



# the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

*The biweekly parish newsletter of The Cathedral Church of St. Stephen, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

Vol. 11, No. 2

February 6, 2005

## On Front Street

Over the course of my ministerial meanderings and parish peregrinations, one of the greatest gifts I was ever given, while serving as Associate Rector at St. Francis Church, was a 3 month Clergy Renewal Leave. In keeping with current ecclesiastical thinking we intentionally avoided the term “sabbatical” so as to dissuade anyone of the notion that some project, dissertation, study or book length undertaking were meant to be produced or achieved. Rather, this time away was offered simply as a break from the vocation, a period apart, a brief but lovely season in which to literally do nothing. In that seemingly long ago winter of 2002 I left Providence on New Year’s Eve and embarked for San Jose, Costa Rica, wandered about in that country and in Nicaragua for a month, then returned for 4 days of further exploration in the deep, rural interior of south Florida (an utterly different world from the coastal, resort, and retirement-oriented communities). From Tampa it was on to a month in the Mojave Desert in eastern California, southern Nevada and western Arizona. Finally, my “leave” took me to La Paz, Mexico for 3 weeks, back to Los Angeles, and finally home to a cold, drizzly Palm Sunday in Massachusetts. I recall standing bewildered in the liturgical procession, holding a limp, green frond, and thinking to myself: “how did I get here and what am I doing?”

In a way, the single greatest “gift within that gift” was an extended time of uninterrupted prayer and deep reflection, the most concentrated and profound examination I had ever undertaken or had thrust upon me. Think how rarely any of us receive even a day or a week of such release from the insidious demands of phone, email, meetings, traffic, finances, laundry, and noise. With both a little bit of organization on my part and the tremendous grace of the people of St. Francis I received the precious offering of just such time and space. Emptying myself and letting go of all that “was” became the first challenge, though one which, over time, simply unfolded. Regaining that long-lost balance in life, a cohesion which seemed to have slipped dangerously from my grasp as I churned through parish ministry, is a feeling I shall never forget.

Sitting one quiet afternoon overlooking the harbor in La Paz, nursing a Coke and reading Graham Greene’s “The Power and the Glory”, I simply looked up at the horizon and the hills, felt an indefinable presence of God, and knew that I had been liberated, albeit temporarily, from the mad, frenzied life which I had brought upon myself. Eating simply, walking quietly, sitting for many hours in solitude whether by the sea or in the ancient Cathedral in La Paz, I felt renewed in exact proportion to the degree I felt emptied. This essence was both thrilling and unnerving.

The metaphor of “journey” is used more frequently during Lent than at any other time of the Christian year, or so it seems. We recall the 40 days temptation and wandering of Jesus after his baptism, the 40 years exodus and struggle of the Israelites, the 40 days rain of the great flood in the time of Noah. We are often compelled to undertake our own disciplines or activity, something which might approximate these foundational biblical experiences. But never forget that this journey is inward as well, for the travels can be a Zen-like movement to nowhere and of no consequence, a trek that ends precisely where it began — in your soul. Put another way, in doing nothing you may in fact be accomplishing much. Often we see better when we don’t look so hard. We hear better when we let the voice come to us and silence our own tongue. We speak better when we say nothing. Mystical? Maybe. But more truthfully this is a kind of recognition of the holy which is sorely absent in much of our world. God is not only all about us but all within us. Reclaiming God and our relationship with the Deity is at the very heart of the Christian life. And just how we undertake such seeking and reclamation and renewal is only with and by and through discernment, a whole other subject in and of itself.... [Part 1 of 2 parts]

*In peace and faith,*

The Very Reverend Mark H. Hatch  
Interim Dean

# News and Events

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## Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Elections

At this year's Annual Meeting the following were elected to Vestry:

Helen Delano	Mike Pasenelli
Linda Shorey	Harry Weber

Many thanks to ALL who prayerfully put their names forward in nomination!

The following were elected as Delegates and Alternates on behalf of St. Stephen's for the Diocesan Convention this coming year:

Delegates:

Jean-Paul Benowitz	Pat Strohl
Tom Leaman	Anne Yellott
Betty McLaughlin	

Alternates:

Jeanne Leaman	Amy Benowitz
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## The Gathering

St. Stephens' book group, has **shifted the date** of our next get-together to Monday evening, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Margaret and David Messner. We will discuss our current selection, The Rise of the Creative Class by Richard Florida. The subtitle of the book is "... How it's transforming work, leisure, community and everyday life". It is a call to creative professionals (scientists, engineers, educators, artists and entertainers etc.) for them to grow into a responsible and cohesive group interested in working for the common good. Check it out and join us!

