



## Bucks for the Hungry

In your bulletin on April 15, the Second Sunday of Easter, you'll find an unfamiliar envelope headed "Bucks for the Hungry/Dinero Para Combatir el Hambre." It goes on to ask you stick in a buck or two for the Diocesan Hunger Fund and drop it in the collection plate.

With these envelopes, St. Stephen's joins other area Episcopal churches in the practice of taking up a monthly collection for the Hunger Fund.

The Hunger Fund makes grants for food distributed in anti-hunger programs throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Loaves and Fishes regularly receives gifts from the Fund, including \$3,000 this year.

### The Crisis in the Anglican Communion

Please join us Sunday, April 22 at 9:15am for a special Forum on the State of the Church, led by The Rev. Kathy Grieb. Kathy, a member of our clergy team, has served at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury on an important Anglican Communion committee addressing the movement towards schism in the Anglican Communion, and she helped write the Episcopal Church USA's response to the Windsor Report. Kathy recently addressed the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops about the crisis and is in a unique position to help us understand what lies ahead for the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

The pink envelopes will turn up every third Sunday of the month, the Sunday most participating Episcopal congregations collect for the Hunger Fund.

The Hunger Fund receives no funds from the diocesan budget or from endowments. All its support comes from individual congregations and their members. The Hunger Fund Committee, of which our own Bill MacKaye is a member representing Region 2, hopes that in time every Episcopal household in the diocese will contribute a buck a month to the Hunger Fund.

He says there's still a long way to go to reach that goal. He says, "Please give!"

### Holy Things for Holy People: Reader and MC Training

Would you like to join our group of readers at the 10:30 service? Senior Priest Frank Dunn offers a dynamite session several times a year. The next will be Saturday, April 21, 8:45 – Noon, in the church. A light breakfast and good coffee are part of the deal. And at the same time, we'll train people for the role of Manager of Ceremonies—the MC helps the 10:30 and holy day services flow smoothly by setting out the vessels for the Eucharist and supporting the roles of all the liturgy participants. Please let Gay Gellhorn know of your interest in either role.

# BREAD

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April 15, 2007

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The Second  
Sunday of  
Easter

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Number 1572

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**A BIRTH!**

Indira Daria  
Brown was born  
March 21.

Proud parents  
Chris and Elhi  
Brown

Proud  
grandmother  
Martha Brown

**BREAD**

is the newsletter of  
St. Stephen  
and the Incarnation  
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**L&F Task Force Prepares to Make Its Report**

Last year, the vestry convened a task force to study the Loaves and Fishes (L&F) program. The mission of this seven-person task force is to evaluate the mission, management, and operations of the current L&F program and make recommendations for any necessary changes to the program.

Since its establishment in January, the task force has reviewed the L&F budget, interviewed L&F stakeholders (paid staff, SSI vestry and partner parishes who participate in the program), and visited similar feeding programs in the city.

At the April vestry meeting, the Loaves and Fishes task force will present its findings. Look for an article in an upcoming issue of BREAD on the task force's findings.

Since this is a major and important event, we want to draw your attention to it and answer some basic questions about it and about Loaves and Fishes.

**Why was the task force established?**

When L&F encountered unexpected financial problems in 2005, the vestry became concerned that the L&F management committee needed organizational support. In addition, long-time members of the management committee expressed a desire for new energy and parish involvement.

**How does the L&F program work?**

L&F provides

around 150 hot meals on Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays to guests, who are mostly homeless men. Meals are prepared by rotating teams of 8-10 volunteers, who are supported by two part time staff members. Volunteer teams led by St. Stephen's members are responsible for two Sundays a month, with food and supplies paid for by L&F. All other Saturdays and Sundays are run by teams from partner parishes, who donate all their own food.

**How is L&F managed?**

The L&F management committee is independent of the SSI vestry and maintains a separate budget. Committee members are responsible for all budgetary, personnel, and operational aspects of the L&F program. The committee is composed entirely of SSI parishioners, most of whom are long-time L&F volunteers, and a member of the vestry who acts as a liaison between L&F and the vestry.

