

ST. CHARLES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.stcharlesepiscopal.org

The Rt. Rev Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop
 The Rev. William R. Nesbit, Jr. Rector
 The Rev. Elizabeth G. Meade, Deacon
 Beth Burnette, Parish Administrator
 Dan Williams, Director of Music
 Liz Ryan, Dir. of Youth & Children's Formation

Phone 630.584.2596 **Fax** 630.584.8633
eMail sceoffice@sbcglobal.net

VESTRY

Colin Campbell, Senior Warden
 Kathy Heikkinen, Junior Warden

2010

Dick Hattan
 Katie Thomson
 Peter VanNortwick

2011

Katie Ditch
 Karen Flood
 Greg Steamer

2012

Mike Custer
 Carol Townsend
 Katherine Williams

JULY CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- 02 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7 p.m.
- 04 Labyrinth Walk, Noon
- 17-18 Hesed House, 11 p.m.- 7 a.m.
- 14 Food. Fellowship. Fun. Fundraiser., 5-8 p.m.
- 21 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10 a.m.
- 22 Soup Kitchen Pre-Cook, 7 p.m.
- 23 Soup Kitchen, 10 a.m.
- 26 Free Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Save These Dates

Please put these dates on your calendars!

- Sept. 13: Pig Roast
- Sept. 26: Stewardship Pot-Luck Supper
- Oct. 24: Craft Fair

If you prefer not to receive this newsletter, please call 630-584-2596 or email sceoffice@sbcglobal.net.

JULY 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			01 11 a.m. Eucharist	02 7 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry	03 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	04 8 a.m. AA / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service / / Noon Labyrinth Walk
05 7:30 a.m. Eucharist / 9:00 a.m. Eucharist / 10:45 a.m. Eucharist	06 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, AA / 7 p.m. Troop 25, EFM	07 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 7 p.m. Bibletimes Staff Meeting	08 11 a.m. Eucharist	09	10 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	11 8 a.m. AA / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service
12 7:30 a.m. Eucharist / 9:00 a.m. Eucharist / 10:45 a.m. Eucharist	13 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, AA / 7 p.m. Troop 25, EFM, Order of St. Luke	14 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA / 5 - 8 p.m. FUNdraiser @ Sweet Tomatoes,	15 11 a.m. Eucharist / 7 p.m. Bibletimes Staff Meeting <i>Email articles to sceneusletter@sbcglobal.net</i>	16 7:30 p.m. Women's Book Club	17 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA / 11 p.m. Hesed House	18 3 a.m. Hesed House / 8 a.m. AA / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service
19 7:30 a.m. Eucharist / 9:00 a.m. Eucharist / 10:45 a.m. Eucharist	20 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, AA / 7 p.m. Troop 25, EFM	21 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry / 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	22 11 a.m. Eucharist / 6:30 p.m. Kane County Cougars Outing / 7 p.m. Soup Kitchen Precook	23 10 a.m. Soup Kitchen	24 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	25 8 a.m. AA / 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cleaning Service
26 7:30 a.m. Eucharist / 9:00 a.m. Eucharist / 10:45 a.m. Eucharist / 5 - 7 p.m. Free Spaghetti Dinner	27 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, AA / 7 p.m. Troop 25, EFM	28 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting / 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cleaning Service / 5 p.m. AA	29 11 a.m. Eucharist	30	31 9 a.m. Morning Prayer / 5:30 p.m. Al-Anon / 8 p.m. AA	

SERVER SCHEDULE

July 05

July 12

July 19

July 26

August 02

Eucharistic Ministers

7:30 a.m.	A. Wolff C. Paschal	M. Moore G. Moore	Di. Brown Do. Brown	B. Johnson J. Mertes	A. Wolff C. Paschal
10:45 a.m.	D. Hattan B. Nesbit	K. Thomson G. Meade	H. Parks J. Bachman	B. Kruse J. Ryan	D. Hattan B. Nesbit

