



the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

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

Vol. 10, No.22

December 5, 2004

On Front Street

Despite being born and mostly raised in New England, I have always been drawn to large, vast, wide open spaces. Such appreciation has been an acquired taste, yet one which has continued to grow over the many years in which I have been blessed to travel. Late last winter, after four months in rural British Columbia getting around on foot, I decided to drive my small truck from Massachusetts to Terrace. The mid-March skies were both pale and inviting, presaging the lengthening of days in the Far North and reassuring me that the seasons and the cycles were yet working their perpetual magic.

Despite the magnificence of that brief journey from one side of the continent to the other, no stretch proved more thrilling, more inspiring or more beautiful than that long and silent day traversing northern Minnesota, North Dakota and south central Saskatchewan. Something in the immensity, the magnitude, the sheer unfetteredness of that precious piece of God's creation stirred me in a way which I have not forgotten. Sometimes I imagine or reflect that this feeling occurs because I, as but a sole and temporal human being, am so small and insignificant in the midst of such grandeur and creation. At other times I suspect it is the pure and essential and unobstructed view of God, emerging in the Plains and the Prairies, which is so profoundly touching. Whatever the reason, I am forever drawn back to and regularly thirsting for such insights and vistas. Belden Lane refers to "the solitude of fierce landscapes" in his book of the same title, and maybe that too is part of the percolation process within my ever evolving soul.

In her song, Mary speaks to a spiritual kind of immensity and grandeur, a vast indwelling of God and Spirit

which, in the end, results in the salvation of the world. She sees and feels and then expresses a kind of timeless and even infinite gratitude for this unique yet wondrous presence:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." [Luke 1:46]. She seems able to grasp both the beneficence of the Lord and the responsibility which accompanies such grace. She is able, in the words of the modern age, to think and feel and respond in a "macrocosmic" sense. Put more simply, when confronted with God in the most unlikely of circumstances, Mary is able to see and to rejoice in "The Big Picture." I have always felt that this remarkable change in her life story represents a kind of spiritual "fierce landscape", a large and perhaps even foreboding locale in which she ventures and discovers and emerges as an utterly different person. I have always believed that each of us is invited, called, sometimes even cajoled into stepping forth into just such similarly daunting environs. My own experience, which I especially reflect upon in my desert wanderings and Advent silences, is that God always has transformation and hope in store for us. But we must dare to risk on behalf of the faith and we must move ahead - never backward - with a kind of irrational confidence so as to receive it. May your quiet meanderings through the remainder of this season and the season to come be filled with just such unknown and unforeseen places. May Christ meet you in the unexpected and yet prepare you evermore for the beautiful and the certain.

In peace and faith,

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.

The Very Reverend Mark H. Hatch
Interim Dean

News and Events

Here we come a Wassailing!

All who are young and young at heart, please join us for Christmas caroling for some of St. Stephens' homebound parishioners. Meet us at 2:45 pm, Sunday, December 12, in the lobby of Manor Care West, 1700 Market St., Camp Hill. From there we will car pool to other homes. We will return to the home of Pete and Shannon Powers for cookies and cocoa afterward. (5:00-ish) Questions? call or email Shannon Powers 972-1084, spowers@paonline.com.

Vestry and Diocesan Delegate Nominations

The Nominating Committee nominates the following slate of candidates to stand for election to Vestry this year:

Ron Burkholder	Mike Pasenelli
Helen Delano	Linda Shorey
Mort Hendrickson	Bonnee Voss
Harry Weber	

The Nominating Committee nominates the following slate of candidates to stand for election as delegates and alternates on behalf of St. Stephen's at the Diocesan Convention this coming year:

Delegates:

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

Alternates:

Jayne Abrams	Jeanne Leaman
Amy Benowitz	

Elections for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2005. According to our bylaws, parishioners who are baptized and 16 years or older are eligible to vote.

Capital Campaign Update – December 2004

At the end of July, you received a letter explaining the need for additional pledges for our Capital Campaign. You were encouraged to support the renewed effort to reduce the sizeable mortgage that St. Stephen's Cathedral needed to assume to pay for the recent renovations. As of December 1, 54 gifts have been received for a total of \$51,855! Those who have responded to the request encourage all of you to consider the level of support that you can give and join us in the mortgage reduction. Whether your pledge is a new one or a renewal from the initial campaign, every dollar paid now will reduce the impact on the general budget. Can we count on your support?

