



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

STEVE-ADORE

**2011
November**

“Vision-directed, People-oriented, Gospel-disciplined”



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
ENDS SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 6TH!**

Turn your clocks back one



hour!

ALL SOULS' MASS

Wednesday,
November 2nd



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

29th Annual Holiday Craft Show

Friday, December 2nd, 3pm – 9pm

Saturday, December 3rd, 9am – 3pm

- Over 60 Crafters
- Quilt Raffle for queen-size quilt –Red/Blue/Cream
- Homemade Cookies
- Baked Goods
- All day Food Court
- FREE PARKING
- Bring the whole family!

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

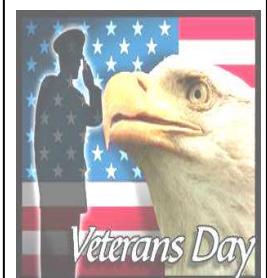
Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

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THINK THANKS

Increasingly, for Americans, the holiday we call "Thanksgiving" is an observance, that is to say a thing observed rather than felt, a looking on rather than an involvement. What is the real message of Thanksgiving? A family reunion? Countdown to Christmas? Let's move along.

But there is too much in the thought behind the day to put it out of mind so soon. As a form of prayer, thanksgiving has been called the highest. Some maintain that adoration should come first but the case can be made that a man cannot be moved to adore God before he has learned to thank Him. Even the Roman writer Cicero claimed "a thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues."

Cicero of course, was not a Christian, nor did he know English, but he would have been struck that in our language the words "think" and "thank" derive from the same root. A thank is a thought and a good think leads to a good thanks. A man, once asked for what he was most thankful in life, replied, "I thank God for God". That gets to the heart of it. When we pause long enough to analyze the feelings of gratitude we experience in life we come to realize that they are the result of God's benefits in our lives.

What are some of those benefits? "He forgives all your sins..., heals all your infirmities..., redeems your life from the grave..., crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness." (Psalm 103)

Imagine David strumming his harp; "How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?" (Psalm 116) How can he answer the question he has just asked? And then, after a good think, comes an inspiration; "I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving.....I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people". No private tip of the crown here, but a resounding public declaration of his dependence on God, his faith in God's power, his devotion to God's will.

David had to find, however, some concrete way to make his thanksgiving real and meaningful. He did it by going before his people and inspiring them with his own feelings.



We too, need to find some tangible way to express our own thanksgivings and that is what makes a thankful spirit one of the most dynamic forces in the world. It explains, in part, the immense power and appeal of the Early Church in a society that was consumed, as ours, with self indulgence, self fulfillment, and selfishness.

In the play, "You Can't Take it With You", there's a scene where Grandpa gives the grace before the meal - "Well Sir, we've been getting along pretty good for awhile now, and we're certainly much obliged. Remember, all we ask is just to go along and be happy in our own sort of way. Of course, we want to keep our health, but as far as anything else is concerned, we'll leave it to you. Thank you."

A lovely sentiment - as far as it goes. But in a world where so many are in so much need, it doesn't go far enough. More and more, people are finding that their thanksgivings take on meaning only when they overflow, even just a little, into the needs of other people.

In Deuteronomy, Moses assures the people that God is leading them into a land of plenty, of milk and honey, where they may eat bread to their heart's content. But he takes care to point out a subtle danger that lies in that abundance, "Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God.. Lest when you have eaten and are filled and have built splendid houses...you say in your heart, All this is the result of my power and the strength of my hand."

The warning is clear. Our abundant way of life is nothing short of miraculous and with it comes a responsibility not to waste it through ingratitude. This is the duty of which Thanksgiving Day should remind us—a duty not imposed upon us by others, but one which we should impose upon ourselves from within. By the practice of proper and constant thanksgiving, we, like David, should thank not only God for being God, but also for making us givers in his image and likeness.

And then, having thanked, **GIVE**.

Fr. Frank +



Christmas Craft Show is coming!!

The dates this year are Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd. Crafts are needed for our craft table and donations for the kitchen would be greatly appreciated! Cookie bakers, ticket sellers, table movers, car parkers, plus lots more! There is a place for everyone. If you are willing to help or are able to donate your handmade crafts to our donation table, please contact Carol Siegmund at 610-799-2253.

