

Epiphany



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

STEVE-ADORE

2012

January

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

Holiday Office Hours:

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 2nd.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: On Sunday, January 29th, we will hold our Annual Parish Meeting between services at 9:15 (no Sunday School that day). Committee heads please submit your 2011 report no later than January 9th.

2012 CALENDARS: The Churchman's Ordo Kalendar's have arrived and may be picked up in the Narthex. Please only one per family!

YEAR END STATEMENTS: Your 2011 Year-End Giving Statements will be mailed the beginning of January 2012.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

- Kyle Dougherty, USMC
- Robert C. Gehres II, USA
- Robert C. Gehres III, PAARNG
- Seth Sassaman, USMC



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

Fr. Frank St. Amour, Rector

(610) 264-2149

(817) 706-7269 (c)

Mr. Thomas Steckel, Senior Warden

(610) 216-6916

Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

Webpage: www.ststephenepiscopal.org

Office Phone: 610-435-3901

FAX: 610-435-4156

Email: saintste@ptd.net





HEALING THE CONSUMER ATTITUDE

The word "consumer" always conjures up, for me, the image of some giant boa constrictor, devouring all in its path. And to call people "consumers" seems to denigrate them to that level. It is a sad fact, however, that that is how many people behave in our society.

I'm not sure if the behaviour preceded the description or vice versa, but either way, the Church has been challenged by the all-consuming consumer attitude.

When I lived in Texas, there was a 15,000 member church in our area whose motto, emblazoned on all their advertising, was "We're All About You."

Funny. I thought church was supposed to be all about God.

But, everything today is measured by its value to the individual. Sermons, for example, about God and the life of the world to come are given low marks because people say they expect their church to show them how to improve their lives in the here and now.

Churches host outlets of Starbucks (for real) because they know people will be attracted to a brand name and a quality consumer product.

Churches hire full-time youth ministers and pay them as much as pastors because they know the sad reality that families today flit from church to church seeking the ultimate youth programme and will not stay unless one is offered with all the bells and whistles.

Denominational loyalty is at an all-time low. People go to whatever church has the best religio-tainment on offer. And this has led to an increasing imbalance in American religion.

It is popular to criticize the wealthy 1% in our society but the 1% attitude is fostered by the 99% when it comes to church.

Just looking at the Episcopal Church, we have about 7,500 congregations and a million members but 40% of the members belong to only a few hundred of the congregations. This leaves the majority of Episcopalians "left behind" and scattered in small, increasingly struggling, parishes.



It's no better in other denominations. Even among Lutherans and Presbyterians and the U.C.C. in our area there are lots of tiny congregations trying to keep the doors open and a few really big ones with overflowing parking lots. And it's especially the young families and professionals who choose to leave their local church behind and drive, often some distance, to a "full-service" church because they have become infected with the consumer attitude.

Churches were once the centre of local community and town life. Today, the big church is often a "destination church" attracting people from a wide variety of towns and, thus, weakening the local community's churches.

St. Stephen's was, actually, a bit guilty of this in the past. We were, once, one of the larger parishes in the diocese and offered lots of activities. But, being a "destination church" came at a price in that by drawing members from all over the Lehigh Valley, we never put down roots in Whitehall. We were in here but not of here. Barely a quarter of our members lived in the township so, when we ceased to be a "destination", we had no community to fall back on.

