



# the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

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

Vol. 10, No.4

February 29, 2004

## Letter to the parish

The following is a note sent by a parishioner at Christ Episcopal Church in Coudersport in response to the upcoming visit of members of the Westboro Baptist Church, Topeka, Kansas. Led by their pastor, Fred Phelps, this group orchestrates public demonstrations to express their conviction that the USA is going to hell in a handbasket wherever homosexual people are tolerated or accepted.

Their most recent visit to Harrisburg centered around the showing of the film, "Jim in Bold", which tells the story of a young gay man from Lebanon who took his own life after being repeatedly insulted, mistreated and reviled by classmates because of his sexuality. Mr. Phelps has chosen six local churches to visit on March 21<sup>st</sup> in "religious protest and warning" against "apostate churches for creating a satanic Zeitgeist". They will be picketing outside the Cathedral on that morning.

Their extremist literalistic and fundamentalist interpretation of scripture flies in the face of the God who created all that lives and who loves that creation with an unconditional love. It ignores the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus to free us from fear of "the other". It ignores our call to grow in our understanding of God's Word with compassion and a sense of justice. Their hatred reflects a side of religion which pushes people away rather than gathers folks in.

We are preparing along with members of the other five churches (St. Andrews-in-the-Valley, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Holy Name of Jesus, The Unitarian Church and the Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit) and with the police forces of the various municipalities and with help from the PA Human Relations Commission to meet the presence of WBC with a Christ-like love and commitment to non-violence. More information will be upcoming. Meanwhile we know that others are praying for us as evidenced

by this note and give thanks for the Christian witness that our faith will proclaim.

*Peace,*

The Rev Canon Daphne S. K. Messersmith  
*Canon Pastor*

Greetings,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my love and thanks to you all.

Due to some of the controversial decisions made and stands taken by the Church of late, we are often beset by criticism from those who believe differently than we, and in fact many of us are likewise filled with questions and doubts regarding these same issues. In times like these, it is entirely too easy to see ourselves as isolated and alone. I would like to personally let you all know that many of us here in the Northern Tier are with you in spirit and are lifting you up in prayer.

On a personal note...I would like to thank you all for being an instrument in my own spiritual journey. I am a relative newcomer to the Episcopal Church, as I was raised in a much more fundamentalist church. Through a series of circumstances, I came to question many of the legalistic dogma that had been so thoroughly ingrained in my consciousness, and have come to find my home in the Episcopal Church, thanks in large part to the overall message of love and community espoused therein. Thank you all for helping me to challenge my old presuppositions and came to a fuller, more rewarding relationship with both my Lord and my fellow man.

Roger McClellan

Member of Christ Episcopal Church, Coudersport,  
PA

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### WEEKLY LITURGIES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday:	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	8:00 a.m.
Sunday:	Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Music	10:15 a.m.
Wednesday:	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	7:00 a.m.
Thursday:	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	12:10 p.m.

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# News and Events

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## Reflections on Sleeping with the Homeless

When my son, Philip, Bill Ilgenfritz and I arrived at 9:00 on a cold, snowy Friday evening at St. Michael's Lutheran Church homeless shelter, the homeless were already lined up to escape the biting cold of this January evening. We were admitted to the shelter immediately as they cried out "make way for the volunteers". This was our welcome into the world of the homeless in Harrisburg. These men and women who for a variety of reasons have no homes and for the winter months seek refuge in several downtown churches that offer them shelter. Finally at 9:30 the men and women seeking shelter for the evening began to filter into the ground floor room that would serve as their dormitory for the evening. Men in the large room and women in a nursery room. We issue each person two blankets, they pick up their personal care items and they get a floor mat. This night they are in luck when the Bethesda Mission food truck shows up and they can get a filling meal before lights out. One last smoke break at 10:30 and then lights out at 11:00. They are ready for the quiet. This evening we have about 30 residents. No one is admitted after 11:00 unless they have made arrangements. This avoids disruptions and security problems. This evening is fairly quiet except for one who tries to get in around 2:00 A.M. in the morning. He is given two blankets and sent on his way. The volunteer's sleep on mats on the floor of the kitchen. I manage to get about three hours sleep and in an odd way my mat and sleeping bag at the foot of the large stove is warm and cozy. We awake everyone at 6:30 A.M. (some have left earlier for jobs) and by 7:15 they are gone to seek breakfast at St. Patrick's. We help Pastor Muller clean up and depart to the comfort of our homes to ponder what we have experienced and get some more sleep. Every evening as I sit in the comfort of my home I think about the homeless again starting their nightly routine. We should all be thankful.

