

A quarterly publication of the
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



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and more!

Voices of Love *By Beni Howell*

"For, I am sure that you know that the kingdom of heaven is promised and given by the Lord only to the poor, because as long as something temporal is the object of love, the fruit of charity is lost." St. Clare of Assisi



*Sitting, left to right – Pat Baker and Sarah Grimsley
Middle Row, left to right – Donna Duffy, Charlotte Hagan, Lisa Taylor
Back row, left to right – Roxanne Aull, Peggy Bellew, Janice Greene*

Not pictured: Sharon Boone, Dottie Riney, Margie Ebelhar, Doris Keller, Barbara Jones, and Nadine Higdon

St. Clare of Assisi, Virgin and Doctor of the Church, is the patroness of telephones and communication. "For Saint Clare, humility is poverty of spirit and this poverty becomes obedience, service, and desire to give oneself without limits to others" (excerpt from piercedhearts.org). She lived her life in true poverty and separation from material things, devoting her life to inspiring others to live a life of love by prayer and action.

Our parish is greatly blessed to have a group of selfless women who live out their call to a life of love and action by faithfully volunteering as receptionists in the parish office.

(Continued on next page)

Christmas in our Jammies



The Cathedral Preschool presented a Christmas program featuring Mrs. McNulty's and Mrs. Roby's 4-year-old classes and Mrs. Katchuk's 5-year-old class. The program titled "Christmas in Our Jammies" had the children come in their pajamas to hear the Christmas story. As their pictures were flashed on a large screen as characters in the story, the children sang several songs. The program was followed with a reception to celebrate the birthday of Baby Jesus.



Voices of Love

(Continued from page 1)

They are dedicated and generous in continuously giving of their time each week by answering phones, greeting St. Vincent de Paul Financial Assistance clients, assisting parishioners, and sorting mail. These ladies have stuffed envelopes, folded bulletins, and have performed many labor-intensive jobs, always with a cheerful spirit. Lisa Taylor gathered, organized, and scheduled these wonderful women last January to keep the office open and ready to assist our parishioners and visitors.

These dynamic ladies—Margie Ebelhar, Charlotte Hagan, Peggy Bellew, Roxanne Aull, Sharon Boone, Dottie Riney, Barbara Jones, Nadine Higdon, Pat Baker, Sarah Grimsley, and Lisa Taylor—keep the front office running. The entire office team rests easy during the workday knowing the volunteer receptionists are on duty, without fail, every day throughout the week. What a remarkable gift they give to the Parish and to the Office Team.

When our regulars need a break, we have a wonderful team of substitutes. The Cathedral is blessed to have Donna Duffy, Doris Keller, and Janice Greene standing by to help. They have even come to volunteer at a moment's notice. Generosity abounds!

These ladies truly live a life of service—a life of love—for their parish and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Love totally He who totally offered himself out of love for you." St. Clare of Assisi

Caring for the Least of My People

By Fr. Jamie Dennis



Ron Bornander (Fr. Jamie's chauffeur), Sue Gough, Sr. Consolata, Fr. Jamie, Kate Abney, and Theresa Ray

God is all about community and He created us as communal creatures. Part of being communal is reaching out to those in our community who may be going through a difficult time or those who cannot get out. This is what Ministers of Care to the homebound are all about!

Every Friday morning, the Ministers of Care (those Eucharistic Ministers who have chosen to minister) and myself gather; we pray and then disperse to visit those who are not able to get to Mass. We take our Lord Jesus, in Holy Communion, to His people who cannot physically come to receive Him. We who go to visit the homebound are signs of the loving parish to these shut-ins. The elderly and disabled that we visit are so thrilled and thankful for our visits. For some of these people, we might be the only visitors they receive. Please join us in this important ministry. I find that not only the homebound are rewarded with the visits, but those of us who visit and minister gain just as much, if not more. What could be more rewarding than helping to bring Jesus to His people?



Donna Murphy lays hands on Mary Alice Wethington with LaWanna Brand as sponsor.

Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

A Stephen Minister is a lay-caregiver who provides high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Headed by Joan Perry and LaWanna Brand, the Stephen Leaders.



Fr. Jerry and Joan Perry with Linda Ivey as she is commissioned

Chrismon Tree

Annually displayed at the
Owensboro Museum of Fine Art



Mary Ann O'Bryan, Joan Perry, and Denise Payne

St. Nicholas

December



Photos by T

las Party

er 4, 2016



Ferry Brown

Tri-Parish Mission

October 24-26, 2016 with our brothers and sisters of Blessed Mother and Sts. Joseph and Paul Parishes lead by Fr. John Mark Ettonsohn



Photos by Corey Bruns

Trunk or Treat

October 30, 2016

This St. Stephen Tradition featured a car decorating contest, chili cook-off, smores and even a hedge hog and rabbits.



Baptisms

Congratulations to William Reeves Thompson, who was baptized at St. Stephen Cathedral. Pictured below with William are his parents, Luke and Emily Thompson, Godparents Kyle and Emily Best, and Fr. Jerry.





Be the Heart

By Fr. Jerry Riney

The heart is absolutely essential to the body, a muscular organ which beats more than 100,000 times each day, sending life-giving oxygen and nutrients to every cell and removing metabolic wastes which would become toxic to the body and incompatible with health and life.

Our Scriptures speak richly of the heart's centrality: "With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life" (Proverbs 4:23), and "Wisdom can remain silent in the discerning heart, but among fools she must make herself known" (Proverbs 14:33). Matthew boldly challenges us, "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be" (Matthew 6:21), and yet again, "Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as the Lord and not for others" (Matthew 2.23).

One bishop who attended the Cathedral Ministries Conference in Santa Fe last month referred to the Cathedral as the "heart of the diocese." It is where the People of God, in all their diversity, are united around their chief Shepherd, the bishop. The Cathedral must therefore always be a place of welcome and hospitality. In our own Cathedral community, we are most grateful for the Hospitality Ministers and Diocesan Event Welcomers who so generously and joyfully welcome others into our midst.

The Cathedral must be apostolic. We are a pilgrim Church, missionary by its very nature. Pope John Paul II talked about the New Evangelization—speaking the truth in new ways and forms, to renew our missionary commitment. Pope Benedict XVI often spoke of the "evangelizing mission" of our Church, and we are learning that Pope Francis loves the term, "missionary disciples." Are we truly apostolic at St. Stephen Cathedral? We must never risk complacency.

The Cathedral must be a place to encounter Christ. Its architectural beauty uplifts, raising hearts to God, and the celebration of the sacred liturgy fosters our union with Christ as a faith community, allowing our rituals to come alive and speak to the heart of everyone present. We must

ask ourselves why so many people have left the Church, become indifferent or disconnected, why some seem to "jump through hoops" or "go through the motions" without heart. We must ask what is within our power to have full, conscious, active participation. We must witness our own faith in such a way that others are drawn to Christ, to connect or reconnect through our community of joyful people, a people who St. Francis of Assisi suggested would, "preach the Gospel at all times; (and) when necessary, use words."

The Cathedral must be a model of prayerful, active Eucharist, where the Word of God is proclaimed with meaning and passion, where every meeting begins with reading and reflecting upon God's word—the true source of evangelization, where Scripture is studied both at home and at church by a "People of the Book".

The Cathedral is a place to engage in works of peace and justice. Our eyes must be open to what is happening around us. How do we minister to the homeless, the addicted, the stranger? Are refugees and immigrants made to feel at home in our Cathedral? Do we give voice to the voiceless? We can make a difference! And if St. Stephen Cathedral is to truly be the heart of the Diocese of Owensboro, apostolic, a model of active Eucharist, a living witness of the Word—we must make a difference.



February 12 – St. Stephen Cathedral students gather for a photo to celebrate their First Reconciliation. First Row: Juliette Palmer, Ariel Hurm, Adrienne Owens. Middle Row: Noah Knoop, Kolbe Reffitt, Alexander Green, Alexander Goodman. Back Row: Father Jamie Dennis, Donna Murphy (Director of Faith Formation), and Father Jerry Riney.

Just for a Minute

Author unknown

I remember when I was only four, mother would bring me round to the store and just outside of the church stand and say, “Come in”, reaching for my hand. “Just for a minute.

And then when I started going to school, she would bring me down every day as a rule, but first the steps to the church we climbed, and she would say: “We’ll go in – you’ve always got time. Just for a minute.”

Then I got real big, I mean seven years old, and I went by myself but was always told: when you’re passing the church, don’t forget to call and tell our Lord about lessons and all, “Just for a minute.”

Sometimes I run most of the way. Or meet some boys and we stop to play, but I manage to squeeze out time enough to make the church where I pant and puff, “Just for a minute.”

And now it’s sort of a habit I’ve got, in the evening coming from Casey’s lot, though it takes me out of my way a bit, to slip in the church with my hat and my mitt, “Just for a minute.”

But sometimes I see the other fellow, standing around and I just go yellow. I pass by the door, but a voice from within seems to say real sad: “So you wouldn’t come in? Just for a minute.”

There are things inside of me, bad and good, but nobody knows and nobody could. Excepting our Lord and I like him to know. And he helps when in for a visit I go, “Just for a minute.”

He finds it lonesome when nobody comes. There are hours upon hours when nobody comes. And he’s pleased when anybody passing by stops in though it’s only a little fellow. “Just for a minute.”

I know what happens when people die, but I won’t be scared, and I’ll tell you why: when our Lord is judging my soul, I feel he’ll remember the times I went to kneel, “Just for a minute.”

Pet Blessing at Cathedral Preschool



Fr. Jamie Celebrates Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City



The Xavier Society for the Blind invited Fr. Jamie to celebrate Mass on the Feast of St. Lucy



Brenda Clark and Terry Brown with Fr. Jamie



Seminarian Chris Kight with Father

Arts at the Cathedral



Kentucky Wesleyan Lessons and Carols



OCTC Chorale

Youth Group Photos

Wacky Winter Olympics



Make a Joyful Noise!

Youth ages 7-17 are invited to join our St. Stephen Cathedral Youth Choir. Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm (follows a schedule; not every Monday) in the Community Center. The first rehearsal is on February 27th. It's fun and a great way to participate and learn more about the liturgy. The Youth Choir sings at various Masses throughout the year. All that's required is a willing spirit and an enjoyment of music. Contact James Wells, Director of Music, at james.wells@pastoral.org or 270-683-6525. We look forward to welcoming many new members!



A Christian Tradition of Caring and Learning

Cathedral Preschool has been serving Christian families in our community since 1986. The preschool, located adjacent to St. Stephen Cathedral, welcomes children ages 3, 4, and 5 to learn and grow in a Christ-centered, caring environment.

This state-licensed preschool helps prepare children for kindergarten through a program in which all areas of learning—physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual—are nurtured. The research-based academic curriculum, taught by our experienced and caring staff, integrates hands-on activities which stimulate the children's natural curiosity. The children play, learn, and grow in a loving atmosphere. Their natural wonder of God and His creation are encouraged through enrichment lessons, activities, and weekly Bible stories.

Following goals set according to the Brigance Kindergarten Screener, the teachers utilize a variety of programs and methods to help children improve listening skills, encourage independence, learn to follow routines, and much more. The preschool staff is committed to teaching healthy practices by serving only healthy snacks with limited sugar and including activities with movement and exercise into the day. The Minds-in-Motion program supports the children's physical and academic development.

Cathedral Preschool is proud of their excellent reputation, outstanding staff, low teacher-student ratio, positive feedback from parents, and high student retention rate. Registration is now open to the public for the 2017-2018 school year. Students must be of age by August 1. For enrollment or other information, please contact Director Pam Weafer at pam.weafer@pastoral.org or 270-926-1652.

Cathedral Preschool is a loving learning center where each child is a special gift!





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**St. Stephen Cathedral Parish
would like to welcome the
following new parishioners since
September 2016**

Matt and Sandy Carrico

Connie Clary

Jacob Fischer

Mike and Amy Hill and Family

Breanna Jones and Alex Reid

Amanda Melberg and Matt Layson

Chas and Nicole Mowen and Family

Judy Fleischman Roby

Will Sims

Bob and Julie Turok

Vespers

Vespers, Divine Office, the Official Prayer of the Church, takes place each Tuesday and Wednesday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the Church with Fr. Jamie.



Mary Horn, Kate Abney, Rob Abney, Pat Baker, Charlotte Hagan, Theresa Ray, and Joan Perry