

The Scribe

NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018
THE REV. THOMAS WAND, INTERIM RECTOR



EAGERLY AWAITING GOD'S SURPRISE

As I write this, the Discernment (Search) Committee has talked with the priest who is consulting with them, Fr. Ted Rice, and have asked that we hold an **all-parish meeting** as part of their work **on Sunday, March 21**. With the support of the Wardens of the parish (Frank Prendeville and Ray Sharp), I have altered our worship schedule for that day only—we will have **one service (Eucharist) at 11:00 a.m. on March 21, with a lunch to follow. Our parish meeting will then begin about 1:00 p.m. and last for about two hours.**

The prime work of the meeting will be part of the process of including the congregation in the conversation by which the Search (Discernment) Committee and the Vestry will develop a picture of who we are, where we want to go, and what we hope the next Rector will do to help us get there. The end product will be a form which is sent to the Diocese and the wider Church, with a short statement (and some statistical information) about us as a congregation, some listing of our understanding of the different parts of our mission (in order of priority), and the kinds of experiences/skills/gifts we would like our next Rector to have to help us accomplish our mission. All of us have a part, all of us have a contribution to make as we move forward.

We can each be helpful or less helpful as we approach this work of our congregation. The trick is to remember that we all have something to give, but it's not necessary for that part to be the centerpiece of the final result. It's possible for us to go astray in this process. To do that, we need only to concentrate our attention on making sure that some little piece of our own is included in the final mix, and if that doesn't happen, to tell ourselves, "They didn't listen." If after all our work together to listen to God and each other, our sole criterion for the results of the Discernment process is that our own idea is included, then we can

disrupt that process [at least for ourselves]. But there is a better way.

We are best positioned to look at the results of the Discernment process when we look toward them as children look toward a birthday or Christmas—waiting to receive a gift, a gift of something which we don't know the exact nature of, except we know it will be wonderful and exciting. We all know times when children (including ourselves as children—of whatever physical age) can short-circuit this joyful expectation by determining that only one gift will be acceptable ["I wanted a Roller-Blade Barbie, not a Malibu Barbie!"]. We also know better times, when joyful expectation overrides any picture of what the gift "must be." This latter stance is what we are aiming for as we come to the part of Discernment process in which the work of the parish is combined and refined, and the Discernment (Search) Committee and Vestry take from the results the mission it hears God calling us to accomplish.

In a way, this article actually is not quite in sync with the liturgical year. This article really is about the themes of late fall, most of which is the season of Advent. Advent is the time when the whole church waits in joyful expectation for The Gift, God's salvation come among us as a little child. But we aren't talking about the neat, convenient arrangements we humans might make. We are talking about the messy reality of God's acting in our lives.

God is calling us to unity and purpose—we have done great work in listening to God and each other as we have healed the past few years. Now the Search (Discernment) Committee and Vestry will exercise their ministry of leadership and prayer, and help draw this together. Our work is a means to the end of listening to God—may God's grace help us receive the gift God draws from this, as we eagerly await the surprise God will give us.

—Fr. Wand

Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting was held January 31 after the 9:30 am service. A copy of the reports presented, and the minutes from the meeting will be available in the Narthex and in the Parish House at Coffee Hour.

Bob Weder was elected to the Vestry for the first time along and incumbents Steve McFee and Dave Hash for their second term.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend the vestry meetings which are held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from these meetings are available on the following Sunday copies of which will be in the Narthex.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The January 22 campaign yielded 14 pints. Thanks to all those who participated. The next drive will be on Thursday, April 20, 1:00 to 7:00 pm. If you have never given before and would like to be a part of this outreach, please contact me at (610) 259-2415.



Joan Durbano, Coordinator

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Diner Dinner featuring "The Blue Plate Special" is back by popular demand!