-Sandra Moore

**Job Opening: Children's Christian Education Coordinator**

St. Stephen's Church is searching for a part-time Coordinator of Children's Christian Formation. Experience with children is necessary. Background in The Episcopal Church is strongly preferred. Conversational knowledge of Spanish a plus. Four hours per week, including Sunday mornings. Salary meets/exceeds minimum of Diocese of Washington for comparable positions. Minorities, students encouraged to apply. Position open from April 22 until filled. Send resumes with three references to The Rev. Frank G. Dunn, Senior Priest, St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, 1525 Newton St. NW, Washington, DC, 20010.

## Adult Forum

**Y**ou are invited to explore new ways to worship by immersion in the textile arts during two April forums. On April 15th we welcome Didi Lee from St. Alban's Episcopal Church to talk about how to pray with prayer beads. On April 29th, learn from Duane Bonds about the spiritual meaning of vestments and the art of making them. Alleluia!

On April 22, we'll have special Forum on the Crisis in the Anglican Church with our very own Kathy Grieb (see article on page 1).

Due to the Annual Meeting, we'll have no Forum on May 6. The remainder of May, we'll focus on themes from the book, "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible," with Frank Dunn facilitating. Sessions planned include "Religion: Human or Divine?" "The Politics of the Bible," and "The Marriage of Language and Belief." The book is available for purchase from the church office for \$12.55.

Forum meets every Sunday (except May 6!) at 9:15am, prompt.

-Jane Lincoln, coordinator of Adult Forum

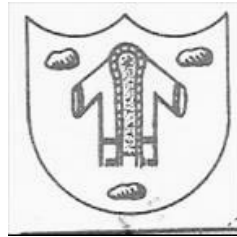
### "Welcome to St. Stephen's"

**I**f you'd like to learn more about St. Stephen's and the Episcopal Church, please plan to join us Monday evenings starting April 16 for the 5-session class, "Welcome to St. Stephen's." People who attend the class will be invited to join St. Stephen's on June 3, Newcomer Sunday. For more info, pick up a yellow flyer from the "For This Week" table at the rear of the pews.

## A Word on Symbols

**I**t is often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Since the beginning of Christianity, symbols have been used to convey messages to other believers. The earliest symbol of Christianity was the fish, a secret sign to other persecuted followers of Jesus. The first letters of the Greek words for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior" spell the Greek word for fish, Icthos .

If you look at the stained glass windows in our church, you will see many symbols used by the artisans who constructed St. Stephen's. As you enter our



church and face the altar, the third high window on the left has a deacon's coat surrounded by three stones. This is the ancient symbol for St. Stephen:

the deacon who was stoned to death in the first century.

When I do embroidery to adorn banners and vestments, I use symbols to tell a story. Unfortunately, it is not always easy to pick a symbol for every message that is to be conveyed, such as the Incarnation which, unlike our patron saint, has no direct symbol in current usage. Sometimes I have used a dove for the Holy Spirit to represent the Incarnation on vestments.

- Duane Robina Bonds

*This column is the first in a series that will appear from time to time, exploring the symbols that decorate our church.*

## 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

**4/15:** The Rev. Ronald Conner (8:00); The Rev. Joe Clark (10:30)

**4/22:** The Rev. Kathy Grieb

THREADERS  
OF  
SAINT BRIGID

The Threaders of Saint Brigid invite you to spend Monday evenings in quiet, prayerful fellowship and weekly discipline. We begin with Saint Brigid's Grace and a simple meal and follow with readings from the Daily Lectionary as we knit, crochet, think, sit, pray, and discuss. Join us! Mondays at 7:00pm at Jane Bishop's house.

## Discernment and Democracy at St Stephen's

**Y**ear by year, some Sundays after Easter Day, parishioners gather at the Annual Meeting to make important decisions—but it takes a strange form if you are aren't familiar with what's underneath the apparent action, or rather inaction. It looks like a business meeting in which very little business is conducted, often with uncontested elections. It usually comes wrapped in the package of the good-spirited hoopla of a rather rowdy family reunion. Still, something important is taking place.

