

Annual Parish Report 2011

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING January 29, 2012

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer**
- II. Establish Quorum**
- III. Adopt Agenda**
- IV. Minutes of 2011 Parish Meeting**
- V. Elections**
 - A. Vestry: Three (3) for 3-year terms**
 - B. Four (4) Delegates to 158th diocesan Council**
- VI. Reports**
 - A. Financial**
 - B. Budget for 2012**
 - C. Other Reports**
- VII. Announcements**
 - A. Election Results**
 - B. Other**
- VIII. Adjournment**

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Annual Parish Business Meeting Minutes January 30, 2011

The rector called the meeting to order and offered prayers for divine guidance (12:12 PM). We joined together singing hymns accompanied by our music director Harvey Wheeler.

A quorum was established, the proposed agenda adopted and the minutes from January 31, 2010 Parish Annual Meeting was presented. Linda Badger motioned for approval, all approved, accepted.

Outgoing vestry was acknowledged: Bob Parker (Sr. Warden) and Trey Charrier (web master).

The nominees to fill the vacancies on the vestry were presented. Written ballot election results were Mike McManus, Mike Gary and Barbara Walter.

Ben Tobias presented the financial and budget reports. Fr. Jim Morgan moved for approval of reports, Kin Barker and Ray McClintock both 2nd – report approved.

Diocesan Council (Feb. 11th & 12th) delegates were chosen:

Delegates:

Ed Davis

Ray McClintock

Frank McGehee

Len Breen

Alternates:

Sharon Lynch

Bobbie McClintock

Vivianna McGehee

Millie Duncan

The rector recognized and acknowledged the volunteers and their contributions in 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM, closing with a prayer.

Minutes submitted and verified by:

Margaret Ferguson - Clerk

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RECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2011 was another busy year for St. Stephen's. We have maintained good attendance, with a short falloff during the summer, while offerings have stayed high. In addition, pledges for 2012 are considerably higher than for the previous year. Our parish numbers grew in spite of the fact that some of our people moved away and a few died.

Christian education has been one of our specific goals for enhancement this year, and we've had a variety of well-attended offerings. Linda Gary's children's class prospered with consistent attendance and participation. In the summer, we offered a Vacation Bible School that enrolled over 20 children. Also, we had a special Sunday afternoon program for children during the Christmas season. The regular adult Bible class at 9:30 on Sundays continues, and we added two short evening courses during the year. We had a 6-week Tuesday night study on the Acts of the Apostles with 25 regular participants. In the fall we had a 4-week study of Christology in the Book of Revelation. A series of challenging weekly Lenten speakers was well received. In addition to all these educational offerings, the Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have regular learning sessions with their meetings.

The administrative needs of our parish are extensive and detailed. Thanks to the diligent and dedicated work of our secretary Helen Crosby and our treasurer Ben Tobias, plus the consistent leadership of the Vestry, things have gone very smoothly. An important help in the administrative area is the Office Angels who give us added hours of office time.

The center of every parish is its worship, uplifting and meaningful for all. The work involved in preparing such services at St. Stephen's is performed by the Altar Guild, LEM's, Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes, Musicians and Greeters. Fellowship following Sunday worship depends on the generosity and hard work of our Kitchen Angels who provide snacks and goodies for everyone.

In spite of our earlier landscaping work and plans, the intense heat and prolonged drought took a heavy toll on the appearance of our grounds. Many trees are dying or dead. The landscaping and grass appear ragged or dead, and we will not be able to make an assessment until late spring. On the brighter side, Ed Davis and Bob Streeter have begun work on a community garden on the recently acquired land adjacent to the lower parking lot. At the suggestion of the city, we installed a new water line from that property to water our grounds, providing a considerable saving in sewer charges. Also in connection with our property, the city and state have initiated talks about acquiring a small portion of our land fronting on Highway 75 in order to install a new traffic signal.

A great celebration this summer was the Ordination of Mary Robbins as a Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston, and we are excited now about her upcoming ordination as a Presbyter (Priest) here at St. Stephen's on Feb. 21. Mary, with the assistance of Bob and Rosemary Streeter, Barbara Walter, Sharon Lynch, Ed Davis, and the Rector continues to make the Episcopal Student Center a place of welcome, nurture and Christian outreach on the campus of Sam Houston State University.

St. Stephen's, always generous in outreach programs, gave help to the Good Shepherd Mission, COME, Episcopal Relief and Development, and CASA. We also collected over \$2,200 for Nets for Life to help prevent malaria in Malawi and gave generous offerings to the Rev. Jeffery Samuel in Pakistan. St. Stephen's again supported Camp Good News, the Angel Tree project, and Bridges to Life. Our buildings have been used by two Kairos teams ministering in the Walls Unit. In addition, the Girl Scouts have been using our facilities once or twice each week.

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Our big project was the remodeling and renovation of the church during late May and in June. We replaced the 60-year-old “temporary pews.” Eight of the old pews were shortened and placed in the balcony. Carpet was replaced in the church, parlor, and offices. The church, offices, parlor, hallways, kitchen, and parish hall were all given fresh paint. The narthex, too, was repainted and refurbished. We want to thank the previous and present wardens and vestries for the vision and planning that made this project possible, and we owe special thanks to Kin Barker for serving as a “Special Jr. Warden” by overseeing the bid process, the installation schedule, and the supervision of the contractors.

