

The Sentinel

October 2010



St. Stephen's Episcopal
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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

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Deacon Ken Leaving St. Stephen's

My brothers and sisters: I have resigned my position as deacon at St. Stephen's. My last Sunday will be October 10, and I will be preaching that day. I wanted to take this space to explain the reasons for my departure and to thank you for letting me serve you.

As most of you know, the past two years have been personally challenging for me. This community has given me the spiritual and emotional support I needed. I honestly think that my rapid recovery from metastatic cancer during the winter was aided by your prayers and concern. My diaconal ministry has mostly been served in administrative positions in the church; this time with you has reconnected me with the social ministry that deacons are ordained to pursue. We have done good work here together. I hope it has been as fulfilling for you as it has for me. Mainly, of course, the work has been for the benefit of those in our immediate neighborhood. St. Stephen's rightly has turned its attention to those in need around us. I hope that you continue to place them first in your mission.

I am leaving for personal reasons, not because of any dissatisfaction with you or the parish leadership. Father Dennis has been a supportive partner in ministry, and Mic Fleming has been a creative and energetic Senior Warden. Both are a pleasure to work with; St. Stephen's is lucky to have them.

I have wanted for some time to return to the writing that has always been secondary, but of critical importance, in my life. As I age (getting closer to 70 every day), and with the possibility of the return of the cancer always present, I

feel that I need to make the writing primary, while I can. The Noh play is evolving (I am now working with a composer) and I am writing a book that has been on my mind for years.

My plan is to remain in Portland and to continue working with Communion in the Park, as part of its leadership team and as co-chair of its board. I will also continue to volunteer with the Saturday morning breakfast program, since many of our guests are connected to Communion in the Park.

It is not a good idea for clergy to continue to worship with a parish once they have left, and so I will be looking for another parish home. But I hope to see many of you at Communion in the Park and on Saturday mornings, as well as at the occasional Sunday worship.

God's peace be with you all. And thank you again for being such wonderful, giving people.

Deacon Ken

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.

October Adult Inquiry: Living the Questions 2.0 (Continued)

Living the Questions 2.0 is the provocative DVD program designed to help people wrestle with real world questions often avoided by contemporary churches. For the five Sundays of October we will continue to examine selected sections of the program. Some of you may remember the lively discussion of LTQ 1.0 in April 2009. Now, at St. Stephen's suggestion, the Diocese has ordered the latest production, and we are first in line to use it.

The premise of the series is that "our being fully Christian is a process and a journey that is forever ongoing, rather than a stand at a fixed set of beliefs. It requires our being able to accept that the truth of God is forever the "Mystery" beyond our understanding and human language."

October 3: Evil, Suffering and a God of Love

October 10: The Myth of Redemptive Violence

October 17: Prayer: Intimacy with God

October 24: Compassion, the Heart of Jesus' Ministry

..October 31: Embracing Mystery

Please go on this journey of exploration with us at 9:00 in the Parish Hall between the services. Jean and Mic Fleming will facilitate.

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.

October Men's Bible study: If even a tax collector

can be a disciple of our Lord, why can't we? Matthew's profession made him one of the more despised figures of his time. Yet he took up the call to follow Jesus, and, through his account of the Messiah's earthly life and times, changed the world.

Matthew's Gospel, which the men's group will continue to study through October, has been called the "connecting link" between the Old Testament and the New. It is filled, as such, with those messianic references that would have been familiar to his largely Jewish audience.

"This Gospel takes the life of Jesus as it was lived on earth, and his character as it actually appeared," writes the author of the Matthew account in "Smith's Bible Dictionary." It places them "alongside the life and character of the Messiah as sketched in the prophets, the historic by the side of the prophetic, that the two may appear in their marvelous unity and in their perfect unity."

The men's group takes up a new facet, and a new chapter or two, of this first of the four Gospels every Wednesday this month. Meetings begin at noon in the church Library. Prayers for the suffering and the needy are an important part of our time together. We adjourn sharply at 1 p.m.

We hope to be witnesses, through our study, to the truth that discipleship is open to all - even to a Matthew, even to us.

News from Your Worship Team

It's an exciting time of year to be at St Stephen's! By the time you read this newsletter, the persons who serve on the Worship Team will have met to consider some exciting new developments and to shape some of the events you will be attending (or even leading!) as we discern how better to worship.

