

# S W E E P S

Service • Worship • Education • Evangelism • Parish Health • Stewardship



January 31, 2010

## Cathedral Mission and Vision Statements

### St. Stephen's Cathedral Mission

**Statement:** We are a diverse community of Christians welcoming all into the Episcopal tradition, seeking and sharing God's grace with our lips and in our lives.

### St. Stephen's Cathedral Vision Statement:

We are called to be partners in Christ, celebrating our differences, equipping, empowering, and encouraging all on their journeys of faith. We will: Extend hospitality to all, whoever they are and from wherever they journey; Offer compelling faith formation oppor-

tunities to discern our call to ministry; Demonstrate a culture of gratitude and generosity for the gifts given and received;

Build administrative and leadership capacity to support one another in service to God and our neighbors;

Build a common bond of love of, in, and through Christ in worship and liturgy that invites discernment and personal journey through honoring tradition, engaging reason, and seeking direction from scripture.

## The Dean's Report

*The Very Rev. Churchill Pinder*

Dear Friends,

I thank God for the many gifts that we can celebrate at St. Stephen's Cathedral. As your Dean I am constantly aware of the strength of our lay leadership and spirit of participation that makes our many ministries possible. This year I have been particularly aware of the importance of our volunteers with the continued dwindling of our paid staff. Since being called to St. Stephens five years ago this is the first year we have not made our budget, even with the shrinking of our staff and our expenses coming in under budget in almost all of our ministry areas. For the past five years we have been working hard at lowering the mortgage and we have slowly paid it down. My concern is that since being your Dean we have been under financial stress that has been a constant. Long term stress needs to be recognized for it will impact our spiritual health if we are not deliberate in counter acting it. We

have been struggling, but a spirit of hope and gratitude continue to be our primary expression. As we begin a new year I believe that these challenging times offers us some wonderful opportunities as a parish family.

I want to begin by thanking our paid and volunteer staff, beginning with Kate Ryall, who works for 30 hours per week, and Sami Lytle who works 20 hours per week. The office is supported by the volunteer work of Betty MacLaughlin and Toni Koch as regular office volunteers and a whole host of special volunteers who support our mailing and other special office projects. Michael Shoemaker, our part time Music Director, is both our organist and adult choir director. Joan Esham, our part time Facilities Manager, works closely with our volunteer Property Committee. Gene Schofield and Helen Hendrickson comprise our volunteer Health Ministry staff and participate in our volunteer Caring Connection ministry led by Betty

*Continued on page 2*

## Senior Warden's Report

David Messner

A busy year, and not one without its challenges, has come to a close. What is remarkable is the dedicated response of so many members of St. Stephen's, including our Dean. We are not the first, and we will not be the last, to face challenges at St. Stephen's. Many of our members have been exceptionally generous with their resources in the recognition that others could not do so. Their generosity has sustained us during this challenging period.

A substantial segment of our energies this year has been devoted to the conservation of energy, namely the reduction of heating costs especially for the Chapter House and also for the Bigler House. The high price of city steam made the cost of the 2008-2009 heating season prohibitively high. Jim Elliott, assisted by Tom Long, Joan Esham, and Fred Staley, developed an informative analysis of current and prospective energy usage and costs for the Chapter House and Bigler House. Joan Esham arranged for presentations to our Property Committee representatives by several consultant and engineering firms. After examining our buildings, their conclusion was that the most important thing we could do to reduce heating costs would be to 'tighten' the two build-

ings.

Generously, Jim and Ann Elliott and Gene Scofield announced a gift sum available on a matching basis for cleaning, caulking, and installation of interior storm windows in the Chapter House and Bigler House. Several St. Stephen's members contributed the installation cost of one, and in some cases, several of the new interior storm windows. Julie Flood paid for ten of the windows in memory of her late mother, Barbara Staley. Barb would be so proud of Julie for her generosity. That work has now been completed. Joan Esham also researched the best offer from alternative electricity suppliers, and the Cathedral expects to realize worthwhile savings from that change, as well. A generous gift by Barbara Albee made possible the renovation of the Cathedral office. Two thoughtful bequests are examples of how our generosity and good deeds can continue to benefit others

*Continued on page 3*

## Dean's Report

*Continued from cover*

MacLaughlin.

The mission of our staff continues to be to "enhance the full participation of all of our members". This requires a grace, humility, and patience that are gifts for any community. We are getting better and better as a staff to give our volunteers permission to share and grow their skills in a variety of areas.

In addition I want to offer thanks to God to our superb Cathedral School staff led by Ruth Graffius as head and all the wonderful teachers and other staff members that make St. Stephen's Cathedral School one of the gems of education in our community. The school helps us truly be the Cathedral and School without walls and I give thanks for that powerful witness in downtown Harrisburg.

It has been a pleasure to work with your Vestry led by our Senior Warden, David Messner and your Junior Warden, Tom Douglas. David and Tom are wonderful symbols of the caring and support that the St. Stephen's community offers and as Dean they have offered great support to me and my family. I am excited about the coming Mutual Ministry Review scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> where we will work as a team to help review our past work and make specific plans for the future. Keep us in your prayers.

We have several developing ministries that we need to celebrate. The

*Continued on page 4*

## Table of Contents

1	Cathedral Mission and Vision Statements
1	Dean's Report <i>Rev. Churchill Pinder, Dean</i>
2	Senior Warden's Report <i>David Messner</i>
4	Service and Outreach Snapshot <i>Outreach Committee</i>
5	St. Stephen's Episcopal School <i>Ruth Graffius</i>
6	The Sycamore House <i>Shannon Powers</i>
7	Worship Summary Report <i>Churchill Pinder</i>
7	Music Department <i>Michael Shoemaker</i>
8	Acolytes <i>Greg Penny</i>
8	Altar Guild <i>Margaret Messner</i>
9	Flower Guild <i>Donna Burkholder</i>
9	Sunday School <i>Bee Kaiser</i>
9	Vacation Bible School <i>Kate Ryall</i>
10	Nursery <i>Bee Kaiser</i>
10	Pathfinders <i>Bee Kaiser</i>
10	Youth Group <i>Kate Ryall</i>
11	Adult Forum <i>John Harles</i>
11	Theology on Tap <i>David Messner</i>
11	Cathedral Book Club <i>Margaret Messner</i>
12	Evangelism Summary Report <i>Chris Nicholas</i>
12	Parish Caring Connection <i>Betty MacLaughlin</i>
13	Parish Health <i>Gene Schofield</i>
13	Stewardship Summary Report <i>Katie Long</i>
14	Property and Facilities <i>Joan Esham and Jim Elliot</i>
15	Cathedral Shoppe <i>Carol Witzeman</i>
	Center Insert - Financial Report <i>Mike Pasenelli</i>