The ECW had a great Bazaar in November that raised funds for their many outreach concerns. A special note of gratitude is due to ECW President Sue Harris and her crew who cleaned and rearranged the repainted kitchen. This made sure that we passed the required inspections to qualify its use for prison ministry groups.

The Monday evening Craft Group meets weekly and is a great time of fellowship for the women who participate. Members work on various crafts and gladly teach others. The new Wednesday morning game day organized by Jean Bawden has become a source of joy and fellowship for those attending.

Special thanks are due to so many people. Our thanks go to Mike McManus, the Sr. Warden, for his gracious and thoughtful advice and support throughout the year. Mike also serves as our chancellor pro bono. The Jr. Warden, Len Breen, had his hands full with our remodeling project, a dishwasher dilemma and many other odds and ends. Margaret Ferguson, as Clerk, keeps the Vestry minutes. Linda Badger keeps the parish register up to date. Pat Vaughn serves as the funeral service coordinator. George Miles is treasurer for the Purviance Trust. Terry Harris is our Web Master, and David Owens serves as editor of the SAGA. Daryl Holliday is our custodian, keeping our building clean and inviting, which sets off the exemplary hospitality service offered by Larry and Nancy Franklin and others. If I have inadvertently failed to mention anyone please accept my apology.

We are grateful for the service of the entire Vestry and especially Margaret Ferguson, Alison Hall and Ben Tobias, who are retiring this year.

As in other years, when I write this report I am reminded of the breadth and depth of this congregation. I am grateful to each and every one of you. Thank you for your support and encouragement. God works mightily in and through you. In the words of a hymn we sometimes sing, “Praise God for the Body”.

Jim Morgan

Rector

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SENIOR WARDER'S REPORT

It has been a great year for St. Stephens and has gone by so quickly. There has been no serious issues or problems this past year, at least of which I'm aware. Visiting Bishop Philip Duncan asked me "how's it going"? And I replied "boring". The bishop laughed and stated he knew a number of senior wardens that would love to be able to say that. We have a great parish and priest; we love and support one another.

Upgrades to the interior of the church building were completed-new pews, carpet, paint and tile flooring. The sign now has lighting and landscaping. We are installing an additional water line for the sprinkler system which will reduce our sewage fees.

We have lost some dear friends and have found some new ones. The rhythm of life continues. I'm looking forward to a collective wonderful 2012 with the St. Stephen's family.

Mike McManus
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Paint, pews and carpet dominated this year's work and improvement to the church's physical appearance. New pews have long been a topic of discussion by vestry and congregation alike. They finally are a reality. The new padded pews and kneelers have been an attractive, comfortable addition to our sanctuary. Lifting the old pews made obvious the need to replace the original and much worn carpet in the sanctuary as well so new carpet became a part of the total renewal.

The old pews have been recycled in interesting ways by Bob Streeter. Some were shortened and are now pews upstairs in the balcony of our sanctuary. Some have been transformed into a dining room table for the Episcopal student center on campus. A number of the song and prayer book holders on the backs of the pews have been attached to the walls to hold music materials in the student center chapel. I pretty sure we haven't seen the last of them yet.

Freshening the interior of the sanctuary with new paint had also been a topic discussed for some time and the darker stain of the new pews hastened that action. Overall, new color in the sanctuary and fresh paint in the hallways as well as a couple of new entry way furniture acquisitions have given the church a needed face-lift.

A new magnetic white board has recently been installed in the children's classroom.

I continue to be impressed with the concern and love our congregation has for St. Stephen's and its' grounds. My appreciation and thanks are extended to everyone who has helped us through this busy year.

Len Breen
Junior Warden

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TREASURER'S REPORT

This Annual Meeting concludes two years of my three year term as Treasurer for this wonderful Church. I am pleased to report that the financial status of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ends another year on a successful note. This would not be possible without the faithful support of the many parishioners who have honored their pledges and in some cases have made significant additional contributions. These gifts have enabled the Church to greatly improve the worship environment with new pews and flooring, with changes to the Altar, with painting and with the overall entrance appearance as one enters the Church.

The Church and I are indebted to the individuals who insure the integrity of managing the weekly collections. These individuals were Kathleen Becker, Hugh Boyle, Len Breen, Millie Duncan, Alison Hall, Cynthia Harris, Vivienne McGehee, Pam McManus, Bobbe Nolan, Golda Rich, Phil Swicegood, Judy Thornton, and Barbara Walter. Also thanks to those Vestry approved "signers" of checks and vouchers which provides internal controls for church business and allows required two signatures for amounts \$1,500 or more: Mike McManus, Len Breen, Margaret Ferguson, Mike Gary, Alison Hall, George Miles, Jr., Pat Nolan, Frank McGehee, Barbara Walter and the Treasurer.

Thanks also go to Kenneth C. Davis and Chris Davis, CPA's, for the improved response in managing our payroll, check preparation, financial reports and government reporting requirements.

Thanks go to Helen Crosby, an administrative, religious, financial, public relations assistant. Her multitasking is a marvel to watch handling the phone calls, preparing the bulletins, greeting visitors, and her day to day activities. Serving as Treasurer has been rewarding as well with the opportunity to see our Rector, Jim Morgan at work. Jim has the patience of Job in the way he handles the many demands placed on him day in and day out.

