



Vestry Holds Annual Planning Retreat

St. Stephen's wardens and vestry gathered May 20-22 for their annual planning retreat. Meeting in the medieval confines of the Cathedral College (formerly the College of Preachers) on the grounds of the National Cathedral, the vestry did its best to assess our current status and to look to the future.

In addition to the lay vestry members, Frank Dunn (senior priest) attended. The vestry was ably assisted in their deliberations by Anne Heyniger (treasurer), Elizabeth Finley (outgoing senior warden), and Brian Best (parish coordinator). The vestry was very impressed by the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of the parishioners of St. Stephen's and sought to identify critical needs facing the parish now and in the future. The decisions the vestry made about those needs and how to address them were designed to give vestry support to existing committees working on these issues and to collaborate with them as we work out a plan of implementation.

In the course of the weekend, the vestry came to a consensus about four areas that will be major focuses in the year ahead:

Children

The vestry and Frank feel strongly that we can do a better job as a parish with our children. Our children's spiritual formation program has been developed and maintained for a decade primarily by the parents of our children. Those parents have done a superb job.

And we are very glad to have Joy Furgess on board as our Christian Education Assistant, to support the program. The Vestry would like to add more parish support for the work being done by Joy and the parents. Specifically, it would like to add to our program for our older kids to increase the chances of keeping those kids involved in our parish as they enter their teenage years. The vestry wants to see a babysitter hired soon to help allow parents of toddlers to be more present in worship. And the vestry wants to increase the ways for our children to be involved in our liturgy.

Church Growth

A major priority for us this year is to attract and keep new parish members. Two parish committees are critical for this work: the Evangelism Task Force and the Parish Life Committee. The Evangelism group is a "think tank" group that will create a strategy and generate ideas to implement the strategy. Some of the ideas it will implement itself; others will be done by Parish Life and other committees, such as Adult Spiritual Formation. The Evangelism Task Force's current chair, Atiba Pertilla, leaves the Vestry in August when he begins graduate school in New York, so the vestry will identify a new chair. Parishioners who indicated an interest in this group on their Time and Talent survey will be invited to the next meeting.

The Parish Life Commit- □ page 2

BREAD

May 29, 2005

The Second
Sunday After
Pentecost

Number 1523

THE VISITATION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY

TUESDAY, MAY 31

8AM HOLY EUCHARIST

YARD WORK DAY

Help us spruce up the church yard prior to Bishop Chane's visit! On Saturday, June 4, we'll prune, weed and mulch from 9-Noon.

BREAD

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□ **page 1** tee will be headed by vestry members Louise Dyer and George Frederick Thomas and will focus on increasing fellowship opportunities, on hospitality, and on other tasks.

The vestry also feels that the work done in recent years by our Diversity Committee and its chair Pat Gray is very important and should continue.

Spiritual Formation

The vestry consensus is that our recent program of Sunday morning spiritual formation classes has been successful and should be extended. The classes that Frank has offered in the past 6 months have been very good and well-received by the parish, as shown by the large number of parishioners who have attended on Sunday mornings (promptly! At 9:15!). The vestry wishes to add a few things to the menu in the next year: small groups focused on spiritual growth; retreats with a spiritual growth focus; and information and resources for spiritual direction for individuals. Frank will be working with vestry member Michael Lohmann and with Liane Rozzell, chair of the Adult Spiritual Formation committee, to implement these ideas.



The Building

The vestry wants to see significant improvements in our building. The Building & Grounds Committee, chaired by Priscilla Phelps, will tackle the general appearance of the building and the use of our space, and it will focus on ways to create beauty in our building. The vestry noted that the areas it identified as critical largely coincided with those identified by the outgoing vestry and by parishioners who attended Frank's recent Lenten Christian education class.

In addition to these newly identified needs the vestry will address a continuing one. Doris Collie will head up a new Pastoral Lay Committee that will provide support and encouragement to parishioners. The vestry reviewed the remaining church committees and appointed a vestry member for each committee.

In the eyes of this observer, St. Stephen's is in good hands: the members of the vestry worked well together, showing great respect for each other and care for the parish. Fern provided great leadership for the group. The vestry's plans seem solid and realistic. We're off to a great start.

-Brian Best

St. Stephen's Vestry

Standing: Michael Lohmann, Erin Hutson, Atiba Pertilla, Louise Dyer, Jane Bishop (Junior Warden), George Frederick Thomas.

Seated: Anne Heyniger (Treasurer), Doris Collie, Michelle Sinkgraven, Priscilla Phelps, Inez Haynes, Frank Dunn (Senior Priest), Fern Hunt (Senior Warden).

Bishop Chane's Visitation

On Sunday, June 5, the Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington, will be with us.

- At 9:15am, he'll join us for a forum in our parish hall.
- Bishop Chane will celebrate and preach at the 10:30 service.
- And the Bishop will join us at coffee hour after the 10:30 service for informal conversation.

People News

The Rev. Carolyn West, seminarian at St. Stephen's in the early '90s, continues to recover from her cerebral hemorrhage. She has been released from the hospital but is still doing therapy and will probably have to retire.

