

# Annual Meeting

## *January 27, 2019*



ST. STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Beaumont, California

[ststephensbeaumont.com](http://ststephensbeaumont.com)



### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

225 E. Eighth Street

Beaumont, CA 92223

951-845-1358

[st.stephens1@verizon.net](mailto:st.stephens1@verizon.net)

[www.ststephensbeaumont.com](http://www.ststephensbeaumont.com)

Friends of St. Stephen's on Facebook

The Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor

Seventh Bishop of Los Angeles

The Very Reverend Canon Bill Dunn, Vicar

951-543-6730

[revbilldunn@hotmail.com](mailto:revbilldunn@hotmail.com)

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# Annual Meeting Summary

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 9:05 am on Sunday, January 27, 2019 by The Very Reverend Canon Bill Dunn, vicar, with a total of 46 communicants in good standing present. A quorum was declared and Rose O'Neill was appointed clerk of the 2019 Annual Meeting by unanimous consent.

On motion of Ann Nobile and second by Joy Williams the Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote. The minutes are available for review in the Church Office.

Fr. Dunn led a prayer of remembrance of those who died since the 2018 Annual Meeting: Bob Thompson, Walter Howes, Carl E. Williams, E. Jeanne Griffith, Neal Duffy, Carolyn Frazell Hegner, Mark Andrew Vici, Sandy Troutt, Danny Ray Barrett, Randy Hill, Rita Elizabeth Kaas Field, Conrad Peter "Skip" Dion, Gary L. Hair, Douglas Michael Kelley, Glennith Eura Taylor, Clayton Rutherford.

Ongoing elected Bishop's Committee members were recognized for serving three-year terms: Stacey Forte-Dupré (also Clerk), Mark Milliron, Joy Williams (also Bishop's Warden). Fr. Dunn announced that Joy will be renominated as Bishop's Warden and recommends that the separate position of People's Warden be reinstated and elected by the Bishop's Committee.

With no additional nominations from the floor, Mark Milliron moved and Jeanne Pelletier seconded that Nancy Gall, Jim Johnson, Emile Pelletier and Debbie Walker be elected to three-year terms on the Bishop's Committee. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote. The new Bishop's Committee members are pictured below along with Fr. Dunn and The Rev. Leemhuis. (Pictured below from left to right, Fr. Dunn, Jim Johnson, Emile Pelletier, Nancy Gall, Debbie Walker, The Rev. Leemhuis.)

On motion of Rose O'Neill and second by Sharron Dunn, Fr. Dunn's proposal for the Bishop's Committee to elect Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The 2018 Financial Report (page 6) was approved subject to audit by unanimous voice vote (motion by Joy Williams/second by Val Emerson). The 2019 Mission Budget (page 7) calling for total expenditures of \$193,000 was approved by unanimous voice vote (motion by Joy Williams/second by Ann Nobile). A special finance committee, chaired by Treasurer Jim Bombanti, will closely monitor expenditures and look for additional sources of revenue.

Fr. Dunn's report was delivered in sermon form at both services (see pages 2-4). Other reports were presented during the Pot-Luck Lunch portion of the meeting and are shown on pages 8-10. At a special Bishop's Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting, Jim Bombanti was reelected Treasurer, Rose O'Neill was elected Clerk, and the People's Warden position will be considered at the next regular meeting on Sunday, February 24 at 12:00 pm.





## 2019 Annual Meeting Vicar's Message

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Amen. (Psalm 19:14)

In preparing for the Annual Meeting and reflecting on **where St. Stephen's is at 103**, I was hit hard this week by two writings. The first was a pastoral letter from **Bishop Taylor** which reminded me of how **broken our world is**. By canon, I am required to read pastoral letters to you and will do so...Read Bishop's letter...

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The canons of The Episcopal Church (Canon IV. 1) say that "the Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life and reconciliation among all who are involved or affected."

To help make sure that the Church keeps its promise especially to those the Church itself has injured, the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention, which met this summer in Austin, passed Resolution DO34. The measure suspends the statute of limitations on reporting acts of sexual misconduct by bishops, deacons, and priests against adult victims.

This means that if you were the victim of sexual misconduct by a clergy person, no matter how long ago it occurred, you may lodge a complaint. The three-year suspension window opened on January 1, 2019. It closes on December 31, 2021, after which the statute of limitations will again be in effect.

The leaders of our Church took this step in response to the #metoo movement, which also inspired them to organize a service of truth-telling and accountability during convention. From these and other experiences, as our culture wakes up to the reality of its legacies of power imbalances and abuses of power, we have learned that victims often keep their secrets for years, even lifetimes.

If something happened to you, and you felt you wouldn't be heard or it wouldn't be safe to speak, the Holy Spirit has opened a door. As your bishop, I wholeheartedly support this measure, pray for those whose voices it may at last enable to be heard, and promise to do all I can to make sure that allegations are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly.

In the Diocese of Los Angeles, we have three individuals who serve as intake officers under Title IV. They are the Rev. Canon Joanna Satorius ([jsatorius@ladiocese.org](mailto:jsatorius@ladiocese.org)), the Rev. Thomas Discavage ([tdiscavage@ladiocese.org](mailto:tdiscavage@ladiocese.org)), and the Rev. Michele Racusin ([mracusin@ladiocese.org](mailto:mracusin@ladiocese.org)). All three of our colleagues may be reached by email or by calling our offices at 213.482.2040. If for any reason you would prefer to speak to someone else, you can also make a report to your own priest or to me as your bishop. We will do all in our power to keep your communication confidential during the investigation. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

# Vicar's Report FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

I commend to your attention another letter on this topic, by our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings. Click [here](#) to read this letter on the diocesan website. You will find the canons of The Episcopal Church, including the Title IV disciplinary canon, [here](#). (Go to [diocesela.org](http://diocesela.org) to find letter and canon cited by Bishop Taylor.)

Let us pray together for God's healing for anyone harmed by clergy misconduct and for God's blessing on The Episcopal Church as we live ever deeper into our kingdom work of justice and peace.

Yours in Christ's love,

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor  
Episcopal Bishop of Los Angeles

Later I came across the work of a man named **Jean Vanier**, who has written a book that grew out of a retreat he led in a part of Kenya torn by violence and bloodshed. The book is called, "**We need each other**," and it captures so much of what I want to say to you this morning after hearing Paul tell the church in Corinth what it means be **one body**, followed by our Lord declaring who he is and what he came to do. Vanier writes,

"I am a **broken man** like all human beings, but I also know that **Jesus loves me** and that he is calling me to grow. This is the experience of being loved in my brokenness and therein lies the incredible greatness of our God. We all have to discover the point of our brokenness because that is precisely the place where we are the beloved.

"Sometimes we hide behind the idea that we are better than the other. We have to discover that none of us is better, that we are all **children of God**. God has a desire to bring people together in love. There are two fundamental things that Jesus came to reveal to us. First, God is a lover and God loves. Second, this incredible, gentle, and tender God is in love with each one of us. **Each person is precious to God** and together we are to build a community where we love each other."

In another place, Vanier adds, "The message of Jesus is to announce who God is. Jesus also came to announce that, whatever their culture, whatever their abilities or disabilities, whatever their gender, whatever their religion [and we certainly could add others to his list], every person is precious. **Every person is unique** and each is important to God and to humanity."

On days like today, congregations like ours celebrate success, mourn loss, remember the departed, and dream of who we want to be and where we want to go. All of this is important, but if you take away just **one truth from today** that I believe stands above all other, I pray you will remember this:

The Church is the Body of Christ and as such, we have to come to understand that **we really do need each other**. **We are better together**, even and perhaps especially in those moments when we disagree and may not particularly like each other. Above all, **we need Christ**. As Jesus said in John 15:5, "apart from me you can do nothing."

That was true when our first service was held December 26, 1915, and still true on January 27, 2019. **Onward we go, TOGETHER** to a Pot Luck Lunch where I will have a few more things to say.

May the joy of the Lord always be our strength. Amen.

### ST. STEPHEN'S BY THE NUMBERS—2018

Average Sunday Attendance	84
Active Communicants	146 (129 over age 16—17 under age 16)
Other Worshipers in Community	34
Total Number of Worshipers	180
Number of Sunday Eucharist Services	99
Number of Weekday Eucharist Services	183
Number of Private Eucharist Services	153 (1,381 in past 8 years)
Number of Daily Prayer Services	40
Number of Baptisms	3 (38 in past 8 years)
Number Confirmed/Received/Reaffirmed	16 (72 in past 8 years)
Death/Burial/Memorial Services	19
Other Public and Private Offices	312
Food Items Distributed at Palm Academy	13,250
Number of Current College Students Aided	8 (through Winans scholarship)
Number of Vacation Bible School Students	23 (led by 16 brave adults)
Number of Christmas Play Children	11
Money raised in Relay for Life	\$2,000+ (More than \$30,000 in past 8 years)
Plates of hot food funded through gifts to Carol's Kitchen & Table of Plenty	32,000+
Hygiene kits donated to H.E.L.P.	210
Children sent to Trinity Camp/Red Shirt	5 (plus 2 junior counselors at Trinity Camp)
Total Christmas Tree Festival Dollars	\$12,000 for 2017; \$15,000 for 2018

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN 2018

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday night (50 weeks)  
Pass Actors Theater (performances on Annis Hall stage)  
Banning & Beaumont Chambers of Commerce  
Banning-Beaumont Student of the Month  
Blessings in a Backpack (weekend food for Palm Elementary students)  
Carol's Kitchen (Christmas Tree Festival and other support)  
Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles Mission Share Fund  
Faith in Action (support for homeless individuals)  
GAIN Closet (clothes for job interviews and activities)  
Grief Support Group (facilitated by local hospice chaplain)  
H.E.L.P., Inc. (Christmas Tree Festival, canned goods, clothing and Ditty Bags)  
Hospice Volunteer Meetings  
House of Decision (ongoing support including food, paper goods and Christmas presents)  
Individual Assistance given as needed  
MasterPeace Ministries (ongoing support to seminary students and pastors from Cusco, Peru)  
Pass Job Connection (financial and volunteer support)  
Relay for Life (Christians for a Cure team raised money for cancer research)  
San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital (pastoral care team patient visits)  
Table of Plenty (Christmas Tree Festival and other support)  
Trinity Camp (summer camp at Big Bear)  
United Thank Offering  
Winter Wish (Christmas presents for area families)  
Winans Scholarship presented to 2 Beaumont High School and 2 Banning High School graduates

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
2018 Financial Report  
Presented January 27, 2019 at the Annual Meeting

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>
<i>Total 2018 Income</i>	<b>\$165,089</b>	<b>\$163,000</b>
<i>Total 2018 Expenses</i>	<b>\$201,786</b>	<b>\$199,450</b>

The above figures reflect \$2,089 more in income than budgeted; and \$2,336 more in expenses than budgeted.

Our actual pledges for 2018 increased by approximately \$23,666 over the 2017 year. Pledges received verses projected pledges for 2018 were down by \$16,000. This was primarily due to deaths and relocations throughout the year.

Our largest expenditures continue to be payroll and insurance related items. Most of our expenses are relatively fixed, with little room for adjustment. We are running as lean as possible for a mission of our size.

We continue to balance our budget through our mission share grant and monies from the DIT account. The goal is to withdraw only the interest earned throughout the year in the DIT account. Through the first eleven months of 2018, we withdrew \$40,000 from our investment account. During that same period, we experienced a loss of \$5,592. This resulted in withdrawing all \$40,000 from our principal.

We need to consider that, as we move forward, the DIT may continue to earn less than the amount needed to cover our deficit. This will necessitate looking into other sources of income to balance the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

*Pam Lillard*  
Bookkeeper

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
2019 Budget--January 27, 2019**

		<u><b>Total</b></u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Pledges	\$	90,000 (44 Pledges)
Plate	\$	12,000
Special Unrestricted Offering	\$	5,000
Designated Offering	\$	17,000
Mission Development Grant	\$	15,000
<b>Total Income - Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>139,000</u></b>
 <b><u>Expenses</u></b>		
Mission Outside the Parish	\$	18,000
Clergy Related Expenses	\$	114,000
Staff Related Expenses	\$	22,600
Advertising	\$	1,800
Office Expenses	\$	3,000
Utilities	\$	7,600
Insurance	\$	7,800
Accounting (Audit, booking, etc)	\$	4,000
Storage Unit	\$	2,100
Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$	4,800
Grounds Maintainance	\$	-
Altar Supplies	\$	3,300
Music Expense	\$	-
Adult Christian Education	\$	-
Youth Ministry	\$	1,000
Hospitality	\$	2,000
Worship Supplies	\$	1,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>193,000</u></b>
 <b>Net Operating Income</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b><u>(54,000)</u></b>
 <b>Other Income</b>		
Fluctuation in Value of D.I.T.- St. Stephens	\$	-
 <b>Total Other Income</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b><u>-</u></b>
 <b>Adjusted Net Income</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b><u>(54,000)</u></b>
 <b>Withdrawal from DIT</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b><u>54,000</u></b>
 <b>Net Income</b>	 <b>\$</b>	 <b><u>-</u></b>

1. No clergy stipend/housing increase for seventh consecutive year.
2. Clergy health insurance increase offset by cuts to telephone and continuing education.
3. No funding for grounds maintenance, music and adult Christian education.
4. Other areas reduced include: outside mission, staff expense, advertising, office expense, insurance, office supplies and youth ministry.
5. Additonal cuts may be made during the year if additonal income is not generated. A finance committee, chaired by Jim Bombanti, will meet quarterly to assess and make recommendations to the Vicar and Bishop's Committee. Staff is aware and working hard to find ways to trim an already lean budget.

# 2018 Mission Reports

## Altar Guild Report

The purpose of the altar guild is to assist our priest by preparing all things necessary for the celebration of Holy Eucharist or any other service of the church. St. Stephen's Altar Guild consists of twelve members; ten women and two men. We work in teams of two to prepare the altar and worship space for all services throughout the year, paying special attention to the seasonal changes of the church year. Due to aging and illness we reduced to eight active members.

It is our privilege and duty to prepare and set the Table for Holy Eucharist and, to do the behind the scenes work of cleaning and maintaining the "holy hardware," and the altar linens. We maintain the supplies necessary for the congregation to participate in the worship services (the bread, wine, flowers, etc.).

We have beautiful vestments (chasuble and stole) for priestly wear in red, green, purple, violet, sarum, rose, and white. In addition, for the Table, we have veils and burses in colors matching the vestments. We are prepared for each seasonal change in the Church calendar. We thank Lurline Jennings for her time, talent, and generosity for these gifts.

We welcome anyone (male or female) interested in serving God through the altar guild to come and see what we do. If you would like to know more about this ministry, please see Fr. Bill or Rose O'Neill.

## Daughters of the King

The Order of the Daughters of the King is organized as a religious order, although we do not live in an enclosed community. Each Daughter takes a lifetime vow to live by the Rule of the Order. Our Rule of Life requires a spiritual of daily prayer, service and evangelism.

We follow the motto of the Order:

For His Sake

I am but one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do. Lord, what will you have me do?

The DOK chapter at St. Stephen's is named Blessed Julia Chester Emery. At present we have eight members. Our banner hangs in the worship space. We meet monthly, review and update our prayer list, help with our outreach this year which is packing up the food bags for Blessings in a Backpack, and support the funds of the Order.

Any woman interested in learning more about the Order of the Daughters of the King, please contact Fr. Bill or Rose O'Neill.

**REPORTS CONTINUE ON PAGE 9**

### **Blessings in a Backpack Ministry**

We began the 2018-2019 School Year supplying 40 students from Palm Elementary with weekly bags of ten food items for the weekends. During calendar year 2018 (which includes parts of two school years) a total of 13,250 food items were distributed.

A sample bag would include a cereal, pop tart, cookie, crackers and cheese, juice or other drink, pudding, fruit cup, mac and cheese, ramen, and a protein-alternating between Vienna sausage and tuna. This allows them a treat of their own and something to share with other children who might be in the home. We try to keep the cost about 50 cents or less per food item.