Capital Campaign Co-Chairs,
Margaret Messner and Lee Van Valkenburgh

Credit Cards Accepted

The Cathedral currently has the capability to accept credit card payments at the Seeds of Faith Bookstore for purchases you may make there. Also, available is the ability to process secure payments on line at our website. You may now make pledge payments online as well. This feature is available for this year's stewardship campaign. Please be in contact with the Cathedral if you have any questions.

Volunteers Needed

St. Stephen's will be serving lunch at Downtown Daily Bread on Sunday, December 26th from 12:00 to 2 PM. We are in need of seven volunteers to assist in this effort and since many will be away for the holiday, we are asking anyone that is interested to come out and spend a very rewarding two hours helping those that are less fortunate than us! What better time of year to reach out and give to our neighbors here in Harrisburg. If you can help serve lunch, please call Joan Esham @ 732-7033. Can we count on you, please?

Parking

St. Stephen's community now has access to free covered parking at the PHFA facility, adjacent to the Dauphin County Bar Association. Free access to the covered parking will be available all day Saturdays, all day Sundays, and after 6 PM on weekdays. Rare exceptions may be made in the event of festivities such as Kipona. Drivers will be asked simply to enter a 4 digit code (7732#) at the entrance of the garage, on River Alley. The gate will automatically rise upon departure. The garage interior has an elevator on every floor and a handicapped ramp at ground level.

Please Help Support the Youth Group!

Do you buy groceries – we know you do! Now your grocery purchases can help fund the Youth Group activities. If you shop at **Giant Food Stores**, you can purchase a gift card from the Youth Group, which can be used at any Tops Markets, Giant Food Stores, Martin's Food Market, Stop & Shop, Bi-Lo, Super G or Giant of Landover. The gift cards are available for purchase in different denominations. You pay the face value for the card and the Youth group receives 5% of the face value. That card is good for the face value when presented at the store. Gift cards are available from Connie Wilson. Connie can be contacted in person or at (717) 534-0642 or c2wilson@comcast.net. If you shop at **Fox's Markets**, save your receipts and bring them to the collection envelopes located in the Narthex and the Uppercroft. The Youth Group will receive 1% of the value of collected receipts. This is an easy way to support the Youth Group, simply buy your weekly groceries and you raise money for the Youth Group!

This winter we, at St. Stephens, will be participating in the operation of the temporary emergency shelter for the homeless in downtown Harrisburg. The host churches are Market Square Presbyterian, Grace United Methodist, St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Michael Lutheran. We will be helping by gathering volunteers for a week in February at Grace and a week in March at St. Michael's.

A Big Thank You

To everyone who volunteered on very short notice to help prepare the grounds, the Nave and Altar areas for Evensong! Please take a moment to express your gratitude to the following people: Helen Delano, Alison and Emma Guerin, Noel Potter, Noel L. Potter, Gene Schofield, Ron Burkholder, Henry Buckner, Dyke Jones, Greg Penny, Rick Seay, Anne Yellott, Gerry Garber, Austin Brunson, Wes Brunson, Alex Brunson, Margaret Messner, Marcia Davis, Pauline Risser- Clemens, Sam Clemens, Mary Jane Forbes Schmidt, Marsali Hansen and "Cool" the puppy! (Please forgive me if I missed anyone) A little hard work and a lot of fellowship made our time together an enjoyable experience. Thank you to all who answered the call!

Stewardship Update:

"As of December 1, we have received 180 pledges for \$378,895. Thank you to all who have stepped up in the Spirit this year. We are deeply touched by your generosity and hopefulness. For those of you still praying and discerning about your offering, please know how important your contributions of time, talent and treasure are. Your Vestry will be formulating its final budget for 2005 in the early part of January. We would be glad to speak with you at your convenience should you have any current questions, reflections or thoughts.

—Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt"

Packing Potatoes

Can you help? The Salvation Army, 1122 Green Street in Harrisburg has asked for volunteers to help pack potatoes for Christmas baskets on Wednesday, December 8th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This has been an annual fun gathering for all and provides a great gift to those less fortunate in the community. So don't miss out . . . with a chance to say: "this spud is for you!"

Children's Pageant

The children of St. Stephen's will be presenting the Christmas story at the 5:00 p.m. Christmas eve Pageant this year as in year's past. We will be holding practices on Saturday December 11 and 18 in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. All children are encouraged to attend. Please contact Lynn and Diane Schadle at 545-7044 and let them know if your child will be able to participate this year.

T-Shirts for Sale!

Time to start thinking of Christmas presents!!! The Arts and Drama Committee is selling (diocesan) purple t-shirts with the handsome St. Stephen's logo in red on the front. The shirts are \$15, and we have them in ALL sizes from Youth to XXL. To buy your shirt(s), contact Marianne Russell (737-6430) or Rosemary Webber (671-1361).

The Gathering Book Group

The Gathering Book Group . . . This St. Stephens book group will meet Tuesday December 7 at Daphne's house for our discussion of The Barn at the End of the World and for Advent refreshment!

Awakenings 2005

Mark your calendars now!! Awakenings 2005 will be February 18-20, 2005 at Camp Hebron in Halifax, PA. Awakenings is a weekend fellowship/worship event for senior high youth sponsored by the Youth Commission in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Registration forms will be available in December from your clergy or on the diocesan webpage www.diocesepa.org. (Note – staff application are available from your clergy now.)

Youth Grades 6-9 and their Parents

Now is the time to sign up to attend Nightwatch on Saturday January 8th. Nightwatch is an overnight event at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. We have reserved 10 spaces, to be filled on a first come, first served basis. Additional information is being mailed to you and also is available at Sunday School class and the next Youth Group meeting. To sign up for a spot, or if you have questions contact Craig or Connie Wilson at (717) 534-0642 or c2wilson@comcast.net.

Homeless Shelter

This winter we, at St. Stephens, will be participating in the operation of the temporary emergency shelter for the homeless in downtown Harrisburg. The host churches are Market Square Presbyterian, Grace United Methodist, St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Michael Lutheran. We will be helping by gathering volunteers for a week in February at Grace and a week in March at St. Michael's.

Many of you know first hand how important this ministry is. You know how good it feels to extend the hand of hospitality to people left out in the cold. And you know how, in the end, you find your own faith deepened by connecting face to face with people in need.

To support the operation of the shelter, we are asking you all to help either with your time or your financial contribution.

If you're interested in **volunteering** by staying on site for a night or more, please contact Daphne to get yourself on the schedule. Volunteers must be 18 years old or older. We will need 3 people each night. Daphne can give you more details about what's involved. She'll contact you closer to our scheduled time with specifics.

If you want to support the shelter **financially**, you may send a check to the church office, made out to Market Square Presbyterian Church (with DES in the memo line). We will also be participating in Shelter Sunday, November 14, when we and the other congregations involved will take up a special collection for your tax deductible contribution.

Last year over 250 people different folks found respite at the shelter. More than that number of volunteers experienced the blessing of doing the good work of the shelter nights. This is what God asks of us – to reach out to those in need and then know the joy and peace of having loved. Please help.

Health Ministry

“Christmas Seals Campaign”

For more than 90 years, donations to the American Lung Association's (ALA) Christmas Seals Campaign have helped fund programs of education, advocacy and research for lung disease and its causes. Founded in 1904 to fight tuberculosis, the American Lung Association today fights lung disease in all its forms, with special emphasis on asthma, tobacco control and environmental health. “Open Airways for Schools” is the ALA elementary-school education program for children with asthma. (TATU) Teens Against Tobacco Use is an important part of the ALA drive to eliminate tobacco use among our youth. Lung disease can be caused or aggravated by air pollution, both indoors and out. “What is our “Fragrance Free Area”? There are many people in our congregation that are allergic to fragrances. They will develop difficulty breathing if exposed to cologne, perfume, strong odors, etc. We want to be considerate of them and thus have designated the rear section of 101 by the door for their comfort.

