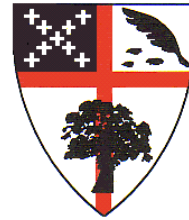


# Seeds and Harvest Newsletter



## Message from the Rector

The next few weeks contain some wonderful events for us to enjoy together. Feb 14 is Valentine's Day. It is our tradition on this day to have the men of the parish cook breakfast and serve the ladies of the parish. This is a fun time for everyone. Age doesn't matter. And coming as a single is encouraged. So if you haven't participated in the Sweetheart Breakfast before, give it a try this year. The formal invitation is contained in this newsletter, and in our weekly service bulletins.

February 15 is the date of the Bishop's visit this year. She will preach, preside the Holy Eucharist, and confirm and receive some of our members. Bishop Mary has definitely hit the road running. She has established a companion relationship with two dioceses; one in Tanzania, and one in England. She is working to create a new ministry to prisoners in Santa Clara County. She is working with our new Canon Jesús Reyes to reshape the charter of our Department of Missions. And she is providing a strong program of spiritual renewal for the leadership of our diocese. Don't miss meeting her. We will have a pot luck reception following the service, offering a perfect time for personal time with our bishop. Mark your calendar to be there!

February 24 is Shrove Tuesday, the last day before the beginning of Lent. It is our custom to have a pancake supper. Pancake suppers are associated with the day preceding Lent because

they are a way to use up rich foodstuffs such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. For two years I had fun using my fatherhood skills of shaping pancakes into dogs, bunnies, and pigs. But the other guys in the kitchen said this slowed the line down too much. So you might not get a pig pancake this year, but the food will be great. Don't miss it!

February 25 is Ash Wednesday. There will be a 6:30 am and a 7:30 pm service of Imposition of Ashes. The evening service includes a service of reconciliation. This is a powerful liturgy, and makes very palpable our need for the cleansing and redemption that are ours for the asking through our Lord Jesus Christ.

February 26 is the first Soup Supper and Lenten Study. Look in this newsletter for an article on the details of this event. This isn't as barren and mundane a meal as it may sound. Participants are invited to bring in their favorite homemade soups and breads. I think some of us gained weight during Lent last year. This is a special fellowship and learning time, and an important component to a holy Lent.

So mark your calendar, and don't miss out on these very special times of fun, fellowship, study, and worship. I'll see you there!

Yours in Faith,

Ken +

St. Stephen's  
in the Field

February 2009

Volume 2009, Issue 2

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## Words from Your Senior Warden *will return next month*

### Retiring and New Vestry, Delegates, Alternates...

The Annual General Meeting on January 25, 2009 included the official retiring of three vestry members, and the election of three new vestry members. Rotating off the parish vestry are Tony Pecora, Jan Martin and Tim Good. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to these three leaders for their hard work and wise counsel. Tony focused on our Communications, working with Carol Pecora on the design of our new web presence. He initiated our using Google Search advertising, which worked very well for us. His work not only improved our internal communications, but also our visibility into the neighborhood.

Jan's focus was Worship and Music. She picked up the leadership of Players 4 Christ when Doug Dunham left. She served as coordinator for the Worship Committee meeting, which provides communications among all the various groups who are impacted by and support our Worship services. Jan has been a terrific help to me as I have worked with her on planning of our many special services.

Tim gave his attention to Outreach while serving on the vestry. He coordinated with Jim Glancey to ensure that Jim had the assistance he needed with his minis-

### Lenten Soup Supper and Study...

We will have our traditional Soup Supper and Adult Study during Lent, but with a change. Since Divine Drama Bible Study meets on Tuesday nights, we will switch the Soup Supper to Thursday nights. This will allow the Bible Study classes to continue their studies, and to have the choice to attend both activities during Lent.

The Adult Study will be a new course from our friend John Ortberg, "When the Game is Over, It All

### Preschool Update...

We have set the date of February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm for a Preschool Open House. We will be promoting this event for parents to see the preschool, meet our teachers, and hear about the curriculum, in preparation for enrolling their child for the Fall 2009 session. Other preschools are beginning to announce their open house

try to the homeless. Tim also coordinated with Carol Pecora on her work in support of the Sudan. And Tim always brought his boundless energy and creative vision to our vestry meetings. Soon he will be using those skills to tell really captivating bedtime stories to his baby boy.

