



ST. STEPHEN'S  
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 3900 MECHANICSVILLE RD.  
 WHITEHALL, PA 18052-3347  
 610-435-3901

STEVE-ADORE

2011



"Vision-directed, People-oriented, Gospel-disciplined"



God's Valentine Wish:  
 "Be Mine".

**PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**



- Robert C. Gehres II, USA
- Robert C. Gehres III, PAARNG
- Michael Lochiatto, USMC
- Seth Sassaman, USMC
- Matthew Scheib, USMC
- Jeffrey Slough, USMC
- Stephen Vanko, USMC

**THE STEVE-ADORE** is a Publication of ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## **ISLAMIC EVOLUTION**

The recent murder of a Pakistani politician and a novel about Mediaeval England may not seem to have much in common but they both hold insights into our past and present.

Pakistan has strict "blasphemy" laws that are not only targeted at Christians (e.g. Mohammed may not be criticized, even implicitly), but also non-Barelvi Muslims (the official denomination). Salmaan Taseer, a provincial governor, advocated easing these laws. He was, therefore, in the eyes of many, a blasphemer himself. His murderer (no loner with delusional web-postings, but one of his own security detail) is set to become a national hero as hundreds of clerics have praised the murder and the rulers are unwilling to risk offending the clergy.

In our country, people shake their heads and equate Islam and its religious courts with intolerance, oppression, and superstition. But, a few hundred years ago, Christians were just as intolerant, oppressive and superstitious.

Over Christmas, Sue gave me Ken Follett's "World Without End". It is set in late 1300's England and continues the story begun in his earlier novel "Pillars of the Earth" of the fictional cathedral city of Kingsbridge.

In the novel, during the Plague, the prior bans the nursing sisters from washing their hands with vinegar and covering their mouths with breathing masks once he learns these practices come from the Muslim world. He determines that they must be "un-Christian" - the greatest crime - and declares that anyone washing their hands or wearing masks is committing heresy and heresy, tried by a religious court, is punishable by death.



Follett does not make this up. There is plenty of documentation for this and other attitudes at which we may shake our own heads. Evil influences were suspected everywhere, religious courts were feared, and rulers were unwilling to risk offending the clergy.

After all, popes and kings might fight over land and taxes, but nobody questioned that all the king's subjects were members of the pope's church. And, in Fourteen Hundred Ninety-two, while Columbus was sailing the ocean blue discovering a New World, Ferdinand and Isabella were busily lighting the fires of the Inquisition back in the Old one.

At root, was the idea and ideal of "Christendom", a theocratic world-wide Christian socio-political polity. One world; one faith.

It was not until Europe exhausted itself with devastating religious wars (millions were killed) that a reaction set in and the realms of sacred and secular diverged, culminating in the 18th Century Enlightenment which popularized freedom of religion.

Muslims believe in "Ummah" - a theocratic world-wide Islamic socio-political polity. One world; one faith. To be "un-Islamic" is the greatest crime. In some Muslim regions, polio vaccination is banned because the practice comes from the Christian world and is, therefore, heretical. Sound familiar? But Islam is a young religion and, according to its calendar, it is only 1432. Freedom of religion is not an acceptable concept, yet.

In a few hundred years, Islam may well evolve into something more benign. Sadly, that Islamic Evolution will, like the Christian one, also be strewn with bodies.

The point is that we have been there and done to others all that is being done today, and more. We should remember this as we see Muslims repeating these struggles and pray for them to come to what we now believe is a better understanding.

*Fr. Frank +*



## A Resource for the Grieving Heart!

(Excerpts from St. Luke's Hospice Bereavement newsletter)

We may be wondering “what’s next,” when the world as we knew it is so profoundly changed because someone we love was taken from us. “What’s next” is a tough question when we emotionally and physically ache from feeling torn apart, with broken dreams, battered hope and lost purpose. What’s the process of remaking our world and re-learning who we are in unfamiliar territory so that we can find new purpose for our lives and perhaps a new dream?