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

The Evangelism Committee will host a pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday again this year. The supper will be held Tuesday evening, **February 8**, from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Undercroft. We suggest a \$5 donation per person and children under 10 are free. See members of the Evangelism Committee to get your tickets after the 8:00 o'clock or 10:15 a.m. services.

## Bishops Blend

Sunday Forum now features "Bishops Blend" coffee, a premium line of Certified Fair Trade, organic, and shade-grown coffees from Central America and Indonesia. Our purchase of this coffee helps to support Episcopal Relief and Development and its worldwide programs, including emergency assistance in areas of South Asia hit by the recent tsunamis. We need volunteers to set up and make coffee, bring accompanying snack, and clean up on Sunday mornings. A sign-up list is posted in the Uppercroft near the kitchen. For more information, contact Helen Delano (528-8485 [helenoel@blazenet.net](mailto:helenoel@blazenet.net)), Dorothy Brown (763-1080 [dmb26@psu.edu](mailto:dmb26@psu.edu)) or Betty MacLaughlin (260-0583). Experienced partners can help you get started.

## Tomorrow's Stars – 11th Annual St. Stephen's School Auction

Our Annual School Auction is rapidly approaching and we would like to invite you to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship on Friday, March 11, 2005 at the Zembo. You can place your reservation by contacting the school office 238-8590 prior to Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$15.

Our acquisitions committee is busy locating donated items, so if you have any hidden talents you would like to donate, please contact the school office. Perhaps you can make a week of lunches for some lucky student, or maybe you own a cabin or beach property that you would allow us to auction off for a long weekend. We are looking for specialty baskets, pictures, sports memorabilia, etc. In fact, we accept just about any new item. All you have to do is decide what you may have to contribute, contact the school office and drop it off. All donations are tax deductible.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends in the St. Stephen's community, so mark your calendars for March 11, 2005. The fun starts at 6:00 (Social Hour) and 7:00 (Live Auction). See you there!!!

## Homeless Shelter

Thanks to all these folks who have volunteered to stay overnight at the Downtown Emergency Homeless Shelter over the two weeks for which we are responsible - the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> and week of March 13<sup>th</sup>: David Clemmens, Ralph Gillette, Nancy Clark, Greg Penny, Kathi Buzby, Betty Creighton, Bruce Rodeheaver, and Dick Koch and all the Messiah students who have offered their time and effort.

Bill Ilgenfritz is in charge of scheduling and will be in touch with you regarding details, arrival times, instructions etc.

All others, who would like to join in this holy effort to offer a warm place to sleep for those neighbors who otherwise would be on the street, are welcomed to call Bill or speak to Daphne about the ministry.

## HUD Grant approved!!

This is the best news we've gotten for a long time! This will be the last year for the Downtown Churches' Emergency Shelter project. The grant application (for \$933,843.00) submitted on our behalf by Christian Churches United for a permanent, low-demand, "safe haven shelter" was approved by HUD last month. This facility, provided by Harrisburg City, will be developed to provide a simple but safe residence for men with mental illness who now live on the streets. We hope that construction on the Cameron St. Building will be finished in time for the cold weather next December. The folks at CCU and other social service agencies and churches deserve our gratitude for all the work that has gone into preparing the application. We give thanks that there are ways to prayerfully minister to those closest to Jesus' heart.

Daphne

# **THE GRACE PERIOD**

~ An intensive campaign to eliminate \$1 million debt at St. Stephen's ~

Many lenders and creditors offer to their customers a 'grace period', a brief time between a loan agreement and its payment date. We believe that God has offered the St. Stephen's Community just such a blessing as well. On February 20 we are due to finalize the paperwork on a \$1 million mortgage, to cover our outstanding indebtedness for the building project. The leaders of this faith community are convinced that we can radically reduce and all but eliminate the need for that 20-year mortgage through a program of in-house financing.

