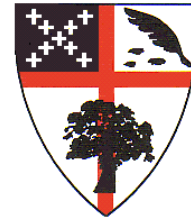


Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



Message from the Rector

As the season of Advent leads us to Christmas, I've been reflecting on the several ways that we experience Christ's 'advent' (that is, his coming to us). The Hebrew Scriptures are filled with prophecies that God would send someone to save us from ourselves and from each other. We know that these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and that he has come into the world to change everything. And so one sense of 'advent' is what we celebrate as being fulfilled by Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.

John the Baptist preached that one was coming after him who would baptize people with the Holy Spirit. Jesus had already come to us, but no one recognized him for who he was, and no one realized that they would be expected to invite Jesus to live in their hearts and their souls. This advent of Jesus is one that you and I need to renew every single day of our lives. And there are days it seems almost impossible. When you are overloaded with uncompleted responsibilities, how easy or natural is it to stop everything to ask Jesus to step in and help bring order out of the imminent chaos? When a loved one is gravely ill, how comfortable are you to hand their life over to Christ, to simply surround them in His love, whatever that may mean? When you see things in your life that you want to change, what does it take for you to ask Christ to be the

power source to get it done, rather than going to another self-help workshop? This is a hard one. We need to practice recognizing Jesus, and we need to re-invite Him to live in our hearts and souls – every day. When we accomplish that, this is a personal daily advent.

The third advent is when Christ comes back to really take control. Bible scholars argue whether this is something that will happen at the end of the Age, or if this is something that happens now. I think the answer is – both. I have seen physical, emotional and spiritual healing happen when people let Jesus take control of their lives. I have felt it myself. It happens in personal prayer; at the Laying on of Hands after the Sunday Holy Eucharist; when a friend touches you on the arm just to let you know they *really* care and will be there for you; and sometimes it happens completely out of the blue. There are absolutely times in this life that we know Jesus has come into the situation we are in.

As Christmas approaches, I am deeply grateful that we are a Faith Family who together experience the Living God, and we celebrate His advent in all its forms and all its impact upon us, through the person of Jesus Christ.

May God richly bless you and your family, and this entire Faith Family as we celebrate the advent of the Christ child. Merry Christmas!

Yours in Faith,
Ken +

**St. Stephen's
in the Field**

December 2008

Volume 2008, Issue 12

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Words from Your Senior Warden

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, sharing your blessings with loved ones and friends, taking a moment to give thought to how lucky we are and prayers for those who are not as fortunate. As Christmas approaches we all need to give thought to the gift that was given to us in Jesus' birth and the model of how we should be living our lives that he has shown us. Maybe all of the things happening around us in the world are a wakeup call and a reminder of just how important it is to spend a quiet moment and listen to God. Maybe this is the year that you step into a role that will allow you to give of your time and talent to a person or project that will make a difference. It could be just being there more for your family than for work.

We will be rotating three members off the Vestry this January, Tim Good who served 4 years, Tony Pecora and Jan Martin each served 3 years. I personally would like to thank each of them for their dedication and leadership during their terms. We have accomplished a lot together and I am eternally grateful to them for their gifts of time and talent. There will be a need to replace them on the Vestry at the annual meeting in January. This is an exciting area of leadership in our faith community and I would ask everyone to give this ministry prayerful con-

Christmas Morning Devotional...

For the last six Christmases that I have been your priest, there has been a Christmas morning Holy Eucharist scheduled. There is something new planned for this year. Very few people have been able to attend the Christmas Day services. But I wholeheartedly support the intention to make Christ the center of that day - not the presents under the tree.

The Good families have asked me about writing a short Christmas Day meditation, to which they will add one or two short Scripture verses about the birth of the Christ child. This will take the form of a devotional that we will distribute to everyone, for your use on Christmas Day, along with the lighting of the fifth candle (a white one) in the center of your Advent Wreath, connoting the arrival of Christmas. You may choose to use this devotional at the start of the day, before opening gifts, or you may use it to start your Christmas

consideration. If you are approached about the possibility of running for a Vestry position, please think about the talents that you could bring to the community, not how busy you are, and that you don't have the time. Not sharing your talents is a waste of what God has blessed you with!

I would like to welcome Deacon Michael Ridgeway and his wife Kate to our faith family. I look forward to having Michael joining Father Ken in leading and guiding us in our respective faith journeys, exploring new ideas and opportunities as we grow together.

Again, there are many opportunities available at St. Stephen's to share your time and talent, trust me you will not step on anyone's toes or hurt their feelings if you feel moved to get involved in a Ministry! Please feel free to speak with Ken, Michael, Julie Zintmaster, our Jr. Warden, me, or any of the Vestry members. Any of us will be happy to talk about how you can share your talents with your faith family.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year!

