



Free Clinic Merges with Whitman-Walker; Leaves St. Stephen's After 27 Years

It was spring of 1979 when I arrived for my first day on the job as the nurse practitioner and program director of the Washington Free Clinic. The clinic was located in the basement of the Georgetown Lutheran Church. The clinic, dark and musty and shabby by day, was full of energetic and committed volunteers by night. It was clearly meeting an important need in the city by providing free medical care to uninsured people.

The clinic client population was rapidly changing as Georgetown changed. The clinic—the oldest free clinic on the East coast and the third oldest in the country—was founded in 1968 to serve the many runaways and at-risk gay and straight youth who populated Georgetown in the 1960s. The approach to providing care was still fairly radical even at the end of the '70s—we trained lay volunteers to screen clients for sexually transmitted diseases and other related problems under the supervision of volunteer physicians.

By the end of the '70s more and more clients were coming from other parts of the city, a more diverse clientele with more complex medical problems. Around that time, the Gay Men's V.D. Clinic of the Washington Free Clinic left the clinic to form a freestanding organization—the Whitman-Walker Clinic.

My first day at work was an eventful one. The executive director announced her resignation, and we received a notification from the church that the clinic

would need to vacate the premises by the fall. Needless to say, the attention of the two (and only) full-time employees—myself and the administrative director—turned to finding a new home for the clinic. We made hundreds of phone calls to public officials and health care and religious leaders in the city and visited scores of churches, schools other potential sites for the clinic, all to no avail. Finally, the rector of Holy Communion Church in Southeast urged me to call the Church of the Brethren, where I spoke with Norm Mol (then husband of parishioner Laura Mol), who led us to St. Stephen's.

St. Stephen's rector, the Rev. Jack Woodard, was very enthusiastic about having the clinic move to the space on the third floor of the Parish Hall. With tons of sweat equity from volunteers and a \$10,000 grant from the Public Welfare Foundation, we renovated the space to make a home for the clinic. (So, yes, Buildings and Grounds committee members, you can blame me for the current layout of the rooms on the third floor.)

St. Stephen's was a perfect location for the Free Clinic. More and more of our clients were coming from the neighborhoods around the church, and the new location was much more accessible to the growing populations of undocumented individuals from Latin America and Africa who were coming to the Free Clinic for care. Since its move to St. Stephen's, the Free Clinic has expanded its services signifi- ü page 2

Jan. 21, 2007

The Third
Sunday after
the Epiphany

Number 1566

ü *page 1* cantly to include obstetrical and gynecological services, and more comprehensive general medical care to address the needs of our neighbors.

One particularly poignant memory for me: I remember vividly sitting in my Clinic office in 1981 reading about the first cases of Pneumocystis Pneumonia and Kaposi's Sarcoma in gay men in San Francisco and wondering if there was any connection to the many gay men we were seeing with unexplained weight loss and swollen lymph nodes—the first signs of the looming HIV/AIDS crisis. I left the Free Clinic a year later and began working on HIV/AIDS—for the last 17 years on NIH-funded AIDS research with the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS.

When I first heard that the Free Clinic was leaving St. Stephen's, I was sad—we share so much history.

But when I heard that the Free Clinic was joining with Whitman Walker Clinic I felt it was a perfect solution to the clinic's long-standing struggle to keep its excellent and much needed program afloat. According to Brian Best, the Clinic for decades has been running just this side of bankruptcy, and a few times each year firefighters carry Clinic

patients who need to be hospitalized down the stairs and into waiting ambulances. At last the clinic will be in accessible space and in partnership with an outstanding organization that it helped birth. There is a completeness to this returning that really seems right.

The Washington Free Clinic will see its last patients at St. Stephen's on Friday, January 19. They will resume seeing their current patients and Whitman-Walker patients at their new location on Monday, January 29. They will then be known as the Whitman-Walker Clinic; the name "Washington Free Clinic" will be retired. Whitman-Walker is thrilled, as they now will be able to offer comprehensive primary care services to the District's medically underserved; the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community; and people living with HIV/AIDS.

D.C. Councilman Jim Graham, who is a former executive director of Whitman-Walker Clinic and whose ward includes St. Stephen's, called the development "a historic step in the evolution of Whitman-Walker Clinic and health care in our city."

