



# St. Stephen's Epistle

July/August 2010

Beloved of Christ,

I recently attended a conference and there was quite a spirited discussion on being Apostles. The word apostle basically means one who is sent. I was sitting with members of our shared ministry team and I commented that being sent is fine but being a follower of Jesus takes more than that. We need to be disciples, apostles and martyrs. So what did I mean? Let's look at the words:

D.-Disciple: one who receives instruction; a learner

A.-Apostle: one who is sent or is a messenger or envoy

M.-Martyr: one who bears witness (not necessarily with one's death!)

How are we D.A.M. Christians?

First of all we are lifelong learners. We learn every Sunday as we figuratively sit at the feet of Jesus to be nourished by word and sacrament. We hear major portions of scripture read and commented on, as we pray we are immersed in centuries of prayer, and we are blessed to be fed with Jesus' body and blood. We also learn more specifically as we join in Bible Study, study scripture (take your insert home with you for reflection during the week), pray, read *Forward Day by Day*, and generally immerse ourselves in learning about Jesus.

Secondly we are sent. A huge part of our ministries at St. Stephen and St. Luke is hospitality. It is reflected in both of our mission statements. We state that: "we welcome all." Welcoming is a very good thing and both congregations do it very well. HOWEVER...welcoming means that people have to get there first in order to be welcomed. We need to remember that we are also sent out of the church and into our communities as instruments of God's love and grace.

That brings me to the third part of being a D.A.M. Christian: Martyrs. Often we think of martyrs as either a person who died a horrible death in witness to their faith or as a derogatory phrase such as: "S/He is such a martyr"! In reality it simply means to witness, our faith is meant to be shared. There is an old parable about the two seas in Israel. The Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. The Dead Sea is Dead because it only receives water and none flows out of it. Water just evaporates and the sea becomes excessively salty so that it supports very little life. The Sea of Galilee both receives and gives water and is teeming with life. The same is true for our faith. It is something that is so much more vibrant when it is both received and shared.

May we all be "D.A.M. Christians"! You know what dams do: they produce energy light and warmth as the water flows through them. So may we produce Gospel energy, light and warmth so that our lives and our churches will teem with Jesus life.

Faithfully,

*Susan*

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

July	25 <sup>th</sup>	Candace Mettle
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Clay Richman
	—	Tia Richman
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Don and Carol Williams anniversary
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Lee Scoville and Roy Robertson anniversary
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Marielle Lichtenberg
August	15 <sup>th</sup>	Brock Spink Kate Sannella and Dennis Moler anniversary
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Gerry Kinneavy
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Kathryn Nash
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Leonard Eaton

**BAC NEWS**

St. Stephen's and St. Luke's held a joint BAC meeting on June 8th. Following the Eucharist, St. Luke's hosted a lovely dinner before the meeting.

Among items covered:

- Bishop Hanley's visit on June 23rd and selection of discussion questions
- Shared Ministries:
  - Liturgy and Audit Committee reports
  - Community and Spirit Seminars (only 1 held so far)
  - Peace and Justice Committee
  - PFLAG (all are welcome to attend meetings)
  - Interfaith Peace Gathering to be held in September
  - The Annual Beach Eucharist and Picnic on **August 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Redesigning our web page and using Face Book as a new way to invite people to church. Jeanne St. John will be asked to post newsletter articles on Facebook.
- Photo Card Shop, which has been a successful fundraiser at St. Luke's. We will also initiate a photo Card shop at St. Stephen's and will need volunteers to help assemble the cards as well as photographers to supply pictures. Details will follow.

The next joint BAC meeting will be **October 17th** at St. Stephen's.

Detailed minutes of all BAC meetings are available.

- Ethel Myers, Senior Warden

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION****Midyear Progress**

The total Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser income was \$1,135. Congratulations to the committee, and all who worked and donated to make this a big success. Thank you!

Our May 31<sup>st</sup> financial report (below) paints, if not a rosy picture, at least one that looks like we are almost keeping up. Thank you to all who give regularly through plate offerings and pledged donations. The Easter offering in April was \$775, about twice the Easter 2009 amount. We praise God for all of these blessings.

But we cannot be complacent; it would be irresponsible to project that this "almost rosy" picture will automatically continue through the summer and into the fall. Summer giving is traditionally low. If you are planning a long vacation, please remember to update your pledge when you return. And have a wonderful time!

Perhaps this mid-year-2010 would be a good time to consider increasing your pledge. For many, who already give sacrificially, this is not possible. For others it may be something to prayerfully consider. There are pledge forms in an envelope on the bulletin board for updates or new pledges.

