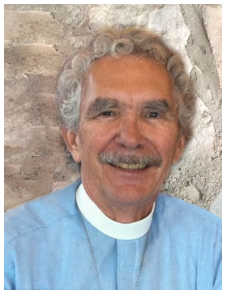
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Wimberley eNEWS
August 7, 2020

# Letter from the Rector
## "Get Over It" by Fr. Phil Mason



*This grand show is eternal.*
*It is always sunrise somewhere;*
*the dew is never dried all at once;*
*a shower is forever falling;*
*vapor is ever rising.*
*Eternal sunrise, eternal dawn and gloaming,*
*on sea and continents and islands,*
*each in its turn, as the round earth rolls. - John Muir*

I believe it is a good time for us to review the assignment I was given when I was appointed your Interim Rector.

A priest will leave a congregation for a variety of reasons. They might retire or be called by the spirit to serve the Lord elsewhere. Occasionally there might be some unfortunate circumstance that requires the priest to leave the congregation. Regardless of the reason, a parish is left without a pastoral leader or a steady hand on the tiller. Lacking the leadership of their Rector the congregation often is confused or wounded or maybe a little lost about the future. The trained Interim's task is to assist a congregation whose Rector has left gather their collective senses and prepare themselves to welcome a new priest to be their Rector. In short; get over it and get on to the next chapter in parish life.

Our peculiar situation is rather atypical of the norm. In most cases, an Interim Rector will be someone with whom the congregation is not acquainted. It is important that the interim priest and congregation quickly develop a good working relationship and engage the task at hand which is to learn to get over the past and look forward to the arrival of their next Rector. It is hard work, and it is sometimes said that a good interim is one which the congregation is glad to have leave.

In our case, when I was selected Interim for St. Stephen's, I had been a presence in the congregation and occasionally the pulpit: and I had developed a warm, friendly relationship with many of you. Over the past year or so as I have served as your Interim Rector, that relationship has grown a great deal and very many of you have expressed your feelings about my leaving. It will be a bittersweet feeling for me when my last day with you arrives. I will look back on our time together with great fondness and pride for the things we have accomplished. I hope you will do the same. Let your hearts and minds look forward to a new loving relationship as the next chapter for St. Stephen's unfolds.

If you are sad that I am leaving or even if you are glad, as I so often have reminded us, "God is infinitely more concerned with our future than with our past." I also have reminded you and myself, "GET OVER IT."
Peace and love to all,
*Phil+*

# Senior Warden News
## by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins

July offered another milestone in the life of SSEC! As everyone knows by now, your Vestry called The Rev. Kevin Schubert to be our new Rector, and he will lead us into our new church lifestyle, however that may look. Rumor has it that he is packing up and bringing several musical instruments with him, too. We anxiously await his arrival on Tuesday, September 1, along with his wife Heather, his sons, Holden and Harper, and of course, Willie Nelson, the family dog. *There's bound to be a story there!*

Kudos to the Search Committee, co-chaired by Sharon East and Darelle Jordan. They worked diligently along with committee members: Tom Fulkerson, Evie Martin, Fischer McIntosh, Robert McLemore, Phil Muth, T.Cay Rowe, Kristen Schmidt, Jamie Wallendorf, and Susan Webb. Our utmost thanks to all of you for finding the best match for the church and new Rector.

And then...there's Fr. Phil. We have been so very fortunate to have such a serene and calming influence around us during this past year. He has eased our anxieties and supplied comfort to our needs. In as much as he has always emphasized "Get Over It" to us, we will not forget the love he has shown for each of us and this church. As we rejoice in the arrival of Fr. Kevin, so will we rejoice that we've had the privilege of knowing Fr. Phil.

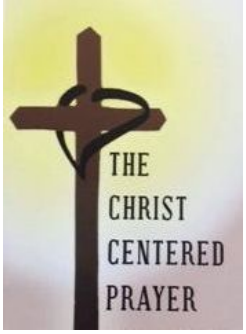
Enjoy reading this newsletter in its entirety; it's chock full of the goings on in the life of our wonderful church community. Remember, the church and office doors may be physically closed, but the phones, Zoom, *church website*, church social media, and e-blasts serve as the many avenues and more available to us to stay in touch and reach out with virtual hugs and good wishes.