Lector

7:30 a.m.	J. Kerr	A. Wolff	M. Kerr	H. Mora	B. Johnson
10:45 a.m. OT	M. Senn	D. Bach	J. Bachman	J. Ryan	S. Miller
10:45 a.m. NT	D. Finatri	J. Bach	B. Smith	A. Hollis	T. Miller

Ushers

7:30 a.m.	J. Benning F. Viverito	G. Miles J. Kerr	L. Engel M. Morrow	G. Miles B. Johnson	J. Benning F. Viverito
10:45 a.m.	J. Bach B. Thomson	J. Bachman J. Burnett	K. Thomson T. Flood	W. Bangs J. Hollis	J. Bach B. Thomson

Acolyte

C. Campbell	G. Ditch	S. Nesbit	P. VanNortwick	D. Mugge
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Intercessor

B. Smith	W.S. Bangs	D. Bach	K. Heikkinen	B. Smith
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Altar Bread

B. Nesbit	K Hildebrand	D. Bach	K. Hari	K. Heikkinen
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Greeter

7:30 a.m.	Di. Brown	J. Rullman	D. Payleitner	Di. Brown	J. Rullman
9 a.m.	K Hildebrand	J. Craft	K. Hari	K Hildebrand	J. Craft
10:45 a.m.	WS. Bangs	. Nesbit	J. Phipps	WS. Bangs	B. Nesbit

Coffee Hosts

7:30 a.m.	Men's Cursillo
9 a.m.	Men's Cursillo
10:45 a.m.	Men's Cursillo

Home Eucharist

L. Graf	J. Craft K. Thomson	C. Koch	K. Thomson	A. Wolff
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Closing

K. Flood	K. Ditch	M. Custer	C. Townsend	C. Campbell
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Altar Guild

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 1
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Flower Guild

Team 1	Team 2	Team 2	Team 3	Team 1
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Flower Dedication

L&B Johnson	Ryan
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9 a.m. Host Family

Ryan Family	Campbell Family	Larson Family	Manning Family	Family Needed
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From The Rector

continued from page 1

to meet the needs of others. Finally, we listen in faith for the gentle urgings of the Holy Spirit, giving us dreams and the courage to make them a reality as we dare to become the body of Christ in the world.

Second, we give.

As Christians, we are called to give, not because we have a little extra, but because somebody else doesn't have enough. We give because there is a need, yes, but even more we give out of faith and thanksgiving. We give out of faith because our faith tells us that with God there is always enough and we need have no fear that there won't be enough to go around. We give out of thanksgiving in recognition that all we have comes from God and in an act of emulation as we strive to be God's incarnate abundance in the world.

Finally, we work.

There is no way the we here in St. Charles Episcopal Church can solve the problems of the world, but that doesn't mean we are powerless to effect change. Thanks to the money and time given by the people of this parish, people are being fed and clothed that otherwise would not; people are receiving healthcare that otherwise would not. Do not forget that work can be accomplished with a pen as well. Write your senators and congressional representative, both state and national. Remind them of the duty we all have to those less fortunate than ourselves. We must not get discouraged. We must not forget that the mission is God's and God will provide if we remain true. It may feel like we are just one voice crying in the wilderness, but we know what even one voice can do. We must BE that voice. We must keep the faith.

Our Lord is alive and at work in the world through us, and many like us. Look for the good news, it is out there. Share the good news you have found with everyone you meet. Do not be afraid, but believe.

See you in Church,



Contact the church office @ scecoffice@sbcglobal.net or 630-584-2596 if any of your Directory information has changed.

Please add the following to your Directory:

