

The Annual Report
of
Ministry & Administration
for
2012
Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

Presented at the
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 27, 2013

1935 The Plaza, Schenectady, New York 12309
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518.346.6241

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church

Parish Staff

The Rev. Dr. James R. McDonald, Rector,
The Rev. Patricia L. Jones, Deacon,
Robert Acosta, Director of Music
Mr. Joe White, Sexton

The Vestry

Sr Warden, Linda Emaelaf, Senior Warden, Class of 20 11
372-8834, linda.emaelaf@ge.com

J r Warden, Scott Kilbourn, Junior Warden, Class of 20 11
393-4701, scott.kilbourn@ge.com

Austin Spang, Class of 2011
393-2859, swoodcoc@nycap.rr.com

Richie Woodzell, Class of 2011
372-9298, envoodzell@verizon.net

Scott Kilbourn, Class of 20 12
393-4701, scott.kilbourn@ge.com

Jim Ormsbee, Class of 2012
346-5367, j orms bee l@nycap.rr.com

Peter Nelson, Class of 2012
377-7015, pnelson245@yahoo.com

Erin Cohen, Class of 20 13
346-9377, Erincoh@yahoo.com

Brian Riordon, Class of 20 13
377-3434, kriordon@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer: Denise Crates, Class of 2013
373-9657, dcrates@nycap.rr.com

Agenda

Call to Order
Opening Prayer
Verification of Quorum
Appointment of Clerk of the Meeting
Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting
Reports Received by Title or Voice
Acknowledgements
Report of the Nominating Committee
Candidates for Vestry & for Delegates to Diocesan Convention
Balloting (if necessary)
Examination of Financial Statements for the year ending 2012
Examination of Budget for 2013
Commissioning of Wardens and Vestry Members
Adjournment

Minutes of 2012 Meeting

January 22, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 AM.

Minutes of 2011 meeting reviewed. Motion made by Peter Nelson, seconded by George Woodzell to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Worship

Lector and Chalice Bearers: Marilyn Causey asked parishioners to contact her if they want to be a lector or contact the clergy if interested in becoming a chalice bearer.

Altar Guild: June Russell invited any interested parishioners to become members of the Altar Guild and thanked all current members for their wonderful work at St. Stephen's.

Christian Formation

Christian Education: Miranda Wade thanked everyone who has worked in the education program this past year.

Youth Group: George Woodzell wants parishioners to realize that the youth group members are the force behind the service projects they are completing.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Pat referred members to her report and assured everyone that although she is cutting back in some areas, she will continue to be as actively involved as she has always been at St. Stephen's. Father James thanked her for her ministry.

Shop: Please see annual report submitted by Marilyn Humphrey.

Pastoral Care: Richie Woodzell referred everyone to her annual report.

Rector's report:

Father James explained that in the 2011 Parish Statistics he has only counted those baptized members who are active members. Therefore, numbers are more realistic, but lower than in the past. Average Sunday attendance is 86. If Christmas had not been on a Sunday in 2011, it would have been lower.

There have been 65 pledges made for 2012. Father James is very thankful for the generosity of our parishioners, which enables St. Stephen's to continue offering the programs that our parish offers.

Bob Voelker commented that the current support is appreciated, but there needs to be an awareness that if some people leave, the parish could be in dire financial straits.

Sid Woodcock asked if Father James has contacted non-active members of St. Stephen's. Father James said that he has done the best he can with contacting those members.

Father James asked all members to invite young families to join us on Sundays, now, and especially after the new Parish Hall is open.

Bruce Tatge asks that parishioners really welcome new people coming into our church and make them feel at home. Also, listen carefully to suggestions they may have. He had several suggestions on how to publicize our parish to obtain new members.

Michael Dixon reminded everyone that we are the salesmen of our parish. We need to speak to all new people walking through our doors. Joe Palko suggested assigning couples to any new members to make them feel welcome.

Finance

New Parish Hall: Austin Spang reported that Allegrone expects the building to be completed by June 1.

Bob Voelker asked where the air conditioning will be located. Austin replied: parish hall, meeting room, nursery and the library.

