



ST. STEPHEN'S
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 3900 MECHANICSVILLE RD.
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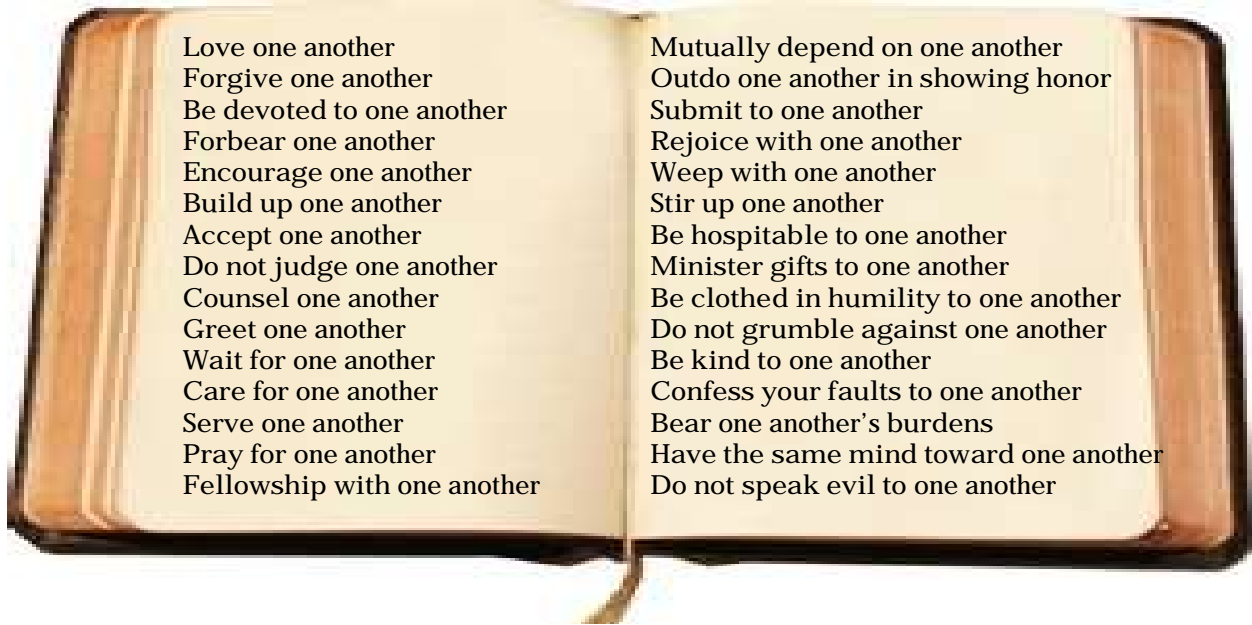
STEVE-ADORE



2011

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

Thirty "ONE ANOTHERS" From Scripture:



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



- Robert C. Gehres II, USA
- Robert C. Gehres III, PAARNG
- Seth Sassaman, USMC
- Matthew Scheib, USMC
- Stephen Vanko, USMC
- Bruce Wentworth, III, USMC

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

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(610) 216-6916

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GIVE ME THAT OLD TIME RELIGION

Why don't people go to church like they used to? We've all heard that before. It is true that until the 1960's, American church membership rose with the population. At that point, however, the reverse trend began to occur and continues to the present.

One reason is simple. Churches began to clean up records. It was no longer acceptable for a congregation with 50 on a Sunday to claim that it had 10,000 members. So, an immediate drop, on paper, resulted in many cases.

More serious, though, was the large number of youth who stopped attending church. Some returned when they married and had children, but not enough to replenish the ranks.

Why did so many young people drop out? We've heard it blamed on social unrest, increasing affluence, and other theories which attribute it to the churches themselves.

The first of these claims the exodus was a protest against the churches' supposed indifference to the struggles of minorities, the poor, and other groups. Churches did not become "relevant" and, thus, disenchanting the youth. Another theory makes the opposite argument, that the churches lost youth as the leaders gave support to "secular" (read "left-wing") causes.

A serious study, though, interviewing thousands of "baby-boomer drop-outs", finds virtually no support for either of these theories. Most drop-outs, it seems, had no interest at all in denominational politics or social policies.

And, far from liberal, a number of these drop-outs (now adults) are conservative. That is, they are pro-life, would like prayer in the schools and even tend to accept Creationism!



