

February 2, 2010

## **PARISH NEWS**

*Evening Prayer* will be said at 7:30 Wednesday followed by “**Ask the Rector.**”

*Morning Prayer* will be read at 10:30 a.m. Friday, followed by the **Ladies’ Prayer Group** meeting.

The 2010 **St. Stephen’s Annual Meeting** will be held a week from this Sunday after the 10:30 service. If you bring a potluck dish to add to the feast, join the luncheon, but you must be pledged to vote at the business meeting that follows. Thanks are due to **the McCoys**, Laura & Bob (“The Real McCoy”: see below) for bringing sandwiches and salad to the 3/14 meeting, our A.C.W. leadership for organizing set up, and **the Suttons**, Bob & Pat, for once again hosting us in their Yountville development’s common room. Gratzi, one & all!

A.C.W. President **Ruby Dillard** has volunteered to be nominated for next year’s Vestry. She has been warned that this Call she has felt may be a sign that St. Stephen’s will soon host another **Diocesan Synod!** Or...it may not. The Archbishop will actually have something profound to say along those lines (the location of synods) at this year’s, **April 29-May 1, in Lafayette.** Please consider attending as a delegate or observer. Info is on the Narthex Bulletin Board.

Bi-County parishioner **Drew Stinnett** has been elected Lay Delegate to synod from St. Mark’s, Larkspur. St. Mark’s is much closer to where Drew lives than is Oakville, so he has been able to train with **Fr. Prudhomme** in the liturgy as acolyte and lector. **Fred Liedtke**, long of our parish, has also begun lectoring for Fr. Prudhomme. This sharing/ cross-pollination is a great blessing for The Church Militant as a whole...but we are still glad to see Drew when he can make Wednesday Evening Prayer at St. Stephen’s, and Fred on the Sundays he joins us. Gratzi to you gentlemen!

Incidentally, Drew’s mom, our “Faithful Courier” **Gretchen Stinnett**, has been picking up and delivering the Sunday bulletins to church for a number of years now. Gratzi, Gretchen! Thanks also to former Vestryman **Dr. Doug Moser**, whose office assistant, **Kris Barker**, has been assembling and printing our bulletins for at least eight years now. This parish is a team effort...and your rector is glad we’re a big team.

[“Gratzi” makes the connection between “thanks” and “grace” really hit’ya, doesn’t it?]

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## **PRAYER (and other) REQUESTS**

Please pray especially this week for those struggling with cancer, especially Rosemary. Also on that subject, consider responding to this message from St. Stephen’s “graduate” (so what else do we call folks who’ve grown up in the parish, gone to school, and moved out of the area?)

Alecia Moser, daughter of Sherry, granddaughter of Janet Jennings, and recent graduate of U.C. Santa Barbara (her grad pic may still be up on the Narthex bulletin board):

I am excited to announce that this June I will participate in the San Diego Rock N' Roll half marathon as a member of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Team In Training (TNT). I am ambitious to run 13.1 miles with TNT because I know that I am actively working towards finding a cure for blood cancers, including leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma. I am training in honor of Sonia Kennedy, my boyfriend's mother, who passed away on January 12th, 2010 after a courageous two year battle with pancreatic cancer. Although she is no longer with us, her kindness and compassion for others has inspired me to help those less fortunate than myself. It was devastating to see the physical and emotional turmoil that Sonia endured and it hurts me to know that so many individuals and families are suffering with cancer. Speaking specifically of blood cancer, an estimated 139,860 people in the United States will be diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma in 2010. Some 53,240 patients will die. TNT is a training program that has raised over \$1 Billion to-date in support of cancer research, patient financial aid, education, and community services. To help me cross the finish line, they provide me with a unique training schedule, training tips, and a great support group to keep me motivated. But, I need your help too! I am committed to raising more than \$1,750 for the cause and I would greatly appreciate a (100% tax deductible) donation to support my efforts. There are two ways to donate:

(1) Go online to my personal webpage at <http://pages.teamintraining.org/sd/rnr10/aleciamoser> to make a quick, easy, and secure donation.

(2) Donate with a check or credit card by mail. Complete the attached form and return to me at the address provided by April 1st, 2010.

I will gladly accept donations after April; however, the sooner I meet my fundraising goal, the more time I will have to focus on training. No matter the amount, every donation will make a big difference! Thank you so much for your support. Together, we can bring hope to individuals and families suffering from these diseases and take a step forward in the search for a cure!

Gratzi, Alecia! Keep of the good works! (And, btw, we have a parish in San Diego that could really use some new, young blood. Think about it and call me – Fr. M+)

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***VIRAL EMAIL OF THE WEEK (A RECURRING, BUT NOT CONSISTENT FEATURE)***

Submitted by ***Joy Spragens:***

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?  
What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several time a day?  
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?  
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?  
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?  
What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?  
What if we used it when we traveled?  
What if we used it in case of emergency?  
This is something to make you go....hmm...where is my Bible?  
Oh, and one more thing.  
Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.  
Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities?  
And no dropped calls!