Jane Tatge asked about the status of the parking lot. Austin Spang replied: it will hold about the same number of cars as before, with 2 handicap spots.

Marilyn Causey is pleased with the new walkway up to the church.

Jack Feyrer suggested a committee to help Austin Spang with the punch list. He volunteered to serve on it.

Capital Fund Drive: Marti Spang thanked everyone who pledged and who has started paying his/her pledge.

Jack Feyrer reminded everyone that additional pledges for the Capital Fund Drive are always welcome and can be earmarked for a specific item a parishioner would like to see in the new building.

Endowment: Jack Feyrer stated that despite the volatile market the Endowment Fund increased by \$11,000 during 2011. It still appears that there will have \$300,000- \$600,000 remaining in the Endowment Fund after the new

building is completed.

Bob Voelker asked why there was a difference between revenue and expenses and assets and liabilities. Austin Spang replied that a \$200,000 payment was made in January but not deducted from assets and liabilities. Bob commented on the importance of having a healthy amount in Endowment after the project.

Financial Report: Denise Crates referred everyone to her annual report.

Finance Committee: Bill Franks thanked Austin and Denise for their work. He asked for additional members on the committee. He referred everyone to next year's budget and fielded questions.

Sid Woodcock asked about our pledge to the Diocese. We will give what we have at the end of the year. He asked about the additional money from Smith Green Fund.

Denise Crates replied: there are no additional funds; all the money St. Stephen's receives from Smith Green is currently being placed in the operating fund.

Acknowledgements:

Jane Tatge voiced her appreciation for the new organist, Bob Acosta, and pleaded for new choir members.

Father James is very pleased with the staff members we have. He thanked Linda Emaelaf for her work as Personnel Committee chairperson during the hiring processes. Bob Acosta, Miranda Wade, and Cathy Knauf are all wonderful additions to our staff.

Nominating Committee:

Scott Kilbourn announced that the committee did not have a full slate to nominate. The following people were nominated:

Allison DeKanel and Peter Nelson as Diocesan Convention delegates.

Junior Warden: Scott Kilbourn

3 year Vestry term: Carole Merrill Mazurek

1 year Vestry term: Michael Dixon

Austin Spang moved by acclamation to accept the slate. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Feyrer

Clerk

Reports

Worship

Lectors and Chalice Bearers' Ministry

Every service has a chalice bearer and two readers from the congregation. If you are interested in becoming a chalice bearer and/or lecture, please contact the clergy.

Marilyn Causey, scheduler

The Altar Guild Annual Report for 2012

The Altar Guild faithfully undertakes the care of the altar of the church. The members prepare for all services including baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other services. This includes preparation for Holy Eucharist. The Guild also takes care of the laundering of the linens, cleaning and polishing of all the silver and brass, and the ordering and arranging of flowers.

The Guild meets four times a year for updates and polishing and decorating the church for Easter and Christmas. All interested people are invited to be a member of the Altar Guild and share in the privilege of serving at God's Altar. Please contact any member or Father James.

Everyone is invited to participate through the use of our special envelopes: Christmas greens, Easter flowers, and All Saints' Day flowers. Parishioners may also choose a particular Sunday to give the flowers, either as a memorial or a thanksgiving. Other memorial gifts could be linen, or vestments.

The Altar Guild wishes to thank all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas. We appreciate all the many contributions and gifts of thanksgiving made to the church.

Members:

Mary Alexander
Charline Hoffmann
Katharine Lowe
Carolyn Morin
Respectfully submitted,
June Russell, Directress
Pauline Northrop
June Russell
Jean Versocki
Gillian Woodcock

Christian Formation

Christian Education Annual Report

Our year started with education occupying cramped and makeshift spaces - the youth in the chapel and the younger ones in the tower, and ended happily established in the new Parish Hall. Hoorah! We are small in number but big in heart and dedication, and while we have grown minimally during the year just past, we are convinced that our new space is so inviting that people just have to come and join us!