My thanks to the Vestry for accepting my monthly "Comments on the Financials" which reduces the time spent on the Treasurer's Report and reduces the time of the Vestry meetings. I have enjoyed the privilege of serving as your Treasurer this past year.

Ben Tobias
Treasurer

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Page 1	Statement of Assets 2010-2011				Annual Parish Report			
CASH			2010	Notes		2011	Notes	
General		\$	72,905	#1	\$	49,598		
Special Projects		\$	208		\$	208		
Building Fund		\$	5,273		\$	5,280		
Memorial Fund		\$	23,338		\$	1,592		
McClintock Fund		\$	5,797		\$	5,818		
Columbarium Account		\$	2,047		\$	2,047		
CD (General Fund)		\$	76,573		\$	77,782		
Special Trust Account:								
Building Fund		\$	41,000		\$	41,198		
General Fund		\$	52,000		\$	51,988		
Scholarship Fund		\$	53,000		\$	51,222		
Nestroy House Fund		\$	46,000		\$	65	#1a	
General Fund II		\$	51,000		\$	52,676		
Money Market		\$	22,513		\$	72,978	#1a	
TOTAL CASH								
		\$	451,654		\$	412,452		
Dunham Smith Barney								
Market Value		\$	264,698		\$	294,257		
Investments								
Mutual Fund (Nestroy Bequest)		\$	26,441	#2	\$	29,181	#2	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS								
		\$	742,793		\$	735,890		
Fixed Assets								
Land		\$	286,693		\$	286,693		
Church		\$	611,158		\$	657,655		
Rectory		\$	99,500		\$	99,500		
Hilbun		\$	40,000		\$	40,000		
Nestroy		\$	110,000		\$	110,000		
Furniture and Fixtures					\$	17,840	#4	
Total Fixed Assets		\$	1,147,351	#3	\$	1,211,688	#3	
TOTAL ASSETS								
		\$	1,890,144		\$	1,949,578		

NOTES:

#1--Fleetwood Range secured an Insurance check from Nestroy Estate.

#1a--CD was transferred to Money Market temporarily to pay for house repairs.

After repairs are completed funds will be reinvested again into a CD.

#2--Auditors added an ING Account not previously listed.

#3--Figures in column are rounded which shows slight variances.

#4--Newly acquired flooring and furniture.

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Vestry Budget Presentation Memo 1/19/2012

January 19, 2012

To: Vestry of St. Stephen's
From: Ben Tobias, Treasurer
Subject: Budget Presentation for 2012

The attached Proposed Budget is presented with a comparison of the Budget 2011, Actual 2011, and Budget 2012. As previously done, a conservative approach was taken with the Income as no anticipated Investment income was projected except a figure for the year end Purviance Trust which has been dependable.

A deficit is projected of \$45,228 after comparing Total Expense with Total Income. We do not have a complete view of anticipated Pledge amounts for 2012 although we have reached the \$191,000 figure pledged so far.

As you can see from the presentation the Actual 2011 "bottom line" erased the projected deficit and ended up with a Positive amount of \$55,855 thanks to the quarterly adjustment of Investments and the "signing bonus" of \$19,620 from the South Texas Oil lease.

Members of the Budget Committee gave feedback and some adjustments were made.

The Budget is a guide and the figures are not "fixed in stone." There will be variations during the year as in previous budgets

Thanks go to the Budget Committee of Jean Babcock, Len Breen and Jim Morgan for their input and to Mary Robbins for a review of the ESC portion.

Ben Tobias, Treasurer

NOTE: The proposed 2012 budget has been removed from the website report for security/confidentiality purposes.

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Significant Expenditures in 2011

• New Pews – New Holland Custom Wood	Total	\$32,011.90
• Carpet and Flooring - Ward Furniture**	Total	\$15,991.20
• Painting Church and Parish Hall – Jose Garcia**	Total	\$14,310.00
• Altar Wood Work – Allen Smith Remodeling**	Total	\$ 725.00
• Altar Chairs Reupholstered – Pioneer Business Support**	Total	\$ 395.00
• Foyer Rug – Ward Furniture**	Total	\$ 1,434.00
• Foyer Sideboard – Star Furniture**	Total	\$ 1,214.99
• Electrical Work Parking Lot – W.A. Electric Service Co.***	Total	\$ 2,341.08
• Tree Removal – George’s Lawn and Tree Service ***	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
•		

Combined Total \$69,423.17

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STANDING NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Vestry met and approved, contacted, and secured consent for the following parishioners to stand for election to the Vestry.

Kin Barker
Terry Harris
Rhonda Hollaar
Ray McClintock
George Miles
Bob Parker
Marisa Wight

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Kin Barker

I was born into and grew up in a Baptist church in a small farming community in southern Missouri. This upbringing gave me a strong foundation in my walk with the Lord. In my late twenties I was introduced to the Episcopal Church where I fell in love with the liturgy and worship service. I had a former priest in Oklahoma who had a similar upbringing as mine who said, "I grew up in a church that told me to get down on my knees to pray to the Lord but it wasn't until I came to the Episcopal Church that I found kneelers so I could get down and pray." His joking comment represents my outlook on Anglican worship, an acceptance and love of who we are as a church and how we go about witnessing for HIM. While there are many houses of worship which honor and love the Lord, the Episcopal Church is where I have made my home.

