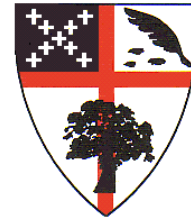


Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



St. Stephen's
in the Field

Message from the Rector

The 10 am service for the First Sunday after Christmas included a leave-taking prayer for Judi Sato, as she is now officially assigned to St. John's in Morgan Hill until her ordination to the priesthood, which is planned for January 2011. We all wish Judi continuing success in her journey to Holy Orders. If you missed that leave-taking, let me share the prayer we offered to God; perhaps you could offer this prayer in your own prayer time.

“Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant Judi Sato, who enriches this community and brings gladness to friends and family; now bless and preserve her at this time of transition as she leaves St Stephen's to receive final training for ordination through study and service at St John's in Morgan Hill. Guide her in the continuing use of your gifts. Give her focus and clarity in her studies and work. Give her sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer her way, and new skills to further bless the ministry to which you have called her. By your Holy Spirit, be present in her time away from us, that she may always be with the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

In this same service we asked God's blessings on Peter Nyok, as he completed preparations for his trip to Kenya, Sudan and Uganda starting

12/30. We sent him off with bed sheets and school supplies for his (and our) orphans, and with toys for his 1 ½ year old daughter.

Our visiting college students have all returned to their school campuses, ready to hit the books for their winter term.

Our New Year brings with it lots of changes. As much as I would love to find a way to freeze all this change, it is one of the great constants of life. And the measure of our faith is how we handle change as it unfolds. Whether for good or for bad, change produces stress. So how can we manage the stress of change? Romans 8:28 says, “*We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love him and are called by him.*” As we reflect on the changes that have come to us in 2009, and as we anticipate the changes that we will assuredly encounter in 2010, remember and believe that God can and will work His purpose for you; despite the change, through the change.

Grace and Peace in the New Year,
Ken +

January 2010

Volume 2010, Issue 1

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Words from Your Senior Warden

As I write this article, my 3 years on the Vestry are coming to a close. It has been an honor to serve Father Ken and the congregation the past 3 years as your Senior Warden.

I would like to thank the members of the Vestry that have served with me during this period. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience and we have accomplished a lot. I would like to give a special thanks to Julie Zintmaster and Marshall Lewis who will both be ending their 3 year terms with me. Julie's energy and organizational skills were extremely valuable over this time, I'm sure we will still see Julie remaining in a very active role with us. Marshall's work as Building and Grounds liaison helped us get organized with teams that have allowed us to keep up with the mowing and grounds work regularly.

To my Wonderful St. Stephen's Family

This week I start an approximately 12 month Internship at St. John the Divine in Morgan Hill. Everyone has been very supportive of my journey toward Ordination; this is another step on that path. Thank you all for the prayers, warm wishes, and St. Stephen icon. Having those on hand will guide me through the next several months. Fr. Cooke says I can pop in from time to time, so I look forward to those

I am very confident that the current Vestry and those who will be elected this year will continue to lead St. Stephen's on the path we have established. We have grown into a leading Parish in the Diocese, setting the example for others to follow. With Father Ken's leadership and vision we will continue to be a leader for all to follow.

I will miss the Sunday morning announcements but it is time to "pass the mike"!! There are many challenges ahead of us, but together we will succeed in accomplishing them all.

God bless,
Tom

times to catch up with all of you. Meanwhile, you can still find me at the office Monday-Friday from 8am to 12noon. Drop on by sometime and say "Hi!" I will miss all of you a great deal.

God Bless,
Judi Sato

Preschool Update...

The Preschool students had a busy December. You may have noticed their own Christmas tree that they decorated in the Preschool room/Parish Hall. In between making presents for their families, the students were introduced to the Big Church! Fr. Ken led both the 3 and 4 year old classes each week in a service of lighting the Advent Wreath.

Karen Cuffie also brought the children in to the church to practice singing for the early Christmas Eve service. Almost all of the families came to the service to see their children sing with the St. Stephen's children for the early Christmas Eve service. It was a great way to



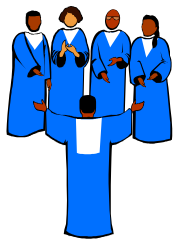
blend the Preschool families with those of us at St. Stephen's. They rounded out their shortened month with their own Christmas parties. They have been on a Holiday break these last two weeks, but will be back to start the New Year next Monday. It will be good to hear their voices again!

A Christmas Sentiment

A deep breath, then a huge sigh of relief....."Whew, I'm done now!" I have to admit that, over the years, I have often felt that way after the late Christmas Eve service. All the extra rehearsals, practices, setting up and taking down of tables, taking out and putting away bells, moving chairs, sometimes distract me from experiencing the joy of the season. This year was different for me. God's grace and all the wonderful music kept my heart right there in the stable!