Let us bless them on their way to new life!

-Elizabeth Finley

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Christine Wilson Runs Marathon for Whitman-Walker

Back in March of 2005, in a fit of quixotic fervor, I decided to join the National AIDS Marathon Training Program. HIV/AIDS prevention and patient advocacy had been a passion of mine for years now, and after a year of both getting out of shape and not having much time to do my usual volunteer work, I felt that committing to raising \$3,700 for the Whitman Walker Clinic would be a great way to give back. Con-

sidering I'd never run a step for recreational purposes in my life, I also felt that completing a marathon would be a significant personal achievement.

At times, it felt like overcoming my shyness enough to ask for donations was harder than even the most difficult of my training runs. Thanks in very large part to generous donations from fellow St. Stephen's parishioners—\$945, in fact—I met my fundraising

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

1/21: The Rev.
Frank Dunn

1/28: The Rev.
Joe Clark

goal. Other donations came from friends and family, selling yoga passes from DC Yoga, a happy hour fundraiser at the Ugly Mug Pub in Capitol Hill, a yard sale in Bloomingdale's Crispus Attucks Park, and selling Krispy Kreme donuts during the morning rush hour at the Farragut West metro station.

On November 24, I finally arrived in Florence, Italy, where the marathon was taking place. I was lucky enough to be set up in a room with an experienced marathoner and world traveler from Baltimore who was already familiar with Florence and had two friends in town waiting to show us around. We spent two days sightseeing, sampling the local cuisine, mingling with AIDS marathoners from other US cities, and generally exacerbating our jet lag.

The weather on the day of the race was perfect, and the mountains around the city were shrouded in a beautiful, otherworldly mist. It was sunny and 60 degrees with just the right amount of humidity. The view of the city from the starting line at the Piazzale Michelangiolo (where a replica of Michelangelo's David stands) was breathtaking, and the sights only got better as the race went on. The first 5k consisted of winding down through the mountains past some of the most beautiful gardens I've ever seen. The race continued to wind through neighbor-

hoods of all kinds—narrow streets and broad avenues, bustling tourist centers and quiet side streets. While the large crowds were clustered around the starting and finish line at the Piazza Santa Croce, almost everywhere we went, a few Florentines would stop to yell "Vie! Vie!" ("go" in Italian). Every cheer made our legs hurt a little less.

My goal was to finish in under 6 hours (the time limit for the marathon) and not fall down. I'm very happy to say that I finished in 5 hours, 20 minutes and did *not* fall down. The pace bus marking the end of the course was going faster than us slowpokes, and by the time we got to refreshment stations, they were always in the process of packing up if not completely packed up. Many marathon workers seemed confused as to why we were still running. "The race is over! Someone already won!" But all was forgotten once we got to the red carpet leading up to the finish line.

I want thank everyone at St. Stephen's from the bottom of my heart for making this fantastic opportunity possible for me, and for helping the National AIDS Marathon Training Program raise over a million dollars this year to benefit Whitman-Walker.

I do plan to keep volunteering and I do plan to keep running. I'll be running in the Virginia Beach Half-Marathon next September. I certainly hope a few of you will join me.

If you would like to view more pictures of the race and other sights in Florence, you may view some pictures that I've posted on www.ringo.com—type "Christine Wilson" in the "find a friend" box and click on the profile with the purple sunset photos.

Thanks again, and God Bless.

-Christine Wilson



WIN COMMUNITY
AND POWER
DISCUSSION —
NEW DATE

Come join Washington Interfaith Network organizer Amy Vruno and the St. Stephen's WIN team on Sunday, February 4 (note the new date) for a candid discussion on power and community. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the principles behind how WIN works and explore new possibilities for how St. Stephen's can act in the neighborhood. Join us during the 10:30 service coffee hour that day.

Vestry Year in Review

As the 2006 Year in Review issue of BREAD amply demonstrated, there is, as Linda Kaufman noted, "new life in the air at St. Stephen's." The Vestry has been very busy developing priorities and procedures that would support the growth in parish life and facilitate the changes such growth brings.

