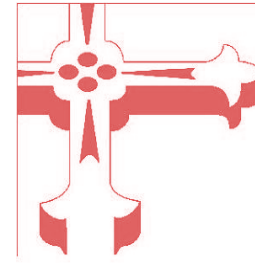


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TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Volume 4 June 2009 Number 5

*The Prayer That
Shapes Our Community*
**For the Community we
Serve give us generous hearts,
O Lord...**
**Let us be that Community of
Worship and Mission where
all can become who they are
in Christ and serve joyfully in
Christ's Name. Amen**

PLEASE DELIVER ASAP
June 2009

Good Tidings
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Mother's Day Brunch Feast

All I can say is WOW. On Sunday, May 10th, Mother's Day, the men and children of St. Stephen's cooked and served the mothers in our parish. The women were effectively banished from the kitchen.

With the French toast on large hot plate running full steam, Russell Long and Jim Geiger scrambling up the eggs and Bob Grosso slingging sausage and Andy and Doug Leake putting plates together, I am confident in saying we had an excellent brunch.

One of the moms was heard to say "the French toast was great." And another stated "It's nice to not have to cook for myself." This is the third annual St Stephen's Day Brunch, which has gotten bigger each year, to this year's attendance of 60 plus. We were able to cook up three full loaves of French toast, 200 sausage links, and 12 dozen eggs. Again I say, WOW.

I want to thank everyone who helped in the kitchen, and all the kids who took the time to serve their moms so selflessly. This is but a small thank you to the women who have forever taken care of us no matter how winny and miserable we tend to be. It is much less than any of you deserve. Thanks and see you all again next year...

John Mango, Jr.

Dear Friends,



What a privilege it was to host Bishop Turner for Sunday's first Episcopal Visit since 2006! Episcopalians gather around our bishops to hear the Word proclaimed, to celebrate the sacraments, to gather for food and fellowship and to express our enthusiasm for what God has been doing in our parish. Our gathering reminds us that we are part of something far larger than our own parish. One role of bishops is to be a connection between us and the Body of Christ worldwide. We are an Episcopal Church because God has given us the gift of being connected through our bishops with countless local parishes, not just in our diocese, not just in the Episcopal Church, but across every boundary of time and space. We bring candidates for baptism, confirmation and reception and invite our membership to formally reaffirm their baptism. We bring them to the bishop (any bishop) to remind us that the mission of Christ is bigger than the familiar confines of our parish and the communities we serve.

ministries of people gathered into the local communities of faith we call congregations. When the bishop lays his hands upon us or shakes our hand, or leads us in worship, he reminds us that we are the 'pointy end of the stick;' we are the instruments through whom the reign of God extends and the people God uses to bring victory over hopelessness and despair..

Episcopal Visits are great celebrations. Bishop Turner was certainly clear that the St. Stephen's he encountered Sunday is the best he has ever seen us. We are inspired by Bishop Turner's presence and by the faith demonstrated as Joan, Doug, Ben, Michelle, Nate, Chou Tu, Nicole, Mike, Kevin, Diane, Sheila and Joan offered themselves for greater service in Christ's Name. We are now ready to move forward in greater strength.

Summer is "unofficially" here and will soon take hold completely. Farmers and gardeners know that summer is a season of growth. How much more is it a time when the seeds of faith planted, will begin to bear fruit.

Second, the bishop's presence among us solidifies that connection in the opposite direction. Tip O'Neal, when he was Speaker of the House of Representatives, used to say "all politics is local." If it's true of politics, how much more so is it true of the *Missio Dei*, the mission of God. All mission takes place in the

Many Blessings,

Bishop's Visit, May 17, 2009

The high point of this spring for St. Stephen's was the visit by Rt. Rev. Bishop Franklin Turner, retired Suffragan Bishop. Bishop Turner came to baptize, confirm, and receive persons into the Episcopal Church, to preach and to celebrate the Eucharist with us. His friendly, folksy and laid-back style meshes with our parish, and we all enjoyed the event. He also met with the vestry separately.