We continue as two loosely organized age groups, with George Woodzell and Peter Nelson working with the teenagers (Grades 6-12) and myself (with a rotating schedule of parent helpers), working with the younger children (ages Pre-K through Grade 5).

George and Peter involved their group in a wide-ranging series of discussion topics, studied world religions, wrote their own mission statement, and started their own worship service, designed to run concurrently with the 10:15am service on alternate Sundays. Additionally they spent time helping with recovery efforts in the Schoharie Valley and Rotterdam. rand participated in a Stop Hunger-Noui . food packing party, helping bag 2000+ individual packets of rice, soy, and vitamins to be shipped to schools in those parts of the world where children are the most malnourished.

I initiated the Godly Play curriculum in the fall of 2011 and continue to use it to great effect. A biblical storytelling program based on Montessori teaching methods and written by an Episcopalian priest while he served as chaplain in a children's hospital, the program uses the oral tradition with small wooden manipulable figures. Ann Rigley joined me as co-leader in the spring of 2012. During the Advent season we had a couple of special visitors - Zipporah Harris, a local Judaics instructor bringing an interactive Hanukah program, and Eunice Chouffi as a story teller bringing good news about Mary and Joseph on their trek from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

December saw the revival of a couple of time-honored parish-life events: the Christmas Pageant and pot-luck supper with the younger set, and the Workcamp "thank you" dinner cooked and catered by those students from St. Stephen's Episcopal and Union Presbyterian churches who participated in the Reach Workcamp mission project during the summer of 2012.

I am especially thankful for our fine teachers' engagement with the youth, and for Austin Spang and Father James help and support in setting up the new classrooms. Applause, Applause, to Erin Cohen and the members of the Nursery Committee who decorated the nursery with brightly-colored furniture and clean inviting toys, and to our child-care workers Laura Fronk and Ellen Ormsbee.

Respectfully submitted,
Miranda Rand, Christian Education Director

Youth Group

St. Stephen's youth group enjoyed a busy, productive year. As always, our summer workcamp trip was a primary focus. This past summer we went with our friends from Union Presbyterian Church to a workcamp in Eleanor, West Virginia. He we are:

Despite countless problems due to a (literally) last minute change in location, the Reach organization overcame

all obstacles and conducted another excellent workcamp, with the usual life-changing experiences, moments of inspiration, and broadening of lives.

In the fall we engaged in another traditional project: providing child care at Congregation Gates of Heaven, so that parents of young children could celebrate the Jewish High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Imagine: we've done this long enough now that some of the kids we cared for years ago now come back to say hello!

Later in the fall we helped launch the church's brand-new kitchen by cooking a pancake breakfast after a lock-in. After Thanksgiving, we did our part for higher education: we baked mounds of cookies which we sent to former youth group members, now in college, to sustain them during their final exams. Part of that mound of cookies went into two large boxes which we shipped off to people in the military who are serving overseas. Each Sunday morning we meet in our luxurious lounge for our own service. (To keep everyone on their toes, we alternate meeting times, beginning at nine one week, and at ten-fifteen the next. Remarkably, everyone seems to remember!) We begin with a reading of the guiding principles which we developed, and then have discussions of topics of interest to folks in high school; these topics cover everything from faith to lack of faith, from right to wrong, and from tolerance to intolerance. No matter what the topic, the discussions are honest, often deep, and always moving - we have a remarkable group of people.

Thanks to everyone at St. Stephen's for their constant, generous support of our activities.

Adult Education

Sunday Morning Adult Education last winter and spring was "Living the Questions" a conversation about how we live out our faith in the world. We explored such questions as "What does it mean to be in relationship with God and our neighbors?" We had a conversation about these questions and more, supplemented by video clips of leading theologians and spiritual thinkers discussing their thoughts on being faithful Christians in a 21st century society.

"Public Policy And Our Christian Faith" was the course for the fall. This series of forums will present valuable information on today's national issues. The discussions attempted to allow participants to form their own conclusions (very Anglican!)

