



# *The Scribe*

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

199 W. BALTIMORE AVENUE  
CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA 19018



### Notes from Rev. Jill—

I have never wanted to live in a part of the country that does not have all four seasons. There are wonders in each of the seasons, but as a whole, I like summer the best. Jesus says in John 10:10, “I came that [you] might have life, and have it abundantly.” To me, summer is the season of abundance. It is the season of the lushest flowers and juicy peaches and plums and tomatoes. It is the season in which you can just go out in shirtsleeves, with confidence that you won’t be needing a bulky sweater or jacket. It is the season in which we seem to have implicit permission to kick back, take it a bit easier, play, and have fun. It is the prime season for refreshment, for travel, for seeing and learning new things in new places. And who can forget the wonder of a summer stretching ahead when we were children?

Many of you know that my favorite place for refreshment is Cape Cod. I love to go to bed with the breeze coming through the windows (it always seems comfortable at night up there), and I love the quiet of the nights, the visibility of a million bright stars in a black sky, the sound of Cape Cod Bay lapping the beach, the smell of the salt air, the birds and the bright colors in the morning. I love to swim in the bay and ocean. I love the juicy raw clams and oysters, the fresh scallops and fish, the wonderful scones that the corner store makes. But maybe most of all, I love watching people relaxing, vacationing, having fun. It seems to me that we Americans really know how to have fun and enjoy our vacations away from home. I love to see my family and friends having fun at Cape Cod

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

and I love even watching strangers walking along the streets, eating in restaurants and playing on the beach. Surely all of them have cares and concerns in their lives, but it is wonderful to see them in a place where they can just kick back and relax.

All in all, summer is a time of more play than the other seasons. Remember that old song, “Summertime, and the living is easy”? Part of abundant life is knowing how to play, knowing how to take it easy. When we know how to do that, everything seems to come into better perspective. We can return to work with new ideas, feeling refreshed and rejuvenated and excited. Jesus himself throughout the gospel narratives often takes time away from work to go off for prayer, relaxation and reflection. There is even good indications that he was something of a party lover. He laments at one point that in contrast to his cousin John the Baptist, he, Jesus, was criticized for being a “glutton and a drunkard.” Nor did he spurn the touch of women anointing his feet and putting expensive oils on his skin.

I hope that all of you have some plans to get away, even just for day trips, this summer. Summer is magical, a season in which the world seems to open up. Godspeed to all of you, safe travel and I look forward to beginning a new program year—indeed my first full program year—here at St. Stephen’s with you.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev’d Jill

## **VestryUpdate**

### **May 4 meeting**

Quotes and estimates were requested for the repair of the rectory to bring it “up to code” for rental, and/or to send to Bishop Bennison for permission to possibly put it up for sale.

Using the home inspection report as a guide, quotes from Quality Mechanics of \$58,300, for repairs to the rectory; and, \$8,200 for window repair, bringing their quote to a total of \$66,500. Blue Flame submitted a quote of \$14,975 to convert to gas. Cost for a new heater will be \$4,000-\$5,000. Carl Benner received an estimate for carpentry work to the windows (not for replacement of them) of \$65,000. A realtor’s analysis on the condition of the property, and its extensive repair, suggested the sale price of \$100,000-\$125,000. A parishioner may be interested in buying the property for \$100,000. “as is,” he is a contractor and can make the improvements himself.

Carl reported that a window which was broken in the preschool/parish house will be replaced with plexiglass. He will also take a look at the condition of the paint in both the chapel and the Parish House.

Donna Gillespie reported, in Wilcy Moore’s absence, everything is up-to-date. The audit, which covers three years, and which Wilcy and Joseph Suprenuk (Diocesan Treasurer) have been working on should be completed by next month’s meeting.

Rev. Jill said there will be two children baptized on May 15<sup>th</sup> – Chase Thomas Scanlan and Brandon West Goodman. She will host a Clericus meeting here on May 19<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2:00 pm. She said she was very pleased at the Easter service attendance. Also, the Chapel is almost ready.

### **June 8 meeting**

Wilcy Moore and Joe Suprenuk, Diocesan Treasurer, did a reconciliation of the books for the past three years. The basic recommendations were to improve our documentation and switch over to a more conventional accounting system (i.e. Quick Books) which we are presently in the process of doing.

Rev. Jill attended her first Preschool graduation in the church. She will be on vacation from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, and supply Deacon Denise Leo will conduct Morning Prayer on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Among other things, she would like to expand the use of the parish hall to groups such as AA and Weight Watchers, to have visitor’s packets made up, and start a book group. She announced that a generous donation was made to the church by Sarah Kay Smith to help defray the cost of the repair of the front church steps and railing. A procedure for contacting the police or other municipal bodies, publicity, etc. was established.

A stone mason and iron worker were contacted to look at the damage and give written estimates for repairing the front railing. Donna Gillespie will contact our insurance company to have an adjustor come out to look at the damage.

Four rhododendron plants were purchased and paid for by donations from Paul Dracup, Wilcy Moore, Dot Pennington and Nate Wilson. The rhododendron, along with green plastic edging and a border of hosta plants were installed by Nate and Wilcy. Alberta Worthington gave Ginny Thompson and Charlotte Hagopian permission to take the hosta plants from her garden. The girls also planted flowers under the two signs in front of the church.

