



Parishioner Profile

Moxie Dyro, and Her Parents, Michelle and Peter

Michelle and Peter Dyro met five years ago at D.C.'s 930 Club. He "liked the way she danced...her moooves," and she liked the way he approached her— friendly, not too aggressive. They've been married now for three years, and they still love to dance. As they welcome Moxie Ann, an 8-pound, 21 ½-inch baby girl born January 15, into the world and their Alexandria home, Pete and Michelle are excited for life's new chapter of adventures.

The Dyros possess the easy seamless chemistry of a union that is simply meant to be. As I sat at their dining table enjoying tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich, as well as a concoction of seltzer and mango juice Pete

had "just made up," I noticed how Peter and Michelle listened while each other spoke, how neither dominated the conversation and how they spoke of one another with respect and affection. They each recognized how the strengths of the other had enhanced their own life. Michelle, who is tentative to try new activities or hobbies, says of Pete, "He has no fear; he's willing to try anything." Pete, who admits to being more conservative and less tolerant before he met Michelle, says his wife is more accepting of difference and has helped him "be more open-minded."

At the same time, Pete and Michelle have much in common: creativity, a sense of adventure and a *ü page 2*

BREAD

Feb. 4, 2007

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Number 1567

Lent: Las Aquas de Vida / Waters of Life

The season of Epiphany varies in length; this year Easter comes early, making Epiphany seven weeks long. Although it may feel like we've just marked the arrival of the wise men at the stable, it's a good time to be thinking about what would lead to the "observance of a holy Lent" (in the words of the Ash Wednesday liturgy).

Here's a quick preview of what's on tap this year at St. Stephen's. You'll find more info on all of this in the next issue of BREAD.

Friday Programs: Every Friday in Lent at 6pm we'll join with the Misa

Alegria congregation for a bilingual Stations of the Cross service, followed by a simple Lenten supper, and then Lenten programs, ending at 8pm. Two programs will be offered each evening; you'll have to choose which you'll participate in.

Lent Booklet: On Sunday, February 18, we'll begin distributing a booklet with meditations and suggestions for each week of Lent.

Worship in Lent: Our Sunday 10:30 service during Lent will begin with a special rite focusing on water, since with water we were all baptized.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 21

SERVICES AT:

8AM

NOON

7PM

ü *page 1* zest for life. For their honeymoon, the Dyros traveled cross-country in their VW bus. Having really liked Seattle, they spontaneously decided to pick up and move there. During two years in Seattle, and at twenty-four years old, Pete started his own business in customs carpentry. Now back on the East coast, the Dyros' Alexandria home is a testament to their creativity. Bright painted walls and Japanese paper lamps make their shared space both cozy and artsy. Pete, an experienced engineer and builder, is renovating their basement to be a self-contained rental unit complete with kitchenette and bathroom. With Michelle's guidance, Pete also designed the new baby's room, a colorful wonderland with murals on all four walls - an arctic landscape with tumbling penguins becomes an African savannah with elephant and giraffe, then a mountain-scape with a crouching grizzly bear high on a peak overlooking the new baby's crib. Michelle, whose artistic talent is manifest in knitted treasures and dyed fabrics, added a zebra rug, animal-silhouetted lamp covers and a number of stuffed jungle animals.

Still in their twenties, both Michelle and Pete have steady jobs, but are beginning to more deeply explore their career interests. Pete, who is originally from Long Island and has worked around boats and construction sites since the age of 15, is a project engineer on the site of a Crystal City high-rise development. He enjoys the job, he says, because it offers a balance of conceptual thinking and hands-on work. A LEED (Leadership in Environment and Energy Design) accredited professional, Pete's real passion is in green building, a field he hopes to explore further as his career progresses.

Michelle, a native of Illinois, became interested in her current career when, through an internship with Easter Seals, she began working one-on-one with children with special needs. During numerous home visits, Michelle interacted with the children's families and soon realized they required as much support as the children themselves. She found herself offering a listening ear to parents who needed to talk about their lives and the challenges they faced. Michelle now works with Fairfax County Public Schools as a pre-school special education teacher; she continues to value the support work she provides for the children's families. Michelle wishes to continue working with families in an education context, and is particularly interested in different cultural approaches to education. She would like to work with schools and families to interpret and reconcile these different approaches and is considering getting a master's degree in educational anthropology.

Michelle and Pete first discovered St. Stephen's when they were dating. They visited St. Stephen's once before moving to Seattle, and rediscovered it when they moved back to the D.C. area. Though just beginning to learn about the Episcopal Church more generally, they like that St. Stephen's affirms their values and is a familial, open and affirming place to worship.