Disciple Bible Study was offered from January to May on Thursday mornings. It offered a complete and structured approach to Bible study that used video presentations, discussion, individual study, group fellowship and prayer to develop deeper spirituality in participants. The Disciple Bible Study series focused on the entire Bible and how God is in relationship with God's people. In the fall our Thursday morning course was "Great Figures of the Bible: Legends and Legacies of our Biblical Heroes" with human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel DVD series. Throughout the series, Elie Wiesel was our guide as we examined the complex and challenging characters from the Hebrew Bible.

"The Mormons" was our Lenten Study beginning in February. We viewed an in-depth documentary about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, produced by PBS Frontline & American Experience. The presentation does not try to promote the faith, but it takes an unbiased path to explain the Mormon religion from a historical perspective. The aim will be to compare beliefs and practices of Mormonism with those of the Episcopal Church in an attempt to better understand our own beliefs. The presidential candidacy of Mitt Romney offers particular timeliness to an exploration and discussion of the Mormon faith.

"Between Athens and Jerusalem" is a seminar of theological reflection on the great ideas of the western

world. This new course began in the fall and will continue until May of 2014, beginning with Greek and Roman philosophy. It met on Tuesday Mornings.

Mission & Ministry

Deacon's Report

Saint Stephen's ministry in the Schenectady County Jail continues to be an important part of my life. As your representative presence there, I am privileged to meet the women inmates, pray and talk, laugh and cry with them. I now have two women accompanying me on my Sunday visits: Mary Frances Hatfield of St. Stephen's, and Mariellen Boomhower of Trinity Presbyterian Church. Their companionship is a blessing for me as well as for the inmates; both joys and sorrows are enriched when they are shared. The inmates really appreciate your gifts of underwear, cards and books (Forward Day by Day), as well as Bibles and paperback books donated by the public library.

As a result of my concern for the women in the jail, I am also an active member of the Jail Oversight Committee of the Human Rights Commission, a group of ordinary citizens who address issues involving inmates' complaints of perceived human rights violations. We are unique in New York state, possibly even in the U.S., and we are granted unlimited access to the whole jail. Please speak to me if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Another related activity in which I am very interested is "Patty's Place," a program sponsored by several churches and agencies in Schenectady concerned for the safety and welfare of women and men in the sex trade. "Patty's Place" is named for one of "my girls," a prostitute who died in the streets several years ago. It is just starting up, and will need both furnishings and volunteer staff. See me for more information.

I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as a deacon at Saint Stephen's, for your love and prayers and your participation in the life and work to which we all are called as followers of Jesus Christ.

Deacon Pat

Shop Annual Report:

Beginning balance Jan. 1st 2012 is \$725.35. The ending balance for Dec. 31st 2012 was \$911.57. We had a very good year, our new location is wonderful, bright, sunny and very spacious and we have enjoyed working at the Shop. We were able to give \$500.00 to the church to be used for scholarships for our youth group for Work camp and we expect to do the same for 2013. Thanks for your support, you made this donation possible with your purchases, a pat on the back to all of you. Stop at the Shop, we are always happy to visit for a while. Lily, Louise, Claudia and Marilyn

Rector's Report

This is now the twenty-third occasion on which it is my responsibility as your Rector to reflect on the State of this parish. As I reflect upon last year it was really divided into two parts: pre-building and post-building. From January to July we waited for our new building to be finished. During that time we continued with the minimum of programs, with church school in the tower, youth group in the chapel, adult education in my office and the Lenten study in the church. We also tried to have coffee hours from time to time. Though all of these activities 'worked', we were reminded of how much we needed new space.

Then in July we moved into our new building. What an activity that was! Members, from the oldest to the newest, helped to make it our parish 'home'. The name board and name tag rack were updated. The church shop was expanded. The nursery room was completely rebuilt into a very inviting space. We now have three very functional classrooms: Godly Play in the primary room, teenage decor for the high school room and an unused, Middle School room. The Vestry room was greatly enhanced with the installation of four stained glass windows from the old building and pictures of past parish leaders, both lay and clergy, adorn the walls. We didn't know how much we needed a music room until we made one! The library has wonderful potential. And the parish hall and kitchen continue to see new activities, some of which have already fed hundreds of people. Finally, the parish courtyard with its labyrinth was completed just as winter was upon us, however beginning this spring it will be well used from activities for spiritual formation-to parish picnics.

