



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

STEVE-ADORE

2011



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



ASH WEDNESDAY (March 9th) SERVICES

7:00 a.m. Ashes and Reserved Communion
 12:00 Noon Ashes and Reserved Communion
 7:00 p.m. Ashes and Eucharist

TURN YOUR CLOCK(S) AHEAD!

Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 13th.
 Please set your clocks ahead one hour
 before you go to bed.



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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Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

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Saint Patrick



RE-MIND ME

We may have all heard the story of the contractor who short-changed a church by thinning out his paint. One night, his conscience got the better of him and he prayed for guidance at which point a voice came from above, "Repaint, and thin no more."

Repentance is the great theme of Lent but so often it is presented in terms that are gloomy and depressing, to say the least. The saying that one would rather "laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints" implies that saints are miserable folk whose company is to be avoided—and with good reason if that's how they behave.

Certainly, there are Christians whose "pious" demeanour would depress a hyena, but those are distortions. Consider, if Jesus had gone about with a long face and grumpy manner nobody would have followed him down the street.

Repentance is actually a joyful and exciting thing once we understand it. The problem is most of us don't. We think it just means giving up bad habits, and, yes, that is part of it, but there's so much more. It means taking on, as St. Paul puts it, "the mind of Christ".

The mind of Christ. That is, the attitude to life, the behaviour to others, the sense of personhood, which Jesus had—and there wasn't anything melancholy about that. Jesus was cheerful, humourous, and helpful, always seeing the best in people. Yes, he told people to give up bad habits ("go and sin no more" - not, "be more discreet, next time") but having the "mind of Christ" is so much more than that because it's not about what we do so much as it's about what we are. It's about being.

Most of the world's religions focus on doing right things. Christianity is different in that it puts more emphasis on the inner being than the outer expression.



For example, in other religions you are free to hate people as long as you don't kill them. You are free to lust as long as you don't sleep with someone else's spouse. You are free to lie as long as you don't do it under oath.

But Jesus equated hatred with murder, lust with adultery, and lies with perjury. Spoil-sport.

His "mind" was one which went beyond not doing bad things or even thinking bad thoughts. His "mind", his very being, was focused on the highest and best. And that is his will for all of us to imitate.

He knows we can do it, with his help. If it were impossible then God would be very cruel indeed to set us an impossible goal and then condemn us for not achieving it. Actually, we're the ones who usually set impossible goals for ourselves and then get mad at God when we don't succeed.

God's goals for us are not so difficult, but they require some work on our part and that's where Lent comes in—a season of self-examination and time to focus on ways we can get that "mind of Christ" inside of us.

After all, it won't do to say I'll "give up" something "for Lent" but plan to start doing or enjoying it again as soon as the six-week "test" is over. There's no point to "giving up" anything in that case since we're not, really.

Jesus once encountered a young man who claimed to have mastered the Commandments. Now, since these are just a few examples of the Two Great Commandments to love God and neighbour, this fellow was claiming to be 100% spiritually perfect. So Jesus told him (and probably with a smile) to sell everything he owned and give it away since a 100% spiritually perfect person has no need of material possessions. The young man went away depressed. Evidently, he wasn't as perfect as he thought.

There are times I'd like to skip Lent, but as long as my mind and Christ's mind aren't the same thing, I'll always need to "mind the gap", as it were, and Lent is as good a time as any to work on that.

Fr. Frank +

The Leadership of Vestry



The men and women who serve on our vestry are very special because they believe that vestry leadership includes a spiritual dimension. In Lent, they covenant to hold every member and friend of the parish up in prayer throughout the season.

Every weekday, a vestry member attends a Eucharist in the chapel (it runs about 20 minutes) at which he or she reads prayers for a section of our parish list.

Here is the schedule for this Lent.

Mondays at 8:00 a.m. A-D

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. E-G

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. H-M

Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. R-S

Fridays at 9:30 a.m. T-Z

Why not join them at the services in prayer for yourself and your fellow parishioners? The old saying that there's safety in numbers applies to prayer, as well. The more of us together, the more strength we give and receive and in the context of the Eucharist it is multiplied beyond measure.