### **CLERGY ALUMNI**

**Fr. Prudhomme** reflects on this week's Sunday Gospel Proper:

As we continue to meditate on Faith, the faith of the Canaanite woman from Sunday's Gospel, are we to be as bold as she was? According to Thomas Torrance, from *Incarnation, the Person and Life of Christ*, Faith may be defined as what happens to our reason when it encounters the nature and reality of God. We know much about the nature of God from the Early Father of the church and the theologians of the centuries that followed. The specific aspect of God's nature that Christ demonstrates in this passage is that of Mercy. God's mercy extends to those outside the Chosen People because of the faith of these folks, including the woman whose daughter has a spiritual malady. God be merciful unto me! We have cried this in the past and may have need to cry it again! Like the woman, we know that Christ is real. We have evidence of this both in the Gospels, Sacred Writ, and in secular writings of the day. We also know the reality of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, because we have met Him in our dealings, pain, sorrow and the most joy filled days. We are to have a full relationship with Him, and through knowing Him, with His Father, our Father. Our Lord taught us to pray: ...And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil... These words are for us during Lent. Our faith leads us to be able to be bold in our cry unto God because we know the nature of God and because we know the reality of Him in Christ Jesus. The more time we spend in faith, the more we become like Christ. There is purity, a single-mindedness, which becomes part of us. Our fasting and prayer during Lent is to be our meat. When we are pure, we are more open to faith, hope and love. This week, as we continue the fast, let us pray that our efforts toward being open to God will lead us to a richer understanding of His nature, as we read Sacred Scripture. We can then contemplate the Life of Christ, bringing Him to the forefront of our lives. In doing so, our faith will be fed. Then we can be bold, knowing that we are not getting in God's way, but instead participating in his Kingdom. May the lavishness of God fill your Lent with abundant grace.

It was great to see Fr. Jim and Susan in Vallejo last Saturday at the Reception in Celebration of Claire Allgood's life. Your Rector is very grateful to have had Fr. Jim as curate for a year-and-a-half, especially for his ministry to our families in Vallejo, Bob Allgood and Claire among them. Gratzi, Jim!

[I'll stop Gratzi-ing now: I hope I've been spelling it right. As always, correction is more than welcome.]

### ***NEW FEATURE: PARISHIONER/ FRIEND OF PARISH BIOS***

Your Rector recently asked **Laura McCoy** about the origin of Bob's email address, thudman1. Her response was fascinating. Read on:

The airplane that Bob flew in combat (F-105) had the nick name of "the Thud." When it hit the ground, it went THUD! It was a very heavy fighter plane and carried a lot of bombs, 24000 lbs., and had 450 gal of fuel on board.

This correspondence led me to ask Laura for a *brief bio* of her beau, something *I invite all of you with a tale to tell (and that is **all of you** whether you think so or not) to share with readers* of this here little e-letter. You know where to send it! Here's our first:

#### ***Maj. Robert N. McCoy, USAF (Ret.)***

Bob left his farm home in South Dakota at age 15 and entered the U.S. Air Force. His military service took him to Fairbanks, Alaska where he obtained his private pilot's license at age 17 and attained the rank of SSgt at age 18. He was a distinguished graduate from pilot training class at Laredo AFB, and was assigned as a jet instructor pilot at Sheppard AFB, Texas flying the T-33. There he met an Air Force nurse, Laura, who is now his wife of fifty-four years. Bob's military honors include the Commendation medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters and the Silver Star. He served three years in the Philippines flying the F-100 with a nuclear target in China, if the need arose. His next assignment took the family to North Carolina where he was checked out in the F-105, nicknamed "the Thud." He flew in the fly-by for President Kennedy's funeral. The next assignment was a four year tour in Okinawa. The F-105 had the capacity of carrying 24,000 lbs of bombs and also had 450 gallons of fuel on board. From there, his squadron rotated to Thailand and had missions over Viet Nam. The squadron had 28 original pilots and lost 14 of them, either killed or taken POW for seven years. Bob had the only flight that never lost a man. All his flight members keep in very close touch and are grateful for his expert guidance. Bob received the Silver Star for his rescue attempts to save his squadron commander. He retired from the Air Force in 1968 at age 35 after serving 21 years.

His civilian career was with World Airways, flying the 727, 707 and the DC-8. His family returned after living in Japan for three years in 1971 to the Napa Valley where they enjoyed their vineyard, their three children, horses and their hobbies. Bob and his son-in-law built an airplane in their garage during these years and they flew it around the country for ten years before selling it. Bob & Laura have two grand daughters that are eighteen years apart. One is 28 years old and the other one is age 10 and they are expecting their first great grandchildren (twins) in May of this year. Bob is very active in the retirement community where they reside. He volunteers at the wood shop and repairs many broken objects for residents. He also serves on the patriotic committee. He is very grateful for St Stephen's and hopes to attend services there for many more years

Thank you, Laura, for the bio, Bob for your service to our country – and both of you for your years at St. Stephen's.

### ***ADIEU***

Folks, please start writing bios. Next week I've got one of a real martyr of church and country, the anniversary of whose death in combat we will be marking at Evening Prayer on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. If no others arrive in the meantime, you're going to be stuck with one I wrote when one of our Veteran's Home stalwarts went to his reward 3½ years ago...and it's in dialect-verse...or at least tries to be. Spare yourselves! Write! You have been warned.

Meanwhile, don't fast to excess, but don't fail to fast. Abstinence is the key to spiritual discipline and sticking to God's agenda, not ours! Meditate on these matters.

May His Blessings be with you this day...and Always...

MEM+

OOPS...P.S. I almost forgot, or maybe I just like to save the best news for last:

## **FR. CHARLES "RUSTY" DILLON RETURNS TO ST. STEPHEN'S!**

## **Stay Tuned this Space for Dates and Times!**