



The Servant

of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

THANKFUL

November brings us to the realization that another year is almost ended. It also reminds us that we still have much to do in this year. We begin to plan again for another successful year at St. Stephen's as we analyze our budgetary requirements for 2019 and produce our annual budget. Stewardship begins with each of us as we make decisions about all those things at St. Stephen's that are so important to us and our community of worshippers. We will each examine where we can help as we plan our pledges of time, talents and resources. We know we will have less supporting monies this year from the diocesan grant and we plan ways that we can meet our objectives of worship, service and outreach as we know we must.

Each of us has a special part to play.

November brings us sadness with the resignation of Rev. Mary at the end of this month, and we will need to revisit our objectives as a community of worship as we welcome Father Ramos as our new Vicar in December. How do we begin the work to become one church with St. Stephen's and San Esteban? How to incorporate two worship services and cultures in the best and most positive way will need the ideas and support of everyone.

Again, each of us has a special part to play.



Vicar's Viewpoint

My Beloved Community of St. Stephen's,

This will be my last viewpoint for you. This four-year journey with you has been a most blessed time for me. Your open acceptance of my arrival has always been embedded in my heart. There is always a beginning and ending in our lives. That is no surprise. While my announcement of retirement may have caught some of you off guard, the reality of life has determined this to happen.

Again, I extend the invitation for you to speak to me about this change. As Bishop Hayashi explained at his visitation, you will not have to wait for a new Vicar and you will not have to live in uncertainty. Pablo+ is known and he is excited about this new opportunity for the changes to be made. To join the two Episcopal communities into one Community of Faith is a wonderful idea. To have a children's program for the children from both services will be exciting.

When change comes, we have two choices: to avoid and withdraw or to embrace and discover new ways. I hope and pray that you will choose the second response. You are a warm, welcoming community and you are up to this. Pray for guidance and courage to take these next steps. Allow the Holy Spirit to nudge you into this new journey!

My last Sunday will be the 25th of this month. The Hepisipa Wesleyan Community choir will be singing the offertory and Pastor Kiu will have a part in the service. The community will worship with us as they did on Easter morning and in the Mass in the Grass. Even though I will shed tears, this

November is also a time of thanksgiving, and we have so much to be thankful for at St. Stephens. We have had an opportunity to grow in ministry and build awareness of our own needs and those of others as we have been involved in our services to each other and our communities. We are successfully managing our budget even with the many areas of repair and rebuild that we encountered this year and had a successful audit of our finances. We are saying goodbye to some this year but blessedly saying hello to some new faces. We are remaining an active community of faith and love. **And, each of us has a special part to play as we begin plans for our coming new year**

As we prepare for the celebration of Thanksgiving later this month, may we continue with positive and constructive thoughts and ideas for the changes ahead. **Each of us has a special part to play.**

I am thankful for all of you and the support you have given me as your Bishop's Warden these past two years.

Sally Nelson
Bishop's Warden



is to be a glorious celebration of our time together. We will have laughed, prayed, cried, shared events, and worshiped together for almost four years and three weeks. This has been a joy-filled gift for me and I am most grateful for this experience. You will always be in my heart and prayers.

With Christ's love,
Mary+

Family Promise Request from Mary+

Having Family Promise as our biggest ministry and offering to God has been amazing. We have encountered families who find themselves homeless and we give them safe shelter, food, and the presence of people who care about them.

Roni and Rick Stevenson have been and are deeply caring Volunteer Coordinators. They are going to continue to be that, but they need your help. How do you do this?

1. When the sign-up sheet is posted—take a look at it and figure out how you can offer your help.
2. If a meal is too much for you to handle by yourself, find a buddy or buddies to share the menu. There is money available to help with expenses if there is a need.
3. The gift of time and presence: either Evening Host or time slots on Saturdays allow you to come to church. Sometimes there is not much to do, but your presence is necessary. Sometimes you get engaged with the families and that is priceless. Sometimes you find you have quiet time to read, do handiwork, or just sit in peace.
4. Overnight hosting allows you to experience the slight discomfort of not being in your own home. It gives you a glimpse what these families do on an average of 56 nights during their stay before they do find a home.

If you have dear friends who do not come to St. Stephen's, invite them to share in this experience. The more the merrier and this helps spread the word about this incredible program.

A Place Inside

I know
that your ears don't listen
to what I hear
and that your eyes
don't see the things
I see.

But can you
find a place inside you
which lets you imagine
why it is
that I have to try
to tell you?

I have to believe you
might still suddenly hear it—
the pure crystal bell
of a wire harp string
in O'Carolan's "Farewell to Music"
like an unearthly touch
on your own heartstring
and then you would listen
as though you had been
captured by forever.

I can't bear even now
to surrender my hope
that in some eggshell sunrise
you might slowly see it—
the dawning outline of a deer
head downward
at the misty edge of the world—

or be delicately seized
at the corner of your eye
and drawn into the clear lens
of a single bead of water
knowing yourself
to be falling upward
into the Well at The End of The World.

Submitted by Leah Sanford

Roni and Rick cannot do this by themselves. Please keep this ministry alive and ease this labor of love. Join in and volunteer—give of yourselves in the best possible way. Jesus asked us to care and take care of those who need our help. Christ is present in each one of these family members. Do not miss out on the chance to witness and experience this.

Don't Forget, This Sunday, November 4!

