

THE SENTINEL



FALL 2013

A Reflection on the "Title-Deed" of Prayer



When we pray in faith, as the Bible urges us, we have already received the "title-deed" of what we hope for: a reflection on Hebrews!

The Letter to the Hebrews opens with a definition of faith as, "The assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) Faith, in other words, is taking God at His word when He makes promises for the future.

The author then proceeds to list people who trusted God when, humanly speaking, there was no reason to trust. Abraham heads the list. His faith was first displayed by the readiness with which he left home for promise of a new home which he'd never seen. In doing this Abraham set an example of a faith only surpassed by Jesus Himself.

It's important to note that God spoke to Abraham in future tense always, "I will show you", showing that his faith was not based on actual fulfillment of the promise but on great expectations of things to come.

The above has certain implications for us Christians when it comes to trusting God to always answer our prayers.

As a people of faith, with unshakeable trust in God to always answer our prayers, we are imitating the faith of Abraham and the faith that Jesus had in His Father.

It is with that kind of faith that we thank God, not only for gifts we've already received, but express gratitude for gifts not yet seen--showing that, like Abraham, we trust that those gifts will be received (remembering, of course, that prayers might not be answered in ways to our liking.)

This brings us to a crucial Biblical insight into the nature of prayer. If we truly believe and trust God when we pray, then our faith should assure us that our prayer has not only been heard, but also answered. We are to pray always as if our request has already been fulfilled. When we pray in faith it's as if we've received the "title-deed" of things hoped for.

Father David +

KEY DATES

- ◆ Sat, 12 Oct: Vestry Retreat
- ◆ Sat, 23 Nov: Diocesan Annual Convention
- ◆ Sat, 9 Nov: ECW Food Fair
- ◆ Fri, 6 Dec: Annual Parish Christmas Dinner/Party
- ◆ Sun, 8 Dec: Pledges Due
- ◆ Sun, 15 Dec: Bishop's Visit and Confirmation
- ◆ Wed, 18 Dec: Deadline for Winter 2014 *Sentinel* submissions



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Warden's Report:

2013 has been a busy year at St. Stephen's. Not long ago we celebrated our 108th anniversary with a service among people who love this church. The service was a tribute to those who, at time of building, intended that St. Stephen's be a place of worship, a place of solace, a place of happiness and always a place of prayer.

Our church brings much to the local community. From the weekly donations to the Grace Chapel Food

Bank and SAFE of Harnett County, to the annual Campbell Street Fair, and the many other opportunities we have to spread the word about St. Stephen's. It really takes all of us to complete the outreach task.

The Vestry meets every month to address the financial status of the church, determine where we can best meet outreach needs, ensure the upkeep of our grounds and facilities, and work closely in support of the ECW,

DOK, Sunday school and youth programs of the church.

This year, our priority was a major remodel of the parish office. As of this writing, the project is 90% complete and includes: new floors, kitchen and bathroom upgrades, some new furniture, and a fresh coat of paint. As with all renovations there were many items that needed to go—the old stove, the office furniture, and a grand piano that

<i>ECW News</i>	2
<i>This-N-That</i>	2
<i>Warden's Report (cont.)</i>	2
<i>Holiday Planning</i>	INSERT
<i>Birthdays / Anniversaries</i>	3
<i>Daughter's of the King</i>	3
<i>Editor's Corner</i>	3



ECW News

The ECW is gearing up for the annual Food Fair which will be held on November 9th at the church. There will be lots of goodies for purchase including baked goods, frozen goods, jams, jellies, pickles and more. Be sure to get there early as supplies usually are gone fast. The food fair will begin at 9am and run till 2pm. Also please be sure to get some raffle tickets for this year's raffle that will be drawn at the end of the food fair. First prize is a beautiful hand quilted quilt by Jenny Sills. Second

prize is a 24 ½ carat Rose quartz necklace set in sterling silver with a sterling silver chain set by Tom Gallian. Contact any of the ladies in the ECW for raffle ticket purchase.