It is through your giving, with God's help, that we are able to continue God's work in this place:

Praising God

Bringing comfort to the sick and troubled

Being a light for justice and peace  
in the community

Feeding the poor

Helping those in need

Celebrating life's passages

The love and fellowship that we find here bless all of us as we reach out in service.

**May Financial Report**

	May	YTD
Income	\$ 7,792	\$ 34,281
Expenses	\$ 6,287*	\$ 33,473*

\* Does not include DPA (Diocesan Program Assessment) of \$966 due May 15 but not yet paid. So as of May 31, five months into 2010, we are \$158 behind.

- Patty Adsit, Treasurer

## PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the new Peace and Justice Committee was held on June 14, with 13 in attendance; membership being made up of members from both St. Stephen's and St. Luke's.

At this first meeting the group discussed the effects of prejudice and cultural/language barriers on our community and the role of the church in healing division, given the commitment of our baptismal covenant.

A list of recommendations for further discussion and action were compiled, many of which deal with Latino marginalization, language barriers, cultural sensitivity, and the need for ESL teachers/classes; there were also discussions about participation in the International Day of Prayer for Peace and other peace-oriented activities.

If you could not attend the initial meeting but are interested in serving on this committee, please be assured that you will be welcome at the next meeting, which will be on **Tuesday, July 6**, at 6:30pm at St. Luke's.

- Darleen Searcy, Chair

## VACATION TIME AND AUGUST EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDARS

Susan+ will be taking part of her vacation from **July 25 through August 7**. The balance of her vacation time will most likely be taken in September as there are several events in August for which she wants to be present.

On **August 8**, we will again be inviting members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary to a special service in recognition of the 1790 founding of the Coast Guard.

**August 22** is the date of our annual St. Stephen and St. Luke Beach Eucharist and Picnic at Ona Beach State Park. More specific information about this event will be circulated closer to that date.

**August 23**, being the fourth Monday of the month, will be the next God Talk opportunity (there will be none in July).

**August 29** is the date of the next Children's Service - we have designated the fifth Sundays of the year as the dates for those services. We hope that as the children, and adults too, experience these services more and more children may be

willing to participate as readers, musicians, acolytes, perhaps even ushers. If anyone is interested in reading, the lessons can be made available early in August so you can practice. And you musicians, hope this will give you enough advance warning to practice a hymn or song for us.

## NEW COORDINATOR OF THE USHERS

Irene Shipley has stepped up to the plate and volunteered to be the new coordinator/scheduler of the ushers. Thank you, Irene!

Because of Denise Williams' death and Myrna Gidlund's declined health, we have lost two from our ushering team. If this is a ministry to which you feel called, please let Irene know of your interest. Also, if you ever know for sure that you're going to be away on a future date, please let Irene know that so she won't schedule you for that date. Irene's contact information is: cell phone – 503-780-2118; email – [idshipley@msn.com](mailto:idshipley@msn.com).

As to the July and August schedules included in this newsletter: if you are going to be absent on a date scheduled, please make your own arrangements for a trade/substitution, but please do let Jan in the office know so the ministries schedules that are posted around the church can be changed.

## FOOD SHARE ON FACEBOOK

Our Food Share representative (who also happens to be the Agency Relations Coordinator), Joyce Thompson Graham, shares with us the Food Share link on FaceBook, so those interested can go to the Food Share page, click "like," and become a fan to get updates, event notices and pictures. Log onto <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Food-Share-of-Lincoln-County/171833151439> - or just do a Google search "Food Share of Lincoln County" and the FaceBook page will appear.

## ALSO ON FACEBOOK....

Susan+ has created FaceBook pages for St. Stephen's and St. Luke's (also see mention in BAC news). There are many of us (your editor included) who do not [yet] do FaceBook. However, if we want to appeal to younger and more contemporary churchgoers, we need to speak their "language," so appreciate Susan+ staying up to date with the computer.

## HYMN HISTORY

**By all your saints**  
Hymn 232,

This hymn has stanzas for 23 different saints; Mary Magdalene's day is in July. She is mentioned in all four Gospels. St. Mary Magdalene, "the Apostle to the Apostles" stood by the cross with John and the Mother of Jesus and was the first to encounter the Risen Jesus.

Horatio Bolton Nelson (1823-1913) wrote the words of this hymn. Educated at Eton and Cambridge, Nelson's others works include editing and a family prayer book, but he is remembered mainly for his *By all your saints*. He was the grandnephew of the famous Admiral Nelson and became the 3rd Earl Nelson in 1835.

