

## HANDY ZOOM & WEB LINKS



**Adult Sunday School Class (Zoom)** "The Lord & His Prayer," Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87309759306?pwd=QVZGZW1ZkJKRW1TNmViZkNVYUUh3QT09>

**Altar Flower Orders**

[ststeve.org/flowers](https://ststeve.org/flowers)

**Anniversary (Wedding) Announcements**

[ststeve.org/anniversary](https://ststeve.org/anniversary)

**Birthday Announcements**

[ststeve.org/birthday](https://ststeve.org/birthday)

**Christ Centered Prayer (Zoom)**, Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88555315258?pwd=b3BhNWxaQ25WTjZsTTBLL0dNbXZNUT09>

**Daily Meditations**

[ststeve.org/meditations](https://ststeve.org/meditations)

**Discovery Class (Zoom)**, Saturday, March 6, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8531233729?pwd=ZWY3V0Y2c3JBQmNvUWpTY0lFaGVcZdz09>

**Kingdom Kids/Mountain Movers Class (Zoom)**, Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86394109047?pwd=SWtEaVlwSVhTeWs4N1A0SHY3Q2x0dz09>

**Monday Bible Babes (Zoom & Courtyard)**, Mondays, 12:00 noon

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385259800?pwd=SWtqU05La29tMXRrQU1ZWkpsUzI4dz09>

**Lenten Series (Zoom)**, Wednesdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81505140156?pwd=bys0RIZLMmhlQVfVvVWY1Wnl6b1FYdz09>

**Online Order of Worship**

[ststeve.org/order](https://ststeve.org/order)

**Sunday 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service**

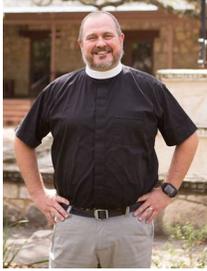
*(We also hold an in-person Courtyard Service at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays)*

## COLUMNS

### ***Now What?***

## **Reminders for the Wilderness Times**

**by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert**



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *For those that may have been unable to enjoy Fr. Kevin's sermon on Sunday, February 21, we have re-printed the text below. We hope you enjoy it.*

Dear St. Stephen's Family,

We experienced an absolute extreme week due to the winter storms. The majority of us were out of electricity and/or water for several days, and many remain under the same circumstances. We experienced damage to water lines, trees, houses, vehicles, and even for some

bodily harm.

It's a bit comical to me that the end of the Noah story is the Old Testament reading for Sunday, February 21. When God made his covenant with his people putting the rainbow in the sky, it's pretty clear he didn't say anything about a blizzard. I'm just thankful it didn't last any longer, especially not 40 days and nights.

I am reminded though of just how bleak things have been in the world for a good amount of time. I saw a picture on the internet of one of those El Arroyo signs that said, "Welcome to today's episode of *Now What?*". On Wednesday morning, while I was bundled up like Randy, the little bother from the Christmas Story, in the frigid cold of my living room, I said to a friend over the phone, "I sure do hope the worst is behind us." He laughed and said, "Yeah, let's hope so after a year of pandemic, countless hurricanes, an angry mob storming our nations capital, a series of winter storms, and the failure of our state's power grid..... I think we're ready for a bit of a reprieve."

Of course as an unapologetic optimist, I don't often dwell too long on the things we as a people suffer through; instead focusing on the path ahead for opportunities of redemption and peace. The current church season of Lent affords us great opportunities to prepare ourselves for those moments of redemption and peace. During these next several weeks leading up to Easter, we are encouraged to inwardly investigate our relationship with God through fasting, alms giving, and prayer. Lenten practices are intended to know oneself better through a spiritual lens. More often than not; scripture, tradition, and the church don't normally put a lot of emphasis into putting oneself first in consideration of the world. And, rightfully so, I believe. But, each year during Lent that's really exactly what we are called to do. Over the next several weeks we will be asking the paramount question, "How is my relationship with God through Christ, and how can I improve it, restore it, and build upon it?"

It's imperative for us to take stock of ourselves, with a special emphasis on the relationship we have with God; because really it's somewhat foundational in order to do the work we are called to do as Christians. This work, laid out in the commandments of Jesus through the Gospels, is to love God, and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Recognize in that commandment that in order to love God and our neighbor it must follow loving one's self. In my understanding, Lent is not some doom and gloom time period to deny ourselves happiness or progress; rather it's a season that encourages improvement of self; returning to God's intentions for us.