Community Center and the Voice Choir, Bell Choir and Praise Band played at the ecumenical Advent service with our neighbors at St. Julie's. All good, fun, inspiring, heart warming, Christ centered music – all for the glory of God! If that isn't abundance, I don't know what is.



It is no secret that we are very blessed to have such talented musicians at St. Stephen's. Every year, during Advent and Christmas, we celebrate Christ's birth with glorious music that is lovingly prepared by many. This year we enjoyed hearing the Voice Choir, Bell Choir, Jr. Bell Choir, Children's Choir, guitars, the flute and recorder,

trumpets, saxophones, trombones, a harmonica, piano, voice solos and lots of congregational singing! The Bell Choir played for a Senior Brunch at the Almaden

Being able to take a step back and really appreciate that abundance is what made Christmas a little different for me this year. At the service of Lessons and Carols, and at the Christmas Eve services I felt as if I was hearing the music for the first time, and it was beautiful. Every piece was another opportunity to be reminded of the awesomeness of Jesus' birth - of God's love for all of us.

My heartfelt thanks to all the musicians who generously shared their talent and love this season. You are a blessing to us all!

Karen Cuffie



January 6, 2010

Dinner at 6 pm Service at 7 pm

Evening Prayer ~ The Feast of the Epiphany and The Epiphany Twelfth-Night Party



We begin the evening with a delicious spaghetti dinner, served by our Parish Men's Group. After the dinner we will adjourn to the Worship Hall for a service of Evening Prayer and celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany. After the service, a special desert will be served in the Parish Hall: the traditional Epiphany cake. In many of the pieces of cake there are placed certain small objects wrapped in waxed paper. The person fortunate enough to find

the doll is crowned the King or Queen of the Epiphany season and chooses a counterpart. Plan to be with us on January 6 as we bring our Christmas celebrations to a fitting and festive close. Bring the family and bring friends...

Please sign up so we can plan for enough food! A donation basket will be provided for the meal.

Parish Outreach Ministries

As promised I am writing an article about Carol Pecora and Peter Nyok's amazing work to support the Sudanese Youth Opportunity - an education project of Hope With Sudan (Peter's Orphans). St. Stephen's families generously helped with buying at the African Craft sale in November bringing in \$1,000+, half of which went to support Peter's orphans.

This from the SYO Team Update Article I received as a sponsor, "There are 62 children in all, who are refugees from Southern Sudan. Many are orphans whose parents are no longer living. Some are separated from families unable to support them. They live in apartments with caregivers. 22 with Yar - Peter's wife in Nakuru, 6 with Rev. Jacob & Mary in Nairobi and 34 with Jok & his wife in Kapenguria. Currently we have 20 sponsors matched with 20 children who can now obtain a high quality education. These sponsorships pay for school fees, books, and any other required materials. Every week we gain one or two more sponsors. The steadiness of new sponsors is encouraging and we thank you for joining us".

Nine of the 20 sponsors are from St. Stephen's parishioners. There is a picture posted in the Parish Hall showing the children and noting their sponsors. The picture shows Deng - Julie's sister Patricia's child, Anai - Judi & Rod's child, Athou - Rosemary's child, Ayuen - Rowena's child, Bol - Wanda's child, Samuel - Carol's Mom's child, Jakob - Marie & Bill's child, Nyranech - Julie & Logan's child, Deng - Frances &

Jack's child. Also included in the picture is a young man St. Stephen's has sponsored for many years Simon Atem, not one of Peter's orphans. Working with Carol and Peter on the SYO Team are Sandy and Joy from ECA where several of the 20 children have sponsors. The Sudanese Youth Opportunity Team would love to have more sponsors from St. Stephen's for some of the remaining 42 children. Give it some thought and prayer and act in LOVE

Jim and Bob still need lots of warm clothing or funds to purchase more for the homeless. Jim gets great bargains, I thought I was getting a bargain at \$1 per pair of socks, guess not - Jim gets them for \$.50 a pair! If you could lend a hand to help Jim and Bob distribute the clothing please let them know and they will tell you when.



Janet's Volunteer day at Second Harvest Food Bank was a terrific success. We had more than twenty plus some friends show up to help. They appreciated our help so much they asked us to return any time as individuals, small group or large group, but call ahead to see if you are needed on the day you would like to help or schedule another day.

Wanda Bryan

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@sccursillo.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.

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...

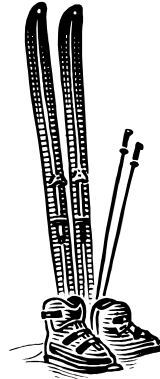
New Diocesan Website

If you haven't already done so, please check out the new diocesan website at: www.edecr.org (Do you recognize some of the people shown on the home page?) Please take the time to sign up so you can subscribe to diocesan emailings and register for events online. Once you have taken the time to register, you will only need to sign in with your login and password, and your registration information will

automatically pop up from the database. Also, you will be able to pay for event fees online with your credit card; one of the many new features of our website. We will be streamlining the site and remove a lot of the older postings, and updating other pages with current information. Our intent for this site will be more for interactive use to draw you back to the site for more frequent visits. We will have more real time postings with updates of events and news.