Rotating off as delegate is Tim Alton. Tim has faithfully attended deanery meetings and diocesan convention, representing St. Stephen's. This has been an important time in the diocese, as we have voted for a new bishop, begun a new organizational structure for the diocese, and redefined the purpose and structure of the deaneries. I am very grateful to Tim for his leadership on our delegate team.

Our new vestry members are; Lars Samson, Genie Yomtov, and Wanda Bryan. We welcome you and look forward to serving with you. Our delegates to Convention and Deanery are; Edy Unthank, Jan Martin, Judi Sato and Maggie Munson. Delegate alternates for 2009 are Susie Good and Laura Lewis. I am very grateful for each of you stepping forward to serve your parish in this way. We have a fantastic leadership team!

Ken +

Goes Back in the Box". The course leads into discussion about what it takes to really win at the game of life. It will guide us how to live with an eternal perspective, keeping our eyes on the true prize – the prize that unlocks the gate to the Kingdom of God.

The Suppers and Course will begin on February 26 at 6:30 pm. Registration information will be sent out shortly by email and on [www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org).



events, and we are beginning to get visits and telephone calls from interested parents. Please pray for the success of this event, as we begin a proper, timely promotion of our preschool for the Fall term. Ken +

## St. Stephen's in the Field Treasurer's Report for 2008

### Summary

In 2008, St. Stephen's in the Field did not break even as will be explained, below. A summary of 2008 Income and Expenses is shown in the table below.

Looking at 2008 pledges, \$136,000 was pledged and \$128,395 was received. This represents a 94% pledge fulfillment rate. In light of the economic conditions encountered in the later part of the year this is an excellent performance. Contributions from new members and other regular attendees helped mitigate the income shortfalls.

Fund raising activities for 2008 were successful. The two Craft Fairs raised a net of \$3,260. The Golf Tournament raised a net \$13,434.

On the expense side, there were unplanned expenses that carried over from the previous year plus several items exceeded their budgeted expense levels. These include \$1,340 in mileage (carry over) costs, \$935 for the Golf Tournament, \$668 for insurance costs, \$574 for water, and \$453 from the

	Actual	Budget	Difference	%
Income	\$ 173,370.82	\$ 176,130.00	\$ -2,759.18	- 2%
Expense	\$ 179,827.60	\$ 176,281.12	\$ -3,546.48	- 2%
Net	\$ -6,456.78	N/A	N/A	- 3.7%

## St. Stephen's in the Field Proposed Budget for 2009

The pledge commitment of \$141,240 was used to build a budget for 2009. Income projections were based on actual experience in 2008 with extraordinary items excluded. Projected income for 2009 is \$179,940 compared to a 2008 actual income of \$173,498. This increase is due to the success of the Stewardship drive.

In building the expense side of the budget, the Finance Committee used 2008 expenses as a guide and looked

Parish Status celebration (carry over). The Vestry has taken these items into consideration in preparing the budget for 2009 by adjusting budget amounts and establishing a mechanism to provide for mitigation of these types of expenses.

### Challenges

The challenge for 2009 is to be proactive in anticipating and mitigating problems that may occur as a result of economic conditions during the year. The Finance Committee meetings that had been held on a quarterly basis have now been rescheduled to be held monthly.

### Other

St. Stephen's completed its payment of the Fair Share arrears. Meeting this commitment was part of St. Stephen's achieving parish status and the final payment was made in December 2008. This has removed a \$4,400 expense item from the operating budget.

Logan Zintsmaster, Treasurer

for opportunities to control expenses while we face a challenging year. The clergy expenses were increased to provide a salary increase for the Rector and to account for increases in insurance costs. A Contingency fund was established to provide a reserve for unexpected events. Total expenses for 2008 are projected at \$180,415. The resulting budget shows a small overrun but it can be easily accommodated within the Contingency Reserve.

Logan Zintsmaster, Treasurer

(budget is available in hard copy annual report)

## Annual Reports...

Our Annual General Meeting was held on January 25, 2009. Reports were submitted by each of the vestry members on the activities within their ministry assignments during 2009. These reports have been compiled

into an annual report. The report also contains the closing financial report for 2008, and our approved operating budget for 2009. See Judi Sato in the church office if you would like to get a copy of the Annual Report. The missing W&M section is on the page 5. Also on line at [www.ssitf.org](http://www.ssitf.org) newsletter page.

