

The Guide

A Newsletter for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



Volume 69

Issue 1

January 2013



Annual Meeting - January 27th

The Annual Meeting of the parish will take place January 27. There will be a pot-grace lunch following our 10:30 a.m. service, and the meeting will follow. We will nominate and elect new members of the Vestry, elect delegates to the next Annual Council (in October) see our budget for 2013, and catch up on the state of our parish. Each communicant in good standing (that is, pledging and attending) can vote.

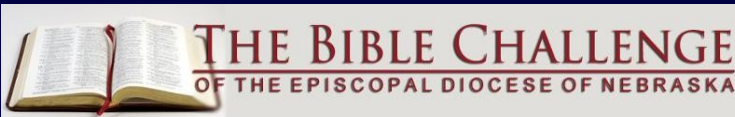
Annual Reports Due

Brief reports are needed for the Annual Meeting Book.

All reports are due to the office in **electronic form by Monday, January 15, 2013**

Reports Due From:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| ○ Altar Guild | ○ Discernment Committee | ○ Parish Nurse | ○ St. Martha's Guild |
| ○ Choir Director | ○ Financial Planning & Review Committee | ○ Priest / Rector | ○ St. Mary's Guild |
| ○ Christian Education | ○ Green Team | ○ Rector Search Committee | ○ Treasurer |
| ○ Community Center | ○ Jr. Warden | ○ Sr. Warden | ○ UTO |
| ○ Custodian | | | ○ Youth Group |
| | | | ○ 1888 Legacy Society |



*The Nebraska Bible Challenge begins January 7th.
There is still time!*

More information on page 6 of this Guide ,
OR - Click on the link below to [learn more](#):

[2013 Nebraska Bible Challenge](#)

Beginning January 13, 2013: NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES!

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite I

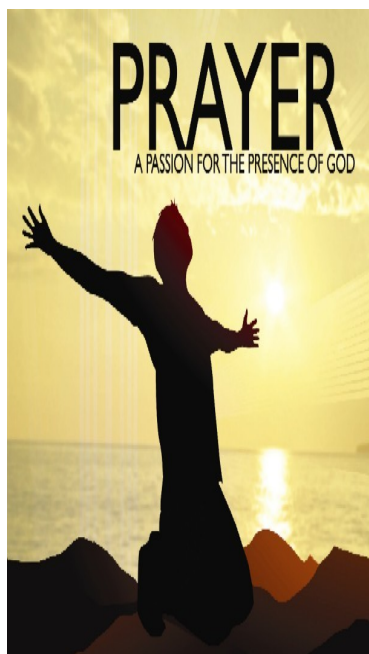
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Welcoming...All people

Serving...Those in need

Worshipping...God

www.ststephengi.org Church Office: 308.382.4961 or find us on facebook



Prayers for the People

If you or a loved one needs prayers, please submit that information to the church office. Prayers run in the weekly bulletin as well as the monthly Guide. Prayer Chain requests can be sent to Mary Kvetensky at 308.382.4090 or to Donna Weaver Smith at dowesm@yahoo.com

Prayers of Healing and Concern for: Marge, Laurie, Bob, Jet, Fran, Eric, Fred, Chandler, Larry, Becky, Ed, Steffanie, Travis, Lee, Corrine, Bob, Gene, Bill, Rita, John, Ann, Kathy, Paul, Shelly, Brad, Sharon, Deanna, Rachel, Bryan, Taylor, Irene, Crnolos, Estella, Lee, Mary, Jim, Terry, Dennis, Tom, Mary Ann, Dave, D'Ann, Michelle, Deloris, Gloria, Evylyn, Kim and Caryl.

Prayers of Strength and Protection for those Serving Our Country: Michael, Ryan, Randy, Dustin, Charles, Sherri, David, Cathleen, Ben, Joe.

Prayers for the Departed: Lois Hoover and Mike Snyder.