Saturday, March 27, in the ***Parish House***, we are once again sponsoring a community outreach dinner with some old-fashioned great-tasting food. If you came to the last "diner dinner" you know what we're talking about. If you're a newcomer this is the menu: ***Meatloaf w/gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll, dessert and beverage***—all for \$8/adults and \$3/kids under 12 (*what a bargain!*). You can eat in, or take out. We have two sittings, so you can come at either 4:30 or 6:00 p.m., or have a "take-out" for home! Just call the church office (610) 622-3636 or Angela Moore (610) 622-1363 to hold tickets for you at the door. Don't miss it!

All women of the parish are automatically members of the ECW. There will be a short meeting on Sunday, March 14 to firm up details of the coming diner dinner. Hope you can make it!

Bonnie Prendiville, President

Craft Group

After a much deserved break, the Craft Group will resume meeting again in April to get ready for the next Christmas Bazaar. *All are welcome.*

They meet every Monday in the Parish House from 10 am to 2 pm. Bring your own lunch; the members take turns providing desert for the group.



Ann Knorr, Director

Food Bank

Although we stock the cupboards with all the recommended food groups each month, we welcome any and all donations; and we can always use large brown paper bags.

Each parishioner is asked to bring two cans of food to church every week. Sometimes we ask for specific item(s). If you'd like to know exactly what is needed and when, please contact me. Thanks to all.

Dave Neff, Coordinator

Church Calendar of Events

Don't forget to mark your ***March and April*** calendars with all the upcoming ***Lenten church services and parish special events.***

What Happened 100 years ago?

Boy Scouts of America ***is celebrating its 100th year in 2010.*** The first Scout to become president was John F. Kennedy. Gerald Ford was the first Eagle Scout to become vice-president and later president.



Merit badges were part of the Scouting program since its start in Britain. When Scouting came to the U.S. in 1910, only 14 merit badges were issued.

The badges exist to help Scouts learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business and future careers.

The most often earned merit badges since 1910 include:

First Aid: 6,445,898
Swimming: 5,852,372
Camping: 4,301,253
Cooking: 4,098,133
Citizenship in the Community: 3,119,270

MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u><i>CHURCH SERVICES</i></u> <u>9:30 AM</u> – HOLY EUCHARIST w/MUSIC <u>5:00 pm</u> – Contemporary w/Holy Eucharist <i>(Every Sunday unless otherwise specified)</i></p>	1	2	3 SOUP & BREAD 6:00 pm Parish House (*)	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Soup & Bread 6:00 p.m. Parish House ----- VESTRY MTG. 7:00 pm–Lounge	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Soup & Bread 6:00 p.m. Parish House	18	19	20
21 <u><i>One Service Today</i></u> 11:00 am – Holy Eucharist Luncheon All Parish Meeting follows 1:00 to 3:00	22	23	24 Soup & Bread 6:00 p.m. Parish House <i>(last one)</i>	25	26	27 Diner Dinner “The Blue Plate Special” 4:30 & 6:00 pm Plus Take-outs
PALM SUNDAY 28 Procession w/Blessing & Distribution of Palms 9:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.	29 HOLY WEEK BEGINS	30	31 Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.			

*FYI: St. Stephen’s Church, 128 Chester Pike, Norwood, PA will have Stations of the Cross @ 7:30 pm on all Wednesday evenings during Lent.

APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>CHURCH SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>9:30 AM</u> - HOLY EUCHARIST w/MUSIC</p> <p><u>5:00 pm</u> - Contemporary w/Holy Eucharist</p> <p><i>(Every Sunday unless otherwise specified)</i></p>				<p>MAUNDY 1 THURSDAY</p> <p>Holy Eucharist w/Washing of Feet 7:00 pm</p>	<p>GOOD 2 FRIDAY</p> <p>Liturgy of Good Friday w/Communion 12 noon & 7:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p>
 <p>4</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p>	<p>5</p> <p><u>Craft Group</u> 10 am – 2 pm Parish House</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>VESTRY MTG. 7 pm – Lounge</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p><u>Craft Group</u> 10 am – 2 pm Parish House</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>Craft Group</u> 10 am – 2 pm Parish House</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><u>Craft Group</u> 10 am – 2 pm Parish House</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Blood Drive 1:00 – 7:00 pm Parish House</p>	<p>30</p>	

The History of St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal Church

The following are excerpts from a book which Carl Benner had. This book was put together when The Reverend Henry M. Prentiss was Rector. It is not a complete history of course, but just to 1959. We continue from our last newsletter.

