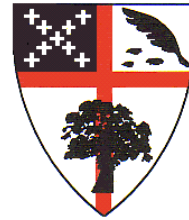


Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



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

Message from the Rector

This week we held the Wreath lighting ceremony for First Advent for the pre-school children. There are two Christmas trees in the classroom, and the children have been decorating both trees for the last week. We had the Advent Wreath lighting in the church, so the children could have exposure to that worship space. When the children came into the church they saw the Wreath, the greenery and wreaths that went up at “the Hanging of the Greens”, the lighted Christmas tree our Youth decorated last Sunday, the start of our Crèche scene, and they heard the playing of “Joy to the World” on an iPod SoundDock.



Well, all this symbolism was more than these youngsters could handle. They were jumping up and down, laughing, running, twirling, and dancing all day long. They captured for me what the season of Advent is all about. In grown up words we talk about Advent meaning ‘coming’ or ‘arrival’, and that we should take this time to look for signs of the Kingdom of God arriving in our lives. Why is that so hard for us to see sometimes, when it is so very obvious to our children? They saw, heard, and felt the signs that

something tangible is happening, and it is very good.

One of the major signs for me this Advent is the response you made to the appeal from the Finance Committee to do whatever you could to fulfill your 2009 pledge to the church. We see the 6 o’clock news, and we hear the effect the economy is having on our members and others in San Jose. This recession is clearly not something happening someplace far off. This outside force cannot be ignored. In spite of that reality, we keep doing what God is calling us to do. The result has been an outpouring of support for your church. As things stand now (in early December), we expect to break even for 2009. We will not be carrying a 2009 budget deficit into 2010, which would have made next year even tougher financially than this year has been.

I feel like the children in preschool: overwhelmed with the signs of God’s Kingdom. God richly blesses this community and you share your own blessings with this faith family. The result is the body of Christ empowered to fulfill her mission to challenge us in our spiritual growth, and to provide opportunities to transform many lives. There is no higher goal we could aspire to achieve.

May God continue to guide us, inspire us, excite us, delight us, and comfort us as we close the chapter on 2009, and await the next chapter to begin.

Advent Blessings,

Ken +

December 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 12

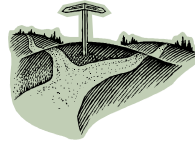
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Words from Your Senior Warden

Our lives are determined by the choices we make. Growing up we could choose to break or follow the rules that our parents set for us. We made choices who we hung out with and who we would be friends with. As we became older and moved away from our parents' control, the choices we made have formed who we are today. Have you ever wondered how your life would have turned out if you had chosen a different path than the one you did.

Many times Susie and I will talk about how our paths came together and the choices we have made that have brought us to this point in our lives. Did God play a part in these choices? I absolutely believe that he was laying the choices in front of us, giving us the opportunity to make our decision on the path we would take. Thirty years ago, if Susie had not made a choice to move to the United States with her children, if I had not made a choice to make a phone call, we would not have ended up being members of St. Stephen's. I am



sure everyone can think of the choices that have been made in their lives that have lead them to St. Stephen's.

Now that we have all made the choice to be a part of this faith family, what choices do we make to support and nurture the growth of St. Stephen's? We make a choice by giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure. Sharing in the fellowship at the events is another choice we can make to support who we are as a community. We can make a choice to join and share in the Worship service each Sunday which will recharge and strengthen us spiritually. It is a choice that we can make to give us a more enriched life, why not make the choice to share in what St. Stephen's has to offer you?

God Bless

Tom

Expanded St Stephen's History Book

Ken Redder has expanded his work of sorting, organizing and labeling photographs of our parish history. He has now added photos of the First Sunday of Advent and the lighting of the first Advent Wreath candle, creating Book #13. Ken also



began with the church history that Dan Hughes wrote for the St Stephen's 25th anniversary celebration in 1999, and has expanded it to include every year through 2009. The result is a very captivating record of the steps along the way that this faith family has taken to be who we are today. Check out both the Photographic Albums and the St Stephen's History Book in Father Ken's office.

