



The Epistle

May, 2016

Father Bob's message

On Sunday 24 April, Bishop Andrew visited St Stephen's. I was pleased, as always, with the reception with which you who are St Stephens welcomed our Bishop. I was also very pleased that we were able at that time to receive into the Episcopal Church and into the St Stephens community Mike McMaster. I want to thank all of you who helped to make the Bishop's visit a success. Prior to his visit, the Bishop and I had a talk. During that talk, he mentioned the Diocese's Strategic Vision. He specifically focused on the four areas identified in the Vision as being critical to a strong, healthy parish and how we at St Stephens were addressing these. I felt that my answer to him was a bit weak to be honest. I told him that I would make these four areas a focus in the coming months.

The four areas are:

The Church as a Community of Worship, Prayer and Dialogue.

Formation, Teaching and Vocation Within the Church (Way, Truth and Life)

Witness, Common Mission and Service to the World.

Stewardship and Care of People, Place and Money.

In our discussion, I told the Bishop that I felt that St Stephens was already working in these areas. He agreed. What I felt was missing at St Stephens was what I would call a "Tactical Vision" whereby we are deliberate and intentional in implementing actions that locally support these four critical areas.

Let me again say that I feel that St Stephens is functioning in alignment with these four areas, but again not in a deliberate and intentional manner.

Some may ask me why? Why do we need to do this? First, St Stephens is a part of connectional Church. We might not always like what the Bishop or the Diocese does and says but you and I are a part of the Diocese and technically, the Bishop is our pastor/priest. Secondly, I think that in going through this process of identifying where you and I are in association with these four areas, we will be strengthening and clarifying the questions of who we say that we are. Where we say we are going? And probably most importantly, why?

I would encourage all of us to go onto the Diocese website and click on "Strategic Visioning Process."

Remember that May 8th is Mother's Day
God Bless

Fr Bob

Senior Warden Update

It is hard to believe that next Sunday May 8th is Mother's Day! It is time for the annual Mother's Day Brunch at St. Stephen's. I mentioned in the announcements in church last Sunday that Mother's Day was coming only to be told it was next Sunday. I have now crawled out from under my rock and am working on the event. The menu will be the standard one with waffles, strawberries, bacon, sausage whipped cream and an orange juice drink. Help from the men of the church with cooking and cleaning up

afterwards will be greatly appreciated. Anyone willing to assist can email me at tharwood@truvista.net and I will get back in touch with you. Beverley Anderson has volunteered to help with the table decorations which is most appreciated. Thank you Beverley. I hope that we will have a good turnout for such an important day.

DID YOU SIGN UP FOR HOSPITALITY SOON?



MAY

5/1	David and Amanda Ford
5/8	MOTHER'S DAY
5/15	Sara Berk and Greg Koenig
5/22	OPEN
5/29	OPEN

JUNE

6/5	Dee Dee Branham
6/12	OPEN
6/19	OPEN
6/26	OPEN



*Please wish the following people
Happy Birthday*

MAY

5/1	Michael Rowe
5/2	Robert Arndt III
5/3	Michael Autry
5/7	Donna Guess
5/12	Jenna Upchurch
5/15	Ryan Floyd
5/15	Greg Koenig
5/17	Jeremy Maglio
5/22	(Michael) Reese Addison
5/23	Catherine Beale
5/28	Derek (&David) Montrose
5/29	Rebecca Ford

JUNE

6/3	Beth Arndt Owens
6/3	Brenda McGrew
6/3	Rhiannon McMaster
6/4	Patti Earle
6/4	Emily Matthews
6/16	Kyra Davis
6/20	Chad Langdale
6/20	Carter Siegling
6/21	Erin McMaster

The Bishop's Visit to St. Stephen's

