



# The Friendly Visitor

St. Stephens Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
December 2011

## Come celebrate Christmas with us at St. Stephens

All are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ at two very special services for 2011:

### Christmas Eve, December 24,

**7:00 p.m.** – We will come together to celebrate with many favorite Christmas carols, hear the story of the birth of Jesus, receive the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and close with a candlelight ceremony. All ages are most welcome!



**Christmas Day, December 25, 10:30 a.m.** – The celebration continues Christmas morning, as we sing many more favorite Christmas carols, have readings and reflections focused on the birth of the Messiah, and a special food collection for the North Highlands Food Closet.

Both services will be held in Center High School's multipurpose room, just off Watt

Avenue, two blocks north of Elverta Road. Bring your entire extended family, neighbors and friends to these special Christmas celebrations! For more information, contact the church office at (916) 332-2071.

## We renew our Baptismal vows on January 8

You are invited to join together in a special worship service on January 8, 2012, as we reaffirm the vows we took (or our parents took for us) at the time of our baptisms. This annual renewal of our Baptismal vows will be held during our regular worship service at 10:30 a.m. at Center High School. During this service we will acknowledge and celebrate the grace of God bestowed on us in baptism and lay claim to that grace in our lives. It will also be an opportunity to recommit our lives to Christ and to His service, and to be nourished by the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

As Christians, the Sacrament of Baptism is at the center of our lives. It is a sign of the grace of God, of the covenant God has established with us, and of the presence of the Holy Spirit working among us to comfort, strengthen, and empower us in God's service. It is also a sign of our participation in the death and resurrection with Christ, and of our cleansing from sin.

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While we Presbyterians believe that we only need to be baptized once in our lives, many of us benefit from the opportunity to recommit ourselves and to reaffirm those vows. This is a natural part of our faith development. As we grow in faith and age it is wonderful to have various opportunities to answer these questions again. This is especially helpful when we have had experiences that have caused us to question or struggle anew with our relationship with God. It is often out of these experiences that we emerge with a new and deeper understanding of God, ourselves, and our relationships with one another.

Come to worship and let the Spirit of God renew and strengthen you!

## Christmas Pageant scheduled for December 11

Our annual Christmas Pageant will be staged on Sunday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m., during the regular worship hour. Join us for what has traditionally been one of the happiest family-oriented services of the year at St. Stephens.



The entire production, from direction, to sound, to costumes, to choreography, to acting, singing and dancing, is done by members and friends of the St. Stephens family. Plan now to attend and invited people you know to enjoy this celebration of the season. For more information, contact Lyn Bagelmann at (916) 334-1546, or [lbagelmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbagelmann@sbcglobal.net), or the church office at (916) 332-2071.

## St. Stephens Youth supporting Christmas for Kids

St. Stephens Youth Group will once again take part in making Christmas memorable for children in our community. We will be collecting toys, clothing, electronics and other gifts for **Christmas for Kids**, a program that has been created to fill the gap left when the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department terminated its Cops to Kids program last year. The program will operate very similarly to the former program, helping local families in need. We are collecting gifts for children ages 0-15 now through December 18. Gifts can be dropped off both at church on Sundays and at the church office.

As the season progresses, we will let out St. Stephens family know where specific help is needed, including dates we will be wrapping gifts and filling stockings. For more information, contact Lyn Bagelmann at (916) 334-1546.

## Northminster stages *A Charlie Brown Christmas*

Northminster Presbyterian Church presents the jazz musical, "A Charlie Brown Christmas," with the Jim Martinez Trio with Laura Didier on Sunday December 4, at 1:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth. Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 487-5192 or [www.northminsteronline.org](http://www.northminsteronline.org), or [www.jimmartinez.com](http://www.jimmartinez.com).



## Tuskegee Airmen 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala slated

George S. “Spanky” Roberts Chapter invites you to celebrate with the original Tuskegee Airmen at our 2011 Education Assistance Fundraiser on Saturday, December 3, at the Aerospace Museum, 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan, CA. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the event is 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person. For more information, contact Chapter president Walter Suggs at (916) 768-0343, or Edith Roberts at (916) 723-9968 or [www.taisacramento.org](http://www.taisacramento.org).



## Annual Reports are due to office by January 3

It's time again for program leaders to complete and submit their reports for the annual meeting. This report is a historical notation of the church's activities, which will remind us of our activities throughout the years. Some ideas for reporting could include some information about the ministry you are involved with, other people involved, meetings that took place, and actions taken.