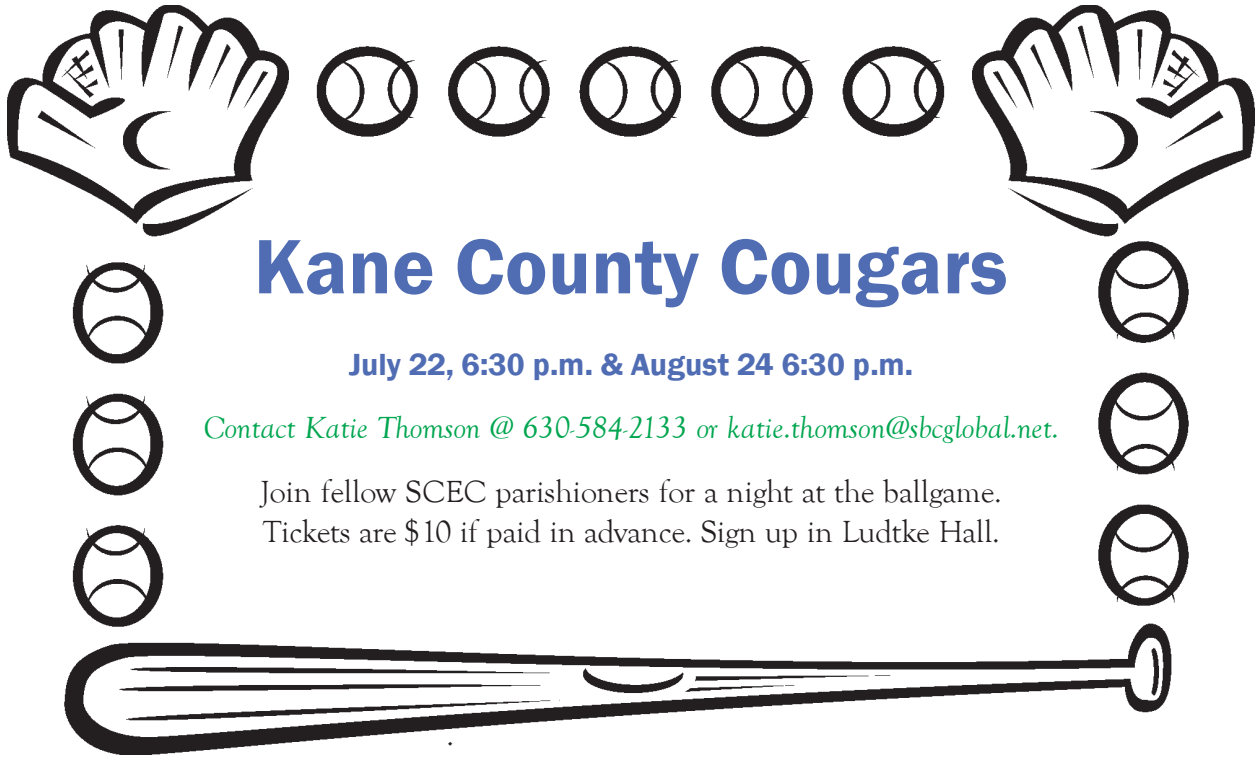
Diane Edwards, 5N436 Redbud Court, St. Charles, IL 60175, 630-513-8590, edwards3521@sbcglobal.net



Help Wanted!

Contact Fr. Bill, Deacon Liz Meade, or Barbara Bachman @ 630-584-1190 or jbachman1190@sbcglobal.net.

The Altar Guild is reorganizing for the future. New ideas. New energy. New people. Serving on the Altar Guild is rewarding. The jobs are many and variable, but are not as daunting as you may think. The length of service is up to you.



Kane County Cougars

July 22, 6:30 p.m. & August 24 6:30 p.m.

Contact Katie Thomson @ 630-584-2133 or katie.thomson@sbcglobal.net.

Join fellow SCEC parishioners for a night at the ballgame.
 Tickets are \$10 if paid in advance. Sign up in Ludtke Hall.

Next Month: Newsletter In eMail

August 11

Contact Chris Lester @ scenewsletter@sbcglobal.net or 630-513-5998.

In an effort to save time and money, the SCEC Heartbeat, our monthly newsletter, will now be sent via eMail to all parishioners who have eMail on file in the office, beginning in August. If you have an eMail address on file, you will no longer receive a copy of the newsletter by postal mail unless you specifically request a copy. The eMail version will be sent on the last day of the month.

