



We Welcome The Rev. Joe Clark to Our Clergy Team

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Joseph M. Clark as the newest member of our clergy team. Our team now contains six priests. Two—Frank Dunn and Sarabeth Goodwin—are salaried and work part-time. The others—Ronald Conner, Kathy Grieb, and Linda Kaufman—earn their livings in other ways.

An updated version of our “clergy team” brochure is available at the church; you can also read about the team in the leadership section of our website.

Here’s a short introduction to Joe.

Joe and his wife Meredith Myers began attending St. Stephen’s in January of 2006, soon after he retired as Rector of Ascension, Gaithersburg, MD.

A native of Wichita, Kansas, Joe attended Northwestern University and then Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA. His first day of class was the day after Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. The events of the early 1960s, when the church was deeply involved in issues of justice and peace, forever shaped both his life and his ministry.

Joe left the parish ministry in the 1970s to do community organizing and

political action in Baltimore and then joined Governor Harry Hughes’ staff. After seven years, he returned to the parish, first in Salisbury on the Eastern Shore, and then as Rector of Trinity, Torrington, CT. While in Connecticut, Joe was instrumental in forming the community Soup Kitchen and the Northwest Connecticut AIDS project.

In 1991, Joe was called to be Rector of Ascension, Gaithersburg, where he provided leadership at a time of significant growth. Ascension is now the largest multi-cultural parish in the diocese, with six services on a Sunday. During his tenure the original chapel was refurbished, the administrative and educational wings of the church were built, and numerous outreach programs were established. Presently, the parish is helping to build an orphanage for 160 children in the war-torn country of Liberia.

He enjoys his three children, three step children, and eight grandchildren, as well as traveling with his wife, and woodworking. Joe and Frank were friends back in Connecticut — coming to St. Stephen’s was a wonderful chance to re-establish that friendship.

BREAD

Dec. 10, 2006

The Second
Sunday in
Advent

Number 1563

Reminder!

Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell leads an inspiring Community Sing on Tuesday, December 12 at 7pm. The evening begins at 6:30 with a viewing of "Now Love Incarnate with Us Dwells," an art show and sale benefiting Loaves and Fishes.

BAPTISM

If you or a family member is interested in being baptized on January 7 (the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord), please contact the church office.

BREAD

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La Misa Alegría Celebrates Las Posadas

During the four Sundays of Advent, the Misa Alegría is celebrating the Posadas here at St. Stephen's with the other Latino congregations of the Diocese. The Posadas, a word meaning "inn," are celebrated in many cultures of Latin America. They are typically reenactments, using songs and procession, of Mary and Joseph's wanderings in search of shelter where Mary can bring her baby into the world.

Our first Posada, on December 3, the first Sunday in Advent, will have a modern twist. Just as the Son of Man has no place to lay his head, so is the plight of many sojourners in our world, and in our country, today. The meditations of this day, based on Luke and Isaiah, will reflect on the dire situation of many immigrants today. Most Posadas end with the welcoming of the "holy pilgrims" followed by fellowship and fun. Our first posada ends with no welcome. The person at the door yells, "Go away and stop bothering us. We don't know who you are and we don't care to know. How dare you disturb our peace and tranquility. We're serious. Get out or we will call the cops." On this day there will be no shelter. Our preacher will be The Rev. Simon Bautista, Latino Missioner of the Diocese of Washington.

On December 10, we will celebrate "La Purísima"-the Conception of Maria-the pinnacle of popular religious expression in Nicaragua. Señora Maria Navarrette and several other Nicaraguan members are hosting this event, which will include the building of an altar, songs, a procession and the giving of hand-made gifts, especially for the children. The events of the Purísima are punctuated with the cry, "What causes

so much joy?" Followed by the response, "The conception of Maria." Our preacher and celebrant for this event will be The Rev. Allan Johnson-Taylor, rector of Epiphany Church in Forestville, Maryland, and a native of Nicaragua.

On the 17th we are welcoming visitors from the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. Redeemer is a small congregation, the size of St. Stephen's. They are located in the village of Glen Echo, Maryland. Redeemer is financially supporting our music ministry through an amazing gift of \$6,000, which allows us to pay our musician, buy hymnals and other related things. Under the direction of John Vorhes (our liaison to Redeemer) the children and youth have planned and scripted a Posada play, which they will present for the Misa Alegría congregation just following the Posada procession. Our congregation will sing the typical Posada songs in Spanish while they act out Mary and Joseph's search for lodging. I understand that there is even a wily green snake (made of a dryer vent hose), which everybody will stomp loudly to rid the world of evil. A potluck fellowship dinner will follow the Eucharist.