The ECW is also planning to have a booth at the Cotton Festival on November 2nd. This will be a great opportunity to show our presence in the community and pass along God's good word. Information about the food fair and raffle tickets will be available as well. The quilt is going to be on display.

Operation Christmas Child collection Sunday will be November 17th. Please look for pamphlets in the church kitchen. Heather Honeycutt can be contacted with any question or if you need your shoeboxes to be picked up at 919-920-2426.

Finally, there will be a pot luck dinner on December 15th in honor of the bishop's visit. All are encouraged to attend.

Heather Honeycutt
ECW Vestry Liaison



This-n-That:

Financial Update Through September 2013

Received: \$102,238.68

Expended: \$87,852.94

To the Good: \$14,385.74

Pledged: \$94,290.00

Received: \$71,497.50

Adult Education

Looking for a willing parishioner to step-up and facilitate discussion this Spring on a topic of your choice. The adult class meets in the library every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for 45 minutes of discussion. Are you up to this calling?

Check out the Bulletin Board

Please check out the Bulletin Board in the parish hall each Sunday to see how you can participate in the exciting events of the parish. While there - take a look at the news articles, blessings, and well-wishes of our parish family.

**"PLEASE
CONSIDER
OFFERING YOUR
SKILLS AND
ABILITIES TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
AND IN THE
MINISTRY OF OUR
CHURCH."**

Warden's Report (continued)

had been covered and not used for many years. After offering closed bids and receiving none the Vestry voted to donate the range and furniture to Beacon Mission and a TV to SAFE. The grand piano was an endowment from the Mabe Foundation; and after extensive communication with the foundation attorneys we were given permission to sell or donate the piano. The Diocese had no church in need of a piano and there were no takers from our sale requests. Therefore, the

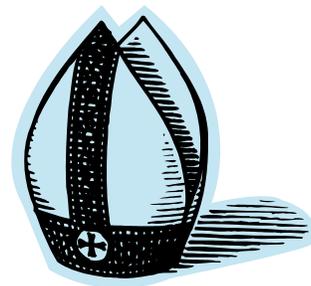
vestry approved a donation to a teacher of gifted students in the Fayetteville area. Our next project is to do some fall tree trimming at the church and the parish office.

In other news, the Brook's Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Jess Whittington who now attends NC State. Jay Elliot has graduated from Pine Forest HS and together with Jacob Wells are exceptional students at local universities. Mike Wells is now a Dean at

Campbell University. Dallas Strickland is a cashier and Carlie C's IGA. Madlyn Ferraro recently produced a beautiful plaque that will be placed on the brick wall at the back of the church.

We look forward to the 198th Diocese Annual Convention in Nov., a visit from Bishop Hodges-Copple in Dec., and the vestry elections in Jan.

Mary Speer, Sr. Warden



Happy Holidays

Preparing for the Holidays

Do you get stressed during the Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season? Well there is a way to cut back on the rushing around and enjoy this time of year. A way to do everything you want, and at the same time, reduce the stress, anxiety, and the depression that often accompanies this season.

Here are three Secrets:

- Secret #1 - Organize & Plan Ahead
- Secret #2 - Eliminate Unnecessary Tasks
- Secret #3 - Schedule Personal Time.

Start Now!

- First, create your Fall Master Calendar and have everyone in the family give input.
- Make a list of all the tasks and projects you each want to complete.
- Schedule all of the activities and/or events you each want to attend.
- Setup a gift idea file. Use a separate page or folder for each person on your list.
- Update your card mailing list. Decide what kind and how many cards you'll want this year. Don't forget to include the St. Stephen's card exchange.
- Decide where you will be spending the holidays. If it's at home, set up your menu and decoration plans.
- If you are planning to travel, start searching for bargains. The longer you wait the higher the prices will be. If you plan on using a personal vehicle, schedule your maintenance now. Consider renting a vehicle. Most rental companies have weekly rates and you're covered if anything breaks down. If you are driving to an unknown location or place that is new to you, check the internet or the auto club for maps and directions.

