

2007

Excerpts from the last
25 issues of BREAD

The Year in Review

Free Clinic Leaves St. Stephen's After 27 Years

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. 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 January 19. They will resume at their new location on 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.

Let us bless them on their way to new life!

-Elizabeth Finley, Jan. 7, 2007

Stunning Growth Continues

From BREAD, one year ago [Jan. 2005]: "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% in-

crease 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 [2006], 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%.

-Feb. 4, 2007

Watering Roots of Life in Christ

Lent's most basic purpose is to serve as a season of preparation for Easter baptisms. In Lent 2007 we will engage the whole parish in exploring, pondering, and deepening our understanding of our baptismal promises. We will hear much about water—the waters of baptism, the Living Water.

Sunday liturgies at 10:30 will begin with the repetitive and quiet singing of a Taize chant as the leaders of worship process and gather at the font. The font will be filled with fresh water as we recall our baptism and begin the liturgy in prayer for all those who will be baptized and those who will be renewing their baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Lenten Fridays will be times when our whole community can come together to search for Living Water during our program, "Las Aguas de Vida / Waters of Life." □ **page 2**

BREAD

Jan. 6, 2008

The Epiphany of
Our Lord Jesus
Christ

Number 1591

SHAKESPEARE'S
TWELFTH NIGHT

JAN. 5
(THE TWELFTH DAY
AFTER CHRISTMAS)

TWELVE NOON

TWELVE DOLLARS

ST. STEPHEN'S
CHURCH

FORUM —
SUNDAYS, 9:15AM

- January 6:
“Picking Up
the Pieces:
Divorce.”
- January 13:
“Picking Up
the Pieces:
Physical
Illness.”
- January 20:
“Picking Up
the Pieces:
Risk and
Transformation
in Romania.”
- January 27:
“Picking Up
the Pieces:
Grief and
Healing.”

BREAD

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

1525 Newton St. NW
Washington, DC
20010

Telephone:
202-232-0900

Fax:
202-797-0367

On the Web: www.saintstephensdc.org;
Email: staff@saintstephensdc.org

□ **page 1** Expect the space in the church to reflect the baptismal theme. The baptismal font is being moved from its place at the front to the rear of the nave near the door. We hope to bring aesthetic and theological unity to the three major pieces of furniture whose design and symbolism go together: font, pulpit and altar.

-Feb. 18, 2007

Dying on Our Own Terms

Join us at Forum Sundays in March for a 4-week exploration of mortality and our response to it, in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

-Feb. 18, 2007

January Building Use

In grant proposals we sent out in January, we proudly described our 24/7 building, in use every night in January but two. Wrong. One of those two nights, three different church groups met. The only not-in-use night was January 1.

-Feb. 18, 2007

3rd Floor Renovations Begin

When we learned of the Washington Free Clinic's departure from our building, it was clear that the space would have to be renovated before it could be used again. The Clinic had designed it with many small rooms and large hallways — a combination that few other organizations could make use of.

Thanks to the work of past treasurers and finance committee members, we have planned ahead for this type of event by building up an “occupancy reserve” fund. We'll take money out of that reserve to make up for the lost income while the space is renovated.

The renovations will make for major improvements in the appearance of our

building. We will enclose the two sides of the balcony with glass. Light from the windows along the outside wall will spill down into the auditorium. We'll most likely install a drop ceiling to hide ducts and wires and reduce our heating and cooling costs. All of the plumbing that snakes across the parish office ceiling will be removed.

We hope that when renovations are complete, the 3rd floor will be in good enough shape to provide housing for organizations or for parish uses for decades to come with only minimal maintenance needed through all of those years.

-March 4, 2007

\$1 Billion for DC Neighborhoods!

Please plan to join St. Stephen's WIN team on March 12 as we gather with 800 leaders from across the city to hold Mayor Adrian Fenty and City Council Chair Vincent Gray accountable to the Washington Interfaith Network's Neighborhood First Agenda.

After our successful Vote Neighborhoods First campaign last fall — which helped to raise voter turnout in key precincts across the city — DC's top political leaders have suddenly started paying a lot of attention to WIN! Mayor Fenty has met repeatedly with WIN leadership since taking office and made clear that he intends to make good on his \$1 billion promise to DC neighborhoods.

