

The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware January 2010

Mueller's Musings

By Pastor David Mueller

This offering is a day late, but perhaps Helen will forgive me and include it in the January *Courier*. (Editor's note: sure!)

It is Saturday, December 19, 2009, approximately noon, and we are getting what we sing about and long for, a white soon-to-be-Christmas. On my last trip to the Middle East, January, 2008, both Jerusalem and Amman, Jordan got the heaviest snow falls in decades. People were out in the streets pushing snow around with all kinds of crude if not utterly ridiculous instruments, like thick telephone books. They do not own, have no use for typically, and cannot purchase snow shovels. And so what do people do in a 13 inch snowfall? It is simple: wait for the melt. It came in just a day. We got to fly out and miss the rest of the mess.

Bethlehem in Judea (not Pennsylvania) is a mere two mile drive from Jerusalem. It is in the West Bank, that is, the Palestinian Territory. Between the two possibly one day to be separate states, and running for mile after mile is a 26 foot high wall, built by the Israelis on Palestinian land, to keep "terrorists" out. It also keeps farmers from getting to their fields, workers from getting to work, and some folk from getting barely out their front doors. The worst problem is nurses and ancillary staff from getting to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives. Augusta Victoria is named after the Kaiser's wife and is administered by the Lutheran World Federation.

Bethlehem, once one gets there—a sometimes hard and long two miles given check points—is not a peaceful little town, lying still. It is a hustling and bustling place, still about 40% Christian, but shrinking, the Christian population, that is. Christians, once 17% of the Palestinian population, are rapidly approaching 1%. Christians are leaving their homeland, which in many ways has gotten quite rough for them. The second largest employer in Bethlehem is Christmas Lutheran Church, just a block from Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity.

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Council Corner

By Ralph Heiss

What gifts will we bring to each other? As I write these notes about a week from Christmas Day it would be natural to assume that we could be considering the presents we might find under the Christmas tree. But of course here I am referring to the many different abilities we all have to offer in God's service. Perhaps we can teach, or build a house, or play a musical instrument, or help serve food to those who have little. Perhaps you can offer an encouraging word to a neighbor. Because we are all as one with Christ all such gifts are meaningful and profound. As Romans 12 tells us, "we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us."

The members of your church council have many different abilities but they are united in one purpose, to represent the congregation of St. Stephen's. At our December meeting we considered many matters now before the church. We were very

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Musings, cont.

Christmas Lutheran Church is pastored by Mitri Raheb, a fellow who knows how to get all kinds of things done, including a University, a wellness center, and all sorts of ministries of care and compassion for fellow Palestinians, Christian and Moslem alike.

This is the place Jesus was born and remains a rather apt illustration of why He was born at all. Then it was truly a small town, nestled outside the big city just an hour away or less by foot. But no room in the guest room (“Inn” was NOT a motel, but an extra place for visitors in some houses), for Him was there, possibly even less room for Him now. By the way, it was probably not December, it seldom snowed, and we are off by about four years in the date. But that changes nothing.

Making space and time for Jesus, allowing one’s heart and life to be changed by His presence and promise, and seeking to serve Him by serving others in His Name takes people and pastors, like Mitri Raheb, and people like you and me, who know how to get things done. We know not because it comes naturally, but because the Christ has come into our lives and enlisted us, equipped us, inspired and motivated us to believe and to care. And nothing less than that will do, believing and caring, **Especially as our Congregation population has dwindled and we are looking together to see what the Lord has for Saint Stephen’s Congregations in the times ahead.**

So Bethlehem is us and it is ripe for our care. **I wish you a believing and caring New Year!**



LCS Distributes Shoes for Christmas

Payless ShoeSource selected Lutheran Community Services as a partner in the Payless Shoes 4 Kids program – a national initiative to deliver \$1.2 million of free shoes to children of families in need this holiday season. LCS received 100 \$15 shoe gift coupons redeemable for, or toward, a pair of children’s shoes at any Payless ShoeSource store in our area. More than 2,800 nonprofits applied for this program so we at LCS were pleased to be among the 700 selected. We know that a new pair of shoes can lift spirits, bolster self confidence and bring a huge smile to a child’s face, especially when they get to pick the shoes out themselves, which makes the gift even more powerful. LCS distributed its coupons mainly through its network of Grocery Clubs at Lutheran Churches and through the LCS FAITH Center on Walnut Street in Wilmington.

