



# *THE FRIENDLY VISITOR*

*ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
JANUARY 2012*

## **We renew our Baptismal vows on January 8**

You are invited to come participate in our annual Renewal of Baptismal Vows service on Sunday, January 8, 2012. During this special service you will have an opportunity to reaffirm the vows you (or your parents speaking for you) took at the time of your baptism. This will take place during our regular worship service at 10:30 am.



### **Renewal of Baptism Vows**

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 relationship with one another. 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.

The renewal of our Baptismal vows is one way in which we can again say YES to God. It also is an opportunity to receive God's blessing. Plan to be part of this very special service!

## **Plan to attend our annual congregational meeting**

Our annual congregational meeting will take place **Sunday, January 22**, following worship. During this annual meeting we will receive the 2011 Annual Reports, elect new Deacons and Elders, reflect on God's activity and our responses during this past year, and look forward to what is ahead in 2012. This is also the time that any other congregational business may be addressed. Please plan to stay for this very important meeting. (By the way, the Super Bowl isn't until February 5!)

## *The Friendly Visitor – January 2012*

**Dear Friends,**

As we begin this New Year, we begin with a new frame of mind. Through all of our conversations with one another, led by Jean Holsten, we have been able to move to a place that recognizes and affirms God's "No" in regards to a building to call our own, at least at this point in time. This is a HUGE shift in both our conscious focus and our unconscious one, as well as in our energy level. While we have hit brick walls and dead ends every time we traveled toward a specific location (whether it be construction or lease), we have kept in the back of our mind, "one day..."



Now that we have put it out on the table and agreed that it really is "not now", we have begun to dream and dialogue together about how we might use the money we have invested. Granted, it is not totally in our control -- the Presbytery's trustees oversee the investment. However, we now have an opportunity to decide: will it be used only for our own survival -- and keeping a full-time pastor -- or will we "step out on the water" with Peter and Jesus as we use it in a new form of ministry or mission? What might that look like? Your Session is now in the process of designing a strategy to help us address these questions. I hope you will participate in whatever they plan for us!

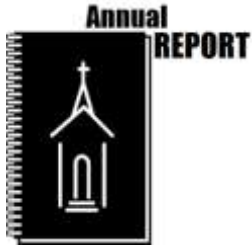
As we move into the new year, may we continue to be drawn together as Christ's Body, and sent out into the world as His hands and feet, bringing Christ's love and justice to a hurting world.

Happy New Year!

Peggy

## 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 welcomes new pastor January 1

Wesley Nordman has been chosen as the new pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in downtown Sacramento. Wes comes to Westminster from Woodland Park Presbyterian in Seattle where he has served as Senior Pastor since 2003. Prior to that, Wes served in churches in Dixon and Utah, and was employed as a probation officer in Stockton from 1987 to 1993 while serving Stockton's First Presbyterian as their youth director. Wes was approved by the Sacramento Presbytery on November 29. The entire Presbytery welcomes Wes, his wife Shelby, and their four children back to California, and prayer for their new ministry.

## 2012 Flower Chart filling up fast

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.

## New name for Newsletter put on hold

Recently we had the opportunity to vote on a new name for the church newsletter. The Friendly Visitor has been the name for decades – at least 40 years, according to one member. However, St. Stephens, like all churches, is moving toward a more electronic (web-based) communication model. While the newsletter will still continue to be mailed in paper form, it is also being integrated into our website, as is its monthly calendar, in order to bring it to a larger audience. This can be seen as a very important marketing tool for bringing people to Christ.

All changes are difficult, and while many in the congregation were excited about the change, there were also several who had strong feelings about the name change. The name Friendly Visitor has been a part of St. Stephens for so long, for some the names have become synonymous. Unfortunately, I did not fully explain the reasons behind name change campaign, and therefore it might have been perceived as cavalier and insensitive. For that, I apologize.



However, many churches regularly change the name, format, nameplate, and logo of their newsletter. Also, since the Friendly Visitor truly is our primary marketing tool, it is important that it stay fresh and relevant to a younger audience, especially those who will quite likely find us in the cyber world. We all know that Christ's love is alive in St. Stephens, but we may never get the chance to share that if people are not drawn to us by our print and electronic media. I invite you to share your thoughts on this issue. Please contact me at [robinthompson4peace@gmail.com](mailto:robinthompson4peace@gmail.com) or (916) 786-3875.

Yours in Christ's peace,

Robin Thompson

Friendly Visitor Editor

## Green Stewardship recyclable collection slated

Recyclables are already coming in from the new Green Stewardship campaign for 2012!