Stephanie and I came to St. Stephens' in 1995 and have made many friends in this close family parish. I previously served on the Vestry in 1990-1993 as Jr. Warden working with other members in establishing a fiscal accounting of our books, monetary policies and procedures. I also served as Treasurer from 2006-2009.

I am an Engineer by education and vocation and recognize that I can become detail and bottom line oriented fairly easily. This can be a blessing and a curse sometimes. My background has allowed me to be the project coordinator on several construction projects at St. Stephens, the addition to the parish hall, rebuilding the parking lot, renovation of the money pit, which we affectionately call "the rectory" and the recent remodeling of the sanctuary. I am currently overseeing repairs at Fleetwood's home, which is owned by the parish.

Service to the Lord and our congregation comes in many ways and requires many talents. I would be honored to again serve this parish as a vestry member but regardless of the final decision, will continue to love and serve where called.

With His love,
Kin

Terry Harris

I grew up a life-long Episcopalian in New England with a very traditional church upbringing, serving as an acolyte and actively participating in Sunday School, summer camp and Boy Scouts. As young adults, Sue and I were active parishioners at St. Dunstan's in Tulsa leading the Jr. High Youth Group and teaching Jr. High Sunday School. I also served as director of the Christian Education Commission and 3 years on the Vestry prior to moving. In the 80's and 90's, quite frankly I withdrew from much involvement with the church because of my concern over the direction the Episcopal Church was taking. Since retirement and moving to Huntsville, through Sue's encouragement and the contentment with Father Jim and St. Stephen's, I have found renewed faith and spiritual comfort.

I am a graduate chemical engineer, although the bulk of my professional career was spent on the business side of the petrochemical industry in sales, marketing and product management. My last 15 years were spent heading up the purchasing and materials management functions, ultimately as director of Texas Petrochemicals LLC.

I believe we need to instill a spirit of revitalization within St. Stephen's to encourage new growth and participation in our church community. We should take advantage of our unique association with the

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Episcopal Student Center and SHSU to enhance our Christian education programs, especially the youth activities.

I am honored to be nominated for a position on the vestry. I am analytical, logical and a good listener; but I do not profess to be a good public speaker. I am primarily a “troubleshooter” who gets the job done.

Rhonda Hollaar

I am really struggling to come up with a "bio" of myself. There is not much to tell other than I'm a native Texas and began working right after graduation from high school. I met Pieter and traveled to Holland in 1970 where we married. On our return to the US I began working in hospitals, I am a certified facilitator and have completed National Workforce Specialist training levels 1 & 2. Basically that means that I am pretty good at resolving conflict and guiding people on their path to employment. I worked for 25 years in the Health Care industry and my favorite position was working Emergency Room admission. I currently Manage the Workforce Solutions office in Conroe, my employment for the last 15 years is with Interfaith of the Woodlands, we are the contracted managers for this and other offices in the Gulf Coast Region. Pieter and I have one beautiful daughter and one fantastic granddaughter. We enjoy traveling and have been blessed to visit many countries. I am in no way any type of scholar, I have been an Episcopalian for over 30 years and my faith is based not on my education, it is in knowing that I am a child of God and I am here to help.....I attended Catholic School during my elementary years and then drifted away before my Mom invited me to attend a service at her Episcopal Church many years ago, I went that Sunday and never stopped. This may be a bit unorthodox but it's pretty much how I roll.....Much Love...*Rhonda*

Raymond M McClintock, Jr.

I have been a member of St.Stephen's since 1995. In 1969 I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church at All Saint's, Fort Worth. In the mid-1970's, I served on the Vestry at St. Luke's, Merced, California where we had to raise funds to build a new church. During the early 1990's I was on the vestry at St. Paul's, Navasota. During this time, I served on the Search Committee for a new priest.

I am retired from the Air Force and TDCJ. I am a member of the choir and have been a facilitator in the Bridges to Life Program, Primarily at the Eastham Unit. I have been married to Bobbie for 48 years.

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George D. Miles, Jr

George D. Miles, Jr. is originally from Baytown, Texas and is a 1961 graduate of Sam Houston State University. He has been a banker for 40+ years, the past 27 years in Huntsville. George has been married to his wife, Beth, since 1984 and has one son, two stepsons, and two granddaughters. He retired from full-time employment as EVP for First National Bank/Huntsville on December 31, 2005, continuing as bank consultant.

His past community and university involvement include serving as president of the SHSU Alumni Association (2006), president of Sam Houston Memorial Museum Friends Board (and still serves as a board member), chairman of Huntsville's Economic Development Council, foreman of the Walker County Grand Jury, member of THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM Reader Advisory Board, and as a SHSU Liaison to the Texas State Legislature (2008/09)

He is past chairman and still serves on the Sam Houston State University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences Advisory Board, and as a member of the SHSU President's Circle, Executive Leadership Council, Alumni Association's Past President Advisory council, and Mass Communications Advisory Board. He was also the 2010 Chairman of the Board for Huntsville/Walker County Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Huntsville Rotary Club Board, the Ravenwood Golf Course Advisory Board, the Walker County Jail Commission, and served a three-year term on the Vestry of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, serving as the Vestry's senior warden for 2009.

George was awarded THE HUNTSVILLE ITEM'S Citizen of the Year Award in 2007, was honored with the Sam Houston State University Alumni Association Service Award in 2008, and was named a Sam Houston State Distinguished Alumnus in 2010.