## Senior Warden's Report

*Continued from page 2*

after we are gone. The bequest of Paul and Grace Schneider for improvements to the nave enabled us to contract for a needed re-painting. Additional improvements are under consideration, funded by their generous bequest. Caroline Evens, a musician in her own right and choir member, left us her wonderful piano and a bequest for the choir that enabled us to purchase much needed new chairs for the choir room and some long overdue new music. Our deepest thanks to both of these wonderful families.

This has also been a time for mission reassessment, specifically concerning the degree to which our continuing involvement in the Helping Hands Ministry is needed. Warren Gillam, Cathy Jones, Denise Foster, Bruce Rodehaver, and Tom Douglas are among our members who have done a wonderful job in welcoming and serving those in need. Because good meals are now available from other downtown churches, we are reconsidering whether our continuing to do so is the best use of our resources.

Thanks to wonderful support by the Sycamore House, your Cathedral hosted a wonderful Amazing Faiths dinner in October sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance. In September, other volunteers made possible an equally inspiring Interfaith Commemoration of 9/11, followed by a Ramadan Break-the-Fast (or Iftar) dinner of delicious ethnic food prepared by our Muslim friends.

Mary Murphy and Denise Foster continue to amaze us all with their energy and superb organization of our annual Pumpkin chase. Our sixteenth annual event last October attracted 650 runners and raised \$15,000 for distribution to five downtown ministries to those in need.

Thanks are also due to the hard work on the part of the organizers of the soup and bake sales to "eat away the mortgage."

Thanks to Megan Frascella's good work and persistence, we have a greatly improved web site and a parish directory update awaiting printing.

Kathy Yorkievitcz, Shannon Powers, Lynn

Everhart, and Tom Douglas have worked hard on the board of Sycamore House.

Betty Maclaughlin has done a wonderful job in organizing our Caring Connection, and in helping to staff the Cathedral Office, as has Toni Koch.

Dick Koch, Margaret Messner, Helen Delano, Carolyn Patterson, Jeff Spangler, and Tom Douglas have worked hard as board members of St. Stephen's School.

Carol Weitzman has done a wonderful job in running our Cathedral Shoppe, and Bekah Wilcox has provided us with impressive art displays from Haiti and other places around the world.

Thanks are due, too, to Wil Everhart and Chip Abrams for organizing the 2009 Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance as a fundraiser to reduce our mortgage. Wil and Tom Douglas are doing that for us this year.

Ellen Harles has again provided the refreshments for countless numbers of Sunday Forums.

John Harles and Peter Powers deserve special thanks for their long-running Sunday Forum presentations on our lectionary.

Our Flower Guild, Altar Guild, and our Cathedral Shoppe are wonderful assets.

Michael Shoemaker continues to be one of the best liturgical musicians I have ever heard,

The choir has brought us some beautiful liturgical music this year.

Joan Esham and our office staff and volunteers have done a marvelous job of holding things together this year.

And we have had another great year of discussion and fellowship with others from the community at Theology on Tap.

Again, so many to thank, and so little space to thank them. It was not an easy year, but together, we rose to the occasion and we made it a good year. St. Stephen's truly is filled with so many wonderful people. May God continue to bless St. Stephen's.

## Dean's Report

*Continued from page 2*

Sycamore House has 6 active members and is supported by a growing board led by Kathy Yorkievitz. This group has been instrumental in supporting both our youth as well as young adult activities such as the Thursday night dinners and several special events. The Mission Gallery is led by Rebecca Wilcox and Sarah Pabst and it continues to find ways to open our space and ministries to the downtown community. The Third Friday Project is the latest effort and I commend that to you if you have not come for an exhibit.

The list needs to continue if we are to do service but I am running out of space. Know that we will need to continue to celebrate all of our ministries and remember a central principle of God work with us. ***God provides for all of the ministries that are suppose to be happening in this place.*** I pray that all members will continue to participate in the variety of ministries that St. Stephens has to offer. You are a blessing to this parish and may God bless us all.

## Service and Outreach Snapshot

### *Outreach Committee*

Here is an outline of the varied ministries organized by our Outreach Committee:

#### **Helping Hands**

This ministry is currently in transition, but will continue.

#### **Great Pumpkin Chase**

**Objectives:** Raise at least \$16,000 to support local outreach efforts

**Steps:** Recruit runners, secure sponsorships, notify Vestry of proposed allocations, develop volunteer list

**Contact:** Mary Murphy and Denise Foster

#### **St. Barnabas Center Rainbow Summer Program**

**Objectives:** Summer and winter programs in transition

**Steps:** Confirm dates, solicit congregation for cash and in-kind support, develop volunteer list, provide suggested menus

**Contact:** Carol Witner

#### **Cathedral Gallery**

**Objectives:** Exhibit art from various cultures and invited community to view, raise \$3,000.00 to pay down mortgage and/or development of Bishop's Garden

**Steps:** Host and profit from monthly Third Friday shows and allocate proceeds, participate in Gallery Walk

**Contact:** Bekah Wilcox, Sarah Pabst

#### **Downtown Daily Bread**

**Objectives:** Serve and pay tray fees for clients on St. Stephen's designated Sundays

**Steps:** Recruit new volunteers through bulletin,

report cost of tray fees, report to Outreach Committee and Vestry

**Contact:** M. Russell

#### **Arts Fest**

**Objectives:** Make profit of \$5,000.00 to support Cathedral outreach

**Steps:** Arrange in advance to purchase supplies, request donations of water from congregation, develop volunteer shift list to cover 3 days, hold 2 planning meetings prior to event