Worship is really at the heart of all we do at St Stephen's. The Altars and Shrine are the obvious centerpieces of our furnishings. The ever-present cross over our Sanctuary tells everyone how we have chosen to live our lives together, and whom we serve. The quietness and gentle peace of the spaces we set aside in our busy downtown arena testify to our longevity and tradition as a people. And when we celebrate — boy, oh boy! — all the stops literally get pulled out!

So how does all this come together? It requires contributions from a huge cast of characters, most of whom are doing something relatively insignificant to the whole but nonetheless important. In short, every worship service is a production of sorts, and the way it gets accomplished is the result of careful planning and communication.

The purpose of the Worship Team is to steer this effort in a direction which is responsive to the people who make it possible and still honor the grand traditions behind it. In fact, the more people who are involved on a regular basis, the better it works. Presently, the Worship Team consists of our Clergy; Matt Smith as Organist/Choir Director; and a dedicated group of volunteer laypersons (Jean Fleming, Marcos Domingues, Ed Garren, Stephen Snyder, and Bobby Berstler). I am happy to have been chosen to lead this group, so if you see me bustling about during worship, tugging at elbows and whispering frantically, or hear me making announcements, I'm just doing my little part to coordinate some of the effort.

There are two things you can do to help this effort. First, interact with the Team. We would love to have your input by mail, phone, e-mail, or at Coffee Hour. If you would like, you may join us for meetings or -- even better -- join the Team yourself. Let us know how you think things could be improved or

streamlined. You may even want to get trained to be involved as a Eucharistic Minister or a Greeter/Usher or Lector.

Second, keep an eye on this spot in the *Sentinel* and watch for announcements in the Sunday bulletin. Bobby Berstler and I will be taking inventory in the Sacristy in his role as Sacristan, and as we find things we need, we will let you know. Some of these things will be simple (wonderful Joyce Lew, for example, recently found a very useful bottle brush and contributed it to the Sacristy's properties). Bobby and I will be publishing a "Wish List" of simple items you can pick up at the hardware store or supermarket. These "little things" may seem minuscule, but when they're missing or running short, they loom large.

There's so much more to be said about this, so I've asked if I could write something here every month to keep everyone informed. But the best way to be informed is to be involved! I look forward to working together with this Dream Team to make what we do at St Stephen's edifying for everyone involved.

David Henderson

You are Invited!

Who doesn't like to get an invitation? Unless it's the 37th mass mailing from your local politician, doesn't it feel special?

Show of hands! How many of us first came to St. Stephen's because we were invited? At a recent Adult Inquiry conversation, nearly one quarter of the class raised their hands.

So when was the last time you invited someone to church? It's ok. All of us suddenly find something very interesting on the floor in response to this question. But seriously, if we have found a spiritual home here, if we have found

meaningful communion here, if we have found healing here, if we have found that place for honest questions...um...why is it so hard to tell people about it? Well...it just is. It's an Episcopal Mystery!

But there are other ways to invite people to the experience of St. Stephen's without using the seemingly difficult word, "church." Just listen for the opportunities. How about:

- You know someone who likes music: "Would you like to go to a free concert with me next Sunday? The group is playing on period instruments and it should be fun."
- You have LGBT friends who are uncomfortable in their current church. Invite them to see what a truly welcoming congregation looks like.
- You hear someone say he is looking for volunteer work to give back to the community. "I'm planning to help serve breakfast at St. Stephen's Table this Saturday. Would you like to come with me? Sometimes over a hundred people show up. Volunteers are always welcome."
- You have a friend who just lost a loved one. "I think I know how you feel. But when my husband died, I found a place that helped me in my grief. Would you like to go there with me this Sunday?"

It may be a stretch to compare an invitation to church with going to a party. But ceremony, singing, good conversation and the World's Best Coffee Hour are certainly close.

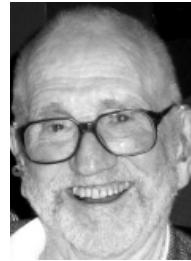
Try it. Share the joy.

Mic Fleming

The Thursday Breakfast Book Club continues to meet every Thursday morning at 8 A.M. at the J & M Cafe, S.E. 6th at Ash Street, one block east of Grand Avenue. Our book for the next two weeks is *"Progressive Christianity: What a Progressive Christian Believes"* by Delwin Brown. No RSVP required- just show up. All are welcome.

