



The Scribe

2nd EDITION - JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2012

NEWS & NOTES FROM

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018

Notes from Reverend Jill

As I write this we have just completed the Christmas season and are entering into the Season of Epiphany. The word "epiphany" is from the Greek word meaning "manifestation," and during the season we hear readings in which Jesus' identity as "the Christ" became manifest. The readings start with his Baptism at the Jordan River, when his public ministry began, and when the Holy Spirit identified him as God's "son and beloved."

During the Season of Epiphany, I will be asking the congregation to think about important times in your life when something became clear, or "manifest" to you. How did you come to "know" it? What did that knowledge feel like? Did you have a sense of it coming from God?

This week I am observing my first year anniversary here at St. Stephen's. In that time, I feel fortunate to have had a number of epiphanies. First, I felt called to be here as soon as I began to meet members of the congregation here. Second, when I came here I felt that there is a "sweet, sweet spirit" that was wanting to burst forth into the great community in which St. Stephen's is located. I felt that there were a number of simple ways to begin to build our congregation, and to place us on a more sustainable financial path. With the overwhelming help of the congregation, and God's help, we have accomplished much this year.



The Rev. Dr. Jill L. McNish, Rector

We all must be prayerful, remembering that the source of our strength and the reason for St. Stephen's existence is to create a God centered beacon of light in this town. We must not become anxious or panicky about our tasks, because if our epiphanies are real, we just need to stay focused on God and on our ministries here. There will continue to be many opportunities for each of you to be a part of the new thing that God is doing on this corner of Clifton Heights. Be prayerful and answer God's call if, as and when you hear it. Do you feel called to start a new ministry? Let us know! Do you feel called to join a group or ministry that you have not previously been part of? Let us know!

I am still smiling inside from the wonderful Celebration of New Ministry that took place here last month! This is one of those mountaintop experiences in which epiphanies abound. Now, with that wind at our back, let us return from the mountain and continue the good work that God has given us each to do.

Your sister in Christ,
Rev. Jill+

Lent Begins on February 22

Ash Wednesday services will be at 9 am and 7 pm. Soup and bread dinners will take place every Wednesday, beginning February 29 until Holy Week. At 7 pm each Wednesday there will be a discussion of three of the "steps" set forth in the book entitled "Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions." This is a book that is used in many AA meetings and other 12 step programs. However, one does not have to be addicted to any substance to find the book interesting and helpful as a way to examine one's life. Ours is a culture filled with addictions and idols that we put before God. Examining and applying the 12 steps is helpful in the character development of all thoughtful people! Please join us! There will be sign-up sheets in the parish hall for both the soup and salad dinners and for the book.

Beyond 2020

Beyond 2020 will meet here at the Church on Saturday morning January 21 from 9 am to 11 am. There will be an informal Eucharist in the chapel, followed by brunch and conversation. All persons under 65 are invited. We are working to build up some new leadership here at St. Stephen's and be responsive to the spiritual and communal needs of the next generation. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated and valued.

Rector's Warden - Frank Prendiville

Welcome to 2012! I hope everyone had a good time welcoming in the New Year.

In 2011 St. Stephen's had many events going on all during the year. We enlisted the first woman as Interim Rector in our history, and made Rev. Dr. Jill J. McNish our Rector in December 2011.

We had a terrific turnout for the Blessing of the Animals in October. We put a new roof on our church building; the front steps and railings replaced; repainted the inside of the church slightly different colors from previous years—and it all looks great. The Helen Merkins' Room was repainted and made into a chapel again; and the Rectory was sold.

Thanks to all the people who made 2011 exciting at St. Stephen's. The main push behind all these things is Rev. Jill—with a lot of support from our Parish Administrator, Cindy Houpt; our Organist, Jonathan Wald; the Vestry, (Julie Baker, Carl Benner, Joan Durano, Donna Gillespie, Dave Hash, Steve McFee, Angela Moore, Dottie Pennington and Nate Wilson); Paul Dracup and Joe Gilligan; Dave Neff, Wilcy Moore, Bud Pennington, Ray Sharp; the Sunday School, (Bonnie Prendiville, Jeff Benner, Debbie Mulligan and Ginny Sharp); Ginny Thompson and the Altar Guild; the ECW; and Kathy Zappasodi along with all the Preschool Staff. Without these people giving of their time, St. Stephen's would not be as successful as it has been.

I look forward to 2012 with a lot of anticipation and excitement as to what's next.

Treasurer - Wilcy Moore

This has been a reasonably good financial year for St. Stephen's. We sold the rectory, and the estimated direct savings is \$7,000. Also, St. Stephen's will receive the interest income from \$85,000 invested with the Diocesan Investment Group. Our pledge and plate offerings were up 10% over the previous year. And, we have reduced the Janney Montgomery Scott draw down from \$40,000 plus to \$13,000.

