



The Servant

of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Bishop Warden's Report

Hurrah!

The season of spring has finally arrived, officially at least. I love this time of the year, days are longer, trees and flowers are alive with color again and it's good to be outside enjoying the season. Change is good!

With changes of seasons, we also will see changes for St. Stephens in the months ahead. Changes to placement of the altar, new seating options, new flooring and paint are planned. Repairs for the damage to the sanctuary will begin late this month and we will need everyone's support to make the transitions as smooth as possible.

We begin a face lift for the outside of the Lord's House as well and think many of you may have thoughts about ways to make the areas more inviting. Within, without, we are God's Hands maintaining His House to welcome, to love, to assist, to reach out to others. Please share your ideas, and certainly volunteer your assistance, with Rev. Mary and Bishop's Committee members wherever and whenever you can.

Change can be good if we make it so.

Sally Nelson



Vicar's Viewpoint

We have come to a new month—AGAIN!!! These shifts in time seem to come by so much more quickly! Is this a sign of aging? A sign of the very busy lives we live? I do hope we can take time to breathe in God's beauty this time of year—those with allergies, just be careful!! The trees bursting forth with their leaves and/or flowers; the springtime flowers popping up through the earth; the vibrant green of the grass—all make for a fantastic splash of color!

May brings our annual visit from Bishop Hayashi. It is Mother's Day, but this was the best date to pick! We will have two people confirmed: Andrew Platt and Drew Conder. It is always exciting to have people baptized—we had three at Easter, Drew, Allissa Anderson and Graecce Myers—and it is great to have people commit to becoming official Episcopalians. We will have a special potluck brunch, so start brushing up on your favorite dish to bring!

BUT, BEFORE THIS SUNDAY ARRIVES: we are going to have a sprucing up of the grounds at St. Stephen's on SATURDAY, MAY 13TH, from 10:00-2:00 p.m. We will have some food on hand to keep the energy strong. Are we doing this because our Bishop is coming? Not entirely—this is for God! Out of that love and gratitude we feel for God, we hold a responsibility to take care of the grounds of St. Stephen's. Will it be a lot of work? Yes, but when community gathers together, we share a purpose and out of that comes laughter and conversation that we might not always have on Sunday morning. So, please bring some yard tools; wear grubby clothes; have a joyous heart and a plan for having fun on this Saturday. There are plenty of weeds to pull and trimming to be done for everyone! Please mark your calendars for this great opportunity to see St. Stephen's in action.

Cont. on pg. 2

Tired of coming home from work, fixing dinner, cleaning up and dropping on the couch?

Try something different this week.

Join us on Wednesday nights for dinner at 6:00,

Worship at 7:00,

and a lively discussion at 7:30.

We will finish promptly at 8:30 p.m. and you can go home with no dinner to fix, and no dishes to do.

Try it....you might really like it!

WoW

This spot is reserved for YOUR article....Please submit to Marjorie

Cont. from pg. 1

Looking ahead:

On Friday, May 5th, there will be a great Cinco de Mayo Event at San Esteban/St. Stephen's from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is \$25.00 for single; \$40.00 for a couple; \$50.00 for a family. This is a Fund Raiser for the Youth in the Diocese attending the Episcopal Youth Event this July in Oklahoma. Checks can be made out to San Esteban with EYE in the memo line. There will be special music, Aztec dancers, silent auction, and authentic Mexican food. Please plan on coming to enjoy this experience and help our Youth.

At the end of the month we will be moving our worship space into the Parish Hall. The pews will be moved (by the contractors, thanks be to God) and the hymnals and prayer books while the interior of the Sanctuary is checked, repaired, painted, and floor done. We are going to move the altar back to its original place—where the piano is presently residing. We are going to get chairs to replace the pews, so that we will have the ability to do all kinds of creative seating arrangements. We will have a new feel for our worship space when we move back—that is going to be exciting!

Heads up for Pentecost! The Bishop has asked for as many Episcopalians to participate in the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 4th. (Details to come) This will emphasize our Baptismal Covenant of respecting the dignity of every human being! Because that is the Day of Pentecost, we will have a Saturday service on June 3rd at 5:00 p.m. to mark this important day of the church year. So, please mark this change on your calendar. If you come on Sunday morning, you will be alone!

Enjoy this Easter Season with all the joy and happiness that the Risen Christ brings us!!!

Mary+

This spot
is
reserved
for your
article,
Please
submit
to
Marjorie

My Journey Home

I am so thankful to be baptized into the Episcopal Church during the Easter Vigil at St. Stephen's.

I once heard that every human being has a void in their chest, an empty space that nothing and no one but God can fill. I whole-heartedly agree.

We all desperately try to fill that void in other ways, but nothing and no one ever measures up. God is the only One that can truly make us, our lives, feel whole, to bring meaning even to what appears to be the most meaningless of times. That is why I'm so happy, so thankful, and so full of joy to be re-committing my life to Christ.

The Episcopal Church has helped strengthen my faith not only in God but in humanity, in the Church. So, tonight, as I am being baptized, I choose to see Christ hugging me, welcoming me back Home.

It's been a long journey, and there's still more to come, but knowing He is on my side, loving me, caring for me--that is everything I could ever want or need.

Drew Conder



The April Coffee Hour Corner gave the first paragraph of an overview document that is intended to help people who sign up to host coffee hour as well as everyone who comes. The rest of the document is posted on the bulletin board by the sign-up sheet.

It has been reviewed but I would appreciate more editorial feedback. My email address is crookstn@msn.com or give me a call at (801)268-6233. In the meantime, please consider signing up for a Sunday.

Love,

Fran