Episcopal Day At Great America/ Hurricane Harbor

August 11

Contact Sue Cromer 312-751-6722 or scromer@episcopalchicago.org or Barbara Rasero at 312-751-4206 brasero@episcopalchicago.org

The Diocese of Chicago's Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry is co-sponsoring Episcopal Day at Six Flags Great America Tuesday, August 11 with the Dioceses of Fond du lac and Milwaukee. A ticket booth for Episcopalians will be staffed from 9 to 11 a.m. at the entrance to Great America in Gurnee.

A Eucharist will be celebrated at the park's Wilderness Theatre at 5 p.m. Tickets are only \$30 per person, a \$25 savings over the general admission price at the gate. Children under age 3 are free.

A meal deal may be purchased ahead of time for \$10.50, or \$11 on the day of the event. Deadline for ordering tickets is August 1. Order tickets using the contact information above.

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Meijer Community Rewards

Meijer sponsors a program called Community Rewards where enrolled members shop Meijer, simply paying with cash, a PIN-based debit card, or a linked Meijer Credit Card, and the church earns money. Purchases made with a linked Meijer Credit Card

earn 1%. Purchases made with cash or a PIN-based debit card and a swiped Meijer 1 CardSM earn 0.5%.

There have been times in the past where these percentages were temporarily doubled.

To sign up or for more details, pick up a brochure in Ludtke Hall on the table near the kitchen or check out www.meijer.com/rewards.

If you want to have fun and raise money for our church, please join our committee meeting at our next restaurant fundraiser Tuesday, July 14 at Sweet Tomatoes. The fundraiser is from 5 to 8 p.m., and our committee will meet there at 7 p.m.

Food. Fellowship. Fun. Fundraiser.

July 14

Thanks to all who ate at Sanfratello's on Wednesday, June 17. Thanks to you, Sanfratello's donated \$210 to our church. In just two evenings (Sanfratello's in June. Sergio's in May.), we've raised nearly \$400.

Our next event will be held on Tuesday, July 14, from 5 to 8 p.m., at Sweet Tomatoes, located on Rte 64 between Kirk & Dunham, West of Charlestowne Mall in St. Charles. Check out their menu at www.souplantation.com.

Please ask your favorite restaurant if they will support such a fundraiser and then contact the Fundraising Committee (See list of members at left on page 6.) to suggest restaurants to schedule. We really appreciate all your suggestions.

Also, when you return to Sergio's or Sanfratello's, please don't hesitate to tell them that you learned about them through our fundraiser and thank them again for their donations.



July Birthdays

- 02 Leslie Flood
- 05 Liz Ryan
- 06 Jay Haase
- 06 Bing Koch
- 08 Barry Cottrell
- 11 Michelle Moore
- 11 Emily Van Zandt
- 13 Bill Kruse
- 13 Elmer Rullman IV
- 15 Diana Scanlan
- 16 Dan Williams
- 17 Carrie Bangs
- 17 Scott Bell
- 18 Grace Ditch
- 21 Dick Babcock
- 22 Toby Ryan
- 23 Wil Madura
- 26 Maxwell Bowman
- 26 Janet Craft
- 26 Bill Van Nortwick
- 28 Marilyn Wicks
- 28 Jeff Gibson
- 29 Mike Ditch
- 30 Rob Parsons

July Anniversaries

- 01 Theresa & John Larson
- 03 Alison & Cory Blane
- 04 Jeff & Ellen Gibson
- 06 Marge & Fred Mejia
- 17 Paul & Jane Weiss
- 18 John & Amy Groskopf
- 25 Ross & Lisa Parse
- 31 Andrew & Jacki McCullough
- 31 Douglas & Helen Gouldthorp



What if St. Charles Episcopal Church earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? What if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? What if 1 percent of all your Meijer purchases, including gas, helped make up the deficit in our budget? Now they can! Take a look below at what the new Fundraising Committee is working on in an effort to take pressure off the church budget and raise money for our missions, without costing our parishioners any more than they would already spend.

Many Easy Ways To Raise Money

Contact Wendy Bangs @ 630-377-1174 / wsbangs@aol.com,
Christy Becker at 630-377-4369 / knitterchristy@abglobal.net,
Bill Churchwell @ 630-208-6250 / billandmargo@comcast.net,
Michelle Moore @ 630-830-5481 / bigeroom@hotmail.com, Jeff Rixleben @ 630-513-4715, Matt Rhead @ 630-443-4061 / matthewrhead@hotmail.com, or Bo Smith @ 630-262-9512 / bosmith99@aol.com.

