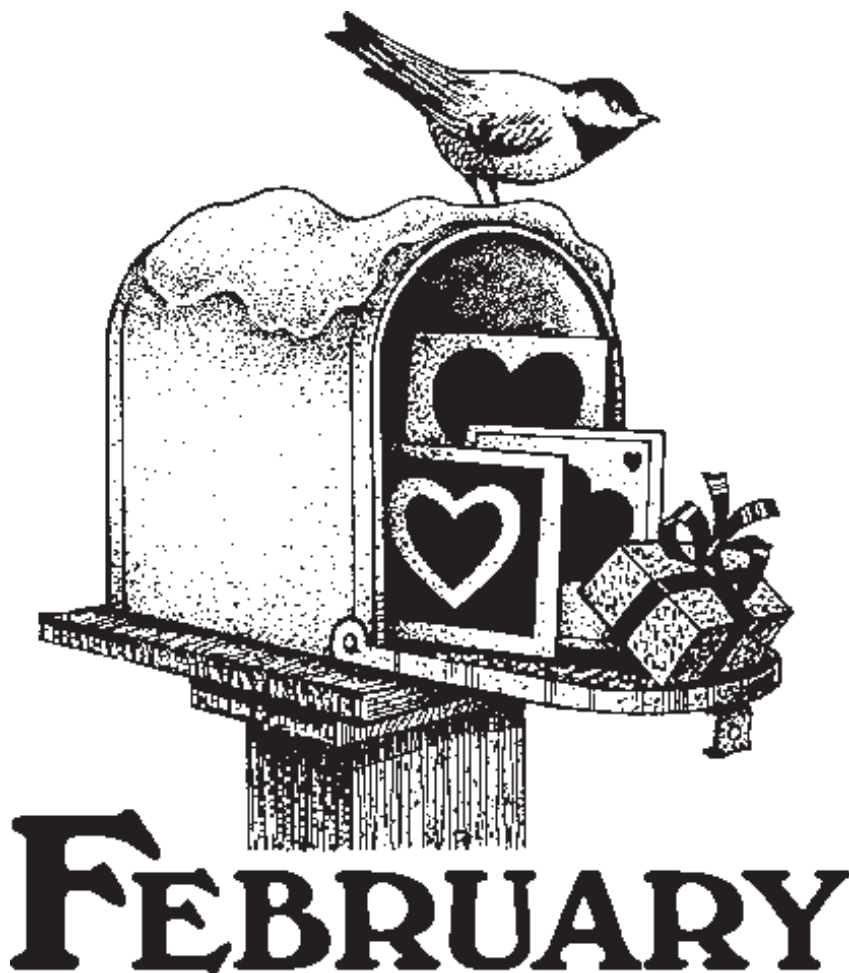


The Stone's Throw

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Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

January 24, 2010 Minutes

I. PREMEETING ACTIVITIES:

Lisa Elmendorf passed out Time and Talent Pledge Cards, and asked for the completed cards to be turned in within the next two weeks. In order to understand where the needs for time and talent are, synopses of various outreach ministries were presented as follows:

Altar Guild and Greeters – Lisa Elmendorf indicated that volunteers are needed to replace those who have left St. Stephens in the last few months.

Benefit Bank – Paul Gahn reported that St. Stephens' volunteers helped 70 individuals/families last year, primarily with tax forms, but also applications for other aid. This need will only increase. Two or three volunteers from last year are no longer active at St. Stephens. Training opportunities are available.

Mt. Healthy Alliance – Dick Meagher reported that the food pantry served 11,891 people/visits last year. Again, this need will only increase in the current economy. The churches involved provide not only volunteers and donations, but also leadership and space. There is continued need for volunteers in a number of capacities, and a need for cash donations.

Duvall School – Don Welti reported that the Mentoring Program continues, but that the "Buck Store" will have a last effort this spring and then be discontinued due to the merger of schools in the Mt. Healthy district.

CALL TO ORDER AND CONVOCATION

The annual meeting of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church was called to order by Fr. David Bailey at approximately 12:30pm after a luncheon. Twenty eight voting members of the church were present. Fr. David Bailey acknowledged the completion of terms on Vestry for Lisa Elmendorf, Charlie Tucker, and Don Welti.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND TELLERS

Fr. Bailey appointed Molly Bailey as Recording Secretary for the meeting. Ginny Bailey and Carina Spindel were appointed tellers.

MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Fr. David asked for questions regarding minutes of the 2009 annual meeting. There were no questions. Lois Tuttle moved to accept the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Lisa Elmendorf, and the motion passed.

ELECTIONS

Don Welti, head of the Nominating Committee announced the nominations for vestry and convention delegates.

- Senior Warden: Lisa Elmendorf
- Junior Warden: Don Welti
- Vestry, for one position to expire in 2011, and for two positions to expire in 2013:
 - Pieter Elmendorf
 - Elizabeth Scholz
 - Vivian Templin
- Convention Delegates:
 - Tom Franklin
 - Sharon Franklin

Lisa Elmendorf accepted the nomination for Senior Warden. There were no other nominations. Pieter Elmendorf moved that nominations for Senior Warden be closed and that the vote be by acclamation. Lois Tuttle seconded the motion. Lisa Elmendorf was elected Senior Warden by acclamation.

Don Welti accepted the nomination for Junior Warden. There were no other nominations. Pieter Elmendorf moved that nominations for Junior Warden be closed and that the vote be by acclamation. Lisa Elmendorf seconded the motion. Don Welti was elected Junior Warden by acclamation.

Pieter Elmendorf, Elizabeth Scholz and Vivian Templin accepted the nominations for Vestry members. There were no other nominations. Fr. Bailey suggested that the voters vote for the three candidates for Vestry by acclamation; determination of which candidate will take the unfinished term (2011) will be determined by the Vestry. Lisa Elmendorf so moved, and was seconded. Pieter Elmendorf, Elizabeth Scholz and Vivian Templin were elected to terms on Vestry by acclamation.

Fr. Bailey reported that he and the Wardens previously discussed that election of Convention Delegates. As Paul Gahn and Arlene Gahn are currently Delegates, if two more Delegates are elected, it is not necessary to

elect Alternate Delegates. Chuck Healy so moved, Pieter Elmendorf seconded, and the motion passed.

Nominations for Convention Delegates was closed. Pieter Elmendorf moved that Tom and Sharon Franklin be elected Convention Delegates; Vivian Templin second; the motion passed.

MINISTRY REPORTS

Fr. Bailey asked for questions, comments, or additions to the Ministry Reports.

Vivian Templin asked why flowers were not on the altar every week in recent weeks. Minerva Silver said that the usual procedure was to indicate for whom the flowers were given and send a check to the church, and flowers were ordered and arranged. Bebe Hales reported that since Duane Lewis, Pat Welti and Bette Kattmann are no longer active at St. Stephens, only Sharon Franklin was available to arrange flowers.

Fr. Bailey and Lisa Elmendorf explained that a new procedure was in planning stages, targeted to be completed by Easter. The new procedures may need a volunteer(s) to contact the florist and/or pick up flowers. Until Lent, they ask those who want to contribute, to contact and pick up a \$30 arrangement at Fels Florist on Saturday, and bring it to church.

Arlene Gahn indicated that more volunteers are welcome to provide healing prayers during communion.

Lisa Elmendorf shared her experience, and recommended the movie “the Blind Side” for its inspiring message and challenge to Christians in how we reach out to those in need.

WARDENS, TREASURER, AND RECTOR REPORTS

Lisa Elmendorf added to her report that all members of the church will be asked to participate in a small group (8 participants) to meet with Fr. Bailey and one of the Wardens. This is part of the response to the conflict of the last few months. Participants of the small groups will discuss how they arrived at St. Stephens, what they value about St. Stephens, and what changes would benefit the community. The groups will meet during Lent, and a sign-up sheet was passed out, and will be posted.

Fr. Bailey discussed three items of import to the church as we deal with St. Stephens becoming an older and smaller congregation.

1) Discussion is underway with Saving Grace Community Church, Trevor Phillips, Pastor. This small congregation has been using our facility for music practice and other occasional needs throughout the last year. They are interested in a formal relationship with St. Stephens, allowing them worship space on Sundays, music practice on Thursdays, and shared ministries – potentially including Building and Grounds, Mt. Healthy Alliance, Benefit Bank, and Vacation Bible School. Part of the relationship would include payment for use of the building. The first version of a Letter of Agreement will be reviewed by Vestry shortly.