Bishop Turner preached on the theme of "love and obey" from John's Gospel and I John 5. "We Christians are living in the aftermath of the resurrection," he reminded us. This is particularly important during difficult times. Jesus calls us to love in deeds, not just words, for love is a verb, not a noun.

The original scheduled groups of candidates for Baptism and/or Confirmation were: Douglas and Joan Leake, to be baptized and confirmed; Michelle Brown and Nate Mango to be confirmed; William "Ben" Knab and Kevin Terry to be received; and Sheila Wooten to reaffirm baptismal vows. (For personal testimonies by Michelle and Nate, see other stories in this issue of the Newsletter)

But immediately following these events, Bishop Turner issued an invitation to all others who might wish to be "done up" at this time. Sure enough, up walked several more persons. Some of these were confirmed, some received, and all advised to seek out Fr. Michael for religious instructions about the exact nature of what they had committed themselves to.

At this point, in response to a query, Bishop Turner explained that the custom of the bishop striking the Confirmands on the cheek was meant to symbolize that Christian life will involve hardship and suffering. (They are not supposed to strike him back!)

The service ended and there was a photo op for all those involved in the liturgical events, and then a meal for everyone back in the parish hall. Thanks to Cherly Daly and Leigh Joner who organized and set up for this, and to Douglas Leake who cooked most of the food. And to Bishop Turner and to everyone who made it a blessed and joyous day.

Lucy Bregman

Why Confirmation – Why Me?

God is **good**! But what is **good** – *really*? Here are a few definitions of good - "of high quality"; "skilled"; "virtuous"; "kind"; "honorable"; "valid"; "helpful"; "pleasant"; "beneficial"; "favorable"; "genuine"; "obedient"; "able to do more"; "producing result" and finally "something worth having".

When my Mom passed away, EVERYONE told me what a **good** person she was. Of course I knew that - and it felt good to know that SO MANY people knew how good she really was. It has been a struggle for me since my Mom has passed – to find good in myself. I knew that I needed to get closer to God.

To go forward – I had to look back. I remember Aunt Mary and Aunt *Betty*, my best friend Tracy's great aunts, were **good** people in my younger years. They were absolutely of high quality - always there to encourage us to learn new things and bring out the good in us. We went to Catholic mass together and spent many Sunday afternoons playing cards and trying on jewelry.

As a teenager I met *Betty* George, another **good** person, while attending Methodist church with my friend Cindy (another **good** person). Betty was our fearless bell choir instructor that gave us the confidence to try harder and go forward. Years later, Betty asked me to play bells again as an adult – and I did!

My St. Stephen's journey started a little over two years ago, when Sue Grosso was **good** enough to invite me to attend St. Stephen's. The children were baptized on John the Baptist Sunday 2008. Now, Lindsay (10) is an Acolyte, Jesse (17) is an Intercessor and I am teaching the older children Sunday school class!

Beth Corkery has been so helpful and extra **good** to me – getting me involved as a greeter, coffee host and Intercessor with my son, Jesse. Beth and I also attended confirmation class together.

Attending confirmation class has validated what I should expect from St. Stephen's and what is expected of me by St. Stephen's. Praying, attending church, teaching Sunday school, continued fellowship and community involvement are all steps to get closer to God – one step at a time. My St. Stephen's future begins with planning our Sunday School Program for next year! Confirmation is my special day to confirm that life should not be a struggle alone. Welcome life as a challenge for the **good** ...with God's help! My confirmation name, *Elizabeth*, honors the **good** people in my life – past and present – and will always remind me what a lasting impression **good** can be.

Why Confirmation for me? Confirmation is something worth having to validate my growth as a Christian and be confident that as I get closer to God, I get closer to **good** ...

Michelle Brown

Nate's Story

My name is Nate Mango and I am 10 years old. I'm a 4th grade Honor Student at Holy Cross School. My favorite subject is Music. I love playing the piano and I take lessons every Saturday. I play roller hockey, soccer, & baseball. I also swim and wrestle.