Dick Koch

*St. Stephens parishioner and shelter volunteer*

## New email address

We have added an email address for the Cathedral that is general in nature. If you are seeking information or unsure who should receive your information or request feel free to address it to: [cathedral@ststep.org](mailto:cathedral@ststep.org). Any mail we receive we will route it to the right individual. All other staff email addresses have remained the same and are recapped here:

[mac@ststep.org](mailto:mac@ststep.org) (Dean)  
[daphne@ststep.org](mailto:daphne@ststep.org) (Canon Pastor)  
[liz@ststep.org](mailto:liz@ststep.org) (Parish Health/Parish Nurse)  
[donna@ststep.org](mailto:donna@ststep.org) (Bookkeeper)  
[skip@ststep.org](mailto:skip@ststep.org) (Facilities Manager)  
[jonathan@ststep.org](mailto:jonathan@ststep.org) (Youth)  
[sami@ststep.org](mailto:sami@ststep.org) (Secretary)

## Sunday Forums in Lent

### February 29th

Lent 1 – Bible Study with Peter Powers  
(Deut. 26:(1-4) 5-11; Romans 10: (5-8a) 8b-13; Luke 4:1-13; Ps. 91)

### March 7th

Lent 2 – Bible Study with Linda Shorey  
(Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18; Phil. 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:(22-30) 31-35; Ps. 27)

### March 14th

Lent 3 – Bible Study with Linda Shorey  
(Ex: 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9; Ps.103)

### March 21st

Lent 4 – Bible Study with Peter Powers  
(Joshua (4:19-24) 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:11-32; Ps. 34)

### March 28th

Lent 5 "Meet the Monk"  
Former St. Stephen's Canon Pastor Daniel Simons, now a brother at Monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA, will take questions from the floor.

### April 4th

Palm Sunday – Bible study with Peter Powers  
(Is. 45:21-25 or 52:13-53:12; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke 23:1-49; Ps. 22:1-21)

## Invite for Environmental Stewardship Committee

Want to get lit and save some money? An idea from the Environmental Stewardship Committee, whose members helped design our new energy-efficient "green" building:

Survey your standard incandescent light bulbs for opportunities to replace them with compact fluorescents. These new bulbs can save three-quarters of the electricity used by incandescents. And they last longer. The best targets for replacement are 60-100W bulbs used several hours a day. When you're next out shopping, take a look at compact fluorescents—many of them turn on right away now: they're "instant-on" and as small as standard bulbs. They cost more at first, but over the long run, the fluorescents save you money, too.

The Environmental Stewardship Committee meets irregularly but with high energy—it is working on several ways to involve both the Church and the School in sustaining the environment. The Committee is more than open to new ideas and new members of any age or background. The next meeting is on March 23—if you're interested in joining us, call (or email) Jeff Spangler at 236-6006, ([Jeff.Spangler@CINFIN.com](mailto:Jeff.Spangler@CINFIN.com)); or Helen Delano at 528-8485, ([helenoel@blazenet.net](mailto:helenoel@blazenet.net)).

## 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.

## ECW Lenten Retreat

All women of the parish and diocese are invited to a time away at Camp Hebron from March 24 to the 26th. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather with Episcopal women in an atmosphere of sacred and quiet beauty. The cost is \$125 per person. The Rev. Elaine Silverstrim will lead the meditations and worship during our time together. Registration forms and information are available from Daphne.

## Parents and Sunday School Teachers

A superb opportunity to learn and reflect on ministries with children . . . Mark your calendars for March 6th, a Saturday when National Church leader Robin Szoke will be here at the Cathedral for a diocesan workshop from 9:30 to 4:30. It promises to be a day of growth and celebration of Kids in Church! Some of our acolytes will be taking part in the noontime liturgy and workshops will be offered to young people and adults in the morning and afternoon. More details will follow!

**Another Lenten offering: The ECW of St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg invites members of St. Stephens for a Lenten "Quiet Morning" of prayer and meditation with eucharist on Monday March 1st beginning at 9:30 Am at the church on Keller Street and Market in Mechanicsburg. Daphne will be leading this time of reflection.**

## New Book for the Gathering

This lively book group will be reading Expecting Adam by Martha Beck. This is an account of a couple pregnant with a Down Syndrome child and their challenging journey through that process. Join in discussion with us on Tuesday evening March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapter House.

## February Fun!

The students at St. Stephen's Episcopal School will never experience the "winter doldrums" because February is filled with fun! On the 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. The day began with each student adding 100 small food items (raisins, cheerios, peanuts, pretzels, etc.) to make a unique trail mix snack. Next students, together with their buddy, decorated goofy 100<sup>th</sup> Day glasses to wear as they climbed up and down 100 stairs in the Cameron Building, ending in the undercroft where they hopped 100 times.