The form of governance in an Episcopal parish is rather like American structures—representative governance. Voters chose office-holders who then make decisions. Thus, parishioners at the Annual Meeting will not approve an annual budget. Rather, parishioners elect the Vestry (board of directors) and the Vestry builds and approves the budget. The Vestry may decide to have the treasurer make a report on the budget at the Annual Meeting, but it's "FYI"—for information, not for approval or change. Likewise, the congregation per se does not chose or approve its staff—the Vestry is responsible for personnel. What the congregation does do is elect the Vestry and its Wardens (the president and vice-president of the board). This happens at the Annual Meeting which, this year, will be on Sunday, May 6, at 9am.

This year, as most years, voters at the annual meeting will see ballots with the same number of candidates as seats to be filled. What kind of democracy is that?—to have “no choice” offered on the ballot?? (To be sure, there is opportunity for additional candidates to be nominated from the floor—but it has happened only very rarely in the past

couple decades.) No, the apparent lack of choice is not because of our Bylaws or denominational polity, it is rather because of our spirituality, our practice. Our prevailing value in selection is not competition but discernment.

Here's how it works. The names on the ballots are those offered by the Nominating Committee. This is a group of 5-7 parishioners, assembled every year by the Senior Warden and confirmed by the Vestry. The Nominating Committee's job is to cast a wide net within the congregation and pull up persons whose gifts, skills, spiritual maturity, and standing in the parish are such that they can be expected to be good Vestry members. For warden-catching, the pool for trolling is much smaller: to be nominated for a wardenship, one must already have served on the Vestry. And every three years, for representatives to the diocesan convention.

The Nominating Committee invites the congregation to contribute suggestions for who should be considered for nomination. Often the Nominating Committee will ask the whole parish to participate in prayer for discernment of candidates. The Nominating Committee also usually consults with the current wardens and vestry to figure out if there are particular skills or strengths that are especially needed at the time. Once possible candidates have been identified, the Nominating Committee talks carefully with each, to see that they understand what would be involved, are willing, and are prepared to commit the time and energy that will be required.

So where's the spiritual-practice part of things? It's in what the Nominating Committee aims to do, concentrating the work of the whole congregation into

intense effort by a half-dozen people. All its work is done in a conscious openness to the leading of the Spirit. Sometimes this takes the form of silence, sometimes spirited disagreement, always a lot of careful, patient asking, looking, wondering, and willingness to come to unexpected conclusions. Does that mean that the names offered by the Nominating Committee are “God’s choice”? No, no one would claim that. Does it mean that the names are believed to be the best match of need and gift that can be made out of scores of hours of investigation and candid discussion? Yes, that.

The matched number of nominees and openings might not always be a good idea. It might not, for example, be workable if the congregation were at a place of significant disagreement, where there were lively differences of approach within the parish and possible candidates could represent divergent approaches or directions. Or it might not be a good idea if there were lots of potential candidates eager to stand for a few openings. But for decades now, wardens have been actively drafted; it’s normally not a responsibility that people ask for, for themselves. For the most part, that has also been true of vestry service. That too is a big enough responsibility that the usual attitude is one of taking-one’s-turn in a community, rather than any personally gratifying sense of let-me-be-in-the-center-of-things.

But if these factors changed and there were easily many more potential candidates than openings, then the Nominating Committee might choose to offer many more candidates than openings. Most Nominating Committees decide, as a pastoral matter, not to offer only one more candidate than openings.

In the end, the Nominating Committee only nominates; it is the voters of the parish who have to decide. To make that decision, voters need to know for whom they may vote, so the Nominating Committee arranges for the newsletter to publish in advance of the Annual Meeting a set of statements from (or interviews with) each of the planned nominees—look for those in the next issue.. Also, for some weeks before the Annual Meeting, the list of nominees from the Nominating Committee is posted around the church building (and in the box to the right), so that voters can know what’s coming up and ask their own questions of nominees or of others, if they wish.

Also posted now on a wall in the nave is the official list of voters—those eligible to make the selection of Vestry and Wardens. If you are not the voter list and are qualified and want to be, speak with our parish coordinator, Brian Best.