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

pleased to welcome Sally Dudderar and John Rodammer as council members, and we thanked Sharon Mutschler and Gary Gooden for their years of service. We reviewed staff evaluations and committee reports. We carefully discussed our continuing budget concerns. One of the accomplishments of the past year has been the completion of the work on the windows, and plaques will be dedicated in honor of this contribution to our present and our future. Pastor Mueller has been meeting with area pastors and is in contact with our immediate neighborhood to develop a mutual awareness of our church. We formed plans for our next Congregational Meeting. At one brief point we talked about the replacement of church light bulbs, but again, nothing is small in the service of God.

One development which holds exciting possibilities is the formation of our steering committee. At Pastor Mueller’s recommendation we have asked a few congregational members to offer their insights regarding our church body. They will discuss their awareness of the needs of our church and develop a sense of mission for the future of St. Stephen’s. Their activity will strongly enhance Pastor Mueller’s response to his call as our interim pastor.

Emmanuel Dining Room. Hilltop. Habitat for Humanity. Christmas carols. Art loop. Food pantry. Fair Trade Fair. All are gifts through God’s grace.

What gifts will we bring to each other?

Treasurer’s Table

	Budget (November)	Actual (November)	Budget (Year to Date)	Actual (Year to Date)
Income	\$21,046.69	\$20,682.58	\$184,312.17	\$168,196.92
Expenses	\$34,472.00	\$27,131.27	\$269,255.38	\$231,207.33

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1

November 22, 2009

C10.01.01 The annual congregation meeting shall be convened in November at a time fixed by the Congregation Council for the purpose of election of council members and approval of the budget for the forthcoming year. This meeting shall be recessed until the month of January, at a time fixed by the Congregation Council, at which time final reports for the preceding year shall be considered. At each of these sessions other business of this congregation may be transacted.

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Elections

C12.02.01 All elections of lay members to the council at the annual Congregation Meeting shall be by written ballot. With the consent of the assembly, the vote may be taken verbally.

Betty Sperati, 3 year term

John Rodammer, 3 year term

Sally Dudderar, 3 year term

Sharon Potter, 1 year term

Approval of 2010 budget

Family Promise presentation

Recess Prayer

Annual Congregation Meeting Part 2, January 24, 2010.

	Church Council			
	Name	End of Term	Current Consecutive Years	Consecutive Years at End of Term
Going off Council	Sharon Mutschler	2009	3	
	Gary Gooden	2009	5	
	Betty Sperati	2009	3	
	Sharon Potter	2009	2	
Staying on Council or being voted on at 2009 meeting (names in bold are being voted on)	Lynn Splittorff	2010	2	3
	Ralph Heiss	2010	2	3
	Dave Warner	2010	5	6
	Sharon Potter	2010	2	3
	Carol Lay	2011	1	3
	Betty Sperati	2012	5	6
	John Rodammer	2012	n/a	3
	Sally Dudderar	2012	n/a	3
	vacant			

Biographies of Council Candidates:

Sally Dudderar

Sally joined St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in 1993. During the past 16 years, she has served on several mission teams, including Christian Education and Fellowship; and for 3 years she has sung in the choir and been a member of the handbell choir. She has also enjoyed being a greeter and assisting with the Art Loop exhibits. During the late '90s, she served on the Church Council. She is retired from teaching in the Red Clay School District and currently substitutes several days a week.

She looks forward to serving on the Council again and feels confident that during this important time of transition our church will thrive and continue to be the St. Stephen's that we all love.

Sharon Ragsdale Potter

Sharon has been a member of St. Stephen's since 1992. Through the years she has served in a wide variety of roles to support the ministry of the church: church council member from 1998-2003 and 2009 (president 2002); Sunday School teacher; Personnel team member; Staff Support team member; Worship & Music team member; Altar Guild member since the late 1990s (president for several years); usher; communion assistant; Nurture/Fellowship team leader (current); Flower Delivery team leader (current); and Gathering Time team leader (current). Sharon has been a Stephen Minister for the past five years, and finds this to be a truly spiritual and rewarding ministry.

For the past 10 years, Sharon has worked as a systems analyst and support tech for NCO Financial Services. She and her husband Dave are kept quite busy with their family activities. They have three great children: James (29), Katie (20), and TJ (17), a lovely daughter-in-law, Gailmarie, and they are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their first grandchild in March. In her precious spare time (what spare time??) Sharon enjoys traveling and reading.

