



# *The Scribe*

## *NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH*

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE  
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018

THE REV. THOMAS WAND, INTERIM RECTOR



### **You Can Take At Least Some of It With You—But Is That a Good Idea?**

As I write this, my wife and I are about to go out of town for a few days to a condo my sister-in-law has in northwestern New Jersey [financial prudence vetoed the more expansive excursion for spending our time down the Shore we had contemplated]. And so I am packing what I want/need/should take with me for these days.

Fortunately, we're going by car, so I don't have some of the restrictions we face when we travel by plane. We don't have to worry if the shampoo is in a container which is more than three fluid ounces; we don't have to think about cramming everything into "carry-on" so we avoid those checked baggage fees. We don't even have to pack as well, because if we can carry it, we can take it.

In a way, this freedom from external restraint makes my decision-making harder. There are all those little over-the-counter medications we keep on hand in the house. And so I think to myself things like: "How much of a chance is there that I'll need cough syrup vs. it looks ridiculous to bring a whole pharmacy with me. They will have drug stores even in far-off, exotic New Jersey, but the prices might be higher and they may not be open all the time. And I remember the time I didn't bring it and needed it. It worked out, but it was a hassle at the time." And so goes my inner monologue as I consider each possibility for inclusion in my suitcase.

If I could just have someone pack up the whole shebang and take it with me, that would be nice—no choices to make. If I couldn't bring anything, that would at least take the burden of decision away from me. But I'm stuck in the middle, making decisions based on a past that won't necessarily repeat itself, and a future I can't really predict. And this is all about taking Robitussin on a three-day trip! Imagine if it were about something really important!

As we go through life, we face some of the same kinds of questions about what to take with us and what to leave behind that I am facing with my suitcase. For us in the broader areas of our life, it's often more about our emotional and spiritual reaction to events in our past, both good and bad—what is known as "emotional

baggage". Which things from our past are important to "keep alive" in our remembrance and which are better "let go of" so we can move on in our life's journey?

We all know people whose very being is consumed by some event in their past: The person who never lets go of the pain and anger of a broken relationship [for example, by death or something like divorce]; or the person who is always trying to recapture some point in their life's past [for example, the stereotype of the middle-aged man with the new convertible and the young blonde on his arm—codeword "Mid-Life Crisis"].

Our congregation is moving toward the time when it will embark on a new segment of its life journey. At some point in the not-too-distant future, St. Stephen's will welcome a new priest. Both as individuals and as a congregation, we bring our emotional baggage to this time and process. One of the decisions we will need to make is how much of that to transfer into the new part of our parish's life, and which parts to leave behind, so we travel lighter as we move on into God's plan for our future.

How much of our basking in the glories of times past serves us well? How much is helpful of any comparing we do of priests who will come to serve in this congregation with our rosy memories of those who served here in former years?

Also, how much of any hurt we have suffered in our times at St. Stephen's needs to travel with us into our new relationship? Forgetting is not at issue here. The question we face is about how "live" and "present" the pain and anger is, and how that serves us and our congregation—or not.

So—as you think about packing your emotional bags for the new journey with the new priest, how much of each item need/want/ought you to bring? It's a hard question, and the answer is a lot more important than whether I take the cough syrup to New Jersey or not. Think and pray about it. It's worth the effort.

—Fr. Wand

## **Diocesan News**

### **Court of Review Reverses Conviction of Bishop Bennison**

As of Thursday, August 5, a decision of the Court of Review reversed the conviction of Bishop Bennison based upon the statute of limitations. Accordingly, the inhibition of Bishop Bennison was dissolved, and he was free to resume his role as Bishop of Pennsylvania.

Bishop Bennison returned on Monday, August 16. He has asked Bishop Michel to continue for a time. Initially Bishop Bennison will meet with diocesan leaders as we enter a new stage in our relationship together.