In Memoriam, John Marks

5/25/1918 – 8/27/2010



“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”
--Matthew 5:9 (KJV)

Every Sunday at the 7:45 coffee hour Mary Komachi would greet John with this line from Matthew. “Here is our peacemaker!” She would laugh and give him a cup of tea, and John would take his place on the couch for Adult Ed, savor the tea and sit back, ready to hold forth. John led a life of holding forth, and no doubt everyone has a story about him. At the memorial service for him on September 3, at St. Stephen’s, the church was overflowing with his family and friends. The greatest voice for social justice among us has passed on to other fields, forests and battles, but we are grateful for his time with us and his amazing example to us of the life well lived.

John’s son Chris Marks delivered the family eulogy and spoke for us all when he observed, “Death at 92 is not surprising, and is not a tragedy. And yet our family was of course saddened and surprised by Pop’s death. We thought he would outlive us all. He was a tough and resilient guy.” And didn’t all of us in his extended church family think the same!

Chris went on to recall the many aspects of John’s life: his character and passions; his love of the outdoor world and nature; his intense involvement in world affairs; his sense of adventure and his dedication to helping others.

John was always quietly helping others. How many were surprised to learn how deeply involved he had become at Sisters of the Road? Monica Beemer, Executive Director of Sisters, recalls, “John was a long-time and beloved volunteer and we will miss his amazing smile and loving personality. John worked not only in the Cafe, but greatly helped us with our ground breaking

research project on the experiences of homelessness by taking part in many one on one interviews of 2-3 hours each with our community. I always loved seeing John at an event or in the Cafe and he was always a bright ray of sunshine.”

In his eulogy Chris added, “As a psychologist he taught students at OHSU how to conduct group therapy. After he retired from OHSU, he conducted free group therapy clinics for people suffering from drug problems, mourning, and "angry men". He went on several Christian Peacemaker missions to South America. While on a mission to Colombia in 2003, he escorted poor peasant farmers on their trips to town to get supplies or to vote in elections. They encountered left-wing guerilla fighters and right-wing para-military groups that were armed and dangerous. I asked Pop if perhaps that wasn't a tad dangerous for a guy in his 80's. He said, "Oh, they're just young punks with machine guns, they don't care about some old man."

All of us remember John's passion for social justice. Darragh Lalich wrote in the online guest book, “I shall miss John's wise essays in the St. Stephen's *Sentinel*. He wrote every month and faithfully.” He often wrote about causes and moral imperatives in those monthly musings, eight of which were collected in a small booklet last year.

Perky Kilbourn was his first St. Stephen's editor, and wrote, “I got to know John on a more personal level when Lee and I were editors of *The Sentinel*. Each month John would send us his article. On time. They were always thought-provoking, and I will miss them.”

John didn't just write for us. His letters to the editor of *The Oregonian* were legendary. Here is a blog he wrote about his experience protesting at the WTO conference in Seattle:

As the police and the gas kept moving in, people were getting angry. There was profane shouting. We saw a young fellow pick up a two by four and head toward a window. “No, no,” we shouted and another young fellow led him away. Then besides the gas there were loud explosions; they sounded as though they might be firecrackers. Then we saw some things flying through the air and flashing as they exploded. Stun grenades I guess. It seemed like time to get out of there. As we left we saw a gas canister flying through the air and someone at the intersection picked it up and threw it back with a shout.

We walked away. Some people who were watching saw us. “I can't believe how calm you are,” they said.

At the time John was a calm 82.

Chris added to the history:

“Pop was politically active until the end of his life. A self-described radical in the 1930's at the University of Chicago, he was one of the leaders of a student Socialist group. His best friend George Halcrow was leader of the Young Republicans. Somehow they became life-long friends. After college, Pop was a liberal Democrat, but he always enjoyed talking politics with folks on both the left and right. Pop was passionate in his beliefs, but he could usually disagree without being disagreeable.

“You may have seen Margie Boule's column in *The Oregonian* earlier this year, about the political action group that Pop helped get going at Calaroga Terrace. Pop joined his fellow senior citizens, both Democrat and Republican, in "agitating" and lobbying their congressional representatives.

“He went to Washington D.C, in 1963 to march with Martin Luther King Jr., and remained active in the Civil Rights movement. His political activism included campaigning and canvassing for candidates into his late 80's and attending a weekly peace demonstration to protest the Iraq and Afghanistan wars right up until May when he got pneumonia.

“Whether or not you agreed with his political views, you had to admire his passion, conviction and action.”

John was not just a ceaseless agitator and quiet helper, however. “Pop was no saint,” remembered Chris. “He had his faults like all of us. He could be stubborn and exasperating.

