

# The Ambassador

March 2012

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

## From Our Priest

I am writing this on an unusually very humid March Monday, just as we have passed into the latter days of Lent. The anticipation as we near Holy Week and Easter is becoming more palpable. As liturgical Christians, we sense through our liturgy and our scripture readings at the Eucharists we celebrate that "something is in the air."

Maybe this is why I love this liturgical season so much. Through the liturgies of the next few weeks, we will be experiencing a true emotional roller-coaster. We reach the depths of despair collectively and we experience the highest realms of joy. In so many ways, these next few weeks of our Christians lives reflect in many ways our own individual lives with the highs and lows that go with being a human being.

I hope that you will come out for experience these liturgical services. Our Holy Week will be a particularly busy one, especially with the added Tenebrae, Stations of the Cross and Easter Vigil services. But each one is, in its own, unique and spiritually fulfilling.

And as we journey together toward the cross and the ultimate victory of the Easter Light, know that each of you are in my daily prayers. I ask that you include me in yours as well.

Peace, Jamie+

## Around the Parish

### ***Baptisms at Easter at St. Stephen's***

This year we will be celebrating both an Easter Vigil service on Saturday, April 7 at 8:15 pm and our usual Easter Day Eucharist at 11:00 am on April 8.

Since we don't celebrate baptisms usually during the season of Lent, these services are the services at which baptisms at this time of the year are normally celebrated. In fact, the baptismal rite is essentially one of the highlights at these services. With two services, we now have double the opportunities for baptisms this year.

If you know of anyone who would like to be baptized at either of these services, please contact Fr. Jamie.

### ***Wednesday night Eucharists at St. Stephen's resume April 11***

Wednesday night Eucharist at St. Stephen's will resume on Wednesday, April 11. We will continue to use Enriching Our Worship (using inclusive language), incense and bells. Supper at a local restaurant afterward will follow.

### ***Healing Service and Holy Eucharist at St. Stephen's***

(Fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.)

A Healing Service and Holy Eucharist continues to be held at St. Stephen's every fourth Tuesday at 6:30 pm. In this service, we gather to share prayer

requests, support each other as a loving and caring Christian Community, and pray for the needs of the Church, each other, and acquaintances and loved ones.

Healing prayer, laying-on of hands and the Sacrament of Holy Unction with anointing with blessed oil is be offered by Fr. Jamie Parsley (priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's) and Jan Nelson (HeartSprings director).

Following the prayers for healing, we continue the service with a joyful and informal Eucharist (utilizing a liturgy with inclusive--non-gender-specific--language regarding God) as we gather as the Body of Christ around the Altar to share in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Each service will also including music and singing led by St. Stephen's cantor, Michelle Gelinske.

Please join us as we seek the wholeness of Christ within our lives and the life of the world, for yourself or for those in your life in need of healing.

Tuesday March 27, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Tuesday April 24, 2012 at 6:30 pm

Tuesday May 22, 2012 at 6:30 pm

## Holy Week, 2012 at St. Stephen's

Sunday April 1- Palm Sunday

11:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Fr. Jamie, *celebrant/preacher*

Children's Chapel

Wednesday April 4 - Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 pm - Tenebrae service at St. Stephen's

Thursday April 5 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist/stripping of the altar at St. Stephen's

Friday April 6 - Good Friday

12:00 pm - Good Friday liturgy/ Holy Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament at St. Stephen's

3:00 pm - Stations of the Cross at St. Stephen's

Saturday April 7 - Holy Saturday

10:00 am - Holy Saturday service at St. Stephen's

8:00 pm - Easter Vigil at St. Stephen's

Sunday April 8- Easter

11:00 am - Holy Eucharist

Fr. Jamie, *celebrant/preacher*

Children's Chapel

## Sanctus Bells donated to St. Stephen's

A generous memorial gift of a set of sanctus bells has been donated to St. Stephen's. Beginning at the Easter Vigil this year, we will be experiencing the beautiful sound of bells during the high points of our Eucharistic celebration, such as the Sanctus (the "Holy, Holy, Holy") and at the elevations of the Bread and Wine during the Eucharistic prayer. These new bells will replace the sanctus bells generously lent to us by Gethsemane Cathedral and used

regularly at the Wednesday evening Mass.

