



# the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

The biweekly parish newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Vol. 10, No.17

August 29, 2004

## An Early Thanksgiving!

As I read through the pages of this Messenger I am struck again and again by the richness of all that we have here at St. Stephens and by all that draws me to say "Thanks be to God". It is a little early for Thanksgiving with a capital "T" but never the wrong time to express thanksgiving with a small "t"!

One of the main reasons we gather here is so that we can grow in our spiritual awareness and deepen our faith-lives as Christians and as Episcopalians. All the offerings in our Education and Formation programs hold out the invitation for you to do just that. To ask the important questions, to explore new and intriguing ways of looking at issues, to grow in our fellowship with each other and to find support for our journey together. This actually happens for adults at the Sunday Forums, in the Gathering book group and through our other ministries throughout the church. It happens for our children through Sunday School classes, Godly Play, Book Club, Kid's Choir and the newly energized Youth Group. For all the leaders of these opportunities we are *so thankful* and pray that they all are growing through the experience of leadership.

The abundance of ministries here overflows with chances to offer Christlove to fellow parishioners and to the community of Harrisburg. Our outreach efforts touch the lives of the folks at Downtown Daily Bread, the Medical Mission on Allison Hill, Caring and Sharing Dinners for HIV-affected neighbors, Helping Hands, the Downtown Churches Emergency Homeless Shelter. The major mission of St. Stephens continues to be St. Stephens School where close to 200 children spread their wings, learning and grow-

ing in a beautiful new building with faithful and gifted teachers.

Worshipping together is at the heart of this parish. That worship is enriched by the efforts of Altar Guild and Flower Guild members who make sure that the church is dressed in a respectful beauty, by lay readers who prepare thoughtfully and by Eucharistic ministers who share the chalice with such care. We are blessed by the commitment and talent of the choir under the leadership of Michael Shoemaker who enable us to deepen our devotion through the gift of music.

All of these activities *are* Christian Education and Formation! They are all ways for us to learn and grow spiritually as the Body of Christ. Your committed participation makes it all the richer. Join in the Rally Day celebration and join me in **giving thanks** for all the blessings of this place!

*Peace,*

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

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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.
Saturday:	Holy Eucharist, Rite II	5:00 p.m.

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### Christian Education Chair writes:

When I was a student, I always loved this time of year. Whether it was the feel of new clothes, the sight of notebooks and freshly sharpened pencils, or the smell of fall in the air, there was always something exciting about going back to school. But the part of going back to school that I liked the best was the feeling of hope I had for the year, hope that this year would be the best one yet. I feel this hope again as we approach the beginning of our church school year. I believe that this year will be one of the best years yet for the Christian Education and Formation program here at St. Stephen's.

The first reason this has the potential to be such a good year is because we hope to get the year started off right with a great Rally Day! Rally Day will be on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 a.m. It will be located outside in the Bar Association parking lot. We have planned a fair-type celebration with tables or "booths" with games, crafts, music and refreshments for all ages, and we have invited the committees of St. Stephen's to man a booth by providing an activity for adults and/or children. We hope to see all of you there!

The second reason why we have such high hopes for this year is that the Christian Education and Formation committee has been working hard to implement some of the objectives in the church's strategic plan. We have been working on providing recruitment, training and ongoing support for all Church School teachers and youth advisers. We have also been working on ways to increase communication with and by children and youth, and we hope Rally Day will encourage committee members and their families to get to know each other better.

Finally, the most important reason why this should be one of the best years yet for St. Stephen's Christian Education and Formation program is because of the variety of the programs that are being offered and that are showcased in this newsletter. From the nursery through high school and beyond, there is something for everyone. Children can participate in the nursery or in Church School, and during the 10:15 a.m. service they can participate in the Children's Choir or in Godly Play or Book Club. Young people can attend the Middle School or High School Sunday School classes, and they can participate in the activities with the youth program that will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Adults can enjoy the Sunday Forum programs as well as other programs such as The Gathering book discussion group.

So, as you get ready to go back to school by wearing your new clothes, sharpening your pencils, and breathing in the fall air, the Christian Education and Formation committee prays that you will share in our hopes for the coming year.

