



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. Baltimore Ave.
Clifton Heights, PA 19018
The Rev. Thomas Wand, Interim Rector

From All Saints' through Thanksgiving to Advent

November begins with the celebration of All Saints' Day. This is a time when we remember all those who have gone before us in the Christian faith and life. On All Saints' Sunday (November 2 this year), we compile a list of our loved ones who have died, and live in God's presence, and remember them in our prayers at the Eucharist.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us that we are connected by our common relationship as children of God with all people in all times and places. This is what we mean when we talk in the creed about the "Communion of Saints." So All Saints' Day is not just a time for looking inward and toward the past, but looking outward to the saints we haven't met yet, to the saints who are perhaps at or close to the beginning of their course of life on this earth.

Later in the month, we will celebrate Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday (the Canadian version has a different history and emphasis). At that time, we will (at least in theory) not only eat a lot of turkey and watch many football games, but also pause to thank God for all the blessings we have been given, especially the rich harvests of crops in our land and around the world.



However, as the Scripture readings for that feast in *The Book of Common Prayer* make clear, we not only give thanks to God for the bounty we enjoy, but rededicate ourselves to using that bounty for the good of all, and especially the less fortunate [Yeah, there's that stewardship thing again!].

At the very end of the month, we begin our keeping of Advent, the season of preparation for our celebration of Christmas, the festival of Christ's birth. This is a season which pulls us out of thinking simply of our past, and again calls us to a joyous expectancy, an excited waiting for God's special entry into our lives [for the outward and visible signs of joyous expectancy, please simply observe any child at this time of year]. Sometimes, many of us [especially those of us "of a certain age"] can concentrate our attention and energy on what has gone before, and not give enough effort and attention to what is to come. Advent calls us to prepare, to look forward, to welcome the new thing God is doing in our midst.



There's lots of stuff happening in November. All of it will stretch us into better servants of the Kingdom if we let it happen.

With love,
Fr. Wand

From Our Senior Warden

Fall is a time of change. The leaves are turning, the days are getting shorter and the weather is getting colder. At St. Stephen's we have seen our share of changes over the last year and will continue to see more changes in the months to come. Many of these changes have been positive and have helped us to move forward as a church family. We have seen some wonderful events return and the birth of some new traditions. I would like to thank the ECW for organizing the fall festival. It was a wonderful day and the cars parked on the lawn looked great. I would also like to thank the dedicated group of men who have been hosting our parish wide breakfasts. These events are laying the groundwork for more new and exciting events yet to come.

I also want to thank all of you who came out and met with Father Rice. Your candor in these meetings is invaluable as we look towards the future of St. Stephen's. To that end, the vestry will be using the information you provided in those meetings to shape a plan for the coming months. While we are talking about changes and trying new things, I ask you all to keep an open mind. We will probably be trying many things in the coming months, some will be successful and some may fall flat, but we need to try these things to see what will work for St. Stephen's. We look forward to your thoughts and suggestions in this ongoing process.

Finally, as I am writing this, we have just finished our annual stewardship campaign. To those who have already pledged, thank you for your support. To those who have yet to pledge, please look into your heart and see what you can give. The recent economic turmoil has affected everyone, and the church has been no exception. Our investments are down and we need your support more than ever.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and as always please feel free to contact me with any other questions or concerns you may have my home phone number is 610-534-1488. My cell phone is 610-405-6567 and my e-mail is dawnrainey@juno.com

Dawn Rainey

Parish Budget Update

An overview of our parish finances, as of September 2008, is as follows:

Income: \$57,372.81

Expenses: \$91,495.21

Our expenses for this period are \$34,122.48 more than our income and will show on a financial report as (34,122.48).

As of October 31, per our Finance Chairman, our assets are at or below the \$200,000 benchmark set by the Vestry.

Pledges are still incomplete at this writing. We thank those who have sent in their pledges, and ask those who have not to please return them as soon as possible to enable us to prepare a budget for 2009. Pledge forms are still available in the narthex for those who have not yet received one.

Ray Sharp, Accounting Warden



Since August 2006 we have had 11 blood drives in our Parish Hall and have collected 265 pints of blood, or an average of 24 pints per drive. About a month before the drive, volunteers are needed to post announcements in local businesses, make phone calls, and reach out to friends and family to let them know about the upcoming blood drive. Our next drive is January 2009; please help if you can. Thanks to all those who support these drives through donations, and those who help, especially Joan Durbano, Wendy Galinas, Dawn Rainey, and Dave Stanton. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at (610) 247-1231.

