



the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

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

Vol. 10, No.24

December 31, 2004

On Front Street

In the classic 1972 film 'The Candidate', Bill McKay (played by Robert Redford) runs a quixotic and insurgent campaign against an entrenched incumbent, Senator Crocker Jarmon (Don Porter). Even more improbably, and clearly conflicted by his personal evolution from crusading purist to vacuous, telegenic 'soundbite', McKay emerges victorious. Uttering one of the most famous lines in modern film, on election night McKay turns to his Svengali-like campaign manager and asks: "*what do we do now?*"

While there are as many questions as there are answers at Christmas time, to me this remains the most elementary and central challenge of all — as Christians who have now received a great gift, heavy laden with promise and possibility, what are we to do? Scripture reminds us that fear and terror are the immediate reaction of those to whom the Nativity message is first brought. But that paralysis and uncertainty is rapidly transformed into both action and annunciation, and people soon divert the very course of their regimented lives so as to "*go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.*" [Luke 2:15] Even more, after witnessing firsthand the unfolding events before their eyes the shepherds then spread the word, accelerating an unfolding of faith and story which reverberates down to our very own time and place.

Therefore, for those of you who are now reading this epistle I ask the very same question which I asked of the assembled congregation on Christmas morning: how will those around you in a disbelieving world know that you have seen a new Light? How will the colleagues and comrades, cohorts and cousins in your midst understand that you yourself now carry this Christian message and this Gospel promise? What will it be in your life, in your work, in your restfulness or your doing, which shall reveal to those

all about you the great wonder and the still expanding possibility wrought by God and Christ, through Mary and Joseph? The propagation of hope and the dissemination of forgiveness is not only our challenge and our responsibility, it must primarily be our joy. Only then, when you and I live out and reflect back and shine forth this improbable notion, this incredulous story, will the world and its doubters come to know that Christ is real, and the Spirit moves among us, and God is love.

May you be heartened for the journey, strengthened for the undertaking, renewed for the mission, made glad in the Lord our God. This day is the first day of all days, just as tomorrow shall be as well. May we live the Christian life in grace and may we share the Christian promise in abundance

In peace and faith,

The Very Reverend Mark H. Hatch
Interim Dean

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.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

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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:

Jeanne Leaman	Amy Benowitz
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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.

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!

Online Giving

The Cathedral currently has the capability to process online giving by going to our website: 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.

Homeless Shelter

Many of you all have volunteered to stay overnight at the Downtown Emergency Homeless Shelter over the two weeks for which we are responsible - the week of February 6th and week of March 13th. Bill Ilgenfritz is in charge of scheduling and will be in touch with all of 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.

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.

In My Loss . . .

My deep thanks to all who offered prayers, sent cards and expressed your sympathy on the occasion of my Dad's death. We have handed him back to God and trust that he is finally healed and whole. Those who have lost loved ones around the holidays know how poignant and heavy things can get. Your friendship and love are truly a gift to me. May we all know the peace and energy that comes from being part of the Body of Christ in this place and at this time.

Daphne

Stewardship Update:

As of December 30, we have received 196 pledges for \$404,145. 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 finalizing its FY 2005 budget, based upon stewardship totals at the end of December, at the January 30 Vestry meeting. 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

High School students - 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.

Children's Activity Bags

The Christian Education & Formation Committee has put together activity bags for our children to help them experience our hymns, readings, and prayers in their own ways. Materials include crayons, recycled paper, activity books in some cases for a variety of ages, and quiet craft supplies. We hope to welcome all children attending services with these bags, but particularly children who are new or visiting. This is a pilot project so feedback and supply donations are welcome. Contact Karen Weber at 731-0127 or weber@paonline.com.

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

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

The Next Publication Date

Articles for the next Messenger need to be submitted no later than Sunday, January 9, 2005.

SUNDAY FORUMS – WINTER & SPRING 2005

New Beginnings

January 2 – Resolutions

Guided reflection for the New Year led by Jane Bartholomew and Bob Colman

January 9 – The Search Continues

The Discernment Committee will update us on their activities and discuss the Parish Profile that was sent to potential candidates.

January 16 - Faith, Hope and Redemption in the Music of Bruce Springsteen

This session will be lead by the Rev. Richard M. Simpson, who is the Rector of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Holden, MA. He is also a doctoral candidate at Columbia Theological Seminary

January 23 – Meet the Candidates (Vestry and Diocesan Convention)

Take this opportunity to meet and hear from the candidates for Vestry and for delegate to Diocesan Convention. Jane Bartholomew will act as moderator. Please forward your questions to her no later than January 14, 2005. The elections will be held at the Annual Meeting.

January 30 – ANNUAL MEETING ~ In the Uppercroft, immediately following one service of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m.