*"Lent is not some doom and gloom time to deny ourselves;*

*rather it is a season that encourages improvement of self."*

The Gospel reading is very appropriate for our current context, especially as we enter into this season of Lent, and self examination. It's extremely fitting that immediately after Jesus' baptism he is driven into the wilderness. At his baptism he receives his identity as the beloved son of God. The forty days and forty nights spent in the wilderness, shows Jesus just what that identity is all about. Just like Jesus, we too receive our identities at our baptisms, grafted into the family of God, and become recipients of God's grace and love. It is this baptism identity that guides us through the challenges and struggles that await us along our journeys.

In many ways we too have been driven into the wilderness. All too often lately it seems that this wilderness will never end. Although, within these wilderness times, God is never far away. It's within these wilderness occasions that we begin to understand our identity as Christ's own and God's beloved children even more fully. We have already been provided the necessary tools to withstand the challenges of this world; if only we adhere to the knowledge and promise of God's provision.

Often times throughout history people have attributed occasions of wilderness times, those difficult and troublesome times, to the workings of God. But, I innately believe that God doesn't cause us misery or suffering. Our occasions of wilderness are not done by God in order to teach us something or to punish us for our wrongdoings. Or even to put us in our place. Remember in this Gospel story, it's not the Spirit that tempts Jesus, but rather the evil one. The hard truth of the matter is that the lives we live are full of difficult times.

Throughout life we are faced with circumstances that are hard to handle, challenging, and that leave us utterly despondent. Our continual prayers for redemption and peace from God are not under the illusion that these occasions will automatically cease once God intervenes. Rather our prayers for redemption and peace are intended to recall what we are provided in our baptisms - life, hope, justice, courage, resolve, purpose, and love. What I need to continually remind myself about God during wilderness times, is that God is at work both for us and through us during our wilderness times. Keeping this perspective is important. We must ask ourselves the questions, "Even though I didn't wish for this, how might God be at work through this difficult period? What can I learn and receive from this experience? How might God use me to help someone else during these periods?"

I have to remind myself that God is not some omnipresent entity poking us from above for amusement; but rather God through Christ is right here with us, encouraging us to be more and to do more. We are continually reminded throughout this season of Lent that God is always in the business of creating resurrection from death!

We have weathered the storms here in Texas, but the work is not done. Many are still struggling, some right here in our own beloved community of St. Stephen's. Without a doubt, we remain in the wilderness. How might we respond? With donations of much needed items to Amigos de Jesus? (*See photos of your donations in the "Life at SSEC" section of this newsletter.*) More, of course, will be needed, and St. Stephen's will be right here, along the way, doing our part to follow the commandments given to us by Christ. And, please remember, if you are in need at this time, I encourage you to reach out to me, so your church community can rally around you with love and support.

I think my sentiment is the same that, church member Tom Dawson posted on Facebook during the brunt of the storm last week. He said, "Just thinking about what good can come out of this. I am really feeling good about the many many examples of people helping their neighbors in this time of crisis. It gives me hope that the Golden Rule is still active in many cases. Love your neighbors as yourself!" May we do the same. - Amen.

Peace,  
*The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert*

## NEWS

### VESTRY INSTALLATION THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 @ 11:30 AM

We hope you can join us this Sunday, February 28, at 11:30 a.m. in the Courtyard for the Holy Eucharist Service and the installation of our 2021 Vestry members: Roy Buckley, Carla Daws, Ed Galle, Evie Martin, Mary McIntosh, Anita McNabb, Phil Muth, John Odell, and



Todd Schmidt.

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## SERVING COFFEE AT THE 11:30 AM COURTYARD SUNDAY SERVICE



We will now be serving coffee at the 11:30 a.m. Courtyard Holy Eucharist Service on Sundays, weather permitting. With the serving of coffee during a pandemic, there are certain procedures that are required by the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, that we must abide by.