With God's Blessings and all of us continuing to work hard (and a little luck), we may see a light at the end of the tunnel and save the church.

Accounting Warden - Donna Gillespie

As of this writing, not all pledge cards have been received. It is very important for us to have all pledges in before we prepare the budget. Without knowing just how much we should expect to receive, we cannot adequately know what we will be able to allocate for expenditures. This must be done before the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th.

Please bring your pledge card in next Sunday and place it in the collection tray; or send it in by mail to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 199 W. Baltimore Ave., Clifton Heights, PA 19018; or you can hand-deliver it to the church office. Thank you.

Property - Carl Benner

There were a number of improvements made to the Church, Parish House and Preschool during the year 2011.

1. The Church slate roof was replaced, duplicating the existing beautifully colored slate. The asphalt shingles over the church office, entry lounge and chapel were replaced with new shingles.
2. The front entrance steps were replaced and the railings were reinforced.
3. The interior walls of the Church, Naïve, Altar, Sacristy and Chapel were repainted.
4. The Parish House flat roof which had water leaks was patched and the complete roof was painted with a waterproof coating.
5. The Parish House chimney flue, over the Preschool, which had broken off at the top, was replaced with a new section; and three doors in the Parish House were repaired temporarily, but need to be replaced.
6. The Church Street ruts and gulleys were filled in and patched along the church side of the street.
7. A dead tree and overgrowth of shrubs were cleared at the Rectory; trees were cut back on both sides of Church Street.

That completes our efforts for 2011.

However, the exterior of the Parish House will have to be repainted soon, and the brickwork area should be repointed.

Church School - Bonnie Prendiville

Sunday school at St. Stephen's continues to thrive to the point where we have had as many as nine children in class. We are doing so well, that we actually



were able to put on a Children's Christmas Pageant in 2011—the highlight of which, for many of us, was the littlest shepherd, Savanna Gillespie, rocking the cradle containing the Baby Jesus on her lap surrounded by Mary, Joseph, the Angel Gabriel and the shepherds.

A big thank you from me to all the teachers—Ginny Sharp, Jeff Benner and Debbie Mulligan, for sharing the readings with me; to Melissa Rechner, for costuming the children and helping out at rehearsal and on Pageant Day. And, thank you Rev. Jill for having faith in us and for providing the opportunity for the children to shine.

Look for more excitement in 2012 from the Sunday school children.

ECW - Angela Moore

We are proud to announce our fund-raising efforts yielded \$7,000 this year; but it wasn't easy I can tell you that. We had an economic down-turn, mucho rain, a hurricane and a rare October snow—as I said it wasn't easy. But in spite of the economic problems and all the crazy weather, it was great. People showed up and we had a lot of fun to boot! Thank you everyone for turning a negative into a positive.

Next year we are planning to have two dinners (Meatloaf & Pork); two flea markets (Spring & Fall); two Nelson's BBQ (Summer); and, of course, the Christmas Bazaar. Also, thanks to Donna Gillespie, we now have a working gas grill which we will use at the two flea markets so people can eat outside in the sunshine (hopefully)! Check the calendars and bulletins for updates. I am optimistic we will do as well, if not better, in our fund-raising efforts next year. Thanks again for all your support—we greatly appreciate it.

The next ECW meeting will be after coffee hour on *Sunday, February 19th* in the Lounge.

Altar Guild - Ginny Thompson

There are a number of open Sundays for *flower memorials* during the year. The following chart shows the open Sunday dates. However, you may request a memorial any Sunday. Because the cost of flowers has risen we are now asking a donation of \$25 for each Sunday. Thank you for understanding.

Please contact **Rosemarie Fegely** for special dates.

JANUARY	1, 8 & 22
FEBRUARY	5, 12, 19 & 26
MARCH	11 & 25
APRIL	8 & 22
MAY	6
JUNE	10, 17 & 24
JULY	22 & 29
AUGUST	5, 12 & 26
SEPTEMBER	19 & 23
OCTOBER	7, 14, 21 & 28
DECEMBER	2, 16 & 23

Food Bank - Dave Neff

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. Thank you.

Red Cross Blood Drive - Joan Durbano

The December blood drive was very successful; we yielded 24 pints. This was extraordinary and we wish to thank all who donated or worked on the campaign to make this possible.

Book Club

The Book Club will start up again Thursday, January 26th in the Lounge at 7:00 pm. The book, "*Heaven is For Real*" will be discussed.



On February 23rd the book club will meet in the Parish Hall to discuss "A Thousand Splendid Sons."

Please think about joining us even if you haven't done it before. Our conversations are fun and interesting.

