



Christmas!

Yes, yes, yes, you liturgical grinchers; it's way too early to be talking about Christmas. But the next issue of BREAD is the Dec. 23 issue, and we've no way to know if the Post Office will get it to you before Christmas. So we're giving you now everything you need to know.

Christmas Service Schedule

Christmas Eve:

•5pm: Bilingual Service

Especially for the young at heart, who will reenact the Christmas story, this bilingual service will be full of energy and music.

•10pm: Festive Eucharist

The late service is always followed by a festive Christmas party; please bring food or drink to share.

Christmas Day:

•10:30am

A simple service with Christmas hymns and sermon.

We will **decorate the church for Christmas** immediately following the 10:30 service on December 23. Please bring greens, flower clippers, and food to share. We'll be hanging garlands, putting up wreaths, and decorating the candle holders. We expect the work to take two to three hours. Members of the Misa Alegria congregation will take part too.

Each year, parishioners are invited to donate toward **Christmas flowers**. If you'd like to make a donation, please put your donation in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. You are welcome to make your donation to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for or in memory of loved ones. Tell us who your donation is for, and we'll put all the names in the Christmas bulletins. You can use envelopes and forms on the table in the rear of the nave, if you'd like. To be included in the Christmas bulletins, we need to receive your donation no later than Sunday, December 16.

(We'll hold off on the "Merry Christmas!" part until the next issue...)

A Baby is Born

Holden Andreason Crocheron was born to Carla and Bryan Crocheron on Friday, November 23 — the day after Thanksgiving. Let us give thanks!

BREAD

Dec. 9, 2007

The Second
Sunday in
Advent

Number 1589

FLETCHER WELLS

WILL BE ORDAINED

A PRIEST

ON

TUESDAY,

DEC. 18,

AT 7PM, AT

ST. JAMES'

CHURCH,

1205 W FRANKLIN

STREET,

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

SALT CORRECTION

The new parish directory hadn't even been fully assembled before we learned of the first mistake. Troy Mendez' correct email is troy90048@yahoo.com.

BREAD

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

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WIN Holds Fenty Accountable on Housing

Thanks again to the 26 people who turned out as the St. Stephen's team for the November 13th Washington Interfaith Network Accountability Action with Mayor Fenty. Once again we exceeded our quota of 20 leaders with a team that comprised representatives from St. Stephen's, Urban Village Corporation, Misa Alegria, Holmead Place Tenant Association, and Georgetown Law School.

As those who participated can attest it was another fantastic night for WIN as Mayor Fenty continued to demonstrate his commitment to the Neighborhood's 1st agenda with more concrete plans to allocate resources to several redevelopment projects.

Of special importance to St. Stephen's, Mayor Fenty brought his attention to Columbia Heights promising that he will establish a housing SWAT team responsible for preserving 500 units of housing in the neighborhood over the next two years and naming two buildings

that the city will explore options for redeveloping and preserving affordability. One of these buildings is 1483 Newton St., an abandoned building just down the street from St. Stephen's that was showcased on last month's Neighborhood Homelessness Walk.

Fenty also stated that he would unveil several new policy tools by December 15th that will strengthen tenants' abilities to preserve the affordability of their buildings, including legislation for a city's right of first refusal and the strengthening of laws which prevent landlords from converting buildings with housing code violations to condos.

All together these are incredible developments that will greatly aid the affordable housing movement in DC and provide real hope for tenants struggling to hold on to their housing. St. Stephen's continues to be a force for preservation of low-income housing in Columbia Heights.

-Matt Brouwer

Dear Friends,

I am grateful and thankful to you for your prayers on my behalf during the past seven months while I received cycles of chemotherapy, which I have now completed. I am deeply touched by your expressions of love and caring. Your support helped me immensely. I also thank you for the gifts of icons, religious medals and for your visits, telephone calls, e-mails, flowers, cards, books, pictures, and massages. I will always remember your thoughtfulness and cherish our relationship.