I was impressed by the size of both the Altar Guild and the Sunday School. The Kupples Klub sounded like a fun time. Do you recognize anyone?

THE ALTAR GUILD

"The Altar is the essential and most sacred object in the Church, before which gather priest and people to offer, as before God's throne, the Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving. The Altar is God's Board on which is celebrated the Holy Eucharist, the most sublime act of Christian worship."

It is the sacred privilege of the members of the Altar Guild to serve the Altar, to care for the rites and ceremonies of the historic Church, to assist the Clergy, carrying out the wishes of the Rector with efficiency and devotion. As "God's housekeepers," each member dedicates herself and her work as an offering to God, to whom nothing but the best can be given.

The Reverend Henry M. Prentiss—*President Ex-officio*

Mrs. Raymond E. Fahnestock—*Directress*

Mrs. Edgar Martin—*Co-Directress*

Mrs. John H. Benner III—*Secretary* Mrs. John Fuchs—*Treasurer*

Miss Janice Gilmore—*Chairman, Memorial Altar Flowers*

Mrs. William R. Aldinger	Mrs. C. Burnley Hunt
Mrs. Carl Benner	Mrs. David W. McLaughlin
Mrs. Merrill Berhrong	Mrs. Philip Peel
Mrs. James Clift	Mrs. Paul Robertson
Mrs. James W. Dilg	Mrs. Kenneth E. Shull
Mrs. Harry Geyer	Mrs. E. Arthur Van Sant
Mrs. John Gilmore	Mrs. Theron B. Westcott
Mrs. William L. Haelle, Jr.	Mrs. Eugene Wilson
Mrs. Edward T. Haug	Mrs. Stanley Wisnewski
Mrs. Herbert Howard	Mrs. Robert Woodwell

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Reverend Henry M. Prentiss
Rector

Mr. Edwin M. McGrath
Superintendent

Mrs. Ira Rigler—*Secretary* Miss Helen E. Merkins—*Treasurer*

Pianists

Miss Pamela VanDyke
Mrs. Peter Linton
Mr. Herbert F. Williams
Mrs. Harry Dougherty
Mrs. Raymond Caravelli

Teachers

Beginners' Department

Miss Helen E. Merkins
Superintendent
Mrs. Philip Peel
Assistant

Junior Department

Miss Edith Suydam
Superintendent
Mrs. Harry Dougherty
Mrs. W. Todd Ebner
Miss Doris Ann McGrath
Miss Jacqualene Hoy
Miss Marlene Martin
Mrs. William Aldinger
Mr. David Kent
Mr. James Corcoran
Mrs. William Duncan
Mrs. Lower

Primary Department

Mrs. William White
Superintendent
Miss Katherine Q. Latch
Assistant

Senior Department

Mr. Harry Dracup
Adult Bible Class
Mrs. Herbert F. Williams
Mr. Larry Barrett
Mr. Donald Ferguson
Mr. Ralph Wilson
Miss Carol Kerr
Mrs. Henry L. Morrison
Mrs. Peter Linton
Mr. Peter Linton

The Week Day Church School

The Rector—*Superintendent* Mrs. William White—*Assistant*
Mrs. Henry L. Morrison—*Assistant*

Pianists

Mrs. Merrill W. Platt Mrs. Stanley Wisnewski

Teachers

Mrs. Samuel Young Mrs. Henry L. Morrison
Mrs. Leon Mesropian Mrs. William White
Mrs. Burnley Hunt Mrs. William Aldinger

THE KUPPLES KLUB

The Kupples Klub was organized and exists for the purpose of providing once a month an evening for the "young in spirit" married couples of the Parish to get together socially. Depending on the size of the activity for the evening, a meeting is held either in the home of members or in the Parish House. Officers positions in the club are held jointly by husband and wife.

