



Vestry Year in Review

This past year has been an eventful one for the vestry. What follows is an account of the highlights.

Latino Ministry

When Father Simon Bautista came to the vestry meeting last April and spoke to us about the possibility of a Latino ministry at St. Stephen's, little did we know that we were going to launch one before the end of the year! The lightning-fast transition from possibility to reality came courtesy of funds from the diocese that made it possible for us to hire a clergy person who would lead this effort. As the Spirit would have it, at the same time Sarabeth Goodwin a long time resident of Mount Pleasant and a newly ordained deacon contacted Senior Priest Frank Dunn about getting involved in such a ministry. After consultation with a representative from the diocese and careful discussion, the vestry unanimously approved the new ministry at its October meeting. In November the vestry voted to support Sarabeth's application for ordination to the priesthood.

WIN

The vestry voted to make Saint Stephen's a part of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). This association of religious institutions in the Washington D.C. area is devoted to non-partisan advocacy and research particularly in the areas of affordable housing, jobs and education. Frank Dunn and a number of parishioners are actively involved.

New Parish Room

As part of an attempt to address the problem of lack of parish program space, the vestry approved the conversion of a newly vacated office in the auditorium area to parish use. It has been used this year as regular rehearsal space for the choir, a meeting room for the vestry, for newcomer's classes and various parish meetings including adult spiritual formation and children's Christian education committees.

Building Repair

In 2004, the parish budget had a surplus of \$34,346. The vestry considered the detailed list of building repairs and projects developed by the Building and Grounds Committee. Acting on the advice of the finance committee, the vestry voted to assign \$29,194 to address the items on that list. In the dining room we've waterproofed the East wall and are replacing light fixtures and painting, and repairs of the sanctuary walls and ceiling will be underway soon. The remaining \$5,152.00 was placed in the long term investment account.

Space Use

As many of you know, the larger part of the parish building is used by various non-profit organizations whose programs are closely allied to our mission and ministry in the neighborhood. The vestry formed a task force to review and analyze our use of this space. This involved determining the costs □ *page 2*

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□ *page 1* of maintaining the building and determining how well these were covered by space user fees. Secondly the task force considered the feasibility of using a newly vacant office in the auditorium for parish groups and meetings. In their report to the vestry, they presented invaluable information about building expense and income that provided a rational basis for charging or increasing space user fees for the coming year 2006. Their outstanding work enabled us to assess the costs of forgoing the fees coming from the use of the auditorium office by space users. The ves-

try will continue to monitor the impact of this decision on parish programs and church finances.

The task force consisted of junior warden Jane Bishop, vestry member Priscilla Phelps, parish treasurer Anne Heyniger and parish administrator Brian Best

Vestry Communication

In an effort to inform the parish of vestry actions, a short summary of vestry decisions will appear in Bread after each meeting.

-Fern Hunt, Senior Warden

Highlights of the December Vestry Meeting

The December Vestry Meeting centered around the proposed budget of 2006. The presence of Treasurer Anne Heyniger and Finance Chair Tom Bell helped the Vestry to appreciate the complexities, and blessings of the new budget:

- All paid staff members were given end of the year bonuses. Cost of living increases were also approved.
- Our Personnel Policy is being revised and updated.
- Personnel is the largest expense item, and health insurance is a very expensive and necessary benefit, as well.
- Space use fees by space users help cover expenses, but do not cover depreciation of property or major repairs and improvements. These expenses are raised separately from the budget.
- The new enterprise for 2006 is the Latino Ministry, supported by the Diocese, but also to a smaller extent by St. Stephen's budget.
- Loaves & Fishes cleaning crew received a raise and will have Social Security contributions taken out of their checks starting in 2006.

Other matters discussed included the need for a nominating committee for candidates for Vestry, and both Warden positions. The Annual Meeting is on May 21, 2006. A mutual evaluation of the parish leadership will take place this Spring. And Vestry minutes will be summarized and printed in Bread, with approval of the Senior Warden, each month to improve communication between the parish and its Vestry.

-Jane Lincoln and Fern Hunt

BREAD

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Thank You!

How can we possibly thank you for everything that you do for us? You let us meet in the church every week, and you opened your doors during our Fall mobilization, for housing and feeding protestors, making art and holding meetings, plus having a welcome center. You are truly one of the best allies to DC activists and we feel incredibly lucky and grateful for everything that you do for us. A million thank yous to all of you!

-Mobilization for Global Justice

An Afternoon of Celebration and Fun

The *Diversiteers* invite you and your family to share an afternoon of crafts/games, theatre, dance and dining on Sunday, January 15, 2006 – **Dr. Martin Luther King’s Birthday**. The next day, Monday, January 16, 2006 is a holiday, for most of us. No need to worry about getting up early, we should be able to celebrate until at least 6:00 – 6:30 p.m.! The fun will begin right after

coffee hour. We will keep you posted as we get closer to the date, but in the meantime, please mark your calendars so that you can be with us. It promises to be a fun afternoon, with guest appearances by some very important people!

