

The Sentinel

November 2010



St. Stephen's Episcopal
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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

503-223-6424 • fax 503-223-4747

NEW FACES, NEW MINISTRIES

I'm hoping that many of you are noticing the "new faces" that are popping up among us during the week and on Sunday mornings. The ministries at St. Stephen's are carried out all week long, and it takes many hands to tend to the work of discipleship among us. We are hearing the voices of children in our midst in worship and that sound is music to many of our ears.

I'd like to take the chance to welcome two individuals who have committed to ministry among us and might not be familiar to many of us. The first is The Rev. Dr. John Paul Davis. "Paul" as he prefers to be called is an ordained minister of The United Church of Christ (UCC) and has been working in congregational ministry for over a dozen years. Paul is working among us as a chaplain to Communion in the Park and coordinating that ecumenical ministry which is sponsored by St. Stephen's. Paul will also be joining the preaching rotation and I am sure you will be deeply impressed with his gifts for that ministry. Paul will be helping us as we look toward congregational growth and development as that is one of his passions in ministry. I would encourage you to seek him out in the Parish Hall after services on Sundays and get a chance to know him and his partner Jim who will be visiting with us frequently.

The second individual is Brooke Shepherd. Brooke and her family - husband Douglas and two children, Sebastian and Tennessee - have been seen among us for about a month now. Brooke is studying for her degree at Portland State University and she and Doug moved into campus housing in late September. Previously, the Shepherd family worshiped at St. Luke the Physician in Gresham. Brooke is in the process of discerning a call to ordained ministry in the Episcopal church. As an "aspirant" to Holy Orders, Brooke is engaged in a

“shadowing” experience. This adventure in ministry exploration has her living and working among us for a total of 60 hours. How those hours get divided up depends a great deal in what is going on in our Parish life; in her life as a full time student and parent; and in the areas of ministry she would most like to explore at our downtown urban Parish. Brooke and I will be working closely together as she explores our faith community and begins to gain some deeper understanding of what is involved in the ordained ministry of The Episcopal Church.

Please take a moment to introduce yourselves to these new folks who are excited and anxious to begin taking an active role in the many and varied ministries that are part of our lives in Christian community. We are blessed to have them with us; and we look forward to new and exciting ways in which we can engage our call to be the hands of Christ at work in the world. St. Stephen’s is growing and changing with each new face that comes among us and lends their gifts to the building up of God’s Kindom among 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 or call 503-998-0808.

Weekday Activities

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

For information contact: Mary Komachi (babamk@juno.com), Stephen Snyder (shsnyder@worldnet.att.net) or Joyce Lew (jlwlew@hevanet.com).

Wednesday sandwich preparation

For information contact: Mary Komachi (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)

Begin Within: Centering Prayer and Meditation – 3:30 PM on **Wednesdays** at 4405 SE Rex St., Portland. For more information contact: Mike Zula 503-772-2095 (laslie471@comcast.net)

Saturday breakfast

For information contact: Sue Rossiter (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 third Sunday of each month immediately after the 10:00 AM service. Please note the new day and time. Meetings are open to everyone.

NEW CLERGY OFFICE HOURS

Fr. Dennis has been promoted to half-time employment as PSU campus minister. Congratulations are definitely in order. However, to meet his additional responsibilities he will need to change his St. Stephen's office hours. The new hours are:

Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please feel free to call for an appointment or just drop in during those hours. The Parish Office is not usually staffed on Fridays, so just ring the bell at the door of the Parish Hall.

NOVEMBER ADULT INQUIRY

JOHN MARKS' LEGACY: CHRISTIAN SOCIAL ACTION

When John Marks put down his final protest placard in this world, he left a long and mighty record of organizing, marching and writing about social action issues locally and nationally.

Join us for three Sunday mornings in November as we examine and discuss current issues and activities of social justice, review some of John's essays and consider St. Stephen's role in this world.

The class meets at 9:00 Sunday mornings in the Parish Hall between the services. November classes are scheduled for the 7th, 14th and 21st. There will be no class Sunday, November 28th, the weekend of the Thanksgiving holiday.

