



Loaves and Fishes Update

Budget Surplus; Special Offering March 24

The year 2008 brings good news for Loaves and Fishes. Whereas we had ended 2006 with a \$32,000 deficit, we ended 2007 with a \$26,000 *surplus*. This was due to increased fundraising activities, a trimming of expenses through more efficient supply purchases, and the obtaining of two foundation grants at the end of the year: \$10,000 from the Fowler Foundation and \$25,000 from the Abell Foundation.

The good news is compounded by upcoming assistance from Abell Foundation staff: \$10,000 of the grant is dedicated to hiring a consultant to coordinate volunteer activities and put an effective volunteer leadership system in place. In addition, Abell is considering hiring, at its expense, a consultant to work on management structure, an area where we definitely need assistance.

So, we wish to express our most hearty thanks to all those who, in the past year, have helped out with activities, assisted in publicizing our good works, and contributed to our healthier financial state.

On the other hand, fundraising is never over! We need to raise almost \$10,000 each month in order to meet our expenditures connected with food, supplies, and a small paid staff. So, you will be hearing more from us in the coming months about ways you can help keep our valuable program running effectively.

With that in mind, please look into your souls, and into your wallets, during

this Lenten season as we “fast” in the modern way by taking money that we might have spent on ourselves and instead donating it to worthy causes. Loaves and Fishes will have an officially dedicated Sunday on February 24. There will be special envelopes in the bulletins that day for all those who wish to donate something extra to Loaves and Fishes. In addition, we are unofficially encouraging everyone to write perhaps an extra check or two (for whatever amount) during the other Sundays of Lent. Just put on the memo line, “Loaves and Fishes,” and add it to the collection plate. The people who are able to eat hot, tasty meals on weekends appreciate your generosity, and so do we.

*-Earl Foote,
Co-Chair of the Loaves and Fishes
Program Management Group*

Tamika Jackson is New Bookkeeper

St. Stephen's is in the midst of a bookkeeper transition.

In December, Bill Bonwitt told us he would retire at the end of February. Our bookkeeper for the past three years, Bill has been a wonderful person to work with and has done a splendid job of keeping track of our finances. To the delight of some, and at times the utter disbelief of the Finance Committee, Bill has been known to say, □ *page 2*

BREAD

Feb. 17, 2008

The Second
Sunday in Lent

Number 1594

BAPTISM

If you or a family member wishes to be baptized at the Easter Vigil (March 22), please contact the church office.

BREAD

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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** “What are you worried about? It’s only money!” Clearly, Bill’s background as an ordained United Methodist minister leads him to some very non-bookkeeper-ish thoughts.

With Bill has come Martha Bonwitt. The Rev. Martha Bonwitt, that is; she’s the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro. We’ve enjoyed building stronger ties with Trinity, especially lately when Bill’s health has caused Martha to chauffeur him from home to doctors’ appointments to St. Stephen’s. One bookkeeper; one unofficial assistant; both ordained. Quite a deal!

Bill will join us at the 10:30 service on March 9; during coffee hour that day we will thank him for his service.

And we are very pleased to announce that our new bookkeeper is Tamika Jackson.

Tamika graduated from Bowie State University in May 2006 with a B.S. in Finance. She has had several positions in the accounting field, ranging from Bookkeeper for a small trash business to Capital Asset Accountant for a major utility company. When she’s not crunching numbers, she spends her spare time singing with contemporary

gospel groups Tru Prayz and Unconditional Sound.

We interviewed five talented and qualified candidates, all of whom could do the job. Tamika’s wonderful personality, warm smile, and her faith background brought her very quickly to the top. We’re very glad to have someone joining our staff who is not only very capable of doing the job but is also excited about working for a church.

Tamika starts February 21, to give her a ten-day overlap with Bill. Tamika will be in the office Thursday evenings, Fridays, and Saturday mornings.

-Brian Best

Lenten Day of Prayer

Join us for a Lenten Day of Prayer, led by Carolyn Bluemle. This silent retreat will be held in the nave Saturday, March 8, from 9 am - 3 pm. Come and pray together in several different ways: yoga (exploring our incarnate nature and praying through the body; some previous yoga experience preferred but not required), meditation (quieting body and mind to hear God’s voice), and reflections on vulnerability, reconciliation, and images of the passion. (You will be able to choose from images in the art exhibit, or the stations of the cross, or icons which Carolyn will bring.) Deep rest after a silent vegetarian lunch prepared by Chef Rachel Merga. The \$45 fee includes lunch. Scholarships are available.

Contact Carolyn:
www.cmagicisafoot.com.

