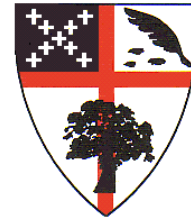


Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



Message from the Rector

Rector's Message...

When I came to this faith community on July 1, 2002, I had the typical new job jitters. I wondered how we would get along. I prayed that we would have a shared sense of what kind of a faith family we wanted to be. I dreamed about the kinds of things we might accomplish. I hoped that together we would transform the lives of our neighborhood, our children, and even ourselves. That's a pretty high expectation, isn't it? But I keep seeing all of it unfold before us. We keep meeting the need, expecting – and getting – miracles to keep us growing and building on what we have already done, to accomplish even more.

Take a look at some statistics in the table below.

The increase in total income (pledge + plate + donations + 'other') means that we are not under pressure to cut some of our programs. THANK YOU, thank you, for your response to our Stewardship Campaign. We WILL however, keep church spending tightly controlled this year. We will closely monitor what Congress, President Obama, and Governor

Schwartzenegger do about the financial pressure this country and state are under. And locally, your Finance Committee will meet at least once each month to check how the church finances are going, and how you are doing. Keep us posted if your conditions change. That will help us keep a step ahead.

But even more exciting to me than our finances (Logan: cover your eyes now), is the increase by 12% in the number of families contributing regularly to what we do here. This very significant increase reflects your confidence in me as your rector, the vestry as your leadership team, and God as your Purpose. This is HUGE. I am so grateful to you for the commitment you have to this faith community. And I am so grateful to God for leading me here for my work in ministry.

Yours in Faith,

Ken +

St. Stephen's
in the Field

January 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 1

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	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Pledging Families	27	44	52	48	54	49	55
Total Income	92,887	120,182	138,856	161,804	167,783	173,824 (est.)	179,096 (est.)

Words from Your Senior Warden

As one year is closed and another begins, there is always that time of reflection on the past year of what was, and what could have been. There is also looking forward to the new year with anticipation of what could be attained and of what can be accomplished or there is looking forward in fear of what lies ahead. There are two ways of approaching our lives, either with a mindset of abundance or of scarcity, both in our spiritual and personal lives. I truly feel we are coming from a spiritual mindset of abundance at St. Stephen's. As I reflect back on this past year's accomplishments and on prior years as well, I am continually blown away with what we have achieved as a Faith Family. In a world that seems to get more messed up everyday with the examples of moral decay by our political leadership, sports and entertainment figures, along with the violence that permeates our society today, we are blessed by the strength we have together.

There are so many examples of how this strength has affected or touched the lives of people our community comes in contact with; I would like to share one of them with you. In December we were blessed by a visit from Dick and Charlotte House and their musical ministry of "Soft Gospel" Telling the story of Jesus and His Love through Hymns. Those of you who heard them

that Sunday know how special their music is. Their ministry began over 10 years ago, when they sold their home in Alaska and began to travel throughout Washington, Oregon and California calling on churches offering free "Gospel Music". They joined us for our Posada dinner and service on Saturday evening then shared their music during the service on Sunday playing for 30 minutes prior to the service. Their music filled St. Stephen's that morning with a special love and feeling. Dick and Charlotte shared with us that we were the 40th church that they had visited on this current trip, and because of the poor receptions and closed doors that they had received prior to visiting us they were ready to give up and return to Alaska. They were greeted and received with such LOVE by the members of this Faith Family, that they made the decision to continue their journey. Once again, this family has reached out and shared the abundance by touching other lives. Dick and Charlotte have plans to visit us again in the near future; if you missed them the first time don't miss the next time.

It is a blessing to be a member of this strong Faith Family, together we will make 2009 an abundant year!

God Bless,

Tom

Preschool Update...

There is a recent surge in telephone calls and visits to our preschool for registration this Spring, and for next Fall. It is exciting to see that there is already registration activity for next August! We expect one new student next week, and another possible addition in two weeks.

We are actively recruiting for a qualified preschool teacher for weekday afternoons. Our current afternoon teacher has conflicts in the afternoons. The afternoon teacher will have responsibility for the Extended Day program that runs from 12 noon to 6 pm (on an as-needed ba-



sis). When we have enough students for an afternoon preschool session, this teacher will instruct that session. If you are interested, or can refer someone to us, please let Father Ken or Sue Nielsen know as soon as possible. We will need a resume and a transcript showing Early Childhood Development course work.