Robert J. (Bob) Parker

I was confirmed as an Episcopalian in 1976 at St. Stephen's on the SHSU campus. My wife, Connie, is a lifetime Episcopalian. One of our children and all three grandchildren have been baptized here. When the end comes, I plan to reside here in the columbarium.

St. Stephen's has many important ministries that need our support: the Canterbury group on campus, our youth, the prison endeavors, and also the continued support of our local community and schools.

I have served on the vestry previously and would be honored to serve again should the parishioners so choose.

Marisa Wight

I am honored to be considered to serve St. Stephen's as a Vestry member. St. Stephen's has been my church home since 1995. If elected I will do my best to always keep in mind that I will be representing each of you, we are all members of the one body - Jesus Christ. Thank you.

God's Peace, Marisa

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The Alexander and Gerald Purviance Trust Fund

The Purviance Trust provided income for the parish, University ministry and the local historical commission as mandated by the trust agreement at the close of 2011. The trustees made the following distributions of income.

\$15,544.19	St. Stephen's Parish
4865.08	University ministry
310.55	Walker County Historical Society

I am writing this report in the capacity granted the rector in the trust instrument.

James C. Morgan
President of the Trust

George Miles, Jr
Treasurer of the Trust

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Acolytes

Every Sunday worship is enhanced by the service of our acolytes. This year we added 3 new members: Kory Kerr, Karolina Kerr and Anna Short. We are grateful that Alexia Florentin and Dakota Thornton return to the ranks occasionally. And we certainly cannot leave out Adolphus King and Mackenzie Hall who have been regulars throughout the year. Gary Bowen serves regularly at the early Sunday Service.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study Class

Each Sunday morning at 9:30, the adult class gathers in the church parlor to study the scripture lessons assigned for that day. Leaders present various aspects of how the lessons are related, their historical and cultural situations, and theological/spiritual aspects of the readings. The class has lively discussions and a faithful following. It is led by Fleetwood Range, assisted by Virginia Owens, and often helped by David Owens or Len Breen. Come give us a try.

Fleetwood Range

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild serves St. Stephen's through the ministry of preparing the church for all the regular and special worship services during the year. This group provides one of the most important functions in the life of the church with loving dedication and skill. Their service includes a myriad of activities from making Palm Sunday crosses to preparing ashes, from polishing silver and brass and maintaining linens to the seasonal decorating of the altar and church as well as setting up for the Sunday, Wednesday and special services including funerals, weddings and baptisms. They generously serve with care and constancy and welcome new members who are interested in helping with this meaningful service.

The altar guild is organized into four teams of at least three people. Each team prepares for the set-up and take-down of one Sunday a month and any services the following week. There are four months during the year with an extra week, and each team takes one of those as well. Everyone joins to help with the special times such as Christmas and Holy Week.

The current members are Jean Babcock, Helen Crosby, Helen Farrar, Margaret Ferguson, Linda Gary, Drema Kabosius, Bobbie McClintock, Marsha Mixon, Connie Parker, Louie Payne, Marsha Phillips, and Sandy Uselton.

If anyone is interested in participating in this very rewarding and necessary way, please contact Father Jim or Marsha Phillips.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Cooking and eating play significant roles in the function of the Brotherhood. Shrove Tuesday wouldn't be the same without pancakes, ham or sausage and applesauce frenetically prepared by the Brothers. This year we initiated our new outdoor smoker by preparing a pulled pork luncheon for a visiting Bishop. This smoker is a fine tool and we look forward to many 'finger-lickin' entrees in the future.

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After last year's dismal performance due to the flu epidemic that kept school children from attending the festival, our annual Sam Houston Folk Festival pizza sale was a great success. We sold enough pizzas to sponsor summer camp experiences at Camp Allen for the children of prison inmates. Additionally, we were able to contribute toward Adolphus King's university expenses.

Various work projects keep the mostly retired members active and on their toes. Our annual clean up day was well attended.

- Don Thomas led a workshop on how to stripe a parking lot.
- Kin Barker taught us how to up-root a sprinkler system without getting out of first gear.
- Don and Kin with the aid of several pieces of mechanical and hand-operated machinery replaced our old sign out front with a handsome new addition to the St. Stephen's property, and
- Bob Streeter and Ed Davis are leading the way in the establishment of a new community garden just north of the church.

We are always looking for new members. If you're interested in fellowship, discussion of on-going study topics and participating in a continuing study of the relative merits of local donut emporiums, then the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is for you. If you're not a member, we invite you to join us. Just talk with Mike Gary, our president, or any of the Brotherhood members. You'll be amazed with the speed with which we follow-up on your expression of interest.

John Rich

Camp Good News

The eleventh edition of Camp Good News took place at Camp Allen June 5-10, 2011. This camp is open only to children who have a parent or close loved one incarcerated. Due to the breakdown of a van bringing campers to Good News, attendance was only 33, but camp was excellent. Forth-five percent of the campers were returnees; fifty-five percent were new. One hundred percent of the adult staff was also returnees and all of them requested further service in 2012! All the usual fun activities took place. The spiritual component was strong and one young man was baptized before returning home. Thank you ECW, Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and individuals who contributed money and wrote letters of encouragement to the campers. Camp Good News has a new website at www.campgoodnews4kids.org.

