

From the Vestry . . .

A grand "thank you" to all who filled out and returned the parish surveys. Information gathered will be vital in creating a parish profile to present candidates who will consider a call to minister as a priest at St. Stephen's. Thanks also to Stephani Windham for coordinating, and to many loving hands for preparing, the excellent lunch at our parish town hall September 27. That day's meeting with Nancy Igo from our diocesan office was informative and helpful in leading us to move to the next step of receiving the rector God has in store for St. Stephen's. To those who took part in the meeting, thank you for your time and valuable input.

Please join us at the CROSS

(Communion *Received On Saturday*S)

Life's expectations are difficult and constant. There are some weeks when it is impossible to go to church on Sunday. Work or travel demands often require that we are "on the road" bright and early Sunday morning. For families in which both parents work, Sunday may be the only day when they can slow down, relax, and spend time with the children. After all, everyone needs a Sabbath!

Based upon this need and with the bishop's encouragement, Mother Pat Russell will celebrate the Holy Eucharist (Rite Two) every Saturday for diocesan parishioners and friends in Lubbock and across our Llano Estacado deanery.

These services will be held at 5 PM beginning November 28, 2009 (the eve of 1st Advent). The CROSS will meet at All Saints' Episcopal School, 3222 103rd St, Lubbock, in the small gym. Childcare will be provided. Dress is very casual.

It is hoped that this new service will provide the Holy Eucharist and an opportunity for Sabbath. Please join us when your schedule allows.

Mother Pat+

Next month and beyond . . .

December 20 - 4th Sunday of Advent (Regular schedule)

Noon: Hanging of the Greens and light lunch

December 24 - Christmas services (Thursday): 6 PM Family service 11 PM Festival Eucharist : The Nativity of Our Lord

December 27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas
(Regular schedule of services; NO Sunday School)

December 30 - NO Wednesday 5:30 PM service or other activities

January 3 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas (Regular schedule of services; Sunday School resumes)

January 10 - 1st Sunday after the Epiphany --
The Baptism of Our Lord

February 17 - Ash Wednesday

April 4 - Easter Day



Introducing SignChiDo™

SignChiDo™ – The Art of Moving Prayer – is a relaxation exercise form created and designed as a unique approach to stress management. A class in **SignChiDo™** is being offered every Thursday at 5:30 PM at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church (42ND St and Elgin Av).

SignChiDo™ differs from other forms of exercise meditation in that this program was founded based on brain function. Sign language stimulates the brain in a different area than all other movement. This cognitive function, when combined with slow-rhythmic movement, has been found to enhance memory, concentration, spiritual awareness, and create an overall sense of well-being.

SignChiDo™ is intended for people of all ages, regardless of their physical abilities. It can be practiced anywhere, requiring no special equipment. This makes SignChiDo™ a great tool to help deal with stress on a daily basis.

For more information please contact Nancy Igo, diocesan facilitator, (806) 763-1370 x5 or nigo@nwtodiocese.org , or **SignChiDo™** at www.signchido.com.

Treasurer's update . . .

St. Stephen's continues to have a blessed year in 2009.

Operating revenue at nine months was \$180,245.00, which is \$4,200.00 in excess of budget. Overall operating expenses were \$187,967.00, representing a cash net deficit of \$7,722.00.

As reported earlier, Spring Fling raised \$21,239.00 for church operating needs, choir/choir scholarships, and outreach. In September the vestry elected to fund anticipated choir needs through April 2010 in the amount of \$8,000.00 from the Spring Fling fund. Discussions continue regarding applications of the remaining funds.

Bursting-with-Blessings campaign continues to collect from pledges to the building expansion. At September 30 we had cash on hand of \$44,775.00 and pledges receivable of \$152,634.00. Our financing with American State Bank has a balance of \$107,473.00; with our Diocese of Northwest Texas a balance of \$81,652.00.

The Vestry and the Finance Committee continue to monitor and manage the business of the church to maximize use of its resources. We look forward to continued success in 2009, together with launch of the Stewardship Campaign and associated budget plans for 2010.

We are grateful for our many blessings.

Gaylon Simmons, treasurer