### San Jose -- My Nineveh

by Jan Martin

God has called me several times to "step out in faith" and do something or go somewhere I wasn't so sure about. In 1997, I lost my job in San Francisco and then became quite ill and was on disability for 5 years. Not being able to afford to live in So. San Francisco any longer, I moved to Sacramento near my daughter. This was a big deal for me since I had never moved more than 10 miles in my life. Because of my disability, the State of California offered to "rehabilitate" me and paid for me to finish my BA and to get my teaching credentials. I had wanted to be a teacher since I was 6. I did about 4 years of work in 2-1/2 and earned my credentials in 2001. I was lucky to find a teaching job for my first year; however, due

to budget cuts, that job disappeared, and I ended up subbing for a year.

I interviewed for no less than 20 teaching positions, one of which was here in Morgan Hill USD. When I left the Morgan Hill interview, I called my mom and said the interview went so well I was sure they were going to hire me, but I really didn't want to take it and have to move to San Jose (definitely my Nineveh at that time). Well, they did hire me; I, obviously, moved here to San Jose, and it has been a God-send from day one. I was able to buy my house, find St. Stephen's, work with other great teachers, and make many new friends. Listening to God's call sometimes impels me to do things that are uncomfortable at the beginning; however, He always gives me the support and strength to do that which He called me to do.

### Dear Ladies of the Parish

It is with great pleasure that the gentlemen of the parish invite you once again to our annual Sweetheart Breakfast, this year falling on St. Valentine's Day itself. This is an invitation to all ladies, young and old, short or tall, to enjoy fellowship together while being treated to a fabulous breakfast by attentive servers in a festively decorated bistro-like setting. The coup-de-grace of the event being the serenading of you ladies by household names with some familiar and entertaining songs and finely choreographed staging.

We hope that you will join us.

### Gentlemen of the Parish

I am sure that you are as eager as I am to make this Sweetheart Breakfast simply the finest combination of gastronomic and musical delights. Please contact Tim Alton to sign up for a role in this spectacular presentation. If you are unfamiliar with the event please contact Tim Alton, or some other gentleman who looks as though he has been around for a while, there is always room on the team, and you will find it a most enjoyable experience.

*An Invitation for all  
Ladies To the  
Sweetheart Breakfast*

*Good Food,  
Attentive Service,  
Heartfelt Serenades*

*Saturday February 14th 9 am*  
*St. Stephens in the Fields*

**RSVP : Sign Up or  
timalton@yahoo.com**

## **WORSHIP & MUSIC ANNUAL REPORT**

What a wonderful, worshipful year this “year of wonder” has been at St. Stephen’s. We began 2008 with the special Epiphany evensong service, dinner, and party. Then, in February, we moved into Lent and sent our Alleluias away until Easter when they majestically appeared on the wall. Also in February, we celebrated Eucharist, sang, and played amazing music for our new Bishop.

Easter and Pentecost brought performances by the bell and voice choirs that truly enlivened our experience of our risen Lord. Players for Christ provided music for Family Sundays and throughout the summer, allowing for opportunities to sing some old gospel songs and for the children to join in the fun.

Just after Easter, after much consideration and prayer, we determined that the 5:00 p.m. Sunday Praise service just was not providing the proper avenue to bring in new folks and, in fact, attendance was decreasing. We made the decision to discontinue the service and to listen for God’s direction as to the next step St. Stephen’s would take to provide service to the community. We prayed, God answered with “Build a Preschool,” and we listened. Although we started with only a few students, interest in the neighborhood is high, and it has definitely brought more visibility to our community. Our preschool now also provides us with further opportunities to include children into our worship services.

We celebrated and recognized all our acolytes in June

### **Telephone and Photo Directories Ready...**

We have received the Photo Directories that we ordered from Life Touch. There is one directory per family, and we probably have enough for most families to get a second directory if you need one. Please see Judi to get your copy.

### **New Deanery Delegate Orientation...**

The next Deanery Meeting will be Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 am, at St. Timothy’s in Mountain View. The agenda will include a Restorative Justice Project orientation, Deanery elections, and an orientation for new Delegates and Alternates.

and sent two of them off to college. In September, we commissioned new ministers (over 40 people) and had a ministry faire to showcase all of the ministries in which St. Stephen’s is involved.

In October, the Praise Band regrouped and now provides music for Family Sundays every other month, with Players for Christ playing on alternate months. The voice choir is pleased to welcome Marie to its ranks, and the bell choir welcomes Taylor and Lisa. Players for Christ is grateful to be joined by Melissa and Julie, and the Praise Band is thrilled to have Susie join.

At the end of November, we welcomed Rev. Dcn. Michael Ridgway as our deacon to assist Fr. Ken and to bring a diaconal ministry to us. Dcn. Michael hopes to increase even further our outreach to the community.

