

# S W E E P S

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



January 30, 2011

## 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 opportunities 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.

### St. Stephen's Cathedral Core Values

**Openness:** We value open minds, open hearts, open arms and open doors.

**Community/Fellowship:** We value connection, and strive to promote a sense of belonging among the members of the parish and welcoming guests and visitors.

**Education:** We value making person of all ages disciples of Christ through Christian Education.

**Tradition/Worship/Liturgy:** We value our connection to the traditional, sacramental life of the Anglican Communion.

**Financial Sustainability:** We value and recognize that financial health is essential for sustaining and growing our ministries.

**House of Worship:** We value worshipping in the beauty of holiness and tradition and being spiritually anchored in a center city location.

**Stewardship/ Volunteers:** We value everyone's time, talent and treasure as a faithful expression to the Glory of God and our community.

**Communication:** We value open, honest and timely dissemination of information in the parish and about the parish and the fostering of communication among the Vestry, parish membership, our ministries and the wider Church.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF OUR DIOCESE: We are partners in Christ with the love of God on our lips and in our lives.

THE MISSION OF ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL: St. Stephen's School is an ecumenical, Christian, center-city day school that welcomes children of all faiths and ethnic heritages. The school's mission is to nurture the child in an atmosphere of respect for the individual student, to provide superior academic training which is affordable and available to all, and as part of the outreach and mission of St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, to offer the teachings of the Christian faith in an Episcopal setting for the consideration of all.

## The Dean's Report

*The Very Rev. Churchill Pinder*

Dear Friends,

As we gather as St. Stephen's Cathedral parish to celebrate our life together in 2010 and prepare for 2011, my primary response is gratitude. Although we have ended with a small deficit, we are still strong because of your generosity and continued help and support. By cutting our staff to a barebones group and relying on volunteers to do the majority of the work, as well as continuing to cut costs wherever possible, we have achieved this balanced budget without using bequests or endowment principle to cover our operating costs. As we prepare for 2011, we need to make sure that this pattern continues so we can begin making a secure permanent endowment for the future.

I want to thank our Assisting Priest, Kim Brooks, for his continued help and support with worship. He has continued to grow in his ministry with us. I want to thank Michael Shoemaker, our Minister of Music, and Kat Reid and Sami Lytle, our Parish Administrators, who continue to offer their gifts and support to St. Stephen's very faithfully. I also want to thank Joan Esham who works as our part-time Facilities Manager, who represents for me the good work of the multitude of volunteers who help make the Cathedral flourish. We are gifted in many ways as a parish family, but particularly by the wonderful ministry of our Cathedral School, led by Ruth Graffius and all of the teachers, staff, students, and families that are such a vital part of our Cathedral family. I am also so pleased with the presence and good work of our growing Sycamore House Community and all their friends and contacts that are making a creative impact on the youth and young adults of our community. Remember that we are all invited each Tuesday at 7pm to join in their community potluck.

The good work of the Garden Committee is now evident in our new Bishops' Garden and labyrinth. That work has been beautifully complimented by the Stable renovation - led by Jim Elliot and the property committee - as the handicap accessible bathroom nears completion.

As we celebrate the pictures of 2011, it is clear that ministry is alive and well. I am grateful for the good work of Tom Douglas, our Senior Warden, and Deb McHugh, our Junior Warden, who have led our vestry so well this past year and have established our Strategic Plan for the next few years. The entire vestry has been working hard to clarify our goals and develop accountability in our ministry. We are making efforts to coordinate our variety of activities through the Commission Structure, and I am grateful to the leaders who are supporting this effort. We are also working at developing a local culture in our congregation with the Neighborhood Group meetings, organized by Betty MacLaughlin. We hope that these groups will allow people to support one another.

As we move into 2011, we have much to discuss. We need to strengthen our staff. We are very near to hiring a full time parish Administrator, and we are beginning to discern the needs of a Christian Education Coordinator. The quality and amount of your pledges should allow you to have a full staff, and your vestry wants to consider every opportunity to grow our Cathedral staff. Our mission as your staff continues to be to *enhance the full participation of all our members*. Remember that the Ministers are *all the members of the congregation* and the clergy and bishop are assistants to your ministry. May God bless us all as we celebrate 2010 and begin our journey into 2011. Thanks be to God for what has been, for what is, and for what will be!

