

ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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ALIVE IN CHRIST 1881 - 2013

JANUARY 2014



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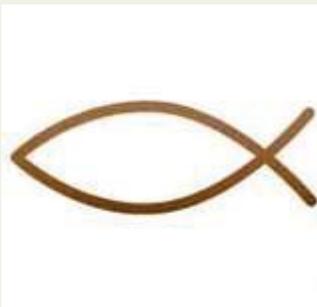
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Our annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 12 immediately after worship. At that meeting, the Vestry and Rector will present an annual report and the budget for the coming year, and we will elect two new vestry members to replace George Beckett and Todd Lewis, whose terms are expiring.

We have two excellent candidates who have been nominated for those two positions: Bob David and Eleanor Semerjian.



Jeffrey's Journal

Sandi Ward, Jim Conley and I got back from Uganda last night after 36 hours of travel. I'm still a little hazy and jet-lagged. But I want to tell you a bit about the mission and the incredible experience of being in the hands of the Holy Spirit for two weeks. Many people were praying for us the entire time, and we could tell. Things went very smoothly, and God's blessing and power were working in us doing infinitely more than we could ask or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20) Each of us was stretched, and each of us answered the call each time it came.

Our first two days in Uganda, we led an ordination retreat for three men in the Diocese of Mityana. Two of them were people for whom our members had paid the tuition at seminary. Our good friend, Godfrey Kyome was one of those. They were ordained on Saturday, where I preached at the service, and had the special privilege of baptizing Godfrey and Erinah's 5-month old baby, Able Kanlanzi. On Sunday, Bishop Stephen took us to a church where he confirmed 12 young people, and again, I preached, while Jim and Sandi taught Sunday School.

The second week we helped lead a Youth Conference for 1010 youth and children, ages about 7-25. The setup was outside in a quadrangle of Camelot-like tents to protect us from the rain. This is winter break for the kids and is also the rainy season. It was quite chilly when it rained. This conference was a great experience for the youth. Besides the teaching sessions, they also experienced things to expand their knowledge about the world. They planted 3,100 trees at a tree farm, cleaned the streets of the town, had their blood tested for AIDS, and gave blood at an outdoor blood mobile. Jim and Sandi spoke in two different settings. Each of us had time to address the entire thousand young people, and Jim and Sandi had smaller settings to work with certain age groups. Our theme for the week was "Wake Up, the Devil is Near You," based on Matthew 13:24-26. My job as keynote

speaker was to develop the theme each day, and I took them through the parable of the wheat and the weeds. We talked about the implications of Jesus telling us that God intends that His disciples and His enemies grow together in the field, and we are not to pluck the weeds (planted by the Devil,) but to bring them in with the wheat at harvest time, and God will do the sorting and judging. After the first day, it was clear that the Holy Spirit had a plan, and each night I was up past midnight completely reworking my planned material. I began to involve Jim and Sandi in my presentations, because of how wonderfully the kids responded to their teaching. And we moved more into spiritual warfare than I had expected. Jim presented an unforgettable vision of the 1010 kids marching to battle for Jesus, based on a dream he had had 5 years ago, and which the Lord showed him was for this gathering.

On the last day of the conference, the older kids—900 strong—walked a mile into Mityana, where they cleaned the streets of all trash, garbage and debris. It was an amazing transformation. We joined them at 10:00 at the town Market, where each of the three of us went into shops with interpreters to preach to Muslims and pray for them. Then I was given the microphone to preach to the huge crowd that had gathered in the market square.

On Sunday, we went far down the dusty rutted roads to two churches, where I preached. On our last day, Bishop Stephen took us off at 8:00 AM to a church in the bush, where Jim preached. It was a confirmation service, and like all the services we went to, there was an altar call, where people gave their lives to Christ. What a great way to spend our last day. We departed Mityana at 5:30 PM and began our long journey home. Thank you all for your prayers and the support you gave us and the people of Mityana. This challenging and satisfying ministry changes everyone who goes there. We are blessed to have such opportunities, and the Bishop and his people are very appreciative of our ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey Cerar, Rector



Senior Warden Report

The vestry met on December 12th to handle several housekeeping issues necessary to close the year. The 2014 church budget was approved.

Gayle Marston recommended this year's contributions to the local, national, and international organizations that we support annually. Adhering to Jeff's guidance that we must sustain our support for missions and outreach, the vestry approved the recommendations.