**Contact:** Joe Schuetz

#### **Christ Lutheran Health Ministry**

**Objectives:** To provide needed health and hygiene items

**Steps:** Solicit donations from parish members through regular bulletin articles, collect and deliver items to Christ Lutheran

**Contact:** Polly Neal

#### **Christian Churches United**

**Objectives:** To encourage support and participation of CCU projects

**Steps:** Provide volunteers for winter shelter project, recruit a representative from St. Stephen's to sit on board

#### **Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation**

**Objectives:** To provide educational sponsorship to Ugandan students that have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS

**Steps:** Enlist new sponsors and encourage renewal of scholarships, communicate need in bulletin and Messenger, provide administrative support

**Contact:** Cathy Jones

*Continued on page 5*

## Service and Outreach Snapshot

*Continued from page 4*

### **Mama Rosa Fund**

**Objectives:** To raise \$500.00 quarterly to send to Rosa Mainjay for the support of the 13 orphans she is raising

**Steps:** Solicit donations from parishioners, record keeping and fund administration

**Contact:** Cathy Jones

### **Central PA Literacy Counsel**

**Objectives:** Recruit and train tutors to provide services in conjunction with the Counsel

**Steps:** Recruit new tutors through bulletin and the Messenger twice a year

**Contact:** Donna Burkholder

### **Youth Service Trip**

**Objectives:** Provide a service-oriented trip for the youth of the parish

**Steps:** Support through fundraising and solicitation of donations

**Contact:** Churchill Pinder

### **Habitat for Humanity**

**Objectives:** Provide volunteers for hands-on ser-

vice participation on a local Habitat project, raise funds through annual concert

**Steps:** Announcements in bulletin and Messenger as opportunities arise.

**Contact:** Greg Penny

### **Crop Walk**

**Objectives:** Fund raise to support and address the needs of the hungry

**Steps:** Obtain sponsors for walkers and runners, solicit donations from parish

**Contact:** Bill Ilgenfritz

### **YWCA Mother's Day Cards**

**Objectives:** Sale of cards for which profits provide nightly shelter to women at the YWCA

**Steps:** Advertise cards through bulletin, Messenger, and at Adult Forum, sell through Cathedral Shoppe

**Contact:** Cathy Jones

## St. Stephen's Episcopal School Report

*Ruth Graffius*

Over thirty one years ago the doors opened and the sound of children filled every corner of the Cathedral House. Today that tradition continues not only in those nineteenth century rooms, but in this wonderful Cameron Building. As in the past, students today are encouraged to achieve their full potential in their academic, creative, moral and spiritual development. They are lead to these achievements by loving and caring adults in their lives. Our dedicated faculty and staff here at school demonstrate a passion for personal learning and then share and inspire their students to be lifelong learners. Our school family values the patnership which exists between the school parents, the Cathedral family and the wider community to assist in our goals. It does take a village! This past year has seen many traditions continue and new ones begin. Students continue to study and achieve academic milestones, while teachers look for new and innovative methods to guide them toward these goals. Our curriculum is revised and updated to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. New programs this year for students are after-school opportunities including art, guitar, and piano lessons. Beginning next

month we hope to start a choir opportunity for those interested in singing with Sycamore House residents. A very active Home and School Association continues to plan fundraisers to support programs throughout the school year. New this year was a family movie night with a concession stand! The Board of Directors expertise continues to meet the goals set out in the Strategic Goals developed in 2008. As you can see, it is a collaborative effort to run a successful outreach mission we call our school.

Financially we have been challenged by the ever-changing economy. Fortunately, last year we were blessed with several large grants to fund our scholarship program. We were able to assist numerous families who had a strong commitment to the school and our philosophy of education. We have many challenges ahead of us, but we are ready to meet them head-on and with an open mind.

We give thanks to all of you who contribute time, talents and prayers to make this school what it is today. We are proud of our wonderful children and grateful to our many kind and loyal friends.



## The Sycamore House Report

*Shannon Powers*

“The Sycamore House is a community house founded in faith in Christ and commitment to a life of prayer, service, community development and creativity. It exists for Christians seeking to explore what it means to live in community for the purpose of service and building relationship with God, one another, and the surrounding city.” These are lines from documents developed last year to introduce potential members and others to the work of the house, a community housed in the historic Bigler House adjoining the Cathedral and — new this year — in the rectory of the St. Andrew’s in Harrisburg’s Allison Hill neighborhood.

This year’s house members have included Bekah Leeper, Kate Ryall, Jen Ryder, Steve Thompson and Doug Weaver, all of whom were part of the community for some or all of the ’08-09 year. New to the house in June were Andrew Bargh, Sean Maloney, Lindsey Morrison, Sarah Pabst and Kaitlin Wheeler. We recently said goodbye to Sean, who resigned for personal reasons, and Kate, who completed her year in the community. Kate and several other house alumni living in Harrisburg maintain closely tied to the community, as the Sycamore House is a hub of social and cultural activity and service opportunities for scores of young people living in and visiting the city.

Most house members started their year with a baptism of fire of sorts, joining the youth on a five-day service trip to the Virginia outer banks: sleeping on a church floor, replacing roof and windows and doing various repairs on a low-income resident’s home — this year, a delightful elderly gospel singer and local personality known to us as “Aunt Thelma” — worshiping, sweating, working and laughing together with youth from a Virginia parish and assorted adult volunteers. Returning to Harrisburg, house members jumped headlong into finding part-time jobs while serving in myriad ways, including but by no means limited to, leading St. Stephen’s youth group; helping with VBS; teaching Sunday School; Kipona and Arts-fest fund-raisers; Pumpkin Chase; Mission Gallery; Helping Hands; hosting, preparing and serving meals for visiting choral groups; and planning and carrying out their own events such as a Halloween party fund-raiser for the Pumpkin Chase,

Youth Photography exhibit and benefit music show for the International Justice Mission...and that’s just in the Cathedral and downtown. The Allison Hill group held two incredibly successful “Trash-Away Days,” hauling away several tons of trash from the surrounding area and gaining media attention and neighborhood support in the process. They have served St. Andrews and the neighborhood by renovating the rectory, regularly maintaining grounds, establishing a community garden and developing relationships in the neighborhood.