Blessings,
*Nancy*

*"In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life:*
*IT GOES ON."*
*- Robert Frost*

# AUGUST SCHEDULE

**Zoom Time with Fr. Phil**
Wednesday, August 12, 19, 26
@ 10:00 a.m. CDT




**CCP with Fr. Phil**
Wednesday, August 12, 19, 26
@ 5:00 p.m. CDT

**Virtual Coffee Hour**
Sunday, August 9, 16, 23
immediately after
airing of the Sunday Service

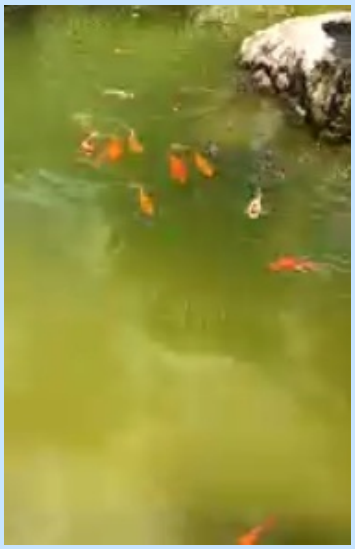
# FEATURE

## *SUMMER SERIES (PART 2):*
## PET & PARISHIONER PHOTO & NARRATIVE VIGNETTES

St. Stephen's parishioners and their pets certainly turned out for the virtual Pet Blessing that was held Sunday, July 26, 2020. By the best of estimates, Fr. Phil blessed around 50 animals, all but 24 were blessed individually. Becki and Jon Smith's 24 koi fish, were joyously blessed in a group. In an unexpected twist, fish out numbered the dogs and cats blessed. Besides the 24 koi, one gold fish was blessed, bringing us to a total of 25 fish, 20 dogs, and three cats.

Thank you, Elisa Webster for creating the popular pet trading cards. She even bought a laminator! Each family with Sunday School-aged children and Youth received their set of cards AND donuts in conjunction with *Family Sunday* and *Donut Sunday*, the Kids Coffee Hour equivalent. If you sent in a pet photo, you will be receiving a commemorative pet trading card of your pet/s. Look for these to arrive in the mail soon. Contact Elisa, *elisawebster9@gmail.com*, if you have questions.

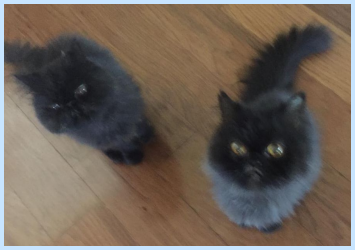
In Part 2 of "Pets & Parishioners" we would like to share with you, through photos, a sneak peek into their lives at home. We have also included a handy graphic of pet safe plants courtesy of the ASPCA. Watch your next issue of *eNEWS* as we continue the sneak peeks.



Jon & Becki Smith's 24 koi

Besides fish, the Smith's have two dogs: Blue Patchouli and Grace Sufficient.

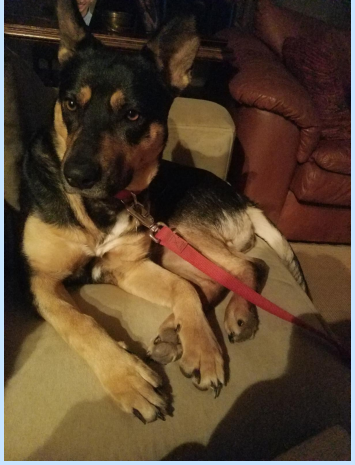
Jennifer Sabatier and Edmond Moreland family have two dogs: Bayou and Ruby.



It's a rare moment when Nancy Cooke-Jenkins cats Boomer and Jessie are caught side-by-side.

Darla and Carla Daws

Carla and Izzie the cat. Meow!



Rescue Daphne found a loving home with Judy and David Holmes.

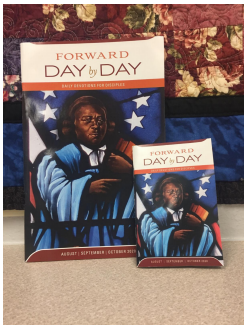
Della and Nefri Cooper

Corgis Gwenie & Duggan, pets of Carroll & Charlie Dolezal, are familiar furry friends of St. Stephen's. We especially like when they visit during Great Generations.