2) Rev. Roger Foote, Dean of the Cincinnati West Deanery, has invited leaders of the Dayton Deanery to lead a discussion with the clergy of our Deanery on February 2, 2010. The Dayton parishes have developed new ways to share resources. As the churches of the Cincinnati West Deanery have experienced declining membership, this may suggest ways we can network and share resources.

3) Fr. Bailey would like lay leaders from St. Stephens to attend a retreat at Proctor Center on February 19 and 20, 2010 on Congregational Development. Several topics of interest will be discussed.

“OPEN FORUM”

Fr. Bailey opened the meeting to questions, comments and concerns.

Dick Meagher asked about the Starfish Collection. Fr. Bailey explained that this will be a collection for relief in Haiti. Contributions will be divided equally to Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, Red Cross and Mathew 25 Ministries. Fr. David will match contributions up to \$1,000 from his discretionary fund; Don Welti offered to match another \$500.

Pieter Elmendorf announced that final statements are available, and located next to the Starfish envelopes.

ADJOURNMENT

Lois Tuttle moved that the meeting be closed. Vivian Templin seconded the motion; the meeting was closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Bailey, Recording Secretary

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a time marked "by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word." (Book of Common Prayer, pg. 265). St. Stephen's will begin our observance of Lent with Ash Wednesday services on February 17. The services will be held at noon and at 7:00 PM and will include the imposition of ashes, the Litany of Penitence, and the Holy Eucharist. If you are unable to attend either service, please let Fr. David know and he will arrange for a private imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

St. Stephen's Small Group Discussions

In our recent discussions about conflict within the church, it's become apparent that we could profit from more open, candid and two-way communications about the issues that are important to our life together as a parish. To that end, your church leaders are hosting a series of small group discussions during Lent. We'll be talking about things like: What brought us to St. Stephen's? What do we value here? And, what would we change if we could? – but we don't need to be limited to those questions. We can talk about whatever's on your mind! We encourage every active member to attend at least one group. We're hosting four evening groups and two daytime groups to provide as much flexibility as possible. Fr. David and at least one Warden will be present at each group. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. Please see the sign-up sheet on the hall bulletin board. Thank you.

Lisa Elmendorf, Senior Warden

Time and Talent Pledge

If you haven't filled out your 'Time and Talent Pledge' for 2010, please do so as quickly as possible. Pledge Forms are available on the table at the back of the church. Remember, everyone can do something! When completed, you can put it in the alms basin, or give to Lisa Elmendorf or Nancy McCarthy. Thank you in advance for all you do to help.

Pot Luck Groups 2010

If you're interested in participating in a Pot Luck Group in 2010, please sign up on the hall bulletin board. Pot Lucks are a great way to get together with your St. Stephen's family in a more informal setting and just enjoy each other's company. If you feel unable to host a group in your home, you can still be part of a group. It is NOT required that everyone in the group act as host. New groups will be selected and announced sometime in February.

Taize Service

Our Taize service resumes on Sunday, February 7 at 7 PM. Come spend a quiet hour in song, prayer and silence before our Lord.

Starfish Fund

We are reviving the Starfish Fund in order to support the relief efforts in Haiti. The funds will be divided between Episcopal Relief and Development, the American Red Cross and Matthew 25 Ministries. Envelopes for the Starfish Fund can be found in the back of the church. Checks should be made out to St. Stephen's, with the notation "Starfish Fund". Please give prayerfully and generously!

Operation Christmas Child

With the help and generosity of you and our communities, the Cincinnati Collection Center and 8 Relay Centers collected a total of 22,121 shoe boxes for the neediest children around the world. Praise the Lord! That was an increase of 7.6% over what we collected in 2008. Please continue to pray for the children and families who will be touched by these Gospel Opportunities. Also, please pray for the safety of the thousands of volunteers who will be distributing these gifts to a hundred different countries.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR * POST A NOTE ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR

Saturday evening, 6:30 PM, February 27th our "OCC CELEBRATION" will be held at First Baptist Church of Mt. Healthy 1210 Compton Rd. Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

There is no cost (FREE), so bring your family, friends, or a group from your church.

