

# The Stone's Throw

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## The Rector's Focus on

### HURRICANES

“As the crow flies”, it is about 900 miles from Galveston to Cincinnati. On Sunday, September 14, that crow was flying really fast!

When Hurricane Ike hit Texas that Friday, most of us didn't worry too much about how much “punch” would be left by the time the winds hit our area. At worst, we were looking forward to a lot of rain and some wind. Little did we expect that we would have almost no rain and (short of a tornado) the worst windstorm we've ever experienced!

I was scheduled to participate in the Celebrate Mt. Healthy parade and festivities at the Mt. Healthy Park that Sunday afternoon. I started to get clued into what was going on when I reached the park and the tents had all been blown over. It was becoming clear that this was more than a lot of wind when I finally reached the cemetery for the formal program and found that the tent there had also been blown over. By the time I saw the large tree that fell across McMacken Street in Mt. Healthy, experienced the lack of power all around the church, and saw all the trees down between church and our home in West Chester, I knew we were in for a heck of a week!

We were lucky, both at church and at our home. The Bailey house received minor wind damage (shingles off of the south facing side of the roof). We were without power until Monday evening, getting power back just in time to clean out our refrigerator of all the “bad” food from 30 hours without electricity. At church we sustained minor damage to the building (again on the south side of the property) but lost a lot of trees both in the lawn areas around the church and in the woods behind the church. Eleven days later, the Way of the Cross trail is still impassible, and will probably remain so for a few months. We lost power at St. Stephen's the Sunday of the wind-storm, regained power on Monday morning, lost power again on Tuesday morning, and didn't regain power again until a week later. The Sunday services and our Thursday morning Eucharist and Bible study were all done by candlelight. As far as I have heard, most of our parishioners fared pretty well: some damage, lots of power outages, and lots of food thrown out of refrigerators.

Still, these last ten days quickly went from being an adventure to being an annoyance and finally to being a real obstacle for getting things done. We never got close to the hardship level, but it was difficult at times to find places to buy gas or get food.

I can only imagine what it has been like at Galveston, which was ground zero for Hurricane Ike. I am writing this column ten days after Ike hit Texas, and residents of Galveston are just getting back into town to see the devastation to their lives and their community. And of course, our friends in Pass Christian and Long Beach, Mississippi are still in the early stages of recovery from Hurricane Katrina over three years ago! They started building the new church of St. Patrick's, Long Beach just last month, and Trinity, Pass Christian has not yet laid the foundations for their new church complex.

So in the midst of all of this devastation, I would suggest all of us do two things:

First, give God thanks that the Cincinnati area was spared from the worst of Ike, and that we have pretty much returned to normal after only a week.

Second, remember before God those who have experienced true devastation of lives and communities along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Gulf Coast. Pray for the restoration of their lives, and give generously to those organizations that will help them rebuild. Remember too our own partnership with Trinity, Pass Christian and St. Patrick's, Long Beach, and the help we give them through our Starfish Fund drive.

Your brother in Christ,

David+

## **A Reminder -**

On October 5 at 7PM, St. Stephen's will hold it's monthly Taize service. Just as with our first service there will be candle light, songs chanted softly, short readings of scripture or other inspirational writings, and meditative silence. This will be the first service that will be advertised to those outside of our church. Please come, and be sure to bring a friend. The best advertising is "word of mouth".  
Cathy Skiba

## **All Saint's Day**

On Sunday, November 2, we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. As is our custom, we will give thanks to God for all the faithful departed. If you would like to have the names of departed loved ones included in the prayers at the altar, please forward those names (CLEARLY PRINTED) to Fr. David by Friday, October 31.

## **Needed -**

We presently have three men who have agreed to serve as ushers during our Sunday 10:30AM service. We wish to thank those three. In order to cover for absences though, we need one or two more to serve. This is a ministry that can be done by either men and women, so how about stepping up to be St. Stephen's first female usher?  
Cathy Skiba

## **Corrine Zarate**

Corrine Zarate has a new phone number. It is now (513) 475-0039

## **Just a Little Silliness...**

To all who made it to church during the "black-out" , here's a (very) little humor. :-)  
You are like the mailman.  
Neither snow, nor sleet, nor hailing  
can stop an Episcopalian  
Cathy

## **Attention Greeters -**

First, let me thank all of you who volunteered to serve as greeters. This is one of the most important positions a lay person can fill. You will make the first impression a visitor will have of St. Stephen's. While all our visitors are always greeted warmly, there are certain things that should be done or said. Since visitors are not a weekly happening, it's easy to forget what these things are. There will be a short "Greeter Reminder Meeting" after the service on Sunday, October 19 in the library. Please attend.  
Cathy Skiba



**50th Wedding Anniversary  
of Ralph and Lois Tuttle Oct. 4, 2008**

Congratulations to Ralph and Lois for 50 years of marriage.