Who qualifies to be a voter? Our By-laws have only these requirements: be a baptized adult or teenager, beginning at age 14, who comes to worship (regularity unspecified) and be a financial supporter, having contributed to the financial life of the parish in the previous year (regularity and amounts also entirely unspecified). If you meet these two requirements, it really is your own discernment and your own decision about whether you belong to St Stephen and the Incarnation in such a way that it’s right for you to take part in its decision-making. One of the best parts of the Annual Meeting is at its beginning, when we announce and acknowledge voters new to the life of the parish. This year we expect a fair number of such folk.

Come on in—the water’s wonderful!

-Laura Mol

**VESTRY  
AND  
WARDEN  
NOMINEES**

Senior Warden:  
**Jane Bishop**

Junior Warden:  
**Cam Crockett**

Clerk of the  
Vestry\*:  
**Jessica  
Baumgarten**

Vestry (4 seats  
open):

**Diane Aten  
Paul Bugala  
Beth Howe  
William  
MacKaye**

*\*Clerk of the Vestry is a new position; read about it in the next issue of BREAD.*

## Good-bye to St. Stephen's

**A**fter three-and-a-half beautiful years at St. Stephen's, Beatrice, Julian and I are saying good-bye—at least as regular worshippers.

As many of you know, for the past two-and-a-half years we have been attending another church on alternate Sundays, and we have found a lot of life in being a part of both communities. Our other church is Seekers Church, one of the communities that came out of the Church of the Saviour. (You can read more about Seekers and the Church of the Saviour at [www.seekerschurch.org](http://www.seekerschurch.org).) This past fall, I realized that it is time for us to put down roots in one place, that the time has come for us to have a full-time home. I told Frank and the folks in the Sunday school community that I would be leaving after Easter, and now that time has come. Our last Sunday will be April 22. I would be honored at having you there at the 10:30 service as we are blessed on our journey.

I have loved being at St. Stephen's. I've been an Episcopalian all my life and I can't imagine an Episcopal church that could meet me more fully than St. Stephen's has. I am deeply grateful for all of the ways we've been held by this community. I have loved being in the congregation here, and singing in the choir, and preaching, and teaching Sunday school, and most recently being the Sunday school coordinator. I have drunk in the music and the incense and the wonderful sermons and the liveliness and the wisdom and the sense of God's presence I invariably have when I am in the sanctuary.

One thing I have realized is that, for me, the hierarchical structure of the Episcopal Church—even with the amaz-

ing, Godly work St. Stephen's is doing in creating a new model—seems to get in the way of my being fully present and able to take full responsibility for my spiritual journey. I'm embarrassed to say that I catch myself projecting onto the clergy, tending to expect “the” answers from them, or finding myself unreasonably disappointed when they don't have them (or don't have what I consider to be the right ones!). This has nothing to do with the wisdom of our clergy team—they are wise and wonderful people, all of them gifted priests—and everything to do with what hierarchy brings up in me.

Because there is no clergy/laity distinction at Seekers, I find that I am drawn deeper into the kind of spiritual journey I long for. The intentionality, shared leadership, and open pulpit of Seekers really enliven and excite me. There are many things I will miss about St. Stephen's—Seekers has no choir, no organ, communion only once a month (with grape juice!) and nothing like the socioeconomic and cultural/racial diversity that I treasure at St. Stephen's. But the worship service, like that of St. Stephen's, is marked by deep prayer and real Presence, and the structure of the community really feeds me.

Having two communities has been a way for me to stay connected with all of who I am, and it has felt really right. Now my sense is that God is calling me to a new kind of trust, that of being willing to fully engage with just one community, knowing that no one place can meet all of my longings, but that there's a different kind of faithfulness in full participation in one place, in calling that place home. It is the time to narrow my focus, to settle down.

Thank you, the people of St. Stephen's, for the many ways in which you have walked with us, and held us, through these three-and-a-half years. I am deeply grateful to have been a part of this place. I feel great excitement about the growth and energy that abound here, and will continue to hold this community close to my heart. Do stay in touch. I want very much to remain connected. I'm sure you will see us in the sanctuary from time to time- whenever I miss you, and the smell of incense, and the sound of the choir, and

## Loaves and Fishes Benefits

**S**t. Stephen's parishioner Gregory Holloway will perform a benefit concert for Loaves and Fishes on Saturday, May 5, at 3pm in the church. Gregory Holloway and Friends will perform music made popular by jazz giants.