Sincerely,

Ridgely Bennett

Sole Drive

This year, Ghana has experienced devastating floods due to severe rainfalls. The African New Era Organization (ANEEO), which was founded by a woman who worked for one of the organizations housed in St. Stephen's, is collecting donations of shoes to send to Ghana: new or gently worn shoes for infants, children, and adults that are able to withstand heavy wear. You can place your donations in the cardboard box outside the church office door through December 27. Monetary donations to defray shipping are also needed. For more info, visit www.afrinewera.org.

A New Commitment to Justice for Prisoners

During the 10:30 service on November 18, I stood before the congregation with The Rev. Frank Dunn and asked for your prayers and blessing as I take on a new ministry as leader of Families & Allies of Virginia's Youth (FAVY). Let me explain a little about what I'm doing.

As many of you know, our youngest son is now incarcerated in one of Virginia's juvenile prisons; we drive to visit him every other Sunday, two hours away, near Richmond. Through his experiences there, we've had an "up close and personal" look at the juvenile justice system in Virginia, especially the prison-like facilities where young people are incarcerated. We have found that the system is unsafe, unfair and ineffective.

It is unsafe for the many kids who have been hurt by other kids and by guards. Gangs are prevalent, and the prison-like setting creates a culture that is conducive to fighting. It is unfair in many ways, including a huge racial disparity in who gets locked up to begin with.

And the system is not effective at treating and rehabilitating young people: according to the most recent statistics, 69% of the young people released from Virginia's youth prisons are reconvicted of a crime within three years.

There are proven, evidence-based programs and approaches that could dramatically reduce this rate, but they are not being used or used effectively.

In April, Linda and I held a meeting for families of the kids in the facility where our son is locked up. We have held monthly meetings of the group since then, including a meeting with the superintendent. We share information and support each other as we confront the system that's holding our children. We have spoken at state Department of Juvenile Justice Board meetings, and we have been collaborating with juvenile justice reform advocates to change Virginia's juvenile justice system.

In other states, system change has happened when families of incarcerated youth organize and bring their voices to the table along with other advocates. As we continued in this work, it became clear that in order for our group to be effective in advocating for our young people, we would need to have someone who could organize the effort full-time. (In fact, we could use lots of people!) With Linda's support, I left my former job to take on this task. There is a lot to do, and I am learning as I go. I can certainly use your prayers and support.

-Liane Rozzell

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

12/9: The Rev. Frank Dunn, Celebrant; Troy Mendez, Preacher (8:00 & 10:30); The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin (5:00)

12/16: The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin (8:00, 10:30 & 5:00)

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

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

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday in

Advent
(Dec. 9)

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7,
18-19

Romans 15:
4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

3rd Sunday in

Advent
(Dec. 16)

Isaiah 35:1-10

Canticle 15

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:
2-11

THE SAINTS

Tuesday, December 11

Birthday: Cosby Hunt

Thursday, December 13

Birthday: Luciano Muzzatti

Heavenly Birthday: Ruby

Long, 1981; John P.

Murchison, 1984

Sunday, December 16

Birthday: Kimi Lawrence

Tuesday, December 18

Birthday: Priscilla Phelps

Thursday, December 20

Heavenly Birthday: Jewell

Tutt, 1988

Friday, December 21

SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Saturday, December 22

Heavenly Birthday: The Rev.

William Keys, 1997; Mac

McFarland, 2002

Sunday, December 23

Birthday: Anne Heyniger

THE PRAYERS

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

- Thanksgiving for the birth of Holden Crocheron on November 23;
- Louise Dyer and Falan Yinug, and Jessica and Aaron Hansen, who are expecting babies;
- Ridgely Bennett, Terrey Danley, René Holloway, Teresita Kelly (Mary Alcuin Kelly's mother), Brother John Mathis, 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), Lisa Buonarosa, her husband Marcus Spiegelman, and their daughter Rebekah (Michele Lewis's sister and family), Maria Cabieses, Clara, Jeremy & Kyra Grant (Jane Bishop's daughter and family), Maria Navarrete, Tom Rozzell (father of Liane), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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