Indeed, most describe themselves as Christian. They pray, they respect Jesus; they're interested in the meaning of life in this world and the next; but they consider religion a purely personal matter and do not believe it necessary to attend church or wear a denominational label.

And, as traditional as they may be on some social or political issues, the vast majority do not accept the traditional teaching of churches that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Ninety-five percent of drop-outs who don't go to church but call themselves Christian do not believe Jesus is the Source of Truth. They "prefer" Christianity to other faiths, but that's as far as it goes. And, among boomers who do go to church, 68% share this non-belief in Jesus - and that even includes boomers who attend "born-again" churches (20%). Wow!

The most revealing part of the study, though, isn't about the boomers. It seems that a significant portion of their parents did not pass on a deep personal commitment to the dogmas of orthodox Christianity. Many boomers say they grew up never knowing what their parents believed or why they went to church other than for social/cultural activities for which they feel no need and have no time today. Classical spirituality was absent in their homes and that is, at the end of the day, why they dropped-out. "Church" was just another institution; not a faith.

Decades before Woodstock, there was a weakening in the spiritual conviction of adults. Without parental support, the churches lost the ability to teach the Christian faith, and what it requires, to youth in such a way as to inspire their allegiance.

This study pessimistically concludes that nothing will bring boomer drop-outs back, but, looking to the un-churched generations raised since, it suggests that church leaders and members today have an opportunity if they can provide compelling answers to the basic question, "What's so special about Christianity?"

Any ideas?

Fr. Frank +



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On November 6th (All Saints' Sunday), the Sunday School will, again, be making the *Operation Christmas Child* shoeboxes.

Last year, we received enough support from you to make and ship 35 boxes. Amazing! Fantastic! So, this year, why not set a goal for 50 boxes?

To make this happen, we will need 50 standard size shoeboxes—the traditional kind with a separate lid (they don't accept the hinged kind)—and all sorts of things to fill the shoeboxes which can be placed in the collection box in the Narthex.

Here is what is needed:

TOYS: Small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch-A-Sketch, Slinky, and toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons and markers, rubber stamps and ink pads, writing pads, solar calculators, colouring books.

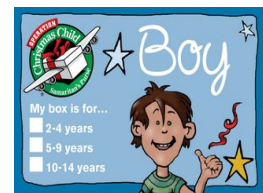
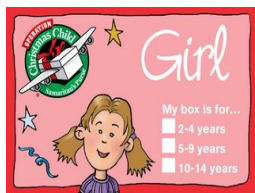
PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs and brushes, soap (in a plastic bag), wash cloths.

ASSORTED: Hard candies and lollipops (in plastic bags), t-shirts, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, watches, flashlights (remember the extra batteries).

In accordance with Federal regulations and the philosophy of the organization, there are certain items which **CANNOT BE SENT:** Toy soldiers and guns, knives, chocolates and soft candies, liquids or lotions, medications, aerosol cans, and **ANYTHING USED OR DAMAGED.**

The Missions/Outreach Committee has, once again, committed to pay for the shipping of the boxes. A big "THANK YOU" to them and to YOU for your support.

Sue St. Amour





“I Believe?”, “We Believe?”

The Nicene Creed on BCP pages 326 and 358 begins with the words, “We believe ...” The version on BCP page 327 begins “I believe ...” Why is there a difference?

Because the first two are based on the Greek original and the second is based on a Latin translation.

The original Greek text of the Creed, adopted at the Council of Nicaea in 325, and still used in Orthodox Churches today, begins with the plural “We believe” because the Creed is a corporate statement. The change to “I” was only made in the Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.

What happened was that the Mediaeval laity didn’t understand Latin and had long stopped making responses at mass other than a few short memorized phrases. As nobody else was saying the lengthy Creed, the clergy made “We” into “I”.

When the first Book of Common Prayer was issued in 1549, the Creed was translated from the Latin and the priest-centred “I” was carried over even though “We” was used in all the newly composed English-language prayers (Collect for Purity “that we may perfectly love thee”, General Confession “we acknowledge and bewail”, Whole State “our prayers which we offer”, Humble Access “We do not presume”, etc.).

By the mid-20th Century, as relations and theological understanding between the West and East had improved, the Romans, Anglicans and Lutherans all went back to “We believe” as their official text and with the original intention that the Nicene Creed is a corporate statement of the Church’s theology.