Traditionally, these bells were rung as a way to help people pay attention at several points during the Eucharist. Now, they essentially serve the purpose of making a joyful sound to God as a way of joining the Great Thanksgiving occurring at the altar.

We are grateful for the donation of these bells and we certainly look forward to the joyful noise they will bring during Easter and throughout the Church Year.

## Spring Book Order

Have you ever been at home and felt the need to pray, but were unable to find the words? Or maybe you have thought about Daily Prayer but never got around to it? We Episcopalians are fortunate, because we have The Book of Common Prayer, and it is part of our Anglican heritage for over 450 years. We are placing a group order for personal copies of The Book of Common Prayer. Buying in a group will allow us to get a discount rate and save on shipping. Once the books arrive, we will have a class on how to use The Book of Common Prayer in your daily devotions, and how to use it to grow your personal faith. Unlike the BCP's in our pews, these books contain an updated calendar and the Revised Common Lectionary, as authorized by The General Convention. No bookstores in our local area currently carry the book. Church Publishing lists the most economical Book of Common Prayer at \$23.00, however with this group order we save \$10.00 a book and it costs only \$13.00. Published by Oxford University Press, these have soft imitation leather covers. Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and write "Book Order"

on the memo line. Please provide your order and check to William Weightman by Sunday, April 29, 2012.

## Calling all Photographers!

By William Weightman

St. Stephen's would like to start better documenting our church year. This allows us to keep a visual parish history, as well as share stories and events with members of our congregation who are unable to attend events. Whenever it is a special event, special day, or just a fun



moment, pull out a camera, or turn on your mobile phone and snap a few photos. You can then submit your photos by bringing them in to church and giving them to William Weightman to be scanned in. Alternatively you can burn photos to a compact disk, or upload them online to St. Stephen's Facebook Group page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52039214842/>

## Meditation for Holy Week

Following is an excerpt of an article by Richard Lischer, professor of preaching at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. It appeared in the current issue of THE CHRISTIAN CENTER, and I want to share it with you as a piece upon which to ponder and meditate as we approach Holy Week and Easter.

Alice Hauan

### HOLY WEEK AND THE ART OF LOSING

Undressing another person, or another person's body, is a slow and exquisite work. Whether it's a feeble parent who can't manage the buttons, a child for its bath or an expectant lover, undressing can be an act of love. When a Jew dies, a small group known as *chevra kadisha* prepares the body for burial. First the body is reverently undressed, and any wounds on it are carefully cleansed. Rings, bracelets and all jewelry are removed. The body is bathed and purified by water, then wrapped in a white sheet and perhaps a prayer cloth and tied with a sash secured by a sacred symbol. Now it is ready to meet the living God.

Each Maundy Thursday, the members of our church's altar guild carefully and lovingly remove the candelabra, cross, vessels, fine linens and paraments from the altar. They strip the altar to bare stone. When everything is removed, what is left is nude and vulnerable, not as imposing as one might expect. It seems almost a shame to see the altar that way, and so when the women are finished undressing it someone turns out the lights, and the congregation files out in silence.

Every time I participate in such a service, I think of Jesus, who on the night of his betrayal laid aside his woven tunic and tied a towel around his waist. He stripped for

service. Another Gospel tells us that later "they stripped him" for mockery and death. The altar stands for Jesus, who in Holy Week enters the last stages of his ritual purification. The altar also stands for those from whom something or someone is being taken away. It stands for us. A sentence from one of Bonhoeffer's prison letters comes to mind: "I think that even in this place we ought to live as if we had no wishes and no future, and just be our true selves." By January 1945, he had adopted a fully retrospective view of his own life. He made the telltale gesture of instructing his parents to give away all his clothes...According to the witness of the prison doctor, before he went to the gallows, Bonhoeffer removed his prison clothes and knelt in prayer. On April 9, 1945, the stripping of his altar was completed.

When I was a child, it was the mysterious shadows that attracted me to Holy Week. Nowadays it's something more, or something different. It's what draws me back to Bonhoeffer's *Letters* year after year. In a church that's filled with people who are being reduced in a hundred different ways - by illness, death, grief, betrayal, depression and economic reversal, whose insurance has lapsed and whose dreams have been foreclosed - Holy Week teaches us all a lesson in losing. We are not losers, but we have been reduced, some of us to what feels like our touchstone. On Maundy Thursday we discover that even when everything has been taken away, something remains.