We at St. Stephen's are certainly happy that the Dyros are part of the St. Stephen's family, and welcome their enthusiastic contributions to both YASSI and the Sunday morning coffee hour. We are also excited to welcome Moxie and to support them through the inevitable trials and joys of parenthood. Congratulations, Michelle and Peter!

-Beth Fascitelli

BREAD

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We Didn't "Grow Tired" of our Sudanese Lost Boys

I am just back from the film, "God Grew Tired of Us," the story of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan. Luckily I took a pack of Kleenex to the theater. Here in vivid cinematic detail was a story very similar to that of the five young men from southern Sudan we have assisted through our Sudanese Support Team.

Since 2001, St. Stephen's has provided counseling, education, friendship and sometimes material support to John, Simon, Zak, Philip, and Mack. And now we've got a new opportunity to help their home country. Sunday, February 18 is World Mission Day. At the 9:15am Forum, we'll welcome two representatives of an exciting new project, the New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI).

Burlington, Vermont, was one of the American towns where "Lost Boys" were placed in 2001. One of those boys, Abraham Awolich, then 20 years old,

lived with an American family with whom he attended a little country church. Five years later, after a lot of hard work, he graduated from the University of Vermont. Like so many refugees, he is consumed with a desire to help his people. And like the main character in the film, he is a natural leader.

With a small group of Vermonters he started a continent-spanning project to build 20 secondary schools in southern Sudan where there are no schools at all because of decades of civil war. If Abraham and his co-founders realize their dream, the future leaders of Sudan will be educated in schools built by NESEI. That's what we'll hear about on February 18— building enough schools in southern Sudan to educate 20,000 boys and girls! A wonderful, hopeful story for Mission Sunday.

-Anne Heyniger

Sunday Housekeeping

Two matters we need to bring to your attention:

- We no longer have a guard at the side door on Sundays. To ensure safety, and especially for our children during Sunday School, the side door must remain locked at all times. Please, never prop that door open! Although you may use the side door to exit the building, you will need to enter through the main doors on Newton Street.

- Please do not double-park in the church parking lot. We know that it can be difficult to find parking, but the difficulty does not make it OK to block in other parishioners or our Urban Village neighbors.

Thank you!

Higher Education in the Hispanic Community

On Sunday, Feb. 11 at 6:30pm, following the Misa Alegria service, St. Stephen's will be the site of a discussion on adults completing a Bachelor's degree while working and on ways to finance higher education (through Nyack and HSFI scholarships and other financial aid avenues). The event is sponsored by Nyack College's Washington, DC Campus; and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute.

Refreshments will be served.

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

2/4: The Rev.
Linda Kaufman

2/11: The Rev.
Frank Dunn

A
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
HAIKU

Walking in the
woods.

Hearing God's
words spoken.

Leaving
inspired.

-Clara Lincoln

St. Stephen's Stunning Growth Continues

From BREAD, one year ago: "Our annual report to the Diocese shows St. Stephen's growing from 124 active adults at the beginning of 2005 to 140 at the end. This 13% increase is the largest one-year increase since we began keeping accurate information in 1996. Will we grow another 13% in 2006? Invite your friends to church, and a year from now we just might be saying that we

count 158 adults as active members!"

This year, our annual report to the Diocese shows St. Stephen's growing from 140 active members to 166 active members—a stunning 18% increase. Over the past two years, the number of active members has increased by 33%.

Unfortunately, the number of children has dropped by 10% over the two years.

Are We Ready to Keep on Growing?

St. Stephen's is growing in numbers. Are we ready to keep on growing? The "To Grow" team (Frank Dunn, Jane Bishop, Linda Kaufman Bill MacKaye and Elizabeth Finley) invites you to what promises to be a lively con-

versation about what enhances growth and what may hinder it. Whether you've been here 1 day or 30 years, your perspective is important so please join us after a luncheon coffee hour following the 10:30 service on February 11.

-The "To Grow" Team

Some Events of Note Here and Around the World

The Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage, led by the Rev. Mpho Tutu, has three major events in the next year:

Praying the Richmond Slave Trail. On March 23 and 24, this prayer walk follows a trail that chronicles the experience of African slaves in Virginia.

Faith in Action Pilgrimage to South Africa. Participants on this two-week pilgrimage will recover the rich tapestry of faith that undergirded the struggle for freedom.

Contemplation in Action: Pilgrimage to India. In January, 2008, the Tutu Institute leads a trip to explore the inspiration for the nonviolent protests that shaped social change in South Africa and in the United States.

More info: 703-677-5642

Interfaith Peace-Builders sends delegations of US citizens to see the Palestinian-Israeli conflict with their own eyes. The goals of their two-week long delegations are to gain insight into this ongoing conflict, to bear witness to the damage it has caused and continues to cause, and to express solidarity with non-violent peace and human rights activists and advocates.