Preschool Update...

By Judi Sato

You probably have noticed the new play structure in the playground area. The church received grant money to put in a permanent structure for the church and preschool. The kids in the preschool just love it. It was great listening to the "oohs" and "aahhs" when they played on it for the first time.



To celebrate Thanksgiving the classes made little miniature Pumpkin Pies. Fr. Ken and I also benefited



from their hard work. Their pies were great!!

The Preschool Parents have had their first parent/teacher conference this past week. Now the children will be gearing up for Christmas and practicing a song they can sing at the Family Christmas Eve service. We have given the preschool families a flyer listing St. Stephen's festive events throughout December and I hear some parents are looking forward to coming to some of them so be on the lookout for some new faces. I know we will all give them a big welcome!

Treasurer's Report

There was a significant improvement in pledge receipts. Catch up and pledges paid through the end of the year amounted to \$4,100. This needs to continue in order to break even by year end.

If you will not be able to complete your pledge, please let the Treasurer know so it can be accounted for in the year end planning. Efforts to keep expenses in check 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

October 09	Actual	Budget	Percent Difference
Income	\$21,611	\$15,752	137% of
Expense	\$15,121	\$14,067	107% of
Net	\$6,490	\$1,685	
Year to Date			
Income	\$147,978	\$153,986	96% of Budget
Expense	\$150,492	\$153,510	98% of Budget
Net	(\$2,514)	\$476	

Parish Outreach Ministries

Our Parish outreach ministries at St. Stephen's are continuing full speed ahead. Our Harvest Ingathering on October 22, provided food for Deacon Michael's Turkey Trot for Second Harvest Food Bank, Santa Maria Urban Ministries, delivered by Edy Unthank, and it took three car trunk loads by Rosemary Goodman, Wanda Bryan, and Father Ken Wratten to deliver the remaining food to St. Julie's Pantry. The folks working that day at St. Julie's Pantry were overwhelmed by the amount for a time. They were shelving very quickly. Thank you, St. Stephen's families for your generosity.

Jim Glancey is asking all of us to pitch in and bring warm clothing for the homeless now the weather is cold and rain has been predicted in the near future. He

would like to have a few volunteers help him once a month when he gives out the items we bring in. Please contact Jim Glancey or Bob Young if you can help them out

Janet Thorsrud has stepped up to coordinate a St. Stephen's Volunteer Day on December 19 from 9am-12noon, at the Second Harvest Food Bank. We need volunteers to fulfill this outreach ministry. Please see Janet and volunteer, I am.

These are all opportunities for you to act in LOVE toward those who most need your help. One other ministry I will tell you about next newsletter is the amazing work Carol Pecora and Peter Nyok are doing and who is helping and how!

Wanda Bryan

Saturday
Dec 19th
9am-12noon

A team of 20 volunteers needed. Rsvp Janet Thorsrud.



SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Jim Glancey and Bob Young need warm clothes or money donations for clothes and a little help distributing them through the winter season.



WARM COATS & HATS

Advent and Christmas Worship and Music

Advent and Christmas provide some wonderful opportunities for worship and music. ***Please join us*** as we honor the true meaning of Christmas and prepare for and welcome the Christ child into our lives, our homes and our world.

Sunday, December 13 – 10:00 am Worship Lessons and Carols

Do you love the Christmas Carols and can't get enough of them this time of year? Do you enjoy hearing the scripture readings of the Christmas story? If either answer is *yes*, then you will want to be at Lessons and Carols on December 13. We will have

special instrumentalists, soloists, and readers, and both the voice choir and bell choir will be there. A perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Eve Services

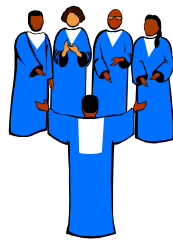
4:30 pm – Children's pageant / Holy Eucharist
11:00 pm – Holy Eucharist

Blessings and Peace to you and your family
Julie Zintsmaster



Advent Evensong Service with St Julie's

Come join an evening of Christmas music and chanted Evensong. St Stephen's and St Julie's are combining our talented and diverse music groups, and Father Ken and Father Jon are presiding the beautiful, traditional service of Anglican Evensong. Following the service we will stay to share



pot-luck finger foods, cookies, deserts, and refreshments. Please come, and if you can, bring a tasty holiday snack to share. Coffee will be provided.