Goodshop.com

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall, including hundreds of great stores like Amazon, Target, The Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's, and Barnes & Noble. When you use Goodshop.com, up to 37 percent of your purchase to your favorite cause!

GoodSearch.com

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! Just a few of us have already earned over \$125, and you can add to this total by just doing what you always do! Just go to www.goodsearch.com. You will have to enter and verify that St. Charles Episcopal Church

is the charity you want to support.

Gift Cards

After just 26 months, our gift card program is quickly approaching earnings of \$1,000. What a convenient and painless way to make money for the church while buying the things you need anyway. Groceries. Gas. Home supplies. You name it. You can buy it with a gift card. These are the same cards you buy in stores like Jewel, Walmart, Home Depot, etc., but if you buy the card from the church, the church gets a commission from 2 to 18 percent. There's no extra charge to the buyer. Many gift cards to popular stores are available Sunday mornings in Ludtke Hall; Others can be ordered using the forms in Ludtke Hall.

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Bibletimes Marketplace

Registration
Still Open!

August 10-14

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scceyouth@sbcglobal.net.

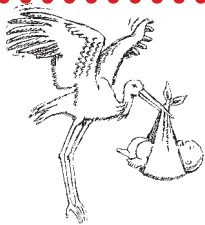
Bibletimes Marketplace is still accepting registrations from participants and volunteers! This year we will be holding a smaller version of this program here at SCEC for children ages four to twelve. Participant registration forms are available on the display in Ludtke Hall or from Liz Ryan. This is the first time our church will be “going it alone,” and although we are excited to host this program, we will need help! A volunteer sign-up is also included on the display.

We are eagerly accepting helpers from seventh grade on up. Many volunteers are needed to make this program work, and we are still a few short. Give some thought to lending your gifts to the children of our church and the community. There are so many ways to be involved:

Artisan (Crafter. We'll teach you!) ■ Tribe Leader ■ Actor ■ Childcare Provider ■ Costume Maker ■ Dance Leader ■ Games Leader ■ Kitchen Helper ■ Photographer ■ Storyteller

Even if you are not available during the week, you can participate by helping with planning and set-up.

Bibletimes will be held Monday through Friday mornings August 10 to 14. Participants will immerse themselves into the history of the church at its infancy, becoming a member of a Tribe of Israel and joining others to hear the Gospel, bake bread, learn about traditions and trades of the people of the New Testament, as well as watch dramas and participate in games as children of that time would have.



Welcome Newborns!

Congratulations Rigel and Philip Nelson on the birth of Orrin, born May 30.



Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scceyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Do you have a servant's heart and a fondness for children? The Children's Formation program needs a loving, enthusiastic and available person to become a teaching leader for the 3-to 5-year-old class. You would “team teach,” with another experienced leader, Liz Ryan. Curriculum and project ideas are provided.

Are you quick on your toes, and enjoy contemporary thinking? We're looking for someone with an enquiring and discerning heart attached to a great sense of humor to work with the children in the Middlers Class (10-to 12-year-olds). The curriculum provided is fun and easy to use.

Want to have some real fun? Come hang with the Jr. High class! You don't have to know all the answers, just be willing to search them out!



Pilgrimage

A long journey or search, especially one of exalted purpose or moral significance.

Youth & Children's Formation Registration

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

The Formation program is gearing up for Fall; To enable us to plan correctly, parents need to register children now. If you had children in the Formation program last year, you will receive a letter and registration form in the mail. If your children are new to our Formation program, you can find a Registration Form at www.stcharlesepiscopal.org or on the table in the foyer outside Ludtke Hall.

Each family will only fill out one form with all children listed on the lower portion of the page. New forms must be filled out each year. Completed forms should be returned to Liz Ryan, Director of Youth & Children's Formation by slipping them into her mail slot at the church or by mailing them to: **St. Charles' Episcopal Church, Attn: Formation Registration 994 N. Fifth Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174**

Contact Liz Ryan @ 630-584-2596 or scecyouth@sbcglobal.net.

