

The Sentinel

January 2011



St. Stephen's Episcopal
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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EMMANUEL'S EPIPHANY

Life at St. Stephens has blossomed into a wonderful cacophony of programs and activities that keep our beloved building hopping with activities and hospitality seven days a week. With the arrival of our friends from Operation Nightwatch (ONW); we have occasionally experienced some schedule conflicts and cross bookings among the many organizations that operate within our walls each day. As we work with each other we will iron out all of the creases and provide the elbow room that each group needs to thrive in their work. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) continues to utilize our facilities each day of the week. AA has decided after much thought and discussion with their membership to move the Friday and Saturday evening meetings down the street to the Unitarian Church. We had wonderful conversations with them and they continue to be deeply appreciative of the hospitality they were afforded in their time among us. On a recent Friday evening I was in the Parish Hall as the ONW Drop In hours were beginning. Integrity members were arriving to begin their meeting in the knave and a couple I have been working with for pre-marital sessions was in my office. As I was moving among the many guests that had settled in for the evening one of the Integrity members said to me; "You know this is one of the few churches I have been in that is actually living out the Gospel".

Indeed we are beginning to learn some of the challenges and rewards of doing the work of the Gospel in our community of faith. Sometimes that work will challenge us to find ways that we might give more of ourselves; and other times we might find ourselves gratified for the chance to see the face of the

Christ in one of the many folks we encounter in our midst. I am excited for all the possibilities for ministries that meet me each time I walk the neighborhood and recognize yet another of our guests who come seeking hospitality, or a bowl of chili or the bread of life and cup of salvation. St. Stephens has a long and wonderful history of welcoming all who come into our midst and inviting them to explore with us the questions that truly matter; questions of faith and hope in the One who comes among us as “The Word become flesh”, our God with Us; our Emmanuel whose epiphany changed the very course of human history and changes us with each and every encounter. Thanks be to God!

Blessings!
Dennis j.+

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 30th**. 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 (for example putting an offering in the plate or serving at Saturday breakfast). Only votes of those present will be counted as proxy votes are not permitted under the canons.

We have invited Operation Nightwatch's chaplain, Roger Fuchs, to preside with Father Dennis on this day. Paul Davis will preach about our call to outreach, and the service will be full of special music. Please invite friends to come and hear what our church is doing!

This is an important meeting for our congregation and we urge everyone to attend.

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. Meetings are open to everyone.

ADULT INQUIRY FOR JANUARY

Hospitality to the Homeless

We expand last month's discussion of Christian hospitality at St. Stephen's with a focus on being a welcoming community to the homeless in our downtown neighborhood. The curriculum for this 6-week discussion was written by Paul C. Schroeder, the Faith-Based Services Coordinator at JOIN -- A Center for Involvement, Connecting the Street to a Home. See JOIN's website at <http://www.joinpdx.com>.

Paul Schroeder writes: "We believe that every community is gifted with its own particular 'genius' that can be shared with people who are literally on the outside. We focus on the development of community-based and relationship-oriented solutions to the alienation and isolation that are among the root causes of homelessness."

Paul and JOIN have created a "New City Initiative" that seeks to connect congregations to people experiencing and transitioning out of homelessness. The curriculum we will use is inspired by the writings of Basil of Caesarea, a 4th century bishop in the church who promoted a Christian community where people lived with voluntary simplicity so they could share their gifts with the involuntary poor, who were also invited to share their gifts. This community became known as the "New City."

Basil's vision on the New City was based on six spiritual practices, which he said forms the heart of our life in community. Each week, one of these practices will be explored and discussed. Personal exercises to do through the week will be suggested. Our weekly focus will be:

- January 9 — Compassionate Seeing;
- January 16 — Heartfelt Listening;
- January 23 — Intentional Welcoming;
- January 30 — Joyful Sharing;
- February 6 — Grateful Receiving; and
- February 13 — Co-operative Building.

Paul Davis will coordinate each week's session, inviting occasional speakers like JOIN's Paul Schroeder and Operation Nightwatch's Gary Davis and Cole Merkel to present.

The goal of the curriculum is to find specific ways to integrate the six spiritual practices of community into our individual lives and into our communal life together at St. Stephen's. Ideally, newfound commitments will be envisioned that are "visionary, practical, challenging, and doable."

By the grace of God, and with each other's support, what might we commit ourselves to do in community with our neighbor?

All are invited to this time of reflection and exploration.

January Men's Bible study: Being 'Little Christs' to a hurting world

A recent reflection in *Forward Day By Day* captures the spirit of much of what the men's Bible study group has been talking about lately:

"God asks much of us. Are we willing to be Christ bearers in our own lives? Are we willing to be what someone described as 'Little Christs' as we move through the events of our daily life, as we live in community with all sorts and conditions of people?"

