



*Deepening our faith and  
bringing others to Christ.*

**ANNUAL MEETING  
Sunday, January 22, 2012**

The Reverend Neil Alan Willard, Rector  
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**2011 OFFICERS, VESTRY AND COMMITTEES**

<b>OFFICERS:</b>		<u><b>TERM</b></u> <u><b>ENDS</b></u>
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Fei McKhann	2012
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Brian Ostenso	2012
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Holmberg	2012
<b>Clerk of the Parish</b>	Cathy Cella	2012

**VESTRY:**

Catherine Beringer	2012
David Clynes	2012
Cary Johnson	2012
Dave Pylipow	2013
Susan Haider	2013
Jim Bizal	2013
Ward Godsall	2013
Ann Scoggin	2014
Peter Vorbrich	2014
Debbie Belfry (Returning Vestry Member)	2012
Andrew Peterson (Youth Representative)	2012

**Finance Committee:** Dave Holmberg, Treasurer/Chair (2012), Fei McKhann, Sr. Warden (2012), The Rev. Neil Alan Willard, Rector, Nancy Wood, Finance Mgr., Bob Haider (2012), Paula Hart (2012), Cara Gould (2013), Mark Moller (2013), Mike Skatrud (2014) and Jonathan Strand (2014).

**St. Stephen's Fund Committee:** Mike Burnett, Chair (2014), The Rev. Neil Alan Willard, Rector (Advisory), Paula Hart (2012), Scott Vergin (2012), John Karlson (2013), Julia Gutz-Moller (2013), George Wanstall (2013), Karen Smith (2014) and Rod Hardy.

**Outreach Committee:** Margit Johnson, Chair, Brian Ostenso, Jr. Warden, David Sheldon, Minister of Families and Vocation, Roy Burns, Rebecca Gagnon, Nina Holmberg, Mary Lokowich, Vanessa Johnson and Betsy Nelson.

**Diocesan Convention Delegates:**

Clergy - The Rev. Neil Alan Willard, The Rev. Nancy Brantingham, The Rev. Lee Doucette, OSB Lay – Fei McKhann, Sr. Warden (2012), Brian Ostenso, Jr. Warden (2013), Ted Schwarz (2013), John Ellingboe (2013), Bob Haider (2013), Ann Marx (2013), Jackie Sullivan (2013), and Caroline Wanstall (2013). Alternates – Rod Hardy, Dave Holmberg (2013), Len Slade (2013) and Scott Thompson (2013).

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**JANUARY 22, 2012**

11 a.m. – 12 noon

**AGENDA**

11:00	Welcome/Opening Prayer	Fei McKhann/ The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette
11:05	Elect Clerk/Approve 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes	Fei McKhann
11:10	Presentation and Affirmation of Bylaws	Fei McKhann
11:15	Election of Leadership Slate	Brian Ostenso
11:25	Leadership Transition/Senior Warden's Reflection	Fei McKhann
11:30	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Celebrations	Julie Baker
11:35	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Discernment Findings	John Ellingboe
11:40	Treasurer's Report 2011 Results & 2012 Budget	Dave Holmberg
11:50	The Year Ahead	Brian Ostenso
11:55	Rector's Remarks	The Rev. Neil Alan Willard
12:00	Closing Prayer/Benediction	The Rev. Neil Alan Willard

## THE REPORT OF THE RECTOR

DELIVERED AS THE SERMON AT ALL SERVICES

### SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

In May 2011 St. Stephen's received the Edina Heritage Award from the City Council. This award recognizes "contribution to the preservation of Edina's heritage resource". Although our physical presence played a large part in our receiving this award, I believe that our role as the spiritual center of our community is an equally important one. My heartfelt thanks to our clergy, staff and lay leaders who have worked together to keep St. Stephen's a dynamic, loving and Christian home for all who walk in through our doors.

We are proud to report that we ended 2011 with a small operating surplus. This result did not come without the tremendous job our clergy and staff did to manage ever-growing expenses in an economically-challenging world, the continued vigilance of the Finance Committee, the persistence of the Stewardship Committee and the watchful governance of the Vestry. Even when we have had our differences, we all have stayed in sync remembering why we do what we do, and whom we do this for. Thanks to Him for our loving and passionate parish family.

Much of 2011 was spent laying out our groundwork to flesh out the vision of our church as a thinking person's church where we strive to live a Christ-centered life, holding strongly to our tenets of scripture, tradition and reason. Part of this work was the development of a three-year strategic agenda as well as a long-term budget to realize those goals. The Finance Committee took this task and ran with it; my thanks and kudos to them.

Four primary goals emerged from our discussions.

1. Increase engagement in the church, creating a community where members find meaning and fellowship equal to their Sunday worship experience.
2. Improve our financial discipline, with a focus on ending our reliance on Special Gifts to balance our operating budget. With this step, we hope to move to a point where we have Special Gifts be made for specific and truly special projects. Other elements of our financial priorities are covered in Dave's Treasurer's report.
3. Recognize and value our staff. We have a very talented group of individuals who make this community one we are proud of. These folks wear far more hats than I thought possible. We recognize the importance of nurturing our staff, including providing continuing education resources and support, as well as budgeting for annual COLA increases.
4. Nurture future leaders of the church in all areas of ministry. Although we pride ourselves on being a welcoming community, we do not always make it easy for members to step forward and shine as leaders.

With the last goal in mind, we are proposing today to make the Stewardship Committee a standing committee and nominating a whole new slate of members. We want to reflect the notion that Stewardship should be a year-long experience, and an important part of our shared life. Our sincere thanks to those who have faithfully served in this role, some for many years. Their efforts are well-appreciated. You have created big shoes to fill.

Our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary marks a wonderful opportunity to recognize the special community that is St. Stephens. Celebrations are off and running! I hope many of you will join us for our celebratory brunch today and for many of the other Jubilee events that will take place this year. Your energy, passion and love for St. Stephen's gives us reason to rejoice. Thank you to the parishioners who consistently give of your time, talent and treasure to make our St. Stephen's family special.

I can truly say that my year as your Warden has strengthened my love of the St. Stephen's community and the amazing individuals who make this place special for me, Chas and our children. A special shout-out to Neil, Nancy and Lee, the backbones of our community, who have provided spiritual guidance and solace through the year. I only hope I have given a fraction of the blessings I have received. Thank you for allowing me to serve you, the church and above all, God.

Sincerely,

Fei McKhann

### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

God has continued to bless St. Stephen's with many gifts in 2011. We are served by dedicated and talented clergy, staff, lay leadership and volunteers that provide over 70 worship, formation and service programs to our parish. Thank you to the clergy, staff and lay leadership and volunteers that make all of this happen so well and seamlessly for our church family.

We are blessed with a small surplus for 2011, the third year in a row, and a balanced budget for 2012. Thank you to all of our parishioners that pledge and provide financial support to all of our programs. We would not be able to support these programs at the level we currently enjoy without your generous support. Notwithstanding all of these blessing we have several objectives we would like to accomplish next year:

1. We will continue the celebration of 75 years of serving our community with:
  - a. Brunch after our Annual Meeting on January 22
  - b. Faith and Work Lecture on February 4
  - c. Lenten Sundays "Hospitality of God" Adult Forums
  - d. Cornerstone Birthday Dinner on April 14
  - e. Cornerstone Worship & Reception on April 15
  - f. Parish Outreach Project
  - g. TEC and Youth Ministry Reunion in June
  - h. Laughing Water Weekend Family Bike Ride on August 25
  - i. Laughing Water Picnic on August 26
  - j. All Parish Retreat at St. Stephens the weekend of All Saints Sunday

We will report on the discernment process we embarked upon this year to make sure we have a strong foundation to build upon for the next 75 years. The discernment process will lead us into a feasibility study to determine if a capital campaign is supportable by our parish and, if so, where the parish believes we should invest the capital.