My South African friend Peter Storey once remarked that "America is the only country where more Christians go to church on Mother's Day than Good Friday." It is a sobering thought. The message of Easter, as Paul Tillich said in a sermon, is that the

Messiah was “born in a grave.” Those who skip Thursday and Friday but show up on Easter Sunday are missing the essential truth of the Passion. Thus they also bypass the profound grief that attends Jesus’ death. But there’s more to it than that. They have also missed one of Jesus’ most important lessons before dying. During Holy Week Jesus teaches the art of losing.

What Jesus offers this Holy Week is not an escape from loss but a better way of losing. In each Passion account, and especially in the Gospel of John, Jesus suffers humiliation and defeat but does not relinquish his identity as the Son of God. His final cry is addressed to his Father. His divinity is confirmed not by coming down from the cross but by his gestures of love while impaled upon it. From the cross he provides for his mother and forgives his tormentors. From the cross he draws a world of lost souls to himself. As it turns out, what remains in each of us is not the bravado of mastery but the vulnerability of love.

All our losses, however sharp or permanent they may be, deprive us of our ability to think and act beyond ourselves. They rob us of the very quality of love Jesus performed in the Upper Room and on the cross. Take grief, for example. Grief bears witness to no story or solution larger than itself. It shrinks your life to the exact size of your longing. The art of love is lost to you.

By God’s power, however, some break through the anguish and, in the midst of their own loss, find someone else to help or love. A boy dies of a drug overdose, and his parents take a new and active role in drug education for teens. A woman survives breast cancer, but instead of nesting with her own anxiety, reaches out to other women with the same disease. Poor people help other poor people. The bereaved understand and comfort the bereaved. This is the true art of losing. And it is an art or, as the apostle would say, a gift of the Spirit, no less a blessing than any of the other, better-known gifts. Jesus teaches the art of losing. It’s one of the reasons why some of us still sit in darkened churches on a Thursday and Friday night.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Prayer Chain - 2010

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 April and May**  
**Please note that this schedule incorporates changes requested for April.**

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	Wilking
Lector	Wilking	Coffey	Holbrook	Johnson	DuFault
Usher	Marubbio	Patnode	Wilking	Coffey	Baird
	Nylander	Stewart	White	Coffey	Hauan
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Baird	Marubbio	Holbrook	Baird
Coffee	Templeton/ Wilson	Patnode/ Ranney	Stewart	Berger	Baird
Cleaning	Holbrook	Holbrook	Marubbio	Marubbio	Nylander
Children's Chapel	Ranney	Stewart	Templeton	Hegge	Ranney
Schedule	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27	1.
Acolyte	Weightman	Holbrook	Marubbio	Meister	
Altar Guild	Lindley	Lindley	Holbrook	Holbrook	
Worship Ldr/EM	Baird	Marubbio	Meister	Holbrook	
Lector	McMullen	Stewart	Templeton	Weightman	
Usher	Holbrook	McMullen, M	Patnode	Stewart	
	White	Marubbio	Nylander	Wilking	
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Marubbio	Baird	Holbrook	
Coffee	Coffey	DuFault	Elliott	Gelinske, B&T	
Cleaning	Nylander	Ranney	Ranney	Stewart	
Children's Chapel	Stewart	Templeton	Hegge		

*\*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 ([evensong2@gmail.com](mailto:evensong2@gmail.com)) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.*

## Laetare Sunday and the Simnel Cake

For the second year we celebrated Laetare Sunday, the Fourth Sunday in Lent. This Sunday is also known by a variety of other names including "Refreshment Sunday." The idea is to take a little break, to lighten up before we enter the final weeks of Lent. Laetare means "rejoice." During the fellowship and coffee after the worship service, we enjoyed a simnel cake (traditionally associated with Laetare Sunday) along with an assortment of other refreshments. In response to a number of requests, here's the recipe.