Your Vestry: Tom Steckel (Senior Warden—Leadership), Libby DeVore (Junior Warden—Property), Greg Gaugler (Church Growth/Fellowship), Ken Rider (Education), Joe Lamm (Worship and Pastoral Care), Doreen Wagner (Youth and Outreach), Bob Gehres (Finance).



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Parish Meeting and Awards Ceremony was celebrated Sunday, January 23rd, in our Parish Hall between the regular services.

After the call to order at 9:25 a.m. and an opening prayer, Bob Gehres presented the financial report. Income from all sources was \$238,240 and Operating Expenses were \$256,299. The \$18,000 difference was made up by drawing from Reserves. In addition, Reserves were used to cover the Mortgage Principal (about \$12,000) which is not reflected as an Operating Expense.

Youth of the Year Award

Congratulations were extended to Phillip Rider.



The 2010 Parish Leadership Awards

To Darlene Dimmick, for organizing the Sunday Flower Delivery to our members of limited mobility.

To Steve DeVore, for leading the Acolyte Programme.

To Bob Gehres, for his service as Financial Secretary.

To Greg Gaugler, for all he does with Parish Life Events.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry

Sherrie Heffernan and Nathan Rider.

Recognition of Newly Elected Vestry

Ken Rider and Libby DeVore.

Appointment of Senior Warden

Tom Steckel

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



MARCH 2011

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

3900 Mechanicsville Road
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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 Growth Mtg.
4) 5) 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
9:30 am Parish List Mass

5:30 pm Weight Watchers
7:00 pm School. Board
6:30 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

6) **Last Epiphany** 7) 8:00 am Healing Eucharist followed by O.S.L. Mtg.
8) 5:30 pm Weight Watchers
9) **Ash Wednesday** 10) 2:30 pm Parish List Mass
11) 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
12) 9:30 am Parish List Mass

8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am S.S./Choir
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon JYG
Noon-2:00 pm D.O.K.

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

13) **Lent 1** *Daylight Savings Begins*
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am S.S./Choir
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon-2:00 pm D.O.K.

14) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)
8:00 am Parish List Mass

15) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

16) 6:30 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

17) 2:00 pm Clergy Bible Study
2:30 pm Parish List Mass

18) 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
9:30 am Parish List Mass

20) **Lent 2**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am S.S./Choir
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon JYG
Noon -2:00 pm D.O.K.

21) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)
7:00 pm Prayer Book Class
8:00 am Parish List Mass

22) 9:30 am Healing Service
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
7:00 pm Vestry Mtg.
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

23) 6:30 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

24) 2:30 pm Parish List Mass

25) 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction
9:30 am Parish List Mass

27) **Lent 3**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am S.S./Choir
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon-2:00 pm D.O.K.

28) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)
7:00 pm Prayer Book Class
8:00 am Parish List Mass

29) 9:30 am Healing Service
5:30 pm Weight Watchers
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

30) 6:30 pm Scouts
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm Parish List Mass

31) 2:30 pm Parish List Mass



The Acorn Planter!

In the 1930's, a young traveler was exploring the French Alps. He came upon a vast stretch of barren land. It was desolate. It was forbidding. It was ugly. It was the king of place you hurry away from.



100,000 acorns. Perhaps only a tenth of them will grow.” The old man’s wife and son had died, and this was how he chose to spend his final years. “I want to do something useful,” he said.

Then, suddenly, the young traveler stopped dead in his tracks. In the middle of this vast wasteland was a bent-over old man. On his back was a sack of acorns. In his hand was a four-foot length of iron pipe.

Twenty-five years later the now-not-as young traveler returned to the same desolate area. What he saw amazed him. He could not believe his own eyes. The land was covered with a beautiful forest two miles wide and five miles long. Birds were singing, animals were playing, and wild flowers perfumed the air.

The man was using the iron pipe to punch holes in the ground. Then from the sack he would take an acorn and put it in the hole. Later the old man told the traveler, “I’ve planted over

The traveler stood there recalling the desolation that once was; a beautiful oak forest stood there now—all because someone cared.



