

SEEDS & HARVEST

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



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October 2010

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Message from the Rector

I received inspiration today, and I would like to share it with you. We all need to be keeping watch for an event that inspires. Otherwise time goes by and we realize it has been weeks since we have come up for air. We are too busy hyperventilating about our natural life, and we forget to pay any attention to our spiritual life. We forget to take a deep breath and think about where God is. But we are physical AND spiritual creatures, and we need to pay attention to both natures.

A few weeks ago I was in my weekly rhythm of preparing for the Sunday sermon. That process typically takes six to eight hours. I start on a track, but invite God to let that track weave and wander, until I come across something that excites me about the lessons. How can I excite you about your faith journey if I am not excited about my own?

One of the commentaries I read in preparation for my sermon referred to the Ninth Letter of Brother Lawrence. I had vague recollection of the name of this French monk, but had never read about him. So I did some on-line research. He lived from 1605 to 1691. While serving in the Thirty Years War, he suffered a near fatal injury to his sciatic nerve, which caused him chronic pain for the rest of his life. He entered a monastery in Paris, serving as a cook for the monks. Through his life in this monastery, he learned how to be filled with an amazing sense of God's presence in everything he did. His deep spirituality has been recorded in letters he wrote over a period of forty years. These letters have been recorded in a book entitled "Practice of the Presence of God". I ordered the book, and promptly put it in my 'to be read' pile. Today I was reminded of this book in a meeting. I finally got to read that Ninth Letter. Here is an excerpt from the Ninth Letter from Brother Lawrence;

"We cannot escape the dangers that abound in life, without the actual and continual help of God; let's then pray to Him for it continuously. How can we pray to Him without being with Him? How can we be with Him without thinking of Him often? And how can we often think of Him, except by forming a holy habit of it?"

Isn't this the heart of the matter? Isn't this holy habit what separates true believers from 'good people'? You and I are on the journey together to form a holy habit of thinking about our Lord throughout our commutes to work, and the balancing of our budget, and deciding how to prioritize our overcrowded days. Maybe we should all read this book, and learn from Brother Lawrence; or at the very least, work on our own holy habits...

Ken +

Financial Report: September Summary

St. Stephen's in the Field Treasurer's Report for April - August

April 2010 Actual Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$12,539 \$13,133 ▪ Expense \$14,541 \$16,232 ▪ Net (\$2,002) (\$3,099) 	July 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$13,493 \$13,133 ▪ Expense \$13,613 \$14,449 ▪ Net (\$120) (\$1,316)
May 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$13,480 \$13,133 ▪ Expense \$12,815 \$14,821 ▪ Net \$665 (\$1,688) 	August 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$25,199 \$28,133 ▪ Expense \$21,757 \$20,489 ▪ Net \$3,442 \$7,644
June 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$10,778 \$13,433 ▪ Expense \$13,498 \$14,734 ▪ Net (\$2,710) (\$1,301) 	Year to Date (YTD) Jan 1 to Aug 30, 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Income \$116,405 \$122,069 ▪ Expense \$120,364 \$125,056 ▪ Net (\$3,959) (\$2,987)

NOTES:

April

- Property taxes were paid to the County of Santa Clara.
- Pass thru funds of \$372.99 was disbursed for UTO (United Thank Offering)

May

- Pass thru funds of \$60.00 was disbursed for Sudanese Youth Opportunity
- Carpet cleaning of April 26, & May 3 sponsored by Zintmasters' and Cuffies'.

June

- \$50.74 was received for Deacon Judi Sato's ordination stole
- \$205.00 was received for Rector's Discretionary Fund
- Pass thru funds of \$500.00 was disbursed for Bishop's Discretionary Fund

July

- Initial funds of \$2,635.00 received for 2010 August 9 SSITF Golf Tournament .