All of the above could not be enjoyed if it wasn't for our members' contribution of time, talent and especially financial support. Most know that the majority of the latter was given as a bequest by Mrs. Helen Begley and therefore I suggest that we name the parish hall after her: Begley Hall. At the risk of omitting so many names of people who have helped us open the building, I must single-out Austin and Marti Spang. Especially during this past year they have put their lives 'on hold' overseeing operations and supporting one another as the building was being built. On behalf of the congregation, I sincerely thank them for their ministry.

Consequently, I have initiated the "H. Austin Spang TEKTON Award" given from now on to those who have contributed in an extraordinary way to the fabrication and maintenance of our church buildings.

From the very beginning of talks about our new building to the present, the congregation's aim was to use it, not only for our own programs, but for community outreach. We have already had several ecumenical groups use the Vestry and Begley Hall, including the Christmas assembly for the Schenectady Inner City Ministry and beginning this year we will have a Girl Scout troop meeting monthly. We have even rented the vestry room for a wedding shower! We will increase this activity in 2014.

In the coming year we will continue to grow into our new building. However, even more important in 2013 we need to share God's Word with others - from our hearts, by telling them how we came to know Christ, and by describing the difference it has made in our life and the place Saint Stephen's has had in our life. Then, we simply need to invite people to come to church. We can invite people to join a study group, or the choir, or give them a Forward Day by Day booklet and invite them to read it each morning when they start the day. Invite them to your foyer group. Most important, invite them to come to church with you on Sunday morning. Remember, the most recent reports say that when those who do not belong to a Christian community are asked why they don't, 20% say, "Because no one's ever invited me."

I don't believe the adage, "Build, and they will come." However, I do believe that God is doing a marvelous thing here in our congregation and that we can continue to 'build on God's blessings' in 2013.

James+

Parish Statistics

Baptism

Stella Josephine Martin
Chloe Margaret Martin
Evan David Fronk
Blake Armitage Estilow
Emily Anne Fronk
Laura Amy Fronk
Suri Alexis Prasad

Confirmations

Laura Fronk
Ayodel Felicia Jones

Receptions

Wedding

Jonathan & Haley Rizzo

Death

Donald Molino
Carl E. Hatlee Jr.
Hoagy Walker
Hugh Campbell Jr.
Peter Ten Eyck Nevius
Jim Borrowman
Robert Bruce McCalley
Alfred H. Lowe Jr.
Judith Ann St. Gelais
Transfers In
Transfers Out
Dawn Tonneau