Part of the answer to these questions lies in the wisdom of the words of Alan D. Wolfelt who quoted: “I must listen to the music of my past in order to sing in the present and dance into the future.” In other words, sometimes we have to look backward in order to move forward.

In this “thoughtful quiet” take time to identify the musical phrases that help to shape your current song. What did you love about this person who is no longer physically next to you? What passions did you share? What did you admire most about them? Did something annoy you? Choose what you want to nurture, let go of what doesn't matter, include tunes that keep playing in your head. This process clearly takes time, intentional decision-making, action, patience and openness to revision but when you put these choices together with who you are now as a result of all this loss and change, you are redefining who you are. You're composing a new song with some familiar notes and rhythms.



## **RECTOR'S REPORT** *(from the January 23rd Annual Meeting)*

We began 2010 with 179 Active members and ended with 168. Five of our members went to be with the Lord. Ten people formally left the parish. An additional fourteen were removed from Active status due to non-attendance and lack of support, but most of these had already been peripheral during 2009.

On the other hand, we welcomed eighteen new members and an additional seven people are currently visiting and considering joining.

The Average Sunday Attendance, which had grown from 103 to 105 over 2008/2009, fell to 100, but this is partially reflected in the fact that, over the course of the year, several of our fellow parishioners became less able to leave their homes. Loyal every-week attenders became loyal once- or twice-a-month attenders.

One hundred and twenty-five home and hospital communion visits were made in 2010, an increase of 38% over 2009. By comparison, in 2004, when the parish had a much larger membership (ASA 220) and two clergy, the number of visits made was 82.

The 8:00 mass was most affected, ending down 7% for the year. The 10:30, however, ended nearly equal with last year - quite an achievement, considering.

The success of a renewed and reorganized Sunday School programme is where we showed the fourth-quarter turn-around. The autumn session in 2009 had only averaged 20 but the same period in 2010 averaged 28. No class averaged fewer than four students present each week. Thanks are due to the teachers who make it so good that children (and their parents) want to keep coming back for more.

Numbers, however, be they blood pressure, cholesterol levels, or whatever, are only one indicator of a body's health. Equally important, and some say even more so, is the spirit of the person. What is the spirit of St. Stephen's?

I say it is very different to what I found in September, 2008, and in a good way. The parish was then, I sensed, still under a dark cloud. I will never forget the person who said to me, during a conversation about something or other early on, "Will *they* allow that?" When I asked, "Who are *they*?", the person thought for a moment and realized her paralyzing fear was of former leaders who had left the parish a couple of years before.

Today, I look up and see that cloud has blown away. The Light of the Son shines on St. Stephen's.

Let us move forward in that Light and enjoy the Life which it brings.

Fr. Frank +

# FEBRUARY 2011

## Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

3900 Mechanicsville Road  
Whitehall, PA 18052  
**610-435-3901**  
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The Rev. Frank ST. AMOUR, III, Rector  
**610-264-2149**  
Mr. Tom Steckel, Senior Warden  
610-216-6916  
Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

## Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
2) 6:30 pm Scouts  
3) 7:00 pm Church  
4) 7:00 pm Property Mtg.  
5) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

6) Epiphany 5  
8:00 am Said Eucharist  
9:15 am S.S./Choir  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist  
Noon JYG

7) 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
(by appointment only)  
7:00 pm Confirmation  
Class



8) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
followed by O.S.L. Mtg.  
5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
7:00 pm DOK Study

9) 6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

10) 7:00 pm Property Mtg.

11) 7:00 pm Clergy Bible Study

12) 2:00 pm Clergy Bible Study

13) Epiphany 6  
8:00 am Said Eucharist  
9:15 am S.S./Choir  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

14) 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
(by appointment only)  
7:00 pm Confirmation  
Class

15) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist  
5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
7:00 pm Vestry  
7:00 pm DOK Study

16) 6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

17) 2:00 pm Clergy Bible Study

18) 7:00 pm Property Mtg.

19) 6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

20) Epiphany 7  
8:00 am Said Eucharist  
9:15 am S.S./Choir  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist  
Noon JYG  
Noon D.O.K.