### Ingredients

- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 3/4 cups self-rising flour
- 1 1/3 cups golden raisins
- 1 cup dried currants
- 2/3 cup candied cherries - rinsed, dried and quartered
- 1/4 cup candied mixed fruit peel, chopped
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest
- 2 teaspoons mixed spice\*
- 1 pound almond paste
- 2 tablespoons apricot jam
- 1 egg, beaten

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C). Grease and flour an 8 inch springform pan. Line the bottom and sides of pan with greased parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Beat in the flour. Stir in the golden raisins, currants, candied cherries, mixed fruit, lemon zest and mixed spice. Pour 1/2 of batter into prepared pan.
3. Divide almond paste into 3 equal portions. Roll out 1/3 of the almond paste to an 8 inch circle. Place the circle of almond paste on the cake batter in pan. Cover with remaining cake batter.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 2 1/2 hours, or until evenly brown and firm to the touch. If the cake is browning too quickly, cover with foil after an hour of baking. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely. Set oven to broil.
5. When the cake has cooled, brush the top with warmed apricot jam. Roll out 1/3 of the almond paste into an 8 inch circle and place on top of cake. Divide the remaining 1/3 of almond paste into 11 pieces and roll into balls. These represent the 11 Apostles (excluding Judas.) Brush the almond paste on top of cake with beaten egg. Arrange the 11 balls around the outside edge on the top of cake. Brush the balls lightly with egg.
6. Place cake under the broiler for 8 to 10 minutes, or until almond paste is golden brown.

\*You can create your own "mixed spice": 1 tablespoon cinnamon, 1 tablespoon nutmeg, 1 tablespoon allspice, 2 teaspoons mace, 1 teaspoon cloves.

*Caution:* the cake may be done in less than 2 1/2 hours and 8-10 minutes under the broiler could result in a burned disaster so watch carefully.



# The Ambassador ~ March 2012 Supplement

## Grant Application Denied

A grant application was submitted to the Diocesan Council on March 1<sup>st</sup> to seek funds for improvements to the Undercroft. The grants were offered as part of the Evangelism and Church Planting incentives which included an option for a "Facility Face-lift." The application stated: "St. Stephen's has a vital ministry and is experiencing a substantial growth in new members and visitors. More and more people are coming to our church for services, training and study programs, meetings and community events. We have more going on in the undercroft with additional coffee hours, more children using the play area, more events and meetings and more requests from outside groups to use our space.

Our main undercroft area has not been updated since the 70's. It is rundown and inadequate to serve the increase in usage. It is not an inviting atmosphere for adults or children. It is an embarrassment to bring in visitors. The furniture is threadbare and is headed for the curb for Cleanup Week. The carpeting is worn and stained beyond cleaning. There are piles of tracts, brochures, etc that clutter up the tables. The south wall has rotting and molding sheetrock. There are not enough tables and chairs for well attended potlucks and events. The closets need shelving to make them useful for storage. The office and children's chapel areas have piles of printed materials and books with inadequate shelf and storage space. The bathroom has old, leaking fixtures and loose flooring.

\*\*The "Facility Facelift" is listed as a supplemental strategy of Church Revival. Our need for this facelift is a direct result of increased growth and is essential for us to retain this growth and support our increased ministry and outreach. St. Stephen's has been proactive in enhancing and offering new worship opportunities, ministry training, hospitality & fellowship events and outreach in the community. We have prayed for guidance, worked hard and are not sitting on our hands. (This was followed by a list of over 50 activities that we have participated in during the past year.) And, we are working on new projects. We are forming a new social outreach committee to explore where our talents and energy intersect with the needs of our community, with the purpose of uniting our church family in a visible service of outreach."

The itemized request totaled \$6000 for estimated repairs, carpeting, bathroom fixtures, tile, furniture, shelving, etc. and stated that the members would volunteer their time for cleaning, organizing, light maintenance, painting and decorating and would seek donations of good, used items.

The Diocesan Council met last weekend, and the grant request was denied. This has been disappointing, but we will find a way to address these needs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gin Templeton

## Social Justice Committee

The Vestry is considering the formation of a Social Justice committee to search out ideas for outreach in our community. A meeting is planned following the coffee hour on Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, for anyone who has ideas or interest in this. We hope to begin to discern where the energy and talents of the people of St. Stephen's might intersect with a need in our community. Please come and add your ideas so that we can begin to see where to go with this. If you have questions please call Gin at 371-5544.