August

- \$900.00 was received for Acolyte Albs from sponsors in our congregation.
- \$12,744 was received from 2010 SSITF August 9 Golf Tournament
- Expenses \$6,629 were paid for 2010 SSITF August 9 Golf Tournament, more bills expected.
- Piano received major repairs/upkeep of \$274.00
- Pass thru funds of \$100.00 was disbursed for SMUM

Summary

- The YTD Total Income is under budget by \$5,664.00.
- The YTD Total Expense is under budget by \$4,692.00
- The trend of actual expenses being under when compared to budget expenses shows the financial controls on expenditures is working .
- Members giving above their pledges and members already having met their annual pledge goals ahead of year end have greatly helped SSITF financially .
- Expenses are still outpacing income by \$3,959.00
- The YTD pledge contributions received are under budget by \$5,089.
- SSITF needs those pledge receipts.

Please, any questions, contact the Treasurer. Call or text 408-234-6066, email pongod@ix.netcom.com

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Ong, Treasurer

Senior Warden Report

Word from Your Sr. Warden
October 2010

As I stare at the Sunday Sevice Bulletin I'm the drawn to the statement always placed at the bottom of the front cover. Not too long ago, your Vestry (at their February Retreat) came up up with the core purpose statement "St. Stephen's in-the-Field Church exists to make a place that draws all people to Chirst". Its a simple, to-the-point statement of our faith. I guess you could say its the "bottom line."

Just look back in the short 10 months, of job losses, new jobs found, sickness and injuries, re-gained health, loss of loved ones, rejoice of new births, new ministries and flourishing outreach. How could we have not survived and lived a richly blessed life if not for your gift of prayer and

faithful giving in all ways. As new people have come, some have stayed, some have moved on, and some already in ministries at St. Stephens. In all, you have touched a part of their lives and are drawing people to Christ.

Looking forward to Oct 10, to the Commisioning of New Ministries, I encourage each of you to set some time aside to prayerfully look at areas where the Holy Spirit will lead you into, perhaps its a new thing for you. For me, it looks like our Lord does have a sense of humor, as I look forward to Edy Unthank teaching me how to make bread for Holy Communion.

In this and in future Newsletters, I hope you enjoy reading about the different ministries at St. Stephen's, Then go seek and find out more from your Vestry Liasons about those ministries and how you can serve. They won't bite, and are always looking for new ideas.

God Bless each of you.
Rod

St Stephen's Parish Preschool

Robin Horn

Last week was bear week. We learned a lot about bears and ended the week with a “Teddy Bear Picnic” on Thursday and Friday. The children made their own bear food snack mix: twigs (pretzel sticks), honey & nuts (honey nut Cheerios), fruit & berries (fruit loops), fish (gummy fish) and Teddy Grahams. We decided the bears would be safer if they stayed at school while we walked to the park. After returning to school we discovered that although the bears had been told to stay on the circle carpet and take a nap, they had really been playing while we were gone. We found that the toys were out and some of the bears were even doing painting at the easel!!

Judi Sato

The Preschool is off and running! We have 15 students all anxious to learn their A B C's. We have a couple of personnel changes. Sue Nielsen is now our Expert Consultant and occassional Super-Substitute Teacher. Robin Horn is our new Director and her Assistant Teacher is Mrs. Cindy Nielsen. Miss Cindy is from Morgan Hill and has two children. She attends St. John the Divine Episcopal Church. They have already had their first outing and all kids came back safe & sound. We are looking forward to our Pumpkin Patch field trip later this month.

Family Fun Day Report

Sept 12

View photos: <http://ssitf.shutterfly.com/pictures/107>

Movie Night

Judi Sato

Sept 24

A fun time was had by all as we were taken *UP* in a Disney-Pixar fantasy to Paradise Falls. This movie had the best attendance yet as it appealed "SQUIRREL!!" to all audiences. The cost of the movie was free, but we had popcorn and snacks (some actually healthy) for sale. Proceeds will go towards new choir robes. Future movie nights may need to be put on hold as we have learned we may need to purchase permission to show movies in the future and this is not included in our current budget. Thanks to Rod and Karen for manning the popcorn machine, to Fr. Ken for all the set-up work, and for those who stuck around to help us clean up. It was truly an *U*plifting experience!!

