



Misa Alegria Celebra Segundo Aniversario

(Misa Alegria Celebrates Second Anniversary)

Perdona a tu pueblo Señor, perdona a tu pueblo Señor...

I stumble through this Lenten Friday night hymn as I stumbled through my Spanish wedding vows. I somehow can't always make my mouth work around these words. They feel unfamiliar to me, and I don't know what all of them mean. Yet at this bilingual service, multiple congregations at St. Stephen's Church join and walk in one mission: worshipping Christ's journey to crucifixion and resurrection.

The people around me don't mind that I mispronounce words or my singing voice goes mute when I lose my way in Spanish; I am trying, and we are worshipping together. I am blessed by the presence of Spanish-speaking congregants, warm greetings, and sharing a meal together afterwards. I can not imagine what our church would be like without these brothers and sisters.

In two years since its establishment, St. Stephen and the Incarnation's Latino Ministry has grown to a congregation of about 60 on many Sundays. Under the leadership of The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin, this seed planted on March 5, 2006, sprouted, formed roots, and continues to grow and blossom.

The Sunday evening worship is intimate and lively. The "convivio" (fellowship) after the service is almost always a celebratory meal and family time for this community who claim San Esteban (St. Stephen) their church home.

Coming from many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, our

Spanish speaking congregants are mostly new to the Episcopal Church and initially are surprised to see "La Madre" leading their flock. As the congregation has grown, some members have stepped forward to share the leadership with Sarabeth, and this year at our Annual Meeting we will be presented with a slate of vestry candidates that includes Jairo Ceballos, a Misa Alegria congregant. I pray that as Misa Alegria flourishes, the morning congregations will live in greater solidarity with them, and we will grow in understanding and support of one another.

Like Christ, Misa Alegria congregants serve each other, St. Stephen's, and our larger community. There have been baptisms, quinceañeras, weddings, house blessings, healing rites, blessings over families separated by immigration, funerals...the list goes on. I am profoundly touched each time I attend their services even though I don't speak Spanish. The presence of the Holy Spirit is keenly felt.

Two weeks ago the congregation mourned and celebrated the life of Maria Navarrete, a central leader of the congregation who passed away, cheering, "Viva Maria, Viva Maria, Viva Maria, □ page 2

BREAD

March 30, 2008

The Second
Sunday of
Easter

Number 1597

St. Stephen's Church

2008 Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 20, 12:15pm

Brunch will be provided.

All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend.

More information next issue.

RECENT DONATIONS

On the Third Sunday in Lent, parishioners contributed \$2,136 to Loaves and Fishes.

So far this year, parishioners have contributed \$333 in our "Bucks for the Hungry" offering for the Diocesan Hunger Fund.

BREAD

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

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□ **page 1** Viva Maria." Again, just this week the ministry reached out to provide immediate food and assistance to our neighbors now homeless from the devastating fire on Mt. Pleasant Street.

I learn from them the way of Christ and the depth of faith. Many in this congregation live in a parallel society, on the margins, uncertain of their future, and their faith brings them together, to San Esteban, and to us. They are at the forefront of key social justice issues in the U.S. They are present to help us live out our baptismal vows of seeking and serving Christ in all people, loving our

neighbor, striving for justice and peace, and respecting the dignity of every human being.

La paz del Señor, The peace of the Lord. A simple blessing of peace is offered to one another. The brightness of the eyes, smiles, kisses, hugs, and hand shakes reach far beyond language and cultural barriers. At this moment, we are one in Christ and one in St. Stephen/San Esteban. Let us celebrate their presence with us; let us celebrate their 2nd anniversary at St. Stephen and the Incarnation.

¡Aleluya! Alleluia!

-Susan Kyle

Young Adults Make Spring Plans

After a successful planning meeting in February, YASSI (otherwise known as the Young Adults of St. Stephen's and the Incarnation or the 20s/30s group) is looking forward to a spring filled with fellowship and fun.

Our seminarian, Troy Mendez, led those at the meeting in reflection and discussion about our vision for the group. Out of those discussions came ideas for a number of fellowship and volunteer activities for this spring and summer. Kristin Boehne is organizing a joint volunteering effort with the young adults group at St. Columba's, set to happen in late April. The efforts of both groups will be combined to provide elderly and disabled people with help around the house with minor home repairs.

In May, YASSI will have a block of tickets available for a free performance of "Hamlet" by the Shakespeare Theatre Company at Carter Barron Amphitheater. Also on the schedule is joining the young adults group at St. Thomas'

church in Dupont Circle for one of their Friday wine & cheese events.

Much of the planning meeting discussion also revolved around the desire for additional opportunities for prayer services and adult spiritual formation sessions. While no firm plans were made in these areas, please contact Troy Mendez or Michael Sherrard if these areas are of interest to you. While these topics are of particular interest within the young adult community, everyone acknowledged that they are also of interest to the larger congregation as a whole. By joining efforts in those areas with others in the parish, we're hoping to create something both sustainable and of interest to a wider audience.