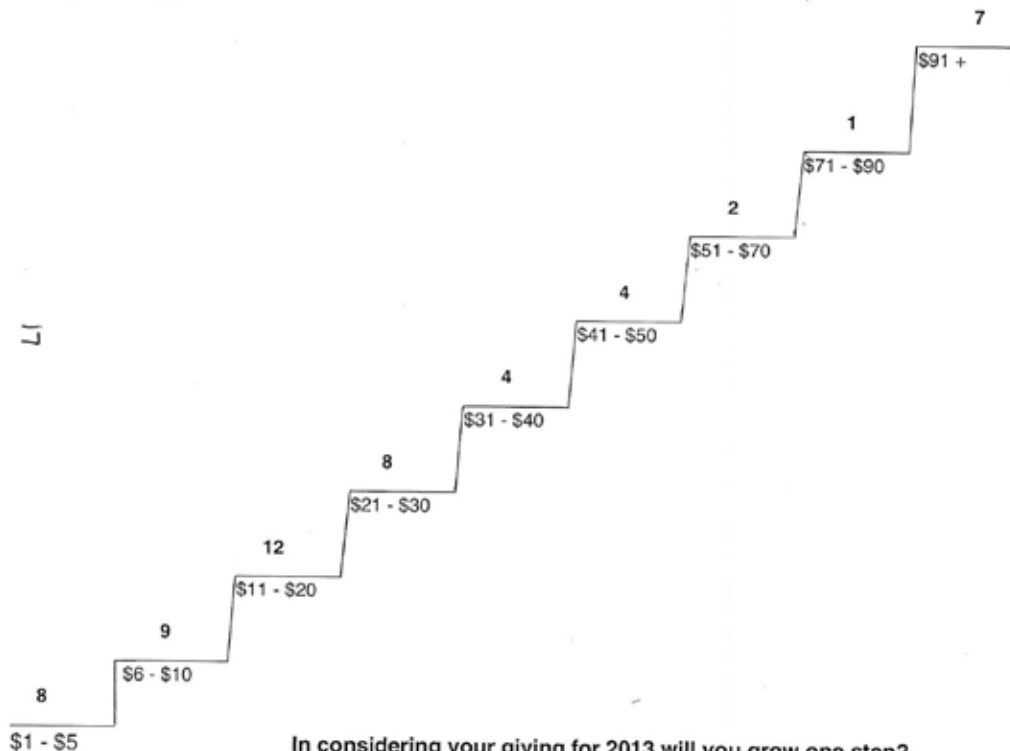
Parish Statistics

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Active Baptized Memb	251	249	258	243	250		345	345	352	121*	128
Active Supporters	22									22	21
Church School	70	46	61	48	46	59	58	42	29	10	10
Population											
Baptisms	5	4	4	9	9	8	10	4	1	2	7
Confirmations/Recepti	12	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	7	4	2
Transfers In	6	6	12	6	10	0	1	6		1	0
Transfers Out	8	10	3	3	6	1	0	3		16	1
Deactivations										191	0
Reactivations	0	0	0	3	5	1	0	0		0	0
Deaths	6	2	5	7	3	5	5	4		2	9
Worship Attendance											
Average Sunday	164	157	144	148	142	132	131	118	103	86	80
Worship Services											
Holy Communion	213	186	146	169	187	163	159	165	162	162	159
Homebound	56	35	35	5	23	21	11	44	49	62	56
Marriages	3	5	2	7	2	1	3	1	1	2	1
Burials	6	2	6	6	4	6	3	4	2	2	10
Daily Offices	55	104	237	227	225	187	206	303	331	334	335
Stewardship											
Number of Pledges	142	130	126	113	112	100	105	102	83	66	52
Amount Pledged	\$168,101	\$178,436	\$185,550	\$179,454	\$185,149	\$177,032	\$181,851	\$166,000	\$152,920	\$128,179	\$121,015
Budget Income											
	\$242,783	\$245,046	\$213,512	\$213,512	\$210,471	\$221,114	\$217,144	\$208,131	\$196,679	\$178,297	\$207,162
Actual Income											
	\$226,004	\$223,040	\$198,304	\$222,333	\$213,717	\$206,645	\$242,967	\$220,638	\$182,248	\$182,932	\$222,287

* active

Saint Stephen's Giving Patterns

The numbers shown below on the stairstep are the number of 2013 pledges made at each level. Please find where you are on this chart (your weekly giving).



Nominating Committee

Wardens
Jr. Warden -

Vestry Positions: Class of 2015 (3 year term)
Jack Feyrer
Bill Frank
Jim Syta

Vestry Position: Class of 2014 (2 year term)
Carole Merrill-Mazurek

Vestry Position: Class of 2013 (3 year term)
Denise Crates

Would anyone like to be a representative to the Diocesan Convention, June 7th through 9th at Camp of the Woods in Lake Speculator?

Faithfully submitted : Scott Kilbourn - Chair , Denise Crates , Erin Cohen , Brian Riordan

Commissioning of Wardens and Vestry Members

Deacon: I present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of warden and member of the vestry in this congregation.

People: **The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.**

Priest: I am your servant; grant me understanding;

People: **That I may know your decrees.**

Priest: Let us pray. O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the wardens and vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you [N] as warden/vestry member in this parish and I give you this pin as a token of your ministry.