# Blessing of the Animals

**2008 Blessing of the Animals**  
**Saturday, October 4, 2008**  
**2:00 PM**

This year St. Stephen's annual Blessing of the Animals will be at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 4. This year, the Blessing falls on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi whose love for all creatures inspires this annual event.

All creatures are welcome but they should be on a leash or in a crate. The ashes of departed pets can be scattered or interred in the Animal Memorial Garden.

Volunteers are needed to help with publicity, set-up, greeting visitors, serving refreshments and clean up. The sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Even if you can't physically volunteer, your prayers for good weather are needed.

After organizing this event for several years, Cathy Skiba has turned that responsibility over to Nancy Healy. Cathy and Steve both worked diligently to make this annual event a well-organized success. Please take the time to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

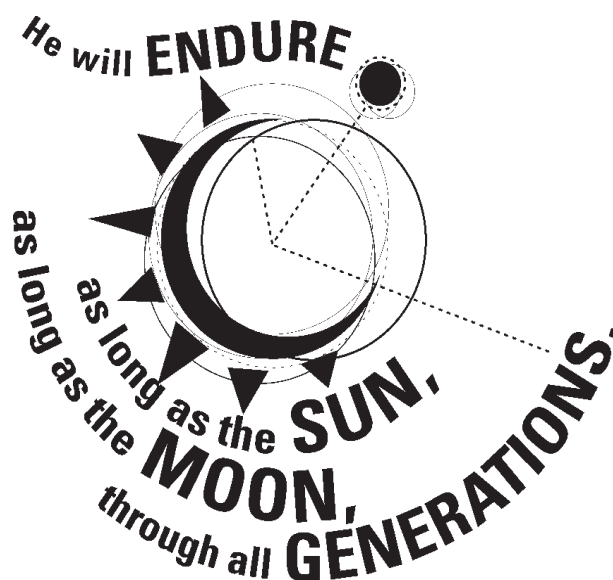
If you have questions, please contact Nancy Healy at (513) 470-4930 or [nancycinti@hotmail.com](mailto:nancycinti@hotmail.com)

*Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animal on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters.*



## From the Deacon's Bench

The last evening of summer under the watchful rising of the moon St. Stephen's held their first Taize service. The faithful that were present participated in a service of music, prayer, liturgical readings and silent meditation in a circle of community worship and glowing candle light. The ambience of the candlelight illuminating the large cross before the altar gave a strong sense of the holy and mysterious ways of God. It was comforting for me to lose my self-centeredness after the busy day that was coming to its end. The music and songs that were sung and repeated wove their notes and vibrations around the room helping me and hopefully others to find their own personal space and time with God.



**PSALM 72:5, NIV**

I have never been to a Taize service as a participant but I do have a long history with being part of and leading meditation, prayer and healing gatherings. I have seen the calming and healing effect of sharing God's love, healing energy, mercy and grace as a group. I was very excited to help Cathy, Betty and Father David design and implement the first Taize service. I saw it as an experience to be directed by and to work with God in creating something that would draw us closer to him. This experience itself was a gift.

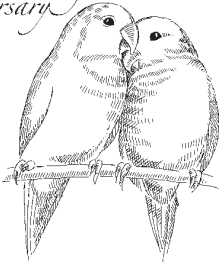
I have found, in my previous experiences with prayer groups, weekend retreats, church camps, adult Christian formation and three years of deacon school that the more people participate in quiet meditative prayer and God centeredness together the stronger the sense of nearness to God enters the group and each mind, heart and soul. Christ's presence is felt and with the combined prayers and silent meditation of each individual the spirit moves among us. It becomes a period of time and space that the heart craves, the soul sores to and the body needs to heal.

We sometimes or should I say almost always run around so much in our secular world that we often forget how to regain or find our true self's. Participating in a Taize service can become a meaningful way to be still and know that God is near. Are we not closer to what God wants us to be when we empty ourselves and let him fill us with his spirit? The more one comes and participates in the service the more one experiences a journey with the Holy. The nearness of God's spirit can stay with you during the week if you take the time to close your eyes and one again experience the moments in the service that you felt God's presence.

My hope is that the St. Stephen's Taize service grows in participants and spirit over the next few months. Come and help be creators with God as we explore, learn and develop this wonderful service

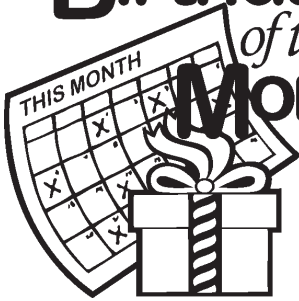
Deacon Jean

*Celebrating an  
Anniversary*



Ralph and Lois Tuttle	October 4
Mike and Pat Murphy	October 8
Duane Lewis & Rex Van Alstine	October 16
Joe and Kathy Rose	October 31

## Birthdays of the Month



Jennie Porter	October 4
David Bailey	October 4
Charles Tucker	October 8
Molly Bailey	October 9
Tom Franklin	October 12
Jeanne Meagher	October 21
Eric Meyers	October 22
Dave McCarthy	October 27

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Address Correction Requested