

SEEDS & HARVEST

St. Stephen's in-the-Field Episcopal Church
The Episcopal Church in South San Jose

VOLUME 2010, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

It did not work out well for Holy Week and Easter to coincide with the normal deadline for the April newsletter. Also, it has been my practice for the last few years to take time off for the week following Easter. This does help me get my energy back after Holy Week and Easter, but wreaks havoc on the publishing of the newsletter while I am still doing the editing and scheduling. So please excuse that this newsletter is more a mid-April to mid-May edition. We hope to soon be able to distribute and streamline this effort.

Holy Week and Easter were absolutely awesome. We had pretty good participation for the Holy Week services, and astounding participation in Easter morning services, the Easter Egg Hunt, and Easter Brunch activities. The attendance at the 10 am service on Easter morning was 131!!

There was a cast of thousands (maybe dozens) who helped with all the preparation and execution of these services and activities. I cannot thank all of you enough for your dedication and hard work. You are absolutely THE BEST. The faith-centered memories and traditions we are building for our children and grandchildren are priceless.

Due to the prayerful commitment of many of you, new pledges and contributions above last Fall's pledges have resulted in our being in sound financial shape. We will certainly continue to carefully manage expenses, and will keep you advised through this newsletter and occasional announcements on Sunday how the financial picture is looking. Right now I guess the term would be 'guardedly optimistic'. Your faithfulness to the purpose and vision of this parish family is what keeps us thriving, even when times are unkind.

I just got news this morning that an eighth child has been registered to attend our preschool next fall. This is far ahead of last year. Please pray for the health of the preschool. This is such an important minis-

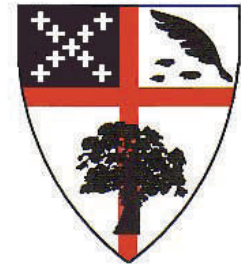
try. I am very proud of the impact we are having on these children, their siblings, and their parents by having a faith-based preschool education for them. In your prayers, please also thank God for Sue Nielsen, Robin Horn, and Judi Sato. You should see their presence with the children. These adults are a priceless gift to the preschool and to this community.

The new Bell Tower was completed on April 13th. This was an Eagle Scout project for Zach Duffy. He has been working with Lars Samson, Dan Hughes and me for months on the design details and coordination of demolition and construction dates. Take a look at the results of this work. Those old termites have lost their cozy home with this new pressure treated and stained construction. The original bell was re-mounted, making it easier to ring but just about impossible to be stolen. I hear that was the fate of the very first St. Stephen's Church bell! Ask Dan about that.

Please check out the article on page 2 about the Bishop's visit on May 30th. We know this is Memorial Day weekend, but that was the only available date for the bishop to visit, and we have confirmations to be done. So please mark your calendar, and plan to be here at the 10 am service. We will have a brunch following the service so that everyone can have a chance to talk to the bishop, and to congratulate the new confirmands.

I pray that you have a Blessed Eastertide.

Ken +



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THANK FOR SOX...

Thank you to St. Stephen's for your generosity in collecting socks for The School for Deacons SOX PROJECT. Today I delivered 60 pairs of socks to Santa Maria Urban Ministry from St. Stephen's. I know that people in need will receive your gifts. I will deliver the undies next week. *From Diane Lovelace*

PRE-SCHOOL UPDATE...

It's hard to believe it is already April! The children have grown so much in the seven months since last September. They are already up to the letter "S"!

It was rumored that sneaky leprechauns snuck into the classroom on the 17th. Every child was covered in green! March is also the birthday month of Dr. Seuss, so of course their snack on the 17th wasGreen Eggs and Ham!

We are now starting to plan for our Summer Camp. The theme this summer is Summer Science Fun. The children will be investigating rocks, crystals, magnets, colors and the weather! The Summer Camp starts June 29th and runs through August 4. Classes will meet from 8:30 - 11:30 am each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For more information or to enroll your child(ren) give Judi Sato a call at -629-1843.



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We now have 7 children enrolled for Fall 2010! We still have openings in all classes so if you know anyone who is looking for an excellent preschool, send them our way. We are open from 8 until noon, Monday through Friday; just give us a call at 408-628-1843. *By Judi Sato*

A REFLECTION ON CURSILLO...

Cursillo is the closest you'll get to seeing your Lord face to face while on this earth. He walks with you. He talks with you. He dines with you. He rests with you and He loves you.

By Ann Tyler

WITH THANKS...

Six months ago I was approached by Zach Duffy for permission to accept as an Eagle Scout project the replacement of our aging (and failing) Bell Tower. Lars Samson agreed to work as the liaison between Zach and St. Stephen's. Dan Hughes provided extensive design review and analysis work as the project developed over the months. The project is now nearing completion. I am very grateful to Lars and Dan for the time and detail work they put into making sure all facets of the project were well communicated, and that Zach's project was assured success. *By Fr. Ken*

CURSILLO EN CHRISTIANIDAD...