We are also in need of 12 oz. cans of Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Sprite, Root Beer, Iced tea, Diet Iced Tea and bottled water. Please only contribute the items we are requesting to help expedite our planning process. Donated frozen turkeys (any size) and monetary contributions would also be greatly appreciated. Items may be brought to the church anytime between 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



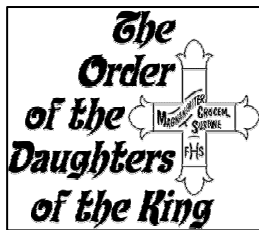
CRAFT SHOW QUILT: Stop by and take a look at our craft show quilt “*Night and Day*” which will be hanging on the wall leading to the Sanctuary. It is just beautiful. The queen size quilt was handmade by Carol Siegmund and has a beautiful arrangement of red, blue & cream colors. You will find an envelope in the Narthex with your name on it that includes 12 tickets to sell/purchase for the quilt as a fundraiser for St. Stephen’s. We hope that you will be diligent in helping us to raise money to further the work of God. Thank you!



Hands-on Help!

The Boy Scouts are having a food drive and will be delivering food to our Food Pantry on Saturday, November 12th at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will be in need of several volunteers to help unload, weigh, sort and put away the items collected. If you are able to help, please contact Doreen Wagner at 610-432-0819.

Thank in you advance for your hands-on help!



ADVENT WREATH MAKING

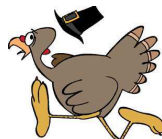
The Daughters of the King will be sponsoring a family Advent wreath making event on Sunday, November 20th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. mass. This is your opportunity to make a wreath for your home for the Advent season. The first Sunday of Advent will be the following week - November 27th.



Everything necessary to make your wreath will be supplied but it would be helpful to bring gardening gloves and clippers with you. Closer to the time there will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex just so we can get an idea of how many are coming. We will also have a prayer leaflet available to aid in your spiritual preparation to celebrate Christ's birth.

Altar Guild Advent and Christmas Preparation

Altar Guild will begin preparing for the holidays by polishing the brass and silver. Mark your calendars now to lend a hand, Friday, November 18th at 7:00 PM. Immediately following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, December 18th, the church will be decorated for Christmas masses. Please consider staying after the service to set up the trees, hang the wreaths, and assemble the crèche. Friday, December 23rd, at 9:00 AM the church will need some finishing touches. Poinsettias will need to be put in place. Several volunteers will be necessary to complete this task. All are welcome to participate in any of these events. Please call JoAnn Fedor for more information or if you have any questions at: 610-799-0887.



In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th.

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

3900 Mechanicsville Road
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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

NOVEMBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



*Turn clocks back 1 hour
on Nov. 5th*

6) **Pentecost 21**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

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

8) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist followed by O.S.L. Mtg.
5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Property Meeting

10)

9) 6:30 pm Scouts

11) Veteran's Day

12) 10:30 am Boy Scout Food Drive in Parish Hall

Office Closed

FR. FRANK ON VACATION NOV. 7 TH - NOV. 11

13) **Pentecost 22**
8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist

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

15)
9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Finance Com. Mtg.

17)

16) 6:30 pm Scouts

18) 7:00 pm

Altar Guild Vessel Cleaning

19)

20) **Pentecost 23**

8:00 am Said Eucharist
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Sung Eucharist
Noon D.O.K.

21)
6:00 pm Food Pantry
(by appointment only)

22)
9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall)
7:00 pm Vestry Meeting

24) *Office Closed*

23) 6:30 pm Scouts

25) *Office Closed*

26)



Happy Thanksgiving!

27) **Pentecost 24**

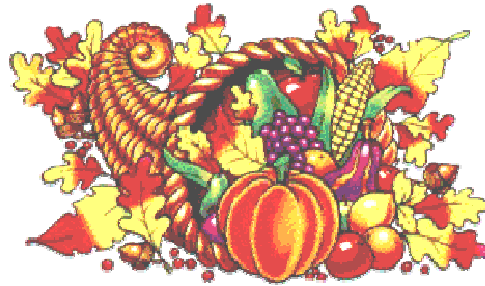
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28)
6:00 pm Food Pantry
(by appointment only)

29)
9:30 am Healing Eucharist
5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall)

30)

6:30 pm Scouts



For the Month of **NOVEMBER** the Whitehall Food Pantry is asking for your help with the following items:

- Hot Chocolate
- Cold or Hot Cereals
- Dry Milk
- Coffee (regular)
- Jelly
- Tomato paste and tomato sauce
- Sugar (packets or 1 lb. boxes)
- Pasta meals (Hamburger, Chicken or Tuna Helper, etc.)
- Beef-a-Roni – Ravioli – Spaghetti O's
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Coffee-mate (powder, small container)

We will once again be providing Thanksgiving Day Dinners to the Families of our Food Pantry for the Holidays. Along with the help from the Coalition of Churches; each church has once again been assigned a particular item to donate. St. Stephen's has been asked to donate the Pie Shell mix and Evaporated milk. We are also asking each church to either bring in their grocery store register tapes for the FREE turkeys or provide us with donations of:

****Frozen Turkeys****

The volunteers and I would like to wish you and yours a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!!!