God Bless,

Tom



Day family gathering meal. Either way, I think this is a delightful way for each of us to ensure that we keep Christmas Day Christ-centered. A new Advent Calendar is now available which shows this devotional replacing the Christmas Day Service.

I will be distributing this Christmas Day devotional via the Sunday bulletin, e-mail, and on the church website. Please get one for your use on Christmas Day, and please plan to add this to your family tradition.

Ken +

**Treasurer’s Report Oc-
tober 2008**

Receipts were down again in Oc-
tober, primarily in the pledges
received. Pledge reports were
mailed and the shortfall has been
falling as pledges are being com-
pleted in November and Decem-
ber. As the year end ap-
proaches, please make every
effort to meet your pledge. If you
anticipate difficulties, please see
the Treasurer so this can be con-
sidered for year end planning.

Thank you for your continued
support and God bless you.

Logan R. Zintsmaster
Treasurer

October-08	Actual	Budget	Percent Differ- ence
Income	\$11,004	\$13,104	84% of Budget
Expense	\$16,386	\$13,829	118% of Budget
Net	(\$5,382)	(\$725)	
Year to Date			
Income	\$142,737	\$149,791	95% of Budget
Expense	\$153,423	\$148,407	103% of Budget
Net	(\$10,686)	\$1,384	872% Worse

2009 Pledge Drive Update

The theme for the 2009 Pledge Drive is “Building
on God’s Gifts.” This theme was chosen because
is represents the action response to the Diocesan
vision, “We Wonder, We Believe, We Create”. To
portray what we have built recently from our
“Stone Wall of Support”, last year’s theme, a jig-
saw puzzle of pictures from last year’s church ac-
tivities is being used to provide a visual represen-
tation of our progress toward the 2009 pledge
goal.

So far we have received \$123,226 in pledges to-
ward our 2009 goal of \$143,000 for 2009. The
puzzle now contains 38 of the 45 pieces that rep-
resent the goal.

We encourage everyone to make a pledge for

2009 as soon as possible. If you are a new mem-
ber and made a pledge recently for 2008, you will
need to make a new one for 2009. Our pledges
for 2009 form the basis for the budget for the up-
coming year. The Vestry will use this information
in December to formulate a budget for 2009.

In closing, there is a partial picture of a golfer
from our 2008 Golf Tournament poised to make
the winning putt in our puzzle. However, his face
is on an adjoining puzzle piece. That adjoining
piece will be the last one that we put in. So if you
want to know who the golfer is, please get your
pledge turned in as soon as possible and help us
meet our goal.

Logan R. Zintsmaster
Stewardship Chairman

Preschool Update...

Little Tara Azimi has joined the three year old
class. She is a wonderful addition to our pre-
school. Another three year old will probably be
joining the preschool in January. We will begin in
about another month to advertise for Summer
Camp, and for registration for the Fall 2009 start
of school.

The preschool families have been invited to La
Posada on December 6th. I look forward to our
larger community meeting these great families.
Monica Moniz has been teaching the children a
song that will be performed as one of the musical

offerings at
the Lessons



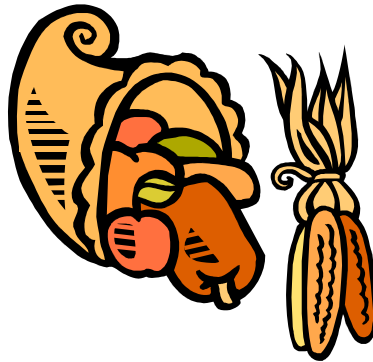
& Carols service on December 14th. The pre-
school will be having their own Christmas party at
10 am on Dec 19th. Both the three year old and
four year old classes will attend, along with their
parents. I’ve been told that they will be making
and sharing some tasty holiday snacks. If their
Halloween pumpkin pie is any indication, the
Christmas snacks are sure to be a huge hit.

Ken +

St. Stephen's Youth Carve Out Time to Help Feed Others at Thanksgiving

Submitted by Andy Lief

The St. Stephen's youth spent part of Saturday Nov. 15 helping St. Julie's Food Pantry prepare food for needy families and individuals in the south San Jose area. Joey and Tommy Edsburg, Janelle and Jordan Lief, Brooke Westfall and Pete Pecora packed holiday food for 200 families in 2 grocery bags for each family. Produce came on



crates and in boxes and the youth unloaded the fruits and veggies and put them in separate bags. They were all so efficient that they had time to play volleyball and go to lunch afterward. A big thanks to Ruth and Margo for chaperoning. For those that missed out on the fun and reward of helping others, the youth will help again at St. Julies at 9AM on Saturday December 13th.

