



grapevine

ST. STEPHEN'S
NEWSLETTER

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A Letter from our Priest-in-Charge

I love to tell this story whenever someone is baptized: Three clergy were having coffee at the local Starbucks one morning...

The topic of their conversation got around to the problem of having bats in the attics of their churches and the fact that their Church Committees had gone to great lengths to get rid of them.

The United Church Minister said that they had tried to get rid of the bats by catching them in nets and taking them by truck many miles out into the countryside. But it was to no avail, because the bats came back to their attic within two days.

The Roman Catholic priest said that they had also tried to get rid of the bats by using a chemical spray to kill them all off. Again, he said it did not work, because within a day there were just as many bats flying around his church's attic.

The Anglican priest said that she didn't want to boast about it, but her Church Committee had decided to Baptize and Confirm their bats, and—miracle of miracles—none of them came back!

One of the purposes of baptism is commissioning. The baptized person through this sacrament is commissioned to be a disciple of Jesus, and to exercise their commissioning through loving God, their neighbour, and themselves.

There are many in our church who actively exercise their commission. The volunteers on Sundays are a good example: the Sidespersons who welcome people, the Readers, the Intercessors, the Choir, the Servers and Sacristans, Mike and Sonya who keep the audio system working, Dave, Ha, Betty, Anna, and Larry who prepare and teach Sunday-school lessons, the Counters, the Coffee and Tea Hosts, and the members of the Altar Guild. In all, it takes 20 to 25 volunteers to work on our Sunday worship service.

Then there are those volunteers who carry out their commission quietly and without fanfare. Volunteers like Audrey and Sheila who collate and staple the service bulletins we use on Sundays; Ed Kind who works in the kitchen most Sundays; members of the Altar Guild who clean and set up the church sanctuary for our worship services; Ha and Man who tend the church flower beds; Bob Doyle who picks up the flowers for the altar every Saturday and delivers them to the church; Bob Rusch who gives up a lot of his leisure time →

→ ensuring our church finances are properly accounted for; Colleen who is always there to help or coordinate church activities and who buys and feeds the flowers inside and outside the church among other things; Elaine who is at the church early on Sundays, making sure the doors are open. And did you know that you will find Janet P., Jan H., both Joans, Peg, Belle, and Elaine here most Thursdays, sorting through the donations to the Thrift Shop, getting them ready for sale to the community, and distributing the proceeds to social services in the community and to the upkeep of the church?

It is persons such as these who actively live out their commission as disciples of Jesus.

And many more.

The Reverend Gary Hamblin

Changes in the Altar Guild

Pat Hargreaves has agreed to take up the position of head of the Altar Guild. Pat replaces Dorothy Garrett, who has now retired this role after many years of service. Our warmest thanks to Dorothy for her dedication and leadership. We welcome Pat into her new role. The Altar Guild also invites interested members of our community to join them in this important ministry.

NEW Parish Office Hours

Monday	9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday	9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Wednesday	2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday	2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We welcome Gail Lefèvre as our Parish Office Administrator. The Editor of *The Grapevine* hopes to present a conversation with Gail in our next issue.

Our new Bishop's Warden: David Nash

*At our annual vestry meeting, two new wardens were elected. To help us get acquainted, they have graciously agreed to answer a few questions for *The Grapevine*.*

I became part of the Christian

Church as: I am a cradle Anglican who was born, baptised and later made my confirmation into the Anglican Tradition and have continued in this ever since.

I attend St. Stephen's for several

reasons: first, because, it is my local parish church, but also, because I know and like the people there, having worked with many of them over the years. It feels like home, like family.

My favourite hymn is:

I have several, but one of my favourites would be "The Day thou Gavest Lord has ended." It's an evening hymn, one of the few that talks

about the day that is past, the work that was done, the voice of prayer being never silent, and our thanks to God as we move on to the next day.

I keep busy with: work, exercise, reading.

I really enjoy: the outdoors, history, and travel (I have a degree in History, with further studies in Geography and Religious studies from Trinity Western University).

My most life-changing experience

was: a pilgrimage to the Middle East. On that trip I went to Egypt and Israel (it snowed on my trip to Israel), and on a later trip to Greece, in the footsteps of St. Paul.