Gratefully,  
Churchill

1	Cathedral Mission and Vision Statements
2	Dean's Report <i>Churchill Pinder, Dean</i>
3	Senior Warden's Report <i>Tom Douglas</i>
3	Service and Outreach <i>Outreach Committee</i>
4	Worship Summary
5	Music Department <i>Michael Shoemaker</i>
5	Flower Guild Report <i>Donna Burkholder</i>
5	Acolytes Report <i>Greg Penny</i>
5	Altar Guild Report <i>Margaret Messner</i>
6	Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers
6	Sunday School Report <i>Bee Kaiser</i>
6	Vacation Bible School
6	Nursery Report
6	Pathfinders Report
6	Family Worship Report
7	Youth Group Report <i>Dave Wolf</i>
7	Other Christian Education Opportunities
8	Adult Forum Report <i>John Harles</i>
8	Theology on Tap <i>David Messner</i>
8	Cathedral Book Club <i>Margaret Messner</i>
9	St. Stephen's Episcopal School <i>Ruth Graffius</i>
9	Evangelism Summary
10	Parish Caring Connection <i>Betty MacLaughlin</i>
11	The Sycamore House <i>Charlie Hoppes</i>
12	Stewardship Committee
13	Endowment Committee
13	Personnel Committee
13	Cathedral Shoppe
14	Property and Facilities <i>Joan Esham and Jim Elliot</i>
15	Bishops' Garden Report
	Center Insert - Financial Report <i>Mike Pasenelli</i>

## Senior Warden's Report

*Tom Douglas, Senior Warden*

As we look back over this past year, it is important to remind ourselves of our Cathedral mission: "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." This is an expression of our parish values and a collective obligation to all of us. Our efforts toward this mission require faith, diligence, and the love and support of others.

Our Book of Common Prayer includes a prayer for the parish (page 817) which, among other things, asks that God strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Whether we realize it or not, we repeat this prayer every day in our church life and in our expressions of concern for our parish family. In the course of normal life, we seek strength in and through our faith and we pray for the health of our family and friends. At times we must all be aroused from our carelessness and must be restored to our faith.

Your vestry and church leadership feel acutely the responsibilities of supporting the parish family, working toward our Cathedral mission, and being good stewards of our property. The ability to meet this responsibility requires faith, and the love, prayers, and support of the parish. The efforts of the vestry have included the development of strategic and annual plans for the Cathedral, the establishment of a structure for neighborhood groups, the development and execution of a stewardship plan, and engagement in the renovation of the Bishops' Garden. While much has been achieved over this past year, there remains much work to be done. It may seem a difficult task to ask that you give more or that you do more toward the fulfillment of our Cathedral mission, but we should all continue to seek and share God's grace with our lips and in our lives.

I have enjoyed being your senior warden and serving as a member of your vestry. The love and support I have received over these past several years has been very important to my family and myself. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and for your service to our Cathedral.

God Bless You,

Tom



## Service and Outreach

As you'll see from the below accomplishments, there's a lot to be proud of for Outreach in 2010. We're a "small Cathedral doing big things," and these accomplishments certainly reflect that! For this year, our immediate priorities are to form a working board, to look at what we're currently doing (who needs more help, is there too much outreach, not enough?), to work with Vestry to put guidelines in place, and to create a brochure. Contact: Mary Murphy

### 2010 Outreach Accomplishments

**Artsfest:** Artsfest is the weekend of Memorial Day, with St. Stephen's members serving hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones, and beverages. Close to \$3,000 was raised, going to those in need locally, nationally, and internationally. Contact: Joe Schuetz

**Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation Scholarship Program:** Twelve Ugandan students are currently sponsored by parishioners of St. Stephen's. The \$330.00 scholarship includes tuition and fees, uniforms, scholastic materials, daily lunch, and a mosquito net. Contact: Cathy Jones

**Downtown Daily Bread (DDB):** The first Sunday of every other month, St. Stephen's members serve

food trays at Downtown Daily Bread, and in 2010 that equated to almost 550. Our months to serve are January, March, May, July, September, November, and new volunteers are always welcome. Contact: Marianne Russell

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Pumpkin Chase:** This is St. Stephen's biggest fundraiser of the year and has become a local favorite among runners and families alike. For the 5k and 1-mile fun run, we had a record number of 720 participants. We raised \$14,000, which was divided evenly among 5 local outreach ministries: Downtown Daily Bread, Helping Hands Ministries, Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, St. Barnabas Children's Ministry, and the YWCA of Greater HBG. Contacts: Mary Murphy and Denise Foster

**Helping Hands Ministry of HBG, Inc.:** For more than 13 years, St. Stephen's Cathedral opened its doors every Sunday evening to the homeless and others in need, providing space and volunteers to assist Helping Hands serve a hot meal. Clothing was collected and donated weekly, as was our offertory basket of canned goods and other non-perishable items. Over the years, nearly every parishioner contributed to this ministry in one way or another. While all cannot be named, special recognition is given to the following for loyal service (many for over 10 years): Warren Gillam, Greg Penny, Gerry Garber, Pebbles Washington, Helen Delano, Bill Ilgenfritz, Tom Douglas, Stephanie and Mike Pasenelli, Bill Grimes, Cathy and Rob Jones, Denise, Chase and Maddie Foster, Sandy and Terry Roe, members of St. Stephen's Youth group, and Sycamore House residents.