Both houses participate in a weekly community meal, hosting any and all comers from St. Stephens, St. Andrews, Harrisburg, Haiti, Sao Paulo, D.C., Philly... They are involved in community organizations including the Interfaith Alliance, Downtown Daily Bread, Madeline Olewine Memorial Library, Build-a-Bridge International, SAH Ministerium, community ESL classes, Joshua Farm, Brethren Housing, Barak Inc. and the list goes on.

In the fall, Hethkenly Tercy, from Port Au Prince, Haiti, moved into the downtown house, offering new opportunities for house members to get involved in ESL tutoring and expanding their cultural horizons in an up-close and personal way. The Sycamore House is supported by a Board whose current members (from St. Stephens and St. Andrews) are Bill Allford, Lisa Brittingham, Charlie DeBrunner, Margo Colichio, Walter Deihl, Beth Douglas, Tom Douglas, John Harles, Churchill Pinder, Shannon Powers, Sandy Schultz and Executive Director Kathy Yorkievitz. (Special thanks to Lynn Everhart and Donna Burkholder, who have completed their service.) We are working toward non-profit 501(c)3 status for the organization.

The board and youth group hosted “Songs for Sycamore,” a May fundraiser at the Art Association of Harrisburg, raising over \$2,700 in an evening of art, eclectic music and a chance to send off a wonderful departing group from last year’s Sycamore House.

The Sycamore House and Board invite you to join us fulfilling our mission, “...learning how to follow Christ in service to each other and the surrounding community.”

## Worship Summary Report

*Churchill Pinder*

Worship continues to be the central act for our community of faith. We are blessed with a wonderful group of worship leaders that make us a Cathedral that can move from an intimate family moment to a grand and festive Cathedral worship experience. Both the Mission and the Vision statements offer Worship responses. In the Mission statement we are described as a diverse community of Christians who welcome all into the Episcopal Tradition. We need to remember that our primary worship tool of the Book of Common Prayer becomes our ally in evangelism and that as we consider our future worship experiences we need to strive to make its resources accessible to all. The end of the Vision statement might be used as a core statement for our worship: *We will Build a common bond of love of, in, and through Christ in worship and liturgy that invites discernment and personal journey through honoring tradition, engaging reason, and seeking direction from scripture.* These words offer us clear direction of our future tasks and if we add the images of the earlier Vision Statement where we are directed to offer hospitality, faith formation, demonstrating an atmosphere of gratitude and generosity we have further direction and goals we can work towards in our worship.

My prayer is that all members of this community will remember that the word "liturgy" means *the work of the people*. The worship experience and authority for all the leaders comes from the people. Each time the cross leads the choir and the clergy from the congregation this truth is expressed. I

hope we will remember that our challenge as we move into the future is doing the job of passing on these tools and gifts of worship to new people as they join our family and to the new generations as they take their place as the leaders doing the work of the people. One parishioner had the following response to Worship at the Cathedral: *May I reinforce the point that the thoughtful, predictable composition of the biblically based liturgy, the richness of the music, choristers and flowers, the challenging sermon blending reason into the Gospel, and the awe of the Eucharist at the beautifully prepared altar present St. Stephen's core competency. The Sunday service differentiates the Episcopalian congregational worship experience from other Christian venues. And St. Stephens does congregational worship well and enjoys a reputation for doing it well.*

*Vestry's making congregational Cathedral Sunday worship the most important and substantive hour in each person's week should be its highest priority as those two services are the most efficient and promising moments to "restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." Catechism p.855*

## Music Department Report

*Michael Shoemaker*

*...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19)*

**Number of Participants:** 14

**Choirmaster:** Michael Shoemaker

**Email:** michael@ststep.org

**Phone:** 717-732-2974

### **2009 Activities:**

Held choir rehearsals weekly throughout the church year

Choir sang for weekly services

Prepared and planned for music and schedules

Played the organ for regular services as well as weddings and funerals

Refurbished the choir room

Asked for more volunteer choristers

Attended weekly staff meetings

Worked with Hethkenly Tercy on musical endeavors

Performed all administrative duties of the department

Maintained all musical instruments through tuning and repairs

### **2010 Goals:**

Obtain new choristers

Develop a handbell choir under the direction of Mrs. Mary Ellen Baxter

Plan and prepare music for all Cathedral events as requested

Maintain all musical instruments through tuning

*Continued on page 8*

## Music Department Report

*Continued from page 7*

and repairs

Provide a variety of music styles for services  
Rehears choir weekly  
Update music library  
Organize several volunteers to assist in choir duties

**Interested in participating in the Music Department? Specific skills are needed in the following areas:**

**Choristers:**

Ability to sing  
Willing to commit to the time needed for both rehearsals and services  
Accepting the need to strive for excellence  
Cooperating with the choir master and fellow choristers  
Follow directions

**Choir Assistants:**

Having a desire to help the music program run smoothly  
Having the time to do assigned duties  
Help in filing and making music files  
Putting the hymn numbers of hymn boards  
Cooperate with the choirmaster

**Time Commitment:**

Choir rehearses from 7-9 pm every Thursday during the church year  
Choristers are to be able to attend and participate in scheduled services  
Choir assistants will work at times agreeable to the choirmaster  
Noteworthy Comments:

We are gratified by the generous gift of money left to our department by the late Caroline Evens [a former chorister]; this year we have been able to purchase new choir chairs. Our choir room has also taken on a fresh and inviting appearance thanks to the efforts of Ron Burkholder who did the painting and Ruth Brommer and Joan Esham who, along with Michael Shoemaker, selected and purchased the chairs. And we must not overlook Jack Smith who is assembling them, thanks to you, Jack. The choir room is also used for some instrumental instruction. We invite you to take a moment to visit our facility to see the changes. Our Bishop's wife, Mary Ellen Baxter, is seeking volunteers to join a handbell choir she hopes to organize. All interested parties should contact the office. This would be another venue for music to add to our services.