### **New dean of Philadelphia Cathedral**

**The Very Rev. Judith Sullivan** has served as the Associate Rector of the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr since 2007. Prior to her service at Redeemer, she served as Canon Residentiary at Philadelphia Cathedral with responsibility for diocesan worship and the nurture and growth of the Cathedral congregation. She is a graduate of General Theological Seminary.



We welcome the Rev. Judith Sullivan and pray that her new ministry will be blessed and may her gifts and talents for ministry find fertile ground and bear fruit in abundance as she returns to the Philadelphia Cathedral to serve as its next Dean.

### **PROPERTY REPORT**

George F. Feather's Co. was contacted for an estimate to repair roof slates on the side of the church. He agreed to do this work for \$850. He also agreed to survey the other slates in that section, and repair (if possible) others with authorization from the Vestry for a total of \$1,000 (or an additional \$150). The work was completed on Saturday, August 21.

**Carl Benner, Chairman**

### **DISCERNMENT PROCESS**

The Discernment (Search) Committee has agreed the best choice for our church is to hire a Priest-in-Charge. The co-chairs met with the vestry to present a salary package for their approval. The vestry approved their proposal.

**Dottie Pennington, Co-Chair**  
**Mary Wisniewski, Co-Chair**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

A Sunday school was started on September 5 headed up by Bonnie Prendiville. It will be held the first Sunday of every month at 9:15 a.m. in the Helen Merkins Room. Anyone wishing to help or would like more information please contact Fr. Wand.

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

Before our meeting on Sunday, August 22 Bonnie Prendiville announced that she was temporarily stepping down as President of the ECW due to family illness. We should all keep Bonnie and her family in our prayers.

The upcoming Pork & Sauerkraut dinner was discussed, and posters/flyers were distributed. Since the bake table was such a success we decided to do it again, and it was suggested we use the church call list to ask for volunteers to bake cakes, and to remind people about the dinner.

The **“Pork & Sauerkraut” is scheduled for Saturday, September 18.** Once again there will be two sittings—4:30 and 6:00 pm, plus “take-outs”—which are very popular. To reserve tickets (which will be held for you at the door) please contact either the church secretary @ 610-622-3636, or Angela Moore @ 610-622-1363 **on or before Friday, September 17.**

**Angela Moore, Vice-President**

## **BOOK CLUB**

Book Club will meet on Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 pm at Angela Moore's house. Please call me for confirmation and directions. If you are interested in participating, but do not drive at night, please don't let that stop you from joining the group; let one of us know and we'll be more than happy to pick you up.

**Angela Moore @ 610-622-1363 /or**

**Donna Colleluori @ 610-284-1283**

## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

The August 5th campaign yielded 29 pints. Thanks to all the donors, and to the people who worked on the campaign —Julie Baker, Paul Dracup, Angela Moore, Joan Northwood, Mary Platt, Dave Reese, Bob Weder and Kate Zimmerman.

The next blood drive is Wed., October 13, from 1:00 to 7:00 pm; please contact me at (610) 259-2415 if you would like to be a donor.

**Joan Durbano, Coordinator**

## 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 the church office at 610-622-3636. Thanks to all.

**Dave Neff, Coordinator**

## OUTREACH

Our commitment to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Chester, Pa, which has been on-going for more than a decade, has been changed from once per month (the second Wednesday of every month) to twice per month (the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month) because their demand has increased from 48 to 72 families per week. Thanks to all the volunteers--Shirley Berkeyheiser, Paul Dracup, Rosemarie Fegely, Bobi Hagarty, Charlotte Hagopian, Angela Moore, Jane McDonald, Debbie Mulligan and Ginny Thompson for their commitment to this outreach.

Here are some of the people who volunteer at St. Mary's with **Gloriajean Jackson** who heads-up the Food Cupboard.



And these are some of the bags of canned and dry goods put together every Wednesday. The following day they put in the perishables (meat or chicken) along with bread and distribute the bags.