**Michael Huppman,
Coordinator**

The Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network -

We Can Help Our Brothers and Sisters In Need

Although it was recently decided at our October 2008 vestry meeting that St. Stephen's does not have the facilities or resources to support this



initiative as a host church, the Delaware County Interfaith Hospitality Network (DCIHN) is continually seeking volunteers, and there is always room for the members of our congregation to support one of the following shifts at various local congregations on a daily basis:

Welcome, Dinner Preparation, and Fellowship - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship, Outreach, Playtime, Interaction, Homework, Storytime 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Fellowship, Lights Out, Sleep 9:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

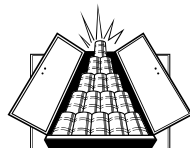
Many of you provided tremendous support in various ways during our first and only host week by donating furniture, making meals, and sharing your time and talents with our sisters and brothers in need the week of September 30, 2007. The families and your vestry can't thank you enough!

The DCIHN is now supported by twelve (12) congregations in our area, with the program's day center at the Chester YWCA.

If you are interested in volunteering for the program, please contact me.
Michael Huppman
(610) 247-1231
mhuppman@me.com

Food Assistance Ministry

The food bank is now feeding 15 to 20 families (about 50 people) per month. There is an open-door policy. No one is refused; identification is requested, but not required. Open 11:00 a.m. to Noon, Wednesday and Sunday. We are working together with St. Paul's Lutheran, Lansdowne, The Church of the Holy Comforter, Drexel Hill and Starbucks for assistance. We still need the basics, i.e. canned goods and dry goods, paper and plastic bags and boxes large enough to hold two grocery bags. However, we can certainly always use cash donations and volunteers to help with distribution.



With the holidays approaching this need grows. Thanks to all who help with this outreach ministry.

Dave Neff,
Coordinator

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

For many years now we have been assisting St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Chester with both canned and dry goods donations, and also helping to bag the food for distribution as part of an outreach effort. The Food Cupboard at St. Mary's feeds 48 families every week. The volunteers from St. Mary's are very dedicated and work tirelessly to help feed some of the poorest of the poor.

We also have a tradition of sending gifts, at Christmastime, to the children of St. Mary's, and their sister church St. Paul's. Our thanks to all those who participate in this continued outreach.

ECW

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Women are back in full swing and bigger and stronger than ever. At a meeting held in September, officers were elected as follows:

President/Secretary: Bonnie Prendiville
Vice President: Joan Durbano
Treasurer: Mary Platt
Vestry Liaison: Kim Bond

It was decided that since our Spring Fest did not take place this year we would instead have a Fall Fest which took place on Saturday, October 4th. Vendors filled the front lawn with their wares and St. Stephen's sold baked goods and White Elephant goodies. In addition, Ann Knorr sold crafts and Rosemarie Fegely sold treasures and both donated their proceeds to St. Stephen's. At the end of the day, we collected over \$420.00. We also placed small flyers in the bags of our shoppers letting them know about our Blessing of the Animals service which took place the following day.



Our Christmas Bazaar is the next big event for the ECW and takes place on Saturday, November 15th, from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m.

In addition to the lovely handcrafted goods for sale, there will be a cookie exchange where you can purchase a good-sized baggie filled with a variety of cookies; tables with the following: baked goods; personalized Christmas ornaments; White Elephant goodies; used books; and our kitchen will be selling some of the best food this side of Delaware County! There may even be a visit from Santa!

If you would like to be part of this fun day, please sign up on the sheets located in the narthex of the church and in the parish hall. There are many areas where help is needed and everyone is welcomed and encouraged to lend a hand! If you can't, at least stop by so you can get a jump on your Christmas shopping; and don't forget to tell your friends and family.

**Bonnie Prendiville,
President/Secretary**

Our Preschool begins its 4th Year!

St. Stephen's Episcopal Preschool started the 2008-09 school year with its highest enrollment to date—101 children! As we continue to grow each year, we are reminded of the value of this important church ministry and the service it provides to the community. At the present time, all our classes are full, but please remind those who might be interested that we begin registration in January for the following school year. A special thank you to all who continue to send in their Acme receipts. This is an on-going fundraiser and the Preschool receives 1% of the total amount collected. Last year, with your help, we earned over \$500. As we get closer to the holidays I'll be sure to let everyone know about special school events, and as always, everyone is welcome to visit.

**Kathy Zappasodi,
School Director**

Church Grounds Project

Thanks to Wilcy Moore with help from Paul Dracup and Nate Wilson, the back and side of the church driveway has been cleared



of weeds, choking vines, poison ivy and sumac. It looks great, and it's safe for the Preschool children, too.

