

St. Stephen's Newsletter

February 2010



From Our Rector
Fr. Greg Fry

As our parish moves forward in mission and ministry I want to introduce to you a few changes in our monthly newsletter. As you can see, beginning this month we are unfolding a new layout for our monthly publication. This will enable us to save paper and printing costs over the course of the year and is one way we can become even better stewards of our resources here at St. Stephen's. While we have reduced the length of the newsletter we have not compromised on its content. You will still find all the "news fit to print" in each edition and will still be able to stay connected to everything that is happening in and around the parish. A very special thank you goes out to our newsletter editor, Kristin McCartor for working so diligently every month in making this publication possible and developing the new look layout of the newsletter. I would also like to give special thanks to Anita Parker, who for years has provided the artwork that has graced the cover of the newsletter. With the new layout, Anita will have the opportunity to occasionally include her art within the body of Parish Life.

So, let us know what you think about the new layout. This is a work in progress and there is always opportunity to make our publications here at St. Stephen's even better with your help.

-Greg+

The Journey so Far...

By John Christopher

Hello again to the wonderful parishioners of Saint Stephen's. Father Greg asked me to write this article to give you more information about myself and what I've been doing. Hard as it may be for some of you to believe, I don't enjoy talking about myself, so bear with me.

I am 52 years old and was born in the great state of New Jersey. I am a life-long Episcopalian and the youngest of three sons. My parents are both 80-plus, live in the valley, and are in good health. Tragically, my oldest brother, Bobby, died last summer. My other brother Jim also lives in the valley and runs his own business.

I have lived in 8 different states and have moved 38 times in my life. My passions as a child were sports and reading. I was an acolyte at the age of 9. That was about the extent of my church service, until now.

I won't bore you with too much of my life after that. I was in the automotive business most of my adult life. I got married (unfortunately, later divorced) and have two wonderful daughters. Jenna, my oldest, lives in Durango, Colorado with her husband and daughter, Leila (20 months). She is expecting a baby

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boy in May. Sarah, my other daughter, lives in Phoenix and works for American Food Services.

For a portion of their lives, I raised them on my own. In spite of this, they turned out really good (ha-ha!)



*John Christopher's
article continues
on page 2.*

(continued from front cover)

During this time, I went to college for the first time (hard to be a 40-year old freshman!) and got a degree in Chemical Dependency Counseling. I had my own office, specializing in working with people on Probation and Parole.

My diaconal journey started in March of 2008. I had been a counselor for 10 years, and due to many circumstances had to close my office. I had always counseled with the attitude that as long as I was doing it for God, I would continue. Well, it seems God wanted me to do something else. I began exploring the idea of being a Priest. I went to the yearly "Day of Information" held at the Diocese. The more I learned about the role of the Deacon, the more I believed it fit me better. I entered the discernment process at the Church of the Nativity. After 4 months of prayer, discussion, and soul searching, I was nominated to go forward to meet with the Commission on Ministry (COM) at the Diocese. The process is grueling, and in March of 2009, I was told that for the next year, I would have to work on various requirements in order to advance.

I became an Aspirant. Looking back on that year, even though I thought I was ready, I wasn't. I knew I was called, I just didn't know where. Meanwhile, I found an organization that works with the homeless called Family Promise and began volunteer work for them. In addition, I worked at a half-way house for alcoholics and addicts. I also performed various functions at the church.

Later I was assigned to Saint Stephen's for what was supposed to be a six-month assignment. From the first meeting with Father Greg, to attending all services, I fell in love with this church. All of you made me feel like I was an immediate member of the family. I know Lisa feels the same way.

In December, I went before the COM again and was made a Postulant. The credit is to God and all of you, as you made me look good through all of our shared projects. When it came time to go back to Nativity, I felt torn. They have a great church also, but my heart is here at St. Stephen's.

I petitioned the Bishop to stay, and he agreed. So, you are stuck with me for what I hope is a long, long time.

My diaconate classes begin in earnest in September. God willing, and if I work hard, I will be ordained in 2012.

2010 looks to be another jam-packed year of giving "to the least of already in the works, and part of the fun and mystery of life is, you never know what else will happen. Stay tuned...

-John

Youth & Children's News

For Children, Teens, Parents,
and Other Caring Adults



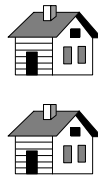
*From Vicki Bradshaw
Youth Ministries Director*

**February 21 – Bishop Visits St. Stephens
February 24 through March 24
Lenten program**

On Thursday, April 1st our F.A.I.T.H. group (Junior & Senior High) will be having their 3rd annual Maundy Thursday Lock-in. It will start following the Agape meal and service.