Helping Hands Ministry is currently serving Sunday evenings at St. Michael Lutheran Church on State Street. Even though they are not in our Undercroft every Sunday, St. Stephen's will continue to support this ministry in any way we can. Helping Hands will continue to be a recipient of 2011 Great Pumpkin Chase proceeds, our Sunday School children will carry on the Valentine's Day card-making tradition, we will annually share the HUGS (hats, underwear, gloves & socks) items, etc. To volunteer to serve meals, please contact Kathleen directly. Contact: Kathleen Schulkens (717-919-4383 or [helping-hands-ministries@comcast.net](mailto:helping-hands-ministries@comcast.net))

**Mama Rosa Fund:** Thanks to generous contributions, we have been able to fulfill our \$500.00 quarterly commitment to the Mama Rosa Fund. We have received regular acknowledgement and thanks for these funds, which have primarily been used for food, clothing, and medical treatment for 13 orphans. Contact: Cathy Jones

**St. Barnabas Children's Ministry:** In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, St. Barnabas - located in Uptown HBG - had a very blessed year: we doubled the no. of summer campers, reduced tuition by 40%, had 8 churches (including St. Stephen's) prepared close to 5,000 nutritious meals for campers and counselors, participated in our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Highmark "Walk for a Healthy Community" with Bishop McNutt as our top fundraiser, and can report that over 90% of our budget goes to direct services for the children. Contact: Carol Witzeman and Mary Murphy

## Worship

Worship continues to be for St. Stephens 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 is a great gift that is the central expression of our Anglican identity. 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.*

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 parish 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. Stephen's does congregational worship well and enjoys a reputation for doing it well.*

## Music Department Report

Our mission is to bring added meaning to worship. This year, the choir has participated in several services apart from the regular Sunday service: the Ordination of Deacons, and also several choral evensongs. We were fortunate to have singers from outside the parish: St. John's Lancaster and Trinity Church, Chambersburg joined us for one of these services. The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM. They sing at the 10:15 service on Sundays, as well as special services and events.

Kudos to the members of the choir that give of their talents and time in the worship of God. They are a truly wonderful group. They are friends, colleagues, and supporters of each other. We are always interested in finding new people to join us in singing. We ask that parish members pray about joining us. How does one become part of the choir? There is no audition. All that is asked is a love for music and a willingness to be as regular as possible for rehearsals and services.

We are also fortunate to have Mary Ellen Baxter as the director of the newly formed bell choir. The bell choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings at 6:15 PM in the choir room. They are always looking for new members; this is another opportunity for worship. For more information on the Cathedral Choir, contact Michael Shoemaker at 717.236.4059 or e-mail him at [Michael@ststep.org](mailto:Michael@ststep.org). For more information on the bell choir, contact Mary Ellen Baxter at 717.236.5059 c/o Cathedral Office. The bell choir played on Christmas Eve at both the 8 and 11 o'clock services. *Michael Shoemaker*

## Flower Guild Report

The Flower Guild continues to adorn the Cathedral weekly and at special services for God's glorification and to celebrate life's special moments. Revenue comes from weddings, memorials, off-site events, and the Christmas greens sale. Thank you to our guild members, our male auxiliary, and all who help at special times. Without you, the job would be impossible. We are thrilled to have Patrick and Sandy Strohl back home on the guild and auxiliary and to have two new members: Karen Weber and Barb Gutekunst. There is always room for more volunteers. Please consider this creative, fun opportunity; we will train you! *Donna Burkholder*

## Acolytes Report

St. Stephen's is blessed to have a wonderful group of young volunteers who serve faithfully during the 8 and 10:15 Sunday services as acolytes. 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, Nikki Salomone, Ian Scott, Hailey Spangler, Hannah Stine, John Tartline, and Rosalie 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. Some of these acolytes will be graduating from high school this spring and heading off to college. We'll need new acolytes to take their place. 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 [pennyhouse@msn.com](mailto:pennyhouse@msn.com) for more information. *Greg Penny*

## Altar Guild Report

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 238. These services include the regularly scheduled weekday and Sunday services, plus additional services for feast days, funerals, wedding, ordinations, and evensongs.

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. The goal is to have five members per team. Let us know if you are interested. Contact Margaret Messner at [mamessner@verizon.net](mailto:mamessner@verizon.net). *Margaret Messner*

## **Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

The quality of lay leadership in the parish is exemplified in the good work and service of our readers and Lay Eucharistic ministers. We are always looking for new participants in these ministries. Please contact Peter Robelen or one of the clergy if you are interested. Training is offered by the clergy for each of these roles.

## **Education**

### **Sunday School Report**

Our church school programs, which are enjoyed by approximately 55 students, representing 27 families, are held each Sunday between the 9:00 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 volunteer teachers for each class in the lower grades and 2 adults plus 1 sycamore house member helping with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. The middle and high school students also meet between the services on Sunday. They participate in a combination of self prepared discussions and the Living the Good News Curriculum.

It is our goal for the Spring to continue with the current curriculum and to present a drama or music event at the end of the school year. In addition, we will continue with the children's offering with a specific goal in mind and work towards more service opportunities. Two additional goals include encouraging greater participation by non-parents again, as guests. 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. *Bee Kaiser*

### **Vacation Bible School Report**

We had a very successful week of VBS this past year: 35 children and 40 volunteers, both adult and youth attended. The program - which was a self-prepared Retro theme titled "Blast from the Past" - featured stories of the Good Samaritan, Fishers of Men, etc. We engaged learning with stations for music, crafts, snacks, and games. In addition, Bible and community service stations reflected our theme by reinforcing the Bible story presented each day. In an effort to help families of VBS students, we continued our dinner program which began just prior to the VBS program; it was a huge success. Discussions will be underway soon for a program in 2011. 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.