The Journey to Easter

February 6 – A Time To Turn

Using a selection of readings by Anglican authors, all on the theme of God's love, we'll identify and discuss characteristics of Anglican thought – and also discuss if and how these voices from earlier times speak to us. Led by Bonnee Voss and Gary Harke.

February 13 through March 20 – Book-aided Bible Study

Linda Shorey and Peter Powers, individually or together, will lead the Sunday Forums during Lent and on Palm Sunday using *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles Our Judgment* by Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury to study the Gospels. The book is available through Amazon.com (www.Amazon.com) for \$10.20 plus shipping. (With enough copies shipping is free! Anyone interested in a copy for \$10.20, let me know by Sunday, January 2, 2005 (lshorey@kl.com). I will order all at once from Amazon and we should have in a week.)

Easter

March 27 – EASTER SUNDAY – No Forum today

Violence in Society

April 3 – Sanctified Suffering: Abused Women of the Hebrew Bible

In this session, Sister Susanna Bede Caroselli will discuss her research into visual images of victimized women in the Hebrew Bible and their connection with the imagery of Christ in medieval art. Sister Susanna is professor of art history at Messiah College, and is the author of three books on Renaissance art and many articles on art and religion. She is a professed member of the Sisters of Saint Gregory, a religious community of the Episcopal Church, and attends St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg. She is active as a preacher and speaker on art and religion, and will deliver a plenary address at the C. S. Lewis international conference at Oxford and Cambridge this summer.

April 10 – Safeguarding God's Children: For Parents and Congregations

This Sunday, we will consider how to prevent child sexual abuse. We will view a video developed and produced especially for the Episcopal Church community and engage in dialog designed to give a basic understanding of the dynamics of child sexual abuse, how to recognize signs that a child may have been abused, and what to do if you have concerns about a person's behavior towards a child or youth or suspect that a child or youth has been abused. This training is especially relevant for anyone with children in their lives, such as parents, grandparents, extended family, and friends. This discussion will apply to protecting children from sexual abuse in many situations, in or out of the church, such as day care, schools, and sports teams.

April 17 – Violence and the Elderly

Anne Alsedek, Founder and Education Director from Open Stage, will share her experience playing an abused old lady in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

God's Green Earth

April 24 – Environmental Stewardship Committee Sunday

This year, the Environmental Stewardship Committee is gearing up for a renewed focus on the importance of purchasing and using green power. The featured speaker will bring us up to date on the progress of green power initiatives in our state and beyond. In addition, we will discuss ways to evangelize stewardship of the environment by showing other churches and organizations in the area how to sign up for green power.

May 1 – How Are Our New “Green” Building Additions Serving St. Stephen’s?

Jim Elliott will update us on how well we are using our new building additions, which were planned to serve multiple missions of our parish. He will also discuss the performance of our energy-efficient heating and ventilation system and the status of our Green Building certification.

How We Culture God

May 8 – Christian Teaching on the “End:” Ancient And Modern Beliefs

Dr. Stephen Cooper, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, will lead this forum. Early Christianity was an apocalyptic movement, as scholars, on the basis of many of the New Testament documents, recognize. The late 20th century has seen a resurgence of interest in end-time teachings in many branches of evangelical Christianity in America, particularly the “pre-millennialist rapture” doctrine popularized in the best-selling *Left Behind* series. But is this form of end-time teaching really based on the Bible, as its proponents insist, and how does it compare with the eschatologies of the early church? Dr. Cooper will examine the modern claims in light of the biblical evidence and early Christian teachings.

May 15 – Why Does It Matter?

Rabbi Carl Choper from Temple Beth Shalom in Mechanicsburg will explore our community understanding of the scriptural texts growing out of the divine encounter of Pentecost. What difference does it make to us that the scriptural texts proceeded out of a specific religious event?

May 22 – What if God Were One of Us?

Canon Pastor Daphne Messersmith and David Zwifka will lead this session. Everyone should watch *Joan of Arcadia* on the preceding Friday (CBS from 8-9PM) in preparation.

Concerns We Face in the Diocese and at the Cathedral

May 29 – (Memorial Day weekend) Diocesan Convention Issues

Our recently elected delegates to Diocesan Convention will enlighten us concerning the issues to be addressed by the Convention.

June 5 – Ask The Vestry

Wrap-Up

June 12 – Wrap-Up/Evaluation

On this day of the Bishop’s Visit, we will look at where we’ve been and where we’d like to go in the future.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN PROGRAM 2005

February 16 & 23, March 2, 9 & 16

Wednesday evening at St. Stephens for Lent 2005 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.

Program 1: Family Hour

Karen Weber and Becky Tartline have organized a family program using materials from the Heifer Project, a favorite charity of our St. Stephen’s younger members. The program will help children, youth and adults see themselves as part of the global family and gain a deeper appreciation of the ways in which Heifer Project helps people, animals and plants live in harmony as God’s good creation. There will be something for everyone, regardless of age.