St. Stephen's Parish Weekend at Chapel Rock



Our Annual Parish weekend will be held, Friday – Sunday, April 9-11, 2010 at Chapel Rock camp in Prescott. Prices for the retreat are \$133.00 per person for the linen rooms and \$95.00 per person for the non-linen (bunk) rooms. Check in is 4 pm or after on Friday and meals are included in the price except Friday dinner.

The Episcopal Church Women will be helping out with some scholarships, but families will need to cover at least half of their own costs, we will not be able to completely fund a whole family from scholarships this year. Registration and payment in FULL is due by Sunday, March 14th. Any one in need of scholarship help needs to contact Fr. Greg by Sunday, March 7th. We will let you know by March 14th what we are able to cover for scholarships. We are planning on a fundraiser or two to help with scholarship costs. Info on fundraisers will follow in the bulletins.

Any questions please see Vicki Bradshaw or Fr. Greg.



bodymindspirit...

“Attitude of gratitude” (Robert Schuller) can be real, thought-provoking.. or banal and trite. Guess what? It depends on *us* and what is our view of life.

We of St. Stephen’s have given generously, many times. At the last Christmas season we adopted families from Vista del Camino and donated gifts and money to make their holiday... not just bright, but possible! We have now received “thank you’s” (I plan to post them on the bulletin board near the sanctuary). We made a difference!

Thank you’s – written, spoken or thought – should be a large part of our everyday life. God, family members, friends, strangers... whomever! This is a healthy, Christian attitude.

Blessings,
Deacon. Pat
Parish nurse, etc. 480-946-7861

Cursillo News

Mark your calendars:

The men's Cursillo weekend is, scheduled for March 4-7 and the women's Cursillo weekend is March 11-14.

If you have any questions about these weekends or Cursillo in general, please call Carol Williams at 480-966-7779

American Girl Club News

By Greta Huls

Please join us as at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for our American Girl Club for people of all ages. Attendees do not need to be members of the church or have an American Girl doll to attend, just an interest in history and a willingness to join in the fun.

Our proposed schedule is:

- * Addy, 1864 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Civil War)
- * Julie/Ivy, 1974 San Francisco, California (Bicentennial)
- * Kaya, 1764 Pacific Northwest (Native American culture)
- * Felicity/Elizabeth, 1774 Williamsburg, Virginia (Revolution)
- * Rebecca, 1914 New York City

Proposed activities include reading, cooking, crafts, field trips, an overnight lock-in, doll first aid, customized dolls, and guest speakers.

2010 dates so far include:

- Jan 24 - Addy

Lenten Souper Suppers are Back!

Wednesdays from February 24 to March 31st
6:00 Liturgy
6:30 Supper
7:00 Lenten Program
To sign up to make soup one week, call the church office: XXXXXXXX602-840-0437

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Disability Ministry

By Anita Parker

This year is going to be a challenging one for our ministry; some of our families are receiving notice of further cuts in services to our children. It will take a lot of hard work to prevent further cuts and eventually reinstate what we've lost.

Once again, on February 6th, we are going to be exhibiting and interacting with the community and other providers at FISHING with FRIENDS, an opportunity provided by the Joni and Friends Disability Ministry. Last year we were a significant presence at this event, ministering to individuals, exchanging information and ideas, entertaining and teaching to a huge turnout.

This year, Joni and Friends will again provide boat rides and fishing lessons to people with disabilities on Tempe Town Lake, with help from the Pro Bass fishermen and Arizona Fish and Game. Once again, churches, care providers, and agencies will have exhibit tents. KLUV radio will provide entertainment and this year our Kids on the Block puppeteers will share the stage, giving several shows during the event. Hot dogs, chips & cookies will be provided, and St. Stephen's will be providing children's activities, as we did last year.

What is different this year is the shorter time of the event – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is much easier on the families, and supporters who help. This is a great opportunity to share, but an even greater opportunity for our people to get out on the Lake and have fun.

This is also an opportunity for the people of St. Stephen's to share in our ministry. This year, the kind of help we need is moral support – but we also want to share with our congregation the wonderful experience that this event can be. If you would like to go, but don't have a ride, please call us as soon as possible at the church office at 602-840-0437 or Anita Parker at 602-840-5119.

There will be no formal February meeting February 7th, as we will have shared abundantly the day before, February 6th, at Fishing with Friends.