October:

- Start ordering gifts, especially ones that may be going overseas.
- Buy a few gift cards each month. Choose stores where your friends and family shop.
- If you like making your own decorations now is the time to shop for supplies.
- Make a list of activities you would like to do this Holiday Season, (i.e., visit relatives, attend a concert, visit a theme park, go on a cruise).
- Make your holiday labels, order your cards, and start addressing envelopes. If you do a small batch each week you'll be done before you know it.
- Start checking local stores for holiday decorations and items. The best selections are always available sometime in October, while everyone else is thinking of Halloween.
- The Holidays are a tasty time, filled with all kinds of great food. Instead of trying to make it all, pre-order special baked goods, and items that you prefer not to make.
- Purchase Holiday stamps for the cards, labels for the computer, and holiday pocket cards for cash gifts. (NOTE: around mid-Oct the U.S. Postal service will issue Holiday themed stamps).
- Complete all end-of year yard work (mow, trim, plant, fertilize, winterize).
- Decorate your home for Halloween.

November:

- Review your calendar again for changes or revisions. Now is a good time to schedule a few breaks, especially if your calendar is getting full. Re-check school, church or other calendars for events that may have changed.
- Make all of your Nov. and Dec. appointments for hair-cuts, beauty salon, etc. before all the good times are booked! Don't forget your pets grooming too!
- Pull out your decorations and lights. Decide what to keep and what to get rid of. Have a yard sale, or donate to your favorite charity, the things you don't want.
- Make a list of the decorations you would like to add this year. Then when you are out you will know what you need to purchase.
- Complete any catalog or online holiday ordering now before the Dec. rush.
- Get a Flu Shot. If you're a senior, or someone who is routinely with other people, a flu shot can help you keep your immune system in shape.
- Get out your recipes and plan your holiday menus. Decide on your favorites. Do an inventory of the ingredients in your cupboards and stock up when you catch a good sale.
- Decide what gifts you would like to receive. Then when someone asks that dreaded question, you can present them with your list ideas.
- Shop for any food staples or kitchen supplies you need before November 15th. Then all you need to do is your regular weekly shopping for fresh items.
- Address the rest of your holiday cards before Thanksgiving.
- Clean the House. Make this a family activity with everyone pitching in.
- Order any special gift certificates you want to give.
- Proof-read your holiday letter one last time. Print and insert copies into cards and your pre-addressed, pre-stamped envelopes, and be ready to mail.
- Decorate your home for Thanksgiving.
- Double check your gifts list and wrap all presents.
- Send all of your overseas gifts before the month ends.

December:

- Decorate your home for Christmas.
- Mail your U.S. cards, letters and gifts by December 10th.
- Double check your calendar for parties and events.
- Bake, wrap and deliver gifts and greetings to friends and those who cannot visit you.
- If all goes as planned, you can now do something special to de-stress. Attend the parish Christmas Dinner Party
- **DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD** by attending one of the many service offerings available at St. Stephen's.
- And finally... pat yourself on the back for actually getting ahead this year! Now you can relax and fully enjoy your time with your friends and family.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for Fall 2013



Birthday Wishes to:

2 Oct: Frank Speer
 3 Oct: Lucy Adair
 9 Oct: Faye Brown; Tom Taylor
 10 Oct: Johnny Honeycutt
 17 Oct: Ashley Melton; Albert Strickland
 22 Oct: Sheila Latta
 27 Oct: Lucy Todd
 31 Oct: Andy Carrano; Margaret Tally; Lloyd Maynard
 3 Nov: Jay Elliott
 4 Nov: Laney Trainer
 5 Nov: Heather Honeycutt; Nina Maynard
 7 Nov: Sandra Joseph
 11 Nov: Robert McKenzie