### **Nursery Report**

Our Nursery program was again staffed by 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 or if you would like to be added to substitute list to help out when Kate is unavailable.

### **Pathfinders Report**

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. In the Fall of 2010 we held a game night, Day of the Dead celebration and a Los Pasados event where we travelled from house to house like Mary and Joseph seeking shelter long ago. A party at the church celebrated their final stop at the Inn. Please contact Karen Weber ([harkarweber@comcast.net](mailto:harkarweber@comcast.net)) for additional information. Look for a service opportunity in the Spring. The goal for this group is to provide a safe and fun pre-youth group experience.

### **Family Worship Report**

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 continuing to discern the direction this service should take and have held an initial meeting to get a sense of the needs of our members. While this service took a break in the Fall of 2010, 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.

## Youth Group Report

**Number of Participants:** Approx. 10 youth weekly, 4-8 leaders weekly

**Location:** The Sycamore House **Contact:** The Sycamore House or Dave Wolf

**Email:** [sycamorehouse@ststep.org](mailto:sycamorehouse@ststep.org), [davecarlwolf@yahoo.com](mailto:davecarlwolf@yahoo.com) **Phone:** 717-979-1391

**A look back on 2010:** In the summer of 2010, our youth and several leaders from the past and current Sycamore House went on an annual service trip to Melfa, Virginia, roofing houses and installing new windows with a local parish. Following that adventure, we started the new school year with a kick-off party at the Weber's house in early September. It was a little cold for swimming, but that didn't deter some of the boys. After that we moved into some great Sunday night meetings. We've done several topics so far this year, including: 20 Questions (a four part series that breaks down the fundamentals of Christianity), A Love Story (a look at the Bible as a whole story), and unChristian (what perceptions do unChristians have of the Church and how can we make them better). We also did an interfaith study in November, during which we talked about the importance of understanding and respecting other religious views and traditions. We studied several Christian denominations, as well as listened to a visiting rabbi speak about Judaism.

We also had some great events this fall. In late October, we took a trip to a flashlight Corn Maze. The group had a lot of fun, whether it was launching apples from slingshots, drinking hot apple cider, having a corn-throwing battle, or just hanging out around the fire. We also threw a youth Christmas party, at which we played games, listened to Christmas carols, and had a cookie-decorating contest. It was a fun and relaxing way to finish the year.

**A look ahead into 2011:** We've got some big plans for 2011. To start, we have started a Youth Group Planning Committee, which, had its first meeting in January. This committee consists of youth, sycamore house members, parents, and anyone else who has an interest in our youth group. The committee's purpose is to help plan out monthly events and Sunday night meetings, as well as to help create a consistent program that will help future youth leaders as they come in and out. We already have some pretty exciting events planned for this year: a Superbowl party at Churchill, Sally, Rhys, and Kristina's house, a trip to the BounceFunPlex on Feb. 11, an over-nighter/service day in March, and an end-of-the-year party. We will also be planning some small monthly events. As for our discussion series, in February we are starting a series on relationships (with parents, peers, the opposite sex, etc.) and later this year, we will finish our Interfaith study by talking about some of the more unfamiliar religions, like Islam and Buddhism. So far, one could say that 2011 has been going pretty well for the youth group, and it looks like it will only be getting better.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact either the Sycamore House at [sycamorehouse@ststep.org](mailto:sycamorehouse@ststep.org), or Dave Wolf at [davecarlwolf@yahoo.com](mailto:davecarlwolf@yahoo.com). We meet from 6:00 to 7:30pm on Sunday nights at the Sycamore House. *Dave Wolf*

## Other Christian Education Opportunities:

**HUGS Tree** - the children participate in this project by creating the tags for the tree and we again gathered a significant amount of items to be distributed to the YWCA in Harrisburg and to other downtown groups who help the homeless.

**Annual Meeting** - Many volunteers come together to help the children in the Undercroft during the annual meeting to continue the tradition of preparing valentines cards and candy bags for the guests at helping hands.

**Christmas Pageant** - We had another wonderful pageant this year during the 5:00 pm Christmas service. The participants read passages from the Christmas story or a Christmas poem, "acted" out parts of the Christmas story or helped behind the scenes.

## Adult Forum Report

**Committee Members:** Helen Delano, John Harles, David Messner, and Pete Powers

**Primary Contact:** John Harles

**Email:** [jharles@messiah.edu](mailto:jharles@messiah.edu) **Phone:** 717-766-2511 x6580

### 2010 Fall Term:

For the first half of 2010, Adult Forum focused on a Bible study of the book of Amos. In addition, Professor Steve Cooper of Franklin and Marshall gave a presentation on attitudes toward sexuality in the early church. Finally, in Advent the Flower Guild led a hands-on session centering on their ministry to St. Stephens and beyond.

