



The Scribe

NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I prepare to begin to meet and get to know many of you as Priest in Charge at St. Stephens Church. I have already had the pleasure of meeting some of you in your capacities on the Discernment Committee and Vestry. What a nice way to begin the New Year!

Briefly introducing myself, I have been ordained for 14 years. My priestly ministry has in the past been exercised in various churches in the dioceses of Newark and New Jersey. I am now residing in Haverford Pennsylvania with is about 20 minutes from St. Stephens.

After a career in the practice of law in New Jersey, I attended and graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York City with my M. Div. in 1997. I received a PhD from Union in 2002 in the field of Psychology and Religion. I also teach seminarians part time and beginning in the fall I will be teaching pastoral theology one day a week at Union. During all of my academic work I have simultaneously been engaged in parish ministry. Parish ministry feeds my academic work and my academic work feeds my parish work.

I have two daughters, Elena (age 24, a teacher in New York City and graduate student at Bank Street) and Cristina (age 22, a senior at the School of Visual Arts in New York City). The girls share an apartment in New York City.

I know that you at St. Stephens have been waiting a long time to settle down with a new priest and I am confident that we will be able to build solid, enduring and affectionate relationships and do good ministry together.

I am very impressed by your faithfulness through the years through various hardships. Still, you have

The Reverend Dr. Jill L. McNish, Priest in Charge

maintained a very lovely church which should be (as I am sure it has been) a very central and vital part of the community of Clifton Heights. With some steady and patient leadership I feel very sure that we cannot help but build up the congregation. However, it does take time not only to attract new members but to secure commitments from them. I see us doing this slowly but surely.

I am hoping that you will allow me to get to know each of you. In the coming weeks and months I would like to find times and ways to meet and talk individually with each of the members and families at St. Stephens. I will be working half time, at least for the time being, but in addition to Sundays I will usually be in the church office on Mondays. Most weeks I will be working some portion of at least one other day, either attending meetings at the church, doing visitations, working in the church office or attending required meetings at the diocese.

Please feel free to call me or arrange to meet me at the church with any suggestions or concerns. Also, in the event of a pastoral emergency feel free to call me any time at (973) 819-5191.

I ask for your prayers as we begin our new adventure together.

Blessings to all of you for a healthy, happy and peaceful new year.

Yours in Christ,
The Reverend Dr. Jill L. McNish

DIOCESAN NEWS

Standing Committee Discusses Future with Presiding Bishop

“On December 8, 2010, eight members of the Standing Committee drove to New York to meet with our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, and with her chancellor, David Booth Beers, and the Officer for Pastoral Development, the Right Rev. F. Clayton Matthews.

The meeting was arranged at our request. The purpose was to seek the Presiding Bishop’s counsel and support; to seek her wisdom and advice, and to explore the possibilities available to us as we seek to offer support and leadership for this Diocese. In light of our Diocesan Convention’s recent vote, with 73% of delegates calling for Bishop Bennison to resign, we want to do the best we can so that all of us can attend to the important work of proclaiming the love of God in Christ Jesus and carrying forth the mission of the Church. It was a good conversation; we felt heard, understood, supported, and encouraged. While we shall give due consideration to all possibilities, one thing we know for sure: it is vitally important for each of us – the people and clergy of this Diocese – to nurture healthy bonds of relationship and trust, to seek out and support one another in whatever way we can.”

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Discernment Committee presented The Reverend Dr. Jill L. McNish to the Vestry; the Vestry approved the selection. They (the Vestry) approved offering the position of half-time Priest-in-Charge to The Rev. Dr. Jill L. McNish. She then met with Bishop Bennison, and has officially accepted the position with a contract for 18 months—at which time both she and the Vestry will agree or disagree to have her stay on as Rector. The Discernment Committee was dissolved.

Dorothy Pennington, Co-Chair
Mary Wisnewski, Co-Chair

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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Roof repairs are needed to fix damage from the hailstorm last spring. Estimates were presented to our insurance company, and an insurance company structural engineer/adjuster came out to inspect the damage.

Carl Benner, Chairman

RECTOR’S WARDEN’S REPORT

St. Stephen’s received several generous donations at Christmas. They were: Two fresh turkeys from a member of the Delco Cruisers; a \$50 Visa gift card, from the Lions’ Club of Clifton Heights; and fifteen \$25 Target gift cards from The Columbus Club in Clifton Heights. Thank you notes were sent to all the donors.

Frank Prendiville, Rector’s Warden

ACCOUNTING WARDEN’S REPORT

Our insurance company was contacted regarding the roof repairs, and we are waiting for a written determination by them.

Also, we have not received all 2011 pledges. If you have not returned yours please do so as soon as possible. We are in the process of calling those who have not returned their pledge cards, because we cannot present a budget for the coming year without this information.

