

The Sentinel

March 2011



St. Stephen's Episcopal
THE DOWNTOWN PARISH

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

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NEW FUEL, NEW ENERGY

I have just returned from the “retreat” that the Vestry of St. Stephen’s holds at the beginning of each new “Class”. The new members of your Vestry (voted at Annual Meeting) join with the returning classes and look to shape out the program year and the “message” that we want to communicate with our members and potential new members for the following year. Now this is not a retreat in the traditional sense of that word, where you get away from the daily grind and practice intentional silence (something that would be extremely difficult with this group of people) and personal reflection. Rather this is more of an opportunity to share challenges that we face as a community and garner support and energy for the coming year. I would have to say that the only difficulty with this retreat was that we had so little time to process all of the wonderful energy that was in that living room in Tom & Molly Bartlett’s home. Tom, your new Sr. Warden led us into those areas that need attention (particularly around our building and the challenges of its deferred maintenance) as well as encouraging us in those areas that we should be celebrating (especially around the “welcome” liturgy that we did two weeks ago when the line of newcomers stretched from one end of the sanctuary to the other) and for that we are deeply grateful.

Several folks have commented to me in the past months about this new sense of energy and excitement that is filling our space. Our welcome and inclusion of Operation Nightwatch into our community has done much to spread the word about our ministry and mission on the corner of 13th and Clay. We are beginning to reap the harvest of the hard work of discernment by focusing on those things in our life as a community of faith that speak to the Gospel imperative that we feed the hungry and clothe the naked. There is much more work to be done than we have the time and resources to do – and so we look with

faith and hope to the Holy Spirit that dwells among us when we gather in the name of the Christ and boldly state that we are a church that declares its commitment to service in the name of the first deacon (literally server) of the Church, St. Stephen. We also are a church that invites each of its members to discern how they might like to live out that service in any of our outreach ministries. If you would like to discuss those opportunities with our Minister for Outreach (Paul Davis) or myself, please feel free to do so at any time. This new energy can lead us to places that we never dreamed we would go and fill our hearts and souls with compassion and caring for a world that sorely needs our service in the name of the One who gave his life so that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

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.

Ash Wednesday, 9th March

Noon: Imposition of Ashes

7:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Distribution of Ashes

Weekday Activities

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

For information contact: Mary Komachi (babamk@juno.com), Stephen Snyder (shsnyder@att.net) or Kelly Laslie (laslie471@comcast.net)

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.



***Daylight Savings Time
Begins on Sunday, March 13***

Remember to put your clocks forward one hour

March Adult Inquiry

Bach's St. John Passion, BWV 245

Join us for the four Sundays of March to examine and discuss the text, music and musical context of Bach's great oratorio the St. John Passion.

During the first winter that Bach was responsible for church music at the St. Thomas Church, Leipzig and the St. Nicholas Church, he composed the St John Passion for the Good Friday Vespers service of 1724.

Bach used chapters 18 and 19 of the Gospel of John in the Luther Bible, and the tenor Evangelist follows exactly the words of that bible. Like his other vocal works, however, the composer and librettist included secular passages and portions of text familiar from other contemporary works.

The result is one of the most powerful pieces in music history.

Jean and Mic Fleming will facilitate the discussion at 9:00 in the Parish Hall between the services. Although we will discuss the Easter themes of the text, the conversation is intended to provide an appreciation for the work itself, which can be heard in its entire performance at three concerts of the Portland Baroque Orchestra the weekend of March 13th. As she did for her Grammy-nominated recording of Bach's Orchestral Suites, Monica Huggett, PBO Artistic Director, will reexamine the original, more intimate scoring of this work, dating from the 1724 version.



Fri 11 Mar 2011 07:30PM First Baptist Church

Fri 11 Mar 2011 07:30PM First Baptist Church

Fri 11 Mar 2011 07:30PM Reed College

March Men's Bible study

Dr. Luke: Friend of Paul, and of Jesus Christ

Luke was the physician. Jesus was the Great Physician. The writer of Luke/Acts talks often about various illnesses and diagnoses. He knows only Jesus, however, can "heal the sin sick soul," in the words of the African-American spiritual.

The men's Bible study group takes up the study of Luke this month in its continuing look at the four Gospels. Luke, friend and companion of Paul, not only was a medical doctor and person of science, but a historian. His account of the life of Christ is rich in detail, from his beloved story of Jesus' birth to Jesus' ascension after his crucifixion.

Luke's contribution to the New Testament is in two parts. The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the church and Christianity's spread to all the known world. Luke, sole non-Jewish writer in the New Testament, argues persuasively for Jesus' being, indeed, the Jews' long-awaited Messiah, the Savior of the world.

Much of the material in the Gospel of Luke is found in Matthew and Mark. Much of it, however, is new. Luke's detailed and exact style of writing, lovingly presented, makes even the former seem new. The men's group will study it all, asking, as did Luke, for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The group will meet every Wednesday, except Ash Wednesday (March 9), at noon in the church library. Prayers will be offered for the group's "special concerns" before adjournment at 1 p.m. sharp.