In addition we will work towards :

- . Strengthening our stewardship program to make sure our financial resources are in alignment with the programming desires of the parish. Our income has remained relatively flat over the last three

years but is down 8% from 2008. To balance our budgets over the last few years we have cut Salary & Benefits expenses 6% over 2008 levels, our pledge to the Diocese is down 48% from 2008 and other program costs have been cut 27% over 2008 levels. The bottom line is that we are doing more with less. Balancing the budget in 2013 with cuts in expenses will be painful because we anticipate significant increases in utility and benefit expenses.

- a. Increasing our productivity by improving communication process and infrastructure. We will evaluate the use of our communications software, electronic tools and processes with an eye to improving our record keeping and connection with the parish.

I was honored to serve as your Junior Warden and am excited about all the great activities, initiatives and events we have planned for 2012, in addition to all 70 of the other programs St. Stephens provides to us. I believe with your commitment and God's help that 2012 will be the beginning of another 75 blessed years for St. Stephens.

In His Name

Brian Ostenso  
Junior Warden

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Proposed Slate for Vestry and Standing Committees 2012**

The Nominating Committee and the Vestry are pleased to nominate this slate of parishioners for leadership positions in 2012. The Nominating Committee made these recommendations at their meeting on December 3, the results of which were presented to the Vestry on December 20, 2011.

Terms begin and end at the Annual Meeting of the Parish in January of the stated year.

**Senior Warden:** Brian Ostenso (term ends Jan 2013)  
**Junior Warden:** Anne Scoggin (Jan 2013)  
**Treasurer:** Dave Holmberg (Jan 2013)  
**Clerk of the Parish:** Cathy Cella (Jan 2013)

**Vestry Members:**

Todd Andrews (term ends Jan 2014)  
Susan Dowd (Jan 2015)  
Ann Marx (Jan 2015)  
John Sullivan (Jan 2015)  
Susan Seiler (Returning Vestry Member; Jan 2013)  
Katie Pylipow (Youth Vestry Representative; Jan 2013)

**Finance Committee (terms end Jan 2015):**

Debbie Belfry  
Chas McKhann

**St. Stephen's Fund Committee (terms end Jan 2015):**

Jackie Sullivan  
Scott Vergin

**Outreach/ Mission Committee (terms end Jan 2015):**

Tom Costello  
Jane Turner

**Stewardship Committee (terms through Jan 2015):**

Bob Haider                      Alisa Skatrud  
Cary Johnson                  John Sullivan  
Mark Moller                    John Sundell  
Annie SchillingMeredith Tutterow

Nominating Committee members present were Debbie Belfry, Catherine Beringer, David Clynes, Cary Johnson, Larry Smith, John Sullivan, Neil Willard, Anne Scoggin, Dave Holmberg and Fei McKhann.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

St Stephen's aspires to be a welcoming and supportive community where everyone discovers a Christ-Centered life. We will be fed by our Anglican heritage of scripture, tradition, and reason. We strive for excellence in the areas of **Worship, Formation, and Service**. We will have thoughtful programs for all ages, and opportunities for both community worship and individual reflection. We will spread God's Word and love beyond our walls, not just on Sunday, but each day of the week.

## SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS TO PARISH BY-LAWS

### **Introduction**

As the governing body of the Parish, the Vestry approved the following by-laws revisions on May 31, 2011. This amendment makes the Stewardship Committee a standing committee of the parish, and clarifies this committee's roles and responsibilities.

The printed section below represents the amended portion of the By-Laws. The entire document is available upon request.

### **Section 12.02 Committees**

- a) There shall be four (4) standing committees of the Parish: Finance, St. Stephen's Fund, Stewardship and Outreach /Mission.
- b) There shall be three (3) committees whose membership is defined by Sections 12.07, 12.08 and 12.09 of these by-laws: Executive Committee, Personnel Committee and Properties Committee.
- c) Other committees may be established from time to time as necessary for the ministry and administration of the Parish.
- d) The Executive Committee has the authority to remove or replace appointed committee members or chairs.

### **Section 12.05 Stewardship**

- a) The Chair shall be selected by the committee, with the approval of the Executive Committee.
  - a. The members shall be: at least six (6) individuals selected by the Nominating Committee, approved by the Vestry, and elected by the Parish, for three (3) year staggered terms. An individual may serve two (2) consecutive terms. One member each from the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the staff shall serve as ex officio members of the committee.
  - b. The responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee include overseeing annual pledge campaigns, and developing and implementing strategy to establish the norm that pledging is expected of every Voting Member (as defined in Section 4.01 of these by-laws).

## CHURCH LIFE

It's how we live together, to support and maintain our building and community.

### SAINT FRANCIS MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

**To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven? Ecclesiastes 3:1**

In the spring we plant the Memorial Garden with purple, white, red and green flowers (the colors of the church year) to provide a blaze of color and remembrance of those who have died and an oasis of tranquility for anyone who wants repose in a busy life. We water and weed in the summer and bring the Garden to a close in the fall. The crabapple tree was trimmed last year and did not block the stained glass window above the altar.

Lisa Flint chose the plants from vendors at the Minneapolis Farmers' Market, **Bob Hayes** and his teenage helpers **Kyle Schwartz** (in spring) and **Bengt Fredrickson** (in the fall) did the ground preparation and fall clean up (lots of digging fueled by the promise of pizza). **Susan Burnett, Cammy Carteng, Maren Christopher, Lisa Flint, Bob and Darlene Hayes, Catherine Niewoehner, Andy Otness, Linda White and Kristi Wigent** did the planting and maintenance.

### REMEMBERING THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US SINCE THE 2011 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY THEY RISE IN PEACE AND REST IN GLORY

Those listed in **bold type** were interred in the St. Francis Memorial Garden in 2011.

John "Jack" Lenard Erdall

**Murray Warmath**

Edith Elizabeth "Betty" Zemple

Jeanne Ann Hagen

Robert Ernest Eagle

Willard Charles Raymond

Victoria Karel Hammond

Dorothy Meyer

Grace Elizabeth Raymond

**Rodney Danforth Hardy**

Mary Ann Johnson

Gretchen Russell

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

According to St. Stephen's Bylaws, the Finance Committee has responsibility and authority to review monthly financial statements; assist in the preparation of the annual operating budget and three-year strategic budget; secure an audit or review; review accounting and record keeping procedures and review capital project budgets and financing plans.

On a monthly basis, the Finance Committee monitors financial results against plan. To help assure that we operate within our means, the committee uses an "at risk" analysis to highlight any budgeted income or expense items that are not tracking to plan. We then provide a monthly summary of our assessment to Vestry. **In 2011, for the third consecutive year, the church ended the year with a slight operating surplus – the first time this has happened since 2004-2006.**

In 2011, the committee helped the church improve its financial management by building out a three year strategic budget that, if executed, will achieve the following budget objectives:

- a. **Improve our use of surpluses:** Creating a surplus reserve rather than fully using one year's surplus in the immediately following calendar year as has been our practice.
- b. **Limit our reliance on special gifts:** In the absence of a "special need", budgeting only what might come in without an ask (i.e., goodness of the heart special gift levels).
- c. **Recognize and value staff:** Providing for periodic wage increases, continuing education opportunities, etc.
- d. **Align with evolving diocesan policies:** Assuring that our employee benefits practices align with the policies the diocesan lays out.
- e. **Move to a tri-annual audit:** Moving from an annual review to a tri-annual audit – a much more detailed assessment.
- f. **Improve our properties funding:** Although not fully achieved, the strategic budget does improve the level of funding provided to maintain our facilities.

We also continued in our effort to simplify our reporting to both the Vestry and the parish in order to enhance the level of transparency that St. Stephens employs in its financial management. For 2012, in addition to our month to month financial reviews, we will:

- a. Continue to refine and improve our strategic budgeting process – further aligning budgets to planned strategies and tactics.
- b. Support the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary plans, including any capital campaign, by both assuring budgets are presented and managed and by helping with cost estimates for any capital campaign needs.