From its parishioners, friends, Diocesan family, and beyond, St. Stephen's is seeking 50 loans of \$20,000 each, to be borrowed and repaid at no interest, yet backed by the full faith and spiritual credit of Christ Jesus and St. Stephen's Cathedral. All loan receipts will then be applied towards the reduction or elimination of the principal amount which we must then finance, at 6.50 % interest, through a secular lender.

While these loans will generate no monetary interest for the generous lenders, they will generate spiritual interest, many times over. Freeing ourselves from the structural debt which a \$1 million mortgage entails (approximately \$8000 per month, each month, for the next 20 years) will be the single greatest gift to the current and future mission and ministry of this Cathedral which we can offer.

## Some essentials:

- Each \$20,000 loan will need to be received in the next 14 days.
- Lenders will be given the option of 3 repayment timeframes: 5 year, 10 year or 20 year
- A promissory note from the Cathedral will affirm each good faith agreement
- Additional financial gifts and offerings of any kind are always most welcome
- The solicitation period will end at the beginning of Lent.

Based on a legacy of generosity and care, we are convinced that the St. Stephen's Community is prepared to meet this challenge. Please join us in bringing the Cathedral and its ministry into a new, bright and unencumbered age.

***The Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and Finance Committee of St. Stephen's Cathedral***

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-- Please contact The Dean's Office directly (236-4059 or dean@ststep.org) to make a loan commitment or for further information --

## Online Giving

The Cathedral currently has the capability to process online giving by going to our website: [www.ststep.org](http://www.ststep.org) and selecting secure online giving. From there, create your own personal account. This is an easy and secure way to give. You will be able to view your transactions and can even setup recurring transactions. Should you need help please don't hesitate to call the parish office at 236-4059.

## Please Help Support the Youth Group!

**Thank You from the Youth Group.** The Youth Group thanks everyone who has purchased gift cards for Giant Food stores and submitted receipts from Fox's Markets. These programs and other fundraising efforts allowed a group of 10 from St. Stephen's to attend the Nightwatch Program at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City on January 8-9, 2005. We will continue the Giant Food gift card sales and collection of receipts from Fox's Market to fund activities in 2005. The **Giant** gift cards are available for purchase in different denominations. You pay the face value for the card, the Youth Group receives 5% of the face value, and the card is good for the face value when presented at the store. Gift cards are available from Connie Wilson after the 8:00 a.m. service and Adult Forum or Mary Jane Forbes Schmidt after the 10:15 a.m. service. Alternatively, if you have any questions contact Connie at (717) 534-0642 or [c2wilson@comcast.net](mailto:c2wilson@comcast.net). If you shop at Fox's Markets, save your receipts and bring them to the collection box located in the Narthex. The Youth Group will receive 1% of the value of collected receipts.

## Donor Ranks Restored

The Parish Health Ministry wishes to thank publicly all of the Cathedral blood donors, new and established, for their commitment to the unique stewardship of blood donation during 2004. The blood donor program underwent a successful rebuilding of its ranks during the past year, during which time the donor blood goal for 2004 was achieved, and exceeded by 13%.

However, we cannot "rest upon our laurels", or be complacent about our success. Therefore, a major change in the timing of the Annual Blood Drive from Fall to Spring will be introduced in 2005. The Blood Drive for this year will be held Sunday, April 17, 2005. The Health Ministry believes that the new date will better accommodate our donors, and will cause less conflict with the many and varied activities we all experience during the latter part of a calendar year. All suitable donors, whether currently a cathedral blood donor or not, are asked to add the new date for the Blood Drive for 2005 to their personal calendars. Thank you.

### The Next Publication Date

Articles for the next Messenger need to be submitted no later than Sunday, February 13, 2005.

## Leave your Mark at the Cathedral on an Engraved Brick!

Take a look at the new Cloister area between the Cathedral House and the Cathedral. YES, your name (or a friend or relative) can be inscribed on a brick for \$100 per brick. Forms are available in the back of the church.

## Soup! Glorious Soup!

We are continuing our tradition of offering a soup and bread supper before Lenten programs on Wednesday evenings from February 16 through March 16 at 6:15pm. Please contact Beth Transue at 432-5413 or [bmtransue@hotmail.com](mailto:bmtransue@hotmail.com) to volunteer to bring a favorite soup and bread on a Wednesday evening of your choice.