Coffee will be made available outside, along the back wall in the Courtyard, during the 11:30 a.m. Sunday service. Our Sunday Sexton, Lonnie Brown, will have pre-poured the coffee into cups. **We will NOT have a self-serve drink station.** If you ordinarily take sweetener, creamer, or other drink "fixings" in your coffee, these will be available in single-serve packets or cups and individual single-use stirring utensils will be provided. Lonnie along with all participants are required to wear a face mask during distribution. The face mask must cover nose, mouth, and chin. You are asked to diligently avoid hand-to-hand contact, and to help maintain a six foot distance between households waiting to get coffee. No food will be provided. Please dispose of your own coffee trash in the provided trash receptacle located by the drink station.

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## FACILITY DIRECTOR CELEBRATES 1 YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY



Facility Director, Mike Williamson, will celebrate his 1-year work anniversary with St. Stephen's on March 1. His knowledge, skill, and dedication to the smooth operations of our buildings and help with creating a safe grounds in all seasons, is immensely appreciated. Thank you, Mike!

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## STATIONS OF THE CROSS HELD FRIDAYS IN LENT @ 10 AM



We will hold Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays: February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, and March 26. Everyone is asked to meet first in the courtyard. Location will then alternate between the courtyard and the nature trail, weather permitting. There will be a required check-in with temperature taken and sign-in for contact tracing. Wearing a mask is required while on the church property.



**2021 ONLINE LENTEN SERIES (ZOOM) CONTINUES**  
**Wednesdays in Lent, 6:30 p.m. CST**

# Lent

This week was the first of five special Lenten presentations organized by several churches of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, including St. Stephen's. ***Each presentation in the series "Nevertheless, the Kingdom Has Come Near to You" is a stand-alone, meaning that you do not need information from the previous week's presentation.*** With well over 100 people attending the first session, this series has proven that there is indeed an important message for everyone.

The entire series is held 100% virtually through Zoom including small virtual breakout sessions. Please see the list of presenters and MCs below to choose the topics that may be particularly interesting to you. Following the short presentation, small groups will gather virtually in breakout Zoom rooms to discuss amongst their church members. The session concludes with everyone returning to the larger group for Q&A.

There is no need to register. This series is open to all and will be held on Zoom.

**MARCH 03: IN MISSION THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGY**, The Rev. Beth Wyndham

**MARCH 10: TO BE NEIGHBORS IN A NEW WAY**, Flor Saldivar

**MARCH 17: TO BE A BEACON TO OTHERS**, The Rt. Rev. David Reed

**MARCH 24: TO SEE WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT**, The Ven. Mike Besson

The following Zoom link may be used for all five sessions in the series.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81505140156?pwd=bys0RlZLMmhlQVFvVWY1Wnl6b1FYdz09>

For information on the presenters and MCs and for all the details, visit the Facebook page for this Lenten Series.

<https://www.facebook.com/2021-Lenten-Series-Presented-by-the-churches-of-DWTX-100273582107304>

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## BISHOP'S VISIT TO ST. STEPHEN'S GETTING CLOSER

**Sunday, March 21 2021**



The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop Diocesan of West Texas will be with us at St. Stephen's on Sunday, March 21, 2021. The Bishop will preside and preach at the 10:30 Live Stream Holy Eucharist Sunday Service, as well as administer the sacrament of Confirmation and preside at the rites of Reception and Reaffirmation of Faith for those that complete the upcoming Saturday, [March 6 Discovery Class](#). To register for the March 6 class, contact, the church office, [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org).

Bishop Reed's visit is only weeks away. There is still time for you to attend the one-day *Discovery Class* and complete it before Bishop Reed's arrival. The *Discovery Class* may be taken in person or virtually using Zoom. Adults and teens attending St. Stephen's are eligible and should contact the church office, [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org), to notify Fr. Kevin that you will be attending and for further instructions. More details of what the Discovery Class entails may be found at: [ststeve.org/baptism](http://ststeve.org/baptism).

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## ORDER & PAY FOR YOUR EASTER LILIES THROUGH CHURCH WEBSITE

There is still time to [place your online order](#) for your Easter Lilies at the Altar. Cost is \$15 per lily. Be sure to indicate the Easter Lily dedication as well. You may pay online at: [ststeve.org/online-giving](http://ststeve.org/online-giving). If you are paying by check, be sure to make check payable to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and write "Easter Lilies" in the memo line. Checks may be mailed to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000-A FM 3237, Wimberley TX 78676.