### 2011 Spring Term:

During the first two Sundays in January, John Harles offered a two-week series on the ethics of immigration restriction, looking at both the factual and moral debate surrounding immigration in general and undocumented aliens in particular. In February, Churchill Pinder will lead a five-week series centering on the theologian Marcus Borg's book, *Embracing an Adult Faith*. That will be followed by a Bible study of the book of James.

On a typical Sunday between 20 and 35 people attend Forum. Discussions are lively and often provocative as together we try to determine how to be "salt and light to the world."

### Interested in participating in Adult Forum preparation?

We welcome individuals with a desire continually to learn about the Christian 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! *John Harles*

## Theology on Tap Report

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 2 ½ years, 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.

During 2010, we read *Who or What is God? and Other Investigations*, by John Hick who is one of the world's foremost philosophers of religion. We also read *Man's Quest for God*, by Rabbi Abraham Heschel, an exploration of the nature of prayer. Currently, we are reading Karen Armstrong's latest book, *The Case for God*, which she wrote to correct distorted accounts of religious faith by today's prominent atheists. The books we read are selected by group decision. We have a good range of opinions in our discussions, and the purpose of each book is to get us started and help us to focus. About two thirds of our current members are from St. Stephen's. The rest have included Catholics, Unitarians, and Rabbi Choper who is a Reconstructionist Rabbi. Discussion is lively but 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). *David Messner*

## Cathedral Book Club Report

The Cathedral Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Parlors. The group selects one book per month for discussion.

The small, intimate group with relaxed discussions makes it a wonderful way to learn to know people in a different setting. New members are always welcome. Come and bring your friends. Contact Margaret Messner at 717-770-0462 or [mamessner@verizon.net](mailto:mamessner@verizon.net). *Margaret Messner*

## St. Stephen's Episcopal School Report

We are so blessed to be part of this church community. Each day our doors are open, students and their families benefit from the Cathedral's mission, outreach, and generosity. We appreciate those who have helped to touch the lives of our students and to make this a successful program. We are proud to be an important outreach ministry of the Cathedral. We have in the past and shall continue to have a tremendous positive impact on so many youth.

Each year our staff is reminded of our mission: to nurture students in an atmosphere of respect and to provide superior academic training. Our dedicated staff works diligently to meet these goals. Since last year, our classroom teachers have spent hours in professional development to enhance and refresh their methods of classroom instruction. Students' needs have increased, and new approaches have been explored to meet those needs. We are blessed to have such wonderful staff.

The Board of Directors continues to work diligently to meet our mission statement and our strategic goals. This year brought challenges with lower enrollment, but with excellent financial planning we are moving ahead. This January saw five new students enrolled! Board Committees are working to reach a larger community and grow our student body. We are blessed to have such a wonderful board

We take much pride in our students: not only those currently enrolled, but also our alumni. We take special pride in noting that two of our recent graduates have achieved superior ranking in their respective high schools; this continues a tradition of excellence in many of our alumni. We pride ourselves in providing strong academic opportunities, and we continue to strive for new and exciting opportunities to attract more students. We also have a strong commitment to build a strong sense of community and responsibility: a student pledge introduced this year emphasizes this personal responsibility. We are blessed with wonderful students and families.

I am pleased to report - on behalf of the Board of Directors, our Staff, and our students - this continued tradition of excellence. *Ruth Graffius*

## Evangelism

### Evangelism Summary Report

We have sent a new directory electronically and we are continuing the process of updating the list. We are also continuing to collect updated photos for the Church Directory. If you'd like to send along an updated photo of you/your family, please email it to the office at [ststepoffice@gmail.com](mailto:ststepoffice@gmail.com) or [Dean@ststep.org](mailto:Dean@ststep.org).

The updated brochure continues to be given to visitors and prospective new members.

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.
- We have collected many of your statements and our goal continues to be to 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.
- These are brief videos -- most are less than 90 seconds and if you have not been filmed we encourage you to share your story about your journey to and within the Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's. Simply call the office if you are interested in adding your story.

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 any vestry member.

# **Pastoral Care**

## **Parish Caring Connection Report**

Number of Participants: 22, in addition to those who pray in the E-mail Prayer Chain

30 Neighborhood Captains

Primary Contact: Betty MacLaughlin

Email: bmaclaug@juno.com Phone: 717-260-0583

2010 was a year of service and activity 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. The Neighborhood Groups also fall under the umbrella of the Parish Caring Connection.

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 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.

The Neighborhood Groups were organized in 2010. There are presently 35 groups. Nine of the groups have successfully met, and five other groups tried to meet, but were unsuccessful due to group members' conflicting schedules. One group has members who are mostly homebound, so the Captain has stayed in touch with each member of the group to communicate and become aware of any needs. Thirty of the groups have captains, and one additional captain has been secured for 2011. However, because of a move from the area, one captain will be leaving in 2011 and will need to be replaced.

The Parish Caring Connection Committee goals for 2011 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 in 2011.