As a WIN member institution, St. Stephen's has a key role to play in shaping how Columbia Heights' share of the \$1 billion neighborhood investment fund is spent. Working with our partners at All Soul's Unitarian, we've already begun conducting research, going door-to-door to identify at-risk affordable housing.

-March 4, 2007

Threaders in Lent

The Threaders of Saint Brigid invite you to spend Monday evenings in Lent 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!

-March 4, 2007

Holy Week Liturgies Focus on Baptism as Death and Resurrection

Baptism is the focus of our Lenten pilgrimage this year. Baptism is two things. It is, first, a once-and-for-all initiation into the community of Christ, which we know as the Church. And baptism is the entirety of the Christian life lived in that community.

But what baptism is not is private. Baptism is what we all share as Christians. The life that flows from the font we live together. Holy Week in St. Stephen's this year will accentuate the communal aspect of baptism as the center of our experience of death and resurrection.

At 8:00 on Saturday night, the Great Vigil of Easter begins. As Moxie Dyro is being baptized that evening—and as members of the Misa Alegria congregation are baptized the following evening at their Easter celebration—our whole community will renew our baptismal vows. Easter thus becomes a celebration not only of Christ's resurrection, but our resurrection to Life in Christ through baptism.

It all begins and ends at the waters of life, which you will find in the baptismal font right at the door of your church.

March 18, 2007

Parish Finances

At its January meeting, the Vestry gave conditional approval to the 2007 budget, and after some technical changes were made, gave its full approval at the February meeting.

The Vestry also received and discussed a report on 2006 parish finances. The disappointing news is that we ended the year with a deficit. Analysis of the reasons showed that, first of all, our pledge income and special gifts were lower than the amount projected in the 2006 budget. Secondly, the Loaves and Fishes feeding program experienced serious financial difficulties. All these factors were taken into account in preparing the 2007 budget, and we will continue to monitor our budget performance. On a brighter note the parish has had some success in raising funds for needed improvements to the building and for support of the Latino ministry.

The Vestry has also begun to work very closely with the Loaves and Fishes management group as they strengthen their fundraising efforts. The management group reported their plans to the Vestry at its February meeting and will continue to report their financial status on a quarterly basis.

-March 18, 2007

WIN Success

Many thanks to everyone who came out for the Washington Interfaith Network's mayor accountability event on March 12. The event was a smashing success, as Asbury United Methodist Church was packed with nearly 1,000 faith leaders from across the city for an evening of praise, preaching, and politics. Mayor Adrian Fenty was on hand to publicly recommit to WIN's Neighborhoods First Agenda and □ *page 4*

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

1/6: The Rev.
Joe Clark (8:00
& 10:30); The
Rev. Sarabeth
Goodwin (5:00)

1/13: The Rev.
Frank Dunn
(8:00 &
10:30); The
Rev. Sarabeth
Goodwin (5:00)

PARISH OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

All praise to our most wonderful parish office volunteers! Without you we wouldn't have bulletins, church directories, fund-raising letters — nor such good cheer. Thank you to:

- Vivian McFarland
- Leota Lawrence
- Emma Washington (an Urban Village neighbor)
- Ellen Baynard
- Miriam Hood
- Lucretia Massaquoi
- Kaaren Holum

□ *page 3* offer a point-by-point plan for investing in affordable housing, youth recreation, and neighborhoods across the district.

When planning for the event began, St. Stephen's WIN team nervously committed to bringing 25 attendees. But we needn't have worried — our final tally was over 40, and included representation from Misa Alegria and our neighbors at Urban Village.

-April 1, 2007

Bucks for the Hungry

In your bulletin on April 15 you'll find an unfamiliar envelope headed "Bucks for the Hungry/Dinero Para Combatir el Hambre." 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.

-April 15, 2007

2007 Annual Meeting

On May 6, 60 voting members of the parish elected new Wardens and Vestry members, created the voting position of Clerk, and heard the state of the parish from its leadership, at St. Stephen's 2007 Annual Meeting.

