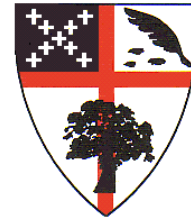


Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



**St. Stephen's
in the Field**

Message from the Rector

“Many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven.” Philippians 3:18-20.

At the annual diocesan convention on October 23 and 24, Bishop Mary challenged us all to spend the coming year reflecting on the meaning and implications of the word ‘Citizenship’. Paul was quick to remind the church in Philippi that they may feel special privilege by their recognition as citizens of Rome (since Philippi was a colony of Rome), but there is no privilege that compares to the privilege we receive through Christian citizenship in heaven.

So like the residents of Philippi, you and I have dual, or even many citizenships; allegiances to our family, our home town, our country, our school or college, our group of close friends. From what I get in the mail, my allegiance is also demanded from all iPod owners, Facebook users, chocolate lovers, every Weight Watcher on the planet, and every political party in the country. But the Bible tells us that the HIGHEST allegiance, the primary citizenship we hold, is from heaven. That

is the citizenship that should determine how we live our life. Everything else needs to flow with consistency from that foundational allegiance.

Paul said it best, “Only let us live up to what we have already attained.” 2009 has not been the best year for this country, but it has been pretty amazing for St Stephen’s. We have accomplished a lot for our preschool children, for the Sudanese children we sponsor, for the homeless we help keep warm and dry, and for our members and acquaintances who have needed prayers or cards or hugs. I hope each of us has also realized the accomplishment of feeling closer to God than we did a year ago, or two years ago, as God works amongst this faith family.

We all know where our primary citizenship is claimed, and we constantly work to live up to the responsibilities of that allegiance.

I invite you to join with me in this reflection on where your personal allegiances are held, how effective you are at prioritizing your allegiance to God, and what vision the term “citizenship” conjures up for you.

Blessings,

Ken +

November 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 11

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Words from Your Senior Warden

As many of you know the Vestry is the group of congregation members that help manage the operation of the church. At St. Stephen's we have a Vestry made up of nine people, with the Senior Warden being the tenth member. Each member is the liaison to the different ministries that have been established in our congregation. As the Senior Warden, my role is to work with Father Ken on a daily and weekly basis to support him in his duties in serving the congregation.

Each year 3 members move off the Vestry and 3 new members are voted on. As mentioned above, the role of the Vestry member is to be the liaison to the ministry they have chosen. This means they do not have to do all the work of that ministry, but to have a team in place to take care of the needs in that area. Obviously, if the person is moved to serve in that ministry as a Vestry member, they will more than likely work on the team that is formed. As a liaison

you have the responsibility to make sure things are getting done, and that a team is in place.

I will be moving off the Vestry this January, along with Julie and Marshall. I have definitely enjoyed the challenges and accomplishments we have seen in the past 3 years. We will soon begin the search for people willing to run for a position on the Vestry. There are great teams in place, the responsibilities of the new members will be to continue along with growing these teams, remembering it is a liaison position. If approached to run for a position on the Vestry, I would ask that you give prayerful consideration to serving on the Vestry and giving back to this strong faith community.

God Bless,

Tom

Welcome New Members!

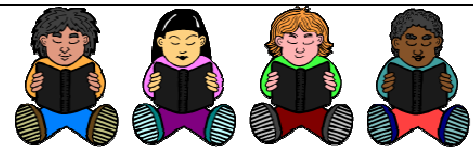
Genie Lee, Membership

We had a great Welcoming Sunday and potluck on October 25, 2009. I want to thank the congregation for being so warm and welcoming to our new members and for providing such a wonderful spread of

food and decorations. I want to again welcome the following new members to St. Stephen's in-the-field Church: Michael Grimm and Joanne Coleman and their 2 children, Alex and Charlie; Rowena Dizon-Burger and her 2 children, Elena and Melissa; Peter Nyok; and, last but not least, Mamer Mayen. WELCOME!

Preschool Update...

On October 20 the pre-school children took a field trip to The Pumpkin Patch in Morgan Hill. This is always an exciting outing, with almost every parent coming along this year to serve as chaperones. The children love getting time together away from the school. Each child came home with a small pumpkin, and they brought one back as a gift for Mrs. Sato. On October 29 and 30, there were Halloween parties for the children. There was a great variety of fun costumes, and the children made small pizzas and someone brought in some delicious chocolate cup cakes that looked like



owls. (Each eye was half of an Oreo cookie!)