Becky Tartline, Chairperson,  
Christian Education & Formation Committee

### Nursery

In the nursery we work on laying the building blocks (both literally and figuratively!) for the foundation of the infants' and toddlers' experience with the church. We do this by providing age-appropriate Christian activities that teach the message of God's love for our children. These activities include singing Bible songs, reading Bible stories, and allowing the children to play in a safe, healthy and peaceful environment.

The nursery is located in the Cloister, and it is available on Sunday mornings during the 8:00 a.m. service, the 9:00 a.m. Education hour, and the 10:15 a.m. service. We are pleased that our two caregivers, Eatimad and Awadia, are returning, but we will need some help for Awadia while Eatimad is on maternity leave. If you are interested in helping, please contact Carolyn Patterson, Nursery Coordinator, at 233-3545 or [carolynj.patterson@verizon.net](mailto:carolynj.patterson@verizon.net).

### Church School (Pre-school through third grade)

This year we will continue with the "Living the Good News" curriculum, which is based on the lectionary. Lessons from both the Old and New Testament will introduce children in both classes to the heart of the Christian faith. The Preschool through Kindergarten class will be taught by John and Ellen Harles during the first half of the year and by Jim and Bernadette Kaiser during the second half of the year. The First through Third Grade class will be taught by Joe and Erin Schuetz during the first half of the year and by Lisa Loring and Jessica Clemmer during the second half of the year. Songs, games and crafts make it a fun experience for students and teachers alike. Most of all we want the children to know that Jesus loves them and that they are fully part of the St. Stephen's community.

We continue to encourage stewardship and mission through weekly offerings in support of the faith-based Heifer Project. The Project has been a concrete way for the kids to put into practice Jesus' admonition to help those in need. Over the last several years, the Church School has contributed over \$1,000 to that end- enough to purchase two calves for farming families in less developed countries.

Classes are held between services, beginning at 9:00 a.m., on the first floor of the school building. We welcome your involvement in this rewarding work. Please contact John or Ellen Harles, the Children's Education Coordinators, at 731-0394 or [jetharles@comcast.net](mailto:jetharles@comcast.net) if you would like to spend some quality time with these young parishioners.

### Kids' Choir

Pete Powers works with the Kids' Choir twice a year for six to seven consecutive Sundays at 10:00 AM on the first floor of the school building. All children from ages 3-9 are welcome and wanted. The children learn songs while Mr. Powers accompanies them on the guitar, and twice a year the children perform these songs for the congregation. Don't be shy about participating - there is no such thing as a kid who can't sing! Anyone interested in helping should contact Pete Powers at 972-1084 or [ppowers@paonline.com](mailto:ppowers@paonline.com).

## Youth Program (Grades 4-12)

St. Stephen's offers youth education classes starting Sept. 19 for youth in grades 4-12. Grades 4 and 5 meet in the second floor activity space in the school building. Taught by Craig Wilson and Karen Weber, they plan to use the Episcopal Children's Curriculum supplemented by games, fellowship and service experiences. Shannon Powers will teach youth in grades 6-8 in the Chapter House. Pete Powers joins our education team as a teacher for high school youth. Both Shannon and Pete plan to use materials that promote conversation and experiences of faith in regard to popular culture and our everyday lives. If you would be interested in helping to teach either the middle school or high school youth, please contact Karen Weber, the Youth Education Coordinator, at 731-0127 or [weber@paonline.com](mailto:weber@paonline.com).

In addition to our youth education program, St. Stephen's also has a **Youth Group** for grades 6-12. This year there are events and activities scheduled from September 2004 until May 2005! There will be a Youth Group Parents Meeting on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> following the reception for our new interim. At that meeting the coordinator of the Youth Activities program, Shannon Powers, will share the plans, information and a calendar for parents, and the meeting will also provide an opportunity for parents to share their support and enthusiasm for an exciting upcoming year for our youth. If you are interested in helping with the youth group this year, please contact Shannon Powers at 972-1084 or [spowers@paonline.com](mailto:spowers@paonline.com).

## Discernment Committee Report

The Discernment Committee will have its third meeting on Monday, August 23 to complete its work on a parish survey that will be mailed to everyone in St. Stephen's just before Labor Day. The results of the survey will guide the Committee in identifying the qualities we seek in our next Dean and will provide the Committee useful information about the St. Stephen's community as well. The survey will be brief and user-friendly, because we need everyone's responses by September 24, 2004.

