



The Scribe

NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018

THE REV. THOMAS WAND, INTERIM RECTOR

Approaching Advent and a Getting a New Priest for St. Stephen's: The Great "Are We There Yet?"

The time of year we're entering [known economically as "The Holiday Season"] is a time when a lot of families gather for sharing the special occasions which mark this period: November brings Thanksgiving, December brings Christmas, and January starts with New Year's. It's a time many of us (and not just the younger among us) look forward to with great anticipation. Even if we don't go on a physical or geographical journey, as time moves onward through the waiting, many of us end up with feelings like those of the young child in the back seat of the station wagon of yore (or the mini-van/SUV of today) calling out, "Are we there yet?"



Even those in our congregation not as prone to pre-holiday longings as some may find themselves with some of the same feelings as the discernment/search process makes its way through its concluding phases. We've all been there for the earlier, more public part of the process—the meetings with Fr. Rice and the production of the parish profile. Now the work shifts to the less-public parts—the reception of names of priests and the work of discerning a fit between the mission and work of our parish as it moves into a new era in its life as part of the Body of Christ. What work is being done is not something we're as closely informed about (and that's a good and appropriate thing!), but we watch and wait and are tempted to closely mimic the young child in the family car, asking (if only in our own thoughts), "Are they there yet?"

This feeling of joyful (if a bit uncomfortable) expectation and hope is what the first season of the Church Year, Advent, is all about. In Advent we prepare to celebrate the first coming (or arrival, or advent) of Jesus Christ as an infant in a manger in

Bethlehem over two thousand years ago. We also take time to reflect and prepare for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of all things (although we don't act like the TV preachers and get all wrapped up in all the figuring out of just what will happen when—who will face Tribulation before the Rapture before the Final Judgment, or is it the other way around?). We do practice looking forward to what God has for us with joy and hope. We don't pretend to know the exact schedule.

It's the same way with the discernment/search process. It's important that we support the Discernment/Search Committee and Vestry in taking the time needed to listen, ask, and discern the best way forward and the priest most suitable for that. If we let our anxiety and impatience govern our feedback to them, then we may (knowingly or not) push for speed at the expense of thoroughness. (Remember the videos we saw about how excess anxiety and good decision making don't often mix really well). Expectation and hope, yes. Anxiety and impatience, no. We don't pretend to know the exact schedule.

So as we wend our way to Thanksgiving, Christmas, and a New Year, we also approach the time when a new priest will discern and be discerned to work with St. Stephen's in a brand new, never-before-experienced future. Let us prepare ourselves to celebrate the arrival of Jesus in the past, to prepare for His Second Coming at the end of all things, and ready ourselves to welcome a new (and decidedly non-Messiah!) priest to join us in the new community of love we know as our Church.

God bless us this holy season and always.

—Fr. Wand

DIOCESAN NEWS

The following is an excerpt of a letter from the Standing Committee to Bishop Bennison.

“As the diocese prepares to come together in convention, and as the hard facts of the Program Budget shortfall become evident to the diocese, we are extremely concerned that your apparent insistence on putting everything back the way it was before you left will cause a large number of parishes to hold back funding to the diocese, both assessments and pledges. The Standing Committee continues to hear from people in the diocese daily, through letters, emails, and phone calls, concerning your return. About 85% of these communications are negative. When it becomes clear to more and more that you want to move us back to some vision of your own, we are afraid that this will add to the potential “revolution” in the diocese.”

BISHOP’S VISITATION

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel’s visit on Sunday, September 26 was wonderful. He had all the children gather on the floor in the front of the church in a semi-circle with a big teddy bear for “hugs.”



Pictured is Brayden Andrew English (baby of Mark & Nicole English) with Bishop Michel after being baptized.

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

The position for a half-time Priest-in-Charge was published in the diocesan “want-ads” at the beginning of September, and we are now waiting for prospective applicants. The Search Committee met and developed questions for the prospective candidates.

Dorothy Pennington, Co-Chair

Mary Wisnewski, Co-Chair

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A blocked gutter in front of the Parish House was causing water to back-up into the front stairwell of the Preschool causing plaster damage. The gutter was cleared and the ceiling and wall of the stairwell was patched, repaired and given two coats of paint. There was also some damage, from a hailstorm, to some roof slates, and an outside air conditioner, which we are getting estimates for to present to our insurance company.

Carl Benner, Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school started up again last month. We had five children participate. I feel this was a good start and look forward to the next one which will be held on November 7. Please remember the school will be the first Sunday of every month. Tell all you friends and relatives that may not know we have started the school again.

Bonnie Prendiville, Directress

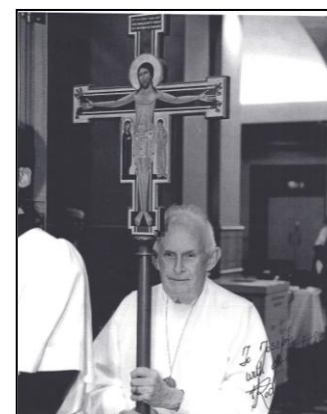
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 9 am till 3 pm. Santa will visit 10 am to 11 am. There will be all hand-made crafts, white elephant and bake tables, along with a silent auction table. Food will be served from 11 am to



2 pm. Hope to see all of you there.