Ken +

St. Stephen's Financial Summary through November

Pledge Receipts improved in November and overall income was \$5,466 over plan.

On the expense side, we were over the monthly budget due to the clean up bin use earlier in the year, the new water heater, food expenses for Family Fun Day, and supplies for the parish hall and kitchen

The end of year income has been projected, using actual figures thru mid-December. It has been estimated that pledges will be \$3,200 short of our budgeted goal. Although Other Contributions were over plan, it appears that there will be a \$2,305 income shortfall.

The end of year expense has also been projected with a estimated over budget condition of \$5,864 for a number of reasons including carry over expenses from 2007, fund raising expenses, and utilities. The net result is that expenses will exceed income by \$8,820.

2009 Pledge Drive Update

Our jig saw puzzle is almost complete as we recently announced pledges totaling over \$140,000. This is the number that the Finance Committee has used to finalize the 2009 budget to be presented to the Vestry and to be approved in the Annual Meeting.

However, this pledge amount leaves our puzzle one piece short – "The Unknown Golfer" piece. With over 50 pledges received, we estimated that if everyone increased their pledge by \$1 per week, we would make our goal. Several have responded to that challenge and an additional

An Excellent Conference... Building a Church Without Walls –

January 31 in Santa Clara Deanery at St. Thomas. This is a conference for everyone in the deanery, led by *The Reverend Canon Paul Edwards*, Rector Emeritus, Emmanuel Church, Fullerton, California. How are we spiritually present and available to welcome those exploring a

November - 08	Actual	Budget	Percent Difference
Income	\$17,370	\$11,904	146% of Budget
Expense	\$15,325	\$13,542	113% of Budget
Net	\$2,045	(\$1,638)	
Year to Date			
Income	\$160,116	\$161,695	99% of Budget
Expense	\$168,893	\$161,949	104% of Budget
Net	(\$8,777)	(\$254)	-3356% Worse

ceed income by \$8,820.

We are facing a number of challenges at the end of this year and the Finance Committee is working hard to meet them and apply the lessons learned to the 2009 budget process.

Your continued support is key part of this process and it is appreciated. May God bless us all with a fruitful New Year in 2009.

Logan R. Zintsmaster

pledge was received. But we still have \$1,900 to go. If you have not yet pledged, please give consideration to filling out a pledge card. If you have questions, please feel free to talk to me. If you have made a pledge, please think about a \$1/week boost. You can let me know if you plan a boost in person or via email. Alternatively, you may write a check for \$52 and put it in the plate.

So if you want to know who the golfer is please help us meet our goal. Thank you for your commitment to 2009.

Logan R. Zintsmaster
Stewardship Chairman

deeper life with God in Christ? You will leave this one day conference with greater spiritual insight for your personal life, as well as that of your congregation, better equipped to reach out to others longing for a deeper connection with God. [The Conference is on January 31, 10 am to 3 pm in Sunnyvale. The cost is \$10 per person. To register, call Susan Altig at the Diocesan Office, or call me. Ken +]

Interested in Ordination?

Dear Friends; Happy New Year to you all! In early December you received an invitation from the Commission on Ministry to attend their "Navigating the Ministry Discernment Process," to be held at St. Paul's, Salinas, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 17th. (Coffee and refreshments at 9:30 a.m.) The agenda will include an overview of the ordination process, a discussion of the mission of the COM, and information about the role and work of the deanery discernment committees, among other items.

We cordially invite you, and any members of your congregation who may be considering ordination

or who will be supporting someone in your congregation who is going through this process (vestry members) to attend this training. Please pre-register for this event by sending an email to Susan Altig at the diocesan office (susan@edecr.org) by no later than January 12th. This will help us make sure that we have the appropriate number of materials prepared.