Peace-Builders has four delegations planned for 2007: March 17 - 31, May 26 - June 9, July 28 - August 11, and November 3 - 17,

For more info, call 202-244-0821 or visit www.interfaithpeacebuilders.org/.

Attention: "The Body" of St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's is in need of a few good vertebrae—steadfast, capable, and spiritually mature members of the parish Body who are willing to be nominated for a 3-year Vestry term. The 9 members of the Vestry—in company with the 2 wardens and the Senior Priest—are charged with making the important financial, facility, personnel, and programmatic decisions that sustain the vibrancy of our parish.

Truth be told, it's a challenging role. We have an ambitious agenda ahead that will likely include the planning of a joint future for the Latino and Anglo congregations, assessment of the long-term financial needs and the timing of a capital campaign, and decisions on how resources should be apportioned for restoring aging facilities.

Important stuff! Without a doubt, vestry service taps the full energy and talents of its members. Those who've fulfilled this responsibility before can tell you it's a deeply rewarding experience that gives you the opportunity to

contribute to a community that you love while becoming more tightly woven together with fellow Vestry members and the parish as a whole.

Vestry service is rigorous. Members attend monthly Sunday-afternoon vestry meetings, and sit on at least one church committee. It is expected that several additional hours a month will be spent by members preparing for these meetings and coordinating projects for which they are responsible. It is also essential to take part in the annual Vestry-formation weekend (June 15-17).

If you can see yourself or someone you know as one of the vertebrae in the strong and active Body which is this parish, please be in touch with us or with one of the other members of the 2007 Nominating Committee—Cam Crockett, Fern Hunt, Vivian McFarland, Priscilla Phelps.

-Matt Brouwer
-Laura Mol

WIN's Winter Activities

Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) has a busy Winter agenda, and St. Stephen's WIN team is involved.

On January 25, WIN members took a trip to New York to tour a model affordable transitional housing facility.

On Sunday, January 28, the St. Stephen's team assisted All Souls Unitarian Church in an affordable-housing mapping action—driving and walking around the neighborhood around 16th and Harvard Streets to identify affordable housing complexes.

On Monday, January 29, WIN members attended a DC hearing to

support St. Martin's Catholic Church in its efforts to build a transitional housing complex.

St. Stephen's WIN team invites you to join in the "Power and Community Forum" at coffee hour on Sunday, February 4. This forum will feature a candid discussion on some of the principles and concepts that drive WIN and summarize where St. Stephen's is currently positioned in the midst of the most pressing neighborhood issues facing Columbia Heights.

More info: Matt Brouwer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays,
9:15am,

Adult Forum:
•**February 4:**
"How to Stay Sane in a Crazy World"

•**February 11:**
"Faith at work – how in the world did I get here?"

•**February 18:** "
"Schools in Sudan"

Sunday,

Feb. 4, Noon:

WIN Discussion on Power and Community

Sunday,

February 11:

"To Grow"

Conversation During Coffee Hour

Wednesday,

February 21:

Ash Wednesday; Services at 8am, Noon and 7pm

Saturday,

March 17:

Lenten Quiet Day

LECTIONS

5th Sunday after
the Epiphany
(February 4)

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
I Corinthians
15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

6th Sunday after
the Epiphany
(February 11)

Jeremiah 17:
5-10
Psalm 1
I Corinthians
15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26

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THE SAINTS

Monday, February 5
THE MARTYRS OF JAPAN, 1597
*Birthday: Julie Byrne, Bryan
Crocheron*

Tuesday, February 6
Birthday: Terrey Danley

Wednesday, February 7
*Heavenly Birthday: Raymond
Pearson, 1979*

Friday, February 9
*Heavenly Birthday: Cynthia
Borstel, 1990*

Monday, February 12
Birthday: Lucretia Massaquoi

Tuesday, February 13
ABSALOM JONES, PRIEST, 1818
*Heavenly Birthday: Iona Burke
Brown, 1995*

Wednesday, February 14
CYRIL, MONK, AND METHODIUS, BISHOP,
MISSIONARIES TO THE SLAVS, 869,885

Thursday, February 15
THOMAS BRAY, PRIEST AND MISSIONARY,
1730

Friday, February 16
Birthday: Nora Wien-Herman

Saturday, February 17
JANANI LUWUM, ARCHBISHOP OF UGANDA,
AND MARTYR, 1977
Birthday: Elizabeth Finley

ON THE COVER...
The Dyros

THE PRAYERS

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

•Terrey Danley, 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), the Brown family, , Carol Ann Mericle (mother of Patricia Davis-Muffett), Edward Painter, and all those who have been commended to our prayers;

•For the repose of the soul of Alvin Wingfield and all who mourn him.

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