"May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace"

If you would like to add or remove a name to our prayer list or submit birthdays and anniversaries, please contact the church office 382.4961 or parishsecretary@ststephengi.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Omaima Toto - January 1st

Yousif Toto - January 1st

Marilyn Albers - January 3rd

Sue Cameron - January 4th

Caryl Mundorff - January 4th

Brad Regier- January 4th

Brooklyn Richardson - January 5th

Patricia Backlund - January 7th

Donna Weaver Smith - January 7th

Justice Hatfield - January 9th

Dave Huston - January 10th

Rod Clement - January 12th

Dustin Vinson - January 13th

Patrick Asabit - January 15th

Emily Rauch - January 17th

Sid White - January 18th

Virginia Diers - January 20th

Danielle Vinson - January 21st

Elisa Day - January 22nd

Cara Camplin - January 25th

David Colan - January 25th

Scott Hooker - January 28th

Bryce Richardson - January 29th

Lori Welte - January 29th

Happy Anniversary

Bob and Marla Kutz - January 12th

Thank You!

THANK YOU!

Everyone who brought treats to us in the office for the holidays!

All who helped with the cleaning and greening of the church for Christmas.

Samantha Hubbard and Karen Mayer for taking care of the Angel Tree and delivered the gifts to the Crisis Center.

Those who blessed the Crisis Center with gifts for the Angel Tree.





“From Our Past”...

Selections by Sue Clement

I hope you enjoy these photos of past Epiphany observances at St Stephen's Episcopal Church. The photo of the Epiphany Pageant of 1956 clearly shows the over-the-altar window, which is now enclosed in the wall. The photo of the Epiphany Pageant in the 1980s has some faces you might recognize, in no particular order: Jay Gable as the priest; Sean Runge as Joseph; Andrew Clement as Narrator; in the row

holding candles—Julie Clement, Kelly Gable, Tricia Dreier?; Wendy Winslow. You probably recognize some that I don't. Up until about the 1990s the pageant was followed by the serving of cake in the parish hall. There were two cakes—a boys cake and a girls cake. In each cake was baked a ring, and the boy and girl who got the pieces with the rings were crowned King and Queen of Epiphany. The pageant was usually held close to January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. We do have in the Archives some photos of past kings and queens which may appear in a future “From Our Past”.



		January 6 Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12 Psalm 72:1-7,10-14 *9:30 AM SVC*	January 13 Epiphany I Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 *TWO SERVICES*	January 20 Epiphany II Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11 *TWO SERVICES*	January 27 Epiphany III Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21 *TWO SERVICES*
Acolytes	10:30 am	Joe Prickett & Jim Lewis	Emily Rauch & Emma Goodman	Samantha Hansen, Issy Hatfield & Madison Wieland	Spencer Goodman & Ryan Jepson
Sunday Nursery	10:30 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Brittany Korensky	Need Volunteer	Brittany Korensky	Need Volunteer
Altar Guild	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Ronna Kutlas	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Karen Borgheiinck	Cris McElroy
	10:30 am		Roxie Webb	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
Lector	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Cathi Swift	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
	10:30 am		Gary Bennett	Sue Clement	Sam Barton
Prayers of the People	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Liz Baxter	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Susan Cameron	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
	10:30 am		Deacon Betsy	Need Volunteer	Leslie Lewis
Chalice	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Don Young & Liz Baxter	Susan Cameron	Don Young	Susan Cameron
	10:30 am		Jim Lewis	Rod Clement	Sam Barton
Ushers	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Jim & Pat Kirschbaum	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
	10:30 am		Verne Webb & Bob Allison	Kathy Patton	Bob & Jenny Dobbins
Vestry Member of the Day	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Leslie Lewis	Jen Wieland	Dave Jepson	Tracy Goodman & All Vestry
	10:30 am				
Counters	10:30 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Joan & Sam Barton	Terry & Dennis Bjorkman	Sue & Rod Clement	Jerre Mallory & Raynette Martin
Coffee Hour	8:00 am	9:30 AM SERVICE Dave & Kathy Stoddard	Tracy & Terry Babcock	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Annual Meeting Pot-Grace following 10:30 am Service
	10:30 am		Need Volunteer	Dave & Christi Jepson	

Coffee Hour Volunteers

Do you have a specific date in mind for hosting Coffee Hour this year?