This project took several weeks and many hours of work, saving the church a great deal of money. The work continues now to maintain the bushes along the pathway from the Parish House to the church.

Memorial Tree

A tree was planted and blessed in memory of James (Jim) Fegley.



Jim was a member of St. Stephen's since he was married in the church 47 years ago. He served on the Vestry, was on search committees and was a lay reader for many years. He helped in the kitchen with church dinners, and was always someone the rector could count on to help with the extras, like funerals and weddings. In other words, he was part of the backbone of St. Stephen's for most of those 47 years.

Stewardship Ingathering

A church breakfast was held on Sunday, October 19 after a single service at 9:30 a.m. This was the third breakfast, hosted by the men of the church, and was well-attended. Thanks to Steve McFee for organizing it, and to all the men who worked in the kitchen especially our new junior cook, Danny Hash, it was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the food and the fellowship.

St. Stephen's Calendar of Events for November and December

Christmas Bazaar – Sat., Nov. 15th, 9am-3pm
Parish House

Thanksgiving Eve Service
– Wed., Nov. 26, 7 pm

Advent Dinner – Sun., Dec. 7th, 5 pm
Parish House*

*Pick up your Christmas tree ornaments that night for St. Mary's, and return your gifts by Dec. 21st

Christmas Eve Services – To be determined

No Services on Christmas Day!

Merry Christmas to All



What's happening in and around Clifton Heights for the family?

Two long-time favorites are coming soon to two of our local theaters, The Hedgerow and the U.D. Performing Arts Center, plus the train display at the Brandywine River Museum which will entertain the entire family and the child in all of us.

Hedgerow Theatre

64 Rose Valley Rd,
Media, PA 19063
(610) 565-4211

A Christmas Carol



November 28 – December 28

Tickets - \$12 (under 18)

Adults –Wed. \$22, Thu. \$25, Fri.
\$28,

Sat & Sun \$30

Seniors & Students get \$3

discount on all performances.

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center

601 N. Lansdowne Ave.
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-622-1189

The Nutcracker

November 21 • 7:30 pm

November 22 • 11 am & 3 pm

November 23 • 1:30 pm & 5:30 pm

Orchestra Reserved \$20

Balcony Reserved \$18

Lower Side Reserved \$15

Side Balcony Reserved \$10

Members save \$2

\$1 off for children 12 and under



Brandywine River Museum

US Route 1

Chadds Ford, PA

(610) 388-2700

Open daily: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 26-30, 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Adults - \$8, Seniors, students w/ID & children 6-12 - \$5

The tradition of the model train display at the Brandywine River Museum is almost as old as the museum itself!

Since 1971, the museum's collection of trains has grown to include 150 locomotives and 300 freight cars. The collection is frequently augmented by trains loaned by visiting engineers. Toy trains in the collection are mostly Lionel products dating from 1915 to the present. A "must see" for the youngest train fans is Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends from the Isle of Sodor, UK.



Yummy Molasses Cookie Recipe

The Moores were vacationing on Prince Edward Island and brought this delicious recipe back with them just in time for the holidays. Enjoy!



Cream Together:

1-1/2 cups shortening

2 cups white sugar

Add:

2 eggs

1 cup molasses

Then add:

4 cups flour

2 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

2 tsp. cloves

2 tsp. ginger

1/2 tsp salt

Shape into balls; roll in white sugar
(Do not flatten rolled balls as they will flatten naturally as they heat.)

Bake @ 325° for 12-15 minutes.

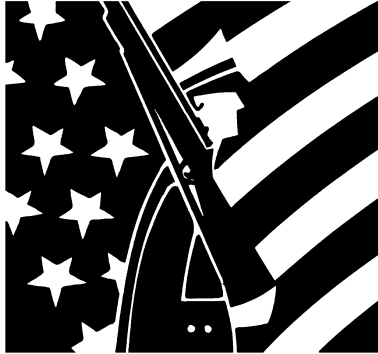
Fun Facts

Did you know that our own Joe Gilligan is one of the oldest acolytes, and was given special recognition at the Acolytes Convention in Washington, D.C. by The Right Reverend John Bryson Chane, the Bishop of Washington; that's our Joe!



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VETERANS DAY



We are a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.
We are a loving church family which encourages regular ministry and parish activities beyond Sunday worship. We share our time, talent and treasure with others in need. We will continue our work to bring God's message more fully to our community through increased outreach and evangelism.