Our February Fun continued the following week when we kicked off Spirit Week with St. Stephen's School Sunday. Students participated in the 10:15 service in the Cathedral and our own Chaplain Harrigan gave the sermon. Each day during the Spirit Week had its own theme including: school colors day; Mardi gras; PJ day and "When I grow up. . ." day.

In February we will also have a school-wide observance of Black History Month. All classes will discuss the accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans. The students in grades 1 – 8 will work on projects to be presented at our Black History Month Celebration on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the Cathedral. **You are invited to join us for this wonderful event.**

## Organ Dedication CD now for Sale

Orders for the dedication recital of the new Cathedral Pipe Organ are now being taken. Cathedral Organist Michael Shoemaker's recital has been professionally recorded and is available on compact disc for \$15. Order forms can be found in the Narthex, the Uppercroft, and in the Cathedral Book Store. All proceeds from this recording will benefit the Cathedral Capital Campaign. Please complete the order form and either place in a collection plate or return to the Cathedral office. Once your order is received, the disc will be mailed to you within a few weeks. They make GREAT Easter gifts! Order yours today!!

## Recognition Given!

The Miriam Manisoff Award was created in 1982 in recognition of Ms. Manisoff's significant contributions to the development of the nurse practitioner profession. Each year it is awarded, in her honor, to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of nurse practitioners in the areas of clinical practice or leadership. Past receipts have included both nationally and regionally known nurse practitioners, physicians and administrators.

On February 20, 2004, Deborah McHugh was presented with the Miriam Manisoff award at the opening session of the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. The presentation included a beautifully engraved plaque and a presentation to the audience highlighting her 29 years of service and accomplishments as a "life-long learner, clinician and leader in reproductive health care."

**Spread the word!**

**Open Houses**

**at**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal  
School**

**Sunday, March 7 from  
11:30-2:30\***

Tuesday, March 9 from 9:00-1:00

\*parking vouchers are available on Sunday

**A school of many strengths**

small classes  
new building  
science laboratory  
computer laboratory  
nurturing atmosphere

## The Visitors are Coming!

Everyone at St. Stephen's is in the midst of final preparations for the arrival of the visiting team from Middle States Association, Commission on Elementary Schools. Our visitors will arrive on Sunday, March 14 and be with us until Wednesday, March 17. While they are here, they will visit each classroom, talk to every teacher, meet with a group of students, and observe all of the everyday procedures at our school.

While we can't help but be anxious about the evaluation team's visit, we do think that we are well prepared and that we have a great many things of which we can be proud. And when they meet our wonderful students, we just know they will be "sold" on St. Stephen's Episcopal School and all that we have to offer.

The members of the visiting team are teachers and administrators who take time from their schools to volunteer in this important work. Accredited schools are ones that continually examine themselves and take note of their strengths while identifying strategic goals.

For two years the Board of Directors and faculty of St. Stephen's have been involved in the self-study process. The recently published self-study takes a comprehensive look at who we are and where we are going. The Action Plan contains strategic goals that will lead us in our efforts over the ten-year cycle of accreditation. The goals focus on the Religion Program, Computer Technology, and the Middle School. (If you would like to read the self-study, you can borrow a copy from the school office.

We will welcome our visitors to St. Stephen's Episcopal School with a service in the Cathedral on Sunday, March 14 at 5:00 p.m. Please plan to join us as we begin this final exciting step towards re-accreditation by the Middle States Association.

Mary Kratzer  
Chair, Accreditation Steering Committee

## Parish Register News

Loved members we see no longer: Frances Fales and George Banks.

Those who have married: Sarah Gingrich and Joel Firebaugh.

New Arrivals: Ainsley Grace Vyse granddaughter to The Very Rev. and Mrs Malcolm McDowell, Jr.

New member of the parish: Ms. Christina Domanski; Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Anderson.

## Wednesday Evenings in Lent

Wednesday evening at St. Stephens for Lent 2004 will have something for everyone. The evening will begin at 6:15 with a soup and bread supper. Promptly at 6:45 the one-hour program offerings will begin. Compline will be held at 7:45PM. By 8PM, all will be on their way home! Note that childcare will be available for those 5 and under.

**ATTENTION ALL YOUTH** In the final hours of the life of Jesus, He was judged by Pilate, made to carry his own cross, and ultimately crucified. During this final walk, he experienced many powerful and meaningful moments which we today experience as the Stations of the Cross. Join me as we draw these 14 Stations. When the adults come to Church during the Wednesday evenings of Lent, we will move a few rooms away to work on these as a group.

Everyone will meet at 6:15 p.m. for soup and bread. We will work on our Stations from 6:45 to 7:45pm ( the dates are March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.)