The Advent Evensong service will be held at St Julie's Catholic Church, 366 St Julie Drive, San Jose at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 12th.

Questions? Call the church office.

Cursillo en Christianidad

The next Cursillo weekend (Short course in Christianity) will be held May 13-16, 2010 at Camp St Francis in Aptos. If you have attended Cursillo and would like to work on the team please contact Donna and Tim Miller at weekend@scursillo.org. We will

begin soon to accept candidate applications for the weekend.

Please consider working or sponsoring someone for the weekend. If you have questions about Cursillo or that weekend, contact Father Ken or any St Stephen's members who have attended Cursillo.

Food for the Poor

Jim Glancey reports that his latest count of donations in the jar used for our Food for the Poor added up to \$260.00! Thank you to everyone who contributed to

this impressive total, including that one person (you know who you are) who put \$100 in the jug. This total will provide food for 40 people for more than two months.

Announcement from Ann Wright...Save the Date of January 16th for a diocesan conference at St. Paul's, Salinas. Theme: "Tweet If U ♥ Jesus – Community and Church in the Digital Age". More info coming next week...

Episcopal Church Women's

General Meeting

ECW'S General Meeting at St. James' Episcopal Church in Paso Robles was well attended by many church women in the Southern part of our Diocese given the opportunity to attend closer to their parishes and missions.

The outpouring of generosity by our church women was apparent by two tables loaded with baby and toddler clothes for mother's who have virtually nothing when they leave the Twin Cities Hospital with a newborn baby. Rev. Harriet Linville of Morro Bay filled her car to the brim to deliver the clothes for us. The Fall UTO Ingathering received \$5,019.30, from our Diocese parishes and missions. Often a few more

Diocesan Workshop

The Commission on Ministry invites you to their workshop called "Navigating the Ministry Discernment Process," to be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Paul's, Salinas. The COM first developed this workshop in January of

A Great Gift Idea from ERD...

Make this Christmas special.

Give Gifts for Life.

For the perfect gift that will touch their hearts, think beyond a new sweater or another candle.

This Christmas, honor your friends and loved ones with a gift that will make a real difference

On the Move

Tim and Elaine Alton

Elaine and I and our two daughters have moved to Gilroy from our home in South San Jose, just three blocks south of the church. Well that happened six years ago this month. At the time we asked ourselves, what are we going to do about church, and the answer was to continue with our membership and involvement at St. Stephen's and see how it goes. Well it went quite well but gradually our involvement has faded with the distance to a point where we think it is time to cut the cord, and this is our last year at St. Stephen's.

When I was eleven years old back in County Durham

churches send their checks in a bit later, so it could wind up being more. St. Stephen's share for the Fall UTO Ingathering was \$210.61. Thank you all for your generous blessings!

The lunch was delicious and prepared by the non-profit Culinary School in Paso Robles. Some good upcoming cooks and chefs are in our future.

The Women's work in our Diocese is amazing! If any of the women in our parish of St. Stephen's would like to make suggestions on how we can make our ECW of the El Camino Real at the parish level more vibrant and relevant to meeting the needs of all ages of women, please give them to Wanda Bryan for feedback to the Board, I am your representative and voice for women. Let me hear your voice! Wanda Bryan

2009 and it was very well attended and received by both the clergy and laity. The agenda includes a discussion about the process of discernment, an overview of ECR's ordination process and information about the mission and tasks of the Commission on Ministry. To register: please email Joanna Shreve at jrshreve@aol.com.

in the lives of people living in extreme poverty around the world. Give a gift for lasting change with *Gifts for Life* from Episcopal Relief & Development.