14 Nov: John Todd
 15 Nov: Paul Wells
 16 Nov: Kyle Pope
 17 Nov: Margarete Yarik
 29 Nov: Peter Strickland
 30 Nov: Cole Falcon
 3 Dec: Bert Strickland
 14 Dec: Kathy Pope
 17 Dec: Kathy Tuttle
 22 Dec: James Jackson
 24 Dec: Mike Wells
 25 Dec: Amber Strickland
 29 Dec: Carol Stephens



Anniversary

Blessings to:

1 Oct: Jerry & Sheila

Latta

4 Oct: Johnny & Heather Honeycutt
 1 Nov: Frank & Mary Speer
 23 Nov: Mike and Sarah Wells
 25 Nov: Peter & Cindy Strickland
 26 Nov: Tim & Mindy Martin
 27 Nov: David McGuinness & Madlyn Ferraro
 30 Nov: Ray & Jean Benson
 11 Dec: Jane Hawley
 17 Dec: Andy & Chris Carrano
 20 Dec: John & Pam Touhey
 21 Dec: Mark & Pam Gibbons
 28 Dec: Helmsley & Karen Dapuyen; Matthew & Laurie Russell; Dale & Martha Wilson

"O GOD, OUR
 TIMES ARE IN YOUR
 HAND: LOOK WITH
 FAVOR, WE PRAY
 ON THESE YOUR
 SERVANTS AS THEY
 BEGIN ANOTHER
 YEAR."

Daughter's of the King

DOK is an Order of women within the Episcopal Church who commit themselves to a "Rule of Life". They promise to faithfully obey the two Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. They also promise to offer their loyal aid to the clergy and to the parish. A Daughter can be anyone who wants to grow spiritually and reach out to others with love, prayer and service. All are welcome to join.

The "Miriam Chapter" of St. Stephen's meets on the first Monday of each month following a 4:30 pm "Quiet Prayer Time"; where the Daughters join with other members of the congregation to pray for our community and church family.

The Daughters:

- Pray daily for those requested on 'prayer request cards'
- Active in a Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Handle Christmas card distribution
- Maintain tract racks in the Narthex and the Parish Hall
- Maintain a 'collection box' for

"SAFE of Hammett County"

We are currently working on a rosary project to develop an instructional manual and a workshop for church members who wish to make one.

Anyone who would like to learn about joining DOK may come to one of our meetings or contact: Oralee Adams, Greta Crayton, Clea Gallian, Kitty Heinzman, Diane Lanier, Linda McKenzie, Barbara Nicholl, Margaret Taylor, or Kathy Tuttle.



Editor's Corner: Meet Tony Adams

Autumn greetings to my fellow parishioners! For those who may not know me, I am Tony Adams. My wife Oralee and I have been attending St. Stephen's since Lent '06. We are indeed blessed to be worshipping here with each of you.



Responding to a recent ministry calling, I'm excited to be the new editor of the *Sentinel*. My hope is that this quarterly publication will be both useful and informative. I encourage your contributions to its news worthiness and solicit feedback on ways to make it better.

Permit me to use this *Editor's Corner* as a means to fulfill one of God's purposes in my life which is to "spread the Good News of Christ's kindness and love". I'll attempt to do this through personal reflection, occasional commentary, poetry, or prayer. I promise to do my best to keep my words poignant and pithy.

AJLA

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him." *Jeremiah 17:7*

NOTE INSERT:

ENCLOSED IS A CHECKLIST OF IDEAS TO MAKE YOUR FALL HOLIDAY PLANNING LESS STRESSFUL.

POST IT ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR AS A REMINDER THAT GOD WANTS YOU TO JOYFULLY CELEBRATE THIS SEASON WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



St. Stephen's remains the only Episcopal Church serving Harnett County.

Although the church still has later generations of the first families who founded St. Stephen's, current membership more widely reflects the diverse population of all of Harnett County.

We are a county-wide parish on the threshold of exciting growth for the future.

LOCATE US ON THE WEB AT:

WWW.STSTEPHENSERWIN.ORG

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

201 Denim Drive
Erwin, North Carolina
28339

AFFIX ADDRESS LABEL HERE

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE HIM KNOWN”