

# ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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*ALIVE IN CHRIST* 1881 - 2013

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## **Church Picnic**

**Sunday July 28**

**at Shirley Smith's house,**

**Bay Quarter Shores on the Potomac**

***Right After Worship***

***Come Dressed for a Picnic***

**Please bring sides and desserts to go**

**with Hamburgers and Hot Dogs**



## Jeffrey's Journal

On July 4, we celebrate Independence Day, the birthday of our nation. A central aspect of our celebration is the freedom we enjoy as Americans. Our Bill of Rights guarantees us freedom of speech, and the free exercise of religion, among other fundamental human rights which are given to us by our Creator, and cannot be taken from us. As I reflect on freedom this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, I must observe how confused, convoluted and downright corrupted those “guarantees” have become. How, for example, does the School District in Joshua, Texas imagine they had the power under our Constitution to turn off the microphone on Valedictorian Remington Reimer when in his valedictory address he gave thanks to Jesus for his salvation? Isn't he free to exercise his religion? Doesn't he have the right of free speech?

There has been much talk lately about what military chaplains can and cannot do in their important work of being spiritual guides to our troops. Internal Defense Department policies have gotten so threatening to Christian chaplains that a section was added to the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act which would ensure religious liberty for service men and women in the armed forces. The House Armed Services Committee approved the amendment last week. And yet, President Obama then declared, “The Administration strongly objects to section 530, which would require the Armed Forces to accommodate, except in cases of military necessity, ‘actions and speech’ reflecting the ‘conscience, moral principles, or religious beliefs of the member.’”

How can we have gotten to this point? There is a clear answer for the Christian believer: Satan has sown confusion. Satan's tactics include the perversion of all good things God gives us. We see it happening throughout our culture:

- Beauty: God makes things beautiful, and we highly value them. Now we portray as beautiful a woman with an unhealthy, skinny, highly sculpted, brightly painted body.
- Sex: God created sex as a good thing, a blessing when enjoyed in His way. Now Satan has sold our culture on the idea that fulfilling your sexual desires with anyone, at any age, in any way is vital to your

self-actualization.

- Food: The Bible speaks often and glowingly about banquets and rich food and wine, for these are signs of God's love. But Satan has made food such a desirable thing that most Americans are overweight and are at risk of heart attack, stroke and diabetes.
- Abundance: God's abundance is infinite, and He shares it with us. Satan has taken this blessing and made us worship money and seek opulence, luxury, and excess. Enough is never enough.

Satan has done the same thing with freedom. From the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden, Satan took our freedom and turned it against us. He pointed out to Eve that she was not a puppet, and was free to do what God said she must not do. And so she and Adam ate of the one tree God forbade them to eat from. Freedom is one of the highest values of our culture. And so Satan is using that high value against us. Now there is perceived a freedom for non-believers not to have to hear the name of Jesus. Isn't that just perfect for Satan? So the free exercise of religion is becoming something that can no longer be done in the Public Square. It seems we are expected to exercise our religious freedom in private places where people don't have to see if they don't want to. And we had better be careful what we say, because people today are deemed free not to have anyone say their behavior is sinful. Without the message of sin, how does God's salvation make any sense? And isn't that just what Satan wants?

The Bible tells us, “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1) It is God's intention that “the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” (Romans 8:21) Enjoy your freedom. Talk about Jesus in the public square. Be His witnesses. Proclaim His good news. Offer His salvation. No law or judge or policy can take that from you. You have been endowed by your Creator with this unalienable right. Happy Independence Day.

Yours in Christ,  
Jeffrey O. Cerar, Pastor



## *Vestry Highlights* from the June 2013 Meeting

### Building Project:

- Elaine reported that the bid from the Bank of Lancaster was selected for the construction loan for the new building
- The house on the property will be razed this week
- The soil has been tested and there is no “bad” soil on the property
- The plans for the kitchen have been finalized
- The architect will be here next week for discussions on the building

The Good News Club will meet at First Baptist Church the week of July 22 thru 26

The School Board has voted to approve having the Good News Club at the school for the next school year.

The Rector and Deacon continue meeting with the neighborhood groups.

Will Stallings’ teaching of “The Theology of the Body” was attended by people from five churches from four denominations (Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and Roman Catholic).

The Rector discussed the “Call 2 Fall” which will be on June 30 for everyone to kneel for a few minutes to pray for our county.