-Pat Gray, Chair; Martha Brown, Allison Elder, Mkawasi Mcharo, Ife Wilder, Members

Radical Love for an Endangered World

Washington National Cathedral’s winter and spring events include ones on Dietrich Bonhoeffer (next year is the centennial of his birth) and presentations by Garry Wills, John Shelby

Spong, N.T. Wright, and Marcus Borg. For info, visit www.nationalcathedral.org or see the brochure on the “For This Week” table. “Radical Love” is the theme for their Winter/Spring programs.

Report From South Africa and Lesotho

Seasons Greeting to one and all. I had the privilege to spend the month of November in South Africa and Lesotho as the guest of U. S. Ambassador June Carter Perry and her husband, Fred Perry, in Lesotho. While there we participated in a number of projects, such as welcoming a new group of Peace Core volunteers. They were to be trained for several weeks and then go off to their assignments throughout the country for two years, some to schools, villages, centers, townships etc. A luncheon was given in honor of the Ambassador by the textile industry for her organizing a trade mission to the United States several months ago. The mills there make most of the jeans sold here at the Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy. I had the honor to dine at the High Table in the Palace with The King and Queen, and Thanksgiving was held at the U. S. Residency

with several Ministers of Finance, Education, Water and their spouses.

The Ambassador has a pet project where she presented Christmas donations of clothing to recipients of the Ambassador’s Girl Scholarship Fund at St. Joseph School in Maseru, Lesotho. This Fund is a program of the U.S. Embassy in Lesotho and of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Among the contributors were members of St. Ambrose Church, Chicago, Illinois and me on behalf of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church. It was indeed a joy to see the girls receive their boxes and the broad smiles that come from gifts that we all take for granted.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

*-Sondra Norrell-Thomas
(Sondra’s husband Chauncey was a member of St. Stephen’s for decades before his death June 3, 1999.)*

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

1/8: The Rev.
Frank Dunn

1/15: The Rev.
Linda Kaufman

LECTIONS

1st Sunday After
The Epiphany
(January 8)

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

2nd Sunday After
The Epiphany
(January 15)

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6,
13-18
1 Corinthians
6:12-20
John 1:43-51

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THE SAINTS

Monday, January 9
JULIA CHESTER EMERY, 1922

Tuesday, January 10
WILLIAM LAUD, ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY, 1645

Wednesday, January 11
*Heavenly Birthday: Phillip
R. Newell III, parishioner,
1975*

Thursday, January 12
AELROD, ABBOT OF RIEVAULX,
1167

Friday, January 13
HILARY, BISHOP OF POITIERS, 367

Saturday, January 14
*Birthday: Patricia Gray,
Fern Hunt*

Monday, January 16
*Birthday: Corinna
McMullen*

Tuesday, January 17
ANTONY, ABBOT IN EGYPT, 356

Wednesday, January 18
THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER THE
APOSTLE

Thursday, January 19
WULFSTAN, BISHOP OF WORCESTER,
1095

Friday, January 20
FABIAN, BISHOP AND MARTYR OF
ROME, 250
*Heavenly Birthday:
Florizell Cox, 2001*

Saturday, January 21
AGNES, MARTYR AT ROME, 304
*Birthday: Helen Langa,
James Hurd, Ivy Lane*

Sunday, January 22
*Birthday: George
Frederick Thomas*

ON THE COVER...
Fern Hunt

THE PRAYERS

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

- Jennifer Blackman, Millie Fenwick, Shepard Graves, Arrina Hermonstine, Lucille Jeffers, Ruth Murphy, Elizabeth Palmberg, John Phillips, Daphne Piper, 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;
- Bill & Evelyn Andrew, Roger Beach, Duane Bonds, Bob Broadwater, the Brown family, The Bright/Veneklasen family, Martha Carty, Judy Clark, Romel Dick, Craig Eder, Katie Finley, Doreen Granum, Lloyd Terril Hermonstine, Lloyd Nkomo Hermonstine Jr, Carol Hermonstine, Asanti Hermonstine, Stephanie Holodnak, Daphne Hunt-Clement, Sunny Jackson, Susie Johnson, Maia Lawrence, Robert Dean McClellan, Melissa and Wil Mefford, Joe Midgely, Carroll Muffett, Barbara Oldland, Haywood Owens, Karl Palmberg, Marisella Ruiz Ibarra, the Schmidt/Melchar family, Christina Way & Jim Stipe, Willard Webster, Astrid West-Harrington, Ellen Williams, and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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