Upcoming Events – Mark your Calendars

Beyond 2020 Meeting has been rescheduled to Saturday, January 21st from 9 – 11 am.

The Annual Meeting, January 29th.

Shrove Tuesday, February 21st Pancake Supper.

Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers—Every Wednesday at 6 pm in Lent, starting February 29th, the Wednesday ***after*** Ash Wednesday, and finishing March 28th, the Wednesday ***before*** Holy week.

There will be a ***Lenten Series*** in the Lounge following the suppers: "*12 Steps, 12 Traditions.*"

A sign-up sheets asking that *two people bring soup—and—two people bring bread* each week will be in the Parish House.

The community will be invited to these Lenten suppers as a way to spread the word about St. Stephen's Church.

Kids' Corner



Jesus, when we have lost you in our daily life, help us remember you are still there... waiting for us to come back to you. Amen.

A family was doing some last-minute Christmas shopping in the mall. Suddenly, in the midst of all the fun and excitement, someone noticed that little three year-old Matthew was gone. Terror immediately gripped his parents. They had heard stories about little children being kidnapped in malls, never to be seen again.

They split up, each member of the family taking an assigned area of the mall to search for the child. As each one completed the search of their assigned area, they returned to the place where they had agreed to meet. No one, it seems, had been able to find the missing child. Then the boy's grandfather appeared, holding little Matthew by the hand. When they asked the grandfather where he had found the boy, he answered, "He was at the candy counter. You should have seen him -- his eyes came just about as high as the candy. He was standing with his little hands behind his back and moving his head back and forth, surveying all the delicious candy."

Matthew didn't look lost. He didn't even know he was lost -- and he certainly didn't think he was in any danger. After all, he was right where they left him!

When Jesus was a young boy, his parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. After the feast was over, as Mary and Joseph were traveling back to their home, they began to look for Jesus, but he was nowhere to be found. When they could not find him, they turned around and went back to Jerusalem to look for him.

Do you know where they found Jesus? He was in the temple. Do you think Jesus was worried or frightened? No way! When his parents found him, he said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Sometimes you and I lose Jesus. We get so busy in our daily routine that we never give him a thought. Then one day we wake up and realize that he is gone out of our lives. Do you know what we need to do when that happens? We need to go back to the place we left him. That is where we will find him, right there waiting for us!

The Scribe is a bi-monthly newsletter. If you wish to submit an article, please contact me at 610-622-1363, or angela1185@comcast.net
Angela Moore, Editor

You can access us in color at www.stsec.org which is updated by Bonnie Prendiville.



We're on Facebook, too; updated by Dave Hash.



**Altar Flowers by –
Bonnie's Wonder Gardens
233 Scottsdale Road
Lansdowne, PA 19050-2328
(610) 259-1733**

JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>SUNDAY SERVICE REV. DEAN EVANS GUEST CELEBRANT 9:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST w/MUSIC (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED) FOOD PANTRY 10:30 – NOON (EVERY SUNDAY)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>  <p>CRAFT GROUP <i>*STARTS AGAIN IN APRIL, CHECK FOR DATE</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>  <p>FOOD PANTRY 10 AM – NOON (EVERY WEDNESDAY) VESTRY MTG. LOUNGE – 7 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>CHURCH SCHOOL LOUNGE – 9:15 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>CHURCH SCHOOL LOUNGE – 9:15 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>BEYOND 2020 LOUNGE 9 – 11 AM</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>CHURCH SCHOOL LOUNGE – 9:15 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>  <p>"HEAVEN IS FOR REAL" LOUNGE – 7 PM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>CHURCH SCHOOL LOUNGE – 9:15 AM ANNUAL MTG. & LUNCHEON AFTER 9:30 SERVICE PARISH HOUSE</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>				

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u> 9:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST w/MUSIC (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)</p> <p><u>FOOD PANTRY</u> 10:30 – NOON (EVERY SUNDAY)</p>		 <p><u>CRAFT GROUP</u> *STARTS AGAIN IN APRIL, CHECK FOR DATE</p>	 <p>1</p> <p>FOOD PANTRY 10 AM – NOON (EVERY WEDNESDAY)</p> <p>VESTRY MTG. LOUNGE – 7 PM</p>	2	3	4
5 No Church School Rev. Jill Away	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Church School Lounge – 9:15 AM	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Church School Lounge – 9:15 AM ECW Mtg. Lounge after coffee hour	20	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Parish House 6 PM	22 Ash Wednesday 9 AM 7 pm w/ music	23  “A THOUSAND SPLENDID SONS” LOUNGE – 7 PM	24	25
26 Church School Lounge – 9:15 AM	27	28	29 Soup & Bread Parish House - 6 PM Lenten Series:”12 Steps, 12 Traditions” Lounge			

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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.**

