

THE BEACON

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
July/August, 2010



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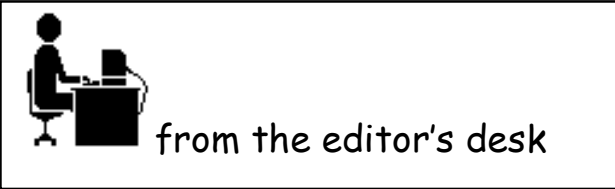
Every Sunday

One service at 9:am
Eucharist with music

Father Bill's Message

Wow! I thought that the last *Beacon* was my final word to all of you, but it seems that I've been given another opportunity. So, never let it be said that I passed up a chance to say a few things! For you and for me, going into the unknown is frightening. The familiar is comforting. After eight years, you know what you get with me. But when Gail and I say farewell for the last time, you'll face a period of uncertainty. Who will do Sunday services? Who will be there to do marriages...or funerals? Will I have as close (or as distant) a relationship with the next rector as I have had with Bill? Obviously, I can't answer those questions for you. I'm also dealing with questions of my own. Now that Gail and I are both retiring (and our combined income will be half what it is now), can we survive financially? Will I ever get a chance to officiate at the Eucharist or to preach again? Will I ever be part of a church community (on a deep level) again?

We both face different questions, but we certainly enter the unknown together. A year from now most of our combined questions will be answered. In the meantime, as difficult as it may be, we have to move forward. Stagnating because of fear is simply unproductive, and it is beneath us as children of God. In the most general sense, God put us on this earth to love and to be loved. We can do neither standing in place, paralyzed. To do what the Lord requires of us means taking a step, and then another, and then still another as we walk into the future with all of its challenges...but also with all of its possibilities. May God bless us in our endeavors!



Over the years that I have edited the *Beacon*, I have collected many e-mails, clippings, etc. that I have filed away in a folder on my computer called “*Beacon Resources*.” You’ve seen some of the things I’ve saved when I used them to fill space that would otherwise remain empty. For this issue of the *Beacon*, I’m going to use my space to share more of these – some light summer-time reading for your pleasure and perhaps edification..

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheeks. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago. Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, “God’s getting better at it, isn’t he?”



After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"



A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen," the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the Bishop said: 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."



These came in an e-mail this week

What Love means to a 4-8 year old . .

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds , 'What does love mean?' The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think: touching words from the mouth of babes

'When my grandmother got arthritis , she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time , even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.'

Rebecca- age 8

'When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.'

Billy - age 4

'Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.'

Karl - age 5

'Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.'

Terri - age 4

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.'

Bobby - age 7 (Wow!)

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate, '

Nikka - age 6 (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet)

'Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday.'

Noelle - age 7

'Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.'

Tommy - age 6

'When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.' (what an image)

Karen - age 7

And the final one:

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said,

'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'



The next Vestry Meeting will be held on Monday, August 4. All vestry meetings are open to the entire parish. Parishioners wishing to include items on the agenda are asked to contact one of the wardens or the rector no later than two (2) weeks before the

meeting. Vestry meeting agendas and minutes will be regularly posted on the bulletin board between Fay Hall and the narthex.

The Rev. Simon Stevenette, his wife *Nicola* and four of their boys will be arriving in Westborough on Thursday, July 29th, at around 1 PM. They'll be living at the rectory for a month, and *Simon* will officiate at Sunday services on August 1st, 8th, and 15th. Please make them feel welcome; this will be the first time that they have visited the United States.

A new parish directory is now available!!! It is on the table in the narthex. The regular print directory has a yellow cover and the large print one has a cream cover. If you find updates that need to be made, please let *Nancy Harris* know.

Congratulations to our latest EFM graduate, *Faith Howarth*. This past Tuesday *Faith* completed the four year course (two years of scripture, one year of church history, and one year of Christian theology) and this morning she receives her certificate of completion from the *University of the South* in Sewanee, Tennessee. *Faith* will also be attending mentoring training in September in order to replace *Fr. Bill* as the group's new leader.

Diane Barrette will be handling all aspects of the altar flowers from now on. Please record your information on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the narthex. Then put the envelope with the date you have chosen, the dedication, and your check for the flowers in *Diane's* in-box which is just outside the church office. If you have questions about the flowers, please call *Diane* at 508-898-2513.