The music, Nyland, is a Finnish folk melody adapted by David Evans (1874-1948), a distinguished Welsh composer. A professor of music, he was also conductor of Welsh hymn-singing festivals.

By all your saints still striving,  
for all your saints at rest,  
your holy Name, O Jesus,  
for evermore be blessed.  
You rose, our King victorious,  
that they might wear the crown  
and ever shine in splendor  
reflected from your throne.

All praise for Mary Magdalene,  
whose wholeness was restored  
by you, her faithful Master,  
her Savior and her Lord.  
On Easter Morning early,  
a word from you sufficed,  
her faith was first to see you,  
her Lord, the Risen Christ.

Then let us praise the Father  
and worship God the Son  
and sing to God the Spirit,  
eternal Three and One,  
till all the ransomed number  
who stand before the throne,  
ascribe all power and glory  
and praise to God alone.

- Ethel Myers

I have a little book called *Wishful thinking, a Seeker's ABC*, that I love because it puts a new perspective on many words I thought I understood. It was written by Frederick Buechner, theologian, Presbyterian minister, prolific author.

Here are a few of the shorter definitions:

**Sacrifice** - To sacrifice something is to make it holy by giving it away for love.

**Repentance** - To repent is to come to your senses. It is not so much something you do as something that happens. True repentance spends less time looking at the past and saying, "I'm sorry," than to the future and saying, "Wow!"

**Gluttony** - A glutton is one who raids the icebox for a cure for spiritual malnutrition.

**Envy** - Envy is the consuming desire to have everybody else as unsuccessful as you are.

**Compassion** - Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else's skin. It is the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy finally for you too.

**Confession** - To confess your sins to God is not to tell him anything he doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the Golden Gate Bridge.

- Ethel Myers

## ! EVENTS and REMINDERS !

Remember to look on the bulletin boards for updated information about various community events and organizations. Information about the diocesan camping/retreat opportunities, Samaritan House, Habitat for Humanity, and Senior Center activities are on the bulletin board by the TV.

Dine Out for Samaritan House: There are no dine out events during the summer; they will resume in September.

Habitat for Humanity: Updated information is posted whenever it is received.

Art Exhibit: Suki Russack (Kate Sannella's sister) is having a showing of her art "Woven from Memory: A Pictorial Autobiography" in the Upstairs Gallery of the Visual Arts Center from **July 2 through July 31**. There will be an opening reception on July 2 from 5 – 7pm.

## FROM THE OFFICE

Have you remembered St. Stephen's when you've shopped at Staples and/or when you've turned in empty ink cartridges there for recycling? Many of you apparently have as we have received quite a

few reward dollars during the first four months of this year - \$126.73, as a matter of fact. The black ink cartridges for our printer (which last four to six weeks) cost \$35.99 – to say nothing of the cost of all the paper we use! – so you see what a big help those reward dollars have been. Along these lines (I call it STEWARDSHIP) all the more we can use email, all the more we can save by not having to use paper, ink, envelopes, mailing labels and postage. Those of you who regularly read lessons and lead the Psalm and Prayers of the People know that I've been attempting to determine how many of you are willing to receive the readings by email. If you haven't yet participated in the Staples reward, all you need do when you turn in an ink cartridge for recycling, or when you buy supplies there, is give the church's phone number (541-265-5251) and we will be given reward dollars. Such a simple way to help our budget!

- Jan Sedlacek, Secretary

### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Our church honors and welcomes lay ministries. Here are some opportunities you may already be doing or for you to consider as ways you can contribute:

- ✓ Volunteer for the Christian Connection ministry for/to temporary or permanent shut-ins or to provide transportation to church – contact Barbara Wilson, 541-265-2186.
- ✓ Be part of a newsletter assembly team, typically the last Thursday or Friday of each month.
- ✓ Maintain the plants on and the appearance of the patio area.
- ✓ Work with the Stone Soup Supper team on Monday nights.
- ✓ Sing in the choir during Lent and Advent.
- ✓ Bring food on Sundays for Food Share.
- ✓ Sign up for coffee hour (the schedule has lots of available dates).
- ✓ Be a behind-the-scenes welcomer by assembling visitor bookmarks, which could be done at home.
- ✓ Be a behind-the-scenes welcomer by keeping pew cards and sharpened pencils in the pews.

The following is quoted from a newsletter from the Church of Our Savior in Placerville, CA (must give this recognition; otherwise we might think this had come from Sybil Marie and/or Thalia Rose!)

"Memo

"To: God

"From: Dog

"Does it mean anything that 'dog' is 'God' spelled backwards? If so, what?

"Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

"When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is still the same old story?

"Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the cougar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a dog? How often do you see a cougar riding around in a car? Dogs do it all the time. Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

"If a dog barks her head off in the forest and no human hears her, is she still a bad dog?

"More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

"Are there mail carriers in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?"

#### WHEN TO CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

**Reminder.....please call the church office (541-265-5251) when:**

- \* You are ill or a member of your family is in the hospital.
- \* You learn of a death in the church family.
- \* Your group plans to meet at the church.
- \* Your address, phone number or email address is changed.
- \* You learn of someone who may be interested in church membership.

## ST. STEPHEN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE JULY 4 – AUGUST 1, 2010

[as of preparation date of Thursday, June 24, 2010]

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS	JUNIOR ACOLYTE(S)	FLOWERS	COFFEE HOST(S)
Jul 4	Joaquin Varo Allan Preece	Jorge Hernandez Jan Sedlacek	Jorge Hernandez Sofia Bonilla-Rios		Jan Sedlacek	Irene Shipley
Jul 11	Barbara Copfer Allan Preece	Patty Adsit Barbara Wilson	Larry and Donna Cox			Dawn Pavitt Caitlin Ryan
Jul 18	Jan Sedlacek Joaquin Varo	Kate Sannella Ed Bedford	Irene Shipley Dawn Pavitt		Ed Bedford	Annabelle Tobey
Jul 25	Ethel Myers Allan Preece	Leonard Eaton Jan Sedlacek	Don and Carol Williams			
Aug 1	Barbara Copfer Joaquin Varo	Joaquin Varo Ethel Myers	Dennis Moler Kate Sannella			

**Lectors:** Both lectors will come forward at the same time. The first named lector will read the lessons. S/he will come forward to the lectern and remain there until both lessons have been read. The second named lector will lead the Psalm and the Prayers of the People. S/he will stand on the opposite side of the lectern (by Susan+); both will return to their pew after the second lesson is read. The Prayers of the People will be led from the lector's pew. If you are leading the Psalm and would like a large print copy, please let Jan in the office know and one will be prepared – please do not remove the one from the lectern. Please note that the bulletin will usually describe how the Psalm should be read: antiphonally, responsively, in unison or cantored.

**Lectors, Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers:** If you are not able to serve on the date scheduled, please arrange for your own replacement. And if a substitution is made, it would be most helpful if you would notify the office so the posted schedule(s) can be revised. This would assure that the appropriate person is mailed an advance copy of the readings and prayers, and let all know to expect someone other than is shown on their personal copy of the schedule. A copy of the Prayers of the People is placed in the sacristy. **Please use that copy on Sunday, they are often updated subsequent to when sent to you.** **Ushers** please note that the altar party receives Communion *after* the congregation, so you are the first to be served (after the choir if there is one). **Eucharistic Ministers:** Deacons George and Janis Gould have indicated they can be called if you need to make a substitution (541-614-0169).

Coordinators of the schedule are: Tia Richman for the Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors (541-765-3460), Irene Shipley for the ushers (503-780-2118; [idshipley@msn.com](mailto:idshipley@msn.com)) and Deacons Janis and George Gould for the Junior Acolytes. Please let these people know of any future dates you will not be available to serve.

If you have signed up for flowers and they are in memory or in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for something, etc., and you want that information included in the bulletin, please provide the information to the office by the Sunday preceding the Sunday for which you are providing the flowers.

## ST. STEPHEN'S MINISTRIES SCHEDULE AUGUST 1, - SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

[as of preparation date of Thursday, June 24, 2010]

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS	JUNIOR ACOLYTE(S)	FLOWERS	COFFEE HOST(S)
Aug 1	Barbara Copfer Joaquin Varo	Joaquin Varo Ethel Myers	Dennis Moler Kate Sannella			
Aug 8	Allan Preece Barbara Copfer	Ed Bedford Jan Sedlacek	Larry and Donna Cox		Clay and Tia Richman	
Aug 15	Jan Sedlacek Joaquin Varo	Joyce Thompson Graham Marcus Spink	Paulie Passmore Carol McDowell			
Aug 22 <small>BEACH EUCCHARIST</small>	Ethel Myers Allan Preece	Leonard Eaton Tia Richman	Jorge Hernandez Sofia Bonilla-Rios		Dawn Pavitt	
Aug 29	Barbara Copfer Joaquin Varo	Kate Sannella Joaquin Varo	Irene Shipley Dawn Pavitt		Susan Church	Donna and Larry Cox
Sep 5	Allan Preece Jan Sedlacek	Jorge Hernandez Barbara Wilson	Don and Carol Williams			

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