Raymond Sharp, Accounting Warden

TREASURER’S REPORT

A proposal was made to the Vestry that we consider moving the Porter Trust from Wachovia to another bank or investment company in order to get a better rate. Wachovia now gives us less than 3% return on our investment, and charges us a substantial maintenance fee. The vestry approved the measure, and I am in the process of researching our options.

Wilcy Moore, Treasurer

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW, along with the help of the men of the congregation, has done a great job this year. We had four fund raisers --The Meatloaf Dinner, The Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner, The Flea Market and The Christmas Bazaar. A donation of \$7,425 for the year was given to the church. We’re very proud of our continuing effort to help support the church with our contributions.

The next community outreach will be our Meatloaf Dinner on Saturday, March 26.

Angela Moore, Vice-President

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

This year the bazaar did very well, and exceeded last year's profits. The Craft Group worked diligently to produce many more crafts than usual, and it paid off. The craft group is one of the few churches in the area that still make their own crafts, and probably the reason so many people keep coming back every year, and came again this year--especially in this economy. So, whether you helped make crafts or towels, baked, made soup, worked in the kitchen, helped attend the tables or helped with the advertising, I would like to thank you for making the bazaar—ONCE AGAIN—so successful.

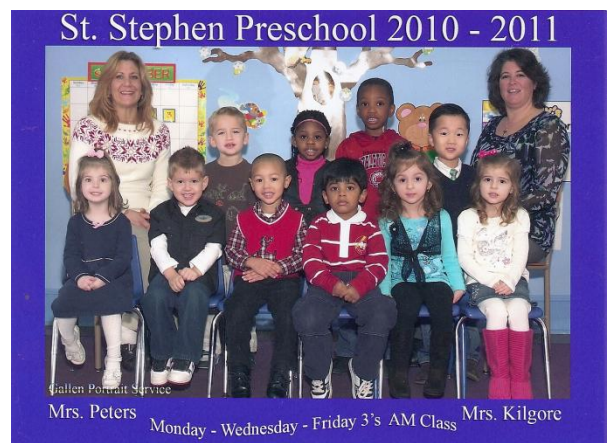
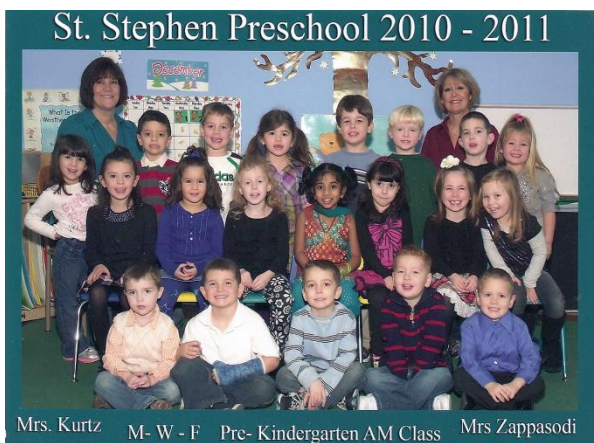
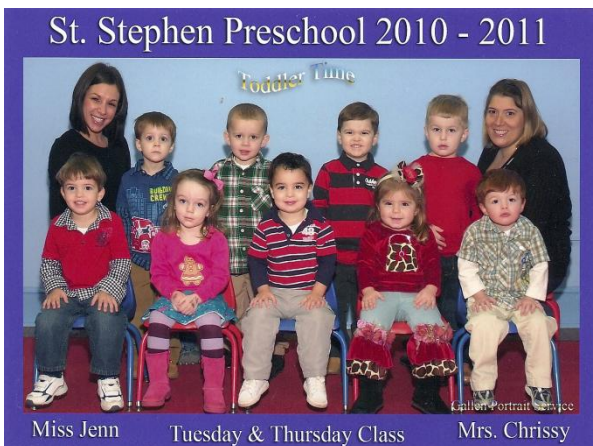
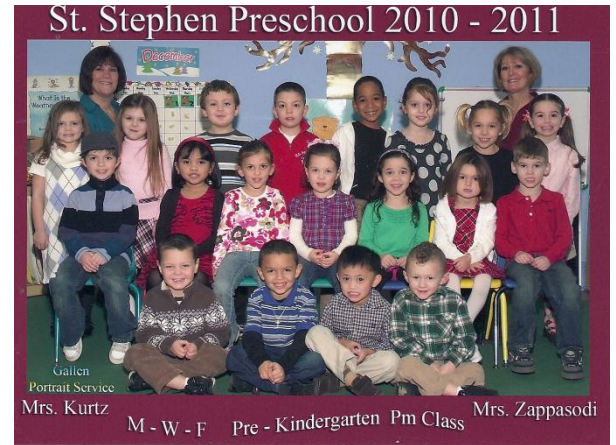
Ann Knorr, Craft Group Director



St. Stephen's Preschool

The preschool re-opened after their Christmas break on January 3rd. And, what a busy month it will be!! We are now in the process of registering our students for the 2011-2012 school year, and open registration for the outside begins on January 19th. I'm receiving many calls, scheduling observations, and I already have a waiting list of prospective parents once open registration begins! It looks like another great year is upon us!! Thank you to everyone who helped with refreshments during our Christmas programs, and to Paul who helped us set-up and break-down the Parish Hall after our Christmas performances. I'm sure you can still spot the glitter if you look hard enough!!! Let me take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy NEW YEAR!