Deacon Mary Swann reported that the medical equipment (defibrillator) had arrived and that she would schedule a Red Cross training course after the holiday season. The equipment is portable and will go with us to the new church. Betty Dillingham reported some changes to our teller counting procedures that will spread the workload among additional people while maintaining effective accounting controls. Betty also reported that she and Bobby Edmonds will "retire" in 2014; therefore, the vestry will be looking for their replacements.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the Building Committee's recommendation that the draft contract with Eagle River Construction Corporation be accepted and approved. The vestry took the recommendation into prayerful consideration. They will vote on the contract during a special meeting planned for December 18th or 19th; their votes will be based on spiritual discernment as well as final contract details and cost estimates.

This will be my last senior warden report as my term of office is expiring. It has been an honor to serve St. Stephens Anglican church and you, our wonderful congregation. You have made the work fun by your positive suggestions, great attitude, and willingness to work to accomplish our goals and objectives. Nearly all of my term on the vestry has spanned the upheaval caused by the court's reversal of its previous position on our property ownership. You stood strong in the face of the resulting turmoil and positive things happened. We did not miss a single worship service or any other church event during the move, and we were able to

open a new thrift shop in record time. I am so proud to be a part of this congregation.

May God continue to bless and smile upon you.

Love in Christ,
George



This is a report of our Building Fund progress in support of God's Great Project which started with Commitment Sunday, December 2, 2012 and will conclude at the end of January, 2016. A total of **\$1,282,539** was pledged by 60 family units. A complete quarterly report, summarizing the entire progress thru all of 2013, will be in the February newsletter.

As of December 8th, 2013:

- Pledged payments of **\$660,540** have been received.
- Additionally, **\$190,769** has been received from other sources.
- Thus the total of **\$851,309** is in the Building Fund.

When you study these summaries, you quickly see that God is blessing this Great Project in incredible ways. In addition to the commitments pledged, dozens of separate donations that have come in from: Individuals; the Thrift Shop; Chesapeake Garden Club; Local Businesses; Table Talks; St. Stephen's Church Women; and from donations "In Memory of Loved Ones."

When we see the construction of God's new church start to take shape in early 2014, you can just imagine the excitement and renewed focus we'll all have as we pray fervently, collectively and individually, for God's guidance to meet the remaining challenges to complete His Great Project.

Submitted by: Ward LeHardy
Chairman, Building Fund Team



Dear Women of St. Stephen's

I write to thank you so very, very much for your most generous gift to the Altar Guild. Your generosity has made possible the purchase of an Advent Wreath stand and Paschal Candlestick. I hope that you will find this to be a lovely addition to our worship both here at Brinkley Hall and later in our new sanctuary. Again, many, many thanks to you all.

Blessings,
Priscilla



Dear Donna and Women of St. Stephen's:

I knew when you slipped the card to me last Sunday that you were wishing me well for the mission trip to Uganda and would be praying also.

What a miraculous surprise to find such an abundant check inside. Jeff had told Jim and me that we needed to reimburse St. Stephen's for our air travel. In faith I wrote the check to St. Stephen's not knowing how the next month would do. This year, and, I must admit, the last three years, have increased my faith and trust in the Lord our God to supply our needs, mine and the people I will meet, talk and minister to. Thank you ladies of St. Stephen's. Our God is truly an awesome god who does richly supply our needs.

With his love,
Sandi



Dear Women of St. Stephen's:

I want to express my gratitude to the women of St. Stephen's for their many kindnesses to me. Thank you from my heart.

Love in Jesus,
Phyllis Tracey



Gleaners and Blenders

I would like to thank all in our St. Stephen's family who contributed food for Gleaners and Blenders Food Drive on Dec. 15th.

We had a very good response and your generosity will help many families in our community to have food for the holidays. The need is very real --- Gleaners and Blenders say Thank You for thinking of others.

Tom Price



Christianity: A True and Reasonable Faith for a Skeptical World

Registration is now open for the second presentation of this 8-week course which starts Wednesday, January 8th and meets in the fellowship Hall at Heathsville united Methodist Church from 4:00—5:45 p.m. the registration fee is \$15.00.

You can register easily on-line at the St. Stephen's Anglican Church website, on the sign-up sheet in the Brinkley Hall, or by calling Priscilla Williams at 580-4540.



