

SEEDS & HARVEST

St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in South San Jose

VOLUME 2010, ISSUE 5

MAY 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

One might think that vestry meetings, or any meetings for that matter, are boring affairs. Patrick Lencioni summed up the sentiment in a book he wrote a few years ago, "Death by Meeting". Those are not the meetings we have here at St. Stephen's. I left our May vestry meeting with such a high sense of God's blessing and thankfulness for the leadership we have, I want to share what we discussed. It affects every one of us.

Our financial review of April shows a Net Ordinary Income of -\$5,640, which is \$707 better than our budget plan.

The pre-school now has 10 firm enrollments for next fall, and another 6 who are very likely to enroll in the next few weeks. The word is out, and the neighborhood is very aware of the quality of the environment and the education that come from St Stephen's. There are also 3 children signed up for the Summer Science Camp which will start on June 29th.

I wrote a thank-you letter to Zach Duffy for the great job he did on the Bell Tower Eagle Project. I have been invited to his Eagle Award Court of Honor on June 5th.

Karen Cuffie announced at the May vestry meeting that after careful discernment she has entered the process for Holy Orders toward the priesthood. I have been working with her on the preliminary steps, and she has been approved to next attend the Discernment Conference in October, which is conducted by the Commission on Ministry. This is a key step in gaining permission from the diocese to proceed with seminary training, and with the parallel track of committees, exams, interviews, and assessments required by the church. Congratulations to Karen in making this big decision. Please pray for Karen throughout her continuing discernment.

Judi Sato is being ordained to the transitional Diaconate on June 5th at 10 am at Trinity Cathedral. All are invited. Several St Stephen's members will be serving in the ordination service. Judi will be at St Stephen's the following day, and will serve as the deacon for that service. Don't miss

the 10 am service on June 6th.

We received a \$1,100 rebate from the diocese for the umbrella insurance policy we hold with Guide One. The diocese got the rebate, and decided to prorate the rebate back to each parish. What an unexpected and very welcome gift!

We discussed plans for the BBQ which will be held following the May 30 service with Bishop Mary. We look forward to a Memorial Day picnic theme to the brunch. There is more information on this event on page 2 of this newsletter.

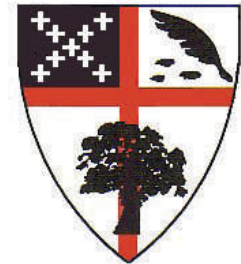
June 13th is the annual Sunday School Picnic. The coals should still be hot from the May 30 BBQ, and the grill will be ready for this great celebration to mark the end of the Sunday School, Voice and Bell Choirs, and chanted services until Fall. The June 13 service will also include certificates for the Sunday School children. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

The double doors into the Parish Hall have been in need of repair as long as I have been here. They swung hard shut when released, banged against the locking plates, and still had to be shut and latched manually. The pre-school has paid to have the hardware for both sets of double doors in the Parish Hall rebuilt and adjusted. They close smoothly now, and latch all by themselves!!

On June 23 at 3 pm, Peter Nyok and other Boys of the Sudan will present a slide presentation and discussion on the conditions in the Sudan, and an update on the orphanage that Peter and his wife operate in Kenya for refugee children from the Sudan. We are excited that this is a pilot for an ongoing program of lectures which we plan to offer to the south San Jose area on at least a quarterly basis. Please plan to attend, and bring friends. There is no cost for these lectures, which will be on various topics and will include speakers who are outside experts in the areas being presented.

There is plenty to be proud of, and lots of Christian fellowship activity to engage in as we launch into summer at St Stephen's.

Blessings and Peace and Joy, Ken +



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SEEDS & HARVEST

PARISH WORKDAY...

We had our first parish workday of the year to get the grounds looking great before Holy Week. There was a tremendous amount of work done, led by Marshall Lewis in the morning shift and Tom Good in the afternoon shift. Thank you to Fr. Ken, Marshall Lewis, Tom Good, Philip Ong, Donna Yamamura, Harry Yamamura, Dotti Remson, Rod Sato, Chris, Laura, and Maikhe Langland-Shula for your hard work that day!