Our respiratory system is a very intricate structure needed for breathing. What an awesome “Creator” we serve. Breathing is the process by which oxygen in the air is brought into the lungs and into close contact with the blood, which absorbs it and carries it to all parts of the body. At the same time the blood gives up waste matter (carbon dioxide), which is carried out of the lungs when air is breathed out.

As the federal government attempts to unravel reasons for the flu vaccine shortage, the ALA is encouraging citizens to focus on what we can do together to improve our public health and make it a top priority. If you are at risk of getting the flu, but cannot obtain a flu shot, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending antiviral medication if you're likely to be exposed to others infected with the flu. To avoid illness altogether, we should all remember to wash our hands, wave instead of shaking hands, cover our mouths when we cough or noses when we sneeze, eat a balanced diet, exercise and get proper rest. “Stay Well!”

Donors Still Needed

Good progress is being made on filling our 2004 quota for the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank. 85% of the quota has been donated. The Parish Health Ministry is grateful for the generous support of the cathedral blood donors during the past year, but would still urge those donors, who are able, to consider an end of the year blood donation. The coming holiday season is a most appropriate time to consider donation of a “Gift of Life”. Thank you.

You are cordially invited to attend
Church Christmas Dinner
Sunday January 2, 2005
at 12:00 noon

In the spirit of Christmas and the tradition of families gathering for the holidays, “The Friends of St. Stephen’s” and “Lay Eucharistic Visitors” of the Parish Health Ministry will host a traditional Christmas Dinner of turkey with all the fixings.

Seating is limited, therefore, we need to know how many will be coming to our celebration. The entire St. Stephen’s Community, especially family and friends, are most welcome.

Please complete the reservation form and mail to the church office, place it in the collection plate, or call 236-4059 no later than Sunday December 19, 2004

There will be no cost

Reservation Form

Christmas Dinner Sunday January 2, 2005

Name _____

Number of Adults ____ Number of Children ____

Note: If you know a shut-in that you are willing to take a meal to let us know with your reservation and we will prepare a meal to go.

Number of Shut-in meals _____

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.

Feast of the Epiphany

Mark your calendars for the evening of January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. We will join the folks at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church uptown for a celebration of the 12th day of Christmas.

Thank you!

I’m taking this opportunity to thank, with all my heart, our parish family and friends, for all your prayers, cards and kindnesses to Tom and me these past two difficult months. You have been enormously helpful to both of us.

Also, I want to report the good news that our total U.T.O. ingathering this fall was \$998.62! Somehow I forgot to report this with my tumble and subsequent surgery.

Jeanne Leaman

The Next Publication Date

Articles for the next Messenger need to be submitted by Sunday, December 12, 2004

Visit our Web Site:
www.ststep.org

the CATHEDRAL
 MESSENGER

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN

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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>Facilities Manager</i>	Skip DeMarkey
<i>Minister of Music</i>	Michael Shoemaker
<i>Hospitality Coordinator</i>	Judy Clemmer
<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>	Greg Penny
<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>Arts and Drama Committee</i>	Ann Elliott
<i>St. Stephen's School</i>	Carol Lopus
<i>Acolyte Warden</i>	Greg Penny
<i>Sunday 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 Coordinator</i>	Shannon Powers

CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

December 5	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
5	Blood Pressure Screening, 8:45 a.m.
5	Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.
5	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
6	St. Stephen's School Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.
7	Discernment Committee, 5:30 p.m.
7	The Gathering, 7:00 p.m.
7	Eakin Trio Concert, 7:30 p.m.
8	Pack Potatoes at Salvation Army, 6:30 p.m.
11	Christmas pageant practice, 9:00 a.m.
11	Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.
12	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
12	Coffee Hour, 11:30 p.m.
12	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
12	Youth Caroling, 2:45 p.m.
13	Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.
13	AIDS Community Alliance Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
18	Christmas Pageant practice, 9:00 a.m.
18	Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.
19	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
19	Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.
19	Greening the Cathedral, 12:00 p.m.
19	Christmas Concert, 4:00 p.m. followed by the Christmas Tea
19	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Pageant
24	Christmas Eve Services 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
25	Christmas Day Services 11:00 a.m.