March 7th will be a presentation by Janet Kerwan of the ARC, which will be of special interest to our families, especially those who deal with autism. We will also hear from a new member, Don Mowrer, PhD., a retired ASU speech therapist. We will also have some special entertainment. As usual, lunch is provided and we encourage everyone to attend.

In April, we will assess the changes in services our families receive and discuss how we can impact legislation. We will also review what is happening with our vulnerable senior citizens. In May, we will concentrate on how our Angels at Play program is progressing. We'll have special entertainment at these meetings, and speakers who will help us shape our ministry.

In June, we will celebrate again and say thank you with a very special event for our whole congregation and supporters from the community.

The Arizona Arts Chorale has offered us a gift of sets, backdrops, and decorations for our events and for use by the Detour Company.

Don't forget - Let's All Play Ball! Every second and fourth Sunday of the month!

Thank you, St. Stephen's, for your continued prayers and support.

You are invited to Samantha Leon's Quinceañera

February 27th at 5pm
at St. Stephen's

The Leon family is relatively new to St. Stephen's and wanted to invite everyone in the parish to attend this special celebration. Please call the church office if you need more information.

Altar Guild Refresher **February 20th** **10am to Noon**

All Altar Guild members along with prospective member and anyone else who helps out occasionally are encouraged to attend this refresher meeting. Fr. Greg will be there to join our long-time members as well as the newbies in confirming everything related to Altar Guild activities.

If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Opportunities for Adults

Open invitation--would you like to join a committee to promote and coordinate Adult Christian Formation? We'll have the first meeting in February!

Our Parent Group includes parents, teachers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and others who are concerned with improving our care of the children in our 'village.' We meet for a pot-luck lunch on the third Sunday of each month. Our upcoming programs are discussion/work sessions using the book *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. This is a popular book that you might find in used book shops and certainly at the library. New copies run about \$11. We will be discussing the first chapter in February. You're welcome to join the group even if you aren't reading and working the book's exercises, but you may get more out of the discussion if you use the book. The book is a good general communication skills book as well as a great parenting book.

Adult Forum meets Sundays at 9:30, and the Spanish language study and conversation group meets from 9:00 to 9:25--both groups meet in the Library to your left through the glass doors by the church office. Drop-ins are expected and welcome as are drop-outs who have to leave early to help with the 10:30 service. Upcoming topics will be on the February bookmark--watch for it!

*DO YOU KNOW HOW TO DO DISHES?
ARE YOU DEPENDABLE?*

WOULD YOU CONSIDER SERVING ON THE ALTAR GUILD FOR ONE YEAR?

St. Stephen's Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary and sets up for the liturgies of the parish. As a member of the Altar Guild you would be a member of one of four teams. Each team is responsible for setting up and cleaning up one week each month (mostly Saturday & Sunday mornings)—plus each team serves one fifth week per year. Altar Guild teams usually start on Saturday between 8 & 9am for approximately 1 hour to set up for the three services, dusting & candle maintenance. Two members of a team who regularly attend the 8 or 10:30 service arrive one-half hour before the service & set all communion vessels in their places (there are instructions & pictures). Team members stay in the sacristy to be available for any last-minute tasks such as assisting the service participants with their vestments. When all have left the sacristy the Altar Guild member locks the door behind them. The Altar Guild counts the number of people receiving communion and completes a Service Record form. Twice a year—the Saturdays prior to Christmas & Easter—there is a “cleaning day” where all attend, clean & polish and decorate the sanctuary. **Routine janitorial work and heavy lifting is not done by the Altar Guild.**

New members are paired with an experienced member and with a little practice, you will learn the routine. One year is not a huge commitments and you will be a TEAM member.

Please call the church office at 602-840-0437.

(All events at St. Stephen's unless otherwise noted)

Parish Birthdays in February:

- 1 Tom Paige
- 2 Cheryl Masterson
- 3 Bev Harris
Rosalie Plummer
Laura Bain
- 4 Lisa Wheetly
- 6 Dorothy Walters
- 7 Ann Whiting
- 13 Joe Nigg
- 17 Marc Stragier
Julian Vaughn
- 19 Peter Westcott
- 20 Janet Berg
Sam
- 21 Tom Parker
Carol Forker
- 22 Sherri Lesser
- 23 Spencer Simmons
- 25 Tina Huiskamp
- 26 Dan Lesser
- 28 Greg Fry

Anniversaries:

- In February
- 7 Mike & Mary Bain
 - 8 Ken & Lolly Boyle
Rich & Janet Kaiser
 - 20 Bob & Ronnie Sunderman