We will read the dedications during the Live Stream Easter Service at 10:30 a.m. and the 11:30 a.m. Courtyard Service on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Dedications will also be

Deadline to place Easter Lily Orders and Dedications is:  
**MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021**

**ORDER EASTER LILIES HERE**

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## READING OF THE PASSION ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, and the *Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark* will be read by four readers during the 10:30 a.m. Live Stream and the 11:30 a.m. Courtyard Holy Eucharist Services. We hope you can join us on Palm Sunday. For those attending the 11:30 a.m. Courtyard Service, we will hold a non-traditional procession, standing in place. Fr. Kevin will walk around the crowd processing the palms. The palms have been ordered, and we look forward to sharing Palm Sunday with you.



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## CONCERT DURING HOLY WEEK BY FR. KEVIN & BAND

Fr. Kevin and his band will be producing a 1-hour concert for Holy Week and providing it to us in a recording that we can enjoy from home.

"The concert will have original songs that lead the listener through the entire breadth of Holy Week," previews Fr. Kevin.



*Watch your next eNEWS for more details on this concert and other Holy Week activities running from Palm Sunday, March 28 through Good Friday, April 2.*

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY VIRTUAL SERVICE

Fr. Kevin, Anne Jones, Allen Hennig, and our lectors are busy putting together a memorable Maundy Thursday service for us. The Holy Eucharist Service will be held virtually again this year and will be airing on YouTube and Facebook on April 1, 2021. We will have more details for you in the next eNEWS edition.



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## GOOD FRIDAY ACTIVITIES AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

New this year, during Holy Week, will be a Eucharist Service at the Labyrinth at 12 noon on Good Friday, April 2, 2021. This special service is sponsored by the Daughters of the King and Fr. Kevin. We will also offer a recorded *Good Friday Holy Eucharist Service* to be viewed at a time convenient for you and your family using your smart device and tuning into YouTube and Facebook.



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## EASTER SERVICES AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH



Fr. Kevin enthusiastically invites us all to attend the 11:30 a.m. Courtyard Easter Holy Eucharist Service on Sunday, April 4, 2021. After this service families are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt sponsored and organized by the Youth.

For those unable to attend the Courtyard Easter Service, you are invited to tune in to the 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Easter Holy Eucharist Service on YouTube and Facebook.

## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### DONATIONS DELIVERED TO AMIGOS DE JESUS



In response to the urgent need for help from our community members, exacerbated from last week's week-long winter storm, St. Stephen's held a food, paper goods, and monetary collection drive Sunday, February 21. We wish to thank everyone for the quick response and report that \$175 along with your food and paper good item donations were loaded into Fr. Kevin's car and have now been delivered to Amigos de Jesus for distribution to those sorely in need of a helping hand.

### SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES FOR MEETING IN MCARTHUR HALL

Small groups of 20 or fewer may now meet in McArthur Hall and must follow the following guidelines as approved by the church Vestry.

1. Meeting must be listed on the church web calendar, [ststeve.org/calendar](http://ststeve.org/calendar).
2. Group size must be 20 or fewer people.
3. Face masks must be worn at all times.
4. No tables will be provided. Only chairs will be available for seating and must remain 6 ft apart for social distancing. Please do not move chairs.
5. Sanitizing product will be available to clean off chairs before leaving the meeting. Lysol wipes and hand sanitizer will be on the counter.
6. No food allowed.
7. Temperatures will be taken and names recorded for attendance. The thermometer, to be used for your meeting, will be located in the church office. Each leader is responsible for recording names of those who are present at your meeting.
8. Meetings can be take place only when the church office is open or with permission granted from the Rector. Office hours are: M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Bathrooms in McArthur Hall will be available during your small group meeting. There is disinfectant in each stall to use. Disinfectant hand soap can also be found in the bathrooms.

### TAKE 5: MARCH 4, 2021, EPISODE 48

TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig and Music Director Anne Jones have joined together for this Lenten episode of "Take My Yoke Upon You" from cantata *The Colors of Grace*. We hope you can join us on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CST on Facebook and YouTube.