Our fourth and final Posada will be on Christmas Eve. You can read about that service in the article on the page to the right. Our Posadas begin at 4 pm. The Misa Alegría follows at 5 pm. And always there is fellowship following. Take a quick holiday trip to another culture where you will be welcomed with open hearts.

-The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin

Christmas Eve is a Family Affair

This year, the fourth Sunday of Advent is also Nochebuena (Christmas Eve.) We will once again hold an informal family-friendly Eucharist at 5 pm to which all are invited. As the service will take place at the same time as the regularly scheduled Misa Alegria we will be able to combine our services into a joyful bilingual celebration. We hope that children will come dressed to take a part in a vibrant, eclectic, absolutely unique presentation of the Christmas story.

Throughout Advent, our Latino congregation has been celebrating the Posadas, in which we relive Mary and Joseph's search for shelter on their journey to Bethlehem. On December 24th, we will gather in the auditorium at 4pm with songs and a short reflection. Then we will process by candlelight through

our neighborhood where we will stop to ask for "posada" (shelter) at a house or two. Our journey will end on the church steps where all will welcome the "holy pilgrims" by singing the traditional song, Las Posadas. Then we, who are also "holy pilgrims", will enter into the church to begin our celebration of Jesus' birth.

This is a warm, informal service where joy abounds and where we are reminded that we are a family. It is a perfect opportunity to bring your friends who might be curious about what it is we Christians do. All are welcome.

We will have a festive fellowship after the service. Please bring food or drink to share.

-The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin

WORSHIP at St. Stephen's

Sundays

8:00a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite I

10:30a—

Holy Eucharist,
Rite II with
Children's
Spiritual
Formation

5:00pm—

Misa en Español

Celebrants and
Preachers

12/10-: The
Rev. Frank
Dunn

12/17: The Rev.
Kathy Grieb

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve:

•5pm: Bilingual Service with La Misa Alegria Congregation

Especially for the young at heart, who will reenact the Christmas story. The service is followed by a Christmas party (please bring food or drink to share)

•10pm: Festive Eucharist, followed by a Christmas party (please bring food or drink to share)

Christmas Day:

•9:30am

We will **decorate the church for Christmas** immediately following the 10:30 service on December 24. We invite all parishioners to lend a hand; we must finish by 2pm when Inner Light Ministries' worship service begins. Some of Inner Light's members will join us for the decorating.

SEND
"SOME
HOLIDAY
CHEER!

At www.LetsSayThanks.com you can pick out a thank you postcard and Xerox will print it and send it to a soldier currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services. It is free and it only takes a minute.

October Vestry Meeting Report

At it's October meeting, the vestry discussed changes needed in the church's personnel policy, which the personnel committee will pursue.

The vestry heard a report on Loaves and Fishes focused on the potential serious deficit for fiscal year 2006. Steps will be taken before the end of the year to raise additional funds, and a task force will report to the vestry early next year on how to avoid this in the future.

Treasury Harry Leich reviewed the budget with the Vestry. With the exception of Loaves and Fishes, at the end of

September the church was more or less on target on income and expenditures for this fiscal year.

The vestry discussed a draft of a Memorial Gifts Policy. After feedback has been collected from these various parties, the policy will be presented to the Vestry for consideration.

The vestry approved the Arts Collaborative's idea of moving the baptismal font and the crown of doves to the back of the nave; this is likely to happen in February.

"Thank you for the pies," says Loaves and Fishes.

Many people contributed pies to Loaves and Fishes Thanksgiving Dinner, and no one went hungry!

Correction

An article in the last issue of BREAD about the St. Helena Psalter said "after many, many years, St. Stephen's is again using an inclusive-language version of the psalms." Wrong! From 2000-2005, our choir folk used the *Psalter for the Christian People, an inclusive-language revision of the Psalter of the Book of Common Prayer 1979*

for our Sunday psalms.