John Rodammer

John has been a member of St. Stephen's since 1984. He and his wife Kathy have 3 children; 2 are enrolled at UD and one is a sophomore in high school. John has worked for DuPont at various locations since graduating from Michigan Tech. He has served on church council 2 previous times.

Betty Sperati

Betty came to St. Stephen's in 1978 and became a member in May 1980. She met her husband Bill in the choir. They have 3 children: Jacob, Joshua and Becky.

Betty has sung in the choir since 1980, played handbells since 1996, served two terms on council in the 1980s and her third term recently, and has served as council president. Betty has been a member of the worship and music committee off and on for over 20 years, serving as chairperson for 9 years. She also serves on staff support.

Betty has previously worked as a high school vocational agriculture teacher for 10 years (where she served as a State and National officer of her teaching organizations), worked for 8.5 years for the American Institute of Parliamentarians, and has trained election poll workers for over 20 years as well as having worked in the NCC Department of Elections office for 2.5 years. She has also sung with the Opera Delaware chorus for 15 years. She is presently looking for employment.

New Caring Friends Visitation Ministry at St. Stephen's

By Bob Linderman

Lay Member Training for Offering Communion

On Saturday, January 23, at 9:30 AM, Pastor Mueller will lead a training session in the Chapel for those members who would like to be sanctioned to offer pre-consecrated bread and wine to other members who are unable to get to church. This training is an extension of our Stephen Ministry and Caring Friends ministry to enable those who regularly visit other members the opportunity to provide communion when appropriate.

This session is open to Stephen Ministers, Caring Friends, and anyone else who would like to join the ranks of the Caring Friends. The responsibilities of Caring Friends were published in the December *Courier*.

Lunch will be provided in the Social Hall after the training session. Please RSVP to me (302.239.7650 or rlinderman@umich.edu) by Tuesday, January 19, so sufficient food for everyone can be ordered.

The snow date will be Saturday, January 30, at the same time.



January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2
3 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	4	5 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Mission Team Meetings	6 EPIPHANY	7 12:00 PM Leisure Lunch 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:45 PM Worship and Music meeting	11	12 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study 7:00 PM Congregation Council	13	14 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 11:59 PM Courier Deadline	16
17 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service	18	19 9:30 AM Courier Folding	20	21 6:45 PM Stephen Ministers 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service 11:30 AM Congregational Annual Meeting Pt. 2	25 11:45 Emmanuel Dining Room	26 12:00 PM Downtown Bible Study	27	28 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29	30
31 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Service						

People With Important Dates in January and February

January Birthdays

- 1 Holden Bickford, Sonia Brode,
Kristal Hall, Denny Nance
3 Thomas Brenneman, James
Moen, Sharon Mutschler
4 Frances McKewen
7 Forrest Boettcher, Joshua Sperati
9 Madeline Landis
15 Audrey Schlegel
16 Meghan Sullivan
17 Mabel Erickson, Will Spinelli,
Andrew Swanson, Benjamin
Swanson
18 Kyle Heiss
19 Coleman Marcaly, Clarice Wolf
20 Michael Lehm
21 Kimberly Johnson, Eric Lehm,
Elizabeth Sperati
24 Kristin Van Riper
25 Maxwell Moen
26 Elizabeth Zimny
27 Kirsten Gooden, Nicholas
Mantyla, Mattie Mason
29 Leanne Detwiler, Kevin
Mutschler, Kathy Rodammer
31 Peyton Brown, Dorothy
Cunningham

January Anniversaries

- 19 Robert & Dianna Detwiler

January 2010 Volunteers

January Greeters

- 3 Ann Ammerman
10 John Rodammer
17 Lydia Turner
24 Bob Linderman
31 The Heiss Family

January Gathering Time Hosts

- 3 Lila Hall
10 Carol Lay
17 Sharon Mutschler
24 Sharon Potter
31 Bill Sperati

January Ushers

- 3 Team 2, Dave Culley, Capt.
10 Team 3, Fred Altergott, Capt.
17 Team 4, Woody Mutschler, Capt.

- 24 Team 2, Dave Culley, Capt..
31 Team 3, Fred Altergott, Capt.

