



The Scribe

NEWS & NOTES FROM ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018



Notes from Rev'd Jill

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 3:18

When you read this we will have passed through Lent and Holy Week and we will be observing the great 50 Days of Easter. Our faith is essentially about transformation, “from one degree of glory to another.” I think that sometimes we forget that life has to change.

I think that sometimes we forget that life has to change. Sometimes it changes for the better and sometimes we feel it changing for the worse. We feel life changing for the better when things go our way. A child or grandchild is born healthy. A check comes from nowhere. We get good news from the doctor. An old and beloved friend or relative calls or comes by. We feel life changing for the worse when we suffer a loss; upsetting news from a doctor; difficulty paying our bills; the loss of someone we love; disappointment with someone we love; broken relationships. Yet all of life is a series of changes, and it is the spirit in which we undertake the journey that matters most for people of faith.

In Christianity, Our Lord had moments of great triumph—the crowds that followed him and hung on his every word, the gathering of faithful disciples, the miracles he was able to perform, the Spirit of God

The Rev. Dr. Jill L. McNish, Priest-in-Charge

resting on him at his baptism, his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He also had times of terrible anguish and defeat culminating in the passion of Good Friday, the mockery, the rejection, the pain, the cross.

The Christian story tells us that in our moments of greatest darkness and fear—often just there and most powerfully there—transformation and the fullest sense of God’s saving grace is possible. It is those moments that we grow as people of faith, that we become bigger, more faithful and more compassionate. This is the meaning of transformation. It was in Jesus’ willingness to embrace the destiny of the cross that he received the grace from God to be risen from the dead and to ascend to God’s right hand.

Transformation is often difficult because it requires embracing change. I have faith that we at St. Stephen’s are on the cusp of change and growth. Not that it will be sudden, but it will be sure. St. Stephen’s can be even a stronger beacon of love and light in a community starving for love and light. We say, “Well, we would all love that!” But it will require acceptance and embrace and welcoming of new people who come to us, down the road a sharing of leadership, and a shifting of programs. Let us all pray for discernment and a spirit of the ability to embrace transformation! ALLELUIA, AMEN!

Your sister in Christ

Vestry Update

At the March 2 meeting -- Ray Sharp got two quotes on the roof repairs; one from Feathers roofing at \$55,000-\$109,000 (depending on whether we get shingles, plain slate, or slate with a design), and another from Rider Roofing at \$160,000. The vestry said they wanted the roof back to its original state, using the same type of slate. Ray and the adjuster came to an agreement with Feathers doing the work for \$105,000.

An agent from Prudential Real Estate, after reading a copy of the 2009 home inspection report, and looking at the Rectory noted that it needs extensive repair. He suggested selling the rectory in "as is" condition and list it for \$120,000-\$125,000.

Rev. Jill needs a written estimate of what the repairs will cost to get the property up to code so she can present it to the bishop in support of why we need to sell it. Two quotes will be gotten.

Donna Gillespie was unanimously elected to replace Ray Sharp as Accounting Warden.

Rev. Jill would like to have church school more than once a month, and is putting out a call for more teachers.

A healing service will take place on the 4th Sunday of every month.

A replacement for the Jim Fegely memorial Dogwood tree will be looked into by Nate Wilson.

At the April 7 meeting -- Wilcy Moore and Joe Suprenuk, Diocesan Treasurer, did a reconciliation of the books for the past three years.

An inspection was done for repairs to the rectory, and Frank Prendiville will get written estimates for the repairs from C. J. Burdsall Contractors and Quality Mechanic Company.

There will be a Mother's Day Brunch which the men of the parish will serve, and a Father's Day Brunch which will be served by the women of the parish!

A Dogwood tree was planted by Hillside Nursery to replace the Jim Fegely memorial on Thursday, April 7th.

The work on the church roof to repair it and replace slates will start soon.