The following were approved for Outreach support:

- Tad de Bordenave for his trip to Nigeria
- Betsy Joslyn for coaching and ministry at Christian Soccer camp to inner city kids for the summer
- SOMA
- AFM
- New Wineskins

- Samaritan’s purse
- Kairos
- ARDF
- Anglicans for Life

The church picnic is scheduled for July 28

The Rector is interviewing for a Nursery attendant for Sunday mornings

Discussion continued on “Whom does God want us to reach?”



Thank you to **Laddie Townshend** for his donation of 150 tomato plants to our Thrift Shop. They sold for \$2.50 to \$3.50 each!

Thank you to **Lucy Logan** for planting all the beautiful flowers in front of the Thrift Shop.

Bless you both!







## Women of St. Stephen's

### *A Report From the President*

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> the Leadership Team for the Women met to review any unfinished business until we meet again in August to plan for the fall. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the future of the ministry or how it could better meet your needs, please email me or give me a call. We welcome all suggestions and ideas.

We were very pleased to present a \$1,000.00 scholarship check to Caitlyn Cralle on Youth Sunday in early June, and we also voted to send \$100.00 through the Anglican Relief and Development Fund to the victims of the Oklahoma tornadoes. We purchased and distributed olive wood crosses to our men on Father's Day out of appreciation for their example of godly fatherhood and also for the countless ways they lend a hand to the women's ministry.

On a gorgeous Saturday morning on June 22<sup>nd</sup> over twenty women gathered at the Club House at Mallard Bay for our annual potluck picnic. It was a wonderful morning of fellowship in this lovely setting, and we all came away feeling more connected as sisters in Christ. Also joining us on this occasion were Jeffrey, Lynne and Marion and it was indeed a treat to have them in our midst. I want to thank Suzy Norman, Eleanor Semerjian, Mary Swann and Priscilla Williams, all members of the Leadership Team, for their servanthood in setting up for this event and then cleaning up afterwards. In addition, thanks go to Melinda Floom who led us in a fun mixer where we got to know each other more intimately, and to Dixie Goertemiller for leading us in joyful song. Mary Swann read Psalm 46 which highlights the security we have in God who is our refuge, strength, an every present help in trouble. Then she asked us to go in pairs to a quiet spot and to share and pray for each other. It was a precious time to come before the Lord with a sister in Christ and to lift up our concerns and needs to our

Almighty God and Father. After a marvelous meal consisting of delicious dishes brought by those present, we celebrated Lynne Cerar's birthday and presented her with a beautiful arrangement of flowers from the Women of St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

By now you have received a brochure for our fifth Women's Retreat on July 19 and 20 at Stratford Hall. We will be led by Jill Melton, a noted speaker and author from the DC area. Mary Swann and I met Jill on Easter Sunday when she and her husband came to our worship service. Jill expressed an interest in perhaps providing a program for us. After further communication, Mary Swann and I felt that Jill was the right person to lead our retreat. You will find further information about Jill on the brochure. We are also delighted that Connie Linsley will be returning to lead us in worship. Those of you who attended the retreat two summers ago will remember what a gifted musician and spirit led woman she is.

All best wishes to all of you over these summer months which I pray are filled with joyous moments to cherish, reflective times of quiet and relaxing days of a more leisurely pace. For those of you who are in town, I will look forward to welcoming you to Stratford Hall on July 19<sup>th</sup> for our fifth Women's Retreat. Invite a friend to join you!

Blessings and love,  
Donna



### *One of our Friends at First Baptist Church*

The women of St. Stephen's were joined at their annual picnic at Mallard Bay on June 22, 2013 by Etta Butler who was there representing the women of First Baptist Church. Upon engaging her in conversation, we found that she does private sitting. If you need, or know anyone in need of a private sitter, she is looking for work and would appreciate you considering her. She is willing to work between the hours of 800AM – 700PM, and can be reached at 804-580-7543.

## *Library Update*

from Margaret Radcliffe

Last month I announced that the St. Stephen's library is open. Well, it is, just not all the way. There are a few things remaining things to be done, so if there is anyone particularly interested in helping, please let me know! In the meantime, books and audio materials are available for check out.

This month brought a few new additions which may be found on the top shelf of the library. They are:

***Just As I Am*** - Billy Graham's 1997 autobiography

***Billy Graham: God's Ambassador*** - the only Billy Graham Evangelistic Association-authorized video biography, hosted by Sir David Frost (122 minutes DVD) It is an amazing story of an amazing man who gave his life to Christ at the age of sixteen at a revival meeting that his friend encouraged him to attend. God called Billy Graham to preach the Gospel, something he never wavered from doing, despite his initial reluctance.