Thus, last year the Vestry formally commissioned the Arts Collaborative and later heard a report on their activities for the year. We received the first of the quarterly reports from our Latino Missioner Sarabeth Goodwin. We also began work on crafting a Gifts and Memorials policy for the church and updating the personnel policy to make it reflect the shared ministry model and formalize hiring procedures. These two tasks are near completion and Vestry approval will occur early in 2007.

However it would be impossible to accurately and coherently describe Vestry activities without putting them in the context of the three priorities that it set during the June retreat—Growth, the Building, and Mission. In a new effort to communicate and collaborate with the parish, the Vestry held a goal-setting conversation meeting with parishioners in July where the means to accomplish the goals were formalized. The following is a description of some of the follow-up that occurred.

•**Growth.** The most formal Vestry activity was its involvement in the "To Grow or Not to Grow" course provided by the diocese. Vestry members Jane Bishop and William MacKaye are direct participants. Much of the real activity happens outside the Vestry, thanks to Parish Life and the associated greeters.

The Vestry has sought to be much more intentional about making full use

of the Time and Talent survey as a way to incorporate newcomers into the life of the church.

•**Building.** The need to plan for the coming and going of space users was noted in July. In particular, the growing difficulties of the Washington Free Clinic meant we would have to accommodate the issue of their departure within the next 1-2 of years, a time period they conveyed in conversation with us. In the next couple of months their position deteriorated so rapidly that they announced in November that they were leaving in January. The Vestry set up a task force headed by Jane Bishop to work with Brian Best. A tentative plan for preparing the vacated space and selecting a new space user was developed and is being implemented. The group will also make middle- to long-term decisions about the building space in the light of our current financial condition and the needs of our growing parish.

The Vestry approved additional time for parish administrator Brian Best for the first four months of 2007 to do preliminary planning needed for a comprehensive fundraising effort. This is needed at this time to address the needs of the building and our building based missions.

The Sanctuary Improvement plan—a comprehensive roadmap for refurbishing, maintenance and seating in the sanctuary—has been completed and is ready for Vestry approval.

•**Mission.** While encompassing new efforts like WIN and the Latino Ministry, most of the Vestry's Mission attention was focused on Loaves and Fishes. In December 2005, the Loaves and Fishes management group came to the Vestry for help in mobilizing parish

support as they struggled with budget problems and major setbacks in their fundraising efforts. Louise Dyer agreed to act as Vestry liaison to the Loaves and Fishes management group, and in July the parishioners who worked on "Mission" formulated several goals for Loaves and Fishes, including expansion of the fundraising efforts and the creation of a Loaves and Fishes task force. The Task Force's charge is to review Loaves and Fishes mission, management, and finances and to recommend changes to the Vestry in April. The group consists of a mix of some management group members and other parishioners and is headed by Louise Dyer.

In 2007, Loaves and Fishes will be keep the Vestry informed of its financial status on a quarterly basis. This is a

response to the deficit situation which worsened in the last part of 2006. The Loaves and Fishes task force will be working closely with the program as they work to improve the situation.

We ended the year in a deficit due in part to the events we described above. A forthcoming article will discuss this in more detail. The good news is that the follow-up activity of the July meeting has been providential in helping us anticipate these problems as we prepare the 2007 budget and in implementing plans for addressing the causes of our budget shortfall.

I want to thank the Vestry for their very hard work and faithfulness, and in particular, our (ever onward) Junior Warden Jane Bishop, Priscilla Phelps, Louise Dyer and William MacKaye.

-Fern Hunt, Senior Warden


Update on Loaves and Fishes

The past year has been an exciting and challenging year for Loaves and Fishes, and 2007 promises more excitement (there's something to be said for dullness). For various reasons, the program did not raise enough money to balance our budget. In fact, we ended up with a \$32,000 deficit, which has been covered by part of our reserves. This cannot, of course, happen again, and we are taking steps to make sure that it doesn't,

So, thank you to all who responded to our various oral and written appeals for additional donations. Your generosity made a difference. I would like to thank especially the Arts Community for its benefit activities, including the art show and the community sing. By the way, there are still some good works of art for sale, so you can beautify your

home and contribute to our efforts.