February Ski Trip

Diocesan Youth Ski/Snow trip -Calling all youth groups. The 2010 diocesan youth trip to Camp Sierra and Sierra Summit is scheduled for February 12-14. This is for High School and Jr High youth. We don't have the prices yet but here are some of the details. We stay at Camp Sierra in a heated lodge and there is a large room for worship and fun and games.



We will ski or snowboard at Sierra Summit and there will also be options for sledding and snow-play at one of the many Snow Parks in the area for non-skiers. Sierra Summit has a wide variety of ski runs and lessons for all levels. Our 2009 trip had 50 participants from 8 parishes so don't miss out on the fun. Call or email Leann Brooks for more information. 805-550-9832

Clergy Conference

Father Ken will be attending the 2010 Clergy

Conference on February 8-10, 2010 at St. Francis in San Juan Bautista in their new facility!

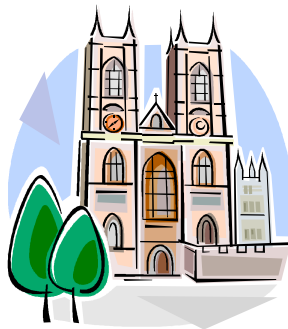
Diocesan Workshop

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

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.

Europe Anyone?

Gloucester and Canterbury Pilgrimage 2010: July 23 – August 3 This summer Barbara Creed will be leading a pilgrimage to Gloucester and Canterbury. The pilgrimage is sponsored by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. We will depart San Francisco on Friday, July 23 and return Tuesday, August 3 (or stay for an extension until about August 8). We will arrive in England on Saturday, July 24, and make Gloucester our base of operations until July



29. While in Gloucester we will have opportunities to explore Gloucester Cathedral and visit significant religious and spiritual sites in that part of England in the company of Bishop Michael. If you would like a more detailed itinerary or think you might be interested, please let Barbara know at

bcreed@truckerhuss.com<<mailto:bcreed@truckerhuss.com>>

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

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

Notable dates:

1/6 Feast of the Epiphany see page 3

2/13 Sweetheart Breakfast

2/16 Shrove Tuesday

2/17 Ash Wednesday

Servant Calendar

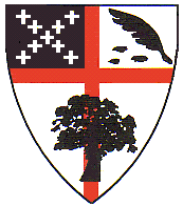
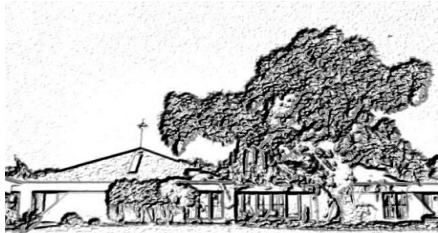
	1/10/2010	1/17/2010	1/24/2010	1/31/2010	2/7/2010
Lector1	Jordan Lief	Family Sunday		Maggi Munson	Tony Pecora
Lector2	Jan Martin			Morrie Munson	Sandi Redder
LEM	Wanda Bryan	Julie Zintsmaster	Susie Good	Laura Lewis	Edy Unthank
CB	Rosemary	Caroline Buckner	Tom Good	Genie Lee	Jan Martin
Crucifer	Taylor	Brooke	Melissa	Taylor	Brooke
Acolytes	Brianna	Isabella, Grace	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna	Isabella, Coleman
		Hannah	Carly, Jordan	Natasha	Hannah, Kendall
Altar	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson	Janet Thorsrud	Nancy	Nancy
Guild	Susie Good	Barbara Gray	Janet Thorsrud	Susan Zaballos	Susan Zaballos
Sunday School	Maggi Munson	Family Sunday			Rowena burger
Elementary	Heather Samson		Laura Denton	Carol Pecora	Candace Jones
Youth	Philip Ong		R. A. Lief	Tracy Cooper	Lisa Thornburg
Sitter					
Music					
Shepherd	Jim Glancey		Dorothy Remson	Robert Young	Robert Young
	Chris Glancey	Frances & Barbara	Ann Little	Anne Tyler	Anne Tyler
Coffee Host					
Counter	Judi Sato	Andy Lief	Tom Good	Nigel Cooper	Nigel Cooper
	Sharon Wardman	-	Sandi Redder		

St. Stephen's in the Field

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
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Seeds and Harvest
January 2010



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

Wednesday:
10am: Healing Service

This Issue:
Special thanks to Fr. Ken Wratten, Tom
Good, Karen Cuffie, Wanda Bryan, Judi
Sato for article submissions,
You too can contribute!