We now have eight children in school each morning of the week; a very nice class size. Parent-teach conferences are coming up in November.

Ken +

Treasurer’s Report

As you can tell from your USPS mail the treasurer is busy this month with the stewardship drive and re-

mindings of pledge commitments. **But wait here it is on page 6 on the web version!**

Vestry Openings

Julie Zintsmaster, Junior Warden

Rector to be Senior Warden and one Vestry member is elected by fellow Vestry members to be Junior Warden.

Nine members of St. Stephen’s serve on our Vestry. It is an honor to serve the people of St. Stephen’s in this way, working closely with and supporting Fr. Ken, and our many programs and activities. Each Vestry member selects a liaison area to lead: Worship/Music, Buildings/Grounds, Outreach/Inreach, Parish Life, Christian Education, Communication, Finance, Membership. One Vestry member is selected by the

It is an experience that will enrich your life, the lives of the members of St. Stephen’s and all those whom we touch through our ministries. If God is calling you to get involved, this could be your opportunity. Tom, Marshall and I will be contacting individuals over the next few months to put together a list of nominees, or feel free to contact one of us to add your name to the list.

New Ministry Participants Commissioned

On October 11, Father Ken and the people of St. Stephen’s in-the-Field commissioned church members who are beginning a new worship ministry at St. Stephen’s. We are honored by their service, and grateful for their time and talent. Blessings and thanksgiving to the following individuals who have

committed to a new worship ministry:

Accept our request, O gracious Lord, and confirm with your heavenly blessing these your servants commissioned to minister in your Church, that with sincere devotion of mind and body they may offer acceptable service to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christian Education

Sunday School

Tracy Cooper, Co-Director
Rowena Dizon-Burger
Lisa Thornburg
Philip Ong

Samantha Cooper
Melissa Epps
Brooke Westfall

Lectors

(Edy Unthank, Director)
Marie Rose Bianco

Praise Band

Genie Lee, Director
Susie Good

Altar Guild

Marie Rose Bianco (linens)

Adult Education

Judith Sato

Greeters / Ushers

Amy Corbus
Dorothy (Dot) Remson
Ann Tyler
Robert Young

Vestry (2009- 2011)

Genie Lee
Wanda Bryan
Lars Samson

Child Care

Margo Westfall
(Coordinator)

Family Advent Wreaths Available for Purchase

First Advent is coming on Sunday, November 29, and St. Stephen’s has Family Advent Wreaths available for sale again this year. It’s a great way to honor the anticipation of Christ’s birth at home each week during Advent with a prayer and candle lighting ceremony. And it is a tradition that parents can start

with children when they are young. A weekly prayer is included in each set. We also have replacement candle sets (3 purple / 1 rose) for those who have the rings and just need fresh candles. Candles and wreaths will be displayed during coffee hour each Sunday through Advent.

Brass ring / 4 candles / choice of trim \$18.50
Replacement candle sets (4 candles) \$ 8.50

Diocesan Convention Wrap-up

The theme of the 29th meeting of Convention for the Diocese of El Camino Real was Deeper Simplicity, Broader Generosity. Over 200 delegates and clergy were present with 97% of all congregations represented.

There were only 2 resolutions and both passed. One of the resolutions was the standard vote for minimum compensation for clergy. The other was to suggest a new feast day be added to the church calendar for the Rev. Peter Cassey and his wife Annie. This couple was among the founders of Trinity Church – now Trinity Cathedral and were renowned for their contribution to education for children of many colors. Full details can be found on the diocesan website. Now that it has passed in this diocese, the resolution will be suggested for other dioceses in the Episcopal Church. Hopefully there will be enough support to have this resolution offered at the next General Convention and have September 13 added as a feast day for this local couple.

The homily was given by the Rev. Michael Battle, Rector of Church of Our Savior, San Gabriel, CA. He spoke of baptism and that we give away our personal identity and take up that of Jesus. We have 3 identities: personal, communal, and global. Jesus gives us new perspectives that allow our primary identity to be that of Christians.

Music was provided by Mr. Dent Dennison from the Diocese of Chicago. We enjoyed familiar hymns with a jazzy piano accompaniment. Dent will return to the diocese in 2010 to give a workshop.