“Mardi Gras” Sunday, March 6th

The season of Lent is the 40-day period of preparation before Easter beginning on Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 9th. This penitential season was marked by ritual fasting. Getting ready for it invited a “Fat Tuesday” (Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day as it is traditionally known in many countries) the night before to celebrate and eat up all the meat and eggs and rich foods left in the cupboard.

This year at St. Stephen's, we're celebrating early! Our "Mardi Gras" will be on Sunday, March 6th. 10 AM Eucharist will be a jazz mass featuring our clarinetist Brother Gregory, and guest pianist Roger Paulson. Brother Gregory is also our preacher.

Immediately following the service everyone is invited to stay for a Pancake Brunch in the Parish Hall, prepared and served by our Saturday Breakfast crew of St. Stephen's Table. Special thanks go to Mike Zula and Kelly Laslie who will be cooking the pancakes and giving us a taste of the 10 years they lived in New Orleans.

We will also remind each other about our work as a parish to feed the hungry through St. Stephen's Table and our new partnership with Operation Nightwatch. In addition, we'll hear from Robbie Ashenberner, son of Sue Rossiter and Alan Ashenberner, who founded our Saturday Breakfast program at age 11 when he announced to his parents that he wanted to offer a meal as a community service project. It was to be as welcoming as Sunday morning coffee hour, only on Saturday. Ten years later, Robbie continues to be an active participant in the program which typically serves 75-100 people every week. We'll hear Robbie's story of service at St. Stephen's, his vision for the future of the Table and how we can all get involved.

All are welcome! Please invite friends to join us and find out more about the good work and warm community of our parish.

Birthdays in March

Molly Bartlett	March 5	Ann MacFarland	March 17
Betsy Berry	March 6	Ann Knight	March 24
Lee Kilbourn	March 9	Sabin Belknap	March 26
Merry Emlaw	March 13	Melissa Arnold	March 27

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.

LENTEN SUPPERS AND POETRY REFLECTIONS

“I’ve Got a Feeling in my Heart”

St. Stephen’s second annual poetry series begins on Wednesday, March 16th. The readings will have poems by Jimmy Santiago Baca, Adam O’Riordan, Philip Levine, Mary Oliver, Denise Levertov, Thom Gunn, Seamus Heaney, John Updike, and others. In addition lyrics from such songwriters as Kate Campbell, Tom Russell, Michael Kelly Blanchard, and Paul McCartney will be included. The group promises to be, if not a knee slapping rollick, both enjoyable and unsettling as we grapple with the most important issues of living and dying. Please join us, on any or all of the Wednesdays. Supper and fellowship begin at 6:30 in the Sanctuary with the discussion starting at 7:00 and lasting about an hour.

As we did last year, Dale and Ken will provide each participant a small book with the twenty or so poems that will be covered during the five weeks. The poems are fairly short, and most aren’t difficult, unless T.S. Elliot is somehow included again. Please RSVP by 13th so we can provide you the reading material. You may do so by emailing Ken at quietwriter@clear.net or calling him at 503-889-8549. And as the reading list is yet to be completed, if you have a suggestion for a poem, please email or call or talk to either Ken or Dale after church.

♪ Music at St. Stephen’s ♪

March 6, 2011, 3 pm - The Sometime Quartet

Adventurous ensemble Mel Downie, Cynthia Boelling, John Boelling, and Patrick Scofield, accompanied by Joe O'Donnell perform repertoire drawn from classical, Broadway, pop and folk.

May 15, 2011, 3 pm - The Julians

Kristen Buhler, Mel Downie, Liz Bacon and Maria Karlin take you on a musical journey as they explore, challenge, embrace, and sing the living daylights out of music that they love - from Bjork to William Billings.

Please plan to attend these upcoming concerts at St. Stephen's, 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.

Grand Opera in our Choir

We all knew we had great section leaders in our bass-baritones Tim Lafolette and Arne Hartmann, but what a confirmation of their talents it was to hear them as part of the chorus of Portland Opera's February performances of *Turandot*. They helped bring Puccini's final masterpiece "blazing to life," as one critic put it, in Portland Opera's season of "Fantasy or Reality?"

Everyone knows the aria "*Nessun Dorma*," from this opera. But "the real star of any *Turandot* is the orchestra and chorus, providing the mystique and the voice of legendary China, and a Mussorgsky-like commentary on the action. This is a big public opera with lots of difficult choral music and pseudo-Asian polyrhythms" notes Paul Pelkonen, in his opera blog *Superconductor*. In fact, James Bash, the *Oregon Music News* critic, singled out the chorus for especially strong singing in this production.

Arne has been singing professionally in the opera chorus for twelve seasons, and Tim has been a member for four.