Kathy Zappasodi, Director



New Year's Resolutions

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters, an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution by saying: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me. I know I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen."

Good. Now you have a better chance of a Happy New Year.

Maintaining Good Health

Just because you're diabetic, it doesn't mean you can't eat delicious food that is healthy. Here's another great recipe for people with diabetes.

Citrus Glaze Chicken with Almonds

4 (4 ounce) boneless, skinless chicken breasts

3 tablespoons orange juice concentrate, thawed

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1/2 cup chicken broth

3 tablespoons SPLENDA® No Calorie Sweetener, Granulated

1 1/2 teaspoons cornstarch

1 tablespoon unsalted butter

1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley

1/4 cup almond slices, toasted

- Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Place chicken breasts on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush with one tablespoon of orange juice concentrate (reserve remaining concentrate for sauce). Bake in oven 15-20 minutes or until cooked through.
- Place remaining orange juice concentrate, lemon juice and chicken broth in a small saucepan.
- Blend together SPLENDA® Granulated Sweetener and cornstarch in a small bowl.
- Stir cornstarch mixture into broth. Heat over medium-high heat and simmer 8-10 minutes or until the sauce starts to thicken slightly. Remove from heat. Whisk butter into sauce. Add chives and parsley.
- Pour sauce over chicken breasts. Sprinkle almonds over breasts and serve.

Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional Facts Per Serving: Calories: 220; Calories from Fat: 70; Total Fat: 8g; Saturated Fat: 2g; Cholesterol: 75mg; Sodium: 200mg; Total Carbs: 8g; Dietary Fiber: 1g; Sugars: 6g; Protein: 28g
Exchanges Per Serving: 4 Very Lean Meats, 1 Fat, 1/2 Starch



Kids Corner

What is Epiphany?

The word Epiphany means "appearance" or "manifestation" of Christ to the gentiles. We think of revelation, insight or "shedding light" on who Christ was and is to us.



The feast day of Epiphany is January 6, concluding the Twelve Days of Christmas. We associate it with the arrival of the Wise Men; the Magi who followed the star, the light that led them to the Christ child. The symbol is usually the enlarged star over the manger in Bethlehem.

Why is Epiphany such a special day and season?

Epiphany is one of the most important festivals of the liturgical year because it shows the church how God comes to His people. Knowing that we cannot come to Him, God took the initiative and came to us by becoming one of us. The most holy and almighty God condescended to take on human flesh in order to reveal His salvation to the world. This is the mystery of the Epiphany of our Lord.

During this season, Christians commemorate the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah and bring Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh ([Matthew 2:1-12](#)). Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth. By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord and Savior of all nations.

The Baptism of our Lord is the first Sunday after the Epiphany. This important festival is the observance of Jesus' baptism at the hands of John the Baptist ([Mark 1:9-11](#)). The words of the Father and the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as Jesus came out of the waters revealed Him to be God's true Son.



FAMOUS QUOTES ~

"If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us, His arm over us, His ear open to our prayer--His grace sufficient, His promises unchangeable."

John Newton, English poet and clergyman
(Wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace")

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.


You can also visit our website www.stsec.org, where you can see it in color. The website is updated by Bonnie Prendiville.

Angela Moore, Editor

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>CHURCH SERVICES</u> 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION W/MUSIC 5:00 PM CONTEMPORARY W/HOLY COMMUNION (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED)</p>						1
2 9:15 am Sunday School	3	4	5 Vestry Meeting 7 pm - Lounge	6 The Epiphany Of our Lord Jesus Christ	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Blood Drive 1-7 pm Parish House Contact Joan Durbano 610-259-2415	29
30 Annual Meeting After 9:30 Service * No 5 pm Service	31					

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p><i>CHURCH SERVICES</i> 9:30 AM HOLY COMMUNION w/MUSIC 5:00 PM CONTEMPORARY W/HOLY COMMUNION (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE DESIGNATED)</p>		1	2 Vestry Meeting 7 pm - Lounge	3	4	5	
6 9:15 am Sunday School	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	 <i>Happy Valentines Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28						

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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.

