



# *THE FRIENDLY VISITOR*

*ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2012*

## **“Show Me the Spirit” project launches Feb. 18**

An exciting new project that aims to shape the future of St. Stephens will launch on Saturday, February 18! Details, including place and time, is still in the planning stage as of press time. We do know, however, that it will include food and an invitation to all the congregation to participate as we move through Bible passages that guide us in the way that the Holy Spirit sees St. Stephens going.

Be prepared for this new journey that will lead us through Lent and beyond. For more information, contact SMTS committee member Robin Thompson at (916) 786-3875.



*Show Me the Spirit!*

## **Shepherd of the Sierra hosts Taizé for Lent**

Shepherd of the Sierra Presbyterian Church in Loomis invites you to join them for weekly Taizé services beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, at 5400 Barton Road, Loomis. Taizé services will be held weekly during the season of Lent. Each spirit-filled worship service begins at 7:30 p.m.

A Taizé service is filled with music, silence, scripture, silence, prayer and more silence. This style of worship was created in central France in a little village called Taizé over 75 years ago. Shepherd of the Sierra normally offers a monthly Taizé services on the second Wednesday of the month. However, they plan this special weekly schedule for the Lenten season: Ash Wednesday, February 22, February 29, March 7, March 14, March 21, and March 28. For more information, contact Shepherd of the Sierra at (916) 652-4851.



# A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to tell you that the work of our Congregational Conversations will soon continue! Our Session has contracted with Mary Richardson to guide us in this next phase. Session has also formed a team to work with Mary. Chaired by Bob Gossard, the team includes Deb Skibitzki, Robin Thompson, Kurt Bagelmann, and Shirley Ross.

During this next phase we will look more closely at our strengths and our community as we continue to discern and take steps towards the ministry and mission God is leading us towards. Be watching for what comes next!

I also want to share with you that I am scheduled to take a sabbatical next summer. Can you believe that it has been *10 years* since my last one?! This time we will not have the Lilly Grant to fund additional pastoral care or my activities, but I am fully confident that all things will be covered. We have such strong lay leadership, spiritual depth and skills that I know that you will faithfully care for one another and continue to spiritually feed one another through worship and ministry.

My sabbatical will most likely begin in June. This gives us several months to plan together for what will happen while I am gone. I encourage you to think about what you would like to see happen here “at home.” Are there any particular “sabbatical” activities (renewal, something new, different kinds of experiences) you would like to experience? What concerns do you have for this time? Are there any particular aspects you would like Session or myself to pay special attention to? Please share your thoughts, concerns and ideas with either me or a Session member. We hope to address as many as possible before the sabbatical begins!

May God continue to bless us all!

Peggy



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Sacramento  
invites you to attend the

***Winter Gathering***

Saturday, February 11, 2012

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church  
5839 Dewey Drive, Citrus Heights

***Theme: River of Hope***

Psalm 46: 4, 5

***Keynote Speaker: Norma Sherman***

“My Heart Was Touched at Wounded Knee”

Elder Sherman was a member of the USA Contingency Global Exchange and will share travels and stories of her Native American Outreach experience through the State of South Dakota. A native Californian, Elder Sherman is a 25-year member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Oakland, where she is involved in Christian Education, Session, Deacons, the new Church Garden, and Building & Grounds.

For reservations or more information, please contact Amanda at the Celtic Cross office, (916) 967-1414 by Monday, February 6, 2012. Cost of the Gathering is \$7 per person for lunch. Child care available if noted at time of making reservation. Please bring a bagged lunch for your child(ren).

***Gather a group and come together!***

## Sprucing Up in the Pines registration now open

Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center is gearing up for its bi-annual Sprucing Up in the Pines, and volunteers are always appreciated at this event where so much work is accomplished, readying and improving the grounds for the upcoming season.

All are invited to spend a weekend during the spring (*and autumn!*) in the Sierras working in a beautiful setting painting, hammering, raking, sewing and having fun with other volunteers. Participants stay *free* in one of their cozy cabins and leave the cooking



to the dining room chefs. The only cost for the weekend is the reasonably priced meals, or you can cook in your cabin! Just let them know when you register what your talents are and they will match you up with something that needs to be done.

*Sprucing Up in the Pines Fall 2011 Volunteers*

Also, Enjoy a time of recovery, rest, and fellowship during Game Night on Saturday evening (snacks included), and devotions with the Zephyr Point staff.