By Lars Samson

NEW BELL TOWER...

I began working with Zach Duffy back in August of 2009. Zach was a candidate for Eagle Scout and approached Fr. Ken about doing his Eagle Project at St. Stephen's. The previous bell tower,

constructed by Dan Hughes and Monica Moniz's grandfather, had substantial water & termite damage that accumulated over the last 30+ years. After many discussions with Zach, I met with Dan Hughes and Fr. Ken to finalize the plans for the bell tower, with the vestry providing approval to move forward.



On April 10th, Dan Hughes, Fr. Ken and I met Zach and his Boy Scout helpers at church to begin construction. It was a long day, and some of them worked into the night. By Sunday night the 11th, it was finally complete. Without Dan's expertise, this project would not have gotten off the ground. He even provided many of his own tools. The end result of the project is a beautiful new bell tower, complete with the same bell and same ring tone we all love. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project, especially Dan Hughes, Fr. Ken, and all of you who supported Zach at his fundraiser dinners. By Lars Samson

MAY 30 VISIT BY BISHOP MARY...

Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves will visit St. Stephen's on May 30, Trinity Sunday. During her visit it is customary for the Bishop to preside the Holy Eucharist, preach, and provide any planned baptisms or confirmations. Five people will be confirmed on that day. Following the service, Parish Life has arranged for a BBQ brunch. Please bring a salad to share if your last name is A-M, or a desert to share if your last name is N-Z. The church will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and drinks. Please join us for a delightful day with our Bishop. Father Ken

PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE...

The children and the teachers had a much deserved break following Easter and returned refreshed and renewed. We have also seen more of the sun – letting the kids burn off much needed energy. All of them have grown taller and their energy level has expanded accordingly.

We will be having an Open House on Tuesday, May 18th from 6 to 7:30 pm. This will be the time to check out the Preschool for Fall and to learn more about our Summer Camp. If you know any families looking for a *fabulous* Preschool please pass this information along.

We are now starting to plan for our Summer Camp. The theme for the Summer Camp is Summer Science Fun. The children will be investigating rocks, crystals, magnets, colors and the weather! The Summer Camp starts June 29th and runs through August 4. Classes will meet from 8:30 -11:30 am each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For more information or to enroll your child(ren) give Judi Sato a call at 408-629-1843.

We have two more children who are starting the preschool this month – that makes 15 for this year. They will also be joining us in the fall for a grand total of 11!! We are almost at the point of having to offer an afternoon session.

Quote of the month: After counting to 30 (the number of days in April) "Wow, there sure are a lot of numbers!"
By Judi Sato

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...

To All the Ladies Who Knit or Crochet Prayer Shawls: You all deserve a big "THANK YOU" for the wonderful work you have done in the past, and the work you continue to do. We've had a big demand for Prayer Shawls recently, and fortunately we have been able to meet the demand. And now thanks to a wonderful, generous gift from Robert Young, funds have become available to pay for yarn. So if you find yourself in need and can't continue to pay for the yarn yourself, simply keep your receipts, give them to Philip Ong, and he can reimburse you. This is truly and wonderful gift that Robert has given us, and I personally thank him very much.

It is truly a gift of love that all of you do, and that gift has gone to people both locally and far away. Some day maybe we'll collect and publish a booklet with stories that have come back to us with tales of the good the prayer shawls have done in far away places. Nancy, feel free to turn in a bill for the crosses you buy to sew on the shawls. That too is a loving ministry. Again, thank you all. Keep up the good work. By Frances Steitz

THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURES...

If you attended either of the Good Friday services during Holy Week, you heard the story of Jesus' crucifixion through narration and scripture and viewed some very moving drawings displayed on the wall. The drawings were done as a gift to St. Stephen's by my son, Jordan, who many of you may remember. Jordan was active in the youth group (remember those spaghetti dinners?) and served as crucifer for several years before leaving for college. Well, Jordan will graduate from the Art Institute of Chicago on May 22nd with a bachelor's degree in fine arts – praise God!