21) Office Closed  
for President's Day  
6:00 pm Food Pantry  
(by appointment only)

22) 9:30 am Healing Service  
5:30 pm Weight Watchers  
7:00 pm DOK Study

23) 6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

24) 7:00 pm Clergy Bible Study

25) 2:00 pm Clergy Bible Study

26) 6:30 pm Scouts  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

27) Epiphany 8  
8:00 am Said Eucharist  
9:15 am S.S./Choir  
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

28) 6:00 pm Food Pantry  
(by appointment only)  
7:00 pm Confirmation  
Class



# THE THINGS I THINK I OWN....

Today I stood at my window and cursed the pouring rain.  
 Today a desperate farmer prayed for his fields of grain.  
 My weekend plans are ruined; it almost makes me cry,  
 While the farmer lifts his arms and blesses the clouded sky.

The alarm went off on Monday and I cursed my work routine.  
 Next door a laid-off mechanic feels the empty pocket of his jeans.  
 I can't wait for my vacation, some time to take for me.  
 He doesn't know, tonight, how he'll feed his family.

I cursed my leaky roof and the grass I need to mow.  
 A homeless man downtown checks for change in the telephone.  
 I need a new car; mine is getting really old.  
 He huddles in a doorway, seeking shelter from the cold.

With blessings I'm surrounded: the rain, a job, a home,  
 Though my eyes are often blinded by the things I think I own.

*...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
 whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything  
 worthy of praise, think about these things.  
 Philippians 4:8*

<b>WEEKLY REPORT</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>	<b>Jan. 2</b>	<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>Jan. 16</b>
<b>8:00 am Attendance</b>	26	29	33	32
<b>10:30 am Attendance</b>	32	52	66	75
<b>Plate and Pledge</b>	\$4,051.00	\$1,496.00	\$2,948.00	\$3,666.00

## NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Individuals interested in registering a child for the 2011-2012 school year beginning in September 2011 may attend an open registration for the public March 1, 2011 at 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. The snow date is scheduled for March 8, 2011 at 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Children registering for the 2011 - 2012 school year must be at least 3 years of age by December 1, 2011. A three day class for 3 year olds class will also be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Children in this class must be 3 years of age by September 1, 2011. Classes for older children are also available. If you know anyone interested for next year you may also have them call the school office at: 610-435-4260.



This is a busy time of year for the staff as they are preparing for parent/teacher conferences that are held the last week in January. This one on one with the teacher allows the parent to find out how their child is progressing. It enables the parents to prepare for their child's placement for the following school year.

The parent organization will be organizing the annual "Valentine's Social". The social will be held in the parish hall on Sunday, February 13, 2011. The students may come and are encouraged to bring a parent along to join in the fun with dance contests, refreshments, and other surprises.

Every year the school participates in the American Cancer's "Daffodil Day's" fundraiser. If there is anyone wishing to order Daffodil's that will be delivered the week of March 14, 2011, just in time to usher in Spring, please contact the school office. Order forms will also be available in the back of the church and from the church office. The deadline for ordering is February 16, 2011 NO EXCEPTIONS!

We continue to collect Boxtops for education along with Redner's "save-a-tape" receipts. If you have any loose box tops lying around we are submitting them to be redeemed for cash the middle of February.



## OUR LIMITED MOBILITY SAINTS

DONALD & DORIS BOEHRER, SR.  
2303 S. 11th St., Allentown, PA 18103-5611

VERNA CANOVA  
Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd., #475, Allentown, PA 18104

HELEN CHAMBERLAIN  
Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd, # 563, Allentown, PA 18104

TINA DECKER  
936 N. 33d St. Allentown, PA 18104

DORIS FLAMISH  
3914 Old Country Road, Whitehall, PA 18052

CHARLES & MURIEL HARMANY  
175 W. North St., #1211, Nazareth, PA 18064

JACK JONES  
3000 Fellowship Drive, #G54, Whitehall, PA 18052

MARIE KORUTZ  
1000 Fourth Street, #506, Whitehall, PA 18052

NADINE SCHOONOVER  
2021 Bally Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

ANNE SISKA  
3877 Rosewood Lane, Whitehall, PA 18052

DOLLY SMITH  
Above & Beyond, 2232 SW 29th Street, #2, Allentown, PA 18103

PLEASE VISIT AND/OR

SEND A CARD OF CHEER!