Sixteen high schoolers and six adults made a pilgrimage to Tennessee last month. They stayed at the University of the South, home of the School of Theology, one of our Episcopal Seminaries generally called "Sewanee." Not a cathedral in sight, but a sacred place in its own right.

The journey there included a Metra train ride, a ten-hour Amtrak trip, and a five-hour van ride—not an easy trip, certainly not the fastest trip, but one full of opportunities to see God at work in the world. Our intrepid group set off to listen to God's whispers and found themselves held in the firm grip of the Holy Spirit. Shared experiences, shared challenges, and shared courage to open their hearts, allowed the pilgrims to see one another and God's path for them with new clarity.

A ride on a riverboat showed them that they can see more of God's world when they slow down. A trip up Lookout Mountain—so high that they could see seven states—and a venture 11,000 feet below the mountain peak into an underground waterfall provided them a view through "Gods-Eye." They experienced the power of rushing white waters while rafting on the Ocee River, and they felt the power in sharing their awareness of how God was working in their lives at the foot of the awesome 60 foot Memorial Cross looking over the Cumberland Plateau. In prayer, song, hiking, and journaling their lives were changed and their hearts were filled with the love of God.

Talk to those pilgrims who experienced this journey: Ali Blane, Cory Blane, Luke Dettlo, Christina Foster, Kyle Ingraham, Emma Larson, Sam Madura, Aidan Manning, Deacon Liz Meade, Dillion Mugge, Taushia Mugge, Bob Parks, Holly Park, Andrew Schuetz, Emily Thomson, Robin Travis, Mike Trizzino, Sarah Vitel, Peter Van Nortwick, Logan Wilson, Mary Wolff, and Liz Ryan. Look for the postcards on the Formation Board in Ludtke Hall for a taste of this sacred place and the feelings it brought to our travelers. Listen for a homily given by several of the pilgrims in the next few weeks.

received an update on our grant to upgrade our online presence. We are moving forward.

We decided to begin sending the SCEC Newsletter by e-mail to everyone for whom we have an e-mail address. If a parishioner prefers to have a paper copy, they will have to inform Beth, and one will be mailed. A few paper copies will still be available in the hall outside Ludtke Hall.

We discussed the security of the building and decided to price installation for windows into the staff office doors and “buzz-in” and intercom capabilities for the front door of the church.

We welcomed our newest Vestry member, Greg Steamer, who will fill a two-year term.

Karen Madura volunteered to oversee the needed training program for our new AED. She will contact Delnor to arrange for a CPR/AED class, and we will all promote this training, which costs only \$30 per person and will be open to everyone. If we have more than six trainees, we can hold the training at the Church.

Fr. Bill reviewed the Discernment Report for Jess Elfring entering a Deacon training program. The Committee has

approved her application, and the Vestry decided to give the final approval. Good luck Jess!

New Business

We moved on to New Business. We decided, as is customary, to not meet in July.

Fr. Bill requested that Vestry members attend “all Church events,” meaning those events open to the entire Church.

We also discussed the idea, first proposed by the Diocese, of “planting” a new Episcopal Church, perhaps in Elburn or somewhere else to the West of St. Charles. This idea meets with considerable excitement, and we decided to continue to explore the idea.

We discussed our ongoing problems with finding Coffee Hour hosts. A Vestry member suggests that perhaps we could enlist people to prepare refreshments that can be stored at the Church anytime during the week and utilized by the Coffee Hour hosts so that they don’t have to do everything themselves. This would give more people the opportunity to participate. We decided to follow up on the idea.

Closing

We adjourned the meeting and closed with the Lord’s Prayer. After the meeting, the Rector

and both Wardens met briefly with Karen Flood to go over the timeline for this year’s pledge drive.

That was the June meeting of the Vestry. The business of your Vestry and your Church for another month. If you would like to know more, just refer to the Vestry minutes which are available in the Ludtke Hall or by contacting any Vestry member.