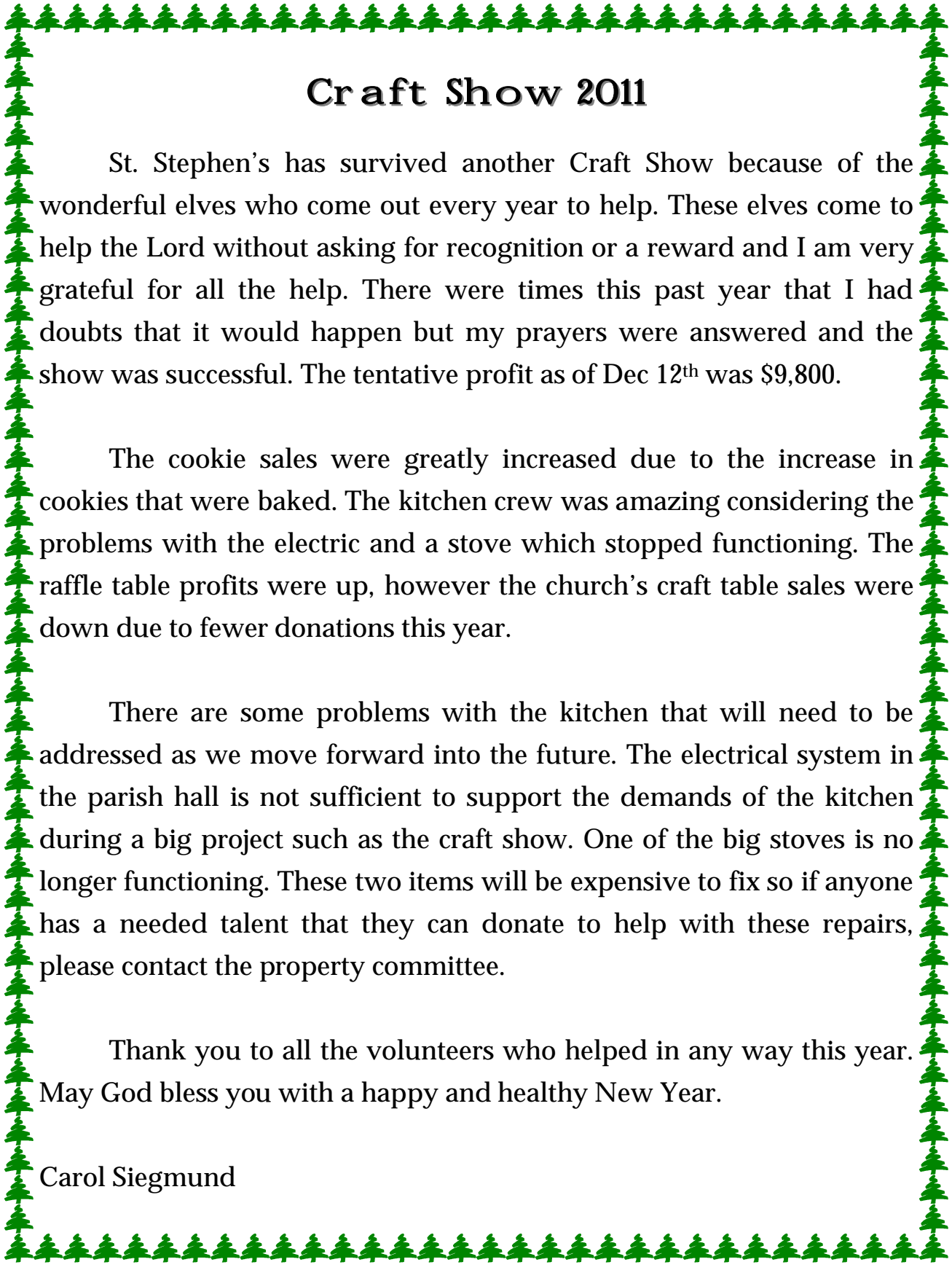
Yes, local people knew the School, and Food Pantry, and the Craft Show, but none of that translated into Sunday worshippers. And, today, we find ourselves trying to prop up these products for the consuming public without their regular support.

That is, if the School, or Food Pantry, or Craft Show closed, the general public would immediately lament. If the Sunday worshipping church closed, it might be years before that same public noticed. And they probably wouldn't care.

It's time to reach the community in which we are placed with who and what we really are all about. **I would like volunteers** to call on new residents and talk about St. Stephen's and the Episcopal Church as a God-centred alternative in a self-centred world. Hey! That's how our parish got started in Catasauqua over a hundred years ago. Lay people went around the town and let who and what they were be known. They called on complete strangers (it was even named the "Strangers' Committee") and introduced people who had never heard of the Episcopal Church to the richness we have to offer.

As the Bible says, you do not have because you do not ask (James 4). So, let's ask. Let's heal some consumers and make them into worshippers.

Fr. Frank +



Craft Show 2011

St. Stephen's has survived another Craft Show because of the wonderful elves who come out every year to help. These elves come to help the Lord without asking for recognition or a reward and I am very grateful for all the help. There were times this past year that I had doubts that it would happen but my prayers were answered and the show was successful. The tentative profit as of Dec 12th was \$9,800.

The cookie sales were greatly increased due to the increase in cookies that were baked. The kitchen crew was amazing considering the problems with the electric and a stove which stopped functioning. The raffle table profits were up, however the church's craft table sales were down due to fewer donations this year.