Ann Knorr, Chairman



CATHEDRAL CRUCIFER

Our very own Joe Gilligan was made “Cathedral Crucifer” (for diocesan liturgies and events that happen at the cathedral) by The Very Rev. Judith A. Sullivan, Dean of the Philadelphia Cathedral. The photo at right was signed, “To Joseph with gratitude, Rodney Michel” by Right Reverend Rodney R. Michel. Congratulations Joe!

BLOOD DRIVE

Our last blood drive yielded 20 pints, which was good. Thanks to all who participated. Our next scheduled drive is tentatively set for Friday, January 21 from 1-7 pm. If you would like to donate please call me at 610-259-2415.

Joan Durbano, Coordinator

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner



In case you missed the Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner on Saturday, September 18, 2010, it was a whopping success! Although we had it earlier this year and the cost of the food supplies increased, it was off-set by an increase in ticket sales and donations; we sold 131 tickets (a good many take-outs) and made a profit of \$1,500. Mary Platt, our Treasurer, tallied all the money gave us a detailed account of what we made. A special thanks to Mary for always keeping such meticulous records, and doing this in such a timely way.

A great deal of the success of these dinners is due to teamwork, and I want to express my personal thanks to all those who made this possible, by monetary donations, or help in other ways. Thanks to all the women and men of the church who helped set up, cook, serve, bake, make crafts, sell tickets, hang posters, place ads and clean up; every job is important and all are very much appreciated. Thank you each and every one of you.

Also thanks from the ECW to the members of my family who volunteered to help--the three girls who served--Chrysi Barikian, Andrea McCunney and Christine Petruzzo; Sean McQuilling who worked in the kitchen with Dick Northwood and Donna Gillespie, and to Lauren Ruff (Sean's fiancée) who helped at the front desk.

The next big ECW event will be our annual Christmas Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 13 from 9 am till 3 pm. Santa will visit 10 am to 11 am. Food will be served from 11 am to 2 pm. Hope to see all of you there.

Then, on December 5th we will have the Advent dinner following the 5 pm service. All are asked to bring a covered dish of your choice (vegetable, starch or dessert). There will be a "Silent Auction," and our traditional tree of ornaments with the names of children from St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Chester.

Angela Moore, Vice-President

PRESCHOOL “BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT” – SEPTEMBER 1, 2010



Kathy Zappasodi,
Preschool Director

From Left: **Denise Peters**, *Classroom Teacher*, **Chrissy Tinney**, *Classroom Aide*, **Jen Smith**, *Classroom Teacher*, **Chrissy Lusch**, *Classroom Aide* and **Barbara Kurtz**, *Assistant Director*. Not pictured is **Kim Kilgore** who is also a *Classroom Aide*.



These are some of the happy parents of our preschool children at “Back to School Night” in the church.

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Kathy, her assistant Barbara and all the other teachers and aides for the outstanding job they do. They put their hearts into their work—and it shows!



Peanut Blossoms (A Christmas Treat)
(Makes about 3 dozen*)

Sift together -

1 3/4 cups flour
1 tsp. Baking soda
1/2 tsp. Salt

Cream together -

1/2 cup butter, and
1/3 cup peanut butter.

Gradually add -

1/2 cup sugar, and
1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
creaming well

Add -

1 unbeat egg, and
1 tsp. Vanilla; beat well.

Blend in the dry ingredients gradually, and mix thoroughly. Shape dough into balls using a rounded teaspoonful for each. Roll balls in sugar and place on greased baking sheets.

Bake in moderate oven at 375 degrees for 8 minutes.

Remove baking sheet from oven and top each cookie with a solid milk chocolate candy kiss, pressing firmly so cookie cracks around edge.


Return to oven and bake 2 to 5 minutes longer or until golden brown.

*I get more than 3 doz. by making smaller balls.

NOVEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>CHURCH SERVICES</i> 9:30 AM – HOLY COMMUNION W/MUSIC</p> <p>5:00 PM – HOLY CONTEMPORARY W/HOLY COMMUNION</p> <p>(EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Craft Group 10 am – 2 pm PARISH HOUSE</p> <p>(Every Monday unless otherwise designated)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>VESTRY MTG. 7 pm – Lounge</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:15 am Sunday School</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p> Christmas Bazaar 9:00am – 3:00pm</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Craft Group stops until Spring</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Holy Communion with Music</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Give Thanks</i></p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				<p>NOTE: PARISH OFFICE CLOSED NOVEMBER 25TH AND 26TH.</p>