In Christ, Dr. Floyd Farlow, Chair; Commission on Ministry

[If you are interested in a no-obligation exploration of the steps for ordination, please let me know and I will arrange your pre-registration. Ken +]

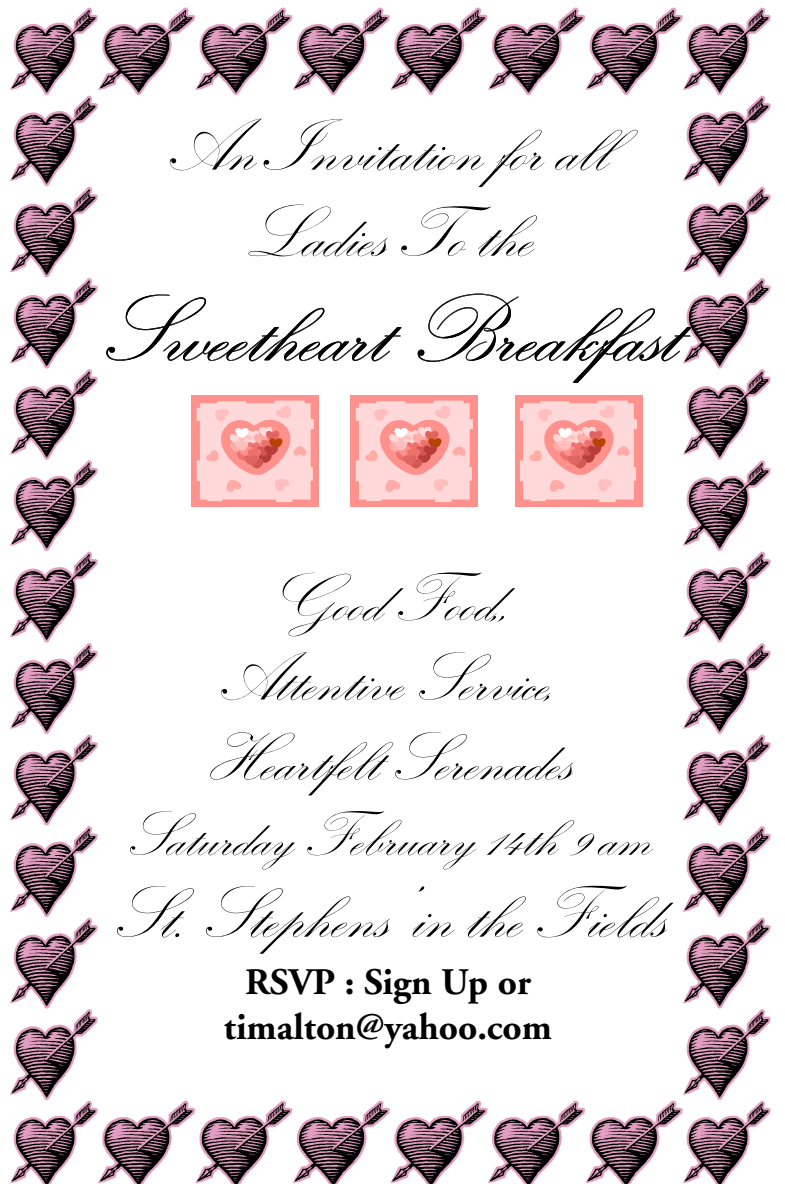
Dear Ladies of the Parish

It is with great pleasure that the gentlemen of the parish invite you once again to our annual Sweetheart Breakfast, this year falling on St. Valentine's Day itself. This is an invitation to all ladies, young and old, short or tall, to enjoy fellowship together while being treated to a fabulous breakfast by attentive servers in a festively decorated bistro-like setting. The coup-de-grace of the event being the serenading of you ladies by household names with some familiar and entertaining songs and finely choreographed staging.


We hope that you will join us.

Gentlemen of the Parish

I am sure that you are as eager as I am to make this Sweetheart Breakfast simply the finest combination of gastronomic and musical delights. Please contact Tim Alton to sign up for a role in this spectacular presentation. If you are unfamiliar with the event please contact Tim Alton, or some other gentleman who looks as though he has been around for a while, there is always room on the team, and you will find it a most enjoyable experience.