There were several very emotional moments. The Rt. Rev. Shannon Mallory, first bishop of El Camino Real, presented Bishop Mary with the Bishop's ring that was made for him by the people of the diocese when it was first formed. It was a pre-Silicon Valley diocese - mostly agricultural. People contributed earrings, rings, etc to be melted down to make the gold ring. On Saturday, the Rev. Canon Brian Nordwick spoke about the near fatal accident suffered by his brother-in-law this year and his miraculous recovery facilitated the strong prayer chains through the diocese. His brother-in-law and the rest of his family came up on stage to thank everyone for their prayers

The offertory went to ERD Nets for Life program -

specifically to send nets to our companion Diocese of Western Tanganyika. Total collected = \$2,190

A video was presented about the triad companion relationship with the Diocese of Gloucester and the Diocese of Western Tanganyika. This video will be posted to the website.

Bishop Mary's convention address has already been posted at

<http://www.edecr.org/dc2009/dc2009docs/DC2009-BishopsAddress.pdf>.

She speaks about the "untidy business of God's work" and how we will continue to do this "untidy business" in El Camino Real.

We took the time to do a bible study related to the Ephesians reading that Rev. Battle referred to in his homily. The reflections from this small group discussion were submitted to the diocesan office.

Bishop's Crosses were given to Ms. Joanna Shreve, Ms. Nancy Cohen, and Mr. Jeff Diehl. Bishop Mary initiated a new annual recognition called Simple Service Awards. This year they were awarded to Mr. Hilbert Morales and Mr. Basil Mills. Special Thank You's were given to Mr. Michael Mooneyham, Mr. Ed Markham, and Mr. Jerry Witherspoon.

Close of business was 1 hour ahead of schedule.

Overall impressions gathered from delegates:

Refreshingly outward focused

Deeply spiritual

Laughter and tears

Very moving

Strength of the diocese and the ability to come together very evident

One delegate said that this was her 9th consecutive convention and it was by far the best!

I must agree with all of these impressions. It was a wonderfully spiritual time in which we found time to pass legislation, celebrate recognition of people in the diocese, and enjoy fellowship.

Consider participation as a delegate in 2010!

Peacefully yours,

Edy Unthank

Reflection on Wonder

Following is an article written by Father Ken for an email list that goes to diocesan leaders.

It has been an experience of wonder to read the reflections being shared by congregations around the diocese as we engage in the challenge given to us by Bishop Mary at the diocesan convention in the fall of 2007 to wonder, believe, and create. Isn't it spectacularly amazing what we can accomplish when we open ourselves to God's creative Spirit!

St Stephen's in-the-Field, San Jose began working with Father Jerry Drino three years ago to provide tuition support for Simon Thuc, the son of Canon Mark Atem in the diocese of Bor in the Sudan. We wanted to engage in a form of mission that would put us in personal contact with the people we were helping. This seemed like a powerful first step in fulfilling that vision. Clergy are not paid in the Sudan. So they must rely on donations and aid to live, and to provide an education for their children. The Sudan badly needs educated children who can grow up to bring a new level of financial and medical health to their country.

Over the last year, our work with Simon Thuc has led to our meeting Peter Nyok, one of the Lost Boys of the

Sudan, who lives in San Jose. One of our parishioners, Carol Pecora, quickly connected with Peter's vision, which was to create an orphanage for children from his home town in Sudan. Peter was committed to provide a place where they could safely live, be cared for, and get an education in Kenya. Carol has led our congregation in an effort to help Peter sell African crafts, which helps finance the orphanage. She has also held neighborhood coffees, where people meet and talk with Peter, and make donations to help finance his ministry. Most recently, Carol and St Stephen's are helping Peter by adopting children in the orphanage. For a payment of \$80 three times a year, the costs of food, housing, clothing, and education are met for one child. Members of our congregation have now adopted four children, and we are becoming the communications center to let other parishes and neighborhoods know about the opportunity to adopt one of Peter's orphans. There are now fifty Sudanese orphans being cared for by Peter and his wife, filling two apartments in Kenya.

It is an amazing, dazzling blessing when we align ourselves with God's purpose. We celebrate the opportunity to wonder how to best serve, to believe our small congregation can make a material difference in the world, and to create effective means to share God's love. Praise be to God.



Newsletter Editor—Wanted

I have had a wonderful time compiling, not really editing this newsletter for the past nine years, but it is time to hand over the reins, pass the baton, release the helm, leave the bridge...