# NEWS

## QUARTERLY DEVOTIONAL BOOKS READY FOR PICKUP

If you haven't picked up your copy yet of the August/September/October *Forward Day to Day* devotional books, we have more copies waiting. Look for these in their usual spot in a box on the table by the side of the Chapel.




## MOBILE SSEC PHOTO DIRECTORY AVAILABLE WHILE WE WAIT

Bet you are wondering where your hard copy of the St. Stephens' Photo Directory is. Although LifeTouch staff continues to be away from the office due to COVID-19, we DO have a mobile version of the photo directory ready for you to download. The app with the directory is now available for Apple phones and iPads. The Android app is expected to become available within the next couple of weeks. We will send out the Android app information soon.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Hunt W. Sparra and our webmaster Hunt J. Sparra for the creation of these apps to tide us over until the hard copies arrive.

**LINK TO DOWNLOAD DIRECTORY APP (for iOS devices)**

For iPhones and iPad:
https://apps.apple.com/app/id1524173366

After you download the app and open it for the first time, it will ask you for a passcode. To request the passcode, e-mail Lydia at: *office@ststeve.org*.

## FR. PHIL FEATURED IN LOCAL PAPER: *WIMBERLEY VIEW*

Fr. Phil Mason was recently interviewed by Tom

Gordon for a feature, "Life on the pulpit through COVID-19" in the local paper, *The Wimberley View*. Below are excerpts from the article which appeared in the Thursday, July 30, 2020 edition.

*"In my sermon, there is always something about how I feel. I want to see you. I want to hug you. Just to shake somebody's hand would be a pleasant thing. I haven't shaken someone's hand since March." - Fr. Phil*

The article went on to explain how times and delivery of sermons, Sunday services, and ministerial offerings have changed since COVID-19. Despite the new immediate need for the changes, Fr. Phil also explained to the reporter that there were some upsides and that prior to becoming a priest he was a computer programmer and therefore comfortable with technology and the new way of doing things. Best of all, "people all over the world can now tune in to a service that originates in Wimberley, Texas.

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## DRIVE-BY THANK YOU PLANNED FOR FR. PHIL SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 12:30 p.m. CDT

All are invited to hop in their cars on Sunday, August 30, to participate in the drive-by THANK YOU for Fr. Phil. To participate, simply e-mail Jeannetta, *jwatson@ststeve.org*, by Monday, August 24.

On Sunday, August 30, cars will caravan to the church. *(We'll have more details for you soon.)* Fr. Phil will be sporting a Texas-size smile and watching from the sidewalk. We invite you to roll down your car window, be sure to have your mask on, and let him know how much we appreciate his help this past year as our brave, calm, steady, and thoughtful interim rector. From the safety of your car, it is also a great time to exchange smiles, see each other one more time, and to hand him your thank you cards.

**DRIVE-BY THANK YOU FOR FR. PHIL**
**Sunday, August 30 @ 12:30 p.m. CDT**
**RSVP for offsite meet-up instructions:**
***jwatson@ststeve.org***

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## QUARTERLY STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT

For those pledging, your quarterly statements have been e-mailed. If you have questions or have not received yours, contact: Jeannetta, *jwatson@ststeve.org*.

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## CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS TO VESTRY AND COUNCIL DELEGATES

The SSEC Administration Committee is calling for nominations to the Vestry and for Council Delegates. If you are interested or would like to submit a name for nomination, contact: Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, *nancycookejenkins@ststeve.org*. Look in your e-mail's inbox next week for more information detailing qualifications and terms. The nomination period for both Vestry and Council Delegates is open through Sunday, September 13.

# MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| | **Sunday School will use Orange** |

### Curriculum for 1st through Youth

We will begin this fall's Sunday School season using the Orange curriculum for children entering 1st grade through Youth. The curriculum will be adapted to be delivered virtually through Zoom. Class begins Sunday, September 6.

We welcome back Donna Hoyland and Jamie Wallendorf as part of our Orange team of teachers. More adult volunteers are needed and Orange training is available and can be taken by video.

