to form an advisory group of women business leaders in New York. *The Oregonian* obituary states that this was a groundbreaking step for a period that pre-dated the women's liberation movement by several years. I know that having a successful woman's owned business (even in the 1980's) was not easy.

Guin was named woman of the year in 1971 and was a celebrity contestant on "To Tell the Truth". After 11 years as deputy commissioner, Guin was hired by Bell Telephone Company as District Manager, Affirmative Action, and retired from Bell in 1983. Guin was a member and past president of the Newswomen's Club of New York City, The Society of Silurians (veteran news people in the New York area); a founder and member of the board of directors for the Elder Craftsmen, Inc. in New York and a member of Advertising Women of New York and had joined the U. S. Coast Guard SPARS in 1943, stationed in New York City. Upon Guin's discharge from the service she became a reporter for the New York Herald Tribune where she wrote stories for the women's news section from 1946 to 1959. All of this information was obtained from *The Oregonian* obituary - Guin didn't tell people all the things she had done before coming to Terwilliger Plaza - a really neat lady.

J. Priscilla "Perky" Kilbourn

## Ways to God

It is illuminating to think of the many ways people have been led to God. Many, perhaps the largest number, have simply accepted the God of whom they learned from their parents.

There is a temptation to label these believers in family tradition as uncritically naive, but this judgment ignores the venerable tradition these traditionalists follow. The Faith of Our Fathers has to command our respect. The awe of tradition in Judaic and Christian Orthodox faiths tells us of respectable swaths of humanity who adhere to the faith they have uncritically received. Tradition arrives with all the prestige of antiquity. Blaise Pascal, no intellectual slouch but rather the brilliant mathematical and spiritual pioneer finally gave his loyalty to “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, not the God of the philosophers.”

Still I suspect that most of our contemporaries may have found God as a kind of fire insurance, a way of feeling better in the face of inevitable death, that “Undiscovered country,” as Shakespeare says “From which no traveler returns.” This could strike you as a pretty base motive for belief in God but remember that Pascal ended up with essentially this argument: he thought of belief as a wager. A good better would know that an eternity of bliss had to be preferable to an eternity of pain - and this would hold whether you thought either alternative very probable or only minimally so. Eternity is a long, long time so you might as well be on the side of God however improbable God seems.

The classic pattern of religious conversion is not so easy. If we read the experiences of the saints and mystics we find them struck with their own unworthiness, how far they fall short of the perfection a perfect God might demand. Unworthiness seems to be a common experience throughout the ages from St. Paul all the way to William James and his *Varieties of Religious Experience*. What claim can we have upon God in our sinful state? The believer reads the Scriptures and notes how Jesus willingly went to death upon the cross for our sake. Then he can accept Jesus as his personal Savior. This is the classic Christian conversion. Without thee we are unable to please thee.

Some of us, myself included, have tried to take Jesus’ advice and perhaps attain a relationship with God by earning it. You remember that Jesus told the young man seeking his help that he should follow the two commandments “Thou shalt love the Lord, thy God with all thy heart and mind and ... thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

This strenuous advice immediately ran into difficulties with me. I have loved some people so I knew what love was. It's just that I didn't know God well enough to love God in that way. It's as though I had given up on God.

Fortunately, God hadn't given up on me. And here is where the strange business started. You'll have to hold your hats because from here on it's very strange indeed. I had heard that God loved me, which seemed possible if unlikely. Then thinking about it made it seem possible and then - what was it? Maybe being alive after possible death - God's love just seemed to bathe me. I wanted to shout out "O thank you, thank you, Lord" and I did shout, not that you could hear me.

From then on everything went swimmingly. First God sent Jesus to me. Although I never looked at Jesus I knew his exact appearance, no beard or flowing robes. He just stood beside me in slacks and a pullover sweater. If I touched his fingertips with mine I could feel the power pour into me. It was as in Scripture where Jesus knew that power had left him when a woman, eager for healing, had touched his robe.

There was a fairly long period that I spent just experiencing the power of Jesus. Finally Jesus led me to the Father God. That power is overwhelming. I think I'll stop there, first because I'm still learning and second because it seems so strange. I don't want to mislead you. These are just some of the ways to come to know God. You could doubtless tell me some more.

John Marks

## 📖 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>

What would you like to see on the St Stephen's Website? Let Matt Smith know at [music@stst.org](mailto:music@stst.org).

## ***Parish Leadership***

**The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Priest-in-Charge**  
[revdennisj@comcast.net](mailto:revdennisj@comcast.net)

**The Rev. Ken Arnold, Deacon**  
[ken@ken-arnold.com](mailto:ken@ken-arnold.com)

**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 **St. Stephen's photo album** is on display at coffee hour. During the week it is kept in the library. Any contributions, especially from early days, would be welcome. Contact Darragh Lalich.

***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 February *Sentinel* will be ***Saturday, January 23rd.***