

January 2010
Vol 2, Number 9

Grace Notes

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*"Walk softly, as you go through Christmas,
that each step may bring you down the starlit path, to
the manger bed.*

*Talk quietly, as you Speak of Christmas that you shall
not drown out the glorious song of angels.*

*Kneel reverently as you pause for Christmas, that you
may feel again the Spirit of the Nativity, rekindled in
your soul.*

*Rise eagerly, after you have trod the Christmas Path,
that you may serve more fully, the one whose birth we
hail."*

(Source unknown—submitted to Grace Notes by Fr. Dick)

SPECIAL THANKS TO LYN

As most of you know, we have a resident artist named Lyn deShong. On Christmas Eve afternoon, just before the first service started, Lyn once again amazed all of us with her talent by gifting our community with a Christmas banner. Some of us knew that there was a banner in the works but we had no idea how beautiful it would be. The banner was blessed by Father Dick on the First Sunday after Christmas. Lyn also made and gifted the community, in years past; with the chasuble and stole that Father Dick has been wearing for the Christmas season. She also made the matching altar frontal, hangings and the coverings for the chalice (veil and burse). The two banners in the front of the chapel are also Lyn's handiwork. In addition, in case you didn't know, Lyn was one of the three or four women who executed all of the stained glass windows in the church building—across the lot.

Lyn's birthday is this Wednesday, January 6th. It seems fitting that Epiphany, the day that the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, is Lyn's birthday. Lyn is always freely sharing her God given talent with all of us in the form of gifts for use by our community. Thank you, Lyn, for being such a blessing to our community.

The Christmas Banner



January Calendar

Jan 1: Happy New Year

Jan 3: Two Services

9:00 & 11:00 am

Jan 6: The Epiphany Service

With Soup Supper

And Epiphany Cake

Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Jan 10: Two Services

9:00 & 11:00 am

Jan 13: Vestry, 11:00 am

@ Chapmans

Jan 17: Two Services

9:00 & 11:00 am

Jan 18: Martin Luther King

Holiday

Jan 24: Two Services

9:00 & 11:00 am

Special Music by

“Grace Notes”

Jan 31: Two Services

9:00 & 11:00 am

*** Help House Ingathering***

Deacon Dennis Taylor Visit



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Jan 6: Lyn deS

Jan 11: Liz W



+++++

Wedding Anniversary

January 19:

Peggy & Patrick



Congratulations!

And

Ordination Anniversary

Father Dick Scott

January 4th 1994

16 Years!

Apostles Build

Habitat for Humanity

As you all know St. Stephen Episcopal Church has been invited to participate in the Habitat for Humanity's Apostles Build program.

The Apostles Build program is a partnership that allows up to twelve churches to join together to financially sponsor and build a house with a local family. As Jesus' original twelve apostles were charged with spreading the word about Jesus, our twelve apostles' churches are charged with assisting in Habitat's mission to provide decent shelter for God's children.

Each apostle church will be responsible for fundraising and supplying volunteers to build the home. This means that we need to raise money, recruit volunteers and provide liaison to the Island County Habitat Project manager.

Here is a brief list of what each "apostle" church will be responsible for:

- Supplying a work crew three times during the building of the house.
- Providing liaison between church and Island County Habitat for Humanity
- Select three coordinators for volunteers, lunch and fundraising.
- Raise between \$1500 and \$4000 for the project (we have pledged \$4,000)
- Bring lunches for volunteers, partner family and extra crew leaders.
- Encourage our members to attend ceremonies held at worksite, i.e., Groundbreaking and dedication of home.

As we move into the timeline there will be news each month on our needs and progress. There will be opportunities for participation for the whole congregation. As we did with the well project, let's make this a St. Stephen Episcopal success story!



Friendships

The Christmas our daughter Karen got breast cancer, my mother sent her a large, fiber-optic poinsettia tree. It was the most awful, gaudy thing you have ever seen. Karen got a big laugh out of it and took it to school where she put it in the hall for a Christmas decoration. Various faculty members came by and either loved it, adding more decorations as the holidays went along, or hated it with great gusto. She called to tell us what a hit that tree was outside her office door at the college. Last year I bought a tree similar to that one. It isn't nearly as bright or obnoxious, but *it is* a fiber-optic poinsettia tree. My friend, Janet, told me at Christmas time I was her standard for great decorating, but that fiber-optic poinsettia tree in the family room was really ugly and tacky and not what she expected from me. Even when I told her it was in memory of Karen, she said it was still ugly! I just laughed. She is my friend, and friends put up with that sort of stuff: fiber-optic poinsettias, depression, and even forgetting birthdays.

On Sunday mornings I often run out of church to get to my support group, the WOW ladies. We have been labeled the *Women Who Whine, Women Who Wine or Women with Wisdom*. Sometimes we are *Women on Whidbey*. We get together to talk about and support each other in healthy weight loss, exercise and defeating the winter blues. Most of them go for a walk together after our meetings. We put \$5 in the kitty each month, and we are planning a trip to a spa pretty soon. The winter is hard on everybody in the Northwest when we go so long without sunshine, and we can get blue about everything, but last year I was blue for months. I don't know what it was; I didn't want to go anywhere or do anything and most days I sat at home knitting and watching stupid stuff on TV. Those WOW women never let me go; they called, gave me Vitamin D, encouraged me, even though I gained weight, and they prayed for me. Three of them go to the Methodist church, and they did pray for me, I know it. They never criticized me-never. They loved me back to a better place.

