

The Servant's Voice



News for the community of St. Stephen's Episcopal Mission

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January 6, 2024

To the Faithful of St. Stephen's Beaumont,

It was a joy to worship with you on Christmas Eve and preside/preach on Saturday, December 31. I came Christmas Eve to worship, sing and give support. My decision to lead worship on December 31 was prompted by the news that Reverend Stacey would take a well-deserved weekend off and then spend the month of January with the good people of Grace Episcopal Church in Moreno Valley.

At two Bishop's Committee meetings last month, we discussed the best course of action to take during this time. As your Vicar, I concluded that it would be better to move our services to Saturday and have familiar people such as Fr. Jay Tillitt and me preside and preach than to take our chances on getting someone out of the supply pool. Fr. Jay will lead the Saturday, January 6 service of Holy Eucharist. I will be with you the other three Saturdays and preside at the Annual Meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday, January 28 (Pot Luck Lunch following). We will also continue our 10:00 am services of Holy Eucharist on Tuesday and Thursday. I appreciate the feedback that resulted in moving service time from 4:00 to 3:00 pm so people will be able to return home before it gets too dark.

I want to thank Reverend Stacey for her service over the past 18 months, not only at St. Stephen's, but at St. Alban's and Trinity as well. We will continue to see her from time to time at Thursday worship, St. Mary's Guild, and other events. When my time as an active priest ends, I will look back on sponsoring Stacey+ for ordination as one of our greatest accomplishments during the years we labored together at St. Stephen's.

December saw three more members of our parish family enter the gates of larger life. America Wesley (12/12), Dede Dunn (12/19) and Barbara Dion (12/27) were loved by all of us and will be deeply missed. Over the past 12 months alone, 14 members have died. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord. On a personal note, I am grateful to all who reached out to our family when my mother died.

As the prayer list shows, many in our community continue to have ongoing needs. If you or someone you know needs prayer or a personal visit, please let me know.

In addition to our worship, I want to highlight four important January events: (1) Men's Breakfast is at 9:00 am on Monday, January 8 (one week later than usual due to New Years' Day being on a Monday); (2) St. Mary's Guild's first 2024 meeting is at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 11, including the postponed Christmas celebration and the presentation of 2023 Christmas Tree Festival proceeds to Carol's Kitchen, H.E.L.P., Inc., and Table of Plenty; (3) Our first Committal Service for pets is at 2:30 pm on Saturday, January 20; and (4) Our Annual Meeting is at 10:00 am on Sunday, January 28 with a Pot Luck Luncheon following.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has pledged 2024 financial support for St. Stephen's. While near-term expenses will be lower, it is vital that our financial support continue so that St. Stephen's will be able to meet our obligations. 2024 Estimate of Giving forms will accompany the electronic version of the newsletter and are available when you come to worship.

Thanks for all you do. See you in church!

Bill Dunn+

Christmas at St. Stephen's



(Left) Christmas comes in many ways at St. Stephen's, always leading to services on Christmas Eve and Day. (Lower right) Tree decorating brings back from distant places families like the Hackney's. (Lower left) It also brings volunteers such as the Beaumont High School National Honor Society. (Above) At the Saturday Tea, lucky winners' names are drawn for the beautiful trees. (Right) Our weekend food ministry to Palm School continues.



(Top right) Janet Wales performed "The Holy Child" for composer Bill Bell and spouse Gloria Bell at our "Blue Christmas" service.



In our prayers

1/6/2024

WE PRAY for the Anglican Communion throughout the world; for Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; John Harvey Taylor, our Bishop Diocesan and Melissa McCarthy, our Canon to the Ordinary; Bill Dunn, our vicar; and for St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Yucaipa, Grace Episcopal Church in Moreno Valley, and Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands. **We pray** for MasterPeace Ministries, Seminario Telógico y Misionero del Cusco Peru, and Pastor Damaso Hulica Llame. **We pray** for the victims of war, disease, famine, natural disaster, domestic gun violence, terrorism and systemic racism, as well as the poor, the sick, the hungry, the unhoused, the oppressed, and the underserved. **We pray** for Carol's Kitchen, H.E.L.P., Inc., Table of Plenty, Student of the Month, Habitat for Humanity, House of Decision, Boys and Girls Club, and other assistance providers. **We pray** for our Law Enforcement Officers, First Responders, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital and other area hospitals, and all schools, especially Palm Innovation Academy. **We pray** for all who risk their health and often their lives to serve us. **We pray** for all elected and appointed public officials, all levels and branches of government in our country, and all countries in our world. **We pray** for all who travel. **We pray** for the incarcerated and those who minister to their needs. We give thanks for The Reverend Stacey Forte-Dupré and The Reverend CC Schroeder as they begin new chapters in their ministries.