Celebration Service

In September of 1994, a "Folk Song Service" began at the rectory. The **third Friday of each month** became the standard date for the service. The name was changed to "Celebration Service" two years later as most of the music was selected from the *Come Celebrate* songbook. The service continues to this day. Small and intimate and lay led, it has knit together and fed good God fearing friends for 17 years. Attendance for the 10 services in 2011 was 121. For information, contact Sharon Lynch or Fr. Jim.

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Children's Christian Education Report

Student enrollment is variable. We have an average of six students per Sunday. The lessons mirror the lectionary readings for each Sunday. We subscribe to a Sunday newspaper that explains the Biblical readings at various age levels. We have prayers for the people and pets before we start each lesson. The students are very involved and are taught to appreciate the value of being a member of the body of Christ through Biblical history and personal experience in their lives and in their parish. Music, arts and crafts and audio-visual components are utilized to fulfill our goals of holistic Christian education. We welcome any child of any age that wants to join us. I am very thankful for the volunteers that made our summer and winter Bible Schools such a successful adventure. We were all blessed by the interactions with our children and visitors.

Linda Gary

Cursillo

This Diocesan sponsored three day encounter with Christ began in 1976, and while no one from St. Stephen's attended a weekend in 2011, one of our congregation gave the "Fourth Day Talk" at the closing of Cursillo number 229, and three reunion groups are active at St. Stephen's. For information about Cursillo contact Fr. Jim or Ed Davis. The website for Cursillo is: www.episcopalcurstillotexas.org.

Daughters of the King

Annual Report 2011 G.R.A.C.E. Chapter of the Daughters of the King, a women's order dedicated to prayer, service and evangelism, had 33 members in 2011. Pamela McManus will be leading a training class for eight new members starting in January 2012. The DOK Chapter meets monthly at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. In 2011 meetings were held each month, as well as a Saturday retreat in April. Fleetwood Range lead the retreat at her home. At our monthly meetings we pray for those persons and friends who are on our prayer list, as well as for concerns for our nation and the world. One of our major endeavors is to update our prayer list monthly and hold up the prayer concerns of our congregation on a daily basis. Members of the DOK attended the Spring Assembly as well as the fall retreat at Camp Allen. For our fall service project the DOK prepared bags with needed items for the college students at the Episcopal Student Center at Sam Houston State University. For the Christmas service project we collected personal items, e.g. lingerie and socks for women and children at the Saafe House. The DOK continues to provide prayer shawls for those who are ill. We met for dinner and fellowship in December at the Rectory. Virginia Owens continues to serve as vice-president in charge of programs and has led the programs each month which are inspiring and thought provoking. We have committed members who are focused on the DOK Mission and who have reached out to other women in the congregation to join in our mission. It is a blessing to serve our Lord as His child, a Daughter of the King.

dFulton

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2011 Episcopal Student Center Report

As a recognized student organization at SHSU, we are an inclusive, Christ-centered community where all are invited into a life of Christian discipleship grounded in Word and Sacrament, expressed in seeking truth through responsible scholarship, service, evangelism, and active participation in the life of the Church. We are to serve as agents of Christ's grace and love to all in higher education—a family away from home for students, a safe, supportive place to find encouragement and guidance, and a place of spiritual nourishment and hope to the whole campus community.

ESC Schedule of Activities at Canterbury House

Sundays—Dinner at 6:30 followed by program, fellowship and Compline

Wednesdays—Bible Study at 5:30 (led by Barbara Walter); Eucharist at 6:30;
dinner at 7:30 provided by our St. Stephen's family

Thursdays—Game and Movie Night

Spring Highlights

- Super Bowl party attended by 25 students & friends
- Valentine party w/ special meal served
- Christian presidents night
- Seder supper

Summer Highlights

- Thursday Passport-to-Sam providing information about our organization to incoming freshmen
- Bible study on Thursdays
- Thursday & some Saturday AM Canterbury House improvement projects
- Thursday dinner & Compline after dark

Fall Highlights

- 2011 Fall semester Open House which Faith Lutheran students & adult leaders attended
- Halloween scripture scavenger hunt
- "Lock-In"
- Thanksgiving carry-in dinner
- Jesse Tree ornaments
- Annual Stowe's Christmas party at the Breen-Robbins home

Projects Completed

- Formed SHSU Academic Minister's Group
- Netflix for the ESC
- Two new sofas for the living room
- Graveled driveway to rear of property to improve & increase parking and allow for ease of departures
- New dry erase message board in the dining room
- Built steps down from extra incline parking
- Large dining and 3 side tables materials—project designed & engineered by Bob Streeter w/ students finishing help**
- Front porch planter boxes (wooden; built by Bob) & plants**

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- Kitchen items including: electric can opener, indoor recycle bin, materials for steps to parking**
- Outreach Project—SHSU Pink Out for Breast Cancer Awareness**

**The Coke machine located on the front porch of Canterbury House provide funds for small projects. The diligence of Bob Streeter and grad students, Covey Barbee and Chris Felder, kept it replenished for continued use and income. Other funds were used for general upkeep and activities for and at the Canterbury House and the ESC program.