*An Invitation for all
Ladies To the
Sweetheart Breakfast*



*Good Food,
Attentive Service,
Heartfelt Serenades*

Saturday February 14th 9 am

St. Stephens in the Fields

**RSVP : Sign Up or
timalton@yahoo.com**

Simon Begins Winter Term

Our Sudanese student in Kenya will begin the Winter Term in Nairobi this coming week. For the last three years we have sponsored Simon Mark Thuc as one of the most promising young people in the Hope With Sudan program of our diocese. Simon is the son of Canon Mark Atem Thuc, a candidate for bishop of the new diocese of Twic East in Sudan. His son has performed consistently at the top of his class since entering the program six years ago. Prior to that he had sat at home for three years with his brothers and sisters having no resources to go to school, being a member of a refugee family in Kenya

Fr. Jerry Drino, Executive Director of Hope With Sudan, visited him and his family on his December trip to Kenya and Sudan. He was amazed at the maturity and total fluency in English that Simon now possesses. The change from the shy nine year old in 2003 to the gentle, intelligent and confident teenager was heartwarming. As they talked Simon shared that his life's dream is to study medicine and return to his people to serve as a doctor. His sister, Rhoda, two years younger has a similar dream and is equally bright

A note from Father Jerry on the Sudan...

[I want to share this note with all of you. Ken +]

Dear Ken

It was good talking with you this morning and I deeply appreciate your prayers and those of St. Stephen's while I was in Kenya and Sudan. I know they worked. There was one night in Juba, the capitol of Sudan, where I was awakened by gun shots. They were at a distance, but I listened to see if they were getting any closer to the Cathedral compound where I was staying. Fortunately, they abated after about a half hour and never came any closer. Speaking of the cathedral, when I arrived they were holding the commissioning of 20 evangelist for the diocese of Juba with about 2000 people being sheltered by a large outdoor awning. Can you imagine a cathedral with a permanent outdoor raised altar area for the frequent gatherings of 1000 - 4000 people? On Sundays there are five services inside in the five primary languages of the diocese. Each service is between 900-1000 at the English service. I would imagine that the average age of the attendees was about 22. After I put my things in my room I



Simon with Fr. Jerry and his sisters Mary Lueth and Rhoda and brother John

and accomplished in her abilities in school.

Simon is a candidate for graduation from 8th grade in his school this term.

The national requirements for graduation are much stricter in Kenya

than the U.S. Because of his abilities he has been placed in a boarding school in Nairobi which costs \$438 per term for room, board and school fees – an amazingly little amount by U.S. standards. An additional \$102 is needed for shoes, uniforms and casual clothes. Your generous gifts have given hope to this young man who wants to offer himself to God and his people as a healer. If you can help with Simon's current school term, please make your check out to "St. Stephen's" and earmark it "Simon's School Fees".

went over to the outdoor service where the service was now well into its third hour - went on for five... One of the realities of our economy is that the support for the kids has gone way down. Therefore, we are going to have to devise a home education program for them because we can't afford school fees except for the most promising of students. It is a significant shift that is forcing me more and more into prayer, especially when I wake up at 4 in the morning trying to figure out what God wants us to do in all of this. As a part of the Hope With Sudan community, let us all pray for guidance as we have to re-invent ourselves at so many levels with the economic shifts.

Pray also for Canon Mark Atem, the new Diocese of Twic East and the House of Bishops of Sudan who will elect the first bishop of that diocese on January 18. Mark is the favored candidate of the people, but the Archbishop wants the Assisting Bishop of the old diocese of Bor to be bishop... All of this is in God's hands although it is still a struggle to know what to do and what part to play. Thanks for being there with us in all of this. Jerry [Father Jerry Drino]

St Stephen's in the Field : [Online Calendar Page](#)

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6O9G1N8O9I3N8N8H2>

Web Bonus Material

An Excellent Conference... expanded version of page 3

Building a Church Without Walls –January 31 in Santa Clara Deanery at St. Thomas.