## PRESCHOOL



The Preschool's "**Back to School Night**" is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Like our Pre-kindergarten graduation in May, our orientation program will be held in the church. This will give our new parents the opportunity to visit our beautiful sanctuary!

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the noise and laughter returns as all our classes return for the 2010-2011 school year. The best news this summer is that we have reached record enrollment! All our morning and afternoon classes are full, and many again have waiting lists! We are all so proud to be part of this ever-growing ministry and hope it continues for many years.

In May, we sadly said goodbye to staff who moved away, and interviews were held during the month of June. Two wonderful women from the community were hired, and I know they will prove to be an asset to our school. I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

**Kathy Zappasodi, Preschool Director**

## Things to Do & Places to Go

### ❖ Peter Wentz Farmstead Society ❖

The Wentz Farm served as headquarters for General George Washington during the fall of 1777.

The mission of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society is to preserve and interpret an 18th century Pennsylvania German farmstead, which is on the National Register of



Historic Places, by stimulating public interest and support of the site's heritage through educational programs and public events focusing on the architecture, crafts, customs and furnishings of the period.

Laerenswaert is a German phrase that means "worth learning" and at the Farmstead it also means "worth seeing." Held in the fall, Laerenswaert is a fun-filled day of colonial craft demonstrations, entertainment, and food that brings the 18th century farmstead to life once again. It's a wonderful day for the entire family.

### **Hours of Operation:**

Tues.-Sat. 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday 1:00 – 4:00pm

Last Tour 3:30 pm

Closed Mondays & Major Holidays

Admission: FREE

# SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>CHURCH SERVICES</u>  <b>9:30 AM</b> – HOLY            COMMUNION w/MUSIC  <b>5:00 pm</b> –            Contemporary w/            Holy Communion</p> <p>(EVERY SUNDAY            UNLESS OTHERWISE            DESIGNATED)</p>	<p><u>Craft Group</u>            10 am – 2 pm            PARISH HOUSE</p> <p>(Every <u>Monday</u>            unless otherwise            designated)</p>		<p>1</p> <p><b>VESTRY MTG.</b>  <b>7 pm – Lounge</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p><b>Sunday School            Begins - 9:15 a.m.            Helen Merkins Rm.</b></p>	<p>6</p> <p><b>Labor Day            Office Closed</b></p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>Book Club Begins            7:00 p.m.            Call: Angela Moore            (610) 622-1363</b></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Pork &amp;            Sauerkraut            Dinner            4:30 &amp; 6:00 p.m.            Plus Take-Out ***</b></p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p><b>Bishop's Visitation            (schedule TBD)</b></p> <p><b>No 5:00 pm Service</b></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><b>Diocesan Deputies'            Pre-Convention Mtg.            St. Albans'            Newtown Square</b></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		

\*\*\*Call Church Office (610) 622-3636 or Angela Moore (610) 622-1363 to reserve tickets

# OCTOBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i><u>CHURCH SERVICES</u></i>  <b>9:30 AM</b> - HOLY            COMMUNION w/MUSIC  <b>5:00 pm</b> -            Contemporary w/ Holy            Communion    <i>(EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS            OTHERWISE DESIGNATED)</i></p>	<p><b><i>Craft Group</i></b>            10 am - 2 pm            PARISH HOUSE    <i>(Every <b>Monday</b>            unless otherwise            designated)</i></p>				1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p><b>9:15 am</b>            Sunday School    <b>9:30 am</b>            Blessing of the            Animals Service</p>			<p><b>VESTRY MTG.</b>            7 pm - Lounge</p>			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<p><b>Blood Drive</b>            Parish Hall            1:00 - 7:00 pm</p>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 West Baltimore Avenue

Clifton Heights, PA 19018

Phone: 610-622-3636

Fax: 610-259-8342

E-mail: [ststephensclifton@comcast.net](mailto:ststephensclifton@comcast.net)

Website: [www.stsec.org](http://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.