October Men's Bible study: Take it to the Lord in prayer

The men's Bible group keeps its focus on a study of the scriptures. It's been doing that since May 2007, and the men keep coming back. They are encouraged to share their innermost feelings and concerns, even fears. Perhaps this is what draws them. Perhaps it's something as simple as the Holy Spirit.

The group is currently studying the four Gospels, beginning, earlier this year - and continuing - with Matthew. It wants to examine our Lord's actual words, as he spoke them, as best can be determined from the Gospel writers. November's lessons begin with the Parable of the Ten Virgins and concludes with Jesus' last week on Earth - and the close of the Gospel of Matthew.

The weekly sessions begin and end with prayer. The final portion of each meeting is devoted to prayer for the group's "special concerns" - fellow parishioners who are hurting; people in need the men may have come in contact with during the week; personal needs that affect, sooner or later, all of us; the suffering peoples of other lands, as well as our own; very often perfect strangers - except that we all are brothers and sisters, children of a loving God. All are taken to the Lord in prayer, in the words of the old Protestant hymn.

The men depart each week with the prayer they might see the face of Jesus in everyone they meet.

Meetings begin in the library at 12 noon every Wednesday. They end promptly at 1 PM for those who may have to return to work. The men take turns leading the group.

YEAST FOR THE LOAF, BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY

Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to “yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened” (Luke 13: 20-21). If Stewardship is about planting ourselves in the story of God, how are we at St. Stephen’s at work in God’s life? How are we yeast for the loaf? One indicator is that average Sunday attendance has grown by 5% in 2010, and we are seeing new faces every week.

It’s that time of year again when we launch the annual Stewardship campaign and look back over the year in order to look forward to the next.

Sometimes it feels like an OPB fundraiser or annual begathon.

But other times it rises up within us just like the yeast of the parable when we consider Paul’s admonishment to look for treasure where one’s heart is. How wondrous it is at those moments of inner revelation, those “aha moments” when thanksgiving and self-giving become in fact the gift itself. We’ve all had those flashes in the heart of sudden truth. Doesn’t it feel good? Doesn’t it feel right?

“And of Thine own have we given Thee.”

Just think for a moment of all the ways in 2010 that St. Stephen’s gifts of time, talent and treasure have provided bread for the journey:

- Consider the beauty of Dcn. Ken’s *Garden* and his nationally recognized bicycle liturgy.
- Recall the truly joyous Eucharist and dinner of St. Aelred in January,
- Remember our experimental outreach in coffee houses and now Communion in the Park.

Be amazed that our concert program has increased from 4 to 9 concerts and that individual event attendance has also doubled. The newly formed Friends of St.

Stephen's Music has contributed over \$1500 to enhance our music program. Our choir is growing.

- Hard to believe, but St. Stephen's Table will have served over 12,000 meals in 2010 supported by almost 3000 volunteer hours and generous gifts of cash and in-kind support. Last year we were guessing we might serve a "mere" 5000.
- Be proud that over 200 people use our Parish Hall each week to attend meetings of the five 12-step programs and one counseling group that find healing in our space. Although we charge a modest rent for our space, the market value of this contribution to the community is \$83,800 to say nothing of the priceless impact on individual lives.

All this is to say look how far we have come this year, based on the vision work we undertook.

Won't you help continue the work of this journey? It's easy. By now you should have received the initial invitation to giving. Simply fill out your pledge card and mail it back, tuck it under the parish office door or drop it in the plate. Then imagine how far we will go in 2011, truly becoming yeast for the bread of God's message. With God's help, we will.

Dennis j. Parker+, Priest-in-charge
Mic Fleming, Senior Warden and Stewardship Co-chair.

News from Your Worship Team

First, thanks to everyone who provides feedback. Your voices are being heard, and you have lots to say.