Check the sign up sheet in the Parish Hall and
be the first to select your preferred time after either service on Sunday!
OUR Sunday caffeine and sugar buzz depend on YOU!

(Please be sure to contact the office if you want to order rolls from Skagway!)



JANUARY

2013

Regular Weekly Schedule at St. Stephen's

Sunday	8:00 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite 1
	10:00 am	<i>Christian Education (tentative time)*</i>
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite 2
	1:00 pm	Arabic Worship Service
Monday	6:45 pm	AA Study Group
	6:30 pm	1 st Monday: Disaster Preparedness 3 rd Monday: Vestry
	8:00 pm	Young Procrastinators AA meeting
Wednesday	10:30 am	Lectionary Study
	12:00 pm	Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
	1:00 pm	1st & 3rd Wed - St Martha's Guild
		NO Wednesday Christian Education Classes
	7:30 pm	Choir practice
	8:00 pm	Young Procrastinators AA meeting
Thursday	9:45 am	1st & 3rd Thurs - St Mary's Bible Study
Friday	8:00 pm	Young Procrastinators AA meeting

January 2013 Events

***NO Christian Education Classes on Wednesdays
CE will be on Sunday mornings going forward...
at 10 am, tentatively...***

- 7 NE Diocese Bible Challenge begins
- 13 1st Sunday of NEW Worship Service Times:
8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 15 **Deadline for Annual Meeting Reports
Deadline for GUIDE articles**
- 18-19 Men's Ministry Retreat in Schuyler, NE
- 27 Annual Meeting of the Parish and
Pot-grace lunch following 10:30 am service

Coming in February

- 3 Bishop Barker's Visit to our Parish
- 12 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feed
- 13 Ash Wednesday

St. Stephen's Leadership



Priest-in-Charge The Rev. Timothy D. Raasch
interim@ststephengi.org

Archdeacon The Ven. Betsy Blake Bennett
deaconbetsy@windstream.net

2013 Senior Warden Dave Jepson
dcjep@hamilton.net

2013 Junior Warden Mike Timmerman
mtimmerm@hornady.com

2013 Vestry Tracy Goodman
jdg93@charter.net

2013 Vestry Jen Wieland
jdg93@charter.net

2013 Vestry Leslie Lewis
laolewis@hotmail.com

2014 Vestry Roxie Webb
roxannkaywebb@hotmail.com

2014 Vestry Raynette Martin
raynette@charter.net

2014 Vestry Gary Bennett
glbfam@windstream.net

2015 Vestry VACANT

2015 Vestry Kathy Stoddard
djkestoddard@gmail.com

2015 Vestry Dave Beck
harryd68959@yahoo.com

Parish Nurse Ministry Kathy Stoddard
djkestoddard@gmail.com

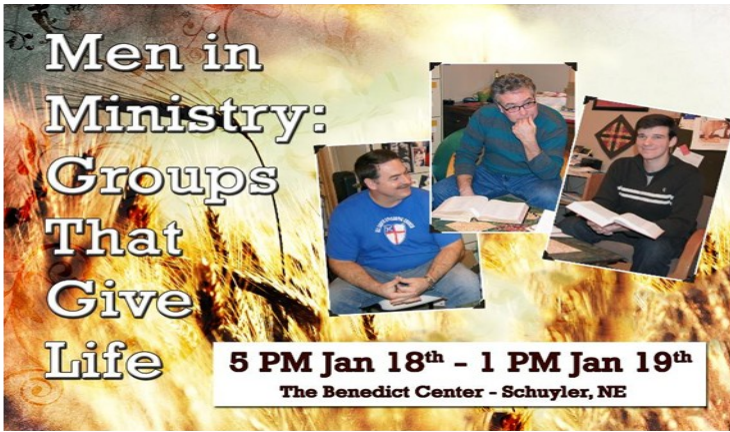
Music Ministry Dan Korensky
dk_adams1@yahoo.com

Financial Secretary Leslie Lewis
financialsecretary@ststephengi.org

Parish Secretary Elisa Day
parishsecretary@ststephengi.org

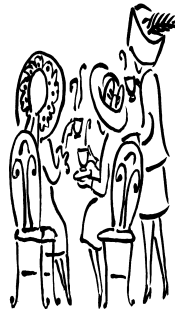
Custodian Henry Mayer

Men's Ministry Retreat



Click on the link to [register](#) today!