In preparation for Holy Week, Fr. Ken and I were discussing what images to use for Good Friday. Although there are several sets of images that we've used in the past, we thought it would be nice to find something new. I thought of Jordan. Although drawing is not his concentration in school, he loves to draw. I asked him if he'd consider drawing the stations for us this year. He gladly consented and less than a week later, he sent the images to Fr. Ken electronically. The drawings are done in charcoal and are just beautiful! They truly capture the emotions in each station of the fourteen Stations of the Cross.



Only the 38 people who attended the Good Friday noontime and evening services have seen these drawings. For those who have not yet seen them, they will be displayed as a slide show on May 30th and June 6th during coffee hour. I encourage you to take a look at each of Jordan's drawings. They will move you.

An interesting note – Jordan was given a set of pictures from a previous service to use for context. The pictures were very simple, somewhat liked stained glass drawings without color. Jordan did not have the readings or scripture when he drew the pictures. Keep this in mind when you see them and you will see the Holy Spirit at work! ". By Karen Cuffie

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TRAINING...

Announcing Diocesan Training for Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors. On May 22, there will be a diocesan training session for Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), Chalice Bearers (CBs), and Eucharistic Visitors (EVs) at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto. This training is required to be licensed as an LEM, CB, or EV with the diocese. Licenses need to be renewed every three years. This training has not been offered for the past three years, so all active and potential servers need to attend.

LEMs serve at the altar during worship services as lay assistants to the priest and they also serve the chalice during the Eucharist. CBs serve the second chalice at the altar when necessary. EVs carry consecrated elements to shut-ins either at home or in the hospital and extend our community to them with bread, wine, and prayers that we have all shared. All EVs

must have served at least a year as an LEM before becoming an EV. EVs are also required to take another course – Safeguarding God's People. This training will be offered locally on June 12. If you would like to attend, please write to Deacon Kathey Crowe at kathleencrowe@sbcglobal.net.

If you have thought about joining our St. Stephen's team, now would be a great time to step in and take the training. Training is also needed at St. Stephen's to keep servers abreast of our own unique flow during the service. Our next training session will be conducted after the diocesan training. Keep an eye out for that upcoming date!

To become an LEM, CB, or EV, you must be confirmed and at least 16 years old. Here are the details on the training this month in Palo Alto:

May 22
9:00 Coffee
9:30 – 12:00 Training

This is the only local training session offered this year. Once the training has been completed, the renewed licenses can be received at a Leadership Institute on either August 14 or October 23 at St. Paul's, Salinas. Please register for the training by confirming with me that you can attend. I will complete the registration for all of the St. Stephen's team.

Please feel free to contact me or any of those on our team if you have questions about this ministry.

By Edy Unthank

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE...

Greetings from the Office!

Every Monday morning I arrive to a new work area filled with interesting articles. My collection now includes a couple of books: *How to Deal With Your Acting-Up Teenager* and *The Incredibles*. I also have a whistle. Please let me know if any of these items are yours.

While cleaning out some files (we need more room!) I came across a certificate:

The
President of the United States of America
Awards this
Certificate of Appreciation
To

Thomas Sakshaug

in grateful recognition of five years of service to the Nation as an uncompensated member of the Selective Service System.
Awarded at Washington, District of Columbia
this 25th day of September, 1961.

It was signed by Governor William Grey and President John F. Kennedy. If anyone knows who this may belong to, a relative, anyone. Please let me know. I would love to find the owner.

By Judi Sato

MARCH 2010 FINANCIALS...

A summary of the 2010 Income and Expenses is shown in the table below.

March 2010	Actual	Budget
Income	\$13,203	\$13,433
Expense	\$10,795	\$14,524
Net	\$2,408	(\$1,091)
Year to Date		
Income	\$41,102	\$41,101
Expense	\$43,221	\$44,474
Net	(\$2,119)	(\$3,373)

The month of March receipts are almost on target with the budget. The pledge contributions received were under budget by \$221. The Total Income in YTD is almost even to the budget. The Total Expense in YTD is under budget by \$1,252.94. In Comparison, this time last year March 2009, 2009 Total Income YTD was \$430 ahead of budget and 2009 Total Expense YTD was over budget by \$3,081. The financial controls on expenditures along with members giving above their pledges is showing St Stephen's doing better financially compared to the prior year. Expense control remains a high priority. Please, any questions, contact the Treasurer. *Reported by Philip Ong*

MAY / JUNE PARISH ACTIVITIES...