MUSIC NOTES

Prepare! Prepare!

This is the focus of advent and there is much music written for this season of anticipation. The musicians of St. Stephen's have already been preparing for quite some time and will offer some very special music for Advent and Christmas. This year, we invite you to join us in a robust introit that begins at the Lessons and Carols service on December 14th. This introit, or "gathering song", is called Prepare! Prepare! Written in a gospel style, the refrain is very catchy and easy to sing. The choir will sing all the verses and we'd like all of you sing the refrain with us. Don't worry, the choir will lead you, and I'll help too, so don't be afraid to join in at any time. "The more, the merrier" is such an appropriate phrase in for this piece! If you're already feeling overwhelmed

with the season, this song will be lift you up with renewed joy about the impending birth of our Christ child - promise!

Please join us in preparing the way of the Lord!

In addition, let us all thank the following musicians for their dedication and hard work (not in any special order): Susan Zaballos, Suzanne Zhu, the ringers and singers of the Bell and Voice Choirs, Rod Sato, Dan Hudkins, Dan Hughes, Jan Martin, Genie Yomtov, Joey Edsberg, Jordan and Janelle Leif, Melissa Epps, Julie Zintsmaster, the ringers of the Jr. Bell Choir, the little singers of the Pre-School and Sunday School. A special thanks to Monica Moniz for her work with the children of the Pre-School and Sunday School.

Faithfully,

Karen

**Episcopal Church Women ECW
United Thank Offering UTO**

ECW News & Notes

Wanda Bryan

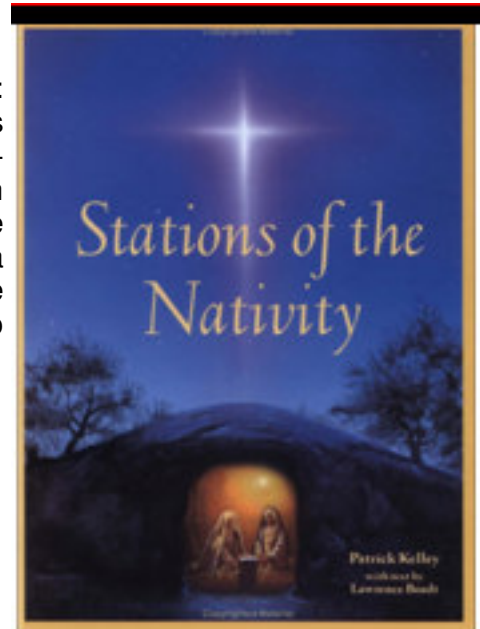
The October 25th General meeting and Fall UTO Ingathering was beautifully decorated by Gale Hazen. The lunch was delicious. St. Stephen's UTO contribution was \$76.25. Not all folks brought their blue box blessing contributions in to be counted on time so, save your blue boxes and keep those blessing savings going! We will have a Spring Ingathering. If you have not seen page 4 in Along the Kings Highway current edition, take a look! Edy Unthank has an article and pictures about the event! Well done Edy!

United Thank Offering UTO

Episcopal Church Women ECW

Christmas Pageant

The Sunday School Christmas pageant this year is based on: "Stations of the Nativity". As in the Lenten stations, fourteen scenes from Jesus' life are used as opportunities for prayer, this time surrounding Christ's birth. The fourteen stations cover the time from the Annunciation to Mary, to the arrival of the Wise Men from the East. Each of the fourteen stations will include a reading and a poster (or some other artistic impression) to be presented by the children of our congregation. (The entire family is encouraged to



St. Stephen's in the Field ADVENT CALENDAR

Coming soon are the four weeks of Advent that are filled with special liturgy and music as we prepare for Christmas. Mark your calendars and plan your participation in these great opportunities to worship together. There are lots of ways for you to get involved in these events, if you choose. Please call Fr. Ken (629-1836) if you would like to help with any of the following activities. But most of all, we encourage your presence -- and be sure to bring your friends.

<p>Sunday, Nov 30th 1st Advent</p>	<p>8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - 1st Advent Wreath Lighting— children come into church for the beginning of the service and wreath lighting, then leave for Sunday School prior to readings. “Hanging of the Greens” – youth, children and adults help to decorate the Worship Hall after the service— bring an ornament for the tree!!</p>
<p>Saturday, Dec 6th</p>	<p>5:30 pm – Traditional Posada with Mary and Joseph searching for lodging in Bethlehem, a potluck Mexican theme dinner and a visit for the children from St. Nicholas, followed by Carol singing.</p>
<p>Sunday, Dec 7th 2nd Advent</p>	<p>8 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - 2nd Advent Wreath Lighting. Special Music from the House Family</p>

contribute.)