Joan Durbano announced that Lifeline Screening will be in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, and they will make a donation of \$100/day. Frank Prendiville said the Springfield Delco Stamp Club will meet in the Parish Hall June 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 7:30 pm and will also give a donation.

Vestry will not meet during the months of July and August. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Lounge. Keep your calendar of events for July and August handy—maybe on your refrigerator or computer desk.

### **Pledges**

Even though it is summer and we may go away, our bills here at St. Stephen’s continue to arrive. Please keep your pledge current through the summer. Thank you.

### **Blood Drive & Life Line Screening**

Thank you all who donated at our blood drive on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. We collected 24 pints. Our next blood drive will be held Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 7:00 pm in the Parish House.

The Life Line Screening will be held Wednesday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm in the Parish House. Preregistration is required. Please call 800-679-5192 and give the Priority Code #HSC 6341. There are a limited number of gift certificates available. Please contact Joan Durbano, Coordinator, at (610) 259-2415 for details.

### **Episcopal Church Women**

Recent events at St. Stephen’s included a celebration on June 12, 2011 honoring Pentecost Sunday and the end of Sunday school for the summer. Also, the women cooked up a delicious Father’s Day brunch for the men on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming events include our annual water handout at the Clifton Heights 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Come join us and get the best seat in the house for watching the parade. Bring a lawn chair. And, another flea market on the front lawn is set for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. The rain date for the flea market is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The next ECW meeting takes place on Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> following the worship service and will include a pot luck brunch. We would love to see new faces. So make your favorite brunch dish to share and join us.

### Sunday School

Sunday school at St. Stephen's ended for the summer on June 5, 2011 with a request to the children to collect their favorite recipes over the summer for a joint project with St. Stephen's preschool children. We will put together recipe books with all the children's favorites and sell them at this year's Christmas Bazaar. Order sheets will be available in September after Sunday school restarts.

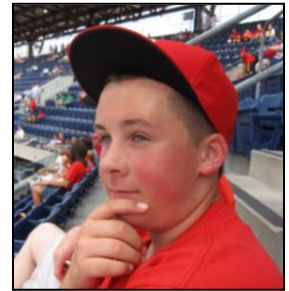
### Take Me Out to the Ball Game

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame...." An enthusiastic group of nine St. Stephen's parishioners travelled to Citizens Bank Park on Friday night June 24 to see the Phillies defeat the Oakland A's. A great time was had by all. We are hoping to schedule at least one more game before the end of the season. Stay tuned for details. The more the merrier!"



At left are: Lorraine & Bob Prescott, Jane McDonald, Danny Hash, Rev. Jill, Ginny Thompson, Eileen Pellegrino, Frank Prendiville and Mary Wisnewski.

Wonder what "Dan-the-Man" Hash is pondering? Hmmm!!!



### Book Group

A book group will start on Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, and will meet on the last Thursday of every month. The first book Rev. Jill has suggested is, "The Shack" by William P. Young. They are \$8 and there are still a few copies left. If you are interested please call Angela Moore at (610) 622-1363. The second book group meeting will be on Thursday August 25, and we will be reading "Nemesis" by Philip Roth.

### Food Bank

The food bank is always in need of donations. You may donate non-perishable items such as cereal, soups, pasta, dry or canned milk, canned vegetables, tuna, beans or meats. Or, you may give a monetary donation by indicating "Food Bank" in the memo section of your check. Items which are specially needed are announced each week at our 9:30 am service or contact Dave Neff, Food Bank Coordinator.

### Preschool Graduation

It's been a great year—learning and making new friends, but now it's time to say Goodbye!!!



# JULY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist w/Music (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)	<b><u>CRAFT GROUP</u></b> 10 AM – 2 PM PARISH HOUSE (BRING LUNCH) (MEETS EVERY MONDAY)				1	2
3 DEACON DENISE LEO (SUPPLY) REV. JILL AWAY	 4 CLIFTON HEIGHTS ANNUAL PARADE 10:00 AM (CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED)	5	6	7	8	9
10 DEACON DENISE LEO (SUPPLY) REV. JILL AWAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 BOOK GROUP  PARISH HOUSE 7 PM	29	30
31						

# AUGUST 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b><u>SUNDAY SERVICE</u></b> 9:30 am Holy Eucharist w/Music (EVERY SUNDAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)</p>	<p><b>1</b> <b><u>CRAFT GROUP</u></b> 10 AM – 2 PM PARISH HOUSE (BRING LUNCH) (MEETS EVERY MONDAY)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b><u>BLOOD DRIVE</u></b> PARISH HOUSE 1 – 7 PM CONTACT JOAN DURBANO (610) 259-2415</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>
<p><b>7</b> ECW MTG. AFTER COFFEE HOUR (COVERED DISH LUNCH)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> LIFELINE SCREENING 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM PARISH HALL CONTACT JOAN DURBANO (610) 259-2415</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>
<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> BOOK GROUP  PARISH HOUSE 7 PM</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> NELSON'S BBQ CHURCH LAWN 11 AM – 5 PM (OR SOLD OUT)</p>
<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>			

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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.