We welcomed Hethkenly Tercy, a student from Haiti, to join our department activities for a short time. He will be organizing a youth choir in the afterschool program of our school. Heth has also joined the choir as a counter tenor. Other duties have also been undertaken by him. We offer our deepest regrets and comfort to Heth as he awaits news of his family, friends and school who were a part of the tragic earthquake in Haiti. May all of us pray for their well being.

We ask for your prayers and your support. All who enjoy singing are welcome to join the choir. For what better way to please God than to sing his praises?

## Acolytes Report

*Greg Penny*

Thank you to our young volunteers who serve faithfully during the 10:15 Sunday service as acolytes at St. Stephen's. They include Joyce Abraham, Alexis Arnold, Ben Fissel, Rachael Fissel, Chase Foster, Cody and Carson Kahoe, Kenny and Christian Reyes-Loring, Carson and Tucker Nicholas, Rhys Pinder, Samantha and Madeline Schuetz, Hailey Spangler, John Tartline, and Rosa-

lie Weber. They are a joy and pleasure to work with. We all as a congregation appreciate their willingness to participate as acolytes and thank them for their service to St. Stephen's Cathedral. If there are any other young people age 9 or older who would like to become acolytes, we encourage them to join us. Contact Greg Penny at penny-house@msn.com for more information.

## Altar Guild Report

*Margaret Messner*

The service of the Altar Guild is to prepare the altar and sanctuary for all of the services offered at the Cathedral, which this past year totaled

about 230. These services include the regularly scheduled weekday and Sunday services, plus additional services for feast days, funerals, wedding,

*Continued on page 10*

## Altar Guild Report

*Continued from page 8*

ordinations and evensong. The Altar Guild consists of approximately twenty people. Four teams of volunteers serve one week per month, washing and polishing silver and brass, laundering and ironing linens, changing the hangings according to the church season, setting the table for the Holy Eucharist, and cleaning the area in the sanctuary and chancel.

Preparing the table for Holy Eucharist is a privilege. With love and devotion, the members quietly report to attend to the appointed tasks on their assigned week and volunteer to cover special services as needed. The dedication of the members is extraordinary. The teams are always eager to welcome new members. Let us know if you are interested.

## Flower Guild Report

*Donna Burkholder*

Again it has been the Flower Guild's privilege to adorn the Cathedral weekly and during special services for God's glory and for all life's celebrations. We have had numerous weddings, funerals, a birthday celebration, various off-site events, and the Christmas greens sale that brought in revenue. Flower Guild volunteers spend countless hours on the job. Backs, feet and knees hurt, but the beauty of the end result is so uplifting that dis-

comforts are pushed aside. We, Christi, Donna and Louise, want to thank all the regular guild members and our male auxiliary for doing a fantastic job, particularly at Christmas and Easter. We also want to thank all of you who give us extra help at the special times. We always want to welcome anyone who wants to participate in the special events. We especially want to encourage new members to join our guild. You do not need to be

## Education

### Sunday School Report

*Bee Kaiser*

Our church school programs, which are enjoyed by approximately 55 students, representing 27 families, are held each Sunday between the 8:00 and 10:15 services. We again participated in the lectionary based Living the Good News Curriculum. It follows the Gospel and readings for each Sunday and also provides activities and discussion ideas to build on these lessons. The classes are divided by grade and are currently preschool through 1<sup>st</sup> grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with 2 teachers for each class in the lower grades and 2 adults plus 1 sycamore

house member helping with the 4th and 5th grade class. The middle and high school students also meet between the services on Sunday. They participate in a self prepared discussion based program lead by Shannon Powers, Lisa Brittingham and Sycamore House members.

This year we introduced a new gathering time at the end of the Sunday school hour in which clergy presented various themes. Our goals for Spring of 2010 is to continue with the current curriculum and gathering time with the goal of presenting another drama or music event at the end of the

### Vacation Bible School Report

We had a very successful week of VBS this past year. A record 43 children and 50 volunteers attended. The program, Kingdom of the Son, focused on the Lord's Prayer and the music, craft, snack/game, Bible and community service stations reflected this theme by reinforcing the Bible story presented each day. In an effort to help families of those continued our dinner program which began just prior to the VBS program. It

was a huge success. Discussions are underway for a program in 2010. Our goal this year is to present another outreach opportunity to families who attend the church and St. Stephen's school, but to also extend the invitation to the Harrisburg community. In addition, we are encouraging non-parent participation, either as a guest speaker, helpers with set up or clean up, assistance at stations or registration.

*Continued on back page*

## Nursery Report

*Bee Kaiser*

Our Nursery program has had a very successful year with Kate O'Conner as the permanent nursery assistant. The goal for this year is to work on a paging system so that parents can be contacted during the service if needed, making minor structural updates to the space to ensure that all children are safe, making cosmetic updates to the

space to provide a bright comforting space and ensuring that the nursery is always staffed during all church related activities on Sunday. We will be seeking donations for these updates, so please contact the office if you are interested in participating.

## Pathfinders Report

*Bee Kaiser*

Pathfinders is a program designed specifically for children in grades 3-5. This group meets 1 to 2 evenings a month for discussion and/or an activity. All are welcome including friends. Please contact Karen Weber (harkarweber@comcast.net)

for additional information. Look for a Lenten gathering in February and dates to be announced for the Spring. The goal for this group is to provide a safe and fun pre-youth group experience.