At the Adult Forum on September 19, we will present a more detailed report on the work of the Committee and an opportunity to discuss the survey and the preparation of our parish profile, which is a critically important step in the discernment process. The parish profile is sent to potential candidates. A good profile will help us see ourselves accurately and inspire candidates to want to know us better. To that end, we will also have "cottage" meetings in the homes of some Committee members in late September and early October to probe further the issues presented by the survey responses.

We are looking forward to your participation.

## RALLY DAY 2004

Sunday, September 12

9 - 10 a.m.

Dauphin County Bar Assoc.  
Parking Lot

(across Cranberry Alley from  
St. Stephen's School)

Games . . . Bookstore Auction . . .

Coloring activities . . . Flower Arranging Demos

. . . FOOD . . . Face painting

Information and activities about various groups  
and committees in the church

\*\*\* Bring a can or cans of food for the Canned  
Food Drive coordinated by the Outreach Commit-  
tee. Help us build up the stores depleted by in-  
creased food needs over the summer! \*\*\*

## ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

### Godly Play

In September, Godly Play, for children ages 3-6, will begin its fifth year at St. Stephen's. Godly Play supplements your child's participation in the church school program offered for children at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday. As in previous years, Godly Play will meet at 10:00 a.m. (whenever Kids' Choir is not meeting) in the specially equipped Godly Play room located behind the sacristy and down the hall from the bookstore. The children will be brought to the service for the Children's Sermon and to join their parents for Eucharist.

Godly Play is a combination worship and learning program developed by Dr. Jerome Berryman, an Episcopal priest who has worked with children for over 20 years. Using the Montessori method of teaching/learning, the Godly Play session leader sits with the children in a circle, and, with specially designed figures and formats, plays out a biblical parable, sacred story or liturgical symbol story. The children are then given an opportunity to create responsive artistic expressions and to participate in activities that parallel worship and Eucharist. The intention is to enhance the spiritual development of children by allowing the Spirit of God to teach and minister to each child in the child's own life situation.

For maximum benefit, two adults should be present at a session. Right now the Godly Play leader is Frank Gingrich, and he is assisted by Ginny Hoover and Deb Reed-McHugh. However, help is always needed! If you can commit to help with even one session, please contact Frank Gingrich at 652-8093.

## The Gathering

The Gathering is a book discussion group which meets monthly to discuss a book that has been selected and read by group members during the month. Come and join us for meaningful discussions about these great books, our faith and our spirituality. The Gathering will meet next on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Sherman Library to discuss [The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay](#).

## Parish Family News!

Congratulations to Debra Nicole Reed and Eric James Popovich who were married at St. Stephens August 21.

## Sunday Forums

Sunday Forums for Fall 2004 start September 19, when we will hear from the Discernment Committee. The next Sunday will feature our Interim, The Rev. Mark Hatch. The October 3 and 10 forums will feature a bit of politics, as we hear about Episcopal Presidents of the United States and the role of religion in politics. October 17, St. Luke's Sunday, will feature the Rev. Jody Silliker, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, who will also preach at both services. Jody is coming at the invitation of the Parish Health Committee. The October 24th forum will focus on Stewardship. The October 31 forum will be offered by the Arts and Drama Committee and feature The Rev. Bruce Stewart, Director of the Center for Liturgy and the Arts.

The forums for first three Sundays of November will be a series we are calling "The Conversation Continues" and will feature forums led by Deryl Flemming (a Baptist minister who will focus on scriptural interpretation), our own David Messner (who will share with us some of his continuing faith journey) and a return visit from the Rev. John Sivley (who will lead a program about "safe spaces").

The following four Sundays of Advent will see the return of the Gifts for the World program and the Rev. Gary Harke, who will continue our recent tradition of Advent Bible Study with forums based on the Advent readings from Isaiah.

The final forum will be an informal gathering for sharing the season with each other and perhaps providing a bit of feedback on the Fall programs. The Adult Education & Formation Committee seeks to provide something for everyone and appreciates your input and feedback and especially your participation!