We are now accepting candidate applications for the next Cursillo weekend (Short course in Christianity), which will be held May 13-16, 2010 at Camp St Francis in Aptos. This year's leaders for the weekend are Tim and Donna Miller. Tim has visited St Stephen's before to play in our Player 4 Christ. The leadership team consists of representatives from ECA, St. Jude's, St. Joseph's, St. Andrew's, Holy Spirit, and St. Stephen's in-the-Field.

Cursillo is one method of renewal in the Church. Its purpose is to help those in the Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders. This leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church. Prayerfully consider joining us in May.

For information or an application, contact Father Ken or any St Stephen's member who has attended Cursillo.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES...

Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves will make her annual visit to St. Stephen's this year on May 30, Trinity Sunday. During her visit it is customary for the Bishop to preside the Holy Eucharist, preach, and provide any planned baptisms or confirmations. The Prayer Book explains the sacrament of Confirmation as follows: "In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."

If your baptized child is at least 12 years old and would like to make their confirmation at the time of the Bishop's visit, please contact me as soon as you can. The classes are starting on April 18th in preparation for Confirmations on May 30th.

I also ask you to contact me right away if you would like your child baptized at the time of the Bishop's visit. *Father Ken*

SPECIAL MUSIC IN MAY...

Mark your calendars for some very special music on May 2. Charlotte and Dick House will be returning to St. Stephen's! Charlotte and Dick are as anxious to visit as we are to welcome them back. They are both filled with God's love and their voices, are too special for words! They will be providing music for the 10:00 am service as well as doing a concert at 3:00 pm.

You will have the opportunity to purchase their CDs, including a brand new CD called "Sorrow". *By Karen Cuffie*

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH...

April is Autism Awareness Month. As many of you already know, our daughter, Tessa, has autism. While she is familiar to many at St. Stephen's, we've had so many new families join us that I thought it might be helpful to share some facts and personal thoughts about autism in this month's newsletter.



Autism is a complex developmental disability. It is a wide-spectrum disorder, which means that no two people with autism will have exactly the same symptoms. Today, it is estimated that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. There are many theories about the cause(s) of autism, but the fact is, it is still an unsolved puzzle.

People with autism process and respond to information in unique ways. In some cases, aggressive and/or self-injurious behavior may be present. People with autism may also exhibit some of the following traits:

- Insistence on sameness; resistance to change
- Difficulty in expressing needs, using gestures or pointing instead of words
- Repeating words or phrases in place of normal, responsive language
- Laughing (and/or crying) for no apparent reason; showing distress for reasons not apparent to others
- Preference for being alone; aloof manner
- Tantrums
- Not wanting to cuddle or be cuddled
- Little or no eye contact

- Unresponsive to normal teaching methods
- Spinning objects
- Obsessive attachment to objects
- Apparent over-sensitivity or under-sensitivity to pain
- No real fears of danger
- Uneven gross/fine motor skills
- Non-responsive to verbal cues; acts as if deaf, although hearing tests in normal range

When I read down the list, I have to chuckle a little. Tessa exhibits all of the above traits with one exception – she loves cuddling and hugging. What a gift!

Tessa was born developmentally delayed. She missed all the typical developmental milestones and didn't take her first steps until she was 4 yrs old. She began reading before she turned three, which is when she first started to say some words. She was diagnosed with autism when she was four. Since then, it's been a long ride. We've taken detours, hit roadblocks, run out of gas, changed tires, made repairs and visited lots of service stations. We've also seen some amazing scenery, met some really great people and have had some good old fashioned fun. Our entire family has been richly blessed because of her.

Tessa used to come to church with us regularly when she was younger, but as she's grown older, it has been more of a challenge to bring her to services regularly. She's very attached to me, so when I became the music director, it became nearly impossible for Craig to bring her without major behavior issues and now that she's a teenager, she's pretty "boy crazy" too, which doesn't help. Tessa is learning to respond to other adults in authority, aside from me. She's made such great progress that we feel we are ready to take on the challenge of teaching her to sit through a service again, starting with Family Sundays. There's a lot of strategy involved in this kind of teaching, but we have faith that God will help us find a way for Tess to come to church with us. The patience, kindness and love that comes from all of you means more than you can possibly know. Tessa loves coming to church, she knows that she is safe and is loved at St. Stephen's, even when she has a meltdown during the service. Perhaps that's faith – Tessa's faith.

By Karen Cuffie

JANUARY & FEBRUARY FINANCIALS...

The new year 2010, is off to a great start. A summary of the 2010 Income and Expenses is shown in the table below.