“He couldn't just take our kids to the latest Disney movie, he usually proposed an avant-garde children's ballet by a Hungarian émigré group. When the kids had mentioned a popular new Disney movie, in Pop's mind *Pirates of the Caribbean* became ‘Buccaneers of the West Indies.’

“Moreover, his fashion choices often combined stripes, plaid, and old worn-out clothes. We called it "Hobo chic". When he had my mom or Marcy to dress him, he was OK, but not so great on his own. For all you folks who wondered why his

family didn't get him some nicer clothes, he got gifts of new shirts and sweaters that just sat in his closets, because his old worn-out clothes "just felt better." Those at the service will remember Lin Knight's plaid bow tie homage to John.

A man of many interests and enthusiasms; John had a strong sense of the cultural arc of the world as well. Jean and Mic Fleming often marveled at the books he would be reading, especially noticing for several weeks the **Pensées de Montesquieu**. They were nevertheless still surprised to meet John at the French-American Chamber of Commerce launch of the French channel, TV5 Monde, last October at The Nines. There he was, seated at the central table, large glass of red wine in hand, "holding forth" to a table of lovely admirers.

Finishing his tribute to his father, Chris Marks told a story for all of us.

"One of my favorite childhood memories was fishing on the Puget Sound beach near our home in Steilacoom. Pop would come down to watch and accompany me. He sat on the rocks reading something esoteric like Nietzsche and ate oysters off the rocks. We were both happy to hang out together and do our respective endeavors. One day I told him I was afraid of him and mom dying. He reassured me that he had no plans to die in the near future, but death happens to the best of us, and that he'd always be with us in spirit. And he was right; he'll always be with us in spirit."

John, there was a lot of you to know and a lot to remember. Thanks for those memories. We will look for you to be with us.

This article is based on the eulogy given by Christopher B. Marks representing John's family on September 3, 2010. We thank him for sharing it with us again.

St. Stephen's Food Barrel

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.

Thank you.

Upcoming Concert at St. Stephen's

The Wildwood Consort Sunday, October 17 at 3 PM

The Wildwood Consort presents Handel's German Arias (HWV 204-210), sung by soprano Melanie Downie Zupan, with obbligato flute parts by Beverly Stafford. Continuo is provided by Michael Wilhite on viola da gamba and theorbo, and by guest artist Mark Jones on organ and harpsichord. Also on the program are Handel's flute sonatas in G major (HWV 363b) and E minor (HWV 379).

\$10 suggested donation.

See the whole 2010-2011 concert series at www.stst.org.

♪ St Stephen's Music News ♪

Welcome New Choir Members!

The choir extends a warm welcome to new choir members Anne Kennedy and Dan German. Anne is singing in the soprano section. She is the managing partner with Beyond Ink, a company she founded in 1997 to provide marketing communications and consulting services in the field of online marketing and search engine optimization. Dan is singing in the tenor section. He works with lasers used for vision corrective surgery throughout the Northwest. Please join us in welcoming Anne and Dan to the choir and to the St Stephen's family. And remember, the choir is open to all who enjoy singing. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 pm.

Choir Members on Live Wire

Tim LaFolette and Arne Hartmann also sing in the Portland Opera Chorus (and so does Kate Maresh, who sang in the alto section for over 10 years). The Opera

Chorus was recently featured on the radio show, Live Wire, broadcast on OPB, to preview of their 2010-11 season opener, the haunting Pagliacci paired with Carl Orff's joyous Carmina Burana. You can listen to the show at www.livewire.org. Also don't miss the Portland Opera production of Carmina Burana and I Pagliacci, opening September 24 and continuing until October 2.

News from Past Choir Members

Carolyn Coefield, our soprano section leader until 2007, sings the lead in The Merry Widow, produced by Rimrock Opera in Billings, Montana on September 25 and 26. Way to go Carolyn!

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).
- 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.

Birthdays in October

Bill North	19 October
Tomas Cueva	28 October
Jean Fleming	30 October

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

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

Purchase books and other products from www.amazon.com and www.powells.com and St Stephen's will receive up to 7.5% in commissions when you use the links on the St Stephen's Website (www.stst.org).



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.

Parish Leadership

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

revdennisj@comcast.net

The Rev. Ken Arnold, Deacon

ken@ken-arnold.com

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 ***November Sentinel*** will be Saturday, October 23rd. 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, October 23rd.

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.

***This page could be yours – please consider a
contribution to The Sentinel***