This brings us to our Posada celebration and then Lessons and Carols—an amazing morning of scripture and music performed by so many of the talented adult and youth musicians in our community. Christmas brought more music and spirit-filled celebration and, then, we returned to Epiphany with another beautiful Evensong service.

Truly, this has been a “year of wonder” for advancing our worship and music programs and in celebrating the presence of our Lord in our lives, both individually and as a community. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a vestry member and specifically as the worship and music liaison for 2008.

Submitted by Jan Martin

Judi has also completed an update to the Members and Friends Directory. This directory has a much more complete set of contact information, and is more up to date than the photo directory. Be sure to see Judi for your

### **Anti-Racism Training – Save the Date...**

**Required for Diocesan & Parish Leaders:** You can register your intention to attend the next anti-racism training now. The two-day program "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" will be offered;

*When:* February 20 and 21, 2009; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*Where:* St. James' Church, 37051 Cabrillo Terrace, Fremont

*Cost:* \$60 (materials and meals); \$50 early bird discount (available until Jan 30)

***Deadline: February 10, 2009***

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

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

**Notable dates:**

Feb 14th Sweetheart Breakfast 9am  
 Feb 15th Bishop's Visitation—pot luck brunch

Feb 24th Shrove Tuesday 6:30pm  
 Feb 25th Ash Wednesday 6:30am, 7:30pm  
 Feb 26th Lenten Soup Supper series starts

**Servant Calendar**

	2/1/2009	2/8/2009	2/15/2009	2/22/2009	3/1/2009
			Bishop's Visitation		
<b>Lector1</b>	Tom Good	Jordan Lief	Family Sunday	Morrie Munson	
<b>Lector2</b>	Larry Lee	Jan Martin		Maggie Munson	
<b>LEM</b>	Susie Good	Jan Martin	Judi Sato	Genie Yomtov	
<b>CB</b>	Tom Good	Rosemary	Edy Unthank	Caroline Buckner	
<b>Crucifer</b>	Melissa	Taylor	Brooke	Melissa	Taylor
<b>Acolytes</b>	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna	Isabella Grace	Peter, Janelle	Sabrina, Brianna
	Carly	Natasha	Hannah	Carly	Natasha
<b>Altar</b>	Nancy	Laura Lewis	Laurie Watson	Edy Unthank	Nancy
<b>Guild</b>	Susan Zaballos	Susie Good	Barbara Gray	Janet Thorsrud	Susan Zaballos
<b>Sunday School</b>	Penny	Monica		Maggi	Penny
<b>Elementary</b>	Candace	Heather		Laura	Candace
<b>Youth</b>	Tracy & Nigel	Phil		Ruth L.	Tracy & Nigel
<b>Sitter</b>					
<b>Music</b>		Bell Choir	P4C		Voice choir
<b>Shepherd</b>	Elaine Alton	Jim Glancey		Robert Young	Elaine Alton
	Tim Alton	Chris Glancey	Frances &	Ann Little	Tim Alton
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Yomtov Lee	Corbus White	Pot Luck Brunch	T&S Good	Buckner Conway
<b>Counter</b>	Nigel Cooper	Judi Sato	Andy Lief	Tom Good	Nigel Cooper
	Tim Alton	Sharon Wardman	-	Sandi Redder	Tim Alton

## St. Stephen's in the Field

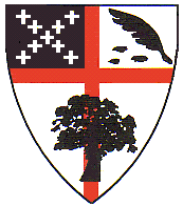
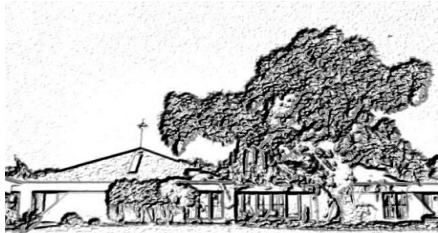
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7269 Santa Teresa Boulevard  
San Jose, Ca 95139

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*Seeds and Harvest*  
*February 2009*



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

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

**Wednesday:**  
10am: Healing Service

**This Issue:**

Special thanks to Fr. Ken Wratten,,  
Logan Zintsmaster, Jan Martin , for  
article submissions,  
You too can contribute!

**Next Issue: March. Deadline for  
articles is Thursday Febraury 26th**

Send articles to Tim Alton [timalton@yahoo.com](mailto:timalton@yahoo.com). Or drop something  
in my box in the office.