The first order of business was a proposed change to the bylaws to allow a voting Clerk to replace the non-voting register as chief scribe for Vestry meetings. The change was approved, and Jessica Baumgarten was elected Clerk, which is a single-year renewable term.

Jane Bishop was elected the new Senior Warden. Cam Crockett was elected

Junior Warden.

Diane Aten, Paul Bugala, Beth Howe, and William MacKaye were elected to the Vestry by acclamation.

In her report, outgoing Senior Warden Fern Hunt commented on her two year's tenure, pointing out the many indicators of "enough faith, talent, enthusiasm and yes, energy, with God's help" to thrive as a parish. Jane Bishop, Junior Warden for the last two years, echoed this message, declaring that God leads, we follow, and our prayers are answered.

Frank Dunn's report included praise for both Wardens, with affirmation of how rich the past three years have been since he joined as Senior Priest. He pointed out the quality of honesty in parish life, and the extraordinary commitment of parishioners to take care of one another pastorally.

-May 13, 2007

Mark Vogel Resigns

Mark Vogel has announced that he will be leaving St. Stephen's this summer to take a position as Director of Music and Arts at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia.

Inspiring, nurturing, encouraging, supportive, talented, conscientious, dedicated, organized, and prayerful are some of the descriptions of Mark. It is with a great deal of sadness that we will say goodbye when he departs this summer.

-May 13, 2007

Farewell, Fletcher

"This job is largely about mothering," was how Frank Dunn summed up the future for Fletcher Wells, our seminarian, who is entering the final steps to the priesthood. Mothers' Day, May 13, was Fletcher's last Sunday at St. Stephen's,

and the 10:30 am congregation gathered in front of the lectern to thankfully celebrate his two years with us.

-May 27, 2007

Renovation Nears Completion

For the past three months, laborers, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, and air conditioning experts have been working every day on renovations to our third floor.

Perhaps the largest one-time project in St. Stephen's history since the church was constructed, the renovation is coming quickly to a close. We hope new tenants will be able to move in August 1.

At the conclusion of the 10:30 service on the first Sunday after renovations are complete, we plan to process from the sanctuary up to the third floor to bless the new offices.

-July 22, 2007

WIN Keeps Pressure on Fenty

A big thanks to the 18 St. Stephen's parishioners who participated in the WIN Mayoral Accountability rally July 16th at Covenant Baptist Church. WIN continues to make headway with the Fenty Administration on enacting the Neighborhood's 1st Agenda. Before a capacity crowd of over 500, Mayor Fenty detailed funding sources for \$117 million in new money each year for the production of several thousand units of affordable Nehemiah homes. Fenty pinpointed major sites slated for development and promised that ground would be broken on the first of these homes in 2008. In addition, he reiterated commitments to preserve 2,500 units of affordable housing in target neighborhoods such as Columbia Heights and to create 2,500 of supportive housing for homeless families and individuals.

-August 5, 2007

Meet Our New Space Users

With the completion of the renovation of St. Stephen's third floor, we welcome a number of new space users into our building:

- CISPES (the Committee in Solidairty with the People of El Salvador)

- Words, Beats & Life

- One Common Unity

[and two who moved in a few months later: the National Capital Immigrants Coalition and the Homeless Children's Playtime Project]

-August 19, 2007

Immigration Woes for Misa Alegria Family

Raids, detention and deportation have been lurking around the Misa Alegria for many months now...nephews, daughters-in-law, friends...but nobody from our immediate family had been affected by our broken immigration system until last month.

Late in August, we felt the impact. Sunday, August 19, we bid a sad farewell to two of our own, a farewell that will mean long years of separation to a young family. Sandy A. made the painful decision to return to Ecuador with her two-year-old, Camila. Her husband, Deybe must remain here in the US.