The submission deadline is Tuesday, January 3, 2012. If you are able, please email all reports and send as Word attachment. That will allow our church secretary, Veronica Perez, to compile the material more quickly. If someone other than the program leader is completing the report, please identify that person to Veronica. For more information, contact the church office at (916) 332-2071.

## Westminster Music at Noon offers holiday music

Westminster Presbyterian Church's ongoing Music at Noon program announces four special programs for December, including a guitar soloist, flute ensemble, women's choir, and hand bell choir. All concerts are Wednesdays 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at Westminster, 1300 N Street, Downtown Sacramento, and they are free! For more information, check their website at <http://www.westminsac.org/music>.

# 2011 SING-ALONG HANDEL'S MESSIAH

*Your chance to participate  
in a holiday tradition!*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH  
4 PM

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
5625 24TH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

10 MINUTES SOUTH OF DOWNTOWN  
SACRAMENTO

Enjoy the glorious  
Christmas portions of  
Handel's timeless *Messiah*

- FREE ADMISSION •
- GOODWILL OFFERING  
WILL BE TAKEN FOR THE  
SOUTH SACRAMENTO  
INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP  
FOOD CLOSET
- POST-CONCERT RECEPTION •

*All are welcome!*



LIMITED QUANTITY OF MESSIAH  
SCORES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR  
\$10 AT THE DOOR.

WANT A CHANCE TO REHEARSE IN  
ADVANCE? COME TO A DROP-IN  
REHEARSAL • SUNDAYS AT 4 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 20 & DECEMBER 4  
AT BETHANY CHURCH.

ATTEND AS A SINGER OR A LISTENER!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BETHANY  
MUSIC DIRECTOR DR. MAY TUAN  
TUCKER AT (916) 428-5281 OR  
office@bethpres.com.



www.bethpres.com

## Last chance to choose new name for Newsletter

This is your last chance to vote for the new newsletter name! After 20 years, the Friendly Visitor is donning a new name, chosen by the congregation! We've received some very creative ideas from all of you. Please choose your favorite, and send your choice via mail, email, phone, or in person to editor Robin Thompson at (916) 786-3875, 1119 Salmon Drive, Roseville, CA 95661, or [robinthompson4peace@gmail.com](mailto:robinthompson4peace@gmail.com). The winning name will be announced (and launched) in the January issue.

The choices are:

- The View*
- The Focus*
- Kingdom Courier*
- Press-byterian*
- St. Stephens Sentinel*
- Joyful Noise*
- Cross-words*
- Cross Talk*



## North Highlands Food Ministry mission continues

The Food Closet continues to be our hands-on service to our community, feeding hundreds of local citizens each week. Need continues to grow as the economy shrinks, with an increase of 20% in individuals served since January. They always need Cup of Noodles, Top Ramen, and canned meals or chili, which is provided to our homeless neighbors, who can then get hot water from local stores and restaurants. In addition, they are currently in need of 25 lb. bags of rice and oatmeal (available at Costco, Winco, or Sam's Club), #2 and #3 jarred baby food, and size 3 and 4 diapers. They also request travel-sized toiletries, large and extra large T-shirts and socks for both men and women. Clean used shopping bags are always needed, since it costs them \$15 for 1,000 bags. For more information, please contact Alice Taylor at (916) 331-0345.

## Cell Phones for Soldiers ministry supports troops

For more than 369,000 troops serving overseas, making a call home is costly and a rarity for many military professionals. Cell Phones for Soldiers helps troops call home by providing free communication tools to each branch of the United States Military. To contribute, just drop your equipment in the box at the church office, or the mail slot, or just hand them to Bess Hadley at church on Sunday. Don't forget to ask your friends, relatives, and neighbors too! Cash donations are also accepted. For more information about this mission, contact Bess at (916) 331-6851.



## Sharing Stitches shares needlework, friends

Sharing Stitches ministry offers free classes in knitting, crocheting and looming, to all ages, genders, and skills levels. Currently there are three classes meeting weekly:

**Mondays, 12:30-2:00 p.m.**

Sierra Creek Apts., 4500 Elverta Road, Antelope (Across from Antelope High)

**Mondays, 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

Sierra Terrace Apts., 6725 Fiddymment Rd., Roseville (north of Pleasant Grove Blvd.)

**Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Lamplighter Mobile Park, 5040 Jackson St., North Highlands, (south of Madison Ave.)