The club's good times include square dances, bowling, outdoor suppers, and a party or two. Once in a while an evening is spent just chatting and enjoying each other, and at an occasional meeting a speaker addresses the group on a subject related to the Church and leads a discussion afterward.

Once a year the Kupples Klub makes a donation to a worthy cause.

THE MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Benner—*President*

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Fahnestock—*Secretary-Treasurer*

The Rev. and Mrs. Henry M. Prentiss	Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Platt
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Benner III	Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Papa
Dr. and Mrs. Merrill Berhrong	Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Rihl
Mr. and Mrs. John Fuchs	Mr. and Mrs. William Scherlachner
Mr. and Mrs. David Kent	Mr. and Mrs. Hibert T. Steitz
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Linton	Mr. and Mrs. Theron B. Westcott
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. McAfee	Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Williams

Mr. and Mrs. William White

An invitation is extended to all married couples of the Parish to join "THE KUPPLES KLUB."

... More to come next isisue!

The Diner Dinner

Sponsored by
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Women (ECW)



Today's Menu "The Blue Plate Special"

Meatloaf w/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes & Vegetable
Dinner Roll
Dessert & Beverage

Place: **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Hall**
 199 W. Baltimore Avenue
 Clifton Heights, PA 19018

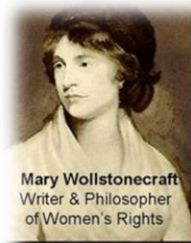
Day & Date: Saturday, March 27, 2010

Times: 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 Plus Take-Outs

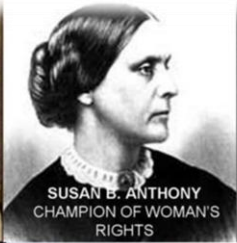
Prices: \$8.00 ~ Adults
 \$3.00 ~ Children (under 12 years old)

Dinner, Crafts, Bake Table & Basket of Cheer

You can eat in, or take out. We have two sittings, so you can come at either **4:30 or 6:00** p.m., or have a **"take-out"** for home! Just call the **Church Office** (610) 622-3636 or **Angela Moore** (610) 622-1363 to hold tickets for you at the door. Don't miss it!



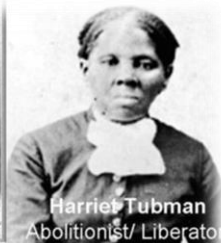
Mary Wollstonecraft
Writer & Philosopher
of Women's Rights



SUSAN B. ANTHONY
CHAMPION OF WOMAN'S
RIGHTS



Sojourner Truth
Abolitionist/Suffragist



Harriet Tubman
Abolitionist/ Liberator



Lucretia Mott
Women's Suffrage Advocate



Antoinette Brown Blackwell
First Ordained Woman
Minister in America



Lucy Stone
Women's Rights Advocate



Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Women's Rights/Suffrage Leader

March is National Women's History Month

Pick up a book or movie about this important part of our history. Learn about some of the great women who have paved the way to today's world. Be inspired!

April is National Poets' Month

"Amazing Grace" is a Christian hymn written by English poet and clergyman John Newton (1725–1807) and published in 1779. With a message that forgiveness and redemption is possible regardless of the sins people commit and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world. He has inspired us all! Newton's tombstone reads: "John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."



The Meaning of Lent



Observing Lent is the spiritual discipline of making personal sacrifices, reminding us of the importance of spiritual truths over earthly goods. As we approach Easter, it is fitting that we meditate on the serious subject of the sacrifice that Jesus made to save us from eternal death and separation from God. He willingly and single-mindedly embarked on His mission to teach the truth and to die on the cross as the ultimate and lasting sacrifice for our sins – the sacrifice that God required.

"O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee, for Thou in Thine atonement didst give Thyself to me. I own no other Master—my heart shall be thy throne. My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone."

This newsletter and all upcoming events can be viewed in color on our website: www.stsec.org, which is updated bi-monthly by Bonnie Prendiville.

If you have comments, suggestions for future editions, articles or tidbits you wish to share, call me at (610) 622-1363, or email me at angela1185@comcast.net.

~Angela Moore

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Website: www.stsec.org



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.