This is a conference for everyone in the deanery, led by **The Reverend Canon Paul Edwards**, Rector Emeritus, Emmanuel Church, Fullerton, California. People seek church, the fellowship of the body of Christ, for a variety of reasons: nearly all involve wanting a deeper relationship with God and other people. How are we spiritually present and available to welcome those exploring a deeper life with God in Christ? Paul will facilitate for us a process of personal and corporate understanding of how spiritual wellness and growth will develop a vibrant and healthy congregational life. You will leave this one day conference with greater spiritual insight for your personal life, as well as that of your congregation, better equipped to reach out to others longing for a deeper connection with God. Come and enjoy a day of spiritual nurture and challenge! Bring a team from your parish so that the conversation of developing a vibrant and exciting church – inside and outside your building – may continue!

[The Conference is on January 31, 10 am to 3 pm in Sunnyvale. The cost is \$10 per person. To register, call Susan Altig at the Diocesan Office, or call me. Ken +]

Anti-Racism Training – Save the Date...

Required for Diocesan & Parish Leaders: You can register your intention to attend the next anti-racism training now. The two-day program "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" will be offered;

When: February 20 and 21, 2009; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: St. James' Church, 37051 Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont

Cost: \$60 (materials and meals); \$50 early bird discount (available until Jan 30)

Deadline: February 10, 2009

Contact: Toni Van Kreidt, Registrar, ardvk331@aol.com, 415.218.4983 or 415.331.0464

Notable dates:

Jan 25th AGM after 10am service
Feb 14th Sweetheart Breakfast

Feb 15th Bishop's Visitation
Feb 24th Shrove Tuesday
Feb 25th Ash Wednesday

Servant Calendar

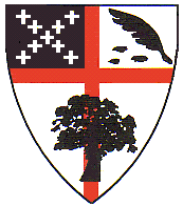
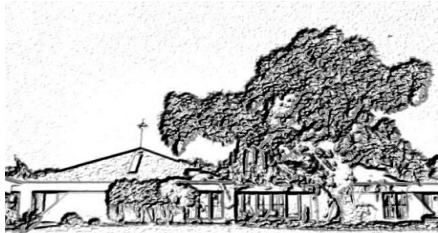
	1/11/2009	1/18/2009	1/25/2009	2/1/2009	2/8/2009
			AGM		
Lector1	Julie Zintsmaster	Caroline Buckner	Family Sunday	Tom Good	Jordan Lief
Lector2	Catherine Blair	Susie Good		Larry Lee	Jan Martin
LEM	Caroline Buckner	Julie Zintsmaster	Wanda Bryan	Susie Good	Jan Martin
CB	Jan Martin	Sharon Wardman	Genie Yomtov	Tom Good	Rosemary
Crucifer	Melissa	Taylor	Brooke	Melissa	Taylor
Acolytes	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna	Isabella, Coleman	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna
	Carly	Natasha	Hannah, Kendall	Carly	Natasha
Altar	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson	Edy Unthank	Nancy	Laura Lewis
Guild	Susie Good	Barbara Gray	Janet Thorsrud	Susan Zaballos	Susie Good
Sunday School	Monica		Maggi	Penny	Monica
Elementary	Heather		Laura	Candace	Heather
Youth	Phil		Ruth L.	Tracy & Nigel	Phil
Sitter	Brooke	Melissa			
Music	Bell Choir		P4C	Voice Choir	Bell Choir
Shepherd	Jim Glancey		Robert Young	Elaine Alton	Jim Glancey
	Chris Glancey	Frances &	Ann Little	Tim Alton	Chris Glancey
Coffee Host	Goodman	Martin	Yamamura Gavin	Yomtov Lee	Corbus White
Counter	Judi Sato	Andy Lief	Tom Good	Nigel Cooper	Judi Sato
	Sharon Wardman	-	Sandi Redder	Tim Alton	Sharon Wardman

St. Stephen's in the Field

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, Ca 95139



Seeds and Harvest
January 2009



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SAN JOSE, CA 95139
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email rector@kwratten.com
[Http://www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org)**

SUNDAY:
8 & 10am: Holy Eucharist
10am: Sunday School &
Nursery

Wednesday:
10am: Healing Service

This Issue:

Special thanks to Fr. Ken Wratten,
Tom Good, Logan Zintsmaster, Fr.
Jerry Drino, for article submissions,
You too can contribute!

**Next Issue: February. Deadline for
articles is Thursday January 29th**

Send articles to Tim Alton timalton@yahoo.com. Or drop something
in my box in the office.