

The Ambassador

February 2012

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

A vital, eclectic Episcopal congregation committed to the ministry of all the baptized

From Our Priest

"I will speak unto my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes." Gen. 18.27.

I came across that scripture the other day while reading *The Imitation of Christ* and was shocked at the sobering quality of those words.

As we enter the season of Lent, I always get the impression the last thing any of us want to do is think about ourselves as dust and ashes. But the fact is, we are reminded that we do need to humble ourselves occasionally. Speaking for myself, this sometimes is not one of the easiest things to do.

Nothing is more sobering and humbling than realizing that we will all one day stop breathing and die. This was driven home to me ten years ago on February 20, when I was diagnosed with cancer. It was not only sobering and humbling, it was frightening.

But I found myself growing from that experience. I found God's grace breaking through again and again in my life and I realized, then and there, that God was still able to use me, even though I was this mortal thing that could so easily fade away and die.

Lent is a time for us to remember that we are but dust and ashes, that we will one day return again to dust and ashes. But it is also a time to remember that God, being the loving and compassionate God, loves us fully and completely despite this fact and that God is willing to raise us up to a future

glory unlike any we can possibly imagine at this time in our lives.

Peace, Jamie+

Around the Parish

Baptism

Julia Marie Breth (born Dec. 30, 2011) was baptized at St. Stephen's on February 5.

Other news

Annette Morrow continues to travel around Europe on her sabbatical. Her Facebook page shows that she has not only traveled extensively around her home base in Rome and Italy, but to Paris, Prague and London as well.

Wednesdays during Lent

During Lent, we will be worshipping at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Wednesdays. The Eucharist begins at 6:00 pm

Annual Meeting report

Gin Templeton

The Annual Meeting of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church was held on January 29, 2012, following a potluck dinner in the undercroft. The Annual Report booklet, with a lovely cover photo by Jim Coffey, was distributed. The meeting opened with prayer, introductions and approval of the minutes of the 2011 meeting.

Fr. Jamie presented his report with thanks for being called to this congregation where "everyone has stepped up to the plate and has made an effort to make this congregation the best that it can be – whether by prayer or work or simply doing what needs to be done." He thanked many

people specifically and highlighted events of the past year, including statistics showing dramatic increases in membership and services.

Sandy Miller, who is retiring as Recording Treasurer, was honored for her many years of service with a check and flowers and a standing ovation. Laura Nylander has graciously offered to take on this ministry. The Nominations Committee presented names for the election of the new Vestry and they were approved as follows: Senior Warden, John Baird; Junior Warden, William Weightman; Vestry members, Lavonne Marubbio, 1-year term; Greta Taylor, 2-year term; and Leo Wilking, 3-year term.

Continuing on the Vestry are Michelle Gelinski and John Ranney.

Out-going members, Gin Templeton, Alice Hauan and Joanne Droppers were thanked for their service.

Members volunteering to serve as representatives to Diocesan Convention and the East Region of the Diocese are James Mackay, William Weightman, Gin Templeton, Heather Reilly, Annie Lindley, and alternates Sandy Holbrook and Greta Taylor.

Sandy Holbrook presented the Treasurer's Report and Proposed 2012 Budget, which was approved.

All the Reports and details can be found in the booklet, which is available at church.

St. Stephen's Mugs

St. Stephen's is still selling the brushed stainless steel travel mugs. You can buy 1 for \$10, or 2 for \$15. Make checks payable to St. Stephen's, and note it is for the Mugs on the memo line. See William Weightman to buy your mug.

Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday this year is February 21. As in previous years, St. Stephen's is hosting a Pancake Supper from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Proceeds will be donated to ND School for the Blind.

There will also be a vegan option. We need volunteers for setup, cooking, serving, and cleanup. Please sign up on the sheet located in the Undercroft, and if you have any questions, ask Alice Hauan or William Weightman.

Announcements

Burying the Alleluia

Tuesday, 21 February, 7.00 p.m.

We bid farewell to singing and saying Alleluia for the Forty Days of Lent at a short, festive liturgy. Dating from the Middle Ages, this custom reminds us of the penitential nature of Lent and the joy awaiting us at the Easter Vigil.

First Day of Lent

Ash Wednesday, 22 February, 7.00 p.m.

We will do the Ash Wednesday Liturgy with the Household of St. Mark's at St Mark's Lutheran Church, 670 4th Ave N, Fargo.

Lent midweek eucharist

beginning Wednesday, 29 February.