January Flower Delivery

- 3 Jane & Chick Baddorf
10 Lou Jackson
17 Carol Lay
24 Sharon Potter
31 Lydia Turner

January Altar Guild

- All Saturdays — Joyce Bukovsky
All month — Ginnie Boettcher &
Susan Heiss

January Food Pantry Packers

- 3 Dick Parker
10 Sue Heiss
17 Sue Gooden
24 Dick Parker
31 Sue Heiss

January Lectors

- 3 Helen Cripe
10 Ann Wagner
17 Ralph Heiss
24 Ann Warner
31 Lynn Splittorff

January Acolytes

- 3 Tyler Heiss
10 Ann Warner
17 Kyle Heiss
24 Abby Jones
31 Tyler Heiss

January Chalice Bearers

- 3 James Cook & Sue Culley
10 John Gordon & Jane Baddorf
17 Chick Baddorf & Fred Altergott
24 Sue & Ralph Heiss
31 Betty Sperati & Lydia Turner

February Volunteers

February Greeters

TBA

February Gathering Time Hosts

- 7 Lynn Splittorff
14 Helen Cripe
21 Gary & Sue Gooden
28 Lila Hall

February Ushers

TBA

February Flower Delivery

- 7 Ann Wagner
14 Jane & Chick Baddorf
21 Lou Jackson
28 Carol Lay

February Altar Guild

- All Saturdays — Joyce Bukovsky
All month — Sharon Potter & Fran
Mckewen, including Feb. 17th,
Ash Wednesday

February Food Pantry Packers

- 7 Sue Gooden
14 Dick Parker
21 Sue Heiss
28 Sue Gooden

February Lectors

- 7 Helen Cripe
14 Ann Wagner
21 Ralph Heiss
28 Ann Warner

February Acolytes

- 7 Ann warner
14 Kyle Heiss
21 Abby Jones
28 Tyler

February Chalice Bearers

- 7 John Rodammer & Bob
Linderman r
14 Sharon Mutschler & Carol Lay
21 Lynn Splittorff & Sharon Potter
28 James Cook & Sue Culley

Every week there is an email sent out with activities about the upcoming week. We also occasionally send out blast emails to advertise special activities coming up, or to alert you to special news. If you are not getting these communications, and would like to, please make sure the Communications Coordinator has your preferred email address.

communications@ststeph.org

Our Monthly Schedule of Bible Study Groups

First Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Betty Gooden
138 Melodic Drive
Newark DE 19702
302-737-0148

**Second Tuesday and Fourth
Thursday at Noon**

YMCA Conference Room
11th Floor
Community Service Building
10th & Orange
Wilmington DE
302-652-7623

Courier Deadlines for 2010

(Subject to change, depending on what's happening — please note that the deadline is not always the 3rd Friday)

**February 2010 issue — due date is
January 16**

**March 2010 issue — due date is
February 20**

**April 2010 issue — due date is
March 20**

**May 2010 issue — due date is
April 17**

**June 2010 issue — due date is
May 15**

**July/August 2010 issue — due date
is June 19**

**September 2010 issue — due date
is August 21**

**October 2010 issue — due date is
September 18**

**November 2010 issue — due date
is October 16**

**December 2010 issue — due date
is November 20**

**January 2011 issue — due date is
December 18**

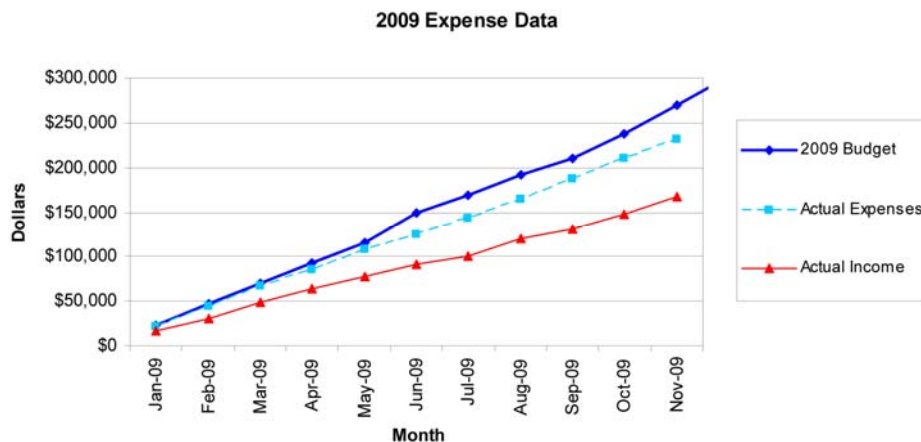
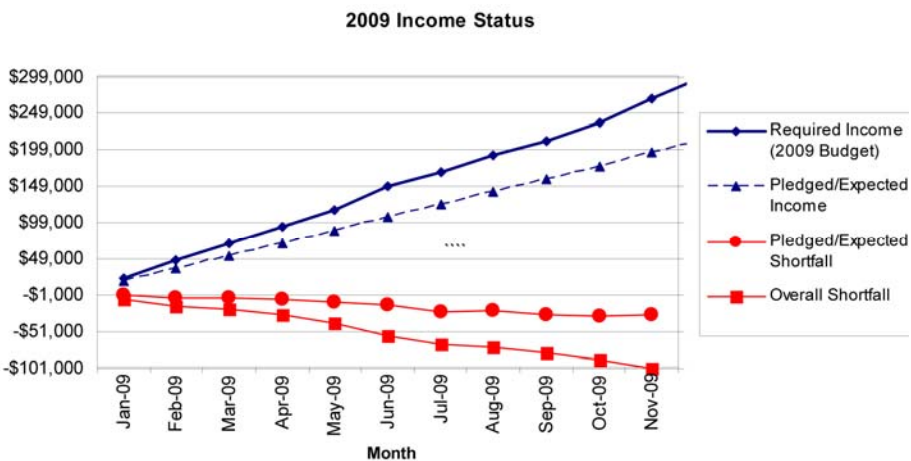
January - November 2009 Budget Snapshots