For the Neighborhood Groups, we hope in 2011 to fill all of the vacant Neighborhood Captain slots and encourage each group to meet at least once, if not twice. Neighborhood Groups have been organized to strengthen fellowship within the congregation and to serve as a communication tool. In addition, they give an opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors should an emergency arise.

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

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 daytime.

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.

A Neighborhood Captain needs to be hospitable and friendly.

To join the Parish Caring Connection or become a Neighborhood Captain, contact Betty MacLaughlin at 260-0583.

The time commitment depends upon the requests for services for the various Committees. The time commitment for a Neighborhood Captain is five to ten hours per year.

The Parish Caring Connection meets three to four times per year. The next meeting is Thursday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Chapter House. *Betty MacLaughlin*



## The Sycamore House Report

*Charlie Hoppes*

Every year, the Bigler House (located at 223 North Front Street, next to the Chapter House) hosts the residents of the Sycamore program. Andrew Bargh and Hethkenly Tercy return for their second term this year, and are joined by newcomers Rebecca Coover, Ryan Gerber, Sarah Ginolfi, Charlie Hoppes, Kat Reid, and Dave Wolf. The mission of the intentional community is to “explore what it means to live in community for the purpose of service and building relationships with God, one another, and the surrounding community.” The members of the house participate in three spheres of community: with one another, the St. Stephen’s Cathedral family, and the greater Harrisburg community.

Many of the house members started their term by shipping off to Virginia on the annual youth service trip. Despite stifling heat, the youth repaired a roof on one home and constructed a deck on another. Of course, we also managed to fit in much fun and frivolity as we served together. As the primary leaders of the youth group, the Sycamore House has begun helping to restructure the youth group program into a more organized curriculum, with time for trips to corn mazes and bowling, as well as time for discussion on topics like interfaith relations and the practical meaning of being a Christian. The House has collaborated with several board members to put in place the newly-formed Youth Group Planning Committee. This committee engages House members, parents, youth, and members of the congregation to direct St. Stephen’s youth program: from lesson plans to snack providers for the upcoming month.

The House has been active in the Cathedral in many other ways as well. Members of the program hold a strong presence in the choir, the Cathedral Office, and Sunday school (in addition to helping out at Vacation Bible School). We have had several successful bouts of fundraising at Artsfest, Kipona, and the Great Pumpkin Chase. Our own Sarah Ginolfi is also serving as an intern at St. Stephen’s as she discerns her calling to the priesthood.

In addition to weekly youth group gatherings, the House plays host to a weekly alternative church geared toward young adults. This meets at 8:00pm on Sunday nights; the group is service and discussion geared, and focuses on practical ways to live out a Christian faith. In addition, our house continues to deeply enjoy hosting our community dinners every Tuesday at 7:00pm. We’ve watched them evolve to include people from our neighborhood, the Cathedral, various colleges, nearby towns, and a number of locals. The age range at times is remarkable: teenagers to grandparents have shown up at our door.

The Bigler House also remains a successful venue for musicians to play shows for charity. This fall and winter, hundreds of dollars have been raised for Youth for Christ, International Justice Mission, Love146, and Build-A-Bridge, with musicians both local and abroad (including acts from both Seattle and Argentina).

Several members of the program continue to work with various parishioners to make the Bigler House a “greener” place to live, striving to save money and the environment. The latest hope is to create a compost system for the house, which is no easy task in the city. Some of the tasks for the fall included insulating many of the windows as well as working with area contractors to learn how best to replace the draftiest/oldest of the current windows. We have high hopes to finish this window project in the spring. These same house members hope to garden with the Joshua Farm - a community garden in the Allison Hill area of Harrisburg - as the warmer weather arrives.

In the St. Andrew’s Sycamore House (located in Allison Hill), Phil Wilmot, Charity Roberts, and Lana Monroe are just settling into their service term. Great things are expected from the rebirth of that portion of the Sycamore House program in the coming months.

The board of the Sycamore House program is comprised of Churchill Pinder, William Alford, *Director of the Board* Kathy Yorkievitz, Sharon Arnold, Lisa Brittingham, Charlie DeBrunner, Christi Forsythe, John Harles, Liz Lari-bee, Shannon Powers, and Sandy Schultz.

The Sycamore House and Board look forward to a great rest of the winter and spring, and cannot wait to see more of each of you in the coming months.

## **Stewardship**

### **Stewardship Committee**

The mission of the Stewardship Committee is to educate the congregation about all the aspects of Stewardship. To this end we have written messages in the Bulletin every week and in every Messenger. Churchill has preached about Stewardship and we have had presentations at Forum. We have also encouraged fellowship and a sense of family and community at monthly events such as the Chili Cook-off, the Parish Picnic the Ministry Fair and the Men’s Breakfast etc.

We have conducted every aspect of the Stewardship Campaign. In October we mailed a letter from Churchill describing the aspect of Stewardship which concerns pledging for the support of the mission and maintenance of the Cathedral. Included were pledge cards and a flyer which we designed with information about our goals and highlights of the accomplishments supported by the 2009 pledges. We had parishioners explaining what Stewardship means to them at the 8:00 and 10:15 services. Announcements were made in church, before the 8:00 and 10:15 services, concerning the importance of pledging. We encouraged the Christian Education Committee to stress the theology of Stewardship to the children and youth in the parish.