CommunityFest Report

Janet Thorsrud



Sept 18

2010 CommunityFest: party with a purpose! Don't you love that? Does it get any better than reaching out to others, to inform, stay or get connected with the community where you live? What an incredible way to create opportunities to encourage your neighbors to "Step out of the boat" or even "Rock the boat" here at St. Stephen's.

The Santa Teresa neighborhood group has done an amazing job of working within a small budget and a timeline to procure a good location, permits, insurance, entertainment, recruit vendors and basically put on a good "Show and Tell" for the past 10 years.

If you didn't get a chance to check it out this year, it will be back next year. See you there!

Worship Report

Karen Cuffie

MINISTRY AND MISSIONS FAIR

The annual Ministry & Missions Fair was held on September 19. This is when each area of ministry is represented by a colorful display of information, and sometimes-even pictures. We have this Fair every year to show everyone what all the ministries are at St. Stephen's and to provide an opportunity to sign-up for a ministry that looks fun and interesting to you.

Just because we do this once a year doesn't mean that you have to wait until next fall to sign up for a certain ministry! Beginning this month, there will be two areas of ministry highlighted in our monthly Seeds and Harvest Newsletter. Each article will give you more detailed information about the ministry and how you can get involved. Please remember that you can sign up to participate in

a ministry at any time. It's easy. Just let the ministry leader know of your interest. Don't know who the ministry leader is? You can contact me after coffee hour, by phone, or by e-mail.

PET BLESSING

October 4th is the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Francis is remembered for his profound connection to animals, referring to them as brothers and sisters to mankind. The tradition of a pet blessing service is observed in churches all over the world, usually on the weekend closest to October 4th.

We held our pet blessing service this year on Oct 2nd. There were 23 people and 14 pets at our service under the big oak tree! Father Ken shared a couple of stories about St. Francis' very special encounters with animals and blessed each pet. We prayed for our pets and all animals, including those who are no longer here with us, recognizing that all creatures are God's creation and that we should treat them with the same respect that St. Francis did.

When the short service was done, each pet and their owner received a certificate and enjoyed some light refreshment - for both pets and owners!

View photos: <http://ssitf.shutterfly.com/pictures/193>

COMMISSIONING SUNDAY

Commissioning for Lay Ministries is on October 10th. This is a time when people who are serving in new ministries are presented for commissioning. These lay ministers are a vital part of our worship services. They have offered their gifts to serve and we, as a congregation, are blessed because of their devotion to serving. Our wonderful Acolytes were commissioned on Sunday, September 19th.

New Member Class and Brunch

Genie Lee

10/12 Membership Class

10/17 New Member Liturgy, New Member Brunch

We welcome all those at St. Stephen' to attend the New Members Class on October 12, 2010 at 7:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church. Father Ken conducts a wonderful class about the history of St.

Stephen's Church and the Episcopal church and what it means to be a member of our church.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member of St. Stephen's are invited to attend and all those who are already members could come to learn more from Father Ken. If you are unable to attend on October 12 and would like to attend the New Members Class, please contact Father Ken about arranging an individual or small group class on a different date. Then after attending the New Members Class, if you would like to become a member of St. Stephen's, we would like to welcome you on October 17, 2010 for Welcoming Sunday at the 10 am service. New members will be welcomed during the service and then a Welcoming Potluck will follow the service.

Please let Father Ken or myself know if you would like to attend the New Members Class and/or would like to be welcomed on Welcoming Sunday. You can contact me at (408) 622 - 4245 or email me at genie.yomtov@yahoo.com.