Women of St. Stephen's

Dear Women of St. Stephen's:

The Thrift Shop continued to do well throughout the year and as a result we were able to complete our budgeted outreach by the end of 2013. Recipients were the following: Gleamers and Blenders, Hospice, NN Food Bank, The Link, NN Free Health Clinic, Northumberland YMCA, The Haven, Salvation Army, Callao Fire Department, Mid-County Rescue, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Northumberland Red Cross and Uganda/Mityana Mother's Union.

Due to a surplus of funds left in our women's account, we purchased, under Priscilla Williams' guidance, the beautiful brass candelabra which has graced our Advent services. It will go with us when we move into the new church, and in addition to holding the advent wreath, it will also serve as a Paschal candle stand. We were also able to send a check in support of the Mochamps' mission and another one to support Sandi Ward's trip to Uganda. God has truly blessed us through our Thrift Shop and enabled us to support ministry at home and abroad. All of our wonderful volunteers make this possible, and bring not only remuneration but also a beacon of light and outreach to all who enter the doors of the Big Blue Building. The women are also most grateful to Linda and Leslie for the work they do in so expertly managing the shop.

In November at our regular meeting the women packed 35 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. It was fun to see everyone engaged in this activity around the tables, and a wonderful lunch concluded our time together. Julie Pritchard deserves a hand of applause for her faithful support of this ministry. Thank you, dear Julie! Many thanks also go to Jeanne Hickey and Virginia Townshend who provided us with such a festive repast.

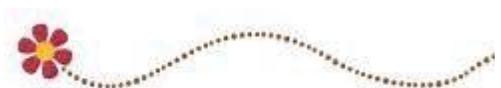
In December, twenty women gathered at Luna's Restaurant for our annual Christmas luncheon. In addition to a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship, we read and sang around the promises of the Jesse Tree. I am so grateful for Gail Gillan's gift of artistry in helping me prepare these Jesse cards. After we had lunch on Saturday, the 14th, each lady was given a card with a symbol, scripture and suggested hymns that illuminated the meaning of the symbol. As Dixie Goertemiller lifted her beautiful voice to sing a refrain from each hymn, some of us joined in on the ones we knew by heart. In so doing we were led through God's Unfolding Plan for Salvation from the beginning of the Old Testament into the New Testament. Mary Swann concluded with a message from four New Testament symbols centered around the birth of Jesus. It was a blessed time to celebrate the enduring love and promise of the advent season, and I believe each of us was touched by the extravagant love of God for each of us.

The very next day we had our second cookie walk to benefit the Building Fund after Sunday services. There was a wonderful array of cookies this year from all of our marvelous cooks, and we were able to make a few hundred dollars. Along with the soup and cookie jar sales and bread sales in the Prayer Room back in January, we were able to make a contribution of \$807.25 to the Building Fund.

Early this month of January a group of women will meet to develop a proposal for this year's ministry. Hopefully, we will have something to present to you at our regular January meeting. Please pass on any ideas or suggestions you might have and please keep us in your prayers as we seek direction for the leadership and future of our ministry.

Again, Happy New Year! May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope and love in 2013.

Love in the Name of Jesus,
Donna



A Letter From the Mochamps

Ward and Judy Le Hardy were on their way to meet us. They had just a few hours to spend here so we had decided to meet them in town, under the statue of the Rev. Amos Main, who became the first Congregational minister of Rochester in 1722 . Katrina was at the Rochester Town Fair Grounds as trip nurse with several buses of residents from the county nursing home, and we were going to join her after lunch and a tour of our mission field.

I was there ahead of time, so I started walking around. This is an area of downtown that I, sometimes with other church members, "prayer walk." Prayer walking is one of the favorite prayer actions of church planters. In August, we were attending the picnic of the ecumenical organization of Rochester, and a lady from one of the Roman Catholic parishes, stated "You are the one walking in town!"

So there I was, walking, and a young man bolted out of a store, walking toward me with the evident intention to accost me. I was really wondering what he wanted. He invited me in the store, of which he was the manager. He told me that he had seen me walking in town (I am most of the time in clericals), and he was interested in... Jesus. He showed me that he was presently watching a Jesus movie on his computer. So we started a conversation, and I discovered that Michael is a seeker. Then I saw Ward and Judy's car coming and we parted.