ECW News



A special thank you to Raynette Martin for hosting our 2012 Advent Tea in her home. Also, to the ladies who furnished the tasty cookies and cheese balls for the tea.

St. Stephen's had four funerals during the month of December, so a thank you needs to be extended to the ladies who furnished food as well as to those who served the food and helped in the kitchen. THANK YOU.

The Bible Challenge

Bishop Barker invites us to join him in The Bible Challenge beginning on January 7. People from across the diocese will follow the same schedule of reading the Bible – a mix of Old Testament, Psalms, and New Testament each day – so that we read and reflect on the entire Bible within the course of a year.

Learn more at the Diocese of Nebraska Bible Challenge webpage at <http://biblechallenge.episcopal-ne.org/>. Links there will take you to PDF files of a list of the readings, or a file with the readings and reflections and questions for each day. (The reflections are also available as a book: *The Bible Challenge* edited by Fr. Marek Zabriskie.) To receive a copy in the mail, contact Kate Baxley at kbaxley@episcopal-ne.org or 402-341-5373.

If we have several parishioners participating, we may want to form a group to meet occasionally and compare our experiences. Let Deacon Betsy know if you have interest in such a group or if you want more information about The Bible Challenge.



Community Center Buzz...

HEARTLAND CASA SPONSORS FREE FAMILY MOVIE AT THE GRAND

Saturday, January 12, 2013 at 2:00 pm - DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: DOG DAYS

The Grand Theatre, 316 W. 3rd Street, Downtown Grand Island

This is a family fun **FREE** event. Enjoy the movie and learn more about these programs and how you can become involved in changing lives. *In partnership with Boys Town Foster Family Services.*

HABITAT SEEKS TO EMPOWER MOTIVATED PEOPLE

The local Habitat affiliate is currently seeking applicants for homes to be built later this year and into 2014. The application process starts with a pre-screening to determine if the household meets basic criteria for the program. The deadline to apply is March 15 at noon.

Basic qualifications include, residence in the Habitat service area for the past year or more, meeting income guidelines, having the ability to pay a no-interest home loan, and the willingness to partner with Habitat. Partnership includes completing 500 hours of sweat equity and home-ownership education.

Homes are sold to qualifying families at the cost to build and with no-interest loans. Habitat families participate in the construction process to help keep costs down, to gain skills and foster a sense of pride in ownership. Their mortgage payments in turn help Habitat build future homes.

For information, or for a pre-screening, call 308-385-5510.



priest's corner

Epiphany is one of my favorite seasons of the Church Year. Lost between the dazzling headlights of Christmas and the sober journey of Lent, Epiphany explores the mystery of God in Christ.

In literature, epiphanies are those moments of sudden insight in which deeper truth is discerned and hidden patterns are revealed. As we search for God in religion and life, we invariably learn new things about ourselves—awareness of God walking hand in hand with awareness of who we are in our depths. Epiphany unwraps the mystery of incarnation, and in so doing, we experience firsthand how and why love of God is linked to love of neighbor. We can't love or understand others until we love and understand ourselves. Love and compassion are rooted in awareness, what is called mindfulness in Eastern spirituality and Western psychology.

Mindfulness is at the heart of much current thinking in the areas of spirituality and prayer, counseling and therapy, exercise and health, stewardship of sustainable resources and the environment. On a journey of faith we learn how interconnected we are to others—individuals only finding meaning in community, all forms of life rooted in earth and cosmos. Health and wellness in mind, heart, soul and body begins with becoming aware of the energies we carry within, ways of thinking and feeling rooted in fear, anxiety and anger or trust, openness and joy. Are the beliefs we affirm through creed and communion on Sunday morning translated into intentional behaviors and actions of inclusion and reconciliation? Faith is a journey that requires faith, a daily discipline of self-examination and forgiveness, death and rebirth, generosity of spirit and mutual affection. Are we practicing a religion of denominational identity or a faith that requires transformation on a daily basis?