For more information, contact: Elisa Webster, *elisawebster9@gmail.com*.

### Sunday School will use Godly Play Curriculum for PK4 through Kindergarten

We will begin this fall's Sunday School season using the Godly Play curriculum for children entering PK4 through Kindergarten. The curriculum will be adapted to be delivered virtually, similar to the summer series. ***We welcome back Darelle Jordan for her 20th season leading our Godly Play classes!***

### Fall Preview:
### Adult Sunday School Classes

Schedules for Fall adult Sunday School classes are being finalized. Look for all the details in our next *eNEWS* edition on August 21.

In the meantime, here is a preview:

- Fall Sunday School classes will be held virtually
- MON Bible Babes begins September 14, 12:30 p.m.
- TH Bible Babes begins September 10, 12:30 p.m.
- SUN Adult Bible w/ Becky and Bob Denton begins September 13, 9:30 a.m.
- TUES Co-ed Bible with Bob Reed using the book *The Dream of God* begins September 15, 10:30 a.m.

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### SESSION 9 CHAIR YOGA & GENTLE YOGA AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

Whether you prefer using a yoga mat or a chair for yoga, Carla Daws has new routines that will work with both and are now available on the church YouTube and Facebook. Thank you, Carla Daws, for this ongoing yoga ministry that has expanded into a regular virtual offering.

Each session is a stand-alone and may be done in any sequence. To get started, wear comfortable clothes, grab a sturdy chair for Chair Yoga and/or a yoga mat for Gentle Yoga. It's always a good idea to have some drinking water handy too.

With each yoga session, you will be building flexibility and strength. Carla recommends to shoot for three sessions a week as an ideal way to receive yoga's full benefits for the body, mind, and spirit. So, now let's get ready to move, stretch, and feel better.

YouTube Chair Yoga Session 9
YouTube Gentle Yoga Session 9

Facebook Chair Yoga Session 9
Facebook Gentle Yoga Session 9

## TAKE 5: EPISODE 11
## AIRS THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 10:00 a.m. CDT

During Episode 11 of TAKE 5, host Allen Hennig, brings us to a time in Revelations when the angel shows the water of life. We hope you can join us on YouTube or Facebook Thursday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. CDT to hear the featured hymn, "Shall We Gather at the River."

*Shall we gather at the river,*
*Where bright angel feet have trod,*
*With its crystal tide forever*
*Flowing by the throne of God?*

TAKE 5 treats our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break each Thursday morning without even leaving our homes or work offices.

YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 11 link
Facebook TAKE 5: Episode 11 link

## FAITHFUL FUN DAY: EXODUS
## AIRS FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 10:00 a.m. CDT

In our fifth episode of the virtual summer series, Faithful Fun Day, Darelle Jordan shares the Godly Play Sacred Story of *Exodus*. We will travel along with Moses as he leads the people to the desert and to the Promised Land. Elisa Webster will be leading the prayers and arts & crafts, and Tom Dawson will be providing the sing-alongs, starting with "He didn't bring us out this far to take us back again."

I wonder if you have ever known a king?

Faithful Fun Day: Exodus YouTube link

## ROADSIDE CLEANUP DRY RUN COMPLETED & SEPT DATE SET

Our intrepid Roadside Cleanup ministry leaders: Becki Smith, Jon Smith, Todd Schmidt, and Mike Marcionetti did a trial cleanup this month in preparation for a larger cleanup in September. Although the trial cleanup was contained only to the section on both sides of the church entrance, you can see in the photo that the roadside stewardship was sorely missed.

"We found during our trial run that it is very easy to maintain social distancing during the actual cleanup," Becki reveals.

With the success of the July trial roadside cleanup, the ministry has set the date for the fall cleanup.

**ROADSIDE CLEANUP**
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**
**(Pickup equipment and supplies in the Courtyard beginning at 7:00 a.m.)**

You may recall that the March 21 and June 13 quarterly roadside cleanups had been canceled due to unknowns of the pandemic. At this time the Roadside ministry leaders are confident that a September roadside cleanup can be done safely, pending weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

If you will be new to roadside cleanups and wish to volunteer, please contact Becki Smith who will direct you to any TxDOT training that is required ahead of time. All other volunteers

for September are also asked to contact Becki, colorsmith1@yahoo.com, and let her know ahead of time that you will be coming so she knows who to contact should there be any sudden changes.