I answered the call to become a

warden at St. Stephen's: at the request of Rev. Gary Hamblin and Bishop Melissa. It is humbling to have been called to the position →

→ of Bishop's Warden, given my being fairly new to the Parish. People speak of my experience in the role, but I also know that there can be a honeymoon period, until you end up making someone unhappy. But, as they say, when God taps you on the shoulder to ask you to do something, it isn't wise to refuse. (And being a pastor's kid, you get used to fulfilling different roles in the church without having a choice!)

My top three goals as warden, as I see them now, will be: to act as Team Builder, Encourager and Guide as we walk the road to Emmaus together and share the love of God with the world around us. However, the precise goals are fluid and will change as necessary.

A message I would like to give St. Stephen's is: Actually, I have two messages. First, be prayerfully prepared to take risks and lead by example – Jesus led and didn't play it safe for the sake of being safe. Second, in the business of everyday life, remember the history of this holy place (St. Stephen's) and the people who are a part of this community. Know that all come for different reasons – we need to work to provide a welcoming, caring, healing place for all. For all are welcome in this place. And my door is always open to those who want to talk about anything!

Our new People's Warden: John Ebenezer Hayfron

How I became part of the

Christian Church: I was baptized and confirmed into the Methodist church in Ghana, and am currently an active member of the Anglican Church. I attended the Norwegian Lutheran Church during my student years in Norway.

I attend St. Stephen's because: I lived with my family close to St.

Stephen's Parish when I first visited Canada as an exchange student at Simon Fraser University in 1994. Since then I have become a member of the St. Stephen's family. It's a good place to worship; I feel welcomed here.

My favorite hymn is: "Come Down, O Love Divine" (#645 in Common Prayer)

I keep busy with: grooming children/youths to become sidespersons at the church. I also teach Economics at the University of Western Washington – I commute to Bellingham twice a week.

I really enjoy: singing in the choir – I love many kinds of music, especially R&B, jazz, gospel. I'm also a fan of soccer and enjoy cooking.

A life-changing experience for

me: When I started worshipping at St. Stephen's, little did I know that I would one day become the People's Warden. This has renewed my faith in Jesus Christ, and I am no longer afraid to make a commitment to St. Stephen the Martyr.

I answered the call to become a warden at St. Stephen's

because: To answer this question, I will quote a passage from the Parish warden's

manual. "You have been chosen warden because God wants you in that position, and the church has confirmed it." That says it all.

My top three goals as warden, as

I see them now, will be: to be actively involved in (1) youth development and (2) the promotion of multiculturalism. I will be the voice of the ethnic minorities, and challenge them to participate actively in the small group →

"I wish to thank the members of St. Stephen parish community for giving me the opportunity to serve as their People's Warden."

→ ministries. Also, I will (3) review and improve the existing guidelines established by the church's small group ministries, and particularly the parish council.

A message I would like to give St.

Stephen's is: I wish to use this newsletter to thank the members of St. Stephen parish community for giving me the opportunity to serve as their People's Warden. It is my aim to collaborate with the Bishop's warden and our Priest-in-Charge to bring about positive change in the Parish, and I hope that the members will embrace change. Without change, we would not have a woman bishop today - this would have seemed far-fetched forty years ago.

God and Dog:

A Reflection

You can learn so much from your dog. First the spelling. Just reverse and you have it: "God." But dogs do not pretend to be God. No, they are the personification of what a good Christian should be.

Faith. Dogs have it. They wait at the door with faith that you will come home. They trust . . . have faith that you will feed them. And if you have forgotten—and we all have—they still have faith that you will

remember and that sustenance will come their way. In you they trust. Dogs have a covenant with their humans. To them, you are God, their humans . . . but mostly God. Do you deserve this? I know that I often do not – and I think that I am pretty good with my lambs.

And when we act more like the tyrannical god of the Old Testament, when we have forgotten more than we have learned about Jesus, when we are not nice, our dogs still love us. They comfort us when we should be comforting them.

Dogs, so maligned in cultures past, have guided the blind, gone to war, heard for the deaf, saved lives in buildings collapsed, even made the first trek to the South Pole, with their humans following.

