

May God bless St. Stephen's
Parish, and use her to His glory.

INSIGHT

Advent 2008

Also In This Issue:

Letter from the Rector
.....Page 2

Notes from the Vestry
.....Page 2

Church Calendar
.....Page 3

Expectations
.....Page 3

Fun & Games
.....Page 4

**Stained Glass Window
Renovation Campaign**
.....Page 5

Keep the Spirit Alive
.....Page 5



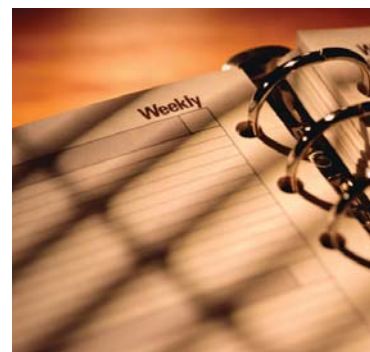
Changes to the Newsletter

Insight will be issued only three times starting in 2009. This measure is being taken in order to cut costs and is not expected to have a significant impact on the liturgical coverage provided by our newsletter.

In producing your newsletter we depend upon your donations to help offset the cost of paper, ink, and postage. When donations are not sufficient to cover the costs, the balance comes out of the church budget. A number of parishioners have elected to receive their copy of the newsletter via email, which saves a lot of time and money and we thank you for that. One of the benefits you reap in doing so is that you get your newsletter in living color.

For those of you who continue to receive your copy of the newsletter via the post, we encourage those you who are able and willing to switch to email to send us your email address so that we can switch you over. Remember that each email recipient helps reduce the cost of producing the newsletter and eases the burden on the church finances.

Send your request to jamesc@episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help ease our financial burdens.



*O Come let us
adore Him...*

ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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518.695.3918 www.episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org

INSIGHT

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Schedule of Publication:

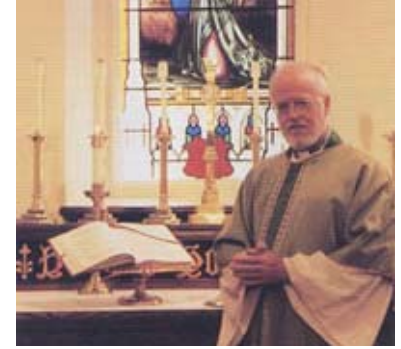
Insight is printed three times per year. Publication is tentatively scheduled for the 3rd full week of the month prior to the upcoming issue. Submissions for consideration must be received by the 10th of February (Lent/Holy Week/Easter), May (Pentecost), and November (Advent). Upcoming parish events and other news items of interest are welcome and should be sent to Web Sights & More, 47 Burgoyne Street, Schuylerville, NY 12871 or transmitted via email to jamesc@episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org.

Newsletter deadlines:

Lent/HW/Easter Feb. 10, 2009
Pentecost May 10, 2009

Letter from the Rector

At this time of the year most Episcopal Church parishes have what is called an "every member canvass," a time when vestry members visit the homes of church members to discuss their pledges for the support of the parish and the national Church. St. Stephen's had such canvasses before my time with the parish. Some of you may recall my telling you about a copy of the parish budget that was distributed to members at one time which at the top of the page said, "READ IT AND WEEP!" We have never had that kind of situation in the past eighteen years. In fact, our members have always been so responsible that we have never felt the need of a canvass during those years; and, although we may end this year with a slight deficit, there are no plans for such a canvass.



But the question is sometimes raised about what kind of yardstick or standard members should hold to in relation to their support of the parish. Some clergy and parishes encourage tithing as the "gold standard" of giving. As most of you know, I am not enthusiastic about such a standard. Certainly it's in the Bible, but tithing for ancient Hebrews was not a standard of voluntary giving, it was a straight income tax everyone had to pay for the support of the temple. A better standard is "sacrificial giving," relating to the Latin roots of the word "sacrifice," to do something holy. Each church member knows what "doing something holy" would be for them in relation to their means. I think of it as offering to the glory of God of "ourselves and our treasure" (although I don't think most of us at St. Stephen's would use the term "treasure" for what we have), so that we are conscious of it as a significant fulfilment of what we understand as our responsibility to our loving Lord—and the continuation of our parish ministry and the maintenance of our superbly beautiful house of worship. Of course, too, week after week we have the opportunity to offer our enthusiastic devotion to the Lord in our services of worship—the most significant doing of something holy for your lives and mine.

The grace and love of our blessed Lord be with you all.

Notes from the Vestry

At the November vestry meeting the Treasurer's report projected that we will end this fiscal year with a deficit. This is the first time in a couple of decades that our budget has ended up in the red. It is a reflection of the downward spiral that this country's economy has been caught up in.

Father John seldom talks about finances other than to remind people when the weekly collection envelopes for the coming year are at the back of the church, which they are by the way; and, if you haven't picked yours up yet, please do so.

In his letter elsewhere in this issue, Father John notes that there has not been an "every member canvass" since he has been our Rector. The vestry refrains from conducting such a canvas for funds because we rely upon the inherent sense of responsibility of each and every parishioner. With the cost of living increasing and the fluctuations in membership that we are seeing this year, we hope that you our membership will seriously examine your current financial commitment and consider raising your contribution slightly to help keep pace with the increasing costs associated with the operation of our parish.

continued on page 4

Schedule of Events

Holy Eucharist – Traditional language service, 8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist & Sunday School – 9:00 AM

Both services are followed by Coffee Hour.