The members of the Committee for 2011 were **Cara Gould, Bob Haider, Paula Hart, Dave Holmberg (Treasurer), Fei McKhann (Senior Warden), Mark Moller, Mike Skatrud and Jonathan Strand.**

Despite the heavy math focus, this committee finds joy and fun in helping the church manage the bounty that we have been provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Holmberg, Chair

## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The properties committee completed a few items this year, but overall just maintained the property. We have continued to do a few main items each year so our list doesn't get too long and overly expensive.

Overall, we feel that the property and the building are in good condition but continue to monitor items and repair and replace things as the vestry deems appropriate.

The following lists the accomplishments for 2011:

- New gutter and downspouts on the south side of the church.
- Heat cables installed in the new south side gutters and downspout.
- Repair and/or replacement of slate tiles on the roof.
- Two new limestone benches replacing the old rotted wood benches on the rear patio. **(Paid by a Donation from a parishioner)**
- Sixth year of staff and volunteers taking care of snow removal. **(\$5,000.00 per year savings)**
- Grass cutting done by staff. **(\$5,000.00 per year savings)**

The committee would like thank its members and the volunteers that have helped us keep this church beautiful and a welcoming place for its members and guests.

We also want to extend a special thank you to Ted Schwarz for his years of service as the Properties Committee chair. His service has been greatly appreciated and he has said he will continue to help out as needed, but not as the chair.

Our returning properties committee members are: Gary Dietz (Staff liaison), Mark Mahoney, Jim Bizal, John Crabtree, Dan Akins, Paul Gagnon, and David Van Dongen.

We would like to welcome our new members: David Langer, Jon Peterson, Jim Korsland, Maren Christopher, John Sullivan, and Jonathan Strand.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bizal, Chair

## ST STEPHEN'S FUND MINISTRY

*Mission – The St. Stephen's Fund is the endowment for the parish to ensure long-term financial health.*

We focused on oversight of the St. Stephen's Fund, newly managed by The Episcopal Church Foundation and State Street Global Advisors. Led by Scott Vergin and Mike Burnett, more of the fund was actively managed by State Street's professionals as opposed to using their index funds. The fund's total value at the beginning of 2011 was \$2.5 million, but dropped to \$2.4 million by year end. As of mid-January it has returned to \$2.5 million. Yet we still provided grants of \$140,000 (5.6% of the fund's value at the beginning of 2011) to outreach, church maintenance, ministry, operations and special projects.

We also approved a budget allocating 5.5% of our total December 31 value to grants for 2012.

To enhance increased legacy giving for strategic, long-term purposes, we engaged in a multi-faceted marketing program:

John Karlson scripted our strategic marketing plan to draw attention to planned giving.

Julia Gutz Moller organized a magnificent Bridge Builders' banquet: truly a recognition and reunion of "BBs."

John Karlson and Maren Christopher oversaw creation of a series of videos to encourage parishioners to become Bridge Builders, to use with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, for our website, and for general

“Popcorn and Pop” documentary showings. Special thanks also to Jane Slade, a loyal aide.

George Wanstall authored a series of articles on the advantages of different giving approaches.

Karen Smith wrote biographies of loyal Bridge Builders: Madrienne and Dick Larson, Ole and Cynthia Lyman, Paul and Ann Marx and more to come.

Scott Vergin and Mike Burnett led monthly financial reviews and encouraged active financial administration.

Special thanks to all the committee and to Cary Johnson, David Holmberg and Paula Hart for your on-going support. And a very special “THANK YOU” to our Bridge Builders:

Peggy Anderson

Todd Andrews

Julie and Doug Baker

Jim and Sue Bizal

Mike and Susan Burnett

Roy & Allene Burns

Chuck & Nancy Converse

Jim & Barb Curry

Gary & Marjory Dietz

Bryan & Susan Dowd

John Ellingboe & Cathy Cella

Karl Gensheimer & Paula Hart

John & Mary Gould

Joe Guenther

Rod & Katie Hardy

Gail Hazelwood

Sherm & Helen Hoyt

Marion Hunter

Marilyn Jackson

Cary and Vanessa Johnson

Chris and Gailen Krug

Dick & Madrienne Larson

Susan Lindsay

Ole and Cynthia Lyman

Don & Phyllis MacLennan

John & Claire MacLennan

Bob & Dianne Marshall

Ann Marx

Joyce and Dick McFarland

Tim & Judie O'Brien

Barbara Osadcky

Brian & Jane Ostenso

Andy Otness

William & Kathleen Perkins

Jim and Radonna Schwarz

Ted and Nancy Schwarz

Len and Jane Slade

Nancy Strom

John & Jackie Sullivan

Marcie Swedenborg

Sam and Gini Thorpe

George & Caroline Wanstall

Reverend Neil and Carrie Willard

Hugh & Marilyn Wooldridge

Jack & Phyllis Wagner Yarger

Betty Zempel

\*If you have planned a legacy gift for St. Stephen's and would like to be included in this list of Bridge Builders please contact Nancy Wood, Financial Manager at [nwood@ststephens.com](mailto:nwood@ststephens.com), or 952-920-0595 ext. 105. Our apologies for any omissions.

### STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee exists to engage church members in the theology and practice of stewardship, with the ultimate goal of securing 100% pledging participation within the congregation.

Our participation on the Committee has deepened our appreciation for the essential connection between faith and giving. At the heart of stewardship is the belief that everything we have – our talents, time and treasures -- are gifts on loan to us from God. Giving is easy – in fact it's a joy – once you really internalize the fact that all of your “stuff” is merely borrowed from God. Deepening this conviction has been a principal joy of this ministry.

In spite of the continuing economic slump, this year's Stewardship campaign has so far garnered more than \$1,045,000 in pledge income for 2012. We still need an additional \$25,000 in pledge commitments in order to

meet our budgeted needs, so please provide Nancy Wood with your pledge right away if you have not already done so. For those of you who have already pledged, THANK YOU!! Your generosity enables the church to continue to operate through 2012 without the need to make additional cuts to staff and programs. THANK YOU PLEDGERS!!

In addition to raising the church's annual operating funds, in 2012 the Committee intends to work toward achieving two additional goals: 1) making stewardship a part of the church's ongoing dialogue rather than just a "blitz" in the fall; and 2) working to coordinate and integrate various overlapping efforts by the Stewardship, Church Growth, New Members, and Children's Ministries Committees.

Our committee was composed of six members in 2011: Jane Parry, Tim Young, Tom Beringer, Larry Reynolds (staff liaison) and Co-Chairs Anne Scoggin and Cary Johnson. The Committee would like to thank Jane, Tim and Tom for their hard work and dedication to stewardship. We extend special thanks for the tremendous contributions of longstanding committee member Larry Reynolds. In addition to the thousand other things Larry does for our church, he has been an invaluable contributor to our annual stewardship effort. THANKS LARRY!!

Finally, we are very excited about the future of stewardship at St. Stephen's with the nomination of the following persons to the 2012 Stewardship Committee: John Sullivan, John Sundell, Alisa Skatrud, Bob Haider, Mark Moller, Annie Schilling, and Meredith Tutterow, Thanks for your willingness to help with this important work!

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Scoggin and Cary Johnson

## FORMATION

Offering Christian education and spiritual growth opportunities for every age and stage.

### ADULT FORMATION

We are richly blessed in being able to offer multiple opportunities for adult formation at St. Stephen's.

Sunday mornings continue to be Adult Formation "Prime Time" with multiple tracks for adult learning. The Rev. Neil Willard hosts and sometimes teaches at "The Rector's Forum" on Sunday mornings between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. We've been very fortunate to be able to invite a number of guest speakers in 2011 including several members of the faculty of Luther Seminary, two professors from the University of St. Thomas Law School and several persons trained in spiritual direction who led us in a number of different spiritual practice exercises during the Advent season.

We're deeply grateful to Mr. Jim Bernstein for the generous gift of his time and good leadership again this year at the Sunday morning class called Connections, in which the connections between faith and life are explored in the light of contemporary issues and events. The Rev. Nancy Brantingham offers regular classes for those who are new to St. Stephen's and new to the Episcopal Church and also led a Lenten book study group.