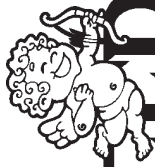
You'll be up-dated on activities of OCC since National Collection Week, find out about events and goals for 2010, learn about year round volunteer opportunities, and many other things. PLUS, a time of fellowship with refreshments and a time to meet your area team! Please plan to attend. Please RSVP or if you have questions contact : Daryl Davis , Church Relations Coordinator 513-851-6506 or Operation Christmas Child occswohio@zoomtown.com South West Ohio Area (Let us know how many will be attending)



January 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00 PM Al Anon	2 7:00 Lexington Heights Civic Association	3 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	4 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	5	6
5 Epiphany 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:00 Christian Formation 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour 7:00 Taize Service	8 8:00 PM Al Anon	9 5:30 PM Springfield Twp Trustees	10 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	11 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	12	13
6 Epiphany 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:00 Christian Formation 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour Vestry Meeting	15 8:00 PM Al Anon	16	17 12:00 PM Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday	18 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	19	20
1 Lent 8:00 Holy Eucharist I 9:00 Christian Formation 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour	22 8:00 PM Al Anon	23 3:30 PM Building & Grounds	24 6:30 PM Evening Prayer 7:00 PM Joyful Noise	25 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:30 Bible Study	26	27
2 Lent Bishop's Visit 9:00 Christian Formation 10:30 Holy Eucharist II 11:30 Fellowship Hour	28					

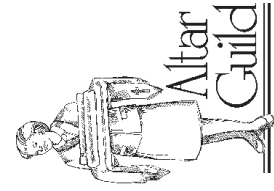


FEBRUARY

Serving Our Lord at Saint Stephen's February 2010



FEBRUARY



ALTAR GUILD (Altar-Linens-Flowers):

February 7 Lisa Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf
February 14 Joan DeLisse, Joan DeLisse
February 21 Lisa Elmendorf, Lisa Elmendorf
February 28 Sharon Franklin, Bebe Hales



FELLOWSHIP HOUR:

February 7 Tom & Sharon Franklin
February 14 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz
February 21 Piet & Lisa Elmendorf
February 28 Paul & Arlene Gahn

Lay Ministers

Lectors (L), Intercessors (I), Chalice Bearers (C)

February 7 Molly Bailey (C), Vivian Templin (C),
 Pieter Elmendorf (L&I), Arlene Gahn (CP),
 Ann Grant (CP)

February 14 Sharon Franklin (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C),
 Don Welti (L&I), Vivian Templin, Ann Grant

February 21 Pieter Elmendorf (C), Vivian Templin (C),
 Molly Bailey (L&I), Arlene Gahn (CP),
 Dorothy Boyd (CP)

February 28 Don Welti (C), Lisa Elmendorf (C),
 Sharon Franklin (L&I), Molly Bailey (CP),
 Dorothy Boyd (CP)

L&I = Lector (first lesson) and Prayers of the People.
 Please check with Fr. David before the service for the
 form to be used for the prayers.



LAY MINISTERS

HEAD USHER: Tom Franklin

GREETER

February 7 Bebe Hales
February 14 Arlene Gahn
February 21 Joan DeLisse & Sy Markowitz
February 28 Bebe Hales



Reaching Fr. David

The best (and most effective) way to reach Fr. David is by calling his cell phone (310-0127). When Fr. David is out of town or otherwise unavailable, please call the Sr. Warden who will contact the priest on call. Please do not call Fr. David's home telephone number for pastoral care issues.

Fr. Dave Halt's Installation Service

From Fr. David: This is a sermon that was preached last month by Fr. William Pursley at the installation of the Fr. Dave Halt as Rector of St. Matthew's Church in Springfield, IL. Fr. Pursley has given me permission to reprint his sermon here. I was privileged to be part of the installation service that day, and my heart was both stirred and convicted by Fr. Pursley's words.

Joshua 1:7-9

Psalms 43

Romans 12:1-18

John 15:9-16

The Scripture Lessons appointed for today are most instructive, and they are echoed and affirmed by Saints throughout the ages. Be humble. Love one another. Be faithful and obedient to the Word of God written. Acknowledge and appreciate and enable one another's gifts. Stand with courage and steadfastness for that which is right, whatever the cost may be; and together you will model for this city and this diocese the very nature of God.

