



the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

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

Vol. 10, No.23

December 19, 2004

On Front Street

Although I have never visited St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers, Michigan, for many years I have received and read their sparse and elegant little newsletter. Its simplicity and tidiness reflects the Benedictine spirituality which defines the Brotherhood itself, and virtually every church I have ever served has been on the postal end of these occasional epistles. My guess is that, as part of their silent but wider ministry, the community undertakes to "*send out your bread upon the water, for after many days you will get it back*" [Ecclesiastes 11:1]. And, like most of God's mysterious workings, in its own due time this is precisely what happens. This past week, as I was reflecting on the larger question and challenge of who we are, not only as a parish but also as a people of faith — a member of Christ's body — I came upon a lovely and startling insight, shared by Br. Abraham. He writes this: "*As our holiness grows, we see the holiness of others more clearly. We begin to realize that our immature ideas of holiness might have been wrong, and we realize that even though others are different from us, they are holy nonetheless. However, even before we reach total maturity we are obliged to treat every person as the doubly holy image of God whether or not we can see their holiness...*"

The clarity and profundity of this spiritual observation can not be overstated, for what we are being called to here is nothing less than a twofold journey of faith — a voyage of ongoing inner discovery and a voyage of outward Christian love in its most unconditional and radical expression. Both sound a great deal simpler and easier than they truly are. In the first case, I am reminded that however near or far the distance, however sorrowful or joyous the encounter, however clear or muddled the road ahead, God's work of creation, redemption and transformation is ongoing and ever unfinished. I often cite the Patristic notion that the

world is always evolving from imperfection toward perfection, but what is being identified here is that this same unfathomable work is being undertaken in you and in me, right here and right now. What would spiritual "maturity" look and feel like? Honestly, I haven't a clue, and that incompleteness and elusiveness is a blessing in itself.

Second, I am abundantly grateful for the persistent reminder to meet, encounter, engage, and embrace my fellow men and women — warts and all — as the true, holy, perfectible image of God. I am reminded of the most elemental of all Christian responsibilities and privileges, the radical and unconditional acceptance of every living, breathing human being as a child of God. Is that easy or simple for me? Hardly. For in my own impatience and judgmentalism and restless desire to understand the world I am constantly overlooking or missing or simply ignoring the Godly potential, the Christ-like luminescence, in every person whose path I cross. I am quite sure that in this day and age, in this struggling world and in our own smaller families and communities, such unconditional love is arguably the single most difficult Christian challenge to which we are drawn. Likewise it is the single most imperative assumption of the Gospel, for if Jesus can do this then so must we, striving as well for such perfect love.

After you read this, look around you. Stop and ponder. Invite silence and thanksgiving. Perhaps even take a quiet glance around your holiday table or seasonal gathering. Does your world and the people in it look any different? How might such unconditional love, emanating from Bethlehem and beyond, into your life and our life, truly and radically and undeniably change and redeem the world?

In peace and faith,

WEEKLY LITURGIES AT THE CATHEDRAL

Sunday:	Holy Eucharist, Rite II — said service	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.

The Very Reverend Mark H. Hatch
Interim Dean

News and Events

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.

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Service to 'lie fallow'

After much prayer, discernment and reflection, and after an autumn of experimentation and effort, the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Worship will now lie fallow and take a rest. The final 5:00 p.m. service of the winter will be held on Saturday December 18. If the spirit and energy blooms again come spring, we will reconsider the possibility of a Saturday service. I especially wish to thank that small but very loyal group of parishioners and friends for whom this service was important. In particular, special thanks to Warren and Dorothy Gillam, who, in one form or another, served as usher, reader, chalice, altar guild, raconteur, greeter, and more. I would also like to thank Jonathan Frazier who, when his busy schedule permitted, joyfully assisted with music. This has been a learning experience for me and for the Cathedral, a time to try new things and a season in which to seek the Spirit in yet a different way. Let us pray that God will continue to guide us, in all ways and at all times, as we seek to build and celebrate a community of faith here on Front Street. ~ Mark

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. More info to come in January!

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.

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.

Stewardship Update:

As of December 14, we have received 188 pledges for \$390,993. 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

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.diocesecpa.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.

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. A celebration of the Holy Eucharist is included. We will be holding practice on Saturday December 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).