Thank you so much. Genie Lee, Membership Liaison, Jr. Warden

October Ministry Focus

Genie Lee: Membership & Greeting

Fall is in the air and the temperature has finally started to cool and we are beginning out new year as a church congregation. I am so excited about what the year will bring. The ministry of greeting is a very important ministry for St. Stephen's because our greeters are the first members of the congregation that the visitor meets, so first impressions are very important. Greeters are very special people in that they are willing to put themselves out there and meet visitors and welcome them warmly into our church, helping them navigate their way around and introducing them to other members. We currently have the Ministry fair going on to give members of the congregation a chance to volunteer for one of the many ministries at St. Stephen's. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining the Greeters ministry. I am very excited to announce that we have 2 new volunteers on our Greeter Team. They are Isabelle King and Emil Baggs. They will be officially welcomed this Sunday as Greeters.

For those interested in becoming members Fr. Ken has a wonderful New Members class that covers the history of the Episcopal Church as well as our own history. These classes are held about twice a year and are followed by a special welcoming liturgy on a Sunday and a parish brunch. The next class will be on October 12th (see above article). Contact Fr. Ken if you are interested.

One more thing, I would like to remind all of the St. Stephen's congregation to wear their name tags. This is a great way for new members to know who you are and will help visitors and new members feel more comfortable. If you need a new name tag please sign your name on the name tag sheet in the parish hall on the bulletin board and I will make sure you get one.

Thank you so much. Genie Lee, Membership Liaison, Jr. Warden

Lecture Series: CPR Certification

Anthony Francis

RED CROSS CERTIFICATION - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6

Saint Stephen's in-the-Field is hosting a Red Cross CPR class - the first of what we hope to be a series of lectures, courses and events of interest not just to Saint Stephen's congregation but to the whole neighborhood.

The CPR class will be taught by Alisha Garcia on Saturday, November 6th and will provide Red Cross training and certification in adult, child and infant CPR. The class is open to ages 12 and up, but class size is limited to 10, so RSVP is required. The class begins at 9 and lasts till 5; you will need to bring your own drinks, snacks and lunch. Fee for the class is \$60; once complete you will be Red Cross Certified to do CPR and will receive an instruction manual to keep.



**American
Red Cross**

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Youth Camping Trip & Trunk or Treat Event

Andy Lief

Big Sur Youth Gathering

5 youth from SSITF traveled to Big Sur the last weekend of September to join around 50 other youth and adult leaders from around the Diocese. Sabrina Denton, Tommy Edsberg, Jordan Lief, Janelle Lief, and Sarah Nolan (friend of Janelle) represented St. Stephen's. Our youth excelled at hanging out over by the general store and Big Sur River Inn as well as jumping off the rocks and into the very chilly Big Sur River. Luckily from the swimming perspective, the weather was extremely warm (95 degrees or so). The St. Stephen's five helped prepare the group breakfast Sunday morning and lead the campers in saying grace. This is the second year in a row for our youth's participation and we look forward to a third consecutive trip next year.

Halloween Fellowship Set For October 30th at 6PM

It's that time of year again when the youth group transforms the church building and grounds into a haunted house, carnival, hospital or any other type of venue they come up with. Aside from the haunted tours (which may return to the garden area this year after a several year hiatus), the youth will also sponsor games for younger kids and the always popular trunk or treat. We would like to see all children under 12 participate in this event and will need a lot of adults to come with their cars to open their trunks and hand out candy. Decorated cars and sound effects will add to the festivities. Please email Andy Lief with any questions (andy@scounty.com). More information will follow in bulletins throughout the month of October.

Server Schedule

The St Stephen's Server Schedule is moving to be web-based. Follow this link to the Calendar Page: [Lay Server Calendar](#)

Click on the Calendar to see Acolytes, Lay Servers, Coffee Hour Hosts, or Nursery Care Providers for any given Sunday.

Visit ssitf.org for all details and even more information about our Faith Community.