You will be seeing some new faces leading at worship in the near future. Several people have volunteered to try on different parts of the Liturgy to see if they are a good fit for their spiritual gift or talent. We are building a great bank of people to work at the task of worship regularly. Two new Lectors have been added because someone close to them advised me to invite them

Lots of people are reluctant to serve because service looks complicated or difficult to learn. Consequently, we are going to be working more conscientiously at the task of training our volunteers. Bobby Berstler has agreed to serve in the position of Subdeacon, assisting as an unordained individual at functions usually

performed by an ordained Deacon, when one is present. Bobby is very knowledgeable about the service of the Altar, and is eager to help our Eucharistic Ministers learn their tasks more fully. When you are assigned to serve as an EM, Bobby will be serving at the Altar with you, helping you fulfill that service by coordinating the flow as the communion is prepared and served. He would also like to train another Subdeacon to alternate with him in this responsibility. If you would like to volunteer to learn this role, you could have no better teacher.

Fr Dennis would also like for all our EMs, Lectors, and Greeters to get some additional training in advance of the beginning of the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. We are hoping that a Saturday afternoon session (with lunch?) would fit most peoples' schedules. Look for an e-mail or phone call from me in the near future, or get proactive and let me know your feelings about a prospective date.

I'm hearing good comments about the use of the Contemporary wording for the Lord's Prayer in the service. If you haven't taken time to talk with me, a clergyperson, vestry member, or Worship Team member about what you think of this change, we would love to hear your comments.

Our Worship Team was formed at least in part to investigate and promulgate the use of good liturgy at other places besides at our Altars and Shrine. CoffeeHouse and Communion in the Park have both grown out of that directive from last year's Parish Discernment. Your participation in these events has helped shape the profile of our Parish. I regularly discover that people in our neighborhood are aware of St Stephen's from our ministry of innovation and sharing.

You probably know that the word "liturgy" comes from the original languages of the Christian scriptures, and is usually defined by language scholars as meaning "the work of the people." Well-done liturgy involves everyone. What role will you play in this work we do together? As we begin our annual emphasis on the gifts we pledge to offer to God through our stewardship campaign, let's think of the ways we can grow together and make disciples from among our neighbors by using our gifts and talents in our worship together. As God lays these possibilities on your heart, please feel free to volunteer. There are many places where virtually any committed person can serve. There are even a few we haven't thought of yet. Which one is right for you?

David Henderson



Can you help?

The holidays are approaching – as well as colder and wetter weather – and the Tuesday lunch group would again like this year to distribute mens' hats, gloves and socks to our guests. Any donations of these items would be greatly appreciated.

Please leave them in the office by Tuesday, November 30th (and let one of the Tuesday group know that they are there). Many thanks.

St. Stephen's Photo Album

The album will be on display at the annual meeting the end of January.

Please give photos you wish to be included in the photo album to Darragh Lalich by December 10. Be sure to write the names of the persons and the events.

St. Stephen's Food Barrel and Clothing Trunk

Please help us fill the Food Barrel. Any and all canned/non perishable food items would be appreciated. They are usually donated to William Temple House for distribution to families in need. Gently used, clean clothes can be left in the trunk in the church hall.

Thank you.

Meet the Musicians



On St. Francis Day, October 3, Parish pets and their owners stepped off from our 13th Avenue red doors and marched down Clay to the South Park Blocks. Leading the annual procession and Blessing of the Animals, was our favorite bagpiper, Daniel DelMain, making his third appearance at St. Stephen's and drawing the smiles and attention of everyone along the way to our banners, flags and favorite Little Friends.

November 2nd will see the fourth appearance of Halley Weaver the Bicycle Harpist at our annual Blessing of Bicycles recognizing the feast day of the patron saint of bicycles, the Madonna del Ghisallo.

Who are these two—the handsome young man in his Glengarry cap and kilt and she in her Renaissance country garb? They have become so identified with St. Stephen's special events that it's easy to now think of them as part of our extended family.

Dan grew up in Portland and heard his call to the pipes at the tender age of 13 at the Highland Games. His interest and talent was so strong that even before graduating from high school, he had travelled to Scotland to compete in the World Bagpipe Championships held on Glasgow Green. Just two years later, while in college in San Francisco, he had joined the Prince Charles Pipe Band and returned with them to Scotland to win the world championship for their class band.