This is a fun and unique way to remember the Christmas story. Jesus enters our lives every day. The Stations of the Nativity give us a focus on how to think about how he appears to us and what our response to him should be!

We invite you to join us for this fun and meaningful presentation at 4:30 PM on Christmas Eve. Beginning on Sunday 12/14, Candace Jones and Carol Pecora will provide a signup sheet for families to choose a station. Some stations can be adopted by more than one child/family.

Please sign up, engage your family, and have fun with this beautiful Christmas story. Contact Candace or Carol for more information, or if you have questions.



Dick and Charlotte House

Soft Gospel Ministries

Dick and Charlotte are traveling music missionaries, whose firm message is of the Lord's redemption and love, told through hymns. They sing at Churches, RV Resorts, Prisons, Drug-Rehabs, Retirement Homes, Coffee Houses, Bars, and anywhere people are hungering to hear the message of Jesus, resurrection life, and the Good News of redemption.

Theirs is a mission of faith, traveling in their only home, 38' RV, from Alaska to Arizona, giving ½ to 1 hour concerts. Churches may find them singing for Sunday morning congregations, and concerts in afternoons or evenings. They will sing their beautifully harmonized music wherever the doors are opened to them.

There is no charge for their concerts or missionary work, but they do accept love offerings, and sell their 5 CDs. Individuals throughout the country pledge regularly to support their ministry.

Their first CD came after a concert in Lake Havasu City, when a concert-goer offered to fund the recording and production. Since then they have produced five .

Their concerts show this emphasis on prayer, as they focus on "be still and know," praying each song with soft guitars. Time with Dick and Charlotte is a unique experience that no one soon forgets. Song after song is offered to stir the heart toward and closer to Jesus. "Simple worship, song saturated in prayer, all to our Heavenly Father", in unique, deeply stirring harmony.

They played at the Dec 7th 10am service

Prayer Shawl Ministry

After many years of being the main-stay of our prayer Shawl Ministry Helen Duncan , Sherrie Hughes' mother, is having to retire. Words cannot express our thanks for her years of supplying so many lovely crocheted shawls, which have been distributed to so many people, both locally and in distant places. We now have 3 people (thanks to 2 new volunteers) who knit but no one who crochets. If anyone is capable and interested in filling Helen's shoes please call Frances Steitz. . Thanks!

Sunday Dec 14th 3rd Advent	8 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist – Lessons and Carols 3rd Advent wreath lighting. Sunday School for preschool age; children are invited to stay in church for the entire service. Music by Players for Christ, Voice Choir, Bells, and solos.
Sunday, Dec. 21st 4th Advent	8 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist Special music by the Choir
Wednesday Dec 24th Christmas Eve	4:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant 11:00 pm Candlelight Service; Holy Eucharist with incense (at the door) and special Bell & Voice Choir music
Thursday Dec. 25th Christmas Day	Christmas Day Home Devotional A short home devotional will be supplied for your Christmas gathering.
Sunday Dec. 28th	8 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist – No Sunday School
Tuesday Jan. 6th	6:00 pm Salad and Spaghetti dinner 7:00 pm Feast of the Epiphany service with Evening Prayer , followed by an Epiphany Party with cake.

Dear Members of St. Stephen's in the Field

Two weeks ago I reported that Guet Garang, the 22 year old wife of James Atem Tuor of San José had been abducted in Juba, Southern Sudan. She was located five days later and her abductor captured and placed in jail. Through your generous offering of prayers, concerns and donations we were able to find a flight to send James Atem to Nairobi and then on to Sudan.

I just spoke with him this morning in Juba and he reported that his wife is recovering thanks to the prayers of so many people. The man who abducted her goes on trial Monday. Pray for all of us who are involved, including the man who was driven to do such a terrible thing. Pray that God will bring healing.

On behalf of Guet and Atem I want to thank you for your swift response in coming to the need to get Atem to his wife as soon as possible. The moment of grace was to have him know before he left that she was alive and with relatives rather than having to board a plane with the awful possibility that there would not be any positive ending to all of this ordeal. You are all such wonderful people at St. Stephen's, always ready to step up to the needs of the Sudanese. You have truly made them a part of your parish family. For this



James Atem Tuor

we are all so thankful. When James Atem comes back to San Jose I know that he will want to meet with you.