## Youth Group Report

*Kate Ryall*

**Number of Participants:** 10-15 youth weekly  
6-8 leaders weekly

**Contact:** The Sycamore House and Churchill Pinder

**Email:** sycamorehouse@ststep.org,  
churchillp3@gmail.com

**Phone:** 717-236-4059

### 2009 Activities:

Concluded the 2008-2009 year with curriculum encouraging us all to critically engage popular culture  
Celebrated the conclusion of the year with a party  
Served for five days in Melfa, Virginia mid-summer with youth and volunteers from a parish in Virginia, reroofing and installing new windows  
Welcomed new members and new leaders in the Fall of 2009  
Hosted kickoff party for the Fall  
Watched episodes of critically-acclaimed *This American Life* and discussed issues raised in terms of our faith and our lives  
Played creative and cooperative games  
Staffed Helping Hands for two Sundays in the Fall, serving, cleaning and sorting clothes  
Participated in the HUGS ministry  
Listened to Joyce Abraham and Elizabeth DeKok's presentation on their trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil

Attended *Functional Fixedness* art show opening at Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg

### 2010 Goals:

To continue to invite all 6th-12th graders in the area to participate  
To continue to improve documentation of attendance and curriculum  
To develop new curriculum  
To recruit parishioners to serve as volunteers and assist in transitions  
To continue to cooperate with the middle and high school Sunday School class  
To develop a youth-staffed design team to help in making decisions and steering the experience  
To recruit youth workers and adult volunteers for the annual service trip  
To continue improving upon parish-wide communication regarding Youth Group activities  
To further develop the Youth Group page of the St. Stephen's website  
To continue having fun every Sunday night!

**Interested in helping out with the youth?**  
We meet every Sunday evening from 6:00 to 7:30 at the Sycamore House. Planning meetings are held throughout the week. If you are interested, please contact the Sycamore House at sycamorehouse@gmail.com.

## Adult Forum Report

*John Harles*

**Number of Participants:** Four members of the committee

**Primary Contact:** John Harles

**Email:** jharles@messiah.edu

**Phone:** 717-766-2511 x6580

### **2009 Activities:**

For the first half of 2009, Adult Forum focused on a lectionary-centered Bible study, an emphasis that was very well received. That said, during the second half of the year, the committee decided to offer a mix of topical themes and Bible study.

Among the subjects discussed: General Convention and the challenge of diversity in the Episcopal Church; inter-faith engagement with the environment; sexuality, marriage, and the church. We also convened a panel of fellow parishioners to consider, "Why I am an Episcopalian." Finally, discussion of the Lectionary readings comprised the final three Sundays in Advent.

### **2010 Goals:**

Beginning in January, in recognition of the in-

creasing publicity and challenges of atheism to people of faith we will offer a three week series engaging the perspectives of those who deny the existence of God. Next, Richard Hughes of Messiah College will consider the relationship between faith and politics, remarks based on his new book, "Christian America and the Kingdom of God." Subsequent Sundays through May will center on facets of the Nicene Creed. As always, we anticipate a lively and generous discussion as we try to determine what it is that Christians mean when they say, "We believe."

### **Interested in participating in Adult Forum preparation?**

We invite those with a desire to continually learn about one's faith—what it means personally as well as how it engages the broader world.

### **Time Commitment:**

Formally, perhaps a couple of times a year, but we are in fairly regular email and phone contact.

And, of course, we see one another at church.

## Theology on Tap Report

*David Messner*

Theology on Tap meets at 7 pm on the third Wednesday evening of each month on the second floor of Stocks on Second restaurant located at 211 North Second Street in Harrisburg. We order from the dinner menus at Stocks and begin discussion of the chapter(s) of the book we are currently reading. During the past 18 months or so, we read *Evolution and Christian Faith: What Jesus and Darwin Have in Common—Reflections of an Evolutionary Biologist*, by Dr. Joan Roughgarden, a distinguished biologist and an ardent Episcopalian, *The Anglican Vision*, by James E. Griffiss, who was Canon Theologian to former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, and after that, a larger book by Karen Armstrong, *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism*, in which she explores the roots and similarities between fundamentalism in Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. In our December

2009 meeting, we began reading a new book, *Who or What is God? and Other Investigations*, by John Hick. He is one of the world's foremost philosophers of religion, and the book is a collection of paper he has written on various topics over the years, which was published in 2009. We have a good range of opinions in our discussions, and the purpose of the book is to get us started and help us to focus. About half or two thirds of our members are from St. Stephen's. The rest include Catholics, Unitarians, Lutherans, and Rabbi Choper who is a Reconstructionist Rabbi. Discussion is lively but always respectful, and we welcome new members. Come and bring a friend or friends. For additional information, please contact David Messner at 717-770-0462 or [dsmessner@verizon.net](mailto:dsmessner@verizon.net).

## Cathedral Book Club Report

*Margaret Messner*

The Cathedral Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Bishop's Parlors to read and discuss one book per month selected by the group. It is a small, inti-

mate group with relaxed discussions. New members are always welcome. Contact Margaret Messner at 717-770-0462 or [mamessner@verizon.net](mailto:mamessner@verizon.net).

## Evangelism

### Evangelism Summary Report

*Chris Nicholas*

1. We are wrapping up our efforts to update the photos in the Church Directory. If you'd like to send along an updated photo of you/your family, please email it to Kate in the office at [katesry-all@gmail.com](mailto:katesry-all@gmail.com).

2. Alison Guerin has updated the brochure we give to visitors and prospective new members. Today we're giving you two copies of the brochure -- keep one for yourself and please pass along the other to a friend. Thanks Alison!

3. Tell us -- why are you an Episcopalian? You will soon have a chance to answer that very question -- on video. We are taking a cue from the national Church's 'I Am Episcopalian' project (visit [www.IamEpiscopalian.org](http://www.IamEpiscopalian.org)). What they've done is conduct brief videotaped interviews with folks explaining why they are an Episcopalian...and put them on that web site. Our goal is to do the same with our members (you) and post the videos on our new and improved web site, as a way to share more about St. Stephen's with potential new members in the community.

Again, these are brief videos -- most are less than 90 seconds. We encourage you to share your story about your journey to and within the Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's. We will get more details to you about when and where we will do the filming. In the interim please visit the [IamEpiscopalian.org](http://IamEpiscopalian.org) website to see what others are saying about the church.