I would also like to thank the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), with which I am also involved. Local 1072 (University of Maryland College Park and University College) of Council 92 (higher education employees) voted to donate \$100 to Loaves and Fishes and will also match donations, up to \$400, from other AFSCME offices. I will contact the Council 92 office and the AFSCME International office with this request shortly.

For this coming year, the management committee has been meeting frequently, and there are new ideas and new energy bubbling up. The first meeting of the Vestry-appointed task force to determine the future and direction of Loaves and Fishes took  page 6

LENTE LITURGY PLANNING

You are invited to attend two evenings of reflection in preparation for the planning of Lenten observances. If you would like to participate in the Lenten planning team please come to a supper meeting followed by reflections on the season by senior priest Frank Dunn and liturgy planning. Join us at church on Thursday, January 18 and Monday, January 22. Each evening will start at 7pm and ends at 9pm.

**HYMNAL
DONATIONS —
THANK YOU!**

During December we requested donations to help purchase new hymnals, and you responded. We'll have 16 new copies of Lift Every Voice and Sing and 15 new copies of the Hymnal 1982 in our pews by the end of the month (slow shipping saved us enough to buy three additional books!).

☪ **page 5** place on January 7; there was a productive discussion of both short-term and long-term ideas.

Among other things, we plan do six newsletters this year, including some appeals for funds, in order to improve communications with the volunteers and partner parishes. We are looking at ways of getting volunteer leaders and partner parishes more involved. We are taking a fresh look at possible grants from foundations. A new table-volunteer program is in the works, and we hope to strengthen our partnership with Samaritan Ministry. Finally, I am looking for "a few good hosts" (a couple of people have agreed) to give dinners at home for their friends outside the parish, who will be given a brief explanation of the program and an appeal for

donations (guests will be warned in advance!).

We still need a few more people to step forward and help with various activities, such as helping write funding proposals and making contacts with the corporate community. Whatever assistance you can volunteer is greatly appreciated.

I am issuing my own "challenge donation": I will match up to \$100 in donations from new donors. If you feel called to do so, please make your first donation, labeled as such, and your generosity will be doubled. I am cautiously optimistic about our activities for 2007, and I hope that my article in next January's Bread bears that out.

*-Earl H. Foote, Chair, Management
Committee*

Kathy Grieb Appointed to Key Anglican Committee

Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury and spiritual head of the Anglican Communion, has appointed the Rev. Dr. Kathy Grieb to a key committee charged with drafting a covenant to help heal the rift in the worldwide communion. Kathy is a member of St. Stephen's Clergy Team.

Kathy is one of two U.S. members of the 12-person Covenant Design Group, which includes priests from Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Three years ago, Gene Robinson, an openly gay and non-celibate man, was installed as Bishop of New Hampshire, setting off a firestorm of criticism by more conservative Anglicans in this country and abroad and creating rifts that threaten the unity of the world-wide Anglican Communion. Recently, seven parishes in Northern Virginia voted to leave the Diocese of Virginia and align themselves with the very conservative

Archbishop of Nigeria, partly due to the issues arising from Robinson's installation.

The Anglican Communion produced a report on the rifts. That report, known as the Windsor Report, called on the Episcopal Church USA to take certain steps in response. Kathy helped draft "To Set Our Hope on Christ," the US response to the report. Although the US response helped reduce tensions somewhat, the basic rift continues.

One recommendation of the Windsor Report is the "adoption by the churches of the Communion of a common Anglican Covenant which would make explicit and forceful the loyalty and bonds of affection which govern the relationships between the churches of the Communion."

In March, 2006, the Primates Joint Standing Committee, which meets annually to oversee the work of the Angli-

can Communion Office and the bodies that tie together the world-wide Anglican Communion, recommended that a Covenant Design Group be formed to carry this project forward. The group meets later this month under the auspices of its convener, the Most Rev. Drexel Gomez, Archbishop of the West Indies, and will make a report to the Primates of the Anglican Communion when they meet in Tanzania in February. (The “primates” are the archbishops or head bishops in each Anglican province or country.)

The work of the Covenant Design Group will be difficult.