You may also notice this episode features two more ceramic tiles created by Carroll Dolezal. All of these ceramic tiles may be



found on the St. Stephen's Nature Trial. We hope you enjoy this five minute music break for the ears, eyes, and spirit. See links below for both Episode 48 and other episodes, which can be found on the YouTube TAKE 5 Play List.

EPISODE 48 ON YOUTUBE

TAKE 5 PLAY LIST



## ROADSIDE MINISTRY SPRING CLEANUP UPON US

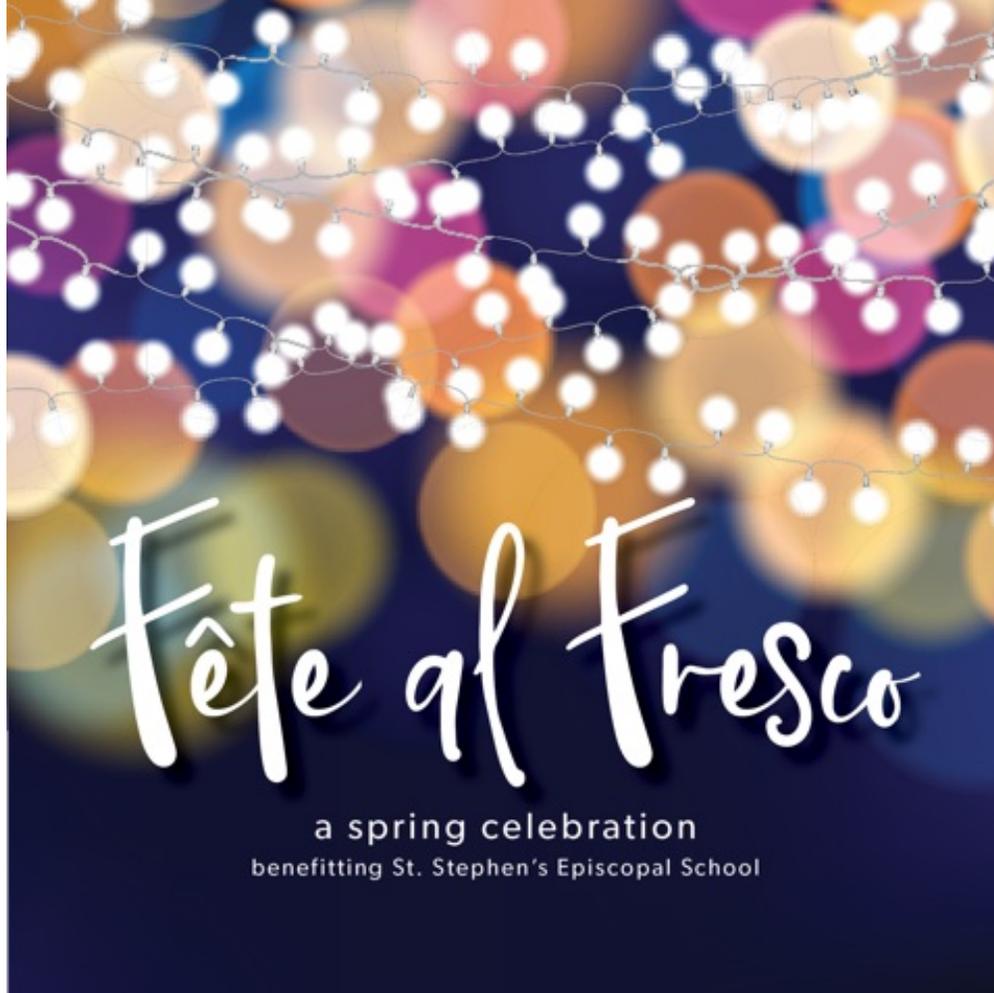
If you are eager to get out and about, shaking off that cabin fever, we have just the activity for you – **Saturday, March 13, 2021** is our quarterly roadside cleanup, beginning at 7:00 a.m.

More volunteers are needed to "wear the vest," to "INVEST with us," and to do some spring cleaning alongside our assigned highway sections. Let's clear the way for those bluebonnets and other spring time wildflower beauties.