On Saturday, April 28 at 2pm in the church, Mary Lee Barker will give her last vocal recital to benefit Loaves and Fishes. During her 12-year period as a member of St. Stephen's, Mary Lee painted many watercolor portraits of Loaves and Fishes guests (some of which you can see on the Loaves and Fishes page on our website; one of those is reproduced on the cover of this issue). A number of her Loaves and Fishes paintings and prints are currently on display at The Potter's House Gallery, 1658 Columbia Rd. The party to meet the artist is on May 12. All are welcome. Sales from paintings benefit Loaves and Fishes.

Loaves and Fishes, our hot meal program, serves a hot meal to anyone in need Saturdays, Sundays, and Monday holidays, at Noon.

the taste of communion wine too much. I'd also love to welcome you for a visit at Seekers-on a Sunday morning, or at one of the free six-week classes we offer on Tuesday nights at the School of Christian Living.

Perhaps we could even find ways to connect the two communities in some intentional ways. I treasure that as a possibility.

In the meantime, shalom. May the blessing of God be upon you, and may God's peace surround you and hold you and radiate from you. I will miss you.

*-Anna Gilcher*

## Samaritan Ministry Breakfast

**S**amaritan Ministry of Greater Washington is having a Next Step Breakfast on Tuesday, May 8, 8am-9am, at The National Press Club. This free one-hour fundraising event has no minimum or maximum giving levels. This event includes a compelling vision of Samaritan Ministry's work told from the perspective of staff and participants. Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent for PBS, is master of ceremonies. Bishop Dixon will lead us in prayer. Music will be provided by a choir from St. Andrew's Episcopal School. To attend, please contact Diane Aten at 202-722-2280 x304 to RSVP for this event.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sundays,  
9:15am,

### **Adult Forum:**

•April 15:  
"Praying with Prayer Beads."

•April 22:  
"The State of the Church in the Anglican Communion."

Mondays, April  
16 - May 14,  
7pm:

**"Welcome to St. Stephen's"**  
class for  
Newcomers

Saturday, April  
21, 8:45am -  
Noon:

### **Reader and MC Training**

Saturday,  
May 5, 3pm:

**Gregory Holloway and Friends Jazz Benefit for Loaves and Fishes**

Sunday, May 6,  
9am:

**2007 Annual Meeting**

# LECTIONS

2nd Sunday of  
Easter  
(April 15)

Acts 5:27-32

Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of  
Easter  
(April 22)

Acts 9:1-6

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:  
11-14

John 21:1-19

# THE SAINTS

**Wednesday, April 18**

*Birthday: Mary Alcuin Kelly*

**Thursday, April 19**

ALPHEGE, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,  
AND MARTYR, 101

**Friday, April 20**

*Heavenly Birthday: Eugenia  
W. Suter, 1979*

**Saturday, April 21**

ANSELM, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,  
1109

**Wednesday, April 25**

SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST

**Saturday, April 28**

*Birthday: Jennifer Blackman*

**Sunday, April 29**

CATHERINE OF SIENA, 1380

*Anniversary: Katy Kincade  
and Roy Kienitz*

# THE PRAYERS

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

- Patricia Davis-Muffett and Caroll Muffett, and their baby-in-the-making;
- Michelle Sinkgraven and Cosby Hunt, and their baby-in-the-making;
- Ridgely Bennett, Terrey Danley, Earl Foote, Leota Lawrence, Paula Morgen, Jim Stipe, 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;
- Chloe (granddaughter of friend of Pat Gray), Haider (9-month-old baby of friends of Susan Kyle), Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), the Brown family, Rahnikka Byrd, Daniel Byrd, Quinton Green, Carol Ann Mericle (mother of Patricia Davis-Muffett), Jamaine Tucker, Fletcher Wells (our seminarian, in the last month of his seminary education), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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## ON THE COVER...

Mary Lee Barker's water-color painting of a Loaves and Fishes guest

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