The Primates Joint Standing Commission said in March “some worry that a covenant might be seen to alter the nature of the Communion towards that of a narrowly confessional family, with the attendant danger that preparedness to sign up to the covenant becomes a test of authentic membership. Others might see a potential danger in establishing a bureaucratic and legalistic foundation at the very heart of the Communion; putting at risk inspired and prophetic initiatives in God’s mission and threatening Anglican comprehensiveness. There is also a fear that the Anglican Communion might become a centralized jurisdiction. If the covenant were too detailed,

it might prove too restrictive or inflexible to address unforeseen future challenges; if it were too general, it might commit the Communion to little or nothing: in either case, it would be inadequate.”

But if it works well, said the Primates, “a well-written and concise covenant would clarify the identity and mission of the Churches of, or in association with, the Anglican Communion. By articulating our ecclesiological identity, a covenant will also help the Anglican Communion in self-understanding and in ecumenical relationships. A covenant could provide, for all provinces and/or national churches, a fundamental basis of trust, cooperation and action in relationship with one another and in relation to the whole Communion. A covenant could express what is already implicit, by articulating the “bonds of affection”, that is, the “house rules” by which the family of Anglican churches wishes to live together.”

Kathy says that this is the beginning of what will probably be a long, slow process and that the work of the group will be confidential until it is ready to release public statements. Let us pray for Kathy as she enters into this very important work.

-Brian Best

An Apology

“Dear St. Stephen’s:

“I’m sorry that I was arguing with my sister during communion. I will not do it again. Love, Julian”

“I’m so sorry that I was arguing with Julian during communion. Here’s a beautiful picture to put in BREAD. Love, Beatrice”



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays,
9:15am,

Adult Forum:

• **January 21:**

“Faith in
Transition”

• **January 28 &
February 4:**

“How to Stay
Sane in a Crazy
World”

Through
January:

• **Now Love
Incarnate with
Us Dwells”
Art Show**

Sunday,

Feb. 4, Noon:

**WIN Discussion
on Power and
Community**

Sunday,

February 11:

• **“To Grow”
Conversation
During Coffee
Hour**

LECTIONS

3rd Sunday after
the Epiphany
(January 21)

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians
12:1-11
John 2:1-11

4th Sunday after
the Epiphany
(January 28)

Jeremiah 1:
4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians
13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

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THE SAINTS

Sunday, January 21

*Birthday: Helen Langa, James
Hurd, Ivy Lane*

Monday, January 22

VINCENT, DEACON OF SARAGOSSA, AND
MARTYR, 304
*Birthday: George Frederick
Thomas*

Tuesday, January 23

PHILLIPS BROOKS, BISHOP OF
MASSACHUSETTS, 1893
Birthday: Linda Kaufman

Wednesday, January 24

ORDINATION OF FLORENCE LI TIM-OI,
FIRST WOMAN PRIEST IN ANGLICAN
COMMUNION, 1944

Thursday, January 25

THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

Friday, January 26

TIMOTHY AND TITUS, COMPANIONS OF
SAINT PAUL

Saturday, January 27

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP OF
CONSTANTINOPLE, 407
Birthday: Marie Stevanus

Sunday, January 28

THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST AND FRIAR,
1274
*Heavenly Birthday: Carlos Van
Leer, 1993*

Wednesday, January 31

Birthday: Christina Way

Thursday, February 1

BRIGGID OF IRELAND, c.528
Birthday: Larry Hargrove

Friday, February 2

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
*Birthday: Martha Brown,
Muriel Dick*

Saturday, February 3

ANSKAR, ARCHBISHOP OF HAMBURG,
MISSIONARY TO DENMARK AND
SWEDEN, 865
*Birthday: Carole Crumley,
Barbara Oldland*

THE PRAYERS

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

- Michelle and Pete Dyro, and their baby-in-the-making (who should be born by the time you read this);
- 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), Driss Ksikes (a journalist, who is a friend of Susan Kyle, and who is threatened with jail in Morocco for items published in his magazine), Edward Painter, and all those who have been commended to our prayers;
- For the repose of the soul of Dana Jordan (daughter of friend of Sally Ethelston) and all who mourn her.

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