



Latino Ministry Begins Weekly Services

Reencuentro con la Fe — Reencountering Faith

At 5pm on Sunday, March 5, our first Spanish eucharist took place. Attended by over 25 people, the first eucharist was a pleasant success. The congregation was overwhelmingly Latino, with a few St. Stephen’s parishioners in attendance too. We now celebrate the eucharist in Spanish every Sunday at 5pm. At first the plans were to start on Palm Sunday, but the “seed group” decided the time was right to start in Lent. All are welcome to attend. Here’s a report on the first service from Hugo Perez, the leader of the seed group.

Tení muchos deseos de participar en un servicio religioso. Al principio me sentía nervioso, pero a medida que el coro cantó, el himno de entrada se desarrolló, fui contagiado por esa alegría, que se manifiesta al entonar esos cantos religiosos. Mis nervios volvieron a su lugar, y tuve la dicha de escuchar un mensaje con mucha elocuencia de la palabra de Dios. La Homilía, pronunciada por la Reverenda Madre Sarabeth, me dejó una enseñanza muy importante en estos tiempos de cuaresma. Me sentía vibrar con una manifestación de la presencia de Dios en la misa.

Por eso quiero comprometerme y quiero trabajar por hacer crecer esta congregación Latina. Antes de todo, quiero dar las gracias a mi Padre Celestial, por permitirme caminar en su sendero, y pedirle que me de mucha fuerza, para vencer los obstáculos; a mi Esposa, porque por ella conocí la Iglesia Episcopal de San Esteban; al Padre Frank, porque el bendijó nuestra union; y muy especialmente a Madre Sarabeth Goodwin, por guiarme y darme mucho animo. Gracias Padre Mio por haber puesto en mi camino a tan bellas personas.

-Hugo Perez

I was very eager to participate in a religious service. In the beginning I felt nervous, but as the choir sang and the entrance hymn unfolded, I was infected by this happiness that happens when one sings religious songs. My nerves settled down and I had the good fortune to hear an eloquent message on the word of God. The homily preached by the Rev. Madre Sarabeth, gave me an important teaching in these times of Lent. I felt myself vibrate with a feeling of the presence of God in the Mass.

For this reason I want to commit myself and I want to work to make this Latino congregation grow. First of all, I want to thank my Heavenly Father for allowing me to walk in his path, and to ask him to give me strength to overcome obstacles; my wife because she introduced me to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church; Padre Frank because he blessed our union; and very especially Madre Sarabeth Goodwin for her guidance and encouragement. Thank you, my Father, for having put such beautiful people in my path.

-Hugo Perez

The sign at top left: “Spanish Mass Sundays at 5pm”

BREAD

March 19, 2006

The Third
Sunday in Lent

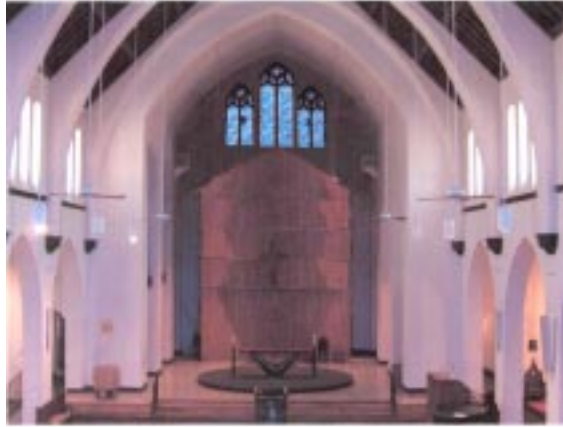
Number 1545

SATURDAY,
MARCH 25:

**THE ANNUNCIATION
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST
TO THE
BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY
(SEE PAGE 2)**

HOLY EUCHARIST
9:30AM

What If Our Church Looked Like This?



The time seems ripe for a major overhaul of our worship space.

Our walls need painting (after damaged plaster is repaired).

Our pews are falling apart and need replacing.

The sound system is barely adequate.

Tiles in the floor are coming loose in large sections of the nave.

Many people have expressed a desire to take down the Gloria (the reflective sculpture above the altar); others want it to stay.

One part of this work is already underway: lighting. We'll soon have a preliminary design for new lighting.

The church's Building and Grounds Committee expects that over the next five or so years we will address all of these issues, and more.

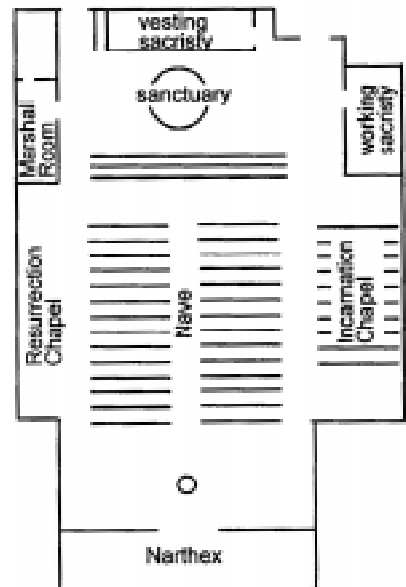
To start us on this process, on Saturday, April 8, from 10-1, all parishioners are invited to gather in the sanctuary for a time of creative brainstorming.