Learn more about giving goats, mosquito nets, clean water, or a community garden for Christmas at <http://www.er-d.org/index.php>

England, my father got promoted and we had to move to a town about 21 miles away. I thought it was the end of the world. I could not imagine traveling that far to church, since church was a place you walked to on a Sunday morning and evening too, not to mention midweek bible study and youth club. But "when in California, drive as the Californians do", and we have, for more years than we expected.

We have been involved with St. Stephen's for almost two decades and we cannot possibly write down the positive impact that you have had on our lives and our attempt to live in Christ. We hope it has been a mutual benefit, and we will find that again within our city limits here in Gilroy.



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

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

Saturday Dec 12th	7 pm Ecumenical Evensong with St. Julie's Catholic Parish Chanted Evensong combining the Voice, Bell, Spanish, and Filipino choirs of St. Stephen's and St. Julie's. Light refreshments will follow the service. St. Julies Catholic Church: 366 St. Julie's Street, San Jose
Sunday Dec 13th 3rd Advent	8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist – Lessons and Carols - 3rd Advent wreath lighting. Lots of beautiful Christmas Carols. Sunday School for preschool age; children are invited to stay in church for the entire service. Music by Players for Christ, Voice Choir, Bells, and solos.
Sunday, Dec 20th 4th Advent	8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist - 4th Advent Wreath Lighting. Music by Players for Christ
Thursday Dec 24th Christmas Eve	4:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant 11 pm Candlelight Service; Holy Eucharist with incense (at the door) with special Bell & Voice Choir music
Friday Dec 25th Christmas	No services today. A Christmas Day devotional will be distributed
Sunday Dec 27th	8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist – No Sunday School
Wednesday Jan 6th	6 pm Salad and Spaghetti dinner 7 pm Feast of the Epiphany service of Evening Prayer, followed by an Epiphany

Notable dates:

Advent and Christmas, see pages 4 and 6

Sat 19th Second Harvest Food Bank
see page3

Wed 9th & 16th Crafts Night 7pm

Servant Calendar

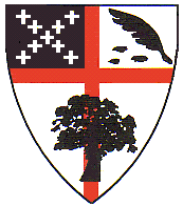
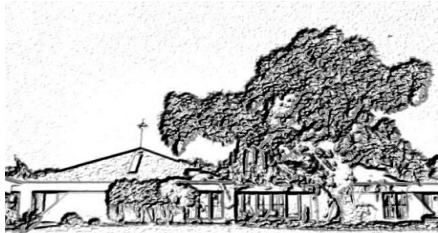
	12/13/2009	12/20/2009	12/24/2009	12/24/2009	12/27/2009
	Lessons and Carols		Pageant 4:30pm	Candlelight 11pm	
Lector1		Tony Pecora	Frances Steitz	Edy Unthank	Catherine Blair
Lector2		Sandi Redder	Marie Bianco	Nancy	Caroline Buckner
LEM	Laura Lewis	Edy Unthank	Genie Lee	Tom Good	Caroline Buckner
CB	Jan Martin	Julie Zintsmaster	Wanda Bryan	Susie Good	Laura Lewis
Crucifer	Melissa	Taylor			Brooke
Acolytes	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna			Isabella, Coleman
	Carly, Jordan	Natasha			Hannah, Kendall
Altar	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson			Edy Unthank
Guild	Susie Good	Barbara Gray			Janet Thorsrud
Sunday School	Maggi Munson	Family Sunday			
Elementary	Heather Samson				Laura Denton
Youth	Philip Ong				R. A. Lief
Sitter					
Music	Bell Choir	Players for Christ			
Shepherd	Jim Glancey				Dorothy Remson
	Chris Glancey	Frances & Barbara			Ann Little
Coffee Host		Munson Family			
Counter	Judi Sato	Andy Lief			Tom Good
	Sharon Wardman	-			Sandi Redder

St. Stephen's in the Field

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, Ca 95139



Seeds and Harvest
December 2009



**ST. STEPHEN'S IN-THE-FIELD
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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SAN JOSE, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
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, Julie Zintsmaster Logan Zintsmaster, Wanda Bryan, Judi Sato and Tim Alton for article submissions, You too can contribute!