As a follow-up to Stewardship Sunday, we sent personalized thank you letters to all who had pledged which Churchill wrote and signed. We called all those who had not pledged. Subsequently we sent reminder notes to those whose pledges were still outstanding. And we plan to follow up with phone calls to the non-pledgers in an effort to determine the reason for not pledging. This may be a pastoral concern which can be corrected.

The members of our committee are all the Vestry, Co-Chairs Katie Long and Betty MacLaughlin, Helen Delano, Ellen Harles, Lane Schultz, Anne Yellott and David Yingst. We thank each of them for their support and contributions to our efforts. We had two formal meetings and conducted the remainder of our business through emails and phone calls. The co-Chairs met more often, sometimes with Churchill.

Our vision for 2011 is to continue educating the parishioners concerning Stewardship and the concept of time, talent and treasure. We also hope to reach our budgeted goal in securing pledges.

We welcome new members to our committee. Those interested can contact either Katie Long: 737.2663 or [8katie8@verizon.net](mailto:8katie8@verizon.net), or Betty MacLaughlin: 260.0583 or [bmaclaug@juno.com](mailto:bmaclaug@juno.com).

## Endowment Committee

The St. Stephen's Endowment meets four times per year. The committee consists of The Honorable Hannah Leavitt, Barbara McLemore, Dick Koch, Mike Passenelli, Tom Douglas, The Very Reverend Churchill Pinder and Wil Everhart. Anyone interested in attending a committee meeting should notify Wil Everhart. The initial amount invested mid-year with Hershey Trust was \$450,000. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 2010 was \$492,214. In October, \$18,000 was withdrawn from the fund to help pay for the improvements that were made to the Bishop's Garden.

--Wil Everhart, Chair

## Personnel Committee

Initiated October 11, 2009

Developed a charter

Met three times

Developed two job descriptions: Cathedral Administrator and Facilities Manager

Developed and approved 3 Personnel Policies:

- Personnel Philosophy

- Employment

Employment Fair Treatment

Developed 4 Forms:

- Employment application

- Employment Reference Investigation

- Request for Time Off

Payroll sheet

Developed an Employee Orientation Procedure

Interviewed six candidates for Cathedral Administrator position.

Contact: Michele Campbell

## Cathedral Shoppe

The Cathedral Shoppe once again had a profitable year. The two major events of the Shoppe, the Diocese Convention and the Ten Thousand Villages Festival are still the biggest events both in sales and work. Fortunately, they both showed a small increase over the previous year's figures. The Shoppe showed at Arts Fest but due to the first time charge for admission to Arts Fest, attendance was down and sales for the Shoppe were minimal. The Shoppe did not set up for Kippona since that venue has not worked in the past several years and it was decided not to make the effort. The Shoppe also set up for LARC held at St. Stephens. This event was also disappointing as far as sales were concerned.

The Shoppe brought in some new St. Stephens items this year and some of them did well. Several new Episcopal items were also made available with the same results. The Shoppe also attends the Philadelphia Gift Show and has made contact with new Fair Trade vendors. Again some of the merchandise has been well received. The spring and fall wreaths made in Lancaster sold well in 2010.

The Shoppe welcomed back long time volunteer in the Shoppe, Tom Leaman. We are still looking for more volunteers and will be advertising in Sunday's bulletin for new members for the Shoppe team. The Shoppe is also looking for new ways to entice parishioners to support the Shoppe. The Shoppe welcomes suggestions from parishioners as to items they would like to see made available.

The Shoppe has put in a request for a \$300.00 donation to the St. Stephens Episcopal School Scholarship Fund and a \$300.00 donation to St. Barnabas Center for Ministry. These funds come from the profits of the Shoppe and do not impact St. Stephens budget in a negative way. The remainder of the profits from the Shoppe have been going to St. Stephens general fund. The Shoppe netted a profit of about \$2,500 in 2010. As in years past, the Shoppe requests a line of credit from the general fund of \$750.00. To date the Shoppe has not had to draw on the line of

credit but in the event of a poor year or purchase of another St. Stephens replica, it might be necessary to use these funds.

The Shoppe will not be open the last Sunday of each month until June. The closing will be on a trial basis to see how sales are impacted and if more volunteers assist. The Shoppe will again attend Convention in June and host the Ten Thousand Villages Annual Advent Festival the first two weeks of Advent. It is hoped that the resumption of lemonade in the Bishops' Garden in the summer months will again lead to stronger sales. Visitors continue to be strong supporters of the Shoppe. *Carol Witzeman*

## Property and Facilities

Joan Esham (Facilities Manager) Jim Elliott (Property Chairman)

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

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Our Mission Statement: the Property Committee of St. Stephen's Cathedral is dedicated to maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds of the entire campus to the Glory of God. In collaboration with the Vestry and other committees, we will use resources appropriately, economically, safely and sustainably, respecting the needs, differences and dignity of our worshipping community. Simply put: the care and feeding of our buildings!