Parishioners will have opportunities to comment on the ideas developed that day. But to come up with the best ideas possible, we'd many people to come

that day. And if you've got strong opinions about how our worship space should look, we strongly encourage you to be involved in the planning from the initial stage.

Please join us!

Some Names for Parts of Our Worship Space



BREAD

is the newsletter of
St. Stephen
and the Incarnation
Episcopal Church

1525 Newton St. NW
Washington, DC
20010

Telephone:
202-232-0900

Fax:
202-797-0367

On the Web: www.saintstephensdc.org;
Email: staff@saintstephensdc.org

"The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the ... "

On the church calendar, March 25 is the feast of "The Annunciation of our Lord Jesus Christ to the Blessed Virgin Mary." Why will we celebrate the eucharst at 9:30am that day?

March 25 is nine months before Christmas Day, points out the Rev. Ronald Conner, who will preach and celebrate on March 25. The Annunciation looks forward to the feast of the incarnation.

On March 25, we celebrate that the

coming of the Christ is God's initiative. God moves towards us, and Mary says "yes" and becomes the way by which God enters into our world. The Annunciation is a celebration of God's love for us and our freedom to respond to God. Mary is the mother of Jesus and the sign of our freedom. We celebrate all of this March 25.

And the Annunciation tells us we only have nine months of Christmas shopping left!

Your Birthday in BREAD

If your birthday is not listed in the calendar in BREAD and you want to be included, send your birthdate (the year is optional) to the church office.

Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital would like to start a troop in Columbia Heights. Interested? Contact the church office.

Have You Seen the Art Show?

The Lenten art show "Renew a Right Spirit Within Me," on display in the church through Maundy Thursday, con-

tains a wide range of amazing art, much of it done by parishioners. Stop by and spend some time!



A chasuble, by Duane Bonds



Part of Mitchell Bond's stained glass work, "Out of the Deep"

WORSHIP at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00am—
Holy Eucharist,
Rite I

10:30am—
Holy Eucharist,
Rite II with
Children's
Spiritual
Formation

5:00pm—
Misa en Español

Celebrants and
Preachers

3/19: The Rev.
Frank Dunn,
Celebrant; Lisa
Mages,
Preacher

3/26: The Rev.
Joe Clark; The
Rev. Sarabeth
Goodwin
(Celebrant at
10:30)

Letter From Pakistan

Why Are the Cartoon Protests Happening?

As you are probably aware, there have been a lot of protests recently by some Muslims throughout the world about cartoons that were published in a Danish newspaper depicting the Muslim prophet Muhammad in negative ways. While many of the protests have been peaceful, some have been violent, resulting in deaths and destruction of property.

You might be wondering “What is going on?” Since we now live in the second largest Muslim country in the world, I’d like to offer some thoughts on the issue that may be different than what you hear in North America.

I should start by saying that it’s always a dangerous thing to say “This is what all Muslims think.” The Muslim world is huge and diverse, and to paint all Muslims with the same brush is simply inaccurate, just as it would be inaccurate to say “This is what all Americans think...” about any one topic. What I write here is an attempt to shed light on what many Muslims think, but it would be foolish of me to over-generalize.

The heart of the issue is that Muslim tradition regards any image of the prophet Muhammad as blasphemy. It’s not just that Muslims found the cartoons in bad taste or offensive; they consider it blasphemy, which is a pretty serious thing, especially within Islam. The fact that the cartoons also made fun of the prophet only added insult to injury. We may look at this whole situation and say “Come on, lighten up! They’re just car-

toons!” But for Muslims, the Danish newspaper committed a deep religious offense.

The West has responded that there’s little they can do about the cartoons, citing freedom of the press and free speech. However, many Muslims say there’s a double standard when it comes to free speech. For example, some Muslims have noted that in some European countries it is against the law (and therefore not permissible under “free



During the October, 2005 Pakistan earthquake, this teenager's village in northern Pakistan was badly damaged. (Photo by Jim Stipe.)

speech”) to say that the Holocaust never happened. (Case in point: on February 21st, British historian David Irving was sentenced to three years in prison by an Austrian court after it found him guilty of denying the Holocaust.) Some Muslims are saying “Why protect Jews from free speech but not us?”

Also, two years ago the same newspaper in Denmark that published the Muhammad cartoons also considered publishing cartoons about Jesus but decided not to because they thought the

cartoons would be too offensive to Christians. Again, many Muslims are saying “Why protect Christians from free speech but not us?” Whatever you think about the free speech aspect of this debate, the fact remains that many Muslims see a clear double standard.