For the month of February the Food Pantry is  
in need of the following items:

Pancake Mix  
Pancake Syrup  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Tomato Paste, Tomato sauce, Stewed tomatoes or diced tomatoes  
Cold and/or Hot Cereals  
Jelly  
Juices  
Dry Milk  
Canned Meats (Hams, Chicken, Turkey)  
Hot Chocolate  
Coffee (Regular and Decaf) - Small Boxes of tea bags  
Coffee-mate (powdered)  
Hamburger, Chicken or Tuna Helpers  
Boxed potatoes (Instant mashed, scalloped, etc.)  
Boxed or bags pasta noodles (Penne, Shells, Egg Noodles, etc...)  
Beef-A-Roni, Spaghetti O's, Raviolis  
Rice mixes (Rice-A-Roni, etc.)  
Canned Carrots, Beets, mixed Vegetables  
Canned Fruits - Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail  
Individually wrapped rolls of toilet paper (no Packs, Please)

**We want to thank everyone, for their continued support of this ministry.....  
It means so much....to so many.**

Doreen Wagner  
Coordinator  
Whitehall Food Pantry Coalition of Churches



## How to Stay Motivated: Seven Rules

#1 Set a major goal, but follow a path. The path has mini-goals that go in many directions. When you learn to succeed at mini-goals, you will be motivated to challenge grand goals.

#2 Finish what you start. A half finished project is of no use to anyone. Quitting is a habit. Develop the habit of finishing self-motivated projects.

#3 Socialize with other of similar interest. Mutual support is motivating. We will develop the attitude of our five best friends. If they are losers, we will be a loser. If they are winners, we will be a winner.

#4 Learn how to learn. Dependency on others supports the habit of procrastination. In fact, when we learn the art of self education we will find, if not create, opportunity to find success beyond our wildest dreams.

#5 Harmonize natural talent with interest that motivates. Natural talent creates motivation, motivation creates persistence and persistence gets the job done.

#6 Increase knowledge of subjects that inspires. The more we know about a subject, the more we want to learn about it. A self-propelled upward spiral develops.

#7 Take risk. Failure and bouncing back are elements of motivation. Failure is a learning tool. No one has ever succeeded at anything worthwhile without a string of failures.

## & Three Commandments

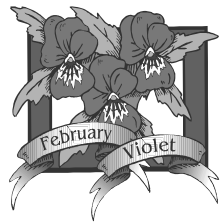
#1. Make time for God. Reading the Bible, prayer, and worship are all important keys to staying spiritually refreshed and avoiding ministry burnout.

#2. Make time for yourself. Remember that God rested on the seventh day. Make time for resting and being with family. It will keep enthusiasm and excitement in ministry.

#3. Marry your passion and priorities. God gave us specific gifts and designed us to be passionate about using them. Passion motivates and can be a key to superior results. Prioritize to do what only you can do. Do what you are passionate about doing.

\*taken from [CHURCHRELEVANCE.COM](http://CHURCHRELEVANCE.COM)

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**The March Steve-Adore deadline will be Tuesday, February 15th!**



## Happy Birthday

2/2 Donald Boehrer, Jr. Otho James	2/18 Charlotte Harbst Wes Schlauch
2/6 Fr. John Wagner	2/19 Haley Wagner
2/8 Thomas Fuller Ann Reeder	2/20 Kathryn Siegmund
2/9 Muriel Harmany	2/21 Diane Hyzinski
2/13 Kaitlyn Searfoss	2/23 Dorothy Reiss Joanne Searfoss
2/15 Scott Holmes Joseph Lamm	2/24 Samantha Figueroa
2/18 James Colombo	2/28 Toby Harbst Alycia Wagner



## Happy Anniversary!

No Anniversaries in February