The Rev. Kathy Grieb has written the chapter "Preaching Paul Prophetically" in the book **Preaching as Prophetic Calling**, edited by Roger Alling and David J. Schlafer.

SMGW Seeks Program Director

Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington seeks a Program Director to provide leadership for its non-residential Next Step program. Major responsibilities include program policy and planning, supervision of paid and unpaid staff, and management of day-to-day operations and services. Send cover letter and resume to ddownes@samaritanministry.org

A Horrendous Event

On Friday, May 20, two cars apparently involved in an accident nearby came into St. Stephen's parking lot. One driver, a woman with her 7-year-old son, tried to block the other from leaving. She was run over and dragged the length of the parking lot by the other car. Her son saw the entire event and was very traumatized. It was a very difficult morning for all who saw it, including parish staff, students from the San Miguel School and neighbors.

The news media followed the story, labeling it things like "NW DC Road Rage Incident." As of Sunday, May 22, the woman was in critical condition, and the driver of the other car had turned himself in to police.

Benefit Concert

Sojourners is pleased to announce a special benefit concert with musical guest Carrie Newcomer and preacher Jim Wallis. Tickets are \$25 and are available from www.sojo.net or 800-714-7474.. See Elizabeth Palmberg for more info.

Friday, June 3, 7:30pm
Cedar Ridge Community Church
Spencerville, Maryland

St. Stephen's Summer Parish Picnic

Sunday, June 12, following the 10:30 service
Rock Creek Park, picnic grove #10 (one mile north of Military Road)

WORSHIP at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite I

10:30a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite II with
Children's
Spiritual
Formation

Celebrants and
Preachers

5/29: The Rev.
Kathy Grieb

6/5: The Rev.
Frank Dunn
(8:00); the Rt.
Rev. John
Bryson Chane
(10:30)

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday After Pentecost (May 29)

Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19

Psalms 46

Romans 1:16-17, 3:22b-28

Matthew 7:21-29

3rd Sunday After Pentecost (June 5)

Genesis 12:1-9

Psalms 33:1-12

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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THE SAINTS

Sunday, May 29
Birthday: Jim Stipe

Tuesday, May 31
THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Birthday: Sondra Norrell-Thomas

Wednesday, June 1
JUSTIN, MARTYR AT ROME, c.167
Birthday: Bill MacKaye

Thursday, June 2
THE MARTYRS OF LYONS, 177

Friday, June 3
THE MARTYRS OF UGANDA, 1886
Birthday: Louis Griffin
Heavenly Birthday: Chauncey Thomas, 1999

Saturday, June 4
Birthday: Keziah Wilde

Sunday, June 5
BONIFACE, ARCHBISHOP OF MAINZ, MISSIONARY TO GERMANY, AND MARTYR, 754
Birthday: Lisa Mages

Monday, June 6
Heavenly Birthday: Francie Gallishaw, 2002

Thursday, June 9
COLUMBA, ABBOT OF IONA, 597

Friday, June 10
EPHREM OF EDESSA, SYRIA, DEACON, 373
Birthday: Romel Dick, Jr., Ivy Martin
Heavenly Birthday: Julia Watson, 1982

Saturday, June 11
SAINT BARNABAS THE APOSTLE
Heavenly Birthday: Rachel Manley, 1989

ON THE COVER...
New Roof Cross

THE PRAYERS

Here's who we've been praying for recently:

- Jennifer Blackman, Edith & Craig Eder, Millie Fenwick, Ruth Murphy, Keith Preddie, Daphne Piper, Hazel Shecut, and all who desire to be restored to health; those who are home-bound; and all who care for aging relatives, the sick and the homebound;

- Patricia Davis-Muffett, and her baby-in-the-making;
- Melissa Abel (sister of Kelsey Menehan), Connie Adeyeri, Duane Bonds, Bob Broadwater (friend of Cam Crockett's), the Brown family, The Bright/Veneklasen family, Martha Carty, Roy Davis (father of Tricia Davis-Muffett), Romel Dick, Katie Finley (sister of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Sunny Jackson (Ernie Jackson's sister), Susie Johnson, Evelyn Jones (relative of Frank Dunn), Maia Lawrence (daughter of Charles Lawrence), Robert Dean McClellan (friend of Mary Alcuin Kelly), Joe Midgely (friend of Michele Lewis), Michelle Crocheron Montgomery (sister of Bryan Crocheron), Carroll Muffett (husband of Patricia Davis-Muffett), Barbara Oldland, Karl Palmberg (grandfather of Elizabeth Palmberg), Marisella Ruiz Ibarra (friend of Mary Alcuin Kelly), the Schmidt/Melchar family (friends of Barb Neal & Sarah Davis), Robert Spittler (Beth Howe's grandfather), the Revs. Katrina & George Swanson (friends of Bill MacKaye), Christina Way & Jim Stipe (preparing to move to Pakistan), Willard Webster (brother of Ellen Baynard), the Rev. Carolyn West (former seminarian), Astrid West-Harrington (Daphne Piper's aunt), Ellen Williams, and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

BREAD

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