We provide the vests, trash bags, and a limited supply of trash picker-uppers. Remember to wear close toed shoes and a hat and to bring work gloves and a water bottle. During the pandemic, we will not be able to provide drinks nor snacks. For your safety, we ask that you bring and wear your face mask at check in and continue to wear your mask if you and your partner are closer than six feet on the roadside.

Let Becki know you are coming and who your cleanup partner (with their permission) will be. We can also assign you a partner, if you prefer. Road section/partner assignments will be sent the day before the cleanup, therefore, it is **important to sign up before Friday, March 12**, so partners can get assigned. On the day of the cleanup, come to the Courtyard to sign-in between 7:00-7:30 a.m. and to get your supplies.

Guidelines for Roadside Cleanup participation may be found on the church website, [ststeve.org/ministries](http://ststeve.org/ministries). Contact Ministry Co-leader, Becki Smith, [colorsmith1@yahoo.com](mailto:colorsmith1@yahoo.com), for more information and to sign up today.



## INFO ON TICKETS, SPONSORS, DONATIONS FOR SCHOOL'S CRITICAL FUNDRAISER

**ABOUT READY FOR SOME FUN?** Mark your calendars now for the St. Stephen's Episcopal School's major fundraiser happening on Friday, April 23, 2021. *Fete al Fresco* will be held at The Ivory Oak with proceeds benefitting SSES. You may attend this event in-person or opt for the "party at home" package. Your dollars will help SSES grow by adding a middle school program, remodeling classrooms, improving outdoor spaces, and hiring additional exceptional faculty. As you may not know, tuition only covers 70% of the operating costs and proceeds from this year's *Fete al Fresco* will be critical for the growing school's success.

Tickets go on sale soon. In the meantime, please consider sponsoring and/or donating to this year's *Fete al Fresco* by contacting, Erin Chomiak, [erinchomiak@me.com](mailto:erinchomiak@me.com).

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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.

## MARCH COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Becky Denton, [dentonrebecca1@gmail.com](mailto:dentonrebecca1@gmail.com)

Dot Green, [dotgreen@anvilcom.com](mailto:dotgreen@anvilcom.com)

## IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

St. Stephen's lent a helping, responsive hand to community members with immediate needs during the winter storm. With a full trunk of your food items, paper goods, and monetary donations and smiles a mile long, Fr. Kevin and Connie Maverick delivered your donations to Amigos de Jesus.



## SAVE THE DATE

### FRI, FEB 26

*Stations of the Cross, Courtyard, 10:00 a.m.*

### SUN, FEB 28

*Kingdom Kids & Mountain Movers(Zoom), 9:00 a.m.*

*Denton Adult Bible Class (Zoom), 9:15 a.m.*

*Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.*

*Holy Eucharist Courtyard Service, 11:30 a.m.*

*Daughters of the King Meeting, McArthur Hall, after the 11:30 a.m. service*

*Teen Sunday School (Zoom), 5:00 p.m.*

### MON, MARCH 1

*Men's Prayer Group (offsite @ Wimberley Cafe), 7:30 a.m.*



*Bible Babes*, (Zoom) and McArthur Hall, 12 noon  
*Cursillo Reunion Group*, Courtyard, 10:30 a.m.

## **TUES, MARCH 2**

*Morning Prayer*, Courtyard, 9:00 a.m.

*Companions: Women's Grief Support*, McArthur Hall, 3:00 p.m.

*Yoga*, McArthur Hall, 4:00 p.m.

## **WED, MARCH 3**

*Christ Centered Prayer*(Zoom), 5:00 p.m.

## **TH, MARCH 4**

*TAKE 5* (YouTube, Facebook), 10:00 a.m.

*Bible Babes*, Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

## **FRI, MARCH 5**

*Stations of the Cross*, Courtyard, 10:00 a.m.

## **SAT, MARCH 6**

*Discovery Class*, McArthur Hall and Zoom, 10:00 a.m.

## **SUN, MARCH 7**

*Kingdom Kids & Mountain Movers*(Zoom), 9:00 a.m.

*Holy Eucharist Sunday Service* (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Eucharist Courtyard Service*, 11:30 a.m.

*Teen Sunday School* (Zoom), 5:00 p.m.

## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

*(articles, photos, graphics)*

**WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON**

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, [eeant@mac.com](mailto:eeant@mac.com)

Visit our Website



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**Church Office open M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.**