The Bard and The Book

On Monday, March 17th at 4 pm, Kathy Grieb will give a lecture called “The Bard and the Book: Shakespeare’s Interpretation of Scripture” at Virginia Theological Seminary’s Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Auditorium. Linda Kaufman and Liane Rozzell plan to attend. Anyone else interested in going?

Nominating Committee Seeks Individuals for Ministry of Leadership

The Nominating Committee for the 2007-2008 Vestry is seeking individuals who feel called to a ministry of leadership in the parish. The Warden and Vestry have ultimate authority and responsibility for the governance of the church, including the responsibility for parish property and financial affairs. In consultation with the Senior Priest, the Wardens and Vestry are responsible for developing and executing policies that promote the church's mission through worship, education, social action and service. Each Vestry member is expected to serve on one Parish committee or working group (such as Loaves & Fishes or the Finance Committee). The Vestry regularly meets once each month on the 4th Sunday following the 10:30am service. This year there are three vestry positions open for three year terms and one for a two-year term.

Under the church's By-Laws, all "voters of the Parish" are eligible to serve on the Vestry. We welcome all baptized Christians to our altar, and we ask all to contribute to the financial support of the Parish as they are able. All such persons are voters, and we invite

them all to listen to God's call to serve as a member of the Vestry, or in some other role within the church.

If you feel called to Vestry service or want to talk further about it, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee listed below. If you feel that someone you know at Saint Stephen's should consider Vestry service, please encourage them to contact a member of the nominating committee or submit their name to a member of the committee.

"O God, in your never-failing providence and care, open my mind and heart to discern your path for me. Guide my contemplation and my listening, so that your spirit will be made plain and clear. Help me to know if you are drawing me toward service in the coming year as a member of the Vestry of this flock"

The Nominating Committee (contact information is in SALT): Elizabeth Finley (chair), Ridgely Bennett, Doris Collier, Michelle Dyro, Linda Kaufman, Louise Dyer, Fern Hunt, Sarabeth Goodwin.

January Vestry: A Marathon with Thanksgiving

On January 27 the Vestry met for 4 hours to wrestle the 2008 budget to the ground. And wrestle they did through hard and prayerful deliberations, with two major results: a balanced budget and an official motion of thanks to Tom Bell, Chair, and the rest of the Finance Committee for their hard work.

The Vestry also got in-person and written reports from Earl Foote of Loaves & Fishes, and Michael Sherrard

of Stewardship; reports from Frank on Lent, Latino Ministry, and new music director Jane Colgrove. Cam Crockett reported on the projected growth of the Sunday School (12 babies under 2 by September!) and Jane Bishop reported on the new bookkeeper, coffee hour, *Finances 101*, Buildings & Grounds, and the Nominating Committee. Thanks be to God!

-Jane Bishop

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

2/17: The Rev. Frank Dunn; The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin (5:00)

3/2: Lisa Mages, Preacher (8:00 & 10:30); The Rev. Ronald Conner, Celebrant (8:00); The Rev. Frank Dunn, Celebrant (10:30); The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin (5:00)

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday in Lent
(Feb. 17)

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5,
13-17

John 3:1-17

3rd Sunday in Lent
(Feb. 24)

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

THE SAINTS

Sunday, February 17

Birthday: Elizabeth Finley

Monday, February 18

MARTIN LUTHER, REFORMER, 1546

Birthday: Doris Collie

Saturday, February 23

POLYCARP, BISHOP AND MARTYR OF
SMYRNA, 156

Birthday: Atiba Pertilla

Heavenly Birthday: Anna

Dyson, 1998

Tuesday, February 26

Heavenly Birthday: Vonnie

Bell Clayton, 2001

Wednesday, February 27

GEORGE HERBERT, PRIEST, 1633

Thursday, February 28

Birthday: Leota Lawrence

Friday, March 1

DAVID, BISHOP OF MENEVIA, WALES,
c.544

Saturday, March 2

CHAD, BISHOP OF LICHFIELD, 672

THE PRAYERS

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

•Louise Dyer and Falan Yinug, Jessica and Aaron Hansen, Catherine and Paul Bugala, and Lisa Luceno and Gabriel Pinski, who are expecting babies;

•Ridgely Bennett, Terrey Danley, Brother John Mathis, Maria Navarrete, 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;

•Robert Aten (father of Diane), Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), Clara, Jeremy & Kyra Grant (Jane Bishop's daughter and family), Michael Lippe (friend of Priscilla Phelps), and all those who have been commended to our prayers.

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ON THE COVER...

Hazel Cummings,
Coordinator of
Loaves and Fishes

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