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i><u>CHURCH SERVICES</u></i> 9:30 AM – HOLY COMMUNION w/MUSIC 5:00 PM – HOLY CONTEMPORARY w/HOLY COMMUNION (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED)</p>			<p>1</p> <p>VESTRY MTG. 7 pm – Lounge</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>9:15 AM-SUNDAY SCHOOL 5:00 p.m Advent Lessons and Carols <u>Advent Dinner</u> follows @ Parish House</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	<p>24</p> <p>5:00pm Service Holy Communion Service w/Music 10:00pm – Carols 10:30pm Service Holy Communion w/Music</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 
26	27	28	29	30	<p>31</p> 	<p>NOTE: PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24TH AND 31ST.</p>

Kids Korner

Knit Together

Bible Reading: Colossians 3:12-15

"Mom! Look at my scarf now!" With a ball of yarn dragging behind her, Erin ran into the kitchen, clutching her knitting needles and the scarf she was learning to knit. "Look how long it's getting! I think it's almost finished. Isn't it perfect?" She spread out the length of the scarf on the table. "Oh, wait-there's a hole here, right in the middle!" she wailed. "How did that happen? It's ruined!" Tears started to shine in her eyes as she stared down at the hole.

Mom came over and picked up the scarf. "It looks like you dropped a stitch in the middle of this row," she said, holding it close. "When that happens, it makes a big hole. But don't worry-we can fix it."

Erin sniffed. "We can?" she asked hopefully.

"Sure," said Mom. "I'll show you as soon as I get my meatloaf into the oven."

Soon the meatloaf was baking, and Mom showed Erin how to pick up the dropped stitch and fix the hole it had made. "Wow! Thanks, Mom!" Erin said joyfully, giving Mom a hug. "I thought I'd have to throw this out and start a whole new scarf!"

"No problem," Mom replied. "You know," she added after a moment, "I think you could learn something from this scarf. You're still pretty mad at Lindsey for not inviting you to the zoo last weekend, aren't you?"

"Well . . . yes," admitted Erin. "She isn't much of a friend if she would leave me out like that!"

"Didn't Lindsey take you along on their Labor Day picnic?" asked Mom. "And remember when you sprained your ankle and she came and played games with you? She helped you catch up with your homework, too."

"Yes, but . . ." Erin wasn't sure what Mom was getting at.

"So," Mom continued, "it seems to me Lindsey's been a pretty good friend to you in the past. The Apostle Paul spoke of friends' hearts being 'knit together in love.' So I don't think you should toss out the whole friendship with Lindsey just because she 'dropped a stitch' in the middle. A hole in a friendship can be fixed, too, and God tells us how to do that. He says we are to forgive."

Erin was quiet for a minute. "You're right. Lindsey has been a good friend," she said finally. "How about I invite her over for a meatloaf dinner tonight?"

Memorize:

That their hearts may be encouraged being knit together in love. Colossians 2:2

How About You?

Have you ever been really angry with a friend? Maybe he or she said something that was mean, or maybe you weren't included in an activity. It probably made you feel bad, but that shouldn't end your friendship. Listen to God's reminder to love, forgive, and encourage one another. If there's a "hole" in your friendship with

someone, don't follow the temptation to throw the whole thing out. Instead, follow God's directions and see how quickly it can be mended.

Key thought of the Day: *friendship holes*

THINGS TO DO/PLACES TO GO

Brandywine River Museum

U. S. Route 1
Chadds Ford, PA
19317
(610) 388-2700

Hours: Open daily
9:30 a.m. - 4:30
p.m.

Admission: Adults
\$10.00

Seniors (65+), Students w/ID & Children -12 \$6.00
Children under 6 FREE



A Brandywine Christmas

November 27, 2009-January 10, 2010

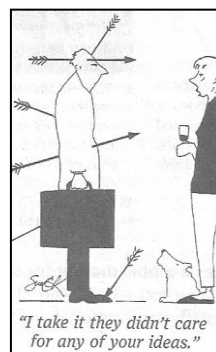
The museum celebrates the season with fabulous holiday displays including an extensive O-gauge model railroad, dolls from Ann Wyeth McCoy's collection, an elaborate Victorian dollhouse, and thousands of whimsical "critter" ornaments on holiday trees.

Critter Sale

Sat. December 4 & Sun. December 5

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Whimsical and decorative, critters are tree ornaments and tabletop decorations made from natural materials, including dried flowers, grasses, seeds, pods, pinecones, berries and leaves. Crafted by hand, critters are environmentally friendly, distinctive, and artistic--the ideal gift! Chose from over 9,000 critters, all made by hand by our talented volunteers, for sale in the museum's lecture room. Admission is free.



"I take it they didn't care for any of your ideas."

This newsletter is published on a bi-monthly basis. If you would like to contribute an article please contact me by email angela1185@comcast.net, or phone me at (610) 622-1363. Our website- www.stsec.org- is updated regularly by Bonnie Prendiville.

Angela Moore, Editor

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Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Was Born

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.