4. Remember: all of us are important members of our ongoing Evangelism efforts. Our goal is to attract new members to St. Stephen's and make sure they get integrated into and involved with the myriad of activities and ministries we offer. And finally...

- Have you invited a friend or colleague to share church with you recently?
- Have you asked someone from church to work with you on a project or committee?
- Have you (gasp) sat in a different pew so as to meet/worship with new people.

If you'd like to join the Evangelism Committee, please contact me: [chris@eagleconsult.com](mailto:chris@eagleconsult.com) or 717 574 6674.

## Pastoral Care

### Parish Caring Connection Report

*Betty MacLaughlin*

**Number of Participants:** 22 plus those who pray in the E-mail Prayer Chain

**Primary Contact:** Betty MacLaughlin  
**Email:** [bmaclaug@juno.com](mailto:bmaclaug@juno.com)  
**Phone:** 717-260-0583

**2009 Activities:**

2009 was a year of organization, but also of service, for the Parish Caring Connection. The Committees under the Parish Caring Connection are Parish Health Ministry, Visitation, Transportation, Meals, Card and Telephone Ministry, and E-mail Prayer Chain.

Each Committee is staffed by volunteers to provide help to parishioners who need the services of the particular Committee. The parishioner has the responsibility of calling the Church office to request the help, and then the chair of the Committee arranges for a member of the Committee to provide the help.

The Parish Health Ministry educates parishioners in health-related issues and provides health-related

resources as needed. They provide blood pressure screenings on the first Sunday of every month and keep all medical equipment in the parish in working order. They also maintain the parish prayer list that appears in the weekly bulletin and maintain contact with the shut-in parishioners.

The Visitation Committee makes needed visits to those families requiring respite care.

The Transportation Committee takes parishioners to doctor appointments, clinics and hospitals as well as food shopping when family or friends are unavailable to provide this transportation. They also deliver meals prepared by the Meals Committee.

The Meals Committee members prepare and freeze meals to be used by parishioners when they return home from a hospital stay.

The Card and Telephone Ministry sends cards and makes telephone calls to ill or homebound parishioners or those who have experienced a death in

## Parish Caring Connection Report

*Continued from page 12*

the family.

The E-mail Prayer Chain is made up a group of parishioners who pray for those with more specific detailed requests for prayer.

### 2010 Goals:

Our goals for 2010 are to continue to provide needed services to parishioners and to advertise our services so that parishioners know how to obtain these services. We will also strive to provide training in such items as visitation and grief in 2010.

### Interested in participating in the Music Department?

Everyone has the opportunity to participate in the Parish Caring Connection, however, particular skills are required for some Committees.

The Parish Health Committee can best use those with

some health-related background.

The Visitation Committee requires folks who are friendly and caring.

The Transportation Committee requires people who are safe drivers and who are available during the day-time.

The Meals Committee requires people who are good cooks!

The Card and Telephone Committee requires people who are friendly and caring.

The E-mail Prayer Chain requires people who can pray and who are discreet with the information provided to them about the folks for whom they are praying.

To join the Parish Caring Connection, contact Betty MacLaughlin at 260-0583.

The Parish Caring Connection meets quarterly. The next meeting is Monday, February 8 at 7 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Chapter House.

## Parish Health Report

*Gene Schofield*

Number of Participants: 2

**Primary Contacts:** Gene Schofield and Helen Hendrickson

**Email:** ins0317@gmail.com

**Phone:** 717-213-0922

### 2009 Activities:

Updated the Protocol for Emergencies and posted in 12 Locations

Updated emergency supplies and equipment as indicated

Participated in monthly Parish Nurse Luncheon

meetings

Attended all Caring Connection meetings

Provided support to clergy

Did visits and counseling to parish as indicated

Established e-mail prayer chain

Continued bereavement mailings

### 2010 Goals:

Continue participation in Caring Connection to support and increase Health Ministry and support to Parish.

## Stewardship/Administration

## Stewardship Summary Report

*Katie Long*

**Number of Participants:** 18 (includes the Vestry)

**Primary Contacts:** Katie Long and Betty MacLaughlin

**Email:** [8katie8@verizon.net](mailto:8katie8@verizon.net)  
bmaclaug@juno.com

**Phone:** 737-2663  
260-0583

### 2009 Activities:

Stewardship got off to a late start this year due to our inability to find someone willing to chair this committee. Katie Long and Betty MacLaughlin agreed to co-chair the Committee.

We asked members of the congregation to speak

as to why they pledge to St. Stephen's. These testimonies were made for four weeks at both services. We ran articles in the Messenger and in the bulletins concerning Stewardship. Announcements were made on Sundays at both services. Churchill mentioned Stewardship in several sermons, and John Harles gave us a Sunday of Adult Forum to make a presentation.

Pledge cards were sent out to parishioners in October.

Churchill conducted a training session about how to approach folks concerning Stewardship.

Using the preliminary Neighborhood Groups that

*Continued on page 14*

## Stewardship Summary Report

*Continued from page 13*

were made from a map of families researched by Megan Frascella, we assigned vestry members plus some other parishioners, who kindly agreed to help, to make follow-up calls to parishioners about pledges, thanking those who had already pledged and encouraging others to pledge. We also used these calls to update our parish records and inform parishioners about the Parish Caring Connection and the Neighborhood Groups. In addition, we asked parishioners about any concerns they had about the Parish, asked if they needed any help and solicited their Stewardship for time and talent as well.

We are approaching our goal, but, as is always the case, the final dollars are the most difficult. We welcome any pledges of time, talent and dollars that have not yet come in, and we are sincerely grateful to those who have pledged and especially to those who have increased their pledges and to those who have made new pledges.

Finally, we would like to thank those who re-

sponded to our calls with frank and honest assessments of where we are as a Cathedral and what are our strengths and weaknesses. This information is always helpful, and we are grateful to receive it.

### **2010 Goals:**

We plan to gain more active members for the Stewardship Committee.

We plan to begin visitation of parishioners to encourage them in their Stewardship activities.