Remember, all regular Vestry meetings are open to the public. Come join us any second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in Ludtke Hall—except July.

Colin C. Campbell
Senior Warden

A special thanks to Maria Owen for her service on the Vestry, where she worked on Building and Grounds. Although she will no longer serve on the Vestry, Maria will continue to be an active member of the Altar Guild.



From The Wardens

Vestry

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2010

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Peter VanNortwick
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2011

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Karen Flood
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Greg Steamer
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gsteamer@comcast.net

2012

Mike Custer
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michael_custer@comcast.net

Carol Townsend
630.681.0311
carol.townsend@gmail.com

Katherine Williams
630.761.2717
kwill10@sbcglobal.net

What actually happens at a Vestry Meeting? How do the decisions impact St. Charles Episcopal Church and you? Well, how about “sitting in” with us for our June meeting?

Getting Started

Most of our Vestry members attended the June meeting. We moved the big white tables into a “conference table” configuration so that we could easily see and hear each other.

We opened by reciting the Prayer for the Mission of St. Charles Episcopal Church, and then we began the business of the meeting, which is pretty much like any business meeting.

Agendas were provided and suggestions were taken. Coffee Hour and a proposed Vestry Retreat were added to New Business at the recommendations of Vestry members.

We then spent about 20 minutes discussing changing the makeup and role of the Vestry. Since our Church has grown, the Vestry is considering a change in its role. The idea is to make the Vestry a true “policy body” instead of an active “participant” in the missions and ministries of our Church. At our size, the Vestry is finding that being actively involved in every mission and ministry is virtually impossible, while our Rector is finding it

quite impossible. More responsibility can and needs to fall directly upon the shoulders of our Congregation. If this does happen we might consider reducing the size of the Vestry from 13 members (12 lay persons plus the Rector) to perhaps 5 or 7. We decided to begin thinking about other possible solutions and revisit the topic at a future meeting.

We decided to approve the Minutes of the May Meeting as presented by our Clerk, Karen Madura.

Our Treasurer, Mark Mugge, presented the Treasurer’s Report. Mark is trying to update all of our “designated” and “memorial” funds. He has spent many hours going back over at least ten years of records, but questions still remain. Currently, we have more than \$40,000 in the bank, but most of that seems to be restricted. We decided to authorize him to use some of these funds for current operations until we can be more certain of our exact situation.

The Vestry members have already exchanged their monthly reports by e-mail. Most of our activities (and there are a lot of them) are going along very well, as usual.

Old Business

Under Old Business, we

The Heartbeat of St. Charles' Episcopal Church

A church with a big heart, shining the light of Christ, joyfully serving others.

630.584.2596

scecoffice@sbcglobal.net

www.stcharlesepiscopal.org



From The Rector

As we enter July, I have to ask: Will the rain never end? What a spring it has been. I have yet to water my garden and still the plants are green and full. I have seen more blooms this year than in many years before. It is almost as if God is going out of the way to show us that there is more to be thankful for than financial security.

It has been a grim spring for the business world. The economy continues to stumble along, sometimes looking like it is recovering, and sometimes looking like recovery is a long way off. Some of our neighbors are out of work, and some have been out of work for quite a while. In Illinois, the state is struggling to balance its budget and is looking to balance it on the backs of the poor and disenfranchised—those with little voting power. The letters from both the ministries that we support, as well as those we don't, are sounding a clarion call. Public assistance for vital ministries to those in the most desperate need in our communities is about to be drastically cut, and in some cases, go away completely. People who are hungry will not be fed. People in need of healthcare will not receive it. The poor will go unclothed, and shelters will close.

How are we to respond to this horrible situation? We respond as the people of God have always responded.

First, we pray.

We pray in thanksgiving for all that God has given us, and we lament the situation we find ourselves in the midst of. We ask God's forgiveness for all the ways that we have hoarded or wasted or spoiled the gifts we have been given, as we ask God to forgive those who have cheated or wronged or abandoned us. We cry out to God to help us in our need, as we cry out for God



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Email articles to scenewsletter@sbcglobal.net by the fifteenth of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

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