The Apostles’ Creed, on the other hand, has always been in the singular as it was composed for baptismal candidates and is a personal profession of faith. Compare it with the Nicene and see the differences.

This in no way detracts from the familiar cadences of Cranmer’s 1549 translation, nor its place in our history, which is why it remains a Rite 1 alternative. We may be grateful, however, that the Mediaeval Catholic priests stuck to Scripture and didn’t start saying “MY Father, who art in heaven.”



SEPTEMBER 2011

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

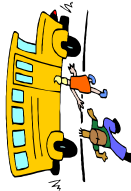
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Mr. Tom Steckel, Senior Warden
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Judy Kuntz, Parish Secretary

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



BACK TO SCHOOL

4) Pentecost 12 8:00 am Said Eucharist 10:30 am Sung Eucharist	5) LABOR DAY No Food Pantry	6) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall) 7:00 pm Sch. Board Meeting	7) 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir	8) 9)	9)	10)
11) Pentecost 13 8:00 am Said Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sung Eucharist Sunday School Festival after	12) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)	13) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist followed by O.S.L. Mtg. 5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall) 7:00 pm Property Meeting 7:00 pm Budget Meetings	14) 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Budget Mtg.	15) 16)	17)	
18) Pentecost 14 8:00 am Said Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sung Eucharist Noon D.O.K.	19) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)	20) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall) 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	21) 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir	22) 23)	24)	
25) Pentecost 15 8:00 am Said Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Sung Eucharist	26) 6:00 pm Food Pantry (by appointment only)	27) 9:30 am Healing Eucharist 5:30 pm Weight Watchers (Parish Hall)	28) 6:30 pm Scouts 7:00 pm Choir	29)	30)	



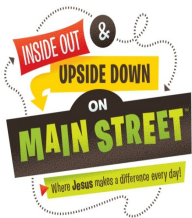
For the Month of **SEPTEMBER** the Whitehall Food Pantry is asking for your help with the following items:

- **Instant Coffee, regular & decaf (Sm. Containers)**
- **Coffee-mate creamer (powder)**
- **Tomato paste, sauce, diced, stewed or pureed**
- **Canned chicken, spam, ham and turkey**

This Ministry would not be what it is today if it weren't for your continued dedication and support - so once again...we say Thank you!!!

Doreen Wagner/Coordinator
 Whitehall Food Pantry
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Once again our VBS was a great success! A 19% increase over last year. Everyone who attended had a great time (including the volunteers)! We would like to give a great big THANK YOU to all who volunteered their time as teachers, aides, kitchen help, etc. to make our VBS the success it was.

Director: Ken Rider

Pre-school: Destiny Davis, Irene Eddinger, Cassie Kile, Gabriella Roman, Kaitlyn Searfoss, Fr. Frank St. Amour and Tom Steckel

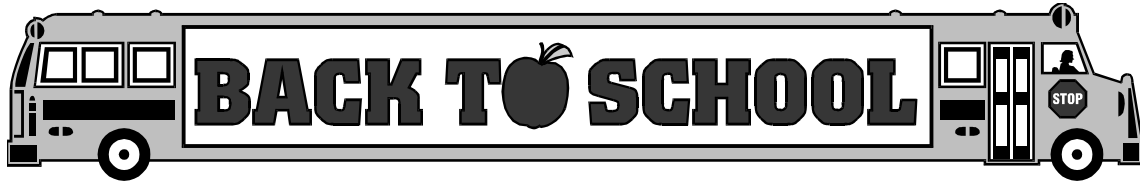
Elementary: Michael Davis, Samantha Figueroa, Erica Rauch, KerryReeder, Wendy Reeder, Phil Rider, Joanne Searfoss and Christopher Tarantino

Pre-teen: Libby DeVore and Frank Mack

Snacks: Cece Barona, Alycia Wagner and Doreen Wagner

Assistants: Alyssa Conner, Judy Kuntz, Adriene Rider, Carolyn Rider, Nathan Rider and Anna Roman

Thank you again!! - We couldn't do it without you!



NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Once the calendar changes to August, thoughts turn to the beginning of a new school year.

Our Summer Camp had a change in format this year and was well attended with a total of 58 children enrolled over the duration of the camp sessions. We hope everyone who attended had a great time. A big thank you goes out to the entire staff for all their hard work. We look forward to offering this program again in the summer of 2012.