I see two parallel paths for our journey in 2013. The first is growing the Body of Christ in numbers but also in wisdom, love and grace. The second is a daily practice of mindfulness and compassion leading to new visions of mission and ministry in parish and neighborhood.

It's not unusual for programs in Church and world to begin with one charter, and over time, that original mission turns into something else. Providing education for all members of our parish is part of our obligation, and joy, as an Episcopal parish. And if we are to grow our parish with new families, couples and singles, then that growth begins with Sunday morning worship.

After much conversation and prayer, priest and vestry recently voted to return Church School to Sunday morning. In order to carve out a time and space for the education and worship of children, youth and parents, priest and vestry also voted to return to a previous schedule of two Sunday worship times at 8 and 10:30 am. One worship service undoubtedly increased energy and deepened a sense of shared community life. We hope that will continue with two services, especially with the return of Church School families to Sunday morning.

With two services, time is now opened up for Adult Formation. Beginning in a few weeks, we will offer a 9:15 Lectionary Study that will make room for seasonal educational offerings. We invite 8 o'clock worshippers to gather for informal coffee or go out for brunch after worship. Starting time for Church School, whether at 10 or 10:30 am, is still being worked on. We will need your help and ideas as we make this change. And we are open to exploring new configurations of time, worship and education for our parish community.

We give thanks for the wonderful leadership and creativity of Tracy Goodman and many others in their work of learning and hospitality on Wednesday night. I give thanks for their love and devotion as we re-connect the education of children and youth to our Sunday morning worship and fellowship.

On the parallel path of mindfulness and compassion, I invite all of us to think and pray about the mission and ministry of our parish. The Ven. Betsy Bennett and other deacons nationwide are doing wonderful work, not only in the area of environmental stewardship, but also in raising new awareness of poverty in neighborhood, country and world. At every Church meeting we are asked to devote time to discussion and prayer about the values and social structures of our world that produce inequity and widen the gap between haves and have-nots.

For that is what worship and education is all about. We come as individuals to Sunday morning worship, become one community through sacrament, discernment of spiritual gifts, lifelong formation and fellowship, then move out into the world in engaged community service. Awareness and mindfulness of who we are and why we are here moves naturally into compassion—compassion not only for family and friends, but a sense of true identification and belonging to those we might consider "others" in our country and world. In God's new kingdom consciousness, there are no "others," only children of God placed here on earth to alleviate suffering, right injustices and welcome all to the abundant banquet table of God.

in Christ, Fr. Tim+

We give thanks for wonderful Christmas services, and for the hard work of choir and choir master, several organists, many worship participants, teachers, staff and vestry. We had good and joyful gatherings at three Christmas Eve services—2 pm at Riverside, 5 and 10:30 pm at the parish—and 10 am on Christmas Day. And thanks especially to our altar guild directress, altar guild and many volunteers for their love and devotion. May God bless one and all with a peaceful and joyful New Year.

in Christ, Fr. Tim+

The Guide

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"The Guide" 410 W. 2nd St, #10

Grand Island, NE 68801



How can *you* connect with St. Stephen's?



Phone: 308.382.4961 Fax: 308.384.6688

Website: www.ststephengi.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Worship Services: Holy Eucharist on Sundays @ 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist and Healing on Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon

Christian Education: Classes (tentative time) on Sundays @ 10:00 a.m.



Join us for Worship

ECO TIP of the Month

Simple energy-saving habits for the new year: Unplug chargers for phones, cameras, and other hand-held devices when done charging; unplug computers and printers at night.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR:

Monthly GUIDE Editor

Worship Servers

Weekly Office Volunteer

Web Site Updater

Call Elisa at the St. Stephen's office:

308.382.4961