## Parents of Young People in Grades 6-12

You are all invited to express their enthusiasm for the spiritual life of those teens and our Youth Program at a get-together today following the reception for our new Interim Dean, Mark Hatch. The kids will have some time with Mark while we meet. Please join us!

## News and Notes from the Property Committee

Your Property Committee has been hard at work since its July meeting when the committee was re-invented after a long absence. The July meeting was attended by 10 people and at the August, meeting 11 folks participated. The committee has been working diligently both behind the scenes and in eyes view. Some of the things that have been worked on and completed are as follows: A weeding day was held and we had a grand turnout. Weeds were pulled, bushes were trimmed, dead branches cut and removed, trash picked up, Round-Up sprayed and edging completed. At a later time, pine bark mulch was spread around the front of the Cathedral and around the trees that line the sidewalk. The Dean's Office has been thoroughly cleaned and scrubbed, windows and all! Only a few last minute touches are needed before our Interim Dean arrives. The roof on the 3rd floor of the Chapter House sprung a leak and it has been patched and currently we are awaiting an estimate to have the roof replaced. A new 2nd floor conference room has been established and it boasts a new board table and 11 very comfortable chairs (courtesy of Anne Yellott). The outlets in the rear of the Nave have been fixed and are in working order! Skip led the committee and a few other folks on a tour of the 'guts' of the campus. The Bigler House has been an ongoing topic of discussion and a subcommittee has been formed to gather ideas and options to fix up this property and make it tenant ready.

This is just a sampling of the things that your Property Committee has done in their efforts to make this Cathedral a wonderful and proud place to gather and worship. The committee encourages you to contact either Joan Esham (732-7033) or Skip DeMarkey (236-4059) if you have any questions, concerns or ideas. There is always room at the table for anyone interested in attending our meetings. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the 2nd floor Conference Room. Please look for monthly updates in the Messenger and Bulletin.

## Book Club

The Book Club, for anyone who loves to be read to but especially for those for in 1st through 3rd grade, will at 10:00 a.m. (during the Word portion of the service), location to be determined! This is our fifth year (can you believe it!). We have read three C.S. Lewis' Narnia series and the National Award winner – Crispin. This year we will begin with Madeline L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time and then a book centered on Joan of Arc.

Even if you have already read A Wrinkle in Time, you probably have not heard them read aloud. Give it a try. (No matter what you might think of the reading ability of the readers, the cookies are pretty good and make trying the Book Club worth it!)

And, if you are age 14 or older and like to read aloud (or be read to!) just come and join us for a Sunday or two. The help would be appreciated. Contact Linda Shorey at [lshorey@kl.com](mailto:lshorey@kl.com).

## **Are you called to a Special (Musical) Ministry?**

In the last several weeks you have heard and read much about this time of transition and change that our Parish is going through. People are being challenged to lead more active roles in the life and ministries of St. Stephen's. Many wonderful people have already stepped forward and taken leadership roles. This is a wonderful and exciting thing!

I have been associated with St. Stephens for nearly 53 years, having come here as a boy chorister in the fall of 1951. During that time I have seen five rectors depart. I have seen countless canon pastors, curates, and various assistant priests come and go. I'm about to be associated with my third interim dean in my tenure as your organist and choir-master. In all these years I have found only one constant - and that is change.

As the Cathedral is at a crossroads, so is the Cathedral Choir. Over the past several years you have seen the stalls slowly empty. Please believe me when I say that no one is more grieved over this than I am. When I came here 53 years ago there were over 50 in the Choir of Men and Boys and there were well over 20 members of the Choir of St. Cecilia. Right now we only have 14 members - and that is on a Sunday with perfect attendance! Although I am extremely proud of these 14 choristers and the magnificent job they do, they do need help.

We are working hard to restore our proud 110-year tradition of a men and boys choir while at the same time bolstering the ranks of women and girls. The music program of the Cathedral Church of St. Stephen must rely on the members of the congregation to support the program with your presence. I have heard many people claim that all they need is to be asked. Consider yourself asked!