Jan 2010	Actual	Budget
Income	\$14,542	\$13,294
Expense	\$19,600	\$14,938
Net	(\$5,058)	(\$1,644)
Feb 2010		
Income	\$13,367	\$13,694
Expense	\$12,225	\$14,338
Net	\$1,142	(\$644)
Year to Date		
Income	\$27,909	\$26,988
Expense	\$31,825	\$29,276
Net	(\$3,916)	(\$2,288)

The months of Jan & Feb receipts are ahead or almost on target for the budget which is a great start for the year. This helps our cash flow during the first half of the year.

Contributions statements for 2009 have been mailed, as well as 2010 Pledge statements.

The expense was higher in Jan with the change in switching from the Diocese of El Camino Real doing the payroll to St. Stephen's in the Field doing its own payroll. There was a 2009 carryover into Jan 2010 of payroll expense which is a one time event.

The increased pledge and contribution support during Jan and Feb has funded the expense items of janitorial cleaning of the church, and Rev. Wratten's travel to the Diocese.

Many thanks for the mentorship of Logan Zintsmaster, the guidance of the Finance Committee and the Vestry as I grow in this ministry. Please, any questions, contact the Treasurer - pongod@ix.netcom.com Reported by Philip Ong

APRIL / MAY PARISH ACTIVITIES...

Sun., Apr 11	8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 2 Easter 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE
Wed., Apr 14	10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST 7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT— bring projects to work on 7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL 8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
Thu., Apr 15	7 pm—VESTRY MEETING
Sun., Apr 18	8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 3 Easter 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— FAMILY SUNDAY SPRING UTO INGATHERING— (BLUE BOX OFFERINGS) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE
Wed., Apr 21	10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST 7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT— bring projects to work on 7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL 8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sun., Apr 25	8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 4 Easter / EARTH DAY 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE
Wed., Apr 28	10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST 7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT— bring projects to work on 7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL 8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sat., May 1	ECW DIOCESAN HONORED WOMEN'S DAY & UTO OFFERING— Info: Wanda Bryan
Sun., May 2	8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 5 Easter 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE
Wed., May 5	10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST 7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT— bring projects to work on 7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL 8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
Sun., May 9	8 am—HOLY EUCHARIST— 6 Easter / MOTHERS' DAY, ROGATION DAY 10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY CARE
Wed., May 12	10 am—HOLY EUCHARIST 7 pm—CRAFTS NIGHT— bring projects to work on 7 pm—CHOIR REHEARSAL 8 pm—BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

LATE APRIL / EARLY MAY SERVANT SCHEDULE...

April / May 2010	4/18/10	4/25/10	5/2/10	5/9/10
	3 Easter Family Sunday	4 Easter	5 Easter	6 Easter
Lector 1	Westfall Family	Genie Lee	Jordan Lief	Maggi Munson
Lector 2	Westfall Family	Larry Lee	Jan Martin	Morrie Munson
LEM	Caroline Buckner	Julie Zintsmaster	Edy Unthank	Wanda Bryan
CB	Rosemary Goodman	Jan Martin	Genie Lee	Laura Lewis
Crucifer	Melissa Epps	Taylor Cuffie	Brooke Westfall	Melissa Epps
Acolytes	Peter Pecora-T Janelle Lief-T Carly Cooper-B Jordan Lief-B	Sabrina Denton-T Brianna Padilla-T Natasha Denton-B	Isabella Greathurst-T Coleman Jones-T Hannah Tarbox-B Kendall Watson-B	Peter Pecora-T Carly Cooper-B
Altar Guild	Barbara Gray Laurie Watson	Edy Unthank Janet Thorsrud	Nancy McGuinness Susan Zaballos	Susie Good Laura Lewis
Sunday School: preK/K	Family Sunday	open	Rowena Burger	Maggi Munson
Grades 1-5	Family Sunday	Laura Denton	Candace Jones	Heather Samson
Grades 6-9	Family Sunday	Andy and Ruth Lief	Lisa Thornburg	Philip Ong
Nursery	Samantha Cooper	Janelle Lief	Janelle Lief	Brooke Westfall
Music	Praise Band	Piano	Voice Choir	Bell Choir
Shepherds/Greeters O= Fam Sun Oblations	O: Westfall Family	Ann Little Dot Remson	Ann Tyler Bob Young	Jim & Chris Glancey
Coffee Hosts	Margaret White Dot Remson	Morrie & Maggi Munson	Rod Sato Philip Ong	Logan & Julie Zintsmaster
Counters	Andy Lief Larry Lee	Jan Martin Margaret White	Ron Jones Tony Pecora	Tom Good Sandi Redder

SEEDS & HARVEST NEWSLETTER

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I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which
God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14

ST STEPHEN'S IN-THE-FIELD

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