Program 2: A Time to Turn: Anglican Readings for Lent

Leaders: the Rev. Gary Harke and Bonnee Lauridsen Voss

Anglican writers through the centuries have helped us focus on Lenten disciplines. This study/discussion class will feature brief readings from sermons, meditations, and poetry by Christina Rossetti, John Donne, Phillips Brooks, John Keble, Thomas Traherne, Harriet Beecher Stowe and others. Using the readings, we’ll reflect on one Lenten theme each session—Feb. 16: the need for discipline; Feb. 23: prayer; March 2: the Cross; March 9: Holy Baptism; and March 16: charity. We will look for ways the readings relate to our lives and also for characteristics in each reading that make it “Anglican.”

Resource book: *A Time to Turn* compiled by Christopher L. Webber (Morehouse Publishing, \$11.95). You may purchase your own book at the Bookstore.

Program 3: Praying the Gospel

Leaders: Jane Bartholomew and others

The Lenten focus on penitence and asceticism calls us to examine our consciousness and our relationship to God. Lent is a time when many Christians intensify their prayer life and look for ways of greater grounding in their faith. Each week will include times for prayer and conversation related to the Gospel message for the coming week. It will be an opportunity for deepening religious experience in a guided and supportive atmosphere.

Holiday Wishes from the McDowell's

Never knew what an "ocean effect snow" was until yesterday(12/15) when we received close to five inches of the white stuff on this part of Cape Cod. We were starting to hum "it's beginning to look alot like Christmas". However, all the snow will be gone by tomorrow when more balmy weather returns.

As Kathie and I approach our first Christmas "in retirement", a couple of things appear rather obvious to us. We had time to do some of the usual Christmas preparations quite leisurely. Time, one of Advent's voices was hearkening! And, another voice, remembering, was also hearkening. Only being away from St. Stephen's for these past six months has brought to Kathie and me a wonderful time to recount the many joys of our life and ministry at the Cathedral. One wonderful story always yielded to another. There were so many.

As we gather with our whole family here on Cape Cod for Christmas, we shall celebrate with you the joys of the birth of Christ and the hope of the rebirthing of His spirit in ours. And, believe it not, it will be the very first time our family will be worshipping together (sitting in the pews!!) at a Christmas service!!

A Blessed Christmas and a Hope-filled New Year to all of you.

With Love
Kathie and Mac

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) Joan Esham if you would like to have your name placed on a list of volunteers. Thank you!



You are Invited

To an Ecumenical Taize service sponsored by the Downtown Clergy at 7:30 p.m. on January 19, 2005 at Zion Lutheran Church on 4th Street. Together with members of the downtown congregations we will celebrate the unity that is ours in Jesus Christ as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Taize is a style of worship that includes sung prayer, quiet meditation and candle lighting. There will be a reception after the service. A free will offering will be taken to support the Downtown Shelter. Parking is available in the Chestnut Street Parking Garage. The entrance to the garage is on Chestnut Street between 3rd and 4th Streets. The garage and Zion Lutheran Church are handicap accessible.



Cathedral Church of Saint Stephen
and Cathedral House
Harrisburg, PA

the CATHEDRAL MESSENGER

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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>	Craig Wilson
<i>Junior Warden</i>	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt
<i>Vestry:</i>	Helen Delano
	Ann Elliott
	Joan Esham
	Gerald Garber II
	Warren Gillam
<i>Parish Treasurer</i>	Rosemary Webber
<i>Acting Vestry Secretary</i>	Bill Davis
<i>Worship Ministry</i>	Greg Penny
<i>Education Ministry</i>	Jane Bartholomew
<i>Evangelism Ministry</i>	Becky Tartline
<i>Outreach Coordinating Ministry</i>	Ted Webber
<i>Parish Health Ministry</i>	Betsy Howell, Bill Ilgenfritz
<i>Stewardship Ministry</i>	Helen Hendrickson
	Mary Jane Forbes-Schmidt,
	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

<i>January</i>	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. in the Undercroft
	2	Helping Hands, 4:30 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.
	6	Christian Education and Formation Committee, 6:30 p.m.
	6	Joint Epiphany Service with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 7:00 p.m.
	8	Youth Group - NIGHTWATCH, NYC
	9	THE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
	9	Epiphany Ministries Fair, 9:00 a.m.
	9	Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.
	9	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.
	9	Youth Event, 6:00 p.m.
	10	Seekers Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.
	10	AIDS Community Alliance Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
	10	St. Stephen's School Board of Directors, 6:00 p.m.
	11	Evangelism Committee, 7:00 p.m.
	11	Property Committee, 7:00 p.m.
	13	Finance Committee, 7:30 p.m.
	16	THE 2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
	16	Coffee Hour, 11:15 a.m.
	16	Helping Hands, 4:30 p.m.