I am now on the downhill side of my active life as a Priest of our Lord, and you, you are at a grand new beginning. The people to whom God has called you come to this place faithfully every week after they have toiled in the workplace and sought to build their families and relationships in times which are often so very, very difficult. Honour them, and the vast majority of them will honor you virtually all of the time. After all, you are God's gift to each other. Forget most of what you learned in school about being a good pastor. Go back and re-read Gregory's *Pastoral Care*, and Herbert's *Country Parson*, and Baxter's *Reformed Pastor*, and throw in a bit of Bishop Grafton for good measure. Don't forget Archbishop Ramsay's *Christian Priest Today*, and remember the godly examples of Mr. Harding and Father Tim. Buy a little farm and maybe even burial plots, and write your name in the soil of this place. Become one with this people. Share their dreams and visions. Baptize their children and bury their honoured dead. Weep with them and laugh with them. Rejoice with them when their children win the state championship, and be by their side when those same children go off to war, or college, or to a new love. Serve them faithfully in Word and Sacrament, and guide them in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic faith; for that is your primary task here. Programs are fine, and sometimes are even helpful, but your primary purpose is to preside in Word and Sacrament, that the people of God at this place might come to know themselves, and God and each other, with an ever deepening intimacy... an intimacy which ravishes their souls and leads them to that peace which passes all understanding. It will never do for you to be a professional priest or sacramentarian. You must be one with this people, "wallowing in the midst of their daily affairs.".. loving them and thereby proving your amateur status, remembering that *amo, amare-* is the latin root for love, which ought to motivate everything you do here. Bind yourself to them with a holy co-dependence, and thus demonstrate to this entire county the true nature of the Holy and Blessed Trinity. As we cannot imagine the Father without the Son and the Spirit; or the Son without the Father and the Spirit; or the Spirit without the Father and the Son—So may the people of Saint Matthew's be bound so closely in love that none of you can imagine what your church would be like if any one of you were absent.

This will not be an easy task. There will be times when your own humanity and that of others here will show its ugly possibilities, and you will think the worst of each other's motives. You will disagree with vigor over agendas and programs and prerogatives. You will release arrows you wish could be recalled, and perhaps for a time even think their release fully justified. And this is where the admonition of today's Scriptures becomes so important. Always conduct yourself with humility, preferring others before yourself. Be willing to listen, and covenant with your people to hear one another. Teach them that the Word of God written is the rule and guide of our faith, that it contains all things necessary to salvation, and that no Christian man ought to be required to do or believe anything that is not clearly taught therein; and that we ought to submit to the clear teachings of the Bible, even when we do not agree with them. Questions are good things, but at the end of the day, obedience must be our goal. Such obedience grows not out of coercion or slavish worship of laws or precepts, but out of an absolute confidence in the character of Him who loves us, and who gave himself for us. Because he has always been so constant in seeking our best, we can follow with confidence where He leads the way, even when we do not understand His grand strategy.

Dave, my friend, you will make many mistakes, as will every member of your vestry, and of every committee, and as do all of us here. There will be those who will hold onto the mistakes of others with a seemingly eternal memory. But if your life is holy; If you live according to the ways of God taught in the Bible; if your attitudes and demeanour give evidence that the love of God is spread abroad in your life; if you are a man of good will; the people here will gain such confidence in your character that they will work with you in spite of your shortcomings. And if you seek to see that same holiness and evidence of the Holy Spirit in their lives, your love and acceptance and understanding will be mutual- an empirical evidence of the efficacy of Holy Baptism in the lives of all here.

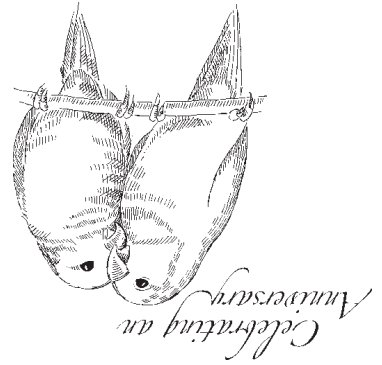
And so in closing, I would say to you, my friend, and to all here: "Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." AMEN and AMEN

Address Correction Requested

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Joan Delisse
Ed Cook
Judy Risner
Katie Elmendorf
February 6
February 18
February 21
February 24



Bob and Sally Morse
February 11