Objections on the part of some in the congregation to the awkwardness of many of the translations in that book led us earlier this year to return to the Book of Common Prayer versions. But now inclusive language psalms have returned, with the better versions found in the St. Helena Psalter.

Pledges, Taxes, and Timelines

If you want to deduct from your 2006 taxes any gifts you plan to give to St. Stephen's in the remainder of this year, here's what you need to know.

Your check must be dated no later than December 31, 2006, and put in the offering plate that day or received in the church office no later than Thursday, January 4. Any checks received after

January 4 will be credited for tax purposes to 2007, even if dated in 2006.

However, if you wish to fulfill your 2006 pledge in 2007, that's fine; you'll just have to wait one year before you can get the tax deduction. Simply write "2006 pledge" on your gift.

-Harry Leich

Columbia Heights Heritage Trail

As the cranes loom over 14th Street in Columbia Heights, and numerous renovations and condo conversion projects litter the cross streets, a group of residents, with the assistance of Cultural Tourism, DC, are working to make sure that the past is not forgotten even as the landscape is being transformed.

Site of the Washington Jockey Club Race track, which attracted presidents and Congressmen in the early 1800s, and the Columbian College which was renamed George Washington University when it relocated to Foggy Bottom, "Columbia Heights" was the name chosen by Sen. John and his brother William T. Sherman for their subdivision in the 1880s. One of the first trolley-car suburbs outside the original Florida Avenue boundary of the City of Washington, the neighborhood has undergone many changes over the past century, reflecting the larger forces of the American experience.

The stories that neighbors have to share are an essential part of the history that has created the fabric of the Columbia Heights community. A first meeting of interested residents was held November 30, the first step in developing a neighborhood heritage trail such as

those in Mt. Pleasant, Adams Morgan, and Shaw.

The Neighborhood Heritage Trails are self-guided walking tours with poster-sized signs installed in 90-minute walking loops through city neighborhoods. They are developed by neighborhood working groups in partnership with the nonprofit Cultural Tourism DC and funded by the District Department of Transportation. To become involved, contact Anne Theisen at 202 328-2242.

Martin Luther King Birthday Service

Plan ahead! The annual Interfaith Service for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will be held on Sunday, January 14 at 3pm at Israel Baptist Church, 1251 Saratoga Ave. NE (corner of Rhode Island Ave. and 13th Streets NE). Sponsors of the event include the Downtown Cluster of Congregations, DC Habitat for Humanity, and the InterFaith Conference. Proceeds will help Habitat for Humanity build one DC home and will help build the MLK Jr. memorial on the mall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays,
9:15am,

Adult Forum:

•Dec. 10 &
17:

"Om for the
Holidays:
Finding Peace in
a Busy Season"

•Dec. 24:
"Hymn Sing"

Through
January:

**"Now Love In-
carnate with
Us Dwells" Art
Show**

Tuesday,
Dec. 12,
6:30pm:

**Art Show
Opening
Reception
and**

**Community
Sing
with**

**Dr. Ysaye M.
Barnwell**

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday in
Advent
(December 10)

Baruch 5:1-9
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:
3-11
Luke 3:1-6

3rd Sunday In
Advent
(December 17)

Zephaniah 3:
14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:
4-7
Luke 3:7-18

THE SAINTS

Monday, December 11
*Birthday: Jacques Hadler,
Cosby Hunt*

Wednesday, December 13
Birthday: Luciano Muzzatti
*Heavenly Birthday: Ruby
Long, 1981; John P.
Murchison, 1984*

Saturday, December 16
Birthday: Kimi Lawrence

Wednesday, December 20
*Heavenly Birthday: Jewell
Tutt, 1988*

Thursday, December 21
SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Friday, December 22
*Heavenly Birthday: The Rev.
William Keys, 1997; Mac
McFarland, 2002*

Saturday, December 23
Birthday: Anne Heyniger

THE PRAYERS

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

- Michelle Dyro, and her baby-in-the-making;
- Jennifer Blackman, Martha Carty, Terrey Danley, Leota Lawrence, Elizabeth Palmberg, 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;
- Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), Jamal Duncan and Ryan Kaufman (sons of Linda Kaufman and Liane Rozzell), Stephanie Holodnak (daughter of Martin Padarathsingh), Wilda & Charles Lincoln (Jane's father and his wife), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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