Their nature is mostly the stuff we wish we were made of. The right stuff. Do not get me wrong. With all this goodness often come the woes of boredom. They will let us know when we have not heard their prayers. So take care of your flock. They love you so much. They believe. They have faith. And they will never turn away from you for the sake of a golden calf.

Such a deal.

Gail Koombes

Spring Tea

St. Stephen's will be having its annual Spring Tea on Saturday, May 30th, 2015. Tea and sandwiches will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There is an admission charge of \$6 for regular plates and \$8 for larger plates (more sandwiches and an extra goodie). With each admission you get your tea, sandwiches, and a ticket in the door prize draw.

We will be in need of sandwich-makers and desserts. If you can help in these two areas please let Janet or Val know. These aren't the only jobs: setting up and clearing away crews are also needed. There will also be a bake table and a gift table as well as some crafts. So we will need volunteers to bake and to work at the tables during the tea itself.

This is one of our main annual fundraisers, and we would like it to be a success. So please mark your calendars and keep the day open. We hope to see everyone out.

If you can help with any of these volunteer positions please let Janet Pavlakovic or Val Krause know. Thank-you in advance.

Spring Clean-Up



Spring Clean-Up Day is March 28th!

- from 9 a.m. to noon
- youth, Seniors . . . all ages are welcome to join the fun
- take up your cross - oops – we mean, your cleaning tool of choice . . .
- and help polish the pews, clean the Sacristy, scrub parts of the kitchen, weed the garden, sweep the sidewalks, . . .
- if you want to work outside, bring your own gloves!

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED!

This is a fun parish community event for all of us!



Parish Council for 2015

The following members of our congregation were elected or ratified as members of Parish Council at the annual vestry meeting on February 22nd:

POSITION	NAME	PHONE
Bishop's Warden	David Nash	604-803-4201
People's Warden	John E. Hayfron	604-464-4074
Treasurer	Bob Rusch	604-420-9476
Secretary	Val Krause	604-469-2273
Synod Lay Delegate	Colleen Butterley	604-552-3614
Synod Lay Delegate	Sharon Mack	604-715-4941
Alternate Lay Delegate	Gail Koombes	604-420-2322
Alternate Lay Delegate	Heather Doherty	604-251-3036
Youth Synod Delegate	Tom Doherty	604-251-3036
Alternate Youth Synod Delegate	Evans Munopo	604-420-5911
Member at Large	June Garrett	604-298-6531
Member at Large	Pat Hargreaves	604-421-0924
Member at Large	Larry Hoad	604-544-2420
Member at Large	Janet Pavlakovic	604-421-3317
Children's Ministry (ex officio)	Betty Schellenberg	604-939-5516

Holy Week and Easter at St. Stephen's

March 29	Palm/Passion Sunday	10:00 a.m.	
April 2	Maundy Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Table Eucharist in Parish Hall Stripping of the Sanctuary
April 3	Good Friday	10:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Refreshments in Parish Hall Good Friday Stations of the Cross (family-oriented)
April 4	Holy Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil
April 5	Easter Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt

You are invited to a St. Stephen's Community Easter Egg Hunt.

Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., rain or shine!

We will meet in the Church Hall.

Simple refreshments will be provided.



Colour the church mice



In Bloom

I look out of my window
At the break of every dawn,
And see the misty halo of
A freshly dew-clad lawn.
I watch a perky robin
As he hops to and fro
To find a tasty morsel,
His red breast all aglow.
A badger lopes along the path;
Complete, his nightly quest,
To wend his way back to his sett
And take a well-earned rest.
A blackbird and a speckled thrush
Their daily duet trill,
Such is their sheer exuberance
That never fails to thrill.
There is a cheeky squirrel,
Bushy tail a-twitch,
Who comes to see me every morn
To daily life enrich.
Graceful goldfish languish
In a tranquil, lilled pond,
And blue wisteria tassles
Entwine the wall beyond.
Bumblebees and butterflies
Busy 'mongst the flowers,
Bring wondrous ways of nature
To while away the hours.
What more could one wish for
To dispel winter's gloom,
Than a country garden
When it is in full bloom?

- B.H.G.
(contributed by Audrey Watson)

Closing Thought...

When you are on the lookout for faults, remember to use a mirror first and a telescope after.
- Augustus Hare