We often conclude our meetings with the prayer that we might see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet. The Gospel writers allude to this as they record Jesus' teachings on loving our enemies, giving to the needy, forgiving those who may have done us wrong - all in the name of the Christ we profess to love. We can be "Little Christs" by following his commandments and living by his example, difficult as that sometimes may be.

The men's group moves on to the Gospel of Mark this month, having spent much of the past year with Matthew. Many of the passages are similar (some virtually identical) in the "Synoptic Gospels" of Matthew, Mark and Luke - accounts of the life of our Lord written from a similar point of view. John, which follows

these three, is written from a different perspective, being more reflective rather than a chronological account of Jesus' life and death.

We will study them all, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in discerning God's will for our lives.

The group meets in the Library at noon every Wednesday. The men take turns leading. Prayers are offered for the "special concerns" among us before we depart. Adjournment is at 1 p.m. sharp. Ordinary men and women reflecting the face of Jesus will be waiting as we leave the building.

Newcomers Tea, Saturday, Jan. 22

Fr Dennis and Michael invite all new members and everyone who just wants to get more connected to St. Stephen's to an afternoon tea on Saturday, January 22, from 4 to 6 o'clock at their home in SW Portland. This will be a great time to meet other newcomers and find out more about St. Stephen's history and theology, as well as the wider Episcopal Church. Please leave a message at the parish office, or see me directly, if you would like to attend. All are welcome!

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If you would like more information, please talk to Matt Smith.

WELCOME OUR NEW OUTREACH MINISTER



If you haven't met The Rev. Dr. John Paul Davis yet, you probably haven't been to church lately. It's hard to enter a room and not be engulfed by his smile, embraced by his warmth, and engaged by his outreached hand offering a huge enthusiastic greeting. "Welcome" is what he is all about, and as a welcoming community since 1863, St. Stephen's has outdone its tradition in calling him to be our Minister for Outreach.

It has happened in a way that Paul says he can only refer to as "amazing grace." "Seven months ago I didn't know where I would be, but this ministry at St. Stephen's, at this time and this place, is my true calling. I can't tell you how I have been touched by everyone's cooperation, help and honest welcome."

When you meet Paul, it looks like an obvious appointment. However, Fr. Dennis' invitation to Paul establishes a new mark for interdenominational creativity. Paul is not an Episcopal priest. Since 1997 he served as Minister of Congregational Life for First Congregational UCC at SW Park & Madison. And as the St. Stephen's Vestry came to learn, to make this job work, our relationship is structured around a four-way covenant between Paul, St. Stephen's, Waverly Heights UCC on the East side, (the UCC sponsor for his ministry) and the Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ. Prior to his appointment, Paul interviewed with Bishop Michael who has given his advice and consent to this unusual configuration, proving once again that where there's a need, there's an answer.

But the path to our Outreach Ministry had several turns. In May, as First Congregational downsized to one minister with the calling of their new Senior Minister, the church eliminated Paul's position. By total coincidence Fr. Dennis, Dcn. Ken and Mic Fleming had just invited Paul to help form a new ministry to the homeless. This idea evolved into Communion in the Park, which has been

faithfully meeting every Sunday since July 4th. In September Paul became co-chair of that program.

When Fr. Dennis learned that Paul needed a recognized ministry to maintain his official standing as a minister in the UCC, he suggested the parish could recognize him as a chaplain to CiP. In gratitude, and with his passion for church growth, Paul asked if there was more he might do for St. Stephen's. And thus began Paul's energetic and happy presence with us.

He met with the vestry on October 17 and received their approval to serve with us as Minister for Outreach. At its November meeting, the Vestry approved a formal job description, which directs Paul to be active in Congregational Development, St. Stephen's Table, Communion in the Park, and Community Representation. He is our primary liaison to Operation Nightwatch. Combining the number of guests who come to their hospitality center and worship service with those already coming to our Tuesday and Saturday meals, we now welcome up to 500 neighbors per week through our red doors for a few hours of warmth, sustenance and dignity.

So who is Paul?

Rev. Dr. Paul Davis – it's John Paul Davis, III, when he files his taxes – is 46 and originally from Miami, Florida. He was baptized as a child at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, where his parents were the Youth Directors, and learned to sing in the children's choir at Miami Shores Baptist Church, where his grandmother taught Sunday school.

He grew up racing a sailboat in Biscayne Bay, playing clarinet in the band, and singing in the choir. In high school, he sang leading roles in the school musicals and was sure God must be calling him to be a Broadway singer! He went to Stetson University in Deland, FL and majored in music. But the Baptist-affiliated college required a course on the Bible, and there Paul was fascinated with "historical biblical criticism" (which seeks to understand the historical communities that wrote the biblical texts). He went to Presbyterian-affiliated Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey convinced he was being called to be a college professor.