**Green Stewardship  
Recycling**

After some discussion with other members, it's been decided to designate one Sunday per month for members to bring in their recycling. The first scheduled collection will be **January 15**. 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, and stainless steel
- Glass bottles and jars
- TVs and computer monitors
- Car wheels and radiators
- Insulated wire

Research is still being conducted to see what other materials we can collect. Contact Robin Thompson at (916) 786-3875 for pick-up or information.

## 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, with an increase of 23% in individuals served in 2011 over 2010. 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.





## 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 Fiddymont 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 Sharing Stitches will resume from its winter break on 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).

## Cell Phones for Soldiers ministry supports troops

Praise God our troops have come home from Iraq in time for Christmas, 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 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, January 2, 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 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 – January 2012*

Many, many thanks to our choir and to **Carol Givens** for their beautiful music this past Advent/Christmas season! We are truly blessed to have all of you and your gifts of music, which you so readily share! You sounded wonderful and your music filled our hearts with joy. We know that you gave MANY long hours rehearsing several times a week in preparation. Your efforts were also essential in preparing our worship space for Christmas Eve. It was beautiful! Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this important ministry of music and worship!



**The Dobish family (Lynn, Len, Barbara, Rebekah and Rachel)** would like to thank the family of St. Stephens for their friendship and prayers for our father, **Leonard Dobish**, who passed away on November 19. He had given his heart to Jesus Christ and now is in His presence and with God the Father. A private placement of his ashes into a niche with his wife of 59 years, **Beverly**, was held on December 14 at Mt. Vernon. The family asks that, in lieu of flowers, gifts be given to your favorite charity in Len's name and to the glory of God.

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.



### **January Birthdays**

2	Jaden Kelly	17	Karson Jo Bagelmann
9	Johanna Bennett	22	Kurt Bagelmann
12	Carol Gossard	29	Thelma Gorrell
13	Kelly Rooker	31	Patty Brundage
13	Stephen Cyrus		

# NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF

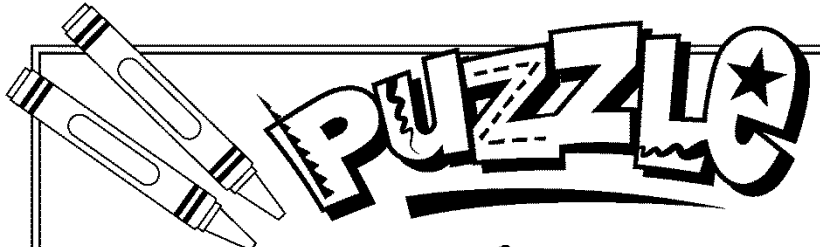
Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:














1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.



## A caring disciple

In Acts 9, Peter tells of a woman who lived in Joppa. She performed good works and helped the poor. Solve the puzzle below to reveal this disciple's two names.

**Instructions:** Cross out the letters that spell each object and write the remaining letter on the blank.

___ a d c l t n e			
___ r o h m t a e			
___ s r g b a p e			
___ r b i e d a			
___ p e h t s h r e d			
___ r d h a e n l c a			
___ f a d o o			
Her name in Greek			
___ p d e e s h			
___ d c h i l n e r o			
___ d r o v e			
___ a c e h t r			
___ s a r c o s			
___ n u s o a t i n m			

Answers: Tabitha, Dorcas

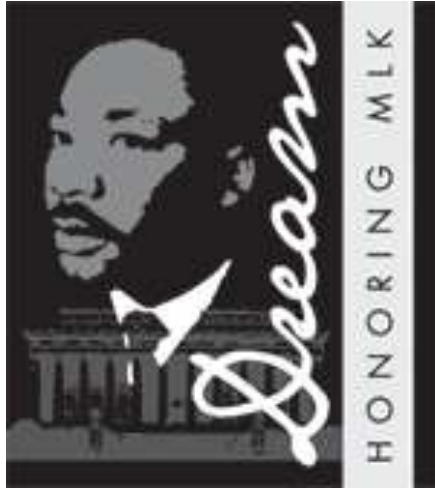
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ST. STEPHENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
6400 Watt Ave.  
North Highlands, CA 95660

“Presorted Standard”  
Non-Profit Organization  
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North Highlands, CA 95660

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



### **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](mailto:office@ststephenspres.org); [pastor@ststephenspres.org](mailto:pastor@ststephenspres.org);  
[newsletter@ststephenspres.org](mailto:newsletter@ststephenspres.org)

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### **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.*