Ecumenical services will be announced at regular services.



December 2008

- 12/1 Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle (transf.)
- 12/22 Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle (transf.)
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
7:00 pm service
- 12/25 Christmas Day
10:00 am service
- 12/26 Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
- 12/27 Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
- 12/29 Feast of the Holy Innocents (transf.)
- 12/31 New Year's Eve

January 2009

- 1/1 New Year's Day
- 1/6 Epiphany
- 1/13 Baptism of the Lord
- 1/19 Confession of St. Peter, Apostle (transf.)
- 1/26 Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle (transf.)

December 2008						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

5:30 PM Lenten Services Wednesdays
followed by a simple meal and discussion at the Parish House.
Except Holy Week

February 2009

- 2/2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple 2/25 Ash Wednesday
FAST
 2/3 The Transfiguration First Day of **Lent**
 2/24 Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle 5:30 PM service

Check out our new website!

www.episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org

Expectations

What requirements does the Episcopal Church place on its membership? How might we make the Lordship of Jesus Christ known in our community and culture and how can we do a better job of working, praying, and giving to the spread of God's Kingdom?

continued on page 4

Fun and Games

Because Kids Corner wasn't just for kids, we decided that we'd rename this section "Fun and Games". We will be offering different types of games in addition to crossword puzzles.

If YOU have made a game or puzzle you'd like to see here, please send it to our editor, Jim Carbino, at jamesc@episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org.

Thanks, and have a great day!

Instructions: Fill in the clues above and transfer the letters to the boxes with the corresponding numbers below to figure out the bible quote.

doublepuzzle 14

sharp part of rose plant
22 17 14 3

waste, trash
10 11 12 27 29 5

O.T. prophet
4 24 23 19

written message
20 15 7 21 28 1

needle and _____
16 8 6 9 18 26

found in King Solomon's mines
13 25 2

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

16 17


18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Notes from the Vestry

continued from page 2

The date for our annual meeting has been set for December 7th following the 9:00 service. As several vestrymen have decided to resign from the vestry at the end of the current term, the vestry will be nominating candidates to fill these positions at the annual meeting. If any of the congregation are interested in serving on the vestry, please feel free to notify any member of the current vestry.



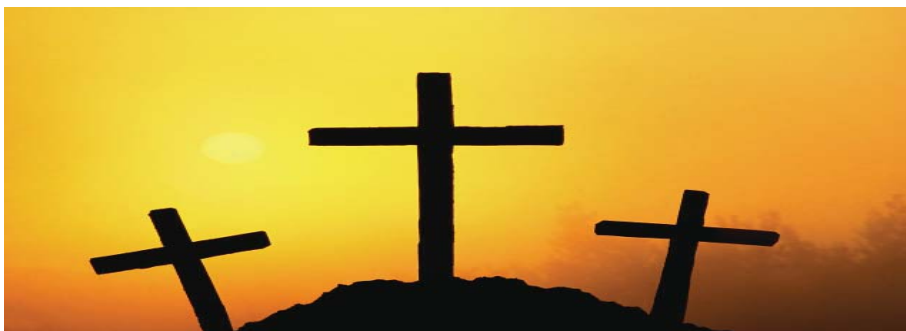
Expectations

continued from page 3

All of these questions should be seen as interrelated because they share the same goal — the implanting and nurture of a transforming faith based on God's will that "we complete His work in the world, and bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all." (Eucharistic Prayer D) These expectations are meant to shape, mold, and challenge us to live a transforming life and to bring that life to bear in the world in which we live — they include:

1. We will worship God every Sunday and major holy day.
2. Observe the feasts and fasts of the Church Calendar and regularly receive Holy Communion.
3. Pray daily in the morning and evening, as well as say grace at meals.
4. Take an active part in the activities and organizations of the parish.

continued on page 6



Mail this Stained Glass Window Renovation Campaign form to:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
1 Grove Street
Schuylerville, NY 12871

Make the check out to:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

and put "Stained Glass Window Fund" on the Memo line.

Your donation is fully tax deductible.

Thank you for your generous support!

Expectations

continued from page 4

5. Give to the support of the parish an amount that is both sacrificial and reflective of the reality that all things in our possession come from God.
6. Ensure that our children are baptized and confirmed.
7. If we are to be joined in the sacrament of holy Matrimony, it will be solemnized in the proper seasons and by a priest of the church.
8. Own and use a copy of the Book of Common Prayer.
9. Obtain a letter of transfer from the parish priest when moving to another parish.
10. Remember the church and its charitable works in our wills.
11. Make arrangements for proper burial from the church, giving the congregation opportunity to be present.
12. Live our lives in conformance with the Summary of the Law and the Beatitudes.

Excerpted from The Anglican Digest

With postage prices constantly on the rise, we urge you to consider receiving **Insight via email.**

Go to:

www.episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org

and click on Directions/
Contact Us for our email
signup

OR

Send an email to:

jamesc@episcopalchurch-schuylerville.org



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