***Gladys Aylward, the Little Woman*** - Gladys Aylward's own story of her extraordinary missionary work in China beginning in 1932. Alan Burgess wrote a book about Miss Aylward entitled *The Small Woman* that was made into a movie in 1958 starring Ingrid Bergman. The movie is entitled *The Inn of the Sixth Happiness*. All three accounts are excellent, but Gladys' own short book is best. It is full of stories of God's incredible life-transforming work through this determined, unassuming, and unlikely missionary servant. Very inspiring!

***Genesis in Space and Time*** by Francis Schaeffer.

***The Reason for God: Conversations on Faith and Life*** (DVD and DVD Discussion Guide) by Timothy Keller. Our 2013 Lenten Series featured clips and discussion from this DVD. This is your chance to watch the whole DVD including discussion of such questions as

Isn't the Bible a Myth?

How Can You Say There is Only One Way to God?

What About Other Religions?

What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life?

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Why is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?

How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time? and

How Can God Send Good People to Hell?

Summer time is a great time for reading. Check out our wonderful collection of Christian books. And share one with a friend!



Dear Friends of St. Stephen's,

After the longest winter in both our lives, we're emerging! Thirty four inches of snow was quite impressive! I'll start with the good news: Katrina just found a part-time job, which is a good beginning after months of search, applications and interviews. As for myself, I expected to substitute, but the cold, and after that the New Hampshire pollen gave me allergies that kept me from hitting the classroom.

We've been busy with our small group, St. Michael's, meeting in small groups, prayer walking, worshipping, serving meals to the poor, etc. Katrina and I have been networking every time an opportunity shows up in the community. As a result, we're members of the French Club (a large population originally from Quebec) and the International Fellowship Group, and attend other groups or events. We've also been active with the ecumenical group of Rochester.

So, we're still in the process of connecting with and knowing the social fabric of the Greater Rochester. We will tell you more about all this in a newsletter.

Thank you one more time for your prayers, for the precious time we spent with you, and for your financial support that has been crucial for us in order to be here on our mission field. Please consider us as your missionaries in New Hampshire!

Also, congratulations for the Ground Breaking on the site of the future St. Stephen's home church!

You are in our prayers,  
Daniel and Katrina Mochamps



(Photo: we go to the beach for the first time in June, on the day of our anniversary)



## *"The Good Life"*

*The Rev. Jeffrey Cerar*

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| June 30 | The Good Life: Freedom in the Holy Spirit  |
| July 7  | The Good Life: The Honor of Serving God    |
| July 14 | The Good Life: Operating in God's Strength |
| July 21 | The Good Life: Intimacy with Jesus         |
| July 28 | The Good Life: Accessing God's Wisdom      |

## ***TRAVELS WITH***



The address for Tad's blog for his Nigeria trip is:  
[travelswithtadpole.blogspot.com](http://travelswithtadpole.blogspot.com)

Book Review  
*The Revelation Mandate: The Foundations of the  
Priesthood of Every Believer*  
By Todd Lewis

On a recent afternoon, I sat on the back porch of Wellspring with Todd Lewis, reclining in an Adirondack chair and sipping iced tea. For anyone who doesn't know, Wellspring is the Lewis' home located just west of Fleeton, an old farmhouse and adjacent waterfront acreage. It is, to some of us, heaven on earth! My reason for being there was to interview Todd about his book, published last year. Before I could begin, he mentioned in his offhand sort of way his upcoming trip to Atlanta to appear on a Christian television talk show, an invitation to travel to Hawaii for a radio interview, and an award his book recently won. Wow!

We talked of many things, but the two I want to relate here are how he came to write the book and what it is about.

Todd Lewis is a reader and a thinker. And he prays. From those three actions arose over the course of many years a way of understanding the Bible in ways not generally understood by the average modern Christian. When Todd found himself laid up with an injured ankle a few years back, he began writing a series of articles for our St. Stephen's newsletter, expounding that theory. These he titled "Revelation Digest" and they are compiled in a folder in our library under "Local Authors". Concurrently, Todd was teaching a weekly Bible study class on the book of Revelation, further testing out and refining his ideas. Following the success of both class and articles, Todd acted on the advice of Judy LeHardy who said to him one day, "You ought to write a book!"