Staff

The Reverend Mary Robbins, Pastoral Leader and Campus Missioner

The Reverend James Morgan, Celebrant and Mentor

Rosemary & Bob Streeter, Program Directors

Becca Alard & Andrew Shannon-Myers, Peer Ministers

Covey Barbee & Chris Felder, Canterbury House Wardens

Tracy Szymczak & Covey Barbee, Sacristans

Sharon Lynch, Ed Davis, Chris Felder & Richards Watts, Musicians

Barbara Walter, Bible Study Leader

A special THANK YOU to our Wednesday evening chefs!

**Thank you, St. Stephen's for all you do
to support our ministry!**



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN ANNUAL REPORT

St. Stephen's ECW experienced a very active year in 2011. Several of our normally budgeted items were re-evaluated on the basis of need and importance to our Parish. The ECW will be awarding two scholarships in 2012; one to a graduate student and another to an undergraduate. We contributed to numerous projects on the grounds and participated in planning manpower for setup and cleanup of large celebrations held at St. Stephens.

The profit from our annual bazaar allows us to direct funding to various projects throughout the year. We continue to contribute to diocesan outreach programs as well as local charities and plan numerous projects at St. Stephen's during the year.

The 2011 bazaar was a real success! Concentrating on the sale of food items (especially the casseroles) proved to be a real benefit, and we applaud all of you who donated to this effort.

Members have undertaken the difficult chore of updating our parish scrapbooks which have been neglected for years. They're doing an outstanding job in identifying members and activities.

Board members (Kathleen Becker/Vice President, Bobbie McClintock/Treasurer and Jean Bowden/Secretary) continue to serve the ECW well. We (again) changed our meeting date and time to the second Thursday of each month; we are trying to accommodate as many women as possible. I'm glad to say that we have seen an increase in attendance and participation this year.

Many thanks to all of you who have given of your time, talents and just plain hard work and we're looking forward to a very successful 2012.

Four ECW members are now certified food handlers by the City of Huntsville. We appreciate the time and effort given by Helen Crosby, Bobbie McClintock, Rosemary Streeter and Sue Harris. Their certifications are posted in the kitchen, as well as our kitchen certification.

Sue Harris, President

Execution Service

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Since 1998, when Bishop Payne approved a *Liturgy for a day of Execution*, a handful of concerned members of this parish and a few from other denominations have come together to pray for the victim of the crime and their family; the perpetrator and his family; the public officials responsible for considering reprieves and stays of execution; and, the warden who must oversee the execution. For the fourth year in a row, the number of executions has declined in Texas, the number one executing state in the nation. There are two reasons for this: constant revelations of prosecutorial misconduct leading to reversals of convictions and the new life without parole option for juries. There were 13 executions in 2011 compared with 17 the year before. All told the state has executed 477 people since the death penalty was restored in December, 1982. The services begin at 5:30 PM on the day of the execution. For information, contact Ed Davis or Fr. Jim.

Ed Davis

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Service behind the altar is an enjoyable ministry at St. Stephen's. Unfortunately, one of our numbers asked to be excused for a while. However, we are blessed with the addition of two new members, Barbara Walter and Tom Parker. In addition, we welcome the return of David Owens and Bob Streeter. We now number seventeen of us in the Lay Eucharistic Ministry:

Jean Babcock, Linda Badger, Ed Davis, Doug Duncan, Helen Farrar, Larry Franklin, Mike Gary, Sharon Lynch, Frank McGehee, David Owens, Tom Parker, Marsha Phillips, Bob Streeter, Rosemary Streeter, Pat Vaughn, Barbara Walters and Marisa Wight.

Our ministry is always very spiritually enriching, whether it be reading, offering prayers, or serving the chalice. At the 8:30 service you get to do it all; even carry the cross.

As you might guess, we would welcome new members to our ranks - especially at 8:30. You will need to be licensed by the Bishop. If you would like to serve, talk to me or Fr. Morgan.

Larry Franklin

The Monday Night Craft Group

This is a difficult group to describe. It has no leaders, no rules, no business meetings—no organization at all. We gather in the parish hall at 7:00 on Monday evenings, move the tables around until they suit whatever projects various people are working on that night, and spend the next hour and a half sewing, doing crafts, drinking tea, talking, and sharing. We frequently laugh uproariously, sometimes cry, and always thoroughly enjoy each other's company.

We have some people who are wonderfully talented and some who just want to learn to do something. Everyone is willing to teach and learn in this group. It is not unusual to have people come who are not even working on a project but just want to enjoy the company. Come and join us if you want to learn something. Come and join us if you want to make friends. It's always fun on Monday nights.

Fleetwood Range

Music Ministry 2011

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Another delightful year in service to the Lord. Choir membership is purely volunteer and we welcome anyone who wishes to express their love for our Lord, Jesus, in song. Choir rehearsals occur after the 10:30 service on most Sundays and last until about 1. The duration depends greatly on the new material we need to work through. Our music comes from many sources, but is usually accessible to all after a little rehearsal. The only real requirements are:
a consistent desire to know your part, follow the indirect direction of the leader, and regular attendance at rehearsals.
Come join us. We'd love to have you.

Harvey

Nursing Home Ministry

Mike Gary continues to minister to the residents of Huntsville Health Care Center (formerly Fair Park) nursing home each week as he has for the past 26 years. The service includes singing, a short homily, and lots of love! Attendance normally is around 20-25. Mike hopes to continue this service for years to come!