On subsequent prayer walks, I stopped several times at Michael's shop, and we would strike up a conversation. He has issues to solve in his life, we keep praying for him, I keep inviting him to our services, and visiting him.

This tells you what we're doing here: evangelizing, connecting, networking... It is like church planting except that we do not have a planting team, and we're trying to infuse the church planting spirit into our small group of believers that are the left over, long ago, from a far bigger church.

We are presently renting a building that doesn't fit our needs, and we're trying to rent a chapel in another church building more central in town. We hope to have this finalized by the end of January.

This would help us in evangelization.

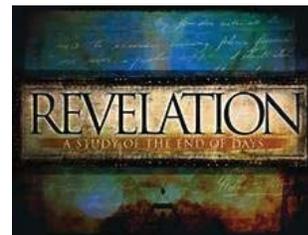
We hope this will help you to pray with insight for our mission here in Rochester, NH! St. Stephen's is in our prayers every day. May the Lord bless you all and your families in this New Year.

Daniel and Katrina Mochamps



Photo: Daniel and Katrina with Bishop Murdoch and his wife Sally.

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The monthly Revelation class chose January 5 as the best day next month. We meet after church in the lounge area downstairs. We will be covering chapters 8 & 9. We may also have a DVD presentation that dramatically illustrates the difference and problem of materialistic vs. spiritual interpretation. Everyone is invited to attend.

Todd Lewis



Last Month Jeff asked me to form a small committee to organize Coffee Hour, as recommended by the Church Vitality Team. Charlaine Andrulot, Sally Custer, and Phyllis TeStrake readily agreed to help me with recruiting, organizing, and scheduling. We began by making phone calls to nearly everyone in the congregation, and were pleased to get overwhelmingly positive replies.

We have done our best to schedule every Sunday in 2014 according to choices expressed by those whom we called - for the season, the month, and, in some cases, even a specific date that they would prefer. Some have even asked to do it twice.

There will soon be a display in the church with a list of the Sundays in 2014 matching names to dates. We are asking people to please trade with someone if their assigned date does not work for them. We four will oversee the year by quarters (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and will be ready to answer any questions.

Posted in the kitchen will be specific directions for making the coffee and finding all the supplies, including cookies and crackers that Sally and Phyllis have been purchasing all along for our Coffee Hours.

A big "thank you" to everyone who agreed to take a turn (or two). Anyone who did not receive a call but would like to help out, please call me, and we'll work you into the schedule. We look forward to having successful coffee hours in 2014.

Judy LeHardy (436-8904)



New additions:

1. *The Christmas Candle* by Max Lucado 2006
2. *The Reason for My Hope: Salvation* by Billy Graham 2013
3. *My Hope America with Billy Graham* 3 DVD Set 2013
4. *Praying God's World: Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds* by Beth Moore 2000
5. Four New Easy Readers for children (available in the nursery):
 - The No-Go King* (The Exodus) Hear Me Read Level 2
 - Hurray for the Lord's Army* (Gideon) Hear Me Read Level 2
 - A Silent Night* (Christmas) Hear Me Read Level 1
 - Drip Drop* (Noah's Ark) Hear Me Read Level 1



At our last Women's meeting and luncheon Jeanne Hickey prepared a wonderful Cornbread-Topped and Beef Chorizo Pot Pie. Many asked for the recipe. Here it is.....

Cornbread topped Beef and Chorizo Pot Pie

2 tablespoons chili powder
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon salt 1 (1-pound) boneless chuck roast, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
2 tablespoons canola oil, divided
8 ounces fresh chorizo sausage, casings removed
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
2 cups beef broth
2 (14.5-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, drained and rinsed
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1/4 cup tomato paste

Combine first 4 ingredients in a small bowl. Sprinkle beef with 2 tablespoons spice mixture. 2. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat; add half of beef and cook, stirring occasionally, 6 minutes or until well browned. Transfer beef to a plate. Repeat with remaining beef. 3. Add remaining 1 tablespoon oil to Dutch oven. Crumble chorizo, and cook 5 minutes or until browned. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes or until vegetables are softened. Stir in remaining spice mixture. Add broth and beef, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 45 minutes or until beef is tender. 4. Stir in tomatoes, black beans, bell pepper, and tomato paste, and return to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, about 15 minutes or until chili is slightly thickened and bell pepper is tender. 5. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400°. Transfer chili to a lightly greased 13-x 9-inch baking dish. Spoon Cornbread Topping over chili, and place baking dish on a baking sheet. Bake 20 minutes or until topping is browned.