Janet is also the friend who most challenges me to stay healthy and exercise. Another friend scolded me, hurting my feelings and making me angry, but Janet is patient, and repeatedly asks me to go to things where I'll have to move my body and make it healthier. So I finally gave in and went to Salsa Aerobics at the Senior Center where I thought I would get to dance all over, being cute. The Salsa wasn't going on that day, but guess who popped up next to me? Anna Mae Chapman! There was another friend, dancing and moving right alongside me, making me feel welcome.

When we first moved here something clicked with Sandy Taylor and we became friends. She is much better at remembering dates, birthdays, anniversaries and all those things that let you know your friend is thinking about you, but the most important thing is she is a great listener. In case you haven't noticed I need a

sounding board for everything, and my friends have to have good ears to stick with me. (It's a good thing I married Jim, who is more silent!) Sandy has listened to me go on about the local church and the national church, as well as any other peeve that hits my mind at any time. She also keeps me informed about all the best places to buy good food and good flowers and other bargains or things of interest. She remembers things to share with me, and that's the mark of the best kind of friend to have. That means she is thinking about me! And, I know she prays for me, too!

When I attended my Cursillo weekend, I learned a motto that I have often remembered: *Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ*. Making friends is easy; being a friend takes a little more energy, and bringing a friend to Christ is hard. But bringing Christ to someone is different. That's what my friends do for me so often, and I am so grateful. That's my goal this new year. I want to reach out more, to bring Christ to someone in even a small way, letting them know how important they are in my life and how much I value them. Friends are important to me, and I plan to keep mine a long, long time. I hope I can do for them the great things they have done for me. Virginia



Friends!



“Grace Notes—The Musicians”

As you all know our monthly newsletter, the one you are now reading, is called Grace Notes. Imagine my confusion when Father Dick sent me an email telling me that “Grace Notes” would be singing for us on January 24th because Dallas Viall, our faithful organist, would be absent that day.

Well, come to find out, as I continued reading the email, there is a musical group comprised of three women whose ministry is to play for services around the Diocese. They call themselves “Grace Notes”. We will enjoy their talent on Sunday, January 24th.

Please mark your calendar and join us on that special day to welcome—
“Grace Notes—The Musicians”.





Pray for your Call Committee as they choose Rector Candidates.

The Call Committee will have two interviews the first week of January. Please keep them and the candidates in prayer at 3:00 pm on Monday, January 4th, and at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, January 5th.

Collect for the Calling of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; Look graciously on St. Stephen Episcopal Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TIDBITS :

(A tidbit is a choice or pleasing bit of news or information.)

You donated 83 items to Help House in December 2009!

An Outreach Note from Wilma:

All Outreach funds for 2009 have been distributed. Money left over from “The Well Fund” have been rolled over as seed money in “The Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build” which will take place this summer. We will participate in the Apostles build through our funds and our labor. (See Shirley Viall’s article on page 4.)

Thanks

December is always one of the busiest months in our community and it’s easy to forget to say thanks to those who made our times together so special. So here is my attempt to acknowledge all who help make our Advent and Christmas events so special. To Lyn for the new banner—Thanks. To Jean F. for arranging the dine-out—Thanks. To Barry D. who made the beautiful Christmas arrangement—Thanks. To Shirley V. who organized the Advent plays for the 11:00 service and to all those who participated in the plays—Thanks. To all of those folks who shopped and/or wrapped gifts or gave food gift certificates for The Rev Jo’s Kids—Thanks. To all who helped green the church and to those who donated greens—Thanks. To all those folks that provided refreshments for all our activities—Thanks. To Jared and Hailey (aka Mary and Joseph)—Thanks. To those who serve each week setting up and cleaning up—both in the Chapel and in the coffee hour room—Thanks. For our Sunday school students and teachers and for those who took time to attend the Kid’s luncheon—Thanks. To Dallas Viall for his wonderful music leadership and to Anne Katherine for playing guitar for the early service on Christmas Eve—Thanks. To Father Dick for teaching and those who attended the Advent teaching series—Thanks. And finally to Father Dick for his loving leadership through all these activities, we all give thanks for having you in our lives the last eleven months.

And to Maggie—Thanks for your friendship and for sharing Dick with us!

*You are invited to
The Epiphany Service
and Soup Supper
Wednesday, January 6th, 2010
in the Chapel
at 5:00 pm.*

The festivities will end with the cutting of the Epiphany Cake.



Contact Info:

**St. Stephen Episcopal Church
Meeting in the All Saints Chapel at
555 SE Regatta Drive**

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 2754

Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Phone: 360-279-0715

Priest in Charge: The Rev Dick Scott

Father Scott's Email:

tlbwy@telebyte.com

Church Website:

www.ststephenepiscopal.com

Church Email:

rector@ststephenepiscopal.com

**ST STEPHEN
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
P.O. Box 2754
Oak Harbor, WA 98277