Congratulations to all of our high school graduates: *Nathan Askew, Nick Flahive, Austin Ashton, Kelly Reilly, Noah McMillan, Will Frankian, and Chelsea Urso*. Once again *Eleanor Legg*, on behalf of *St. Stephen's*, has made blankets for each of

them so that they can “remember” us as they go forth to college and work.

Vacation time is here. Please let us know what weeks you will be away and/or unavailable for **Liturgical Ministry duties** and **Vestry Person of the Day duties**. If we know in advance so we don't schedule you when you are away, it makes it easier for both you and us since replacements don't need to be found. Please let *Nancy Harris* know what dates you will not be available via e-mail at ststephch@aol.com or a note in her in-box. Many thanks, in advance. *Bev Boyer* and *Jeff Bartee*

Our meditation room (in place of the old library) is furnished with items brought back from the Lawton Chapel at Bement. Several of those items were either made or donated by parishioners here at *St. Stephen's* in memory of the *Rev. Jack* and *Nancy Lawton*. Please feel free to use the room for prayer, thinking, and rest.

The following parishioners have been selected as the **Search Committee**. They are: *Basil Brigandi, Melanie Daniels, Brian Swartz, Michele Mongeon, Gale McKenzie, Mark Davis, Janette Sabin-Gavini, and Faith Howarth*. They would be glad to talk with you about any questions you may have regarding the process for selecting a priest.) The Committee will meet with parishioners after each Sunday service. Members will be at tables in Fay Hall for one on one conversations. They will be glad to talk with you about any questions you may have regarding the process of selecting a priest. We are looking to hearing your feedback and ideas!!

Let's fix Don Shapleigh's “little red wagon” by donating canned goods and non-perishables for the **Westborough food pantry**. The country is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families who need help putting food on the

table. You can be sure that your donations will be appreciated and put to good use. If you have questions about what is needed, please see *Don Shapleigh*.

Just a reminder that both rentals and church events should be cleared with *Fred Philcox* so that time and space is available to all groups, and that the parish facilities are not overbooked. Please talk with *Fred* BEFORE you put any event on the calendar in the office. Thank you for your understanding.

We will be trying something new starting with the summer (July and August) Beacon. Only people who do not have access to the internet will be receiving hard copies of the Beacon by mail. The Beacon will be available to everyone else at www.ststeph.com/beacon.asp. *Karen Cattalozzi* does an admirable job maintaining the web site and posts the Beacon as soon as it is finished. You should be able to easily find the Beacon as well as other interesting items and schedules. We are trying this to reduce the postage cost associated with mailing the *Beacon*.

A series of fundraiser dinners for St. Stephen's have been set up at local restaurants. Altogether we have 7 fundraisers set up from July to November, one every three weeks: 1 at *The Chateau*, 3 at *Papa Gino's* and 3 at *Uno's*. The paperwork has been handed in and ok'd with the restaurants for all 7 fund raisers. The first three set of coupons will be available on the church web site and in the Sunday bulletins. *Uno's* will give us 15% of the dine-in or take-out order total as long as the coupon is handed in. *Papa Gino's* will give us 20% of the dine-in or take-out order as long as a coupon is handed in, but will not give us anything for delivery orders. All the *Uno's* fundraisers are set on Thursdays because they have a magician on Thursday nights at the restaurant. If you have any

questions about these dinners, please contact me. Thank you for your help. *Helen Panas*

Fr. Bill's last sermon will be on Sunday, July 18th. On July 25th, we will have a service called "*The Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leave-Taking*". This will be conducted by *The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann*, Dean of our South and East Worcester Deanery, who will act as the Bishop's Deputy at this liturgy. *Fr. Bergmann* will also be our preacher that day.

The St. Stephen's youth group will be traveling to Portland Maine this summer for the mission trip. Portland does not only face the challenges that many inner cities face but they also have a large population of refugee's from Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia. Many of these families consists of single mothers and their children who have come to America having lost not only husbands and fathers but their means of surviving. With the summer here we all look for activities for our children to be productive and most of all to remain safe. However for these families it is a bit more difficult. Due to culture, language differences, and lack of support it makes it difficult to find available resources. "*The Root Cellar is an interdenominational Christian mission with a goal of uniting churches in the common cause of satisfying the physical and spiritual needs of inner-city youth and their families.*" The youth group will be hosting a summer camp for the children from July 26-July 30. This year the group has decided to collect children clothing only, young adult- children's books, but most of all **school supplies i.e. notebooks, binders, 3 ring binders, paper, pencils, pens, folders.** These items can be left in Fay Hall. There will be bins labeled mission trip. Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Thanks, *Melanie*

If you find updates or errors in the new Parish Directories, please let *Nancy Harris*

know. If you have an old directory, please return it to the office.