God obviously had other plans because, ten years later, he was ordained as the first openly gay minister in Pennsylvania, at the first and only – at the time – "Open and Affirming" church in Pennsylvania. (In the Episcopal Church, we

call such congregations, “Believe Out Loud;” St. Stephen’s is one of the 29 Portland churches that are members.)

In 2008, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Methodist-affiliated Iliff School of Theology in Denver, with a focus on preaching, which added to his deep passion for church growth and development.

While in seminary at Princeton, Paul met his partner of 24 years, Jim Hryncewich. Jim majored in music and political science, and continues to play clarinet. After they moved to Portland, he received his Master in Speech Language Pathology from PSU and has served as an SLP in Portland Public Schools since 2000. Jim has been quietly attending our 10:00 service to support his partner. Please look for him in the pews and embrace him in our Peace.

However, good help doesn’t come free. And as we are all painfully aware, St. Stephen’s operates on a tiny budget regularly in shortfall. However, Paul is confident he can fund his position with us through grants and donations. On Nov. 16, as they marched together in Portland’s Day of Homelessness Awareness that Paul and Dcn Ken helped organize, Operation Nightwatch’s director, Gary Davis, offered to help find grant funding for Paul to also serve in an official way with their agency. If you are interested in helping Paul in his immediate funding plans, feel free to ask him for a copy of his development prospectus.

In the meantime Dennis is sharing his office with Paul and the two of them have worked out office hours. Dennis is in on Wednesdays and Fridays. Paul will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when he is not out making new friends for our mission.

To contact Paul at other times with questions, ideas and concerns, call him on his cell phone at 503-449-4969.

Paul’s joining us at this time is part of our emerging presence as a downtown hub of compassionate ministries to the poor and marginalized in our neighborhood. Our cluster of programs foster non-judgmental relationships that help people find recovery and community, receive spiritual and material support, and develop tools to improve their lives and experience transformation. We may currently be small in numbers. But our potential for ministry and growth is great! Thanks be to God!

And...welcome to Paul!

Christmas at St. Stephen's



Photo by Lenon Chichetu

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.

St. Stephen's Photo Album

The album will be on display at the annual meeting on January 30th.

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

Birthdays in January

Sam Ganczarak January 16

Ken Ballard January 28

If you have recently joined our community, or if we have unintentionally omitted your name, please send your name and birthday to the church office. Errors should also be reported.

♪ Music at St. Stephen's ♪

Organ Extravaganza

Sunday, January 23, 2011 at 3:00 PM

Our second annual recital featuring local organists on the Gress Miles pipe organ

Please plan to attend this and other upcoming concerts in March and May, and invite your friends and family.

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

Become a Friend of Music: St. Stephen's dedicates significant parish resources to providing an excellent, diverse musical program to our community, but like many non-profit organizations, our pledged income and ticket sales do not cover the full cost. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

<p><i>Parish Leadership</i></p> <p>The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Priest-in-Charge revdennisj@comcast.net</p> <p>The Rev. J. Paul Davis, Minister for Outreach jpauldavis@prodigy.net</p> <p>The Rev. G. Palmer Pardington, III, PhD. <i>(leave of absence)</i> <i>BOC Chair</i> gpardington@mindspring.com</p> <p>The Rev. Dale Carr, Assisting Clergy dalecarr@orst.edu</p> <p>The Rev. William North, Assisting Clergy revbillnorth@comcast.net</p> <p>Matt Smith, Director of Music msmith215@gmail.com</p> <p>Cristine Suniga, Treasurer</p> <p>Kathleen Barless, Assisting Treasurer Kathleen1946@gmail.com</p> <p>Stephen Snyder, Verger shsnyder@att.net</p>	<p><i>The Vestry</i></p> <p>Senior Warden: Mic Fleming (2011) Junior Warden: Lee Kilbourn (2013)</p> <p><i>Class of 2011:</i> Molly Bartlett Darragh Lalich</p> <p><i>Class of 2012:</i> Merry Emlaw Mike Zula</p> <p><i>Class of 2013:</i> David Henderson Choi Marquardt</p>
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Please send news and information for ***The Sentinel*** to EditorStSt@gmail.com by the third week of the month. The deadline for the ***February Sentinel*** will be **Saturday, January 22**. 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 also be sent to the church office by **Saturday, January 22**.

Clergy Office Hours:

Father Dennis: Wednesday and Friday 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Rev. Paul Davis: Tuesday and Thursday

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM