



Welcome Week Activities

UNI students began classes August 22, but before that they had to move in, buy books, greet friends and visit St. Stephen to see what's been going on!

Our Mass on Sunday was packed with students and their families. This first Mass of the school year provided an opportune time to stress that our student members need to "register" so they receive all the news about retreats, service outreach projects, community involvement opportunities and social happenings. There are 213 new student registrations so far this year. The total number of registered students is 1,199. Together with the 290 non-student members registered, this makes for a vital and dynamic St. Stephen Community.

Following the 10:30am Mass, the weather cooperated to give a beautiful day for the Welcome Picnic, complete with tasty food and an appreciative crowd.

Our student leaders - Peer Ministers and Discipleship Council (DC) - prepared to welcome others back by attending retreats the week before classes started. Taking this time for prayer and reflection before the school year began allowed the student leaders to focus on why we do what we do—all for God's glory and the betterment of God's people. They

also learned practical ins-and-outs of the building and the specifics of their responsibilities. Permanent staff, Peers and DC members work closely together to meet the spiritual needs of our students, recognizing ministry involves not only offering events and programs, but also providing a welcoming and meaningful presence.

The Peers and DC brought their ministry alive during Welcome Week, leading student volunteers as they offered popcorn and lemonade to new and returning students. As they made their way to and from classes or the bookstore, these students stopped to enjoy these treats and to check out what St. Stephen has to offer.

The New Student Retreat, held on Saturday August 27, allowed new students a chance to connect with each other and current St. Stephen students. Many made it apparent that this would be a "home away from home" for them. Who knows, maybe some of them will grow into the roles of Peer and DC leadership themselves.

We invite all to drop in anytime, whether it be to take part in a program or other offering, to pray, to study, or just to find a quiet place to relax.

No Matter Where You're From ... We're Glad You're Here



Student Leadership

PEERS The Peer Ministry program began in 1997 and continues this year with a new group of student leaders. The Peer Ministers are initiators, organizers, greeters, and faith sharers. They also have a specific area of ministry on which they focus. Working with a designated ministry mentor, each hopes to encourage involvement in center activities and help the community grow in faith.



This year our Peers are (l-r): Eric Brundies, Amber Kearney, Liz Mastalio, and Sean Ford.

Eric hails from St. Mary Parish in Davenport. He is the Community Life Peer and is in charge of faith-sharing and social events. Eric is majoring in English Education.

Amber's home parish is Sacred Heart in Chariton. Her ministry is Spiritual Life, planning prayer and liturgy, and helping with RCIA. She is majoring in Junior Communicative Disorders.

Liz is serving as the Social Justice and Education Peer, coordinating our service efforts. She is from Iowa City and St. Mary is her family parish. Liz's major is Math Education.

Sean's home parish of St. Patrick is right here in Cedar Falls. He leads our Campus Outreach activities and is majoring in Communication Studies.

DC - Discipleship Council This group of students provides leadership to our activities. Some of their duties include working with the Adopt-a-Grandparent, Tuesday Prayer planning, Catholic Worker House, Ambassadors, GIFT groups, and much more. Discipleship Council ministries are:



President: Jeanette Roush

Vice-President: Cristy Steffen

Secretary: Emily Beaudry

GIFT Group: Jennifer Shatek & Brooks Woolson

Service Outreach/Adopt-a-Grandparent: Kayla Berry & Eric Moellers

Community Service/Catholic Worker House: Ashley Hill & Ashley Langel

Liturgy Planning: Michael Becker & Lauren Schmitt

RCIA: Michelle Bower

Ambassadors/Publicity: Elizabeth Madsen & Thomas Peterson

Pictured (1st row (l-r): Kayla Berry, Jen Shatek, Jeanette Roush, Elizabeth Madsen. 2nd row (l-r): Lauren Schmitt, Ashley Langel, Cristy Steffen, Eric Moellers, Ashley Hill. 3rd row (l-r): Michelle Bower, Michael Becker, Brooks Woolson, Thomas Peterson. Not pictured: Emily Beaudry.

Off We Go
into the
Wild
Blue
Yonder ...

Classes hadn't even started before an email was sent out requesting volunteers to help at the "Thunder in the Valley" Air Show. It was hard work, but it was fun. THANK YOU to all the student and member volunteers!





CWH {Catholic Worker House} This is an opportunity to help feed the hungry. Volunteers help in any of the following ways:

- Purchase & drop off food that will be prepared & served at the CWH
- Help prepare the meal at St. Stephen @ 3:30 p.m.
- Travel to the CWH at 5:00 p.m. to serve the meal. We return at about 7:30 p.m. to finish cleanup.

The next CWH service opportunity will be Thursday, October 6

Service
&
Social
Justice

NEIFB {Northeast Iowa Food Bank} is a food warehouse and system where this food is distributed to 18 counties in NE Iowa. Volunteer involvement includes sorting food, stocking shelves, packaging food for delivery, etc. Those needing a ride meet at 5:00 p.m. in the lobby at St. Stephen. Depending on the working assignment, we return at approximately 8:00 p.m.

The next NEIFB service opportunity will be Thursday, October 13.



Habitat for Humanity We work in conjunction with the Black Hawk County Habitat for Humanity organization building affordable housing for those in need. Volunteers help with a variety of tasks including but not limited to painting, mudding, and simple construction.

The next Habitat service opportunity will be Friday, Oct. 14 @ 12:30 p.m.

Transportation is provided to each service outreach activity.

From our Campus Minister

As the new campus minister at St. Stephen the Witness Catholic Student Center, I'm responsible for social justice awareness and service outreach opportunities. This includes helping guide service opportunities which have a long and rich tradition here, including the Catholic Worker House, the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, and Habitat for Humanity, and maintaining a relationship with the Children of El Faro Children's Home in Tijuana. We will also continue other programs including the Thanksgiving Service Retreat, Busy Person's Retreat and Spring Break Service Trip, Red Cross Blood Drive, Servant Saturdays, Social Justice Week, Ecumenical Fast, and Fair Trade (Work of Human Hands) through Catholic Relief Services.

In addition to those programs we currently offer, we hope to continue to offer new, timely and relevant opportunities to expose and educate students and non-students alike to Catholic Social Teaching. In the future, we hope to offer new social justice-related experiences including the Heifer Project, Then Feed Just One (similar to Kids Against Hunger), Catholic Social Teaching/Social Justice Bible Study, and much more.

One of our many goals in our social justice/service outreach at St. Stephen the Witness and indeed as Catholic Christians, is three-fold; (1) to educate people about social justice and Catholic social teaching, (2) to offer direct service opportunities (charity) that put that education to use in visible, tangible ways by volunteering at a variety of local places in the Cedar Valley, and (3) work for justice by creating social change through advocacy (speaking up for those who have no voice) and by helping change unjust policies and laws that do not offer economic justice for all and the dignity one deserves as a human being created in the image and likeness of God.



Leland, Vincent, Liz, & Courtney with Campus Minister, Shannon Duffy

Family Weekend

From Fr. Ken There is one thing that is consistent in life, that is change. This fall we have welcomed new staff members, new student leadership and we have welcomed new and returning students into our community.

As a Student Center we are committed to walking with your son and/or daughter spiritually as they pursue their academic degrees.

Our spiritual journeys are as important as our academic and professional pursuits. At St. Stephen the Witness we offer a wide variety of spiritual opportunities including Sunday Liturgy, prayer services, retreats and Bible studies.

We also put our faith in action through our service and outreach events. However, this would not be possible without our student leaders who were introduced to you earlier in this newsletter.

The pictures around this article highlight family weekend events. Each year, I thank the parents who attend this weekend's Sunday liturgy and brunch. I thank them for the seed of faith they have planted within their children. Our ministry would not exist without this introduction by you, the parents. I hope and pray that you ask your students about their experiences at St. Stephen the Witness and they are willing to share many things with you! I enjoy having the opportunity to meet our students families and having you share liturgy with us. Know you are welcome all year long, not just on family weekend! As we often times tell the students -

"No matter where you are from, we are glad you are here!"