2010 Accomplishments:

- Completed installation of interior storm windows throughout the Chapter House to reduce heating costs.
- Developed a 5-year maintenance plan for each of our buildings. Work to accomplish goal - in progress
- Re-pointed & repaired exterior brick wall of Parish House from Bishops' Garden door to River Street
- Added gutter shields and repaired gutters along roof of Cameron Building; added several downspouts for better drainage
- Replaced damaged ice & snow shields – Cameron Building
- Continued to improve on HVAC efficiency with annual preventative maintenance contracts and bi-annual upgrade of Tracer Summit software to heat/cool building efficiency
- Total removal and remodel of Carriage House (stable) restroom; ongoing project that will yield one handicapped accessible bathroom & secure entrance to upstairs lab
- Bishops' Garden Phase 1 completed – see Bishop's Garden Update
- Continued summer Weeding & Watering program with success
- Evaluated energy & utility consumption (ongoing) and identified projects to reduce energy consumption
- Added programmable thermostats to Bigler House and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Carriage House (lab)
- As part of Carriage House bathroom, rewired electricity using buried conduits and relocated radiators on ground floor
- 2 successful campus-wide clean up days in Spring & Fall
- Continue to build the bridge between the Cathedral & St. Stephen's School in order to function efficiently & smartly

The Property Committee meets the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm** (note new time). We are looking for new members who will commit to make suggestions, help with decisions regarding the physical plant, work in conjunction with the Facilities Manager, pitch in with projects whenever possible and have a willingness and eagerness to work as part of a team for the greater good of St. Stephen's Cathedral and School!

We are also looking for any handy volunteers, who may not want to be members of the committee, but wish to

help with some one or two day projects, like painting or routine and special upkeep items on our 5-year plan to place all of our facilities in proper condition.

2011 Vision:

- Continue to move forward with our 5 year maintenance plan
- Continue working on security issues - #1 priority
- Replace a series of interiorly located, leaky windows in the Bigler House
- Re-point rear wall of Chapter House and front wall of Carriage House
- Complete Phase 2 of Bishop's Garden (planting)
- Weeding & Watering program – Spring/Summer 2011

*Thank you* to all existing committee members for their participation in 2010 and a special thank you to all of the volunteers who have pitched in this year. *Joan Esham and Jim Elliott*

## Bishops' Garden Report

For many years, there has been an ongoing discussion to do something to enhance our existing Bishops' Garden. After much internal discussion at some of the Vestry meetings, and then additionally with the Vestry's approval, it was decided to pursue a project to enhance this aspect of the Church property. The initial study with preliminary design sketches began back in the spring of 2009. However, it wasn't until the following October that a committee actually began to gather. The group of individuals that were asked to serve on this committee are members that represented both the Church and School.

The committee for the Bishops' Garden consisted of the following individuals:

Churchill Pinder, Ruth Graffius (Church and School), Anne Yellott, Helen Delano, Patti Anderson (School representative), Pat and Duryea Cameron, Leslie Amoros (School representative), Diocese representative, Jim Elliott, Jim Kaiser, and Joan Esham.

The committee met about every two weeks from October through June, working on reviewing the design elements for the project and scheduling the various components. Once the committee had decided on which design elements we believed would benefit the church and school, we selected a landscape architect to complete the design. Because of cost constraints, the project was broken up into two phases.

The project's two initial phases were as follows:

### **Phase 1 included:**

- Utility relocations
- Underground drainage system
- Grading & removal of existing plants and hardscape
- Installation of Pavers including Labyrinth
- Brick Wall
- Fence with gates

### **Phase 2 includes:**

- Soil amendments for the plantings
- Plants
- Mulch
- Benches
- Lighting
- Screen fencing cost and installation between the concrete area next to the Bigler house and Bishops garden.
- Planters
- Re-pointing of bricks on the buildings that are adjacent to the garden.

The design for phase 1 was completed in early June and a pre-bid meeting was held in July. We had 4 bids for the project. Work began in August and most of the work finished up in the middle of September. The remaining items for phase 1 are the fence and gates which will be part of the brick wall and we are hoping that they will be completed this spring.

The work was performed by the following:

- The grading and drainage work was completed by Vern Stine and others.
- The utility relocations were performed by Verizon, Comcast and W.S. Carey Electric.
- Lakeside Builders to complete the paver installation and constructing of the brick wall & columns.
- The fencing and gates will be completed by Churchill & others to be determined.

Paver replacement on Diocesan property will be completed by Churchill and others to be determined

We are currently accepting donations to help pay for the initial phase of the project as well as towards phase 2. So if you would like to donate towards this wonderful project please let one of the committee members know.

Thanks to all in the congregation and the school for your support of the project. We know at times it looked like the project was never going to get finished. But as they say you have got to break a lot eggs to make an omelet. We hope you are satisfied with what we have accomplished so far and are willing to support us towards the finish.

Thank you, The Garden Committee

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!