Halley also grew up in the Northwest (Anacortes) and, yes, she is named for the comet. Her Welsh harp was made specifically for her, and she has been playing

professionally for over ten years. Perhaps you have seen her on sunny Saturday mornings (and a few rainy ones too) at the PSU Farmers Market. Concerned about the community, she often plays at retirement homes and has given many hours to a transitional housing organization for women coming off the streets. In her spare time she paints, sews costumes and repairs bikes.

If you would like to learn more about our two musicians, look for “Halley the Harper” on Facebook or on her website at www.buskerslife.com. Dan is often seen at weddings and wakes where the tradition of bagpipes adds to the celebration and solemnity of the occasion. Last January several parishioners were delighted to see him pipe in the haggis at a Robbie Burns supper. You can learn more about his services at www.portlandbagpiper.com.

St Stephen's is an Amazon and Powell's Partner

As the holidays approach, please keep in mind that St Stephen's receives a percentage of all purchases from Amazon and Powells.com. Just use the links on the home page of the St Stephen's Website (www.stst.org). Unfortunately, the offer does not apply to in-store purchases at Powell's locations. If you would like more information, please talk to Matt Smith.



A wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one is to provide flowers for the Altar and/or Chapel on Sunday, which are then taken to homebound or sick parishioners during the week.

The requested donation is \$40 for the High Altar and \$20 for the Chapel Altar. Flower memorial forms are on the Bulletin Board outside the Kitchen (place in offering basin or mail to the Parish Office). Memorials for a given day must be received at least one week in advance.

♪ St Stephen's Concert Series Updates ♪

Two additional events have been added to the 2010-2011 concert series!

Saturday, December 11 at 7 pm:

Portland Chamber Music. Joshua Kingsley-Clarinet , Fred Nassbaum-Cello, and Karen Eddleman-Piano will perform Five Bagatelles by Finzi, selections from Beethoven's Clarinet Trio op. 11, Cello Suite by Rachmaninov, The Long and Winding Road and Eleanor Rigby by the Beatles, and Under the Bridge by the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

(some of you may know Joshua better as Br. Gregory. He attends St. Stephen's regularly with his wife Macie),

Sunday, December 19 at 3 pm:

Oregon Chamber Singers, a mixed-voice community choir under the direction of Sandra Miller, will perform seasonal music.

Oregon Chamber Singers has joined forces with the St Stephen's choir several times in the past to provide music for our Sunday service.

Our own Palmer Pardington, currently serving as interim priest in Eugene, is a member.

Please plan to attend these concerts, and invite your friends and family.

Suggested donation for each concert is \$10, and refreshments will be served after each event.

Birthdays in November

Bill Kerr	November 5
Sue Rossiter	November 24
Dennis j. Parker+	November 28

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

Parish Leadership

The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Priest-in-Charge

revdennisj@comcast.net

The Rev. G. Palmer Pardington, III, PhD.
(leave of absence)

BOC Chair

gpardington@mindspring.com

The Rev. Dale Carr, Assisting Clergy
dalecarr@orst.edu

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

Matt Smith, Director of Music
msmith215@gmail.com

Drew Sadowsky, Treasurer
drew_sadowsky8@yahoo.com

Kathleen Barless, Assisting Treasurer
kbarless@appleisp.net

Stephen Snyder, Verger
shsnyder@worldnet.att.net

The Vestry

Senior Warden: Mic Fleming (2011)

Junior Warden: Lee Kilbourn
(2013)

Class of 2011:

Molly Bartlett

Darragh Lalich

Class of 2012:

Merry Emlaw

Mike Zula

Class of 2013:

David Henderson

Choi Marquardt

Please send news and information for ***The Sentinel*** to EditorStSt@gmail.com by the third week of the month. The deadline for the ***December Sentinel*** will be Saturday, November 20th. It is not necessary to wait until just before the deadline, submissions are gratefully received at any time.

Parish Calendar: events to be added to the Parish Calendar should be sent to the church office by Saturday, November 20th.

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 in person or by email to the church with "attention: Darragh Lalich for Photo Album" in the subject line.