Coordinator Paula Ross has all the supplies. You only need to bring your own if you already have them. **Please note that we will be taking a winter break December 11 – January 5, 2012.** For more information, contact Paula at (916) 344-5713, or [paula5713@pacbell.net](mailto:paula5713@pacbell.net) or [paula5713@hotmail.com](mailto:paula5713@hotmail.com).

## Fellowship Groups set meetings for December

St. Stephens offers several fellowship groups that meet at various times. Why not drop in on one (or several!) and join the fun.

**Heart to Heart** (Women's fellowship) – Meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the church office, 6400 Watt Avenue, North Highlands. We celebrate our spiritual journeys by sharing Christ's lessons through prayer, stories, Bible study and ministering to others. For more information, contact the Sarah Koppel at (916) 331-0652.



*Heart to Heart*



**HAHA Group** (Health And Humor Association) – We welcome all who need a lift. We meet the first Monday morning of each month. The next meeting is Monday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the church office, Watt and Bolivar. We pray, fellowship, laugh, and share – even sandwiches if you forgot yours! Bring a friend and your brown bag lunch. Dessert, coffee and tea are provided. Call Edith Roberts for more information, (916) 723-9968, or Eleanor Hadley, (916) 331-6851.

**The Pratt Group** (an informal adult fellowship) – They meet monthly for food (either in homes or restaurants) and fellowship. All are welcome. Their December meeting time and site will be announced. Call Sharon Brundage at (916) 331-1934 for more information.



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**Men's Fellowship Group.** They meet monthly for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on the third Sunday at Perko's Cafe, 8075 Watt Avenue, for breakfast and conversation, and are always done in time to all go the high school and set up for worship. Their next meeting is December 18, 2011. For further information, contact Todd Brundage at (916) 331-1934.



The 2012 church flower chart is available for sign-ups at worship. **Lucy Filler** reminds us to mark your entry when you've paid, so we can keep track. Flowers are \$8 per Sunday, and more than one per Sunday is OK! Questions? Call Lucy at (916) 334-9366.

It's a St. Stephens tradition to have one large **Christmas card** to convey our holiday greetings. Instead of sending individual cards to the church family, you are encouraged to sign the large one at worship, then donate what you would have spent on cards and stamps to this special offering. We will vote later on where the funds will be used. For more information, contact **Phyllis Birge** at (916) 992-6284.

Don't forget to save **Boxtops for Education** for Oakdale School, teaches. They look like this picture, are found on dozens of grocery will be used for enrichment experiences, such as special field trips. boxtops to Dianne at church, or call her at (916) 223-3380.



where **Dianne Willson** items. Money raised You can give your

It's the time of year when our Nominating Committee goes to work, officers for the coming year. As always, the congregation's prayers, thoughts and suggestions are greatly appreciated. Contact members of the nominating committee for suggestions or information: **Marcia and Larry Leonard**, (916) 348-9654; **Lucy Filler**, (916) 334-9366; **Tracey Donnelly**, (916) 723-1268; **Lisa Ross**, (916) 971-4711; **Lyn Bagelmann**, (916) 334-1546.

identifying new

## December Birthdays

5 Nathaniel Roberts-Loader  
8 Kim Kelly  
13 Janice Bennett  
13 Ron Taylor  
14 Lyn Bagelmann

18 Dianne Willson  
18 Sherri Newhouse  
19 Blake Thompson  
27 David Ross

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**THE FRIENDLY VISITOR**  
ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6400 Watt Ave.  
North Highlands, CA 95660

“Presorted Standard”  
Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Permit #4  
North Highlands, CA 95660

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“I am bringing  
you good news  
of great joy  
for all the  
people.”

Luke 2:10, NRSV



### **Sunday Worship** – 10:30 am

At Center High School, 3111 Center Court Lane Antelope, CA 95843

**Church Office:** 6400 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660

**Office Hours:** Tuesday - Thursday, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm, Friday 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**Phone:** (916) 332-2071 **Fax:** (916) 332-0504

**E-mail:** office@ststephenspres.org; pastor@ststephenspres.org; newsletter@ststephenspres.org

\*\*\*\*\* Graphics reprinted with permission of *The Newsletter Newsletter* \*\*\*\*\*

### **St. Stephens Mission Statement:**

We believe that we are called to connect all people to God through Christ and to guide them on their journey of faith.

### **Note:**

*If you are receiving this copy of the “Friendly Visitor” for the first time, we introduce ourselves to you and want you to know you are most welcome to worship with us.*