What do they like best about their opera work? "We get to sing in the chorus with some great people completely dedicated to their art," said Tim. "And we get to sing on stage and hear some really great voices," added Arne.

What was their experience in *Turandot*? Tim said with a grin, "*Turandot* is musically very dramatic, but in this production there was much more drama offstage than onstage." He was referring to the often noted demanding style of stage director Christopher Alden, which was apparently on full display in rehearsal. "Yes, but he was much nicer this time around," Arne added thoughtfully, recalling Alden's last Portland visit for *The Flying Dutchman* four years ago.

The young Italian conductor Leonardo Vordoni led his first *Turandot* and first Portland appearance with this production and is getting universal raves. “Working with Portland Opera has been wonderful. I’m very impressed. Everyone from top to bottom wants to give their best, and the enthusiasm is contagious. Portland Opera is a real gem for this city.” On his blog he added, “I had a blast working with this chorus.”

Arne and Tim are great gems for St. Stephen’s. Their acclaimed talent and the terrific work of our two other professional lead singers, Esther Mae Jones and Elizabeth Farquhar, are made possible in part by the generous donations of St. Stephen’s Friends of Music. Won’t you consider placing a contribution in the plate next Sunday? Make checks payable to St. Stephen’s Friends of Music. Bravo! Brava!



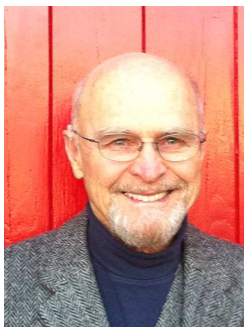
In Memoriam - The Rev. Lawrence S. Falkowski

For those who did not receive Father Dennis’ email, we would like to report the sad passing of The Rev. Larry Falkowski on December 26, 2010. He was the rector of St. Stephen’s from 1999 to 2007 and many of us remember him with affection.

The obituary notice from the New Jersey Star Ledger is posted on the bulletin board together with a copy of the letter announcing this by the Bishop of Newark.

Lee Kilbourn

MEET THE VESTRY CLASS OF 2014



Tom Bartlett



Sam Ganzaruk & Stephen Snyder

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30th we welcomed three new members to the vestry. **Tom Bartlett** was elected Senior Warden and **Sam Ganzaruk** and **Stephen Snyder** were elected to the Vestry. At the same time as welcoming them, we would like to offer sincere thanks to the three outgoing members, **Mic Fleming**, Senior Warden, and **Molly Bartlett** and **Darragh Lalich**.

Tom Bartlett, Senior Warden, has been a member of St. Stephen's for ten years serving in a number of leadership positions and is currently a member of the Building Oversight Committee (BOC). He is a past president of the American University of Cairo, which he visits several times each year, and is a Trustee of the World Affairs Council of Oregon. Tom is an alumnus of Stanford.

Sam Ganzaruk has been a member of St. Stephen's since early 2006. He is a native of the metro Boston area and holds a degree in English from Northeastern University in Boston. Sam previously served on the Vestry in the class of 2009 and is deeply committed to St. Stephen's. He also served several terms at his previous church in Santa Rosa, California.

Stephen Snyder is a long time member of St. Stephen's and is recognized as an important source of our institutional history. He has served at the altar, in the choir, flower guild and as a vestry member on several occasions. He has also served as the Sexton, Parish Administrator and clerk of the Vestry. Stephen is a graduate of Brown University.

Congratulations to these new members! Their talents will be a welcome addition to the excellent vestry we already have in place.

Communion in the Park

Sunday, February 13



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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.



Editor's Note

As this is my last issue of *The Sentinel* and *Calendar*, I would like to thank everyone for the support I have received in the past two and a half years. I wish my successor good luck as the parish continues to grow and I hope that he or she receives the same support that I have done.

Gillian Smith

<p><i>Parish Leadership</i></p> <p>The Rev. Dennis j. Parker, Priest-in-Charge revdennisj@comcast.net</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. J. Paul Davis, Minister for Outreach outreach@stst.org</p> <p>The Rev. G. Palmer Pardington, III, PhD. <i>(leave of absence), BOC Chair</i> gpardington@mindspring.com</p> <p>The Rev. Dale Carr, Assisting Clergy dalecarr@orst.edu</p> <p>Matt Smith, Director of Music music@stst.org</p> <p>Cristina Suniga, Treasurer treasurer@stst.org</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><i>Senior Warden:</i> Tom Bartlett (2014) <i>Junior Warden:</i> Lee Kilbourn (2013)</p> <p><i>Class of 2012:</i> Merry Emlaw Mike Zula</p> <p><i>Class of 2013:</i> David Henderson Choi Marquardt</p> <p><i>Class of 2014:</i> Sam Ganzaruk Stephen Snyder</p>
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Please send news and information for *The Sentinel* to EditorStSt@gmail.com. Contributions are gratefully received at any time.

Parish Calendar: events to be added to the Parish Calendar should be sent to the church office.

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