WE REMEMBER those with ongoing needs: Carol Baker, Jeanne Baker, Julie Ball, Mike Barrett, Rebecca Blosser, Susan and Mark Bowers, Dianne Callahan, Virgie Clark, Eleanor Courtney, Gaye D, Ann Dahlberg, Davis Family, Filijan family, Herman Forte, Matthew Gantner, Barbara Gwinup, Jim Hamre, Lurline Jennings, Connie and Johnny Johnston, Sandra Leoni, Kevin, Don Kumanski, Alinda Lord, Carol McLaughlin, Kelly Mirci, Ann Nobie, Cherie Parmley, Jeanne Pelletier, Rosemarie Pirri, Henry Sagehorn, Judy Sullivan, Nancy Watterson.

WE REMEMBER the departed: America Wesley (12/12/2023), Dede Dunn (12/19/2023), Barbara Dion (12/27/2023). Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

WE GIVE THANKS for those with birthdays: Gage Couch (1/1), Irene Tolone (1/4), Carly Couch (1/6), Emiliano Juarez (1/9), Debbie Walker, Jim Chagolla (1/12), Judy Sullivan (1/14), Johanna Benink (1/21), Cannon Radke (1/26), Theresa Mirci-Smith (1/29); and for those with wedding anniversaries.

WE PRAY for our mission, "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ," as carried out through the ministry of our members.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, hear our prayers for St. Stephen's parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Let love, harmony, mutual respect and concern prevail in every family of this parish. Let those who live alone be not lonely in their solitude, but may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbor. Grant all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 2024

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church—225 East 8th Street Beaumont, CA 92223
 ststephensbeaumont.com Friends of St. Stephen's Facebook page 951-845-1358
 The Very Reverend Canon Bill Dunn, Vicar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Happy New Year! Office Closed AA 7:00 pm	2 Office Open 8-11 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Celebration of Life for Barbara Dion 3 pm	3 AA 7:00 pm	4 Office Open 8-11 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am AA 7:00 pm	5	6 THE EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist 3:00 pm
	7	8 Office Open 8-11 am Men's Breakfast @ Panera 9:00 am AA 7:00 pm	9 Student of the Month 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	10 AA 7:00 pm	11 Office Open 8-11 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am St. Mary's Guild 11:00 am AA 7:00 pm	12
14	15 Office Open 8-11 am AA 7:00 pm	16 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	17 AA 7:00 pm	18 Office Open 8-11 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am AA 7:00 pm	19	20 Pet Committal 2:30 pm 3 EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist 3:00 pm
21	22 Office Open 8-11 am AA 7:00 pm	23 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Bishop's Committee 12:00 Noon	24 AA 7:00 pm	25 Office Open 8-11 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am AA 7:00 pm	26	27 4 EPIPHANY Holy Eucharist 3:00 pm
28 Annual Meeting 10:00 am Pot Luck Lunch following	29 Office Open 8-11 am AA 7:00 pm	30 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am	31 AA 7:00 pm	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 10px;"> In January, we will have Holy Eucharist on Saturday at 3:00 pm. Fr. Jay Tillitt will preside on January 5; Fr. Dunn will preside the other Saturdays. We will also have Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am on Tuesday and Thursday. </div>		

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 2024 Estimate of Giving

During 2024, I/We plan to contribute to the ministry of St. Stephen's Church a total of:

\$ _____

The amounts shown above will be given:

\$ _____ Weekly for 52 weeks

\$ _____ Monthly for 12 months

\$ _____ Quarterly

\$ _____ Annually

I/We also plan to give additional amounts in 2024 as specified:

Name (s) _____

Signature (s) _____

Preferred Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Preferred Telephone Number _____

Primary E-mail Address _____

Thank you for your faithful giving!

**Please return this completed form to the church at any Sunday or Weekday service, or mail to St. Stephen's
225 E. 8th Street
Beaumont CA 92223.**