There are some problems with the kitchen that will need to be addressed as we move forward into the future. The electrical system in the parish hall is not sufficient to support the demands of the kitchen during a big project such as the craft show. One of the big stoves is no longer functioning. These two items will be expensive to fix so if anyone has a needed talent that they can donate to help with these repairs, please contact the property committee.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in any way this year. May God bless you with a happy and healthy New Year.

Carol Siegmund

January 2012

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

3900 Mechanicsville Road
Whitehall, PA 18052
610-435-3901
FAX LINE: 610-435-4156
EMAIL: saintste@ptd.net

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) **The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
No Sunday School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

2) *Office Closed for New Year's Day!*
Food Pantry on Tuesday!

3) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist
6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
7:00 pm School Board Mtg.

4) 6:30 pm Scouts

5)

6) **Epiphany**

7)

8) **1 Epiphany**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sun. School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

9) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)

10) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist followed by O.S.L. Mtg.
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
7:00 pm Property Mtg.
7:00 pm Finance Mtg.

11) 6:30 pm Scouts
8am-2pm Nursery School Safety Town

13)

14)

15) **2 Epiphany**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sun. School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon D.O.K.

16) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)

17) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg.

18) 6:30 pm Scouts

20)

21)

22) **3 Epiphany**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sun. School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

23) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)

24) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers

25) 6:30 pm Scouts

27)

28) Pac 39 Pinewood Derby in Parish Hall
All day!

29) **4 Epiphany**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
Annual Parish Meeting in Parish Hall
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

30) No Food Pantry!
5th Monday

31) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers



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

- Hot Chocolate
- Cold or Hot Cereals
- Dry Milk
- Coffee (Regular)
- Pancake Mix and Pancake Syrup
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Juices
- Boxed potatoes (Instant mashed, scalloped, etc.)
- Beef-a-Roni – Raviolis – Spaghetti O's
- Canned Meats (Chicken, Ham, Turkey)
- Sugar (packets or 1lb. boxes)
- Pasta meals (Hamburger, Chicken, or Tuna Helper, etc.)

Many thanks to all of you who helped out again this year by donating a Turkey for our Thanksgiving day dinners for our Food Pantry families....Thank you!!

We want to thank everyone, for their continued support of this ministry.....

Doreen Wagner
Coordinator
Whitehall Food Pantry Coalition of Churches

NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

The nursery school and kindergarten celebrated the birth of Jesus with a special program toward the end of December. A brief presentation by the Nursery School students was followed by a "CHRISTMAS" pageant presented by the Kindergarten students. Santa took time from his busy schedule to make a brief appearance and wish the school families a Merry Christmas.

We celebrated the "12 Days of Christmas" before the Christmas break. The families were able to purchase one or multiple stars for one dollar for their child. Their names were written on the stars which were used in a drawing "12" day's during December. One star was drawn from a container, each day. The child, whose star was chosen, selected a Scholastic book from the school's supply to keep. The proceeds from the "Stars" and the raffle of two donated reversible fleece throws netted \$600. The proceeds were used to ship the Operation Christmas Child boxes.

The 2012-2013 registration for the public is set for March 6, 2012 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Children registering for the 2012- 2013 school year must be at least 3 years of age by December 1, 2012. Classes for older children are also available. Registration for current families will take place prior to the public registration. If you know anyone interested in enrolling their child for next school year they may call the school office at: 610-435-4260.

In January, a Joe Corbi food fundraiser will begin. If you are interested in purchasing products from this fundraiser you may obtain order sheets from the school office. The orders are scheduled to be delivered before the Super Bowl. Products are great for quick meals and a must for Super Bowl parties!

The School is participating in the Giant A+ School Rewards Program. Anyone who has a Giant Bonus Card may simply register your 11 digit card at: giantfoodstores.com/aplus or call 1-888-448-4642 to register over the phone. The School ID number is: #06003. After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your BONUSCARD earns cash for our school! Don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. Proceeds will be used for the school's educational needs. We also continue to collect Boxtops for education along with Redner's "save-a-tape" receipts.

FROM THE STAFF AT THE SCHOOL
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!