In that book, *The Revelation Mandate*, Todd presents a way of understanding the Bible that is both literal and figurative. Never does he stray from the biblical factual account of events, but to them he adds a figurative and theological understanding, asserting that everything in the Bible has meaning in terms of the covenantal relationship between God and His people. Thus, we understand from the book of Acts not only that Jesus ascended into the clouds, but that the clouds are an image of the heavenly realm, signifying Jesus being raised to a position of ultimate authority in heaven and on earth. Another key element of his theory is the importance of the

total destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 and the massacre and dispersion of the Jews of that time by the Romans, signifying the end of the old covenant and the beginning of the new. Finally, Todd asserts the priesthood of every believer - the idea that the Church is to overcome, that is, to rule, not in the worldly, sinful sense of lording over the earth and its people, but in caring for and cultivating them. The Church has been given the task of bringing the world into total submission to Christ and our means of doing so are given in Ephesians 6; that is through the Word of God and prayer. This contrasts with the popular but escapist idea that we Christians are simply to endure this life while we wait for the next or the idea of old that Christians are to conquer the unbelieving world by force.

Asked if he has a second book in mind, Todd confessed to having several, one on the book of Genesis, one on the book of Ezekiel, and a workbook of sorts to explain and explore in more depth the biblical concepts he presents in his Revelation book. In the meantime, *The Revelation Mandate* can be purchased at amazon.com or from Todd, or it can be borrowed from our St. Stephen's library! And while you read (or before you read), think about joining Todd's class on Revelation which has begun to meet at Wellspring on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5 p.m.

In Todd's own words found at the conclusion of his introduction, "It is fondly hoped that that this book will delight the reader by making evident how wonderfully Revelation elucidates and weaves all of Scripture together." And so it will and so it does!



**"Wireless communication is nothing new.  
I've been praying for 75 years!"**

## IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

### Ushers\*

July 7	Lyn Neira, Marie Carstensen
July 14	Susan Thomas, Steve Proctor
July 21	
July 28	
Aug. 4	

\* While Doug Smoot is in the hospital and/or recuperating, it would help to have you volunteer to usher, rather than his having to call and ask. Please give him a helping hand—and a prayer or two.

Thanks, Leslie

### Acolytes

July 7	Sarah Saunders
July 14	Chris Cralle
July 21	Marley Kimmitt
July 28	Emma Saunders
Aug. 4	Caitlyn Cralle

### Lesson Readers

July 7	Barbara Seed (L) Dick Seed (P) Elaine Price (L)
July 14	
July 21	Bill Tracey (L) Priscilla Williams (P)
July 28	Howard York (L) Charlaine Andrulot (P)
Aug. 4	Tony Blackstone (L) Joan Blackstone (P)

### Eucharistic Ministers

July 7	Frank McCarthy, Bill Bloom
July 14	Suzu Norman, Elaine Price
July 21	George Beckett, Harrison Williams
July 28	Priscilla Williams, Fred Woodard
Aug. 4	Tony Blackstone, Charlie Franck

### Altar Guild

July	Julie Pritchard, Susan Thomas
Aug.	Pauline & Bobby Edmonds, Margaret Radcliffe

## Coffee Hour

July 7	Lyn and Jim Conley
July 14	Sally Custer
July 21	
July 28	
Aug. 4	



July 1	Howard York
July 8	Joyce Smith, Phyllis Tracey
July 11	Phyllis TeStrake
July 15	Al Carstensen
July 16	Leslie Jeffress
July 19	George Kranda, Donna Soule
July 23	Stan Rasberry, Jim Conley
July 25	Patty Sherman
July 27	Connie de Bordenave
July 28	Constance McDearmon
July 30	Elizabeth Jane Peterson



July 10	Lucy and Jim Logan
July 11	Doris and Al Myers
July 13	Pauline and Bobby Edmonds
July 17	Lyn and Jim Conley
July 20	Joy and David Gwaltney
July 21	Jeanne and Dan Hickey
July 30	Betty and Morris Dillingham

*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.*



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Suzy Norman, Editor

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2013

July 

### **IT'S AN ANNUAL TRADITION....**



...fireworks at the Townshends! All members of St. Stephen's Anglican Church are invited to Laddie's and Virginia's home Friday, July 5th around 8:00 p.m. Fireworks begin at 9:15. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and a flashlight to find your way after dark.

Rain date will be July 6th.

**Directions from St. Stephen's Church: Rt. 360 east 1.8 miles; left on Walnut Point Road. Go 2 miles and take a right on Clarketown Road. Go two miles. The road will turn to gravel. Continue to 1909 Clarketown Road.**