Office Angels

Volunteering to be an "Office Angel" is a wonderful way to serve St. Stephens by giving of your time for just a couple of hours each month (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.). The primary responsibility is to answer the telephone during these hours and take messages for Helen and Fr. Jim as necessary.

Office Angels are occasionally asked to assist in simple tasks such as folding the bulletin. No special skills are required. It is important to have someone in the office during the daytime hours, and the church will be most appreciative of your assistance. Helen suggests bringing a book, knitting or some type of craft to work on, as many mornings are relatively quiet.

You may volunteer one day or more days per month and you can schedule your days by contacting Helen between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., either at the church office or by calling 295-7226. During any year, some of the office angels have had to leave for various personal reasons. So, we always have room for more angels!

Barbara Walter

Open Hands, Open Hearts

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God gave St. Stephen's Church the blessing of continuing to reach out to our community, our diocese, and our world this year. Locally, we helped feed, clothe, and shelter those in need at the Good Shepherd Mission and through C.O.M.E. Many of our members volunteered and supplied meals to the Episcopal Student Center and through Angel Tree provided Christmas gifts for the children of the incarcerated. The grief support group continues to meet at the church weekly. In our Diocese of Texas, we have contributed funds, personal notes, and Ed Davis to the work of Camp Good News, a summer camp for children of offenders. And, as for so many years now, we make available space and personnel for the support of Kairos weekends twice a year. Last February our basket overflowed with donated reading glasses for the homeless of our diocese. Globally, our reach has extended as far as Africa when we raised generous contributions to supply Southern Malawi with mosquito nets to curb the death toll by malaria. Also, we have contributed monthly to the often dangerous work of Jeffrey Samuel in Pakistan.

Thanks be to God that he has given us generous resources we can share in his name.

Virginia Owens

Restorative Justice Ministries

Men and women of St. Stephen's continue to serve on **Kairos** teams at the Walls twice a year: Spring break and Labor Day. Men of St. Stephen's also serve as facilitators for the monthly Kairos reunion at the Wynne Unit. Fr. Jim and Ed Davis continue to serve on the **Diocesan Restorative Justice Ministries Council**. Ed serves as chair of the Council and Coordinator of Restorative Justice Ministries for the Diocese as well as Network Chair of **Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry for Province VII of the Episcopal Church of the United States**. In his role with the Diocese, he also directs **Camp Good News** for children of the incarcerated. Several of our men and women participate in **Bridges to Life** at the Huntsville and Eastham Units and others connect fathers to their children through the **Story Book** project at the Huntsville Unit. Incarcerated fathers and mothers are also connected to their children through the **Angel Tree** gift program for Walker County children.

These programs are supported by many individuals in the parish through monetary gift giving, volunteering hours of service, writing letters of encouragement to Camp Good News children, and providing gifts for children in an Angel Tree family. Thanks to all who stepped up to meet needs in 2011. Jesus said, "The harvest is great and the laborers are few," but historically, St. Stephen's has offered more than a few and that's one of the characteristics of our people that have always impressed me. I must note, however, that our volunteer base has seriously declined and reinforcements are badly needed. Please do not tire; the work to be done does not diminish. Ed Davis

St. Stephen's Ride Ministry

St. Stephen's is pleased to offer a ride to services at the church for those in need. If you or someone you know would like a ride to church, please contact the church office at 936/295-7226. If you are willing to offer a ride to and/or from the church, please contact Trey Charrier at rides4ststephens@gmail.com. If you are considering contributing to this ministry, feel free to clarify the limits of your offering. Any and all support is valued, appreciated, and regarded as generous. Many thanks to those of you who are volunteering this year and for those who have offered a ride in years past!

The SAGA Report for 2011

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In 2011, St. Stephen's printed an average of 165 monthly issues of the SAGA, mailing 140-145 to parishioners, giving 10 to the Episcopal Student Center and putting the remainder in the vestibule of the church. In addition, T. B. (Terry) Harris has been placing a copy of each month's newsletter on the church's Website.

The aim of the SAGA every month is to provide the parish with a pastoral letter from Jim Morgan, the rector of St. Stephen's, and information about upcoming church organization meetings and other events. Each SAGA also contains next month's calendar and service roster for the month.

Often published in 2011 were reports on local and diocesan ministries. Virginia Owens and Ed Davis prepare most of these reports.

To place articles, reports, and or other information in the SAGA, email David Owens at owens.david62@yahoo.com or put the data in the SAGA bin in the church office.

St. Stephen's Web Site (www.ststephens1.org)

The primary purpose of the web site is to enlighten the church membership and the community in general as to who we are, what we stand for and what we have going on. We currently have 56 parish members registered to our site. If you have not already done so, please go on line, take a look at the site and consider becoming a member of our online community.

This past February we undertook a revamp of the website layout in an attempt to make the site more appealing and user friendly. The results have been very favorable with much positive feedback. Check it out!

Every activity within the church community is encouraged to consider communicating their plans, schedule and objectives through the web site. It can also be an effective method to seek volunteers and new members for an ongoing or new activity. Just remember, you must get the information to me (preferably by email) for me to arrange a suitable inclusion on the website. Also, if you have any suggestions for new or improved content on the site, please feel free to contact me by phone (439-0086), email (tbharris1@sbcglobal.net) or in person.

T. B. (Terry) Harris