-Sept. 16, 2007

Through the Eye of the Needle

This Fall, St. Stephen's presents *Through the Eye of the Needle: Understanding and Reflecting on Money and Finances*, a program which aims to demystify general concepts around money and finances through practical and productive discussion around our own personal finances and those of our Church. Through four interactive

□ page 6

NEW MEMBERS

These people took part in the Rite of Membership in 2007:

- Kristen Boehne
- Mariellen Curtis
- Robert Curtis
- Sarah Dimick
- Michelle Dyro
- Peter Dyro
- Beth Fascitelli
- Erin Johnson
- Areto Imoukhuede
- Lisa Luceno
- Gabriel Pinski
- Nadia Stefko
- Lisa Varol
- Stephen Varol

And then there are the introverts who haven't taken part in the public declaration but do consider themselves new members — we won't name them here!

BAPTISMS

- Monica Azucena Ventura*
- Moxie Ann Dyro
- Allison Camila Guadarrama*
- Freeman Clarence Hunt
- D'Angelo Terrell Marks, Jr.
- Tamia Denise Quaye
- Ronald Antonio Taracena*
- Josemanuel Rodríguez*

*Baptized at the Misa Alegria

□ *page 5* sessions, participants will gain a greater awareness and understanding of basic financial principles; options and approaches for personal financial decision-making; the financial history, decision-making, needs and aspirations of St. Stephen's; and the concept of planned giving as an approach to establishing sustained financial stability within the Church.

-September 30, 2007

"Enrique's Journey" Book Group

At our first meeting, we were fellow St. Stephen's parishioners, yet strangers. We fell into stereotypical roles, the English-speakers participating with enthusiasm, asking questions and opining freely, while the Spanish-speakers listened respectfully to the translation.

At the second meeting the Spanish-speakers were the ones with something to say. *Enrique's Journey* was authored by an intrepid journalist seeking to expose the painful realities underlying her Guatemalan housecleaner's lived experience. On one level she chronicles the hardships endured by poor single mothers in Central America who choose to separate from their children and pursue livelihoods in the United States.

At the evening's close, we spoke the Lord's Prayer in our respective languages. After everyone had left, I reflected on the evening as I loaded the dishwasher – I had insisted that all were guests and no one should linger to clean up. I realized that, for a moment, we had entered each other's worlds and arrived at a new understanding of how we all were impacted by the flow of immigration in modern times. In humanizing ourselves to each other, we put faces – American, Salvadoran, Nicaraguan, Mexican – to the immigration problem. We acquired a heightened appreciation

that this problem is our shared burden and responsibility. As the ministry of Misa Alegría continues to strengthen its presence within St. Stephen and the Incarnation, what will we do as a community united in our faith to address this problem that, more than a story, is becoming increasingly real to all of us?

-September 30, 2007

"Live From the Nave"

The parish folk music concert and art show to benefit Loaves and Fishes held on Saturday, October 6, was a huge success with 85 people in attendance. The event featured music by Steve Thorngate, our Interim Director of Music, and his friends, who performed "Songs of the Rich and Poor".

The crowd grew so large that the audience spilled from the tables set up near the main altar steps into the pews. The enthusiasm was contagious as spontaneous dancing broke out in the back of the Nave toward the end of the concert. The liveliness of the music and the audience response was reminiscent of the folk and rock music regularly performed at St. Stephen's during the 1960s and '70s. With over \$500 raised for Loaves & Fishes through a free will offering, we hope that this will be the first of many such offerings sponsored by St. Stephen's Arts Collaborative.

- October 28, 2007

Church Seating Improvements

Over the next few weeks, the Buildings and Grounds Committee is going to be analyzing options for increasing and improving the seating in the main portion of the worship space.

Our current pews have been a matter of concern for some time: there are not enough of them for our growing congregation, the cushions are inadequate, and

the pews themselves are in very poor condition. One possibility is to completely refurbish or replace the pews. Another option would be the replacement of pews with cathedral chairs which could be locked together in rows.

-October 28, 2007

Loaves and Fishes Mini-Walk: 75 Parishioners; \$3,600

Loaves and Fishes St. Stephen's miniwalk on October 21st was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who walked or sponsored walkers.

A special thank you goes to Matt Brouwer, Linda Kaufman, Bill MacKaye and Michael Sherrard, who led a discussion of affordable housing issues during our walk through the neighborhood. We heard success stories, such as the tenants who were able to buy their building thanks in part to a small loan of just \$1,000 from the Urban Village Corporation. We also saw affordable housing units at risk of being developed into condos, and discussed some of the steps WIN is taking to help the tenants.