I challenge you to examine this, your call, to the ministry of music at St. Stephen's. If you enjoy singing we need you to lend your voice in praise of God. Talk to your son or daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew and invite them to join the choir. You don't have to have a trained or operatic voice for us to value your presence. Choir members confirm that they continually surprise themselves with what they accomplish. Think of it as on the job training! And a bit of a mid-week therapy session where you can put the bustle of the world aside for a few hours.

However, I feel strongly that the music program has a great deal to offer both children and adults. The choir will be stronger with you, you will be stronger with the choir, and the parish will be a stronger, more exciting and inviting place for our community. Please, speak to me soon!

Michael Shoemaker  
Organist and Choirmaster

**ARTS and DRAMA**

**ENLIVENS**

**ST. STEPHENS**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

**The month of September brings two wonderful opportunities for music, dancing and fellowship here at the Cathedral**

❖ Bretons & Co. in concert . . . Thursday evening September 23 in the Cathedral - rich and lively Celtic music by this 5 member band

❖ The Learn-to-Dance . . . Fun for the whole family - lessons from a local dance teacher then a chance to dance! Sunday afternoon September 26th from 4:00 to 6:00 in the Uppercroft.

**more details to follow -  
watch your bulletins and Messenger**

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

*the* CATHEDRAL  
 MESSENGER

***ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL***

221 N. Front Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17101-1437  
 e-mail: [cathedral@ststep.org](mailto:cathedral@ststep.org)  
 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 Hatch
<i>Canon Pastor</i>	Daphne S. K. Messersmith
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	Liz Fite
<i>Deacon Emeritus</i>	Paul Williams
<i>Facilities Manager</i>	Skip DeMarkey
<i>Organist-Choirmaster</i>	Michael Shoemaker
<i>Hospitality Coordinator</i>	Judy Clemmer
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Donna Osborne
<i>Senior Warden</i>	Craig Wilson
<i>Junior Warden</i>	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt
<i>Vestry:</i>	Gene McHugh
Helen Delano	Guy Patterson
Ann Elliott	Greg Penny
Joan Esham	Lynn Schadle
Gerald Garber II	Rosemary Webber
Warren Gillam	Bill Davis
<i>Parish Treasurer</i>	Paul Nickalls
<i>Vestry Secretary</i>	Jane Bartholomew
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	Becky Tartline
<i>Education Ministry</i>	Ted Webber
<i>Evangelism Ministry</i>	Betsy Howell, Bill Ilgenfritz
<i>Outreach Coordinating Ministry</i>	Helen Hendrickson
<i>Parish Health Ministry</i>	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt,
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>	Gerry Garber
<i>Finance Ministry</i>	Thomas Schmidt III
<i>Property Committee</i>	Joan Esham
<i>Environmental Stewardship</i>	Jeff Spangler
<i>St. Stephen's School</i>	Carol Lopus
<i>Acolyte Warden</i>	Greg Penny
<i>Church School Coordinator</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>Ushers</i>	Michael Frascella
<i>Nursery</i>	Carolyn Patterson
<i>Youth Ministries Coordinator</i>	Jonathan Frazier

**CATHEDRAL CALENDAR**

**August** 28 Safeguarding God's Children, 3:00 p.m.  
 28 Saturday Evening Service, 5:00 p.m.  
 29 **THE 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
 29 Reception Welcoming Mark Hatch  
 29 Parents of Youth Grades 6-12 meeting  
 29 Youth grades 6-12 meet with Fr. Mark  
 29 Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.

**September**  
 2 Christian Education and Formation Committee,  
 6:30 p.m.  
 3-6 Kipona Festival, Riverfront Park  
 4 Saturday Evening Service, 5:00 p.m.  
 5 **THE 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
 5 Blood Pressure Screening, 8:45 a.m.  
 5 Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.  
 5 Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.  
 6 Office Closed, Labor Day  
 7 Outreach Coordinating Committee, 6: 30 p.m.  
 9 Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.  
 10 "Informance" Harrisburg Players Collective,  
 6:00 p.m.  
 11 Saturday Evening Service, 5:00 p.m.  
 12 **THE 15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
 12 Rally Sunday, 9:00 a.m.  
 12 Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.  
 12 Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.  
 13 Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.  
 13 AIDS Community Alliance Dinner, 5:30 p.m.  
 13 St. Stephen's School Board of Directors,  
 6:00 p.m.