Still Time to Donate

The need for blood and blood products never takes a holiday. To those in need of blood, a transfusion may be the only gift being sought this year. If you are a suitable donor, please consider year end blood donation to help fill the Cathedral blood quota for 2004, and to help the Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank relieve the suffering of patients in need of blood. Make blood donation part of your Holiday Gift Giving. Thank you.

Seeds of Faith – The Cathedral Bookstore

HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS – Unique, Distinctive, Reasonably Priced.

Gift Ornament Balls, hand-painted, 6 styles, can be personalized

Stained Glass "Tiffany" Lamps & Frames (by Paul Stahlin)

Olive Wood Candle Sticks and Nativities from the Holy Land

Resin Nativities (2 styles/sizes)

Rich, melodic Wind Chimes in several styles and sizes

Laser-Etched Crystal (3D images)

Special-Edition St Stephen's Note Cards featuring the artistry of our own Ted Webber

and for the person who is difficult to buy for, a Gift Certificate, in any amount.

Available at **Seeds of Faith – much more than just books!** At the rear of the cathedral. (*Your Visa and MasterCard are Welcome.*) Open Sundays, plus special holiday hours on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other times by appointment.

All proceeds from Seeds of Faith sales benefit the mission of St Stephen's Cathedral.

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 congregation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, along with the congregation from Lakeside Lutheran, uptown for a celebration of the 12th day of Christmas.

Mission of Mercy

The health outreach ministry at Christ Lutheran Church, Allison Hill (The Rev. Jody Sillker), is in need of specific items and materials for their ongoing work. Might you feel called, in some way, to offer up any of these basic necessities to our brothers and sisters in Christ? These items can be brought to St. Stephen's and left with either the Dean's Office or the Parish Health Ministry, and we will see that they get delivered.

- reading glasses 3X, 4X, 1.23 X
- bath towels and wash clothes
- men's xl undershirts and t-shirts
- men's briefs, size 40
- women's underwear sizes 6,8,10,12
- women's bras, all sizes
- muscle rub/ointment
- Tussin CF, DF, or plain
- Sudafed
- blankets, any size
- bus tickets and/or passes
- hydrocortisone 1% cream.

All of these basic necessities are very much in need throughout the winter. Please consider offering a tangible donation of Christ's love to those far less fortunate than you or me. ~ Mark

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 _____

Call for Annual Reports

The Annual Meeting of St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral will be held Sunday January 30, 2005. In order to prepare the Annual Report I am asking all Committees, Elected Leadership and Staff to please submit their report in the next few weeks so that we can compile a comprehensive and reflective document for the parish family and wider diocese. It would be extremely helpful if you would submit your report electronically, either in the text of an email or as an MS WORD attachment, to the Cathedral office. If you lack computer access please let us know and we will arrange to assist in the electronic composition of your report. As you prepare your particular section I would ask you to pray and reflect about 2 primary areas: where, in the last year, did I/we see visible signs of God's grace and hope? Second, where, in the year to come, do I/we hope to follow God's call? For organizational purposes I am prayerfully asking that you submit your reports NO LATER THAN Sunday January 16. After that time it will be very challenging to adequately compile our work and to include late submissions. Many thanks.

~ Mark

The Cathedral Choir presents 'Sounds of the Season' Sunday, December 19, at Four O 'Clock followed by the Annual Christmas Tea. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of Advent and Christmas Music

The Next Publication Date

Articles for the next Messenger need to be submitted no later than Sunday, December 26, 2004



Cathedral Church of Saint Stephen
and Cathedral House
Harrisburg, PA

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	19	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	19	Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.
	19	Greening of 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.
	23	Seeds of Faith open 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
	24	Christmas Eve Pageant and Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.
	24	Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist, 8:00 and 11:00 p.m.
	25	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.
	26	FEAST DAY OF ST. STEPHEN
	26	Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.
	26	Serving at Downtown Daily Bread, 12:00 p.m.
	26	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
	26	Youth Event, 6:00 p.m.
	27	Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.
	30	Seeds of Faith open 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
January	2	THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
	2	Blood Pressure Screening, 8:45 a.m.
	2	Coffee Hour, 11:30 a.m.
	2	Christmas Dinner, 12:00 p.m.
	2	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
	3	St. Stephen's School Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.
	4	Outreach Coordinating Committee, 6:30 p.m.
	4	Discernment Committee, 7:00 p.m.
	5	School Championship National Geography Bee, 9:00 a.m.