- Sun., May 23 8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— Pentecost Day
10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
WEAR RED TODAY!
SUNDAY SCHOOL
NURSERY CARE
3 pm—PETER NYOK PRESENTATION ON SUDAN
- Wed., May 26 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT—
bring projects to work on
7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL
8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
- Sun., May 30 NO 8 am SERVICE TODAY—Trinity Sunday
10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST—BISHOP'S VISIT &
CONFIRMATIONS
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NURSERY CARE
After 10 am service—RECEPTION
After 10 am service—AFRICAN CRAFTS
After Reception—BISHOP MEETS WITH VESTRY
- Wed., June 2 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT—
bring projects to work on
7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL
8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
- Sun., June 6 8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 2 Pentecost
10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL !
LAST DAY OF CHOIRS FOR THE SUMMER!
NURSERY CARE
After 10 am service—WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETS
- Wed., June 9 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT—
bring projects to work on
- Sun., June 13 8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 3 Pentecost
10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST—FAMILY SUNDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL RECOGNITION
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NURSERY CARE
After 10 am service—SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC
- Wed., June 16 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT—
bring projects to work on
- Thu., June 17 7 pm—VESTRY MEETING
- Sun., June 20 8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 4 Pentecost
10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST—FATHERS' DAY
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
NURSERY CARE
After 10 am service—SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC
- Wed., June 23 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST
7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT—
bring projects to work on

LATE MAY / EARLY JUNE SERVANT SCHEDULE...

May/June 2010	5/23/10	5/30/10	6/6/10	6/13/10
	Pentecost	Trinity Sun	2 Pent	3 Pent Family Sunday
Lector 1	Tony Pecora	Frances Steitz	Nancy McGuinness	Lee Family
Lector 2	Sandi Redder	Edy Unthank	Marie Bianco	Lee Family
LEM	Susie Good	Jan Martin	Laura Lewis	Lee Family
CB	Tom Good	Julie Zintsmaster	Caroline Buckner	Edy Unthank
Crucifer	Jordan Lief	Melissa E	Taylor C	Melissa E
Acolytes	Tom Edsberg-T Kendall Watson-T	Carly Cooper-T Peter Pecora-T	Sabrina Denton-T Natasha Denton-T	Carly Cooper-B/T
Altar Guild	Edy Unthank Janet Thorsrud	Susie Good Laura Lewis	Nancy McGuinness Susan Zaballos	Susie Good Laura Lewis
Sunday School: preK/K	Open	Open	Rowena Burger	Family Sunday
Grades 1-5	Laura Denton	Carol Pecora	Candace Jones	Family Sunday
Grades 6-9	Andy and Ruth Lief	Tracy Cooper	Lisa Thornburg	Family Sunday
Nursery	Janelle Lief	Brooke Westfall	Brooke Westfall	Janelle Lief
Music	Voice Choir, Bell Choir	Bells, Voice, Jr Bells	Voice Choir	Piano
Shepherds/Greeters O= Fam Sun Oblations	Ann Little Dot Remson	Jim Glancey Chris Glancey	Bob Young Ann Tyler	Jim Glancey Chris Glancey O—Lee Family
Coffee Hosts	Jim & Chris Glancey	Brunch	Open	Sunday School Picnic
Counters	Jan Martin Margaret White	Ron Jones Tony Pecora	Ron Jones Tony Pecora	Tom Good Sandi Redder
Logistics	Lars Samson	Karen Cuffie	Janet Thorsrud	Genie Lee

SEEDS & HARVEST NEWSLETTER

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May 2010

When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22

ST STEPHEN'S IN-THE-FIELD

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