Blood Drive



Only 38% of Americans are eligible to donate blood, and of those, only 8% actually do. That amounts to only 3 out of every 100 people. Your donation makes a difference! Be a hero for a day in your community by signing up for the American Red Cross blood drive. The next blood drive is Tuesday, May 10th from 1:00 to 7:00 pm in the Parish House. If you have thought about donating, please don't hesitate. There is always a need for blood. Contact me at (610) 259-2415.

Episcopal Church Women

Well, we did it again—the Meatloaf “Blue Plate Special” Dinner was a big success—even bigger than last year! We sold 150 dinners and after expenses, made a profit of \$1,446.37. To all the women and men who helped make this possible, **“WE THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!”**

Next, get ready for our Spring Fest/Flea Market which takes place Saturday, May 14th, from 9am to 3pm on the front lawn of the church. Vendors are wanted as well as volunteers to work that day and most of all...SHOPPERS! The fee for a space (with your own table) if you are a member of St. Stephen's is \$10 per spot, for non-members, \$15. Food and beverages will be sold up until 2pm in the kitchen inside the parish hall where tables will be available for seating. So clean out your basement, attic and closets! Call the office (610-622-3636) to reserve your spot(s) now before they are gone. And if you'd rather just help out, we can use help in the kitchen, or at the church white elephant table, bake table, and craft tables.

Sunday School

The Sunday school and preschool children of St. Stephen's will be working together on a recipe book project. Favorite recipes of the children or their families will be collected beginning in May and through the summer. In the fall, recipe books will be created and orders will be taken so that they are received in time for Christmas gifts. The cost of the books is undetermined at this point, but should not exceed \$15 each. Stay tuned for more information. You can get your orders in early; just call the office and let Cindy know how many books you would like.

The Meatloaf Dinner



Preschool Dinosaur Days



Preschool Update



Only a few short weeks until St. Stephen's Preschool ends its 2010-2011 school year!!! Our Pre-Kindergarten graduation is planned for Wednesday, May 25th. at 9:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. The graduation will take place in the church sanctuary and refreshments will be served, after each ceremony, in fellowship hall. Everyone is welcome! We are also in the process of preparing for our summer camp program which takes place during the month of June. This special program is open to all children ages 3-5, and registration is done on a weekly basis. The Preschool's registration is on-going until classes begin in September. At the present time, our 3-day-morning classes are all full, with waiting lists, and our afternoon classes are also doing well. A special thank-you to everyone for your continued support of this very special ministry – we couldn't do it without you!

Kathy Zappasodi, Director

MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist w/Music (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)</p>	<p>2</p> <p><u>CRAFT GROUP</u> 10 AM – 2 PM PARISH HOUSE (BRING LUNCH) (MEETS EVERY MONDAY)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p><u>VESTRY MEETING</u> 7 PM - LOUNGE</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>UTO INGATHERING CATHEDRAL 11 AM – 3 PM</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH</p> <p>PARISH HOUSE (AFTER 9:30 SERVICE)</p> <p><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> 9:00 AM HELEN MERKINS CHAPEL</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><u>BLOOD DRIVE</u> PARISH HOUSE 1 – 7 PM CONTACT JOAN DURBANO (610) 259-2415</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SPRING FEST/ FLEA MARKET 9 AM – 3 PM</p> <p>Baptism Preparation 10 Am</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Scanlon Baptism 9:30 Service Parish Hall Rental Scanlon / Noon – 3 pm</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p><u>Clericus</u> Lounge Noon – 1:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Rev. Dean Evans, Supply (Rev. Jill away)</p>	 <p>30</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>31</p>				

JUNE 2011

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>CRAFT GROUP</u> 10 AM – 2 PM PARISH HOUSE (BRING LUNCH) (MEETS EVERY MONDAY)</p>		<p>1 <u>VESTRY MEETING</u> 7 PM - LOUNGE</p>	2	3	4
<p>5 <u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> 9:00 AM HELEN MERKINS CHAPEL <u>ECW MEETING</u> PARISH HOUSE (AFTER COFFEE HOUR)</p>	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p> 12 Pentecost Sunday Church School BBQ</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p> 19 <u>FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH</u> (AFTER 9:30 SERVICE)</p>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