Doreen Wagner
Coordinator
Whitehall Food Pantry Coalition of Churches

NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

During the month of October, the Whitehall Fire Department made their annual visit to the school. The firefighters dressed in their gear so the students could see what a firefighter would look like in the event of an emergency. The students also got to check out the trucks and equipment. We were introduced to Sparky's little brother Patches. Patches made his entrance on his own remote controlled fire engine. A big THANK YOU goes out to the men and women in our community that volunteer to protect our homes and businesses.

Fall festivities being held at the end of October will allow the children to create their own snack, building a scarecrow, play some games, hear stories and search for mini-pumpkins.

All during the month of November our classes will be preparing for our annual holiday family feast. There will be baking, cooking, and mixing in the classroom in order to prepare everything for this special meal. Once again we will be serving our famous vegetable soup to all who attend our Thanksgiving programs.

Openings remain in the 4 and 5 Day PM classes. If you know anyone interested in a position for a 4 year old, they may call the school office at: 610-435-4260.

We continue to make a conscious effort to collect the **GENERAL MILLS BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**. Each **BOX TOP** is worth 10 cents and this can add up quickly. There are two submission dates throughout the year where the school will be reimbursed for each boxtop submitted. If you have boxtops in your home and would like to help out the school there is a collection envelope in the church on the bulletin board next to the conference room. No one benefits if the **BOX TOPS** end up in the trash.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

***Associated Organizations/Committee Heads:** It's time to start thinking about getting your yearly report ready for 2011. It will be due by the end of December for the Annual Parish meeting in January.*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PLEDGE SO MUCH PER WEEK?

When the office gets a pledge card which says that someone pledges \$20/week, the office calculates that as $\$20 \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \$1,040/\text{year}$ and this is the amount we count on receiving.

What we find, however, is that many people interpret that to mean they will give \$20 on the weeks they attend. So, if they only come ten times a year, they only give \$200/year and think they've fulfilled their pledge.

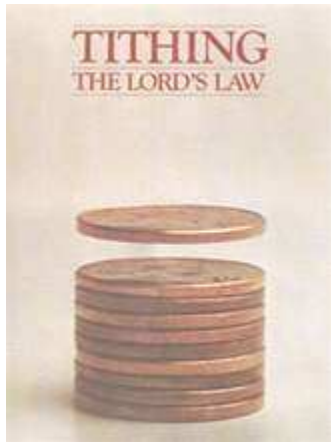
According to parish records just since 2008, there are tens of thousands of dollars which have been pledged but not received due to this practice.



2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES have arrived and will be available in the church narthex the beginning of December.



WEEKLY REPORT	Oct. 2	Oct. 9	Oct. 16	Oct. 23
8:00 am Attendance	33	27	35	33
10:30 am Attendance	36	41	44	45
Plate and Pledge	\$1,584.00	\$1,476.00	\$3,439.00	\$2,237.78



+ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH+

FINANCIAL REPORT (Prepared by Finance Committee)

For Period January 01, 2011 through September 30, 2011.

Total Receipts = \$123,485.95 (.7% above budget)

Total Expenses = \$179,966.67 (12.6% below budget)

(Deficit) = (\$56,480.72)

BALANCE SHEET

As of September 30, 2011

Total Checking = \$ 3,431.94

Total Checking and Savings = \$36,518.80 *

* Includes MM/Restricted Account (Memorials, Music, Lighting, etc.) = \$33,086.86

Total Other Current Assets = \$77,871.51

Total Current Assets = \$114,390.31

REMARKS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cash flow continues to be a very serious problem, resulting in **\$56,480.72** redeemed from investment accounts to satisfy financial obligations through September 2011. The projected additional deficit (expenses exceeding income) for October 2011 is (\$6,643.00).

Expenses are as low as possible but without an increase in regular income this Church will not be able to continue indefinitely relying on a diminishing reserve (investment principal) to satisfy operating expenses.

It is strongly urged that Parishioners step forward and commit to a more generous care giving position and assume a more active role in Church functions. Both actions will result in a more rewarding life for all parishioners and for the Church in general.

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



The December Steve-Adore deadline will be Tuesday, November 15th!



Happy Birthday

11/03 Gerald Wisser	11/19 Irene Eddinger
11/04 David Heffernan	11/21 Carolyn Rider
11/05 Michelle Moyer	Nancy Wagner
11/07 Daad Lamm	11/22 Daniel Wiedemann
11/09 August Kantner	11/30 Edwin Erking
11/12 Paula Evans	
11/14 Shirley Raab	



Happy Anniversary!

11/02 Toby & Charlotte Harbst
11/05 David & Sherrie Heffernan
11/11 Ray & Nancy Redcay
11/17 Steve & Tanya Kurtz
11/28 James & Kay Colombo
11/29 Marion & Evangeline Campbell