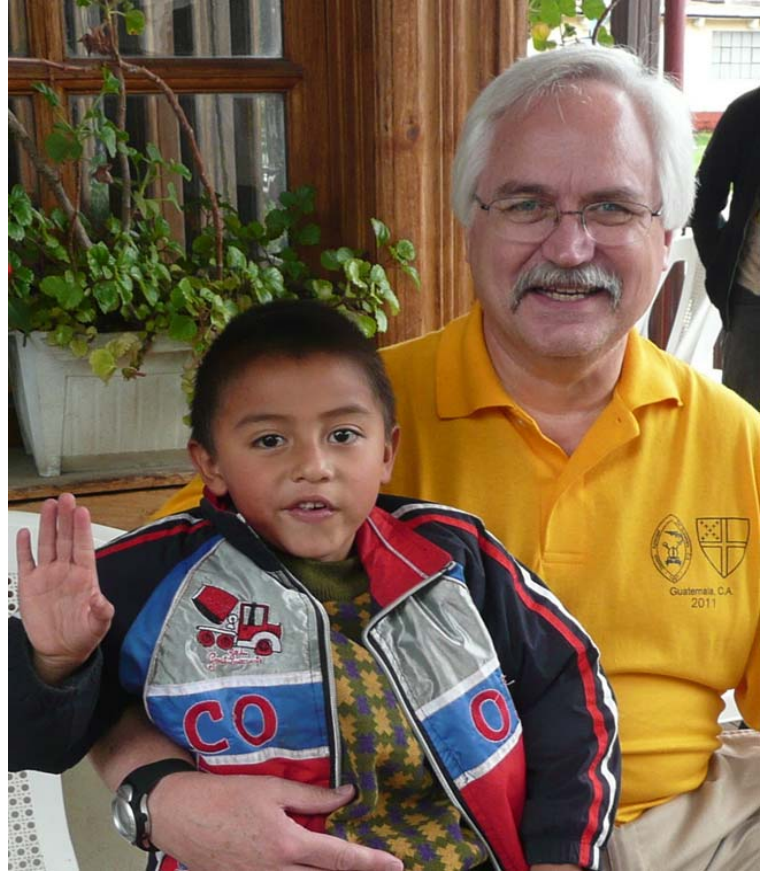
On the Wednesdays of Lent, the Households of St. Stephen's and St. Mark's will continue the custom of gathering together at the midweek. This year the Liturgy will be done at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Eucharist is at 6.00 p.m. A light supper follows.

Guatemala Medical/Dental Mission

Every year I organize a mission to trip to Guatemala to provide medical and dental care for indigent people in great need of assistance. We have a team of about 25 Americans and Canadians who visit the 10 days working with our Episcopal partner, San Marcos Church, and Padre Roberto Armas, their priest and physician.

St. Stephen's has been a generous part of this annual mission trip, with financial donations, prayers, and participants. Regina Ranney is making plans to join us this year. If you care to contribute money for purchase of supplies and medications, please put it in the offering clearly marked for Guatemala Mission. We are in need of a dentist for this year's team and other linguists. Please talk with me about the trip if you have any suggestions for participants or questions.

John Baird



Jefferson, the little boy we supported through his major heart surgery

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Prayer Chain - 2012

If you would like to request prayers for any reason, please contact any of those listed below, and they will contact others on the Prayer Chain:

Betty De La Garza	218-456-2293	bettypatnaude@yahoo.com
Sandy Holbrook	232-1667	slholbrook@cableone.net
Lavonne Marubbio	280-0436	mlavonnemarubbio@msn.com
Laura Nylander	h: 233-6016 w: 284-2276	lnyles@aol.com
Jamie Parsley+ (cell)	701-793-1953	apium@aol.com
Betty Spur	235-3917	(none available)
Gin Templeton	701-371-5544	gin-su@hotmail.com

Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for March and April

The following schedule of ministries for March and April reflects time and talent pledges for 2012. PLEASE NOTE changes in the March schedule from last month's *Ambassador*.

Schedule	March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25	
Acolyte	WayneGuite	Holbrook	Marubbio	Meister	
Altar Guild	Marubbio	Holbrook	Holbrook	Nylander	
Worship Ldr/ EM	Stewart	Wiling	Holbrook	Baird	
Lector	Baird	DuFault	McMullen	White	
Usher	Marubbio	Stewart	Coffey	Holbrook	
	White	Wilson	Coffey	McMullen	
Euch. Visitor	Marubbio	Holbrook	Baird	Marubbio	
Coffee	Coffey	Huan	Holbrook/ DuFault	Nylander/ McMullen	
Cleaning	Coffey	Wiling	Coffey	Wiling	
Children's Chapel	Raney	Stewart	Templeton	Hegge	
Schedule	Palm Sunday April 1	Easter Sunday April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Acolyte	Weightman	Holbrook	Marubbio	Meister	WayneGuite
Altar Guild	Nylander	Spurbeck	Spurbeck	Coffey	Coffey
Worship Ldr/EM	Holbrook	Marubbio	Meister	Stewart	Wiling
Lector	Wiling	Coffey	DuFault	Huan	Holbrook
Usher	Marubbio	Patnode	Wiling	Coffey	Baird
	Nylander	Stewart	White	Coffey	Huan
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Baird	Marubbio	Holbrook	Baird
Coffee	Templeton/ Wilson	Patnode/ Raney	Stewart	Baird	Berger
Cleaning	Holbrook	Holbrook	Marubbio	Marubbio	Nylander
Children's Chapel	Raney	Stewart	Templeton	Hegge	Raney

**Communion is available for those who are unable to attend Sunday worship. Please call the church to request communion after the Sunday service.*

***If you are unavailable to serve on a date when you are assigned, please find a substitute and let James (evenson2@gmail.com) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.*