-November 11, 2007

St. Stephen's Building: Puppets, Dancers, Worshippers

Among the events that took place at St. Stephen's November 2 and 3:

- Two hundred people attending a climate change conference slept on our floors.

- The Bread and Puppet Theater held two performances in our nave when their original venue fell through at the last moment; over 500 people attended.

- The SEIU held an organizing meeting in our nave.

- New space user CISPES (the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) sponsored a talk by Ricardo Calderon, the leader of the Sal-

vadoran Union Front (FSS).

- Students involved with space user African Immigrants and Refugees Foundation's tutoring program practiced dances for an upcoming event.

- A benefit for children in El Salvador took place in our dining room

- An event with speakers on Guatemala took place in the auditorium.

- Loaves and Fishes served four hundred meals.

- Three All Saints Day church services were held.

-November 11, 2007

Many to Join St. Stephen's on Newcomer Sunday

On Sunday, December 2, we'll welcome new members during the 10:30 service. As of November 19, nine people were planning to participate in the rite of membership, and a few others were still deciding.

-November 25, 2007

Meet Troy Mendez

Troy Mendez is our new seminarian. He is a second-year student at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria and will be with us for two years.

-December 23, 2007

BIRTHS

- Moxie Dyro
- Sophia Varol
- Truman Muffett
- Freeman Hunt
- Holden Crocheron

MARRIAGES

- Nigel Collie and Paula Morgen

DEATHS

- Alvin Wingfield
- Ellen Williams

Exploring Our Roles as Lay Liturgists

St. Stephen's reflects its diversity as we share the roles that are central to our worship: greeter, flower or altar guild member, MC, worship leader, thurifer, crucifer, candle bearer, or eucharistic minister. Please join us Saturday, Jan. 12, from 9am - Noon, for a morning of reflection on and education about participating in our worship. This will be a time for theology and also for demonstration and hands-on practice. (Frank's training for new readers will take place on a separate day.) It would help our planning if you could let Gay Gellhorn know of your interest(s). (Snow date: Jan. 19.)

LECTIONS

Epiphany
(Jan. 6)

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7,
10-14

Ephesians 3:
1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

1st Sunday After
the Epiphany
(Jan. 13)

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

THE SAINTS

Sunday, January 6

THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST

Birthday: Vladi Wien-Kandil

Wednesday, January 9

JULIA CHESTER EMERY, 1922

Thursday, January 10

WILLIAM LAUD, ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY, 1645

Friday, January 11

*Heavenly Birthday: Philip R.
Newell III, parishioner, 1975*

Saturday, January 12

AELROD, ABBOT OF RIEVAULX, 1167

Monday, January 14

*Birthday: Patricia Gray, Fern
Hunt*

Tuesday, January 15

Birthday: Moxie Dyro

Wednesday, January 16

Birthday: Corinna McMullen

Thursday, January 17

ANTONY, ABBOT IN EGYPT, 356

Friday, January 18

THE CONFESSION OF ST. PETER THE
APOSTLE

Saturday, January 19

WULFSTAN, BISHOP OF WORCESTER,
1095

THE PRAYERS

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

•Louise Dyer and Falan Yinug, and Jessica and Aaron Hansen, who are expecting babies;

•Ridgely Bennett, Terrey Danley, René Holloway, Brother John Mathis, Maria Navarrete, 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), Lisa Buonarosa, her husband Marcus Spiegelman, and their daughter Rebekah (Michele Lewis's sister and family), Katie Finley (Mary Alcuin Kelly's sister), Clara, Jeremy & Kyra Grant (Jane Bishop's daughter and family), Tom Rozzell (father of Liane), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

in this
issue ...

The
Year
in
Review

BREAD

is published every other Sunday by the people of
St. Stephen and the Incarnation
Episcopal Church
Brian Best, editor (202/232-0900)

POSTMASTER:

Send changes of address to: *Bread*,
1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC 20010.

(USPS Permit 063660)

Periodical Postage PAID at Washington, D.C.