The finished stations will be displayed in the Cathedral. I hope to see you there!

Jonathan

## Peace with Justice Ecumenical Advocacy Days – Washington DC, March 5-8

The Episcopal Church USA is among the sponsors of the March 5-8, 2004 second annual "Advocacy Days" event in Washington DC. Speakers, briefings on global concerns, worship, and advocacy training workshops are on the program. Issue "Tracks": Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, Jubilee and Economic Justice, and Nuclear Disarmament. Registration fee: \$125. All sessions Fri-Mon at the Arlington VA Doubletree Hotel. To register on-line, [www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org).



**CIRCLE THE DATE: JUNE 22**—Yankees and Orioles at Camden Yards. The Orioles have improved their line-up and the Yankees have a player named "A-Rod", the new third baseman. Good seats; behind third base. Bus transportation and snacks on the way—all for \$40 or \$75 for two. Your check will be your reservation. Always a fun outing.

# HOLY WEEK

## Palm Sunday, April 4

- 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist  
10:15 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms, Holy Eucharist and dramatic reading of the Gospel with music and Choirs

## Monday in Holy Week, April 5

- 12:10 p.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

## Tuesday in Holy Week, April 6

- 11:00 a.m. Renewal of Ordination Vows with Holy Eucharist -- Everyone is invited

## Wednesday in Holy Week, April 7

- 7:00 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist  
7:00 p.m. "Stations of the Cross"

## Maundy Thursday, April 8

- 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist  
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet . . . followed by the All-Night Prayer Vigil

## Good Friday, April 9

- 7:00 a.m. Good Friday Liturgy  
12 noon – 3:00 p.m. "The Faces at the Cross" – Meditations offered by the Cathedral Staff

## Easter Eve, April 10

- 7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptism and Holy Eucharist

## Easter Day, April 11

- 7:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Choirs and Music  
and 11:00 a.m.

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

*the* CATHEDRAL  
 MESSENGER

**THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN**  
 221 N. Front Street  
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**PARISH LEADERSHIP**

Bishop	Michael Creighton
Dean	Malcolm McDowell
Canon Pastor	Daphne Messersmith
Parish Nurse	Liz Fite
Deacon Emeritus	Paul Williams
Facilities Manager	Skip DeMarkey
Organist-Choirmaster	Michael Shoemaker
Office Manager	Sami Lytle
Bookkeeper	Donna Osborne
Senior Warden	Craig Wilson
Junior Warden	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt
Vestry:	Gene McHugh
Helen Delano	Guy Patterson
Ann Elliott	Greg Penny
Joan Esham	Lynn Schadle
Gerald Garber II	Rosemary Webber
Warren Gillam	Bill Davis
Parish Treasurer	Paul Nickalls
Vestry Secretary	Jane Bartholomew
Worship Ministry	Becky Tartline
Education Ministry	Pat Strohl
Evangelism Ministry	Betsy Howell, Bill Ilgenfritz
Outreach Coordinating Ministry	Helen Hendrickson
Parish Health Ministry	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt,
Stewardship Ministry	Gerry Garber
Finance Ministry	Thomas Schmidt III
Environmental Stewardship	Jeff Spangler
St. Stephen's School	Carol Lopus
Acolyte Warden	Greg Penny
Church School Coordinator	John and Ellen Harles
"Seeds of Faith" Manager	Kathynn Corl-Rodeheaver
Altar Guild	Margaret Messner
Flower Guild	Sandy Strohl
Ushers	Michael Frascella
Nursery	Carolyn Patterson
Youth Ministries Coordinator	Jonathan Frazier

**CATHEDRAL CALENDAR**

*February*

29 **THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

29 Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

29 Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.

*March*

1 St. Stephen's School Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.

2 Outreach Coordinating Committee, 6:30 p.m.

3 Soup and Bread Supper at 6:15 p.m. followed by Lenten Program at 6:45 p.m.

4 Christian Education and Formation Committee, 6:30 p.m.

6 Diocesan Commission for Children's Ministries Workshop, 9:30 a.m.

7 **THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

7 Blood Pressure Screening, 8:45 a.m.

7 St. Stephen's School Open House, 10:00 a.m.

7 Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

7 Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.

8 Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

8 AIDS Community Alliance Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

9 St. Stephen's School Open House, 1:00 p.m.

9 Home and School Association, 5:00 p.m.

9 Evangelism Committee, 7:00 p.m.

9 Property Committee, 7:30 p.m.

11 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.

14 **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

14 Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.

14 St. Stephen's School House, 12:00 p.m.

14 Middle State Accrediation Team Reception, 4:00 p.m.