WEEKLY REPORT	Jan. 30	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20
8:00 am Attendance	32	20	42	32
10:30 am Attendance	58	62	58	37
Plate and Pledge	\$2,953.00	\$2,765.00	\$2,355.50	\$1,913.00

NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN



The parent organization held its fourth annual “Valentine’s Social” in the parish hall on Sunday, February 13, 2011. Students and parents from many classes attended with over 100 individuals present. Part of the requirement to attend asks families to contribute items for the food pantry. We filled a utility cart with food items for the food pantry. The students enjoyed participating in dance contests, games, and making a crafts. Everyone was served light refreshments, and had a chance to mingle with other families.

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 from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. The snow date is scheduled for March 8, 2011 at the same time. Children registering for the 2011-12 school year must be at least 3 years of age by December 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 for more information at: 610-435-4260.

Looking ahead in March, discounted Hershey Park tickets will be available to order from the school. The ticket prices (almost half) are significantly reduced and may be used anytime during regular operating hours of the 2011 season. Order forms when available the will be placed in a holder outside the church office.

We continue to collect Boxtops for education along with Redner’s “save-a-tape” receipts. Again this year students participated in a collection that included a contest for two students to each win a Build-a-bear gift certificate. The total collections this time resulted in total receipts of over \$ 700. A big Thank you to all who cut, clipped, and taped! Remember we continue to collect Box tops and Render’s “save-a-tapes” year round.



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!

Christians are like the several flowers in a garden that have each of them the dew of Heaven, which, being shaken with the wind, they let fall at each other's roots, whereby they are jointly nourished, and become nourishers of each other. - *John Bunyan (1628-1688)*



For the month of March 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
Dry Milk
Canned Meats (Hams, Chicken, Turkey)
Hot Chocolate
Coffee (Regular and Decaf)
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.)
Soup
Canned Carrots, Beets, mixed Vegetables
Canned Fruits - Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail
Individually wrapped rolls of toilet paper (no Packs, Please)
Cake mixes and Icing
Salt and Pepper

**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



“AND ALSO WITH YOU”

Back in the 1950's, the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches began a process of comprehensive liturgical reform. This was not a top-down imposition by academics and theologians. It was, rather, the leadership's initially reluctant response to what increasing numbers of laity were requesting.

Just as the historic 16thC liturgies, in Latin and English, had followed a structure consistent with literary forms of Italian Renaissance and Elizabethan secular culture, so too did people of the 20thC want a liturgy consistent with contemporary forms. The results, after years of study, discussion, and trial use, were the 1970 vernacular Roman Rite and the 1979 Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

As both are products of the same period, it is no great surprise that they are very similar in structure and content. They have proven so popular that other denominations have followed them. As a result, there is more liturgical similarity among Christians in our time than in almost any other in history.

Liturgical development is nothing new to Episcopalians. The 1662 English Prayer Book used in the colonies was replaced after Independence by the very different 1789 American Prayer Book. Subsequent revisions were issued in 1892 and 1928—only 36 years apart. Production of another book fifty years later was hardly unexpected.

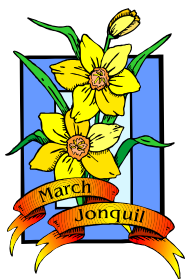
For various reasons, however, this was not made part of the life of St. Stephen's until 2005 when the decision was made to transition to this nearly thirty-year-old-new form of worship. As a temporary expedient, an unofficial academic publication, titled the “Anglican Service Book”, was made available.

Over the past two years, we have become familiar with more of the official texts. In order to better study the liturgy in context, though, a Prayer Book class will be offered on Monday nights at 7:00.

Also, in Lent, we will use, at 10:30, the responses of, “The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*”. Our tongues, mine included, will likely get tied a bit on occasion, but we'll muddle through, as Episcopalians always do.

Fr. Frank +

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



Happy Birthday

3/8 Matthew Kurtz 3/9 Anderson Dear Carol Holmes Kenneth Holmes 3/10 Michael Randis 3/11 Carlos Figueroa 3/12 Gregory Gaugler	3/15 Doreen Wagner 3/17 Jennifer Fisher 3/19 Erin Wiedemann 3/24 Joseph Gonda 3/29 Carol Wilson
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Happy Anniversary!

3/9 August & Lynette Kantner 3/21 Joseph & Stella Gonda	3/21 John & Bonita Vanko
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