OUR LIMITED MOBILITY SAINTS

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

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

**HELEN CHAMBERLAIN, Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd. # 302,
Allentown, PA 18104**

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

**CHARLES & MURIEL HARMANY, Moravian Square Hall,
175 W. North St. #1211, Nazareth, PA 18064**

MARY LEE, Luthercrest, 800 Hausman Rd. #303, Allentown, PA 18104

NADINE SCHOONOVER, 2021 Bally Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

ANNE SISKA, 3877 Rosewood Lane, Whitehall, PA 18052

**DOLLY SMITH, Above & Beyond, 2232 SW 29th St. #231,
Allentown, PA 18103**

**PLEASE VISIT AND/OR
SEND A CARD OF CHEER!**

PARISH HISTORY PROJECT

Do you have pictures of our clergy?

A uniform display of all our clergy is in the works. On the bulletin board in the hallway near the Parish Hall are some pictures we have received from parishes where our clergy went after they were here.

Would you help us contact more parishes?

Thanks.

CLERGY OF ST.STEPHEN'S

The Revd. Dr. William H. Heigham	Missioner and Rector Mar. 1st, 1898—1900
The Revd. George A. Green	Rector 1900—1905
The Revd. James B. May	Rector Sept. 1905—1915
The Revd. George S. Mullen	Rector 1915-1917
The Revd. LeRoy Eltringham	Rector 1917—Sept. 1920
The Revd. William F. Colclough	Rector Jan. 1921—1946
The Revd. Norton B. Hauser	Supply Nov. 1946—May 1947
The Revd. George S. Bowden	Rector May 1947—Feb. 1949
The Revd. William B. Williamson	Rector 1949—1952
The Revd. Holt M. Jenkins	Rector 1952—1953
The Revd. Chesley V. Daniel	Rector 1953—Feb. 1960
The Revd. William F. Murphey	Rector Mar. 1960—Nov. 1965
The Revd. Erwin H. Bauder	Supply Nov. 1965—Feb. 1966
The Revd. Joseph S. Falzone	Rector Mar. 1966—Sep. 2000
The Revd. William H. Ilgenfritz	Rector Oct. 2000—Oct. 2004
The Revd. Mark W. Lewis	Curate Jun. 2001-Sep. 2004; Priest-in-Charge Oct. 2004—Feb. 2006
The Revd. Gerald Reiss	Supply Feb. 2006—Jul. 2006
The Revd. John C. Wagner	Interim Jul. 2006—Aug. 2008
The Revd. Frank S. St.Amour, III	Rector Sept. 2008—

WEEKLY REPORT	Nov. 27	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18
8:00 am Attendance	21	30	31	45
10:30 am Attendance	42	54	50	50
Plate and Pledge	\$1,146.00	\$2,895.00	\$3,565.00	\$1,839.00



VESTRY NOMINATIONS

It is the time of year when we give thought to the selection of persons to serve as ministry leaders on our Parish Vestry.

The Bible teaches that those who exercise leadership here on earth reflect and exercise the leadership of God. Vestry members, therefore, should be persons who reflect the life of God in Christ in their daily walk.

The diocese sets forth certain criteria for vestry, in effect stating that each person must be a man or woman of personal prayer, faithfully attending worship, supporting financially, and actively engaged in parish life. Each nominee should also be hopeful about our parish and focused on the future.

Please prayerfully consider, then, those persons whom you feel are called to this leadership and submit their names to the office by Dec. 30th.

We have four seats to fill and three names submitted, so far.

Balloting will take place during January with the results announced at the Annual Meeting on January 29th, 2012.

Following are remarks from Evelyn Underhill
in a column she writes for the Episcopal Journal:

* * * * *

One of the most important things in our prayer is
the eagerness and confidence with which we
throw ourselves open to his perpetual coming.

There should always be more waiting than
striving in a Christian prayer.

Evelyn Underhill



**SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
3900 MECHANICSVILLE ROAD
WHITEHALL PA 18052-3347**



HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

The February Steve-Adore deadline will be Monday, January 16th



Happy Birthday

1/4 Doris Boehrer	1/20 Marilyn Benscoter
1/8 Audrey Bancroft	Stephen Holsinger
1/12 Christina Decker	1/22 Joseph Dispensa
Richard Hillenbrand	1/26 Janet Kleisch
1/14 Charles Bond	1/27 Bettsie Eilinsfeld
1/18 Alexander Eddinger	1/28 Mary Dugan
1/19 Candice Holsinger	1/29 Kathryn Wentworth
	1/30 Pearl Hirschel



Happy Anniversary!

No anniversaries in January!