I leave tomorrow (Friday the 5th) for Nairobi to visit the students in our program for six days and then on to Juba, southern Sudan where I will be meeting with the President of Southern Sudan and his Ministers to

talk about how the Hope of Sudan Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations can work with them to develop schools, clinics, water projects and agricultural programs through partnerships with Americans all over the country. You will be a part of this effort.

God's blessings with you in this season where the Light has shown through the Darkness. Your actions made that a reality

Fr. Jerry Drino
Executive Director
Hope of Sudan

Vestry Profile

Tom Good, Senior Warden

My family and I have been members of the St. Stephen's faith family since 1993. My wife Susie, and I have been married for 27 years, and our son Timothy, or as some of you know him Tim, is 25 and has been a part of St. Stephen's since his days in the youth group. He and his new wife Shelly are now members in their own right. Tim is also serving his last year on the Vestry.

I have been employed as a Golf Professional at Almaden Country Club for the past 19 years, the last 2 ½ as the Head Professional and Director of Golf. I have served on two previous Bishop's Committees, once before as Senior Warden. Currently I

am in my second year on what is now the Vestry, serving the community as Father Ken's Senior Warden for the second year.

As I think about all the wonderful reasons that I have become a member of this community, I will always go back to the loss of our first grandchild. At a time of great sorrow and loss, this faith community stepped in to help us, and we were not even members of their family. This community has given so much to me and my family and I can only give back a small portion of what this faith family has given us. St. Stephen's is my second home and the people are my family.

Tom Good

St Stephen's in the Field : [Online Calendar Page](#)

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6O9G1N8O9I3N8N8H2>

Notable dates:

Dec 14th 10am Lessons & Carols
 Dec 24th 4:30pm Christmas Eve Pageant
 Dec 24th 11pm Midnight Mass
 Dec 25th Christmas Day, Morning Family De-

votional
 Jan 6th 6pm Epiphany Party
 Jan 25th AGM after 10am service

Servant Calendar

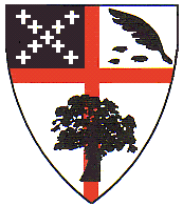
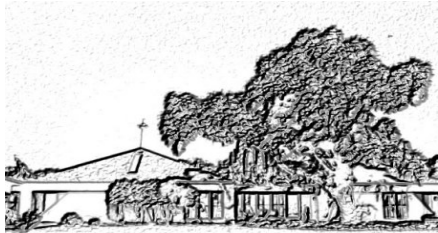
	12/14/2008	12/21/2008	12/24/2008	12/24/2008	12/28/2008
	Lessons & Carols	Advent 4	4:30pm Pageant	11pm Midnight Mass	
Lector1		Jordan Lief	Morrie Munson	Tony Pecora	Judy Sato
Lector2		Jan Martin	Maggie Munson	Sandi Redder	Frances Steitz
LEM	Wanda Bryan	Jan Martin	Genie Yomtov	Edy Unthank	Tom Good
CB	Edy Unthank	Caroline Buckner	Wanda Bryan	Sharon Wardman	Susie Good
Crucifer	Brooke	Melissa			Taylor
Acolytes	Isabella, Grace	Peter, Janelle			Sabrina, Brianna
		Carly			Natasha
Altar	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson			Edy Unthank
Guild	Susie Good	Barbara Gray			Janet Thorsrud
Sunday School	Monica	Maggi			No Sunday
	Heather	Laura			
Sitter	Phil	Ruth L.			
Music	Everybody			Voice & Bells	
Shepherd	Jim Glancey				Ann Little
	Chris Glancey	Frances &			Robert Young
Coffee Host	Lief Family	Remson Family			volunteer?
Counter	Judi Sato	Andy Lief			Tom Good
	Sharon Wardman	-			Sandi Redder

St. Stephen's in the Field

7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard
San Jose, Ca 95139



Seeds and Harvest
December 2008



**ST. STEPHEN'S IN-THE-FIELD
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SAN JOSE, CA 95139
(408) 629-1836
email rector@kwratten.com
[Http://www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org)**

SUNDAY:
8 & 10am: Holy Eucharist
10am: Sunday School &
Nursery

Wednesday:
10am: Healing Service

This Issue:

Special thanks to Fr. Ken Wratten,
Tom Good, Logan Zintsmaster, Andy
Lief, Frances Steitz, Karen Cuffie, Fr.
Jerry Drino, for article submissions,
You too can contribute!

**Next Issue: January. Deadline for
articles is Friday January 3rd**

Send articles to Tim Alton timalton@yahoo.com. Or drop something
in my box in the office.