These two graphs summarize the current budget situation. The upper graph views our situation from an income perspective, and the bottom one does the same from the expense perspective.

Income Status: The top two lines represent the straight line, cumulative values for the approved 2009 budget (Required Income) and the expected income from all sources (Expected Income). The difference between these two lines is also shown as the (Overall Shortfall) line; as of the end of November it was \$87,650. The fourth line is the difference between the (Expected Income) and the actual income; as of the end of November it was \$27,095.

Expense Data The top line of this graph is the same as the top line in the Income Status graph. The dashed line just below it represents our actual expenses through the end of November; actual expenses are \$38,000 less than budgeted. The lowest line is the income we have received to date, and this shows the difference between what we have spent and what we have received; the size of this gap is \$73,963.

Please plan on attending the second part of the Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, January 24, to discuss and approve the 2010 Budget.



Due date for copy for the **February 2010 Courier** will be **January 16 at midnight**. Please email your *Courier* items as Microsoft Word or Publisher attachments to the editor at helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com or cripehl@itrcorporation.com, or fax to 302-425-4646. Thank you!



Neroon

The Courier

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Office
1304 North Rodney Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

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Address Correction Requested

Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:30 AM Worship Service

Who Does What at St. Stephen's

Staff

David E. Mueller, Interim Pastor Cell (302)-545-3065)
David L. Blackwelder, Pastor Emeritus.....
Daniel Howe, Director of Music e-mail dirmusic@ststeph.org
Liz Starks, Office Coordinator (302) 652-7623
Ann Warner, Communications Coordinator
..... Office 652-7623, communications@ststeph.org
Kevin L. Krick, Sexton
St. Stephen's Phone (302) 652-7623
St. Stephen's FAX (302) 652-7646
St. Stephen's e-mail office@ststeph.org
St. Stephen's Web Site www.saintstephenslutheranchurch.org

Officers

Ralph Heiss..... Council President..... 798-5355
Betty Sperati Council Vice-President..... 994-6049
Debbie Nicholson Treasurer..... 652-8758
Woody Mutschler Financial Secretary 410-398-0446
Dave Warner..... Secretary 762-2389

Council Liaisons

Christian Education Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446
Evangelism Gary Gooden 234-1417
Finance and Audit..... Dave Warner..... 762-2389
Nominating..... Betty Sperati 994-6049
Nurture Sharon Potter 239-3896
Personnel

Property.....
Social Ministry.....
Staff Support Ralph Heiss 239-7457
Stewardship..... Carol Lay 657-0742
Worship and Music Betty Sperati..... 994-6049

Mission Teams

Sunday School Jane Conlon..... 764-2910
..... Sally Dudderar 234-1676
..... Sue Heiss..... 798-5355
Courier Editor Helen Cripe 652-1895
Fellowship..... Sharon Potter..... 239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon..... 8327054
Finance Dave Potter..... 239-3896
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff 239-7457
Property..... Lou Jackson 479-0226
..... Forrest Boettcher..... 378-3553
Social Ministry.....
Staff Support Betty Sperati..... 994-6049
Stewardship.....
Worship and Music Ann Wagner 494-8416
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode..... 836-4907
Ushers

Please email the Editor with any corrections or omissions.