If I may interject my own opinion for a moment, I believe that freedom of the press and free speech are values we hold to dearly, for good reasons. But with freedom comes responsibility. If we’re willing to give newspapers and other media freedom, we must also expect that they use that freedom responsibly. The ability and freedom to print what you want doesn’t excuse you from using reasonable judgment in deciding what you print. Simply put, I believe that while the Danish newspaper had the legal right to print the cartoons, it failed to exercise good judgment.

The other piece of this situation is that the protests, while initially about the cartoons, have taken on a life of their own. The protests aren’t just about the cartoons anymore; they have become about anger and frustration with the West in general. For many Muslims the cartoons are just one more example that the West belittles and is intentionally working against Muslims.

Many Muslims' cite a growing list:

- U.S. military bases in Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Holy Land
- the invasion of Afghanistan
- the invasion and occupation of Iraq
- evidence of the U.S. military torturing Muslims
- U.S. support for Israel over Palestine
- the desecration of the Koran by the U.S. military
- the U.S. bombing of civilian houses in Pakistan
- cartoons in Denmark (and reprinted

in several other European countries) degrading the prophet Muhammad

Regardless of your views on any of these events and policies, to many Muslims it starts to look like the West is on the attack.

When you add it all up, it’s probably not surprising that the cartoon protests have not only continued, but have taken on a life of their own as not just anti-cartoon but anti-West in general.

Does all of this justify the violence that has occurred in some of the protests? Absolutely not. The use of violence is simply wrong, which is why many Muslim leaders of various nations have condemned the use of violence during the protests. Fortunately the number of protesters involved in violence is a tiny percent of the world Muslim population, but it only takes a tiny percent to create problems for everyone.

I have a lot of my own thoughts on all of this, and there is much more that could be said on both sides of this situation, but my goal here was to present a quick overview as to why the cartoon protests are happening. I hope this helps.

-Jim Stipe

Parishioners Jim Stipe and Christina Way live in Islamabad, where they do earthquake relief work for Catholic Relief Services

To read more about Christina's and Jim's experiences in Pakistan, and to view their stunning photos, visit their website: www.jimstipe.com/asia/jimandchristina

UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Forum,
Sundays,
9:15am,
through April 2:
**Faith Mysteries:
Sharing Our
Journeys**

Friday Evenings
in Lent:
**Lenten Prayer
Shawl Knitting
Group**

Saturday, April
8, 10-1:
**Worship Space
Improvement
Brainstorming**

LECTIONS

3rd Sunday in Lent
(March 19)

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

2 Corinthians

1:18-25

John 2:13-22

4th Sunday in Lent
(March 26)

Numbers 21:

4-9

Psalms 107:1-3,
17-22

Ephesians 2:

1-10

John 3:14-21

in this issue ...

Spanish
Eucharist
Begins

Page 1

Worship Space
Changes?

Page 2

Letter from
Pakistan

Pages 4-5

THE SAINTS

Sunday, March 19

*Heavenly Birthday: Lydia
Martin, 2001*

Monday, March 20

CUTHBERT, BISHOP OF
LINDISFARNE, 687

*Birthday: Julian Bright,
Hannah Crocheron*

Tuesday, March 21

THOMAS KEN, BISHOP OF BATH
AND WELLS, 1711

*Heavenly Birthday:
Benjamin Blackman*

Wednesday, March 22

JAMES DE KOVEN, PRIEST, 1879

Thursday, March 23

GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR,
BISHOP AND MISSIONARY OF
ARMENIA, c.332

Birthday: Keith Preddie

Saturday, March 25

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST TO THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY

Birthday: Jonah Best

Sunday, March 26

*Birthday: Claude
Hermonstine*

Monday, March 27

CHARLES HENRY BRENT, BISHOP
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND OF
WESTERN NEW YORK, 1929

Birthday: Anna Gilcher

Tuesday, March 28

*Heavenly Birthday:
Grady Jemison, 1980*

Wednesday, March 29

JOHN KEBLE, PRIEST, 1866

*Heavenly Birthday: Eldica
Thompson, 1991*

Friday, March 31

JOHN DONNE, PRIEST, 1631

Saturday, April 1

FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE,
PRIEST, 1872

THE PRAYERS

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

•Jennifer Blackman, Martha Carty, Craig Eder, Elizabeth Palmberg, Judith Timol, and all who desire to be restored to health; those who are homebound; and all who care for aging relatives, the sick and the homebound;

•Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), Bob Broadwater (friend of Cam Crockett's), Romel Dick, Stephanie Holodnak (daughter of Martin Padarathsingh), Carol Ann Mericle (mother of Patricia Davis-Muffett), Willard Webster (brother of Ellen Baynard), Kawthar Zeraoui (friend of Susan Kyle), and all those who have been commended to our prayers;

•for the repose of the soul of Mallan Casey (father of William Casey), and all who mourn him.

BREAD

is published every other Sunday by the people of
St. Stephen and the Incarnation
Episcopal Church
Brian Best, editor (202/232-0900)

POSTMASTER:

Send changes of address to: *Bread*,
1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC 20010.

(USPS Permit 063660)

Periodical Postage PAID at Washington, D.C.