Retreats at St. Stephen the Witness provide students a chance to take a step back from their crazy school schedules and intentionally focus on their faith. While on retreat, students also build community with each other and have time just to be themselves as God intended. Each semester we offer the Antioch Retreat, intended to integrate participants into Christian community, and the Journey Retreat, which offers lots of time for individual reflection. St. Stephen also offers retreats for new students and student leadership as well as the Connections New Student Retreat, the Busy Person's Retreat and individual days/evenings of reflection. "We hope all our retreats help students grow closer to God and God's community," said Anastasia Nicklaus, staff member who helps facilitate retreats.

Retreat offerings still available this semester are Antioch on October 15-16 (deadline for registration is Oct. 9) and Journey on October 29-30.



DC Retreat

Summer Visits For the past five years, Fr. Ken Glaser, Director of Campus Ministry has been traveling the state of Iowa during the summer months talking about Campus Ministry. It gives Fr. Ken an opportunity to meet the students in their home parishes and to meet their parents, family members and faith communities. This past summer Fr. Ken visited the following parishes:

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| St. Joseph, Marion | St. John Vianney, Bettendorf | St. Michael, Harlan |
| St. Patrick, Waukon | St. Mary, Dorchester | St. Aloysius, Calmar |
| St. Wenceslaus, Spillville | Immaculate Conception, Gilbertville | St. Joseph, Raymond |

Fr. Ken stated, "I am grateful to the priests and parishes that have welcomed me into their communities. I enjoy speaking about Campus Ministry and sharing information about what is happening on our college campuses today.

Keep up the great work of providing a firm away from home for UNI students. We are grateful for all that we gained through the St. Stephen's Community, including each other. We will be married 16 years on Aug 12 and it all started on a Journey retreat.

Knew that you are always in our prayers and all the youth are as well. They need firm and reliable leaders of which you are certainly one!

As a Student Center we are an extension of your faith communities and we rely on your prayerful and financial support. I would like to

thank the individuals and parishes that financially supported our ministry. I am looking forward to traveling in 2012 and already have a few parishes lined up. Perhaps I will see you then!"



Thank You
THANK YOU
Thank You
THANK YOU
Thank you
Thank You
Thank You
Thank you
Thank You
Thank you

... was so touched by your message in the family. Thinking how blessed these college kids at UNI are to have such an enthusiastic & caring pastor that has done shared in their lives for ...

Development - St. Stephen Catholic Student Center is dependent on the generous support of members and friends. Every year we have fund-raising activities that student and member volunteers help to organize and staff. As the new Development Coordinator I'm learning of the many activities, and I'm meeting the individuals involved in our vibrant and growing community. I thank God for them because I'm counting on many of them to let me know what happens next . . . Homecoming, Annual Fund Drive, Advent and Christmas activities, Finals Week Breakfast, A New Year, a Spring Event, Alumni Appeal, Golf Tournament, supporting Fr. Ken in his development outreach efforts - I think I have my job cut out for me!

I thank all of you who have volunteered to lead and work in our efforts so far and I welcome any input, ideas, support, critique, and prayers you have to give. I'm truly looking forward to learning and working with you all.

Mary Beckey Kelly - mbk@ststephenuni.org



We have a new refrigerator and it's name is Sully! Obviously our students approve. We got a great deal on this purchase and are so thankful to those who "give" and help make these expenditures possible.



New Student Retreat



Antioch Team

*St Stephen the Witness
Catholic Student Center*

1019 W. 23rd Street
Clear Falls, IA 50613-3550



PARENTS - if your student is an alum and we should be sending this newsletter to his/her new address, please email Mary - mbk@ststephenuni.org with an updated address. Thank you.

Enjoy our famous

Cinnamon Rolls / Cocoa and Coffee

**Saturday, October 8 • in front of St. Stephen
8:00 a.m. - 'til they're gone!**

Tailgate Party

in the parking lot north of the WRC

12:00 noon - game time

**Bring your own food & drink,
we'll provide a grill and free bottled water**

Join Us
Stop In
Eat a Cinnamon Roll
Come Back
Take a break
Return
We'd love to see you
Homecoming
2011
October 8



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Catholic Student Center" -
the one with the color logo