Cornbread Topping

1 cup yellow cornmeal
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1-1/2 cups buttermilk
1 large egg
1/4 cup canola oil
1 cup (4 ounces) shredded extra-sharp Cheddar cheese

Stir together first 5 ingredients in a medium bowl. Add buttermilk, egg, and oil, and stir until smooth. Stir in cheese

Tabletalk

The third Table Talk in our very interesting series on "Have We Overcome?" will be held at 6:30pm on Friday, January 24th in O.A. Brinkley Hall. This time we'll be discussing the aspect of race relations as it relates to the Economy, Opportunity and Social Mobility. We will have a panel of men and women, black and white, from the local area who will respond to questions from the audience as well as share their own experiences. As we have found in the past two Table Talks on this subject, a healthy exchange of ideas and experiences have helped to illuminate the issue and raise awareness of concerns that might be lying just under the surface of our normal, day to day lives.

It is a truly worthy time to spend with our friends from First Baptist and other locals and enjoy another fine meal prepared by the Levites, led by Ben Ward. Be sure to sign up on the list in the Parish Hall. There is no charge for this, but donations are always gladly accepted.

Submitted by Ward LeHardy

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

Jan. 5	Marie Carstensen, Jim Logan
Jan. 12	Anna and Pat Brennan
Jan. 19	Bill Tracey, Ed Ulfing
Jan. 26	Joy and David Gwaltney
Feb. 2	Bev and Brian Hart

Acolytes

Jan. 5	Jennifer Radcliffe
Jan. 12	Sarah Saunders
Jan. 19	Chris Cralle
Jan. 26	Marley Kimmitt
Feb. 2	Emma Saunders

Lesson Readers

Jan. 5	Charlaine Andrulot (L) Marie Carstensen (P)
Jan. 12	Susan Thomas (L) Bill Tracey (P)
Jan. 19	Lyn Conley (L) Jim Conley (P)
Jan. 26	Betty Dillingham (L) Irene Haley (P)
Feb. 2	Julie Pritchard (L) Jeanne Hickey (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

Jan. 5	Irene Haley, Ward Lehardy
Jan. 12	Lucy Logan, Frank McCarthy
Jan. 19	Constance McDearmon and Suzy Norman
Jan. 26	Elaine Price, Harrison Williams
Feb. 2	Priscilla Williams, Fred Woodard

Altar Guild

January	Lynn York, Doris Myers
February	Sally Custer, Laura Woodard

Coffee Hour

Jan. 5
Jan. 12
Jan. 19
Jan. 26



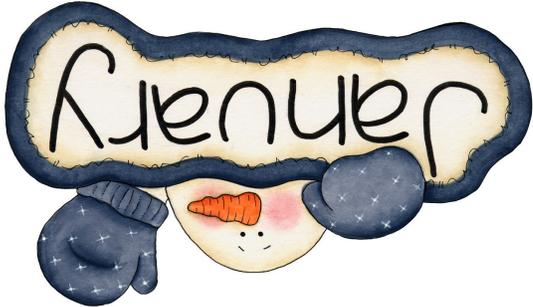
Jan. 1	Max Knight
Jan. 2	Bev Hart, Patty Sherman
Jan. 4	Pauline Edmonds, Steve Proctor
Jan. 5	Doris Myers
Jan. 6	Brooke Read, Caitlyn Cralle
Jan. 8	Ellie Knight
Jan. 9	Nonie Ward
Jan. 10	Patricia Brennan
Jan. 16	Glenice Coombs
Jan. 17	Gail Gillan
Jan. 18	Elaine Price
Jan. 19	Al Myers
Jan. 24	Sam Marston
Jan. 27	Charles Wrightson, Val Hutchison, William Tracey
Jan. 29	Irene Haley
Jan. 30	Art Neira
Jan. 31	Ingrid Manson



Jan. 15	Marie and Al Carstensen
Jan. 24	Lynn and Howard York
Jan. 25	Phyllis and Walt TeStrake

O God, grant that the wills of this man and this woman may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. Amen.

2014



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Happy New Year

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24-26