RECIPE SHARING

Several people asked for my meatloaf recipe. I'm very happy you enjoyed it enough to want to serve it in your own homes. Here it is –

Meatloaf Recipe

Ingredients

- 2 lbs. ground meatloaf mix or ground beef
- 2 sleeves saltine crackers, crushed in a food processor
- 2 eggs (lightly hand beaten)
- 1 lg. onions, chopped in a food processor
- 1 lg. red peppers, chopped in a food processor
- 2/3 cup catsup
- 2/3 cup milk
- Salt & Pepper
- Kitchen Bouquet for browning (brush on top of loaf)

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350° F
- Mix all ingredients
- Form 12” loaf
- Place in greased baking pan
- Brush w/Kitchen Bouquet
- Bake for one hour (Internal meat temperature should be 170° F)

For those of you who have health issues such as diabetes, here's something for you --

Pumpkin Pie Bites

- 3/4 c. whole-grain, crunchy low-sugar cereal (i.e. Kashi's Whole-Grain Nuggets)
- 2 Tbls. maple syrup
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 8 egg whites
- 1 15 oz can (1-3/4 cups) pumpkin puree
- 3/4 c. agave nectar (available at most supermarkets)
- 2 Tbls. Whole-wheat pastry flour
- 2-1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1-1/4 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Coat an 11” x 7” glass baking dish with cooking spray. Bake in 350° preheated oven for 30 min. (or until top springs back at touch).

The Scribe is a bi-monthly newsletter. Anyone wishing to publish an article may do so by contacting me by email at angela1185@comcast.net or by phone at (610) 622-1363. Angela Moore, Editor

Kids Korner



Watching Addie

Bible Reading: Psalm 121:1-8

As Erica and her little sister Addie ate their breakfast, Mom had some special instructions for them. "I have a meeting at church late this afternoon and your dad is out of town all day, so neither of us can pick you up from school," said Mom. "Mrs. Perry lives just two blocks from your school, and you can go there until I come for you."

"How will we get there?" asked Addie.

"Erica knows the way," said Mom. "Erica, at three o'clock this afternoon, I want you to go to Addie's classroom, get Addie, and then go right to Mrs. Perry's house. She will be expecting you. Okay?"

"Sure, Mom," replied Erica. She knew she had an important job, and it made her feel really grown up.

All day, Erica thought about her responsibility for Addie. At lunchtime, she peeked out at the little kids' playground and saw that Addie was playing with her friend Brittany. Erica watched for a few minutes. I'm watching over Addie, she thought with surprise, remembering what she had heard in Sunday school the day before. Her teacher had said, "God is watching over you."

When it was time to get her sister, Erica walked to Addie's classroom and stopped just inside the door, like parents do. "Erica! It's you!" exclaimed Addie, running up and giving her sister a hug. "Where's Daddy?"

"Daddy is out of town," said Erica. "We're going to Mrs. Perry's house. Remember?" Addie hadn't remembered. She didn't know that Erica had been thinking about her all day, or that Erica had watched her at lunchtime.

The girls held hands as they walked to the street crossing. They stopped, and Erica held her little sister's hand tightly while they quietly waited for the signal allowing them to cross. Erica didn't want anything bad to happen to Addie.

Standing there with Addie's hand in hers, Erica had a happy feeling inside. I love Addie, and God loves me, she thought. I don't always think about God, but He loves me and is taking care of me all the time. He never sleeps, and He knows just how to keep me safe. The signal for them to walk lit up, and Erica squeezed Addie's hand as they crossed the street together.

Memorize:

He who keeps you (God) will not slumber. Psalm 121:3

The Scribe is now on Facebook, updated by Dave Hash. You can also see the Scribe in color on our website www.stsec.org which is updated by Bonnie Prendiville.

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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.