The production of this newsletter is a fairly rewarding activity, and if you have ever herded cats then you are well aware of the triumph one feels upon completing the task successfully. I exaggerate of course, what I meant to say is that it involves gathering information and submissions from diverse sources. That too is an exaggeration since all the sources are Episcopalians, most of whom attend St. Stephen's in the Field church

So there is not much to it really and if you have a flare for communicating with people and producing a top

class newsletter then this is a great place to start on that journey. My wife, is surprised every month that I do this communicating thingy and also have a proactive interaction with a calendar.

The drill is to send out a call for articles, then sit back and watch them roll into my email inbox. I use MS Publisher to shape and place things nicely, well I think it's nice. Then bright and early on the first Sunday of the month head to the photocopier, and the new machine folds the newsletter too! Probably takes six hours a month in total.

I am looking for someone to take over production of this newsletter, probably with February 2010 issue, someone to take it into the next decade no less. If that interests you then please contact timalton@yahoo.com

St Stephen's in the Field : [Online Calendar Page](http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6O9G1N8O9I3N8N8H2)

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

Treasurer's Report

The year to date negative net amount is due to pledges falling another \$3,000 behind plan, bringing the total shortfall, for the year, to \$7,200. The Finance Committee and Treasurer have mailed out the third quarter pledge report along with a letter asking that everyone try to complete their pledge. Efforts to keep expenses are continuing and with your help we will complete the year with a positive balance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Treasurer.

Thank you for your continuing support.
Logan R. Zintsmaster, Treasurer

September 09	Actual	Budget	Percent Difference
Income	\$10,467	\$13,810	76% of Budget
Expense	\$19,342	\$24,022	81% of Budget
Net	(\$8,875)	(\$10,212)	
Year to Date			
Income	\$126,531	\$138,234	92% of Budget
Expense	\$134,714	\$139,442	97% of Budget
Net	(\$8,183)	(\$1,208)	-577% Better

Notable dates:

Tuesdays am and pm Bible Study
 Thu 12th 7pm Vestry Meeting
 Sun 22nd Celebration Sunday, Pot luck

brunch, Harvest ingathering, Pledge Ingathering
 Sun 29th Hanging of the Greens
 Sat 12th Posada

Servant Calendar

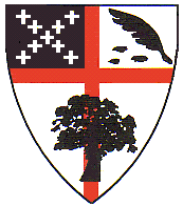
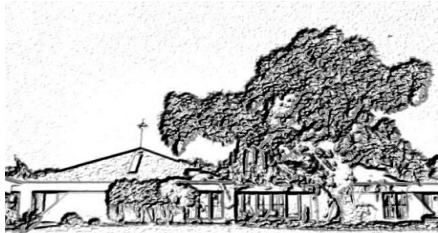
	11/1/2009	11/8/2009	11/15/2009	11/22/2009	11/29/2009
Lector1	Catherine Blair	Susie Good	Family Sunday	Genie Lee	Jordan Lief
Lector2	Caroline Buckner	TomGood		Larry Lee	Jan Martin
LEM	Laura Lewis	Jan Martin	Susie Good	Julie Zintsmaster	Genie Lee
CB	Rosemary	Judi Sato	Tom Good	Wanda Bryan	Edy Unthank
Crucifer	Melissa	Taylor	Brooke	Melissa	Taylor
Acolytes	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna	Isabella, Coleman	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna
	Carly	Natasha	Hannah, Kendall	Carly	Natasha
Altar	Nancy	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson	Edy Unthank	Edy Unthank
Guild	Susan Zaballos	Susie Good	Barbara Gray	Janet Thorsrud	Janet Thorsrud
Sunday School	Rowena Burger	Maggi Munson	Family Sunday		
Elementary	Candace Jones	Heather Samson		Laura Denton	Carol Pecora
Youth	Lisa Thornburg	Philip Ong		R. A. Lief	Tracy Cooper
Sitter					
Music	Voice Choir	Bell Choir	Praise Band		
Shepherd	Robert Young	Jim Glancey		Dorothy Remson	Tim Alton
	Anne Tyler	Chris Glancey	Frances & Barbara	Ann Little	Elaine Alton
Coffee Host		Sato Family	Redder Family		
Counter	Nigel Cooper	Judi Sato	Andy Lief	Tom Good	Tom Good
	Tim Alton	Sharon Wardman	-	Sandi Redder	Sandi Redder

St. Stephen's in the Field

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, Ca 95139



Seeds and Harvest
November 2009



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[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, Julie Zintsmaster (all of
page 3), Genie Lee, Edy Unthank for
article submissions,
You too can contribute!

**Next Issue: December. Deadline for
articles is Thursday November 25th**

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