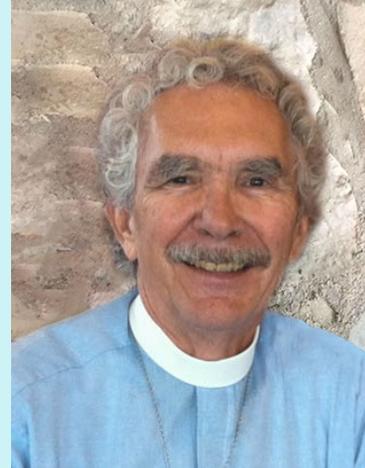


LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

Fr. Phil Mason, Interim Rector

My Dear Friends,

I couldn't tell you how long I have been sitting at my desk pondering over what to say about the latest outbreak of violence. I feel helpless, maybe hopeless, certainly frustrated, and definitely angry. I have no delusion that there would be anything that could be done to put an immediate stop to these psychotic episodes and gun violence in general. The condition that we find ourselves in will likely take many years to bring to any kind of acceptable resolution--a resolution that would at least put us in balance with the rest of the civilized world. Thousands of people die each year from gun violence in our country so we have a long, long way to go.



I have no solutions, yet I do see that many thoughtful people have put forth ideas that, if they were carefully and objectively considered, refined, and implemented, could be a good start to a solution. Most of us know some of the most controversial of the ideas and the push back and