Welcome to St. Stephen's:

- Christina Waters
Gretchen Shehorn
Betty Cooper
Stephanie Schoether
Erik Lutz
Lyman & "Rusty" Rinehart

Regular Weekly Events:

- Every Wednesday* 9am – 12pm **Food Bank**
3pm – 4pm **Staff Meeting**
7pm – 9pm **Choir rehearsal**
- Every Thursday* 9am – 10am **Bible Study**
6:30pm – 7:30pm **Bible Study**
7pm – 8:30pm **Chamber Orchestra Rehearsal**
Office Closed
Fr. Greg's day off
- Every Friday* 5pm – 6pm **Holy Eucharist & Healing**
- Every Saturday* 8am – 9am **Holy Eucharis**
9:15am – 11am **Nursery**
9:30am – 10:30am **Christian Education for all**
- Every Sunday* 10:30am – 11:30am **Holy Eucharist**

Other Scheduled Events

- Monday, February 1st* 10:30am – 12pm **Spirituality Group**
- Tuesday February 2nd* 7pm – 8pm **Music Committee**
- Thursday February 4th* 6:30pm – 8:30pm **Building and Grounds Committee**
- Saturday, February 6th* 9:30am – 1pm **Women's Cursillo Team Meeting Monday, February 8th**
10:30am – 12pm **Spirituality Group**
- Thursday, February 11th* 6:30pm – 8pm **St. Stephen's Grief Group**
- Tuesday, February 15th* 6:00pm **Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Lasagna Supper**
- Wednesday, February 17th* **Ash Wednesday**
Services with imposition of ashes: 7 am, Noon, 7 pm
Saturday, February 20th 10am – 12pm **Altar Guild training**
- Sunday, February 21st* **Bishop Smith's visitation**
12pm – 1:30pm **Parent Potluck**
12pm – 2pm **American Girl Club - Dining Room**
7pm – 8pm **Taize Service**
- Wednesdays February 24- March 31st* **Souper Suppers & Lenten program**
6:00 pm Service, 6:30 Supper, 7:00 Program
- Sunday, February 28th* 12pm – 2pm **American Girl Club**



Wow! It's been another busy month here at St. Stephen's! As our newsletter editor Kristin and I put this issue to bed, we're getting ready for the Annual meeting and then Lent will be here before you know it!

You may have noticed this newsletter looks different from previous ones. We're redesigning it to save space and, we hope, printing costs and postage. This design is by no means final: Kristin, the Rev and I will be tweaking it in the next few months so if there's something you really want to see or would like changed, please let Kristin know.

We also appreciate contributors keeping submissions short and sweet. We may have a little extra room in this issue because it's only been two weeks since we sent out the last one because of the holidays.

If you have something going on in March, we want to know about it! The deadline for the newsletter is the 18th of the month. You can email Kristin McCartor at kristin334@juno.com



Like a Good Cup of Coffee?

Fr. Greg wants to put together a hospitality committee to enhance and coordinate our hospitality. Faye Brett and Marc Straiger have been working hard behind the scenes making our coffee hours such a success—Faye sets up and Marc cleans up—but they could use a hand. Can you make coffee? Would you like to learn how? Do you have other ideas how we can make people feel welcome at St. Stephen's? Call Fr. Greg at the church office at 602-840-0437.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Diocese of Arizona

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Kirk Stevan Smith **Rector** The Rev. Gregory Fry
Deacon The Rev. Frederick E. Huls **Deacon** The Rev. Pat Huls
Senior Warden Brian Belanger **Junior Warden** Mike Cash
Vestry Class of 2010 Leah Batty, Mike Cash, Carol Forker
Vestry Class of 2011 Mike Bain, Brian Belanger, Ken Carleno
Vestry Class of 2012 Paul Basha, Matt Chew, Janet Kaiser
Parish Administrator Pat Davis **Newsletter Editor** Kristin McCartor
Treasurer & Chancellor Jack A. Colaric **Choir Director** Will Smith
Celebration Choir Janet Kaiser & Ted Bradshaw **Organist** Marlene Neuharth
Youth Ministries Director Vicki Bradshaw **Sound** Joel Priddy

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PHONE: 602-840-0437,
FAX: 602-840-4586
EMAIL: main@ststephens.org
WEBSITE: www.ststephens.org

Holy Eucharist:
Saturdays @ 5:00 pm,
Sundays @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am

With God's Help, we strive to respect the dignity of every human being.

St. Stephen's
Monthly Newsletter
February 2010