The food is bagged on Wednesday morning and delivered to Palm Elementary on the last school day of the week. The bags are then distributed to the students by the office staff prior to dismissal of school.

Nearly seven years ago this ministry was started with the feeding of 10 students. We are now at 40 and there are a lot more hungry children to feed. Hopefully, we will be able to continue to increase the number of children we feed.

A special thank you goes to Carol Baker, Phyllis Davis, Barbara Gwinup, Steve Perry, and Joy Williams who faithfully participate in this ministry every week of the school year. We also give thanks to Gail West who brought this ministry to St. Stephen's. Thank you to all congregants who participate by the giving of money or food.

For those who are interested in donating food, reading the labels is a must as the school has asked that we do not use any food item that contains caffeine, peanuts, or has been processed in a facility that also processes peanuts or other tree nuts.

### **Grief Support Group**

In September, a Grief Support Group began meeting on Wednesday nights. Facilitated by Mike Whittaker, a local hospice chaplain, 4-6 faithful people continued to meet until mid-November. Inspired by the favorable reception of the people who came, On December 16, Father Dunn led a "Blue Christmas" service for 24 people with help from Janet Wales and Scott Hamre. The Grief Support Group will reconvene on Wednesday, February 6 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

For several years, St. Stephen's has hosted AA group meetings on Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 pm. In August, a men's AA group began meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. The AA community has helped support our Christmas Tree Festival by not meeting during the week of the event and last year found other meetings to attend while the Annis Hall roof was being replaced and the Hall painted.

# Christian Education Report 2018

One might become discouraged in planning and teaching a Bible-study program for children in which, for the most part, only one child participates full time. However, things are not always as they seem.

It was in faith that I asked, now two years ago, to be allowed to convert the Nursery into a classroom and fill it with both wonderful teaching materials and objects to enhance the learning process of our most Holy Bible's revelation of God our Father, Jesus, our savior and power of the Holy Spirit.

Most of you know that I have taught Bible study to children for the most part of 50 years and you also know that I served as a ruling elder and as a director of Christian Education in other churches. In addition, you know that I served as a Volunteer in Mission to Japan for two years.

Still, now in the winter of my life, I continue to serve...I came to St. Stephen's, a mission church, and offered my love, my skills and my strength to teach children. I felt the call for this and received it as a gift for children and such a special dimension to my life.

In the beginning, the only student, dear Phoebe Nichole Luecken, now eight years old, who for two years, with the exception of a vacation with her Father and a special time with her Mother and once when she was ill, has attended faithfully. She has as a result of this been able to progress from the beginning through the attached noted "Benchmarks" (available on request in church office).

Phoebe is growing in the spirit and beginning to practice the "Golden Rule." She is filled with a loving and forgiving zest for life.

Jayden, barely six years of age, has graced us with his presence on numerous occasions, and he is such a delightful spirit. He asked me one Sunday if God really created the world to which I replied, "Indeed." He paused for a moment and then said, "Cool." Jayden is aware of the Ten Commandments; knows he is a part of the church family. He knows the Nativity story and can name the characters. He recognizes the Lord's Prayer when he hears it. He does take communion along side a family member.

Other children visit the classroom from time to time, but I am unable to give them Benchmarks, but be assured they are introduced to whatever Biblical story that has been planned for that week.

Our Christian Ed. Program has yet another facet—namely, our outreach to House of Decision; and it is of great importance to all involved. We, I believe, have been led to embrace the children living there, and to offer and to serve in a capacity that has become an endeavor with spiritual qualities. The children have joined us now for two years in Vacation Bible School and have fully participated in each Nativity Play in 2017 and 2018. This year, I give my special thanks and gratitude to the directors and to the mothers in House of Decision for their active participation in both the Vacation Bible School and this year's Nativity Play. Our outreach to House of Decision has been met with favorable participation and we give thanks to Jesus for leading us to serve along with our brothers and sisters there.

To all of you who have served so well with your gifts and talents in our Vacation Bible School and the Nativity Play, do know that we could NOT have done it without you. Thank you so much and may God generously bless you. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, you have done unto me."

In Christ

Sarah Austin