In the meantime, for more information on this ministry, including age guidelines, please visit the church website, https://www.ststeve.org/ministries.

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## ZOOM TIME WITH FATHER PHIL (OPEN HOUSE STYLE) AUGUST WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 A.M.

Through August, every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CDT, we are invited to Zoom-in and visit with Fr. Phil about whatever is on our minds. Zoom Time is open house style, meaning you can virtually stop by anytime beginning 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. CDT.

"It's a lot of fun. We have a good time and laugh a lot," assures Fr. Phil.

No appointment is needed, and you can use the same meeting ID and password each week. Zoom Time with Fr. Phil is scheduled for: August 12, 19, and 26.

ZOOM TIME LINK
Meeting ID: 824 792 5886
Password: 2468

Thank you to Carroll Wilson and Tom Dawson for creating the entertaining theme song. To listen, click here, and in no time at all don't be surprised if you find yourself singing along to the catchy ditty.

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## CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER

If you are interested in learning a form of centering prayer called Christ Centered Prayer (CCP), e-mail Fr. Phil, pmason@ststeve.org, for an introduction. CCP meets via Zoom every Wednesday in August at 5:00 p.m. CDT. A reminder with Zoom instructions is mailed to those on the CCP roster. CCP is currently hosted by Fr. Phil and will be held August 12, 19, and 26.

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## COMMUNITY OF HOPE

***Do you need someone...***

*To listen, without judgment, to what is weighing on your heart?*
*To recognize your needs and respect your rights to your feelings?*
*To honor any conversation with complete confidentiality?*
*To support you as you take steps of change on your journey?*
*To just walk with you and let you be you?*

Each one of us, at some point or at several points in our lives, could use a "companion" to walk with us during the challenges of our journeys. A Community of Hope Lay Chaplain is someone who cares about you, will not promise miracles, will not decide for you what you should do, will not take steps for you, and will not rescue you. He or she will be available to you, support you, pray for you, and assure you that you are God's beloved. Please, if you are walking alone, invite one to join you on your path.

**AUGUST COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS**
Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com
Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com

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# IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

# Thank You to Youth: Miranda Lewis

Thank you, Miranda Lewis, for your eight years of serving as our acolyte at St. Stephen's. We wish you many blessings as you begin your first year at college in the fall. On behalf of the congregation this year, David Holmes delivered and presented Miranda with her senior blanket, a time-honored St. Stephen's tradition.

## SAVE THE DATE

**SUN, AUG 9**
*Holy Eucharist Sunday Service* (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 9**
*Virtual Coffee Hour* immediately follows airing of Sunday service (online), Zoom

**WED, AUG 12**
*Zoom Time with Fr. Phil* (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

**WED, AUG 12**
*Christ Centered Prayer* (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

**TH, AUG 13**
*TAKE 5* (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube, Facebook

**FRI, AUG 14**
*Faithful Fun Day* (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 16**
*Holy Eucharist Sunday Service* (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 16**
*Virtual Coffee Hour* immediately follows airing of Sunday service (online), Zoom

**WED, AUG 19**
*Zoom Time with Fr. Phil* (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

**WED, AUG 19**
*Christ Centered Prayer* (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

**TH, AUG 20**
*TAKE 5* (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 23**
*Holy Eucharist Sunday Service* (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 23**
*Virtual Coffee Hour* immediately follows airing of Sunday service (online), Zoom

**WED, AUG 26**
*Zoom Time with Fr. Phil* (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

**WED, AUG 26**
*Christ Centered Prayer* (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

**TH, AUG 27**
*TAKE 5* (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube, Facebook

**SUN, AUG 30**
Thank You Drive-by for Fr. Phil, 12:30 p.m.

**SAT, SEPT 19**
*Roadside Cleanup*, 7:00-8:00 a.m. pickup equipment, Courtyard

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

***(articles, photos, graphics)***

**WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON**

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, eeant@mac.com

**Visit our Website**

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