My family has been at St. Stephen's for three years. Before we came to St. Stephen's we went to All Saints Church in Darby. I became an acolyte when I was 4 years old. Back then I carried a little wooden cross, now I am a torch bearer.

I will be confirmed on May 17th by Bishop Turner. I have been waiting for this day for a long time. My mom & dad told me that when I was two I went up to a bishop during his sermon and he picked me up while he talked. The next year when he came I went up to him and asked him when I could have my confirmation. When Father Mike first came to our church I asked him when I would be able to be confirmed. He said I would have to wait until I was sixteen. I was not happy! When Father Mike announced confirmation classes this year I thought that this was my chance. I thought "Now would be good!" He said I would have to work hard and listen really well. So I did.

I believe that confirmation means that I will take responsibility for my life in Christ's Church. This is a big responsibility for me. I know that this is just the beginning for me and I can't wait to learn more about God and my religion.

Nate Mango

Earning the Bronze Award

By: Rose Long

Junior troop 57082 completed the tasks necessary to earn their Bronze Award on Saturday May 2nd.

The Bronze award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. We worked towards it for over a year. First we had to complete two badges which can take 2-4 hours each. Then we completed one of the four Girl Scout signs which is much more involved and time consuming than earning a badge. We earned our Junior Aide patch by working with our sister Brownie Troop on different activities over the course of the year. Once we completed all of those things, we were able to start working on our Bronze Award Project.

We decided to bake cookies for the local food pantry "Loaves and Fishes". It took about fifteen hours all together to finish our project including writing and sending letters to retailers requesting supply donations, shopping, and sending thank you notes for donations. We made about 30 batches of cookies! 8 of the 15 girls in the troop (including me, Aja Burgin, Lexie Burns, Nikki Grosso, Haley Gruerio, Brianna Messina, Bri O'Donnell, and Krista Scarpatto) earned the Bronze Award, and one extra came and supported us while baking. (Thank you, Lindsay Brown!) We worked from about 9-2 p.m. baking the cookies. We had a lot of fun. The leaders at the pantry were delighted that we baked the cookies for them. Everyone enjoyed themselves. We would like to thank Sue Grosso, Pam Messina, Maureen Long, and Karen Gruerio for volunteering their time with us. It was an experience everyone had fun with – and we are really proud of ourselves.



Who knows what will be next, when we earn the Silver Award as Cadettes!

Pictures from the Bishop's Visitation

With many thanks to Pete Joner for the photos!!



To see these photos in Color, visit our website at www.sstephen.org

WATCH FOR COMING EVENTS!!

Time Capsule Opening

*Placement and Blessing of Fr. Michael Tuck's
Memorial Plaque in the Church*

Norwood 4th of July Parade Involvement

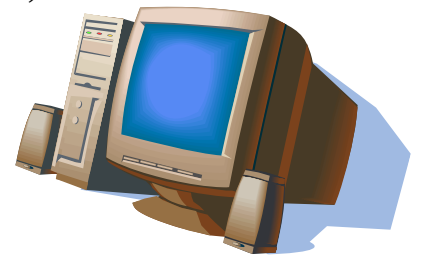
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Communication Card

The Sunday of Pentecost



*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
31 May 2009*

Dr. / Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. _____

E-Mail (please print) _____

I am a: 1st time guest 2nd time guest Attends Regularly Member

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Best Contact Phone # _____

If 1st or 2nd time guest, how did you hear about St. Stephen's? _____
(Invited, website, mailing, newspaper...)

The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

Friends, this is a Connection Card and is included in the Service Leaflet each Sunday. We ask that Members, Attenders and Guests fill out this card EVERY week. Regulars are welcome to put their name only on the card. This card can be used to reserve the Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candle,

submit prayer requests and for information update (i.e. address change, email address change, new phone number...) Thank you, in advance, for your participation!