If you're interested in participating in YASSI events and are not already on the email listserv, head over to St. Stephen's website (www.saintstephensdc.org) and find the YASSI link at the bottom of the main page, where you can sign yourself up.

-Catherine Bugala

WIN Keeps DC Government Focused on Housing

The past few weeks have been busy ones for the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), as increased public and political attention has been brought to the crisis of affordable housing in our neighborhood and across the District. A recent *Washington Post* series chronicled the issue, showing how landlords intentionally allow conditions to deteriorate in their buildings, in order to force tenants out and sell for a quick profit. Sadly, that point was underscored by a tragedy close to home, as fire struck a large apartment building in Mount Pleasant which had been cited for thousands of code violations in recent years.

In that building, tenants had successfully organized (with the help of community groups like WIN) and were on the verge of signing a final agreement with the landlord to keep the building in good condition and to maintain affordable rent. But tenants in other buildings haven't always been so lucky, in part because the District government has lacked a proactive strategy to preserve affordable housing. WIN has been working with Mayor Fenty's administration to develop such a strategy.

Some of the new measures, negotiated by representatives of St. Stephen's and our partners at All Soul's Unitarian and Church of the Pilgrims, include:

- a multi-agency "SWAT Team" to monitor housing conditions in Colum-

bia Heights and act preemptively to preserve affordability;

- the denial of approval for rent increases in buildings with outstanding code violations, with a similar policy for condo conversion introduced in pending legislation;

- a commitment to redeveloping two vacant properties near our church building (on Newton and Monroe Streets) as affordable housing.

But to solidify and build upon these gains, especially as the Council works on next year's budget, we need to keep the pressure on. WIN is planning an accountability action with Mayor Fenty and DC Council members on April 7, from 7-9 PM at Emory United Methodist Church (6100 George Ave. NW). St. Stephen's has committed to bring 20 people to this gathering – please talk to Michael Sherrard or Matt Brouwer if you're available to attend.

-Michael Sherrard

St. Stephen's Helps Fire Victims

On March 12, a five-alarm fire destroyed a four-story apartment building on Mt. Pleasant Street, a few blocks from St. Stephen's. Some 200 people, mostly immigrants, lost all of their belongings. St. Stephen's paid for meals for many of these people on Good Friday. If you'd like to contribute towards that \$525 cost, please write a check to St. Stephen's and mark it "Mt. Pleasant Fire." If we collect more than \$525, we'll use the additional amount to help one or more families purchase new belongings and furniture.

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

3/30: The Rev.
Linda Kaufman
(8:00, 10:30);
The Rev.
Sarabeth
Goodwin (5:00)

4/6: Troy
Mendez,
Preacher; The
Rev. Ronald
Conner,
Celebrant
(8:00); The
Rev. Frank
Dunn, Celebrant
(10:30); The
Rev. Sarabeth
Goodwin (5:00)

A hearty St. Stephen's
welcome to
Anna Tidad Yinug,
born March 12 to Louise
Dyer and Falan Yinug.

LECTIONS

2nd Sunday of
Easter
(March 30)
Acts 2:14a,
22-32
Psalm 16
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

3rd Sunday of
Easter
(April 6)
Acts 2:14a,
36-41
Psalm 116:1-4,
12-19
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

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THE SAINTS

Sunday, March 30
*Birthday: Aaron Hansen,
Gloria Glasgow*
*Heavenly Birthday: Mary
Louise Dansen, 1987*

Monday, March 31
JOHN DONNE, PRIEST, 1631

Tuesday, April 1
FREDERICK DENISON MAURICE, PRIEST,
1872

Wednesday, April 2
JAMES LLOYD BRECK, PRIEST, 1876
Birthday: Colette Chabbott

Thursday, April 3
RICHARD, BISHOP OF CHICHESTER,
1253

Friday, April 4
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 1968

Saturday, April 5
*Heavenly Birthday:
Christopher Hilton, 1985*

Tuesday, April 8
WILLIAM AUGUSTUS MUHLENBERG, PRIEST,
1877

Wednesday, April 9
DIETRICK BONHOEFFER
*Heavenly Birthday: Margaret
Keys, 1986*

Thursday, April 10
WILLIAM LAW

Friday, April 11
GEORGE AUGUSTUS SELWYN, FIRST
MISSIONARY BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND,
AND OF LICHFIELD, 1878
Birthday: James Laws

Saturday, April 12
Birthday: Amy Nakamoto

ON THE COVER...

Anna Yinug's hand, on the
day of her birth

THE PRAYERS

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

- Thanksgiving for Anna Tidad Yinug, born March 19 to 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, Eric van Naerrson (friend of Susan Kyle), 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;
- Winifred Allen (mother of Pat Gray), Clark Anthony (stepfather of Diane Aten), Duane Bonds, Helen Bonds (mother of Duane), Bob Brown (former parishioner), 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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