We begin the 2011-2012 school year with a Meet the Teacher night for all students registered to attend one of our classes. This event will occur in the evening; August 29 – September 1. The parents will be able to meet the teacher and will be given an overview of what activities and protocols will be used in their child's classroom. The students will also be able to meet their teachers, get a feel for their classroom, along with meeting a classmate or two.

There are still a limited number of openings for 3 year olds, in the 2 day AM (9:00 – 11:30 AM) classes as well as the 4 and 5 Day PM that meet from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. If you know anyone who may be looking for a preschool class for their child, please consider recommending St. Stephen's School. They may enroll their child by calling the school office at: 610-435-4260.

Classes commence on Tuesday September 6, 2011.

Once again we are pleased to be selling the "Lehigh Valley Enjoy the City" coupon book along with the "Kid's Stuff" coupon books. If you are interested in purchasing either or both books please contact the school office.

Throughout the school year you can find up to date events and activities that are occurring at the school by searching our website: www.ststephenswhitehall.org

Finally, we continue to save items throughout the year:

- Boxtops
- Redner's "Save-a-tapes"
- Tabs from the tops of cans



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

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

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

NADINE SCHOONOVER, 2021 Bally Drive, Northampton, PA 18067

ANNE SISKKA, 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!



ARE YOU IN NEED OF TRANSPORTATION...

To doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, church functions, dinner reservations, relative visits, hospital visits, movie theatre, laundry services, banking, legal appointments, airport pick up or drop off? If so, you might want to consider:

DAVID'S PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

P.O. Box 76

Breinigsville, PA 18031

484-274-4905 or e-mail DSPROV35@aol.com

Availability is seven days a week at a cost of \$.60 per mile or \$15.00 per hour. Call or e-mail 24 hours in advance.



A LABOUR DAY REFLECTION...

So you want a day off? Let's take a look at what you are asking for!

There are 365 days this year.

There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have 2 days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work.

Since you spend 16 hours each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available.

You spend 30 minutes each day on coffee break. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available.

With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work.

You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work.

With 5 legal holidays per year, your available working time is down to 15 days.

We generously give you 14 days vacation per year which leaves only one day available for work. And you think you're going to take that day off?

* * * * *

WEEKLY REPORT	July 31	Aug. 7	Aug. 14	Aug. 21
8:00 am Attendance	34	30	28	26
10:30 am Attendance	52	45	36	44
Plate and Pledge	\$1,609.00	\$2,095.12	\$1,005.16	\$2,122.00

ABC's: Attendance, Building, Cash.

LMN's: Love, Mission, New life.



+ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH+ FINANCIAL REPORT

(Prepared by Finance Committee)

For Period January 01, 2011 through July 31, 2011.

Total Receipts = \$104,528.23

Total Expenses = \$146,775.61

(Deficit) or Gain = (\$ 42,247.38)

Total Receipts exceeded budget by 9.1%, and Total Expenses were 17.8% under budget.

BALANCE SHEET

As of July 31, 2011

Total Checking = \$ 3,836.60

Total Checking and Savings = \$35,911.61 *

* Includes MM/Restricted Account (Memorials, Music, Lighting, etc.) = \$32,075.01

Total Other Current Assets = \$114,325.01

Total Current Assets = \$150,236.62

REMARKS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Because expenses exceeded receipts, cash flow continues to be a very serious problem, resulting in **\$47,752.60** redeemed from investment accounts to satisfy financial obligations through August 2011. The projected additional deficit (expenses exceeding income) for September 2011 is (\$8,278.00).

Over the years the Church has reduced expenses significantly. Without an increase in income, this Church will not be able to continue to function as a viable organization. We cannot continue in definitely to rely on a diminishing reserve (investment income) to satisfy ordinary operating expenses.

Parishioners must 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
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The October Steve-Adore deadline will be Thursday, September 15th!



Happy Birthday

9/2 Hugh Dugan Thomas Hyzinski	9/19 Kay Colombo Holly Hyzinski
9/3 Nadine Schoonover Carol Siegmund	9/19 Brenda Speak
9/13 Jason Heefner	9/23 Matthew VanLieu
9/17 Matthew Hyzinski	9/30 Shannon Wiedemann



Happy Anniversary!

9/7 Hugh & Mary Jo Dugan	9/21 Edwin & Nellie Erkinge
9/7 Thomas & Diane Hyzinski	9/26 William & Regina Erie
9/12 Kenneth & Carol Holmes	9/30 Richard & Carol Wilson