### **Volunteer Information:**

Stewardship involves the whole Parish program and every Committee.

People on the Stewardship Committee must have genuine enthusiasm for St. Stephen's Cathedral through time, talent and financial commitments.

### **Time Commitment:**

The most hours occur during the fall Stewardship Campaign.

We meet monthly during the year.

## Property and Facilities Report

*Joan Esham and Jim Elliott*

**Number of Participants:** 10

**Primary Contacts:**

**Property Chair:** Jim Elliott

[jelliott@gfnet.com](mailto:jelliott@gfnet.com) or [elliotts@verizon.net](mailto:elliotts@verizon.net)

(717) 979-0802 (cell) or (717) 737-5572 (home)

**Facilities Manager:** Joan Esham

[facilities@ststep.org](mailto:facilities@ststep.org) or [jesham@msn.com](mailto:jesham@msn.com)

(717) 236-4059 ext 110 (office) or (717) 215-2110 (cell)

### **2009 Activities:**

Evaluated energy and utility consumption, considered heating conversion proposals, and identified projects to reduce energy consumption.

46 new interior Plexiglas storm windows in Chapter House; repaired, sealed and painted interior windows; project will pay for itself in 2 years with energy savings.

Repair and repaint Nave

Continued summer Weeding & Watering Program  
2 successful campus-wide clean up days

Used monetary gift from Carolyn Evens to purchased & assembled 24 new Choir Room Chairs

Install new flooring in Undercroft restrooms

Bi-annual upgrade of Tracer Summit software to heat/cool building efficiently

Choir room repaired & painted by choir member & parishioner Ron Burkholder (w/assist from Tom Long)

Formed a Bishops' Garden Planning Committee & began planning stages of 2010 garden improvements

### **2010 Goals**

Continue to cultivate new volunteers

Begin construction on improvements to Bishops' Garden

Evaluate all structures for needed work and improvements/prioritize & set action plan

Keep building the bridge between Cathedral & School in order to function efficiently & smartly

Continue recycling efforts between Cathedral & School

Weeding & Watering – Summer 2010

### **Interested in participating on the Property Committee?**

The Property Committee meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month @ 6 pm in the Chapter House (office) – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.** Meetings typically last 1-1 ½ hours. All are welcome and all are invited to attend and contribute. Specific skills are appreciated but not required or neces-

*Continued on page 15*

## Property and Facilities Report

*Continued from page 14*

sary and all ideas are appreciated! All that is required is a commitment to pitch in and roll up your sleeves, help out when possible and willingness to work as part of a team for the good of the

Cathedral and School. To be part of the SOLUTION contact either Jim Elliott or Joan Esham.

## Cathedral Shoppe Report

*Carol Witzeman*

The Shoppe showed a profit during 2009 although it was a very difficult year for retailers. The Shoppe has been retailing primarily Episcopal items as well as Fair Trade and Pennsylvania/USA made merchandise. One of the primary reasons for a stronger year in 2009 was the Presiding Bishop's visit in September. The extra event helped to boost figures since the Shoppe traditionally does well at Diocesan events. The other reason for a stronger year was the expanded Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Festival. Expanding from one Sunday to two was definitely a large boost to sales. Many who are away over the Thanksgiving weekend missed the previous year's Festival. The first Sunday was the strongest in sales, but having the second Sunday was a big plus for the Festival. As reported in the December, 2009 report, Ten Thousand Village personnel noted our expanded sales and thanked St. Stephens for our efforts in a trying economy. The two different locations for Sunday sales – first Sunday in the Undercroft and the second Sunday in the Community Room - also worked out well.

The Shoppe also sets up for Arts Fest and Kippona. Last year the Shoppe did not do extremely well at either venue, but Arts Fest will definitely continue with expanded hours. Most people arrive at Arts Fest later in the afternoon on Sunday and the Shoppe plans to be open at least until 4:00 p.m. If sufficient help can be found, the Shoppe would stay open later.

The Shoppe will operate in the same manner as in years past. Due in large part to the economy no major expansion plans are foreseen in the near future. The Shoppe plans to recruit more volunteers to assist in events and regular Sunday Services. The cart also does well in the summer since many visitors stay after services to enjoy lemonade in the Bishop's Garden and some visitors are very good customers.

The Shoppe is pleased to report that the sale of the St. Stephens replicas has covered the expense of production, so we did not lose money on them although there are a few left for purchase. The Shoppe is considering either a St. Stephens Christmas tree glass ball or a flat bronze replica ornament this year. Please notify the Shoppe Manager of your preference.

The Shoppe was able to donate \$300 to St. Stephens Episcopal School Scholarship Fund and thanks Vestry for approving this expenditure. We hope to be able to do that again this year. As in years past, the Shoppe requests a line of credit in the amount of \$750 to cover extra expenses. The Shoppe requests this line of credit every year and is happy to report that it has not been needed or used.

Once again, thanks to everyone for their assistance in making the Shoppe an important Outreach of St Stephens Cathedral.

# Sunday School Report

*Continued from page 9*

school year. In addition, we will continue with the children's offering and work towards more service opportunities. Two additional goals include encouraging greater participation by non-parents again, as guests or substitutes or partici-

pating during the end of class gathering time. We continue to discern how to best meet the needs of our current families and prospective families as we balance our worship and church school into one unified plan.

# Family Worship Report

*Bee Kaiser*

We introduced in the Fall of 2009 a new service beginning at 9:00 am one Sunday each month. This more contemporary service is a trial project designed to offer to those interested in a shorter, more contemporary hands-on service a chance to meet and celebrate. Readings by the congregation, music by piano, guitar or just those participating, and communion make this a traditional service with a twist. Please note that we are con-

tinuing to discern the direction this service should take and have held an initial meeting to get a sense of the needs of our members. More discernment will take place this Spring and all members of the congregation are encouraged to participate in these discussions. Please contact the church office if you are interested in this new project.

---

Many thanks to all of the staff and volunteer efforts that went into this Annual Meeting. From childcare to meal preparation to article submission to collating the Annual Report, we are very thankful for this supportive parish family!