### Meals

Per Adult (13 years and older)	\$59
Per Child (4-12 years)	\$39
Age 3 and Under	No Charge

*Meal package includes Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast*

*Registrations and non-refundable balance due by **April 6** (spring session)*

***No charge for shared cabin housing, and no charge if all meals are prepared in cabins***

***Register at <http://zephyrpoint.org/programs-home/family-events/sprucing-up-in-the-pines>, or 775-588-6759 Option 1.***

## 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. 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, 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. For more information, please contact Alice Taylor at (916) 331-0345.



## Green Stewardship program off to great start

Our new Green Stewardship 2012 started with our first collection at worship on January 15. That collection, plus another smaller collection from January 8, totaled **\$63.33!** Plus, at least two other members took their own items in for recycling and donated the proceeds. Better still, St. Stephens kept more than **200 pounds** of waste out of the landfill and put it back into use! What a wonderful offering to both the church and God's earth!

Your recyclables can be brought to church the third Sunday each month. February's scheduled collection will be **February 19**. Of course, special arrangements for the other Sundays or home pick-up can be arranged in advance. Members are encouraged to bring in the following recyclables:

CRV (CA Redemption Value) bottles and cans; Scrap aluminum, copper, brass, iron, tin, insulated wire and stainless steel; Glass bottles and jars (Ragu, jam, salad dressing, wine, etc. Any color!); Plastic containers with the CA Recycling logo on their label. Milk jugs, juice, & other beverage containers are OK, but not dish soap & shampoo bottles; TVs and computer monitors; Car wheels, batteries, and radiators.

Contact Robin Thompson at (916) 786-3875 for pick-up or information. And keep up the good work!





**PUT A PARTY TOGETHER, COME AND HAVE FUN!!**



**Social gathering at 5:30pm, Dinner at 6pm FOLLOWED by Auction & Music  
Newman Catholic Center~Saturday, Feb. 18th**

**5900 Newman Court, Sacramento  
Donations \$35**

**MENU:**  
ANTIPASTO  
TOSSED GREEN SALAD  
PASTA  
FRENCH BREAD



**FOR TICKETS & Information Call: 448-7501 or 448-2212**

## 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 Fiddymnt 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. 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).

## Cell Phones for Soldiers ministry supports troops

Praise God our troops have come home from Iraq, but many of our troops remain deployed in Afghanistan and other places far from home. For our troops serving overseas, making a call home is a costly rarity for many military professionals. St. Stephens is in its third year supporting Cell Phones for Soldiers, which helps troops from each branch of the U.S. military call home for free. Check out their website for more information about this wonderful program at <http://cellphonesforsoldiers.com>. 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.



## Fellowship Groups' January meetings scheduled

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 **2:30 p.m.** (PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME) 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*

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



**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 January 15, 2012. For further information, contact Todd Brundage at (916) 331-1934.

## The Friendly Visitor – February 2012

**Bert and Sarah Koppel** are celebrating their **50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary** February 10, and they'd like to share their joy with the church family. Please join them for cake and good wishes after the service on Sunday, February 5.



### **This & That around the Church**

**Leona White's** new address and phone number is:  
6650 Crosswood Circle, Apt. #36  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621  
Phone: (916) 560-8817

It's with regret that we announce that **The Health And Humor Association (HAHA Group)** disbanded as of December, 2011. The fellowship and sharing have been a joy, but various health issues have taken precedence over the leaders' responsibilities. Leaders Edith Roberts and Eleanor Hadley encourage members to keep writing their stories. It's great "brain practice!" Remember – never stop growing, reaching, changing and learning!



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

### **February Birthdays**

2 Michael Ross  
4 Leigh Roberts  
7 Peggy Cross  
8 Grace Ingman  
20 Adrienne Ross  
25 Michalyn Green  
27 Linda Long  
29 Peter Skibitzki

### **February Anniversaries**

10 Burt & Sarah Koppel  
14 Art & Leona White  
21 Kevin & Kim Kelly

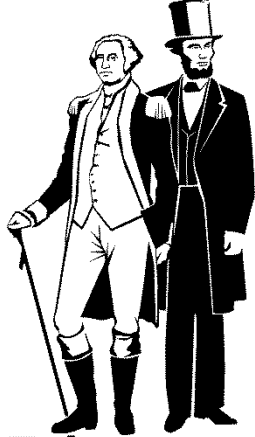
## The Friendly Visitor – February 2012

### 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



## February

### **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.*