*Altar flowers on June 27 were
offered
In Thanksgiving for the
Baptisms of Miles Linus Heintz
and
Felix Josef Heintz
by
Anne and Bob Deysher*

Prayerful Notes

In a recent class led by Gail Martin, she talked about the disciples' encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It was not until He had broken bread with them, that they actually recognized Him. Gail led us in a guided meditation, as we imagined ourselves walking around Westboro with Jesus. Through His eyes, we saw the beauty of the flowers, the tiny birds and other wonders of nature, that we so often miss in our usual rush about pace.

Reflecting on this the other day, I became aware of how often Jesus appeared to me throughout the course of my busy day.

Running late for a dental appointment in Worcester, I arrived at the entrance to the parking garage, only to find a large sign blocking it, "Garage full, use Boulevard entrance." I am not at all familiar with Worcester. I checked my watch for the umpteenth time, as I felt panic creeping in! "God, what am I going to do now?" Suddenly, there was Jesus! I didn't recognize Him at first, dressed in blue jeans and a baggy sweatshirt, looking younger than I would have expected; however< there was no mistaking the warmth in his eyes and that gentle smile. "Yup, it was Jesus all right!" Pushing the big sign to the side, He said, "I think you'll be able to find a spot." A Bible verse immediately came to mind. *John 14: 2b.* "I go to prepare a place for

you.” Yes, I know in the scriptures, He is referring to heaven, but Jesus lives with me in my world today. I heard those words and my spot was waiting for me.

Arriving just on time for my appointment, I saw Him again. This time He was wearing a hygienist mask, appearing as a young woman I know as Jill. After years of visits with her, we have formed a friendship. As we catch up on each others lives, I explain that I am a bit apprehensive today, as I will soon be buying a new car. Doing this on my own, for the first time, I find it a rather daunting experience. She shares that her Mom has just gone through the same thing. A loving touch on my shoulder, words of encouragement and even pulling up some useful car facts on her office computer, I know it's Jesus again! This time *Psalm. 32: 8* comes to mind. "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. "

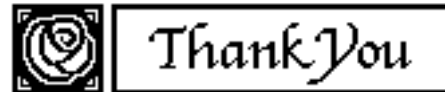
Later in the day, Jesus appeared yet again; this time in the person of 92 year old Emily, a dear friend, who is now a resident at our local nursing home. Jesus shines so brightly through her. Just being in her presence, always lifts you up. Always ready with words of affirmation and encouragement, she has an unwavering faith in her loving God. *Job 12 : 12* "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?"

At the end of the day, as I am alone, doing up my dinner dishes, concerns over this car purchase begin to creep in again. I have heard it said, that when you're traveling in your own head, you're in a bad neighborhood! I have found this to be very true. Suddenly, the phone rings. Yes, it is Jesus again! This time He comes to me in the voice of a dear friend, who listens to me talk out my concerns and make plans to go with me, as I dip my feet in the scary waters of the car dealership. A verse of comfort from the scriptures comes to me again. *Eccl. 4 : 9,10* - Two are better than one. If one falls down, his friend can lift him up.

Yes, He is out there all right. I'm just wondering, "Where did you see Jesus today?"

Blessings Always,

Phyl Endicott



Many thanks to all who participated in this year's Spring Fling. A special thanks goes to *Cam Sowa* as its overall planner, and to *Yvette Kite* as the play director, but a salute of gratitude to all those who brought "goodies", who sang, i.e., *Fred Philcox* with flute accompaniment by *Cam*, and who acted (special kudos to *Jeff Bartee* and *Basil Brigandi*). Everyone present had a great time.

Folk Concert at St. Stephen's, June 7 at 7:00pm: two Massachusetts musicians; *Mark Mandeville* and *Raianne Richards*, embarked on a walk from Becket, MA, to Somerville, MA, to promote their respective solo releases. They stopped and performed each evening. On June 7 they were at *St. Stephen's* in Fay Hall, offering a concert. The group was impressed with the number of people who turned out and said that they would like to come back to do a full concert. **Thanks to those who attended.**

Many thanks to all of the children who attended classes throughout the 2009-2010 year. An incredible amount of appreciation also goes out to our teachers and doorkeepers, but a special shout out must be given to *Kristen Butt* who was here almost weekly as our superintendent/head teacher. Thank you *Kristen!*