-Beth Transue

## Helping Hands Needs You!

St. Stephen's will continue to provide a space for Helping Hands on Sunday afternoons and we need you! Volunteers are needed on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, to receive food supplies (Saturday) and Sunday to help open the doors for our needy and homeless neighbors, set up the kitchen area and clean up when the meal is finished. Can we count on you to help? Please call (215-2110 or 732-7033) or email ([JSEsham@msn.com](mailto:JSEsham@msn.com)) Joan Esham if you would like to have your name placed on a list of volunteers. Thank you!

## Do you want to Dance?

Mark your calendar now! Plan to celebrate Valentine's Day with your favorite guy or gal at a "fun" fundraiser for the operating budget of St. Stephen's! On Saturday, February 12, committee chairs Jayne and Chip Abrams and Lynn and Wil Everhart will be hosting a romantic St. Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at the Country Club of Harrisburg. \$50 per person. Please see the invitation enclosed in this Messenger!

WELCOME

All Are Invited To

Come to the

Open House

at

St. Stephen's School

Sunday, Feb. 13

Noon - 2PM

Call 238-8590

"A school where children  
thrive."



Cathedral Church of Saint Stephen  
and Cathedral House  
Harrisburg, PA

# the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

Visit our Web Site:  
[www.ststep.org](http://www.ststep.org)

## THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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Web Site: [www.ststep.org](http://www.ststep.org)

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## TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL

### PARISH LEADERSHIP

<i>Bishop</i>	Michael Creighton
<i>Interim Dean</i>	Mark H. Hatch
<i>Canon Pastor</i>	Daphne S. K. Messersmith
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Liz Fite
<i>Deacon Emeritus</i>	Paul Williams
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Michael Shoemaker
<i>Hospitality Coordinator</i>	Judy Clemmer
<i>Senior Warden</i>	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt
<i>Junior Warden</i>	Ann Elliott
<i>Vestry:</i>	Mike Pasenelli
Helen Delano	Lynn Schadle
Joan Esham	Linda Shorey
Warren Gillam	Harry Weber
Gene McHugh	
Guy Patterson	
<i>Parish Treasurer</i>	Bill Davis
<i>Vestry Secretary</i>	Greg Penny
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	Jane Bartholomew
<i>Education Ministry</i>	Becky Tartline
<i>Evangelism Ministry</i>	Ted Webber
<i>Outreach Coordinating Ministry</i>	Betsy Howell, Bill Ilgenfritz
<i>Parish Health Ministry</i>	Helen Hendrickson
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt
<i>Finance Ministry</i>	Thomas Schmidt III
<i>Property Committee</i>	Joan Esham
<i>Environmental Stewardship</i>	Jeff Spangler
<i>Arts and Drama Committee</i>	Ann Elliott
<i>St. Stephen's School</i>	Carol Lopus
<i>Acolyte Warden</i>	Greg Penny
<i>Sunday School Coordinators</i>	John and Ellen Harles
<i>"Seeds of Faith" Manager</i>	Kathyann Corl-Rodeheaver
<i>Altar Guild</i>	Margaret Messner
<i>Flower Guild</i>	Sandy Strohl
<i>Usbers</i>	Michael Frascella
<i>Nursery</i>	Carolyn Patterson
<i>Youth Coordinator</i>	Shannon Powers

### CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

<i>February 6</i>	<b>LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b>
6	Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.
	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
7	St. Stephen's School Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.
8	Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper, 5:00 p.m.
8	Discernment Committee, 7:00 p.m.
9	<b>Ash Wednesday - Services 7 am, 12:10 and 7 pm</b>
9	Staff Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
10	Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
12	Valentine Dinner Dance, 6:00 p.m.
12	<b>Youth Event 6:00 p.m.</b>
13	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</b>
	<b>ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL SUNDAY</b>
13	Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.
13	St. Stephen's School Open House, 12:00 p.m.
13	Snow Tubing, 2:00 p.m.
13	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
14	Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.
14	AIDS Community Alliance Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
14	Creative Writing Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
16	Staff Meeting, 10:00 p.m.
16	Lenten Bread and Soup Supper, 6:15 p.m.
17	Evangelism Committee, 7:00 p.m.
17	Vestry, 7:00 p.m.
20	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT</b>
20	Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.
20	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
21	The Gathering, 7:00 p.m.
23	Staff Meeting, 10:00 a.m.
23	Lenten Bread and Soup Supper, 6:15 p.m.