There are also multiple opportunities for adults on Wednesday nights. The "Martyrs", a group for the men of St. Stephen's, continues to gather on Wednesday evenings across the street at the Edina Country Club for theological conversation and fellowship. A small women's group also gathers on Wednesday evenings in the Chapel for study, conversation and prayer.

Many members of St. Stephen's continue to be involved in Bible Study groups at other times during the week as well. There are groups meeting at the church regularly on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

We've also had some great mini-retreats this past year. Spiritual director Jane Leyden Cavanaugh and her husband Joe Cavanaugh, Founder and CEO of Youth Frontiers, were with us in February for a retreat in preparation for Lent. Bishop Prior and his wife, "the lovely Mrs. Prior" were here in October for a wonderful evening that included dinner, conversation and reflection on keeping marriage healthy.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Nancy Brantingham

### **RECTOR'S FORUM**

The Rector's Forum meets on most Sundays between the 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services during the program year (i.e., from mid-September through late May). It's a lecture-style format that begins at 10:15 a.m. with a 25 minute presentation followed by about 10 minutes for questions. You can find the Rector's Forum by taking the stairs or elevator to the lower level of the church and walking toward Minnehaha Creek into the Commons Room. Stop by the Gathering Space on the way to get a cup of coffee, which you can enjoy while listening to this weekly reflection on scripture and faith and participating in the conversation.

Speakers include the Rector and individuals from the community of St. Stephen's as well as guests from Luther Seminary and other institutions around the Twin Cities.

Look for the next topic by reading the front page of The Sunday News (i.e., the weekly bulletin insert) or the bottom of the weekly email from St. Stephen's. If you don't receive those weekly emails or can't find the link, please contact MerLynne Byrne, Minister of Communications, at mbyrne@ststephens.com or 952-920-0595 (ext. 102).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Neil Alan Willard

### **EfM – EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY**

Education for Ministry is essentially a very part time mini-course following generally the program of study at an Episcopal seminary. As such, it is wonderfully challenging to long-held but largely unconsidered beliefs we all have about the origins, development and current tenets of Christianity. The program is designed to provide theological study and reflection rooted in the Scriptures and traditions of the Church.

The EfM website, (<http://www.sewanee.edu>) provides information on the program, its mission, and an outline of the course of study.

This year there are four members of St. Stephen's participating, John Gould, Linda Miller, Denise Cole and John Ellingboe, in addition to several members of St. John's Episcopal Church. The course generally meets weekly from September through June. If you have any interest in participating in the course, please see any of the St. Stephen's members currently participating for additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

John Ellingboe, student

### THE MARTYR'S – A MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Who are the Martyrs? We are a group of men who enjoy gathering once a week for an hour or so of thoughtful reflection and a pint or so of beer. We meet on most Wednesdays throughout the year, beginning at 7:00 p.m., in the Men's Card Room on the lower level of the Edina Country Club at 5100 Wooddale Avenue. You can find the Men's Cardroom by going through the downstairs pub. Ask the bartender if you're not sure which door to use. Usually, 10-20 "Martyrs" appear at each gathering.

Actually, while you're speaking to the bartender, you might want to go ahead and order a beer or some alternative beverage. You can even grab a bite to eat. You don't have to be a member of the country club to enjoy any of that while joining the Martyrs for thoughtful conversations about faith, work, and daily life. Just pay in cash at the bar and you're good to go.

On the first Wednesday of the month, the topic is chosen by the Rector and posted on the Rector's blog at [www.laughingwater.org](http://www.laughingwater.org) under the title "Martyrs Topic . . ." Other weeks, topics are presented by participants in the group. So join us as we think about and wrestle with everything from business ethics to personal integrity, and invite a friend to come with you!

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Neil Alan Willard

### FAMILY MINISTRIES AND VOCATION

This past year has been amazing. I have come to realize that St. Stephens is a very special place with a great staff and awesome members.

Our nursery continues to grow with the leadership of Sheila Navy and her staff. Sheila continues to keep strong guidelines for the staff as they minister to our families with young children. We are all amazed at how well the staff operates as they minister to our young ones; change diapers, wipe noses, play on the ground, set up tea parties, and reading to the children. We are blessed to have our nursery staff.

Sunday morning continues to grow and change to meet the needs of our children and their families. We have a new curriculum called, "Feasting on the Word." What does Feasting on the Word bring to our young learners? It communicates to them that they are welcome here! That they belong to God and to this church family! Feasting on the Word makes the most of their love of stories, and then they will explore God's Word in ways that engage their senses, their emerging skills in reading and writing, and their need to learn by doing. In WeePraise, this fall we started allowing our older students use their gifts by leading in our own worship space. One example is Margaux Seiler who is helping this year by leading our younger worshipers in their prayers, songs and reading the Gospel text of the day.

Vacation Bible School this past summer was amazing. Our regular two week VBS, in early summer, was full with each week having around 75 campers and 30 adult/youth leaders. We tried something new this year with a third week of VBS with a completely different theme. There were a lot of good comments about a third week and we will try it again this coming summer.

We continue to have different Church Families events on the Second Friday of each month like our Trivia Night, a special thank you to our Quiz Masters Tom and Catherine Beringer for making this event a church family friendly event. Chili night is always a big winner and having the Bishop come in for a Couples Event was successful.

Our Vocation offering was well received with two completely different classes. This coming year we will be rolling out a new yet another class with a completely different perspective on Vocation named "Called to Life."

Continue to pray as we as a community of faith remember and act on our Baptismal Covenant.

In His Service,

Dave Sheldon, Minister of Families and Vocation

### MOMS' GROUP

Moms' Group at St. Stephen's had a terrific year, and continued to see the ministry grow under an expanding steering committee who met in June to plan the program year ahead for 2010-2011. Average attendance is 20-25 women, many who bring children who attend the programs offered for them. **Jasmine Navy** works with the preschool children in King's Kids, and **Sheila Navy and Eileen Bezat** care for the younger infants and toddlers. There is no question we are blessed to have such gentle, kind women caring for our kids. This care is a blessing to the children, and to the moms who experience renewal, fellowship, support, and prayer during the time they are together, knowing their children are having fun in a safe environment.

Most, but not all, women who attend are members of St. Stephen's. It is often a first place families looking for a church home come to find out more about programs and make connections. The group welcomes new faces throughout the year. In an effort to be open to attendance as schedules, children's health, and migration have their effects, each Moms' Group meeting stands alone, and no one entering mid-year or attending sporadically will feel behind or come in halfway through a certain study.

Steering group has made a commitment to each meeting beginning with some fellowship as we gather, brief prayer, and introductions followed by the weekly topic and a chance to offer prayers for the group to lift up throughout the week. Leadership is shared week to week, and draw on resources such as speakers, staff members, spiritual journeys from within the group, Bible study, and sermon study. Our theme for the 2011-12 school year is Galatians 5:22-23, which lists the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Moms' Group has taken on some service projects also. Working with Episcopal Community Services, we adopted seven people at Christmas, working as a group to shop and wrap the gifts. Our group also has actively supported the Michelle Project through fundraisers and event attendance. Many members also participate in the new meal ministry, started by one of our own, **Rachel Reeves**.

Many women who participate express that Mom's Group has given them a strong sense of God in their lives, and the group exploration helps to clarify His purpose in their lives, and to convey a sense of God in their family life as well. Mom's Group is glad to offer a place for spiritual growth, evangelism, fellowship, and prayer. It is a place where we are clearly in His presence, and experience the solace and recreation that offers.

Steering committee members include **Stacy Abena, Catherine Beringer, Sue Bizal, Jen Dewing, Gretchen Faust, Ann Fredrickson, Katie Leifur, Fei McKhann, Rachel Reeves, Karol Saunders, Susan Seiler, and Mary Tomback. Janet von Gillern** is our registrar. Our mentor each week is **Allene Burns**, and our staff liaison is **Dave Sheldon**. We are also lovingly looked after by **Mark Mahoney** who makes sure our space is set and welcoming each Thursday.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Abena, Steering Committee Member

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

**Youth Ministry Mission Statement** - To provide a community for young people, which will nurture, support and spread the gospel to teenagers. To prepare them with a foundation of faith which is built on Jesus Christ and which will support them in their desire to be adult members of the church.

**PRISM** (6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade youth) and **CONFIRMATION** (8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth)

### **2011 Accomplishments**

- Average involvement over 70 young people.
- Sponsor nights!!
- The development of a strong Christian community.
- Special Parent/Teen Workshops on Communication and Social Media safety.
- Held our fourth junior high mission trip "Summer in the City."
- Ski Trip at Giants Ridge.
- Weekly program on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings.
- Fifteen adults and 14 senior high youth involved as volunteer leaders.
- Over sixty adults involved as Confirmation Sponsors.
- Help produce over 40,000 meals at Feed My Starving Children.

**SPECTRUM** (10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth)

### **2011 Accomplishments**

- 12 St. Stephen's youth were candidates in the fall Teens Encounter Christ Retreat.
- 40 youth involved as leaders at the Fall Teens Encounter Christ Retreat.
- 20 adults involved as leaders at the Fall Teens Encounter Christ Retreat.
- Spectrum (the Senior High youth group) continues to be a place where young people come to grow in their faith in a strong Christian community with an average attendance of 35 young people.
- Eight adults involved as volunteer leaders.
- Mission Trip to Belize over fifteen participants.
- Mission Trip to Chicago for over forty participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Dietz, Staff liaison

## BOOK CLUB

Formed in 1998, St. Stephen's Book Club meets year around in the Church Library on the second Tuesday of the month. Each person in the group is in charge of selecting a book and leading the discussion for one month of the year. Choices range from classics to current best sellers and include novels, biographies and other non-fiction titles.

2011 was a wonderful year of reading and thought-provoking discussions - here are a few of the books that were read: "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding, "The Help" by Katherine Stockett, "Major Pettigrew's Last Stand" by Helen Simonson, "Canoeing with the Cree" by Eric Sevareid and "Cutting for Stone" by Abraham Verghese.

While some drop out for various reasons, new additions keep the number of attendees at Book Club meetings fairly constant throughout the year. What never seems to change is the feeling of friendship, the lively conversations and the laughter of good times shared. Anyone who likes to read and learn about many things is welcome to join this congenial group of book lovers. People who participated in Book Club meetings during 2011 included: Jean Adams, Peggy Alexander, Judy Ekstrom, Maureen Fischer, Mary Gould, Marielle Harrison, Mary Locher Jonason, Mary Margaret Lehmann, Mary McDonald, Barb Meyers,

Ann Moser, Sharon Papic, Jane Parry, Radonna Schwarz, Ann Scoggin, Jane Slade, Nancy Strom, Gloria Sullivan, and Lois Young.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Adams

### SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Fellowship program is designed for the senior members of the parish. The program includes quarterly meetings and a news/events letter. During 2011 three issues of the *St. Stephen's Senior Fellowship Letter* were published and the following luncheon events were held: February 15<sup>th</sup> (47 attended) – due to a last minute health emergency the scheduled speaker was not able to appear. Rod Hardy graciously stepped in to review the early planning for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary; May 20<sup>th</sup> (32 attended) – Janet Flood Cole's topic was Stay in Charge of Your Life; September 20<sup>th</sup> (51 attended) – Bob Williams spoke on Remembering Life in the 1930's and December 3<sup>rd</sup> (58 attended) – the annual Advent luncheon at the Edina Country with musical entertainment by Larry Reynolds and Clark Duhrkopf.

Jane Parry, chair. Jean Adams, Trudye Bremner, Judy Edin, Bob and Mary Jonason, Mary Margaret Lehmann, Ann Scoggin, Jackie Smith, Ann Sorenson, Nancy Strom, Grace Taylor and Kaye Wentzel.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette, OSB

### WOMEN IN FELLOWSHIP

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To provide an environment for women to unite, to share, to exchange ideas and to grow together spiritually, focusing on God's will for our lives.

Feed Your Body and Soul in One Hour! Women come together four times a year on Saturday mornings to share a continental breakfast and faith stories in a relaxed atmosphere. Come join us on announced dates at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast. Speakers usually begin their talks at 9:00 a.m.

#### **What We Are Celebrating In 2011**

Speakers in 2011 were January 15<sup>th</sup>, Lily Phelps, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Maren Christopher, and May 7<sup>th</sup>, Rebecca Gagnon, and October 15<sup>th</sup>, The Reverend Susan Moss. Each of us renews our own faith stories as we hear the journeys of others.

Planning committee members are **Grace Taylor, Stacy Abena, Marguerite Langer, Nancy Schwarz, Jane Parry, Roberta MacDonald, Cathy Gier, and Persis Elkins.**

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Taylor

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Helping those in need of healing, spiritual direction or other personal issues

### EDINA CARE CENTER TEAM

Our joy continues as we take services at the Edina Care Center. The residents look forward to our coming as joy and happiness show on their faces. For the team members, who provide Sunday worship services every

first, third and fifth Sundays of the month, it is a satisfying experience. Sometimes we are joined by non-residents at the services including relatives, friends, and staff.

Attendance at the worship services in 2011 seemed to drop a bit as some of our "regulars" were no longer with us. Still, there were over 700 residents, employees, and visitors on the St. Stephen's Sundays. Services include hymns with music provided by Bryan Dowd and Ward Godsall. It makes a huge difference for the residents, having the piano music to facilitate their hymns.

The services of prayers, Scripture readings, homily, and distribution of Holy Communion are led by Jim Bernstein; Renee Emerson; Candy LaBarre; Dawn Sweiven; Cal Swenson and Dick Thomas. Rod Hardy was with us until forced to retire because of his illness. He served for many years and often said how much it meant to him. As is true in the many places where Rod served, he will be missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Sweiven, Coordinator

#### **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS/ FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE**

The mission of the Eucharistic Visitors is to periodically bring Holy Communion to members of the parish and to others who because of health, age or other circumstances are unable to take part at a Sunday service.

Eucharistic Visitors take Holy Communion monthly to parishioners who are homebound and each month conduct a service at Friendship Village where eighteen members of St. Stephen's reside. Also, member of the parish conduct a service weekly at the Edina Care Center.

Eucharistic Visitors: Radonna Schwarz, chair. Tom Costello, Judy Edin, John and Mary Gould, Barbara Karoli, Margaret McBride, Jackie Smith, Cal Swenson, Dick Thomas and Art and Sandy Young.

Edina Care Center team: Cal Swenson, chair. Jim Bernstein, Bryan Dowd, Renee Emerson, Ward Godsall, Candice LaBarre, Dawn Sweiven and Dick Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette, OSB

#### **PRAYER CHAIN**

Every other Friday a list of prayer petitions is sent to a group of parishioners who have committed themselves to pray for those who have special needs or are going through troubled times. Names are added as the clergy hear about concerns or when parishioners call the church office to ask that they or someone they know be added to the list.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette, OSB

#### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

The Prayer Team Ministry is dedicated to praying with parishioners or guests who have special prayer needs for themselves or others. Prayer team members are available near the small organ at the back of the church on Sunday at the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services and in the chapel at the 5:00 p.m. service during the time Holy Communion is administered.

Dawn Sweiven, chair. Cheryl Bernstein\*, David Clynes, Judy Edin\*, Renee Emerson, Sam and Ann Fredrickson\*, Ward Godsall, Vanessa Johnson, Leslie Nelson, Jim and Radonna Schwarz, Dick Thomas\* and Art and Sandy Young. (\* On reserve)

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette, OSB

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction is an ancient tradition in the church and continues to be available to members of St. Stephen's. Spiritual Direction involves dialogue about a person's life including prayer practices and anything else that seems relevant to a person's spiritual journey. It involves intense listening on the part of the director to the movement of God in the other person's life. Sessions might include guided and silent meditation, discussion of pertinent scripture, sharing of journal entries, or suggestions of different ways for a person to listen for and discern God's presence. One-on-one meetings are one-hour long, scheduled usually once a month and are as different as each person is different and as each stage of one's life is different from another. Spiritual direction is not counseling, but rather careful listening to the movement of God in one's life. The Spiritual Directors at St. Stephen's completed the Christos Center for Spiritual Formation training program. Call or email to learn more or to set an appointment. Spiritual Directors at St. Stephen's are: Margaret McBride – [rodgmargmc@aol.com](mailto:rodgmargmc@aol.com)/ 952-938-7016 and Allene Burns – [alleneburns@msn.com](mailto:alleneburns@msn.com)/ 952-929-1560.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Lee Doucette, OSB

### SERVICE

We live out our faith by serving those in need, both inside and outside our community.

### OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee had an exciting year, refining our mission statement and grant guidelines, administering a parish-wide survey, distributing grants and planning and executing the Bash After Dark.

#### **Outreach Survey Results**

About 100 parishioners participated in our Outreach Survey this summer and fall. Full results are available upon request, but here are a few of the highlights!

1. We are eager to participate in Outreach projects held at St. Stephen's.
2. We want the bulk of our support and resources to help people locally.
3. Most of us want to work on team-oriented projects.
4. 34.2% prefer to donate time, 8% to donate money, 57.5% want to donate both time & money
5. In terms focusing our efforts and resources, we overwhelmingly responded that the most resources should go to "Children, youth & families" and "Food & shelter".

#### **2012 Outreach Grants**

The Outreach Committee took the survey results to heart when drafting our Outreach Guidelines (available at [ststephens.com](http://ststephens.com)) and when allocating grant resources for 2012. We believe that the 2012 grants reflect the views and values from the survey results.

We thank all who participated in the survey and wanted to make sure you know that we listened and acted on the results.

We are very happy to share with you the 2012 approved grants:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Approved Grant Amount</b>
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 4,000.00
Grant Nursery	\$ 8,500.00
Sober Corps	\$ 2,000.00
Rebuild Resources	\$ 2,000.00
Michelle Project	\$ 7,500.00
EpiscoBuilders	\$ 4,000.00
Yarn Ministry	\$ 250.00
Meals on Wheels	\$ 1,500.00
VEAP	\$ 5,000.00
Sr. High Mission Trip to Honduras	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 39,750.00</b>
363 Days / Kids Against Hunger JUBILEE	\$ 5,000.00
Contingency Fund**	\$ 2,600.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 47,350.00</b>
** Pending projects include the Bishop's 2012 Outreach project and emergency requests.	

Sources of funding for the 2012 grants were the Bash in the Park, Bash After Dark and the St. Stephen's Fund. The 2011 Bash After Dark (BAD), our largest Outreach fundraiser, brought in around \$18,000 this year. Our shared desire to help our neighbors was evident in the donation of wonderful auction items, the indefatigable energy of our volunteers and the cheerful and generous bidding of the 104 auction guests.

Enormous thanks to 2011 Committee members: Brian Ostensio, Betsy Nelson, Rebecca Gagnon, Vanessa Johnson, Roy Burns, Nina Holmberg, Mary Lokowich, Margit Johnson and Dave Sheldon as staff liaison.

Respectfully submitted,

Margit Johnson

### GRANT NURSERY SCHOOL

The new school year for Grant Community Nursery School started long before the children arrived with the formation of a Steering Committee to review the history, goals and mission of the school. Betsy Nelson served as the representative from St. Stephen's and joined seven members of Community Covenant Church in first addressing the need for such a program in the near north side community. After talking with several key organizations and individuals, it was determined that there is a need for a kindergarten readiness program. It was also clear that we needed more marketing to inform families of the program. With this information in hand, we went about the business of finding a new teacher capable of turning Grant Community Nursery School into a true kindergarten readiness program with the idea of changing the name to Grant Community Preschool in the future. We were happy to have 8 candidates who were interviewed by phone by the board chair, Kathy Johnson. Of those, Kathy, Pastor Luke Swanson, and Betsy Nelson interviewed 4 highly qualified candidates. Tyrai Ross was hired as the lead teacher and began working with several board members to plan and prepare for the current year. We currently have 14 students attending

Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 to 11:30, an addition of a half hour over last year. The students discover math, reading, writing and creative play with great enthusiasm as they prepare for kindergarten. Currently St. Stephen's members Rebecca Gagnon, Mary Gould, Fei McKhann and Betsy Nelson assist the teacher every week. Dave Holmberg has been a great help as a substitute volunteer because at this time we have no regular Wednesday volunteer. Jane Ostenso and two members of Community Covenant are also on our sub list. At this time we are actively looking for Wednesday volunteers. The program is thriving with our new teacher, our new curriculum, our volunteers and our 14 curious students.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Nelson

### LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes ministry serves meals at St. Stephens Catholic Church, 2211 Clinton Avenue South and at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 2424 18th Avenue five times a year. In 2011, we served between 110-270 guests at each meal. We continue to serve the popular dinner of fresh turkey breast, sweet potatoes, coleslaw, roll, and fruit salad dessert.

Up to 24 people prepare and serve the meal. Core and crucial volunteers on prep include John Crabtree, Bruce Palma, Kim Thomas, Lily Phelps, Joan Hansen, Peggy Mueller, Liz Eizenbrey and Andy Otness. Special thanks to Susan Dowd for arranging the purchase of new blue aprons for the Loaves and Fishes Team.

We also welcome non parishioners and enjoyed Barb Tani and Kim Thomas' assistance.

Please thank the following volunteers for serving in 2011:

Andy Otness, Lily Phelps, Joan Hanson, Peggy Mueller, Liz Eizenbrey, Tom Costello, Mike and Judy Semsch, Cathleen Godsall, Rachel and Tim Maloney, Barry Marks, Kathy and Roger Post, Michelle, John and Alex Reilly, Mark Moller and Julia Gutz Moller, Suanne Grobner, Jack Mertes and family, Ted Schwarz and family, John Crabtree, Rebecca Gagnon, George Wanstall, Susan and Brian Dowd, Dick Thomas, Denise Cole, Bruce Palma, Cheryl Bernstein, Marielle Harrison, Tom Beringer, Jen and Paul Benson, Sally and Ray Baribault and family, Nancy Vezner, Mary Seaborne, Kim Thomas, Nancy and Rick Menzel, the Berg family, and Barb Tani.

Serving dates in 2012 are January 31, May 29, July 31, and October 30

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Otness, volunteer coordinator

### THE MICHELLE PROJECT

**Mission** - The Michelle Project begun in 1998 is a ministry whose mission is to serve families in transition, who are homeless, living in sub-standard conditions, enduring abusive circumstances, and in need of emotional support and advocacy. Through Episcopal Community Services, the Michelle Project Committee is matched with families for one year. Our ECS social worker supplies a complete range of case management services, while the Michelle Committee offers an ongoing relationship with the "partner" families, providing a rental subsidy and emergency fund as well as a mentor who participates in family activities, assists in finding and using community resources, and provides encouragement and creative problem solving. Funds are also available to provide scholarships, tuition, enrichment, auto repairs, school supplies, security deposits and help with moving expenses.

**Celebrations in 2011** - The Michelle Project, now its own non-profit corporation, graduated 3 families in 2010 (3 adults and 8 children), and adopted 4 additional families with 9 children. Funding by the Outreach Committee, grants from Edina Realty, the Sheltering Arms Foundation, and several other foundations, along with private donations allowed us to not only support our adopted families, but renew some of the funds that enable us to provide the additional help listed above.

The 2011 Retreat was held the last weekend in April at Camp Koinonia in Annandale and was once again chaired by two Graduate moms. The discussion times centered on learning to love oneself, a topic that carried over to a day-long mini-retreat that explored how we can become the person we want to be. Two generous grants enabled us to establish a tutoring program in which two of our children are improving their math and reading skills. A wonderful summer barbeque was held on August 22 at the home of Linda and Scott Thompson, and the annual ECS family Christmas party took place at St. Marks Cathedral treating our families and their children to a sumptuous lunch, Santa Claus, crafts and face painting, a boutique for the children to choose a present for their parent, and a gift for everyone. The Michelle Project/ECS Adopt-a-Family Program provided each of our families, current and graduate, with Christmas gifts and gift certificates. Throughout the year, countless members of St. Stephen's congregation donated clothing, furniture, appliances, household items, scarves and mittens, even computers to our families. A special thanks to Barry Smith who helped deliver countless items of furniture and Dr. Doug Lambert who donated hours of dental work. Mary Schatzlein and Vanessa Johnson helped our fundraising by hosting Spa events in their homes while the Local d'Lish shop in downtown Minneapolis and the Droolin'Moose Candy Shoppe in Bloomington named the Michelle Project as the recipient of funds raised at delightful evening wine and cheese (and chocolate ) informational events. Rachel Greenhouse, our Grant Writer/Development Director, who created all of our written and promotional materials as well as orchestrating a very successful Mother's Day Campaign , \$5 Campaign , and the Holiday Boutique helped us raise enough funds to stay in the black and grow our programs. In late December, a year-end appeal letter proved very successful as many, many friends responded with generous and welcome donations and messages of encouragement.

**Challenges for 2012-** The Michelle Project, as a non-profit, is now able to seek funding from Foundations and corporate funders as well as St. Stephen's Outreach Committee, and hopefully will be able to realize its dream of mentoring as many as 10 to 12 families a year in the future. As everyone is aware, 2011 was difficult for non-profits everywhere, and all of us are feeling the pinch of the economic downturn, but the families served by the Michelle Project are feeling the stress much more deeply than most of us. It is our prayer that those who have been so supportive of the Michelle Project since its beginning, will find it in their hearts to give what they can of their time, talent and treasure so that we can continue to honor Christ's command to "feed my sheep". We know how to do this work and the moms we serve were chosen because they displayed a real desire to work hard to better their lives and those of their children.

**Board of Directors:** Margaret McBride, Lisa Netzer, Mary Schatzlein, Pat Croal, Courtney Johnson, Ted Schwarz, Jennifer Slater, and Lynne Whitacre.

**Mentoring Committee:** Renee Emerson, Adele Floren, Rachel Greenhouse, Bob and Mary Jonason, Candy LaBarre, Jen Miller, Lily Phelps, Judy Saucier, Linda Thompson, and Janet VonGillern.

**Chairman:** Margaret McBride

**ECS Case Manager:** Allison Kier

**Staff Liaison:** Nancy Brantingham

### VEAP

St. Stephens has been a member congregation of VEAP since 1998. 13 churches founded VEAP in 1973, supporting an area that would expand to include Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, and South Minneapolis. There are currently over 63 member congregations providing a foundation for VEAP. In 2011, VEAP provided 58,632 services to 17,774 clients. VEAP is now the largest food shelf in Minnesota.

Our clergy routinely refer people to VEAP for Children and Youth Services, Transportation Services and/or Social Services (short term support for emergency financial assistance for housing, utilities, food and other basic needs).

Our parish community contributed approximately 3,582 pounds of food this year (including the food drive during Pentecost), back-to-school items, and toys and gift cards for the Christmas gift program. A parish financial contribution was made through the Outreach Committee.

Thank you for all the contributions to provide an investment in the future of our community, by giving neighbors hope in times of hardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Belfry, St. Stephen's Representative to VEAP

### YARN MINISTRY

Yarn Ministry is a group of parishioners here at St. Stephen's who create blankets, prayer shawls, and other handcrafted items.

Inside our parish, blankets are presented to the newly baptized and prayer shawls are provided to the Rev. Lee Doucette who as part of his pastoral care distributes them. As part of our Outreach, blankets and shawls are also given to others in our community or to friends in need as requested by church members.

Our mission of outreach also includes making fleece blankets for Grant Nursery School children on their graduation and blankets and preemie caps for families at the NICU of Fairview/Southdale.

In 2011 we received, and in 2012 we will again receive, a \$250 grant from the Outreach Committee. This funds the materials for the Grant Nursery school blankets and other outreach items. Many members of our ministry also donate materials as well as their time. We also are happy to accept donations of yarn and pass donated yarn that we cannot use on to TEC or VBS.

In 2012, Yarn Ministry is changing. After more than three years, Cathy Gier, who founded this ministry and has been its guiding force, has passed this ministry into the hands of others. Nancy Menzel is providing overall coordination, while Susan Seiler is heading up the Baptismal blanket program and Anne Stych is coordinating our Grant Nursery School Program

In 2012, we will have two gatherings, one in the spring and one in the fall. In addition, on Wednesdays, following the WOW meal, some members knit or crochet together in either the Spiritual Direction Room or the Library. New members or donations always welcome. Thank you to Lee for his encouragement and supervision. Thank you to our talented helpers who created blessings for so many: **Peggy Alexander, Kathy Baker, Nicole Bates, Caroline Bivona, Cammy Cartang, Nancy Cooper, Cathy Gier, Ella Gier, Jeanie Hansen, Mary Hipauf, Penny Jordan, Nancy Menzel, Joan Mercure, Molly and Caitlin O'Laughlin, Linda Olson, Larry Reynolds, Helen Roberts, Anne and Kathleen Scoggin, Radonna Schwarz, Susan Seiler, Michelle Shepard, Anne Stych, Julia Welch, and Linda White.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Menzel, Coordinator

## WORSHIP

It's at the core of all we do, and who we are as a worshipping community

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Our mission is to assist during the worship services by serving the chalices (Eucharistic Ministers) at the Eucharist and reading the Lessons and Prayers (Lectors) at the 9:00 and 11:00 services. The Vergers act as "organizers" at services in the church. We also serve and read at special services, such as Christmas Eve and Day, Ash Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve, and weddings and funerals when invited.

Eucharistic Ministers must be licensed by the Diocese and are trained by a Verger in a session that takes about an hour. Lectors are not required to be licensed, but we have a St. Stephen's rule that all Lectors participate in a Reader Training session. We have our own in-house team of Reader Trainers who are also experienced Lectors. They are Donna Hackler, Keith Friede, Renee Emerson, John Crabtree, and Judy Edin in addition to Jane Parry and Larry Reynolds.

Our Staff Liaison is Larry Reynolds and our Team Leaders are Susan Lindsay, Margaret McBride, Allene Burns, Julia and Mark Moller, Denise Cole, and Jane Parry. There are more than 60 members of this group, divided into five teams. Each team has one leader and two vergers along with several Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors. We welcome others.

Jane Parry, Head Verger

### ST. THERESE ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild at St. Stephen's is made up of over twenty active and substitute members, all of whom are dedicated to their mission of making the services at St. Stephen's beautiful, efficient, and welcoming. We've had a few members retire this year and are always looking for new members.

In 2011, Rebecca Gagnon continued as the Director. Elaine Schweitzer kept herself busy with creating the quarterly Altar Guild schedule. Larry Reynolds, Minister of Worship, continued to provide excellent staff leadership.

Radonna Schwarz and Jane Slade recycle the flowers from Sunday services to create bouquets that are hand delivered to members of our congregation to celebrate special days or provide solace when needed.

We have a number of altar guild members that serve in leadership roles, like Lisa Domke as secretary. Altar Guild members assist in providing set-up, service, and clean-up at funerals throughout the year.

We continue to gain new members who train under our current members, which not only pass along their wealth of information, but also build relationships and creates a cohesive and supportive group of members.

Though most of our policies remain the same, we are constantly re-evaluating the service we provide and how it is accomplished as we try to stay abreast of any changes in our worship.

We not only serve the church weekly, setting up on Saturdays and Sundays, but we also perform two annual clean-up days (before Easter and before Christmas) to make our sanctuary and chapel beautiful and welcoming places for our congregation and visitors. The Altar Guild men and women meet three or four

times a year on Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m., to review schedules and check in with one another.

Our goals in the upcoming year include organizing an event to recognize previous altar guild members and their service, and continuing to solicit new members to carry on this St. Stephen's tradition.

Peace,

Rebecca Gagnon, Altar Guild Director

### WORSHIP MINISTRIES

2011 brought yet another year of continued growth in the Worship Ministry at St. Stephen's. I am indeed grateful to our wonderful Worship Ministry leadership team (97% of whom are unpaid volunteers) for their gifts of time and talent.

Once again, I would particularly like to thank Clark Duhrkopf, our Associate Minister of Worship. Without Clark, I would never be able to carry out most of my music ministry. Clark's gifted leadership and team work gives me the time and space to stay on top of the many non-music aspects of my job.

The following are an amazing team of leaders. I wish I had the space and time to write something about each and every one of them, but, alas, I can only list them by name and write a big THANK YOU!!

Cammy Carteng – Handbell Music Associate  
Elisabeth Comeaux – Parish Choir and Revelation Soprano Section Leader  
John Crabtree – Media Engineer  
Bryan Dowd - Chapel Organist  
Sam Fredrickson – Parish Choir Baritone Section Leader  
Rebecca Gagnon – Altar Guild Director  
Cathy Gier – Wedding Coordinator (through May); Five-O Head Verger (through December)  
Christina Herold – Children's Handbell Director (since September)  
Nina Holmberg – Acolyte Verger (beginning in June)  
Barry Marks – Acolyte Verger (through May)  
Karen Olson – Revelation Soprano Section Leader  
Jane Parry – Head Verger and Director of Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors  
Lisa Ramos – Parish Choir Alto Section Leader (through December)  
Robin Roberson – Revelation Alto Section Leader; Five-O Singer, Alleluia Choir Assistant (thru 7/11)  
Ray Romero – Director of Hospitality Ministers  
Julianne Wunder Simmons – Children's Handbell Director (through August)  
Danny Thomas – Revelation Tenor Section Leader  
Tori Turner – Alleluia Choir Assistant (since September)  
Linda White – Wedding Coordinator (since June)  
Bryon Wilson – Associate Organist

It is such a pleasure to do ministry with so many talented individuals. Blessings on you all!

Two new choirs were added in the fall of 2011. *All Saints Choir* sings on the third Sunday of each month at the 9 o'clock service, and *Jubilation!* sings on the third Sunday of each month at the 11 o'clock service.

Approximately 170 children, youth, and adults participate in our 6 singing choirs (All Saints Choir, Alleluia Choir, Cantori, Jubilation!, Revelation, and Parish Choir), 3 handbell choirs (First Ring, C.H.I.M.E., and

Creekside Ringers), and 3 instrumental groups (Taizé Ensemble, Ensemble Eleven, and Five-O Band).

*NOTE: In 1998, there were only 75 people in 5 music ministry groups, compared to the current enrollment of 170 people in 12 groups in 2011.*

Another 150 children, youth, and adults take part in our worship as Acolytes, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Ministers, Lectors, and Vergers.

As of 12/31/11, a total of 320 people are regularly serving in worship leadership at St. Stephen's.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Reynolds, Minister of Worship

#### ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Duties and Highlight include...

- Director - Alleluia Children's Choir - Ages 3 through Grade 1
- Director - Revelation Gospel Choir & E11 (Ensemble Eleven Jazz/Gospel Combo)
- Tenor section leader and soloist in Parish Choir as well as the church Cantor
- Vocalist/Instrumentalist - First Friday Taize Services
- Director - Parish Choir in Larry Reynolds' absence
- Director/Coordinator - 5-0 Contemporary Service
- \*Director - Episcopal Youth Music Camp Band Director
- Spring Fling Music Coordinator
- Church Basement Ballroom Coordinator
- Holidazzle Parade - Members of Revelation, Carpe Diem and even some St. Stephen's Staff and friends sang in the Holidazzle Parade on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a blast and hope to do it again.

Clark continues to sing and play for many weddings and funerals at St. Stephen's and other churches and venues in the community and is always honored to do so.

Outside of St. Stephen's...

- Clark is the 2001 Founder and Director of the Carpe Diem Vocal Ensemble.
- Clark was asked to sing "God Bless America" for the TWINS. We'll see what 2012 brings for the TWINS and me.

As I end this report, I will tell you of a quote I heard that I use in my experience here at St. Stephen's and beyond - "Loving what you do, means never having to go to work a day in your life". What a joy it is to feel this way. I enjoy each and every member of our incredible staff. I look forward to continuing that feeling for years to come. Here's to Moving Forward with Joy!!

Clark Duhrkopf

## St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

### Minutes of the Annual Meeting January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Opening Prayer:** The Reverend Neil Willard opening the meeting with a prayer.

**Election of Clerk/Approval of Minutes of 2010 Annual Meeting:** Anne Scoggin was elected clerk of the Annual Meeting and the minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Annual meeting were approved as submitted.

**Overview of Changes to the Bylaws:** Jackie Sullivan, Senior Warden, presented a summary of amendments to the Parish Bylaws, which had not been changed since 2004. The passages that were amended were provided in the Annual Meeting booklet, showing all additions and deletions. Key changes included reducing the size of the Vestry to make it more effective, clarifying that Vestry members must be communicants in good standing, making several committees standing committees and more clearly defining the composition of the Executive Committee. Many changes were made to align our Bylaws with the canons of the Episcopal Church. The changes were presented at a Special Meeting of the Vestry, and approved via email. The Parish affirmed the changes to the Bylaws.

**Report of Nominating Committee/Election of the Leadership Slate:** Fei McKhann presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The following persons were nominated for the positions set forth opposite their names:

<b>OFFICERS:</b>		Term Ends
<b>Senior Warden</b>	Fei McKhann	Jan., 2012
<b>Junior Warden</b>	Brian Ostenso	Jan., 2012
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Holmberg	Jan., 2012
<b>Clerk of the Parish</b>	Cathy Cella	Jan., 2012
<b>VESTRY:</b>		
<b>Vestry Member</b>	Pete Vorbrich	Jan., 2014
<b>Vestry Member</b>	Anne Scoggin	Jan., 2014
<b>Returning Vestry Member</b>	Debbie Belfry	Jan., 2012
<b>Youth Vestry Member</b>	Andrew Petersen	Jan., 2012

**Finance Committee:** Mike Skatrud and Jonathan Strand were each nominated for a three-year term.

**St. Stephen's Fund Committee:** Rod Hardy and Karen Smith were each nominated for a three-year term.

**Outreach/Mission Committee:** Roy Burns, Rebecca Gagnon, Nina Holmberg, Margit Johnson, Vanessa Johnson, Mary Lokowich, Betsy Nelson and Judie O'Brien were each nominated for a three-year term. There being no further nominations, the slate was unanimously elected.

**Senior Warden's Reflection:** Neil thanked Jackie for her service, and intended to present her with a book of psalms. Jackie thanked the clergy, staff, Vestry and all volunteers for their service. She specifically thanked Dave Holmberg, the Executive Committee, Neil, Nancy Brantingham, and most notably, her husband John

for all of his support during the year. Jackie then welcomed her successor, Fei McKhann, to the role of Senior Warden. Jackie's final Senior Warden's report was included on page 4 of the Annual Meeting booklet.

**2010 Financial Report:** Treasurer Dave Holmberg reported on the final numbers for 2010. The Parish ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$26,000. Dave noted that the staff had worked hard to emphasize the importance of pledging to new members, that they and finance worked hard to align expenses with our mission. Budget highlights included being able to increase salaries by 1.5% for the first time in three years, and being able to fulfill Neil's contract and contribute to staff education. Finance is going to create a 3-year strategic budget to help the Parish look into the future, and would like to reduce our reliance on special gifts. The Diocesan pledge will be 13% in 2011, and Nancy explained that a blue ribbon committee has been formed to look at this issue.

**New Senior Warden's Report:** Fei McKhann spoke next about the year ahead, including the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, working on a 3-year strategic budget, as stated above, and bringing Outreach to the forefront of our activities as a Parish. Fei's written report was included on page 5 of the Annual Meeting booklet.

**Rector's Report:** Neil presented the Rector's Cup to Tom Costello, and gave the closing prayer.

On that note, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Anne M. Scoggin  
Clerk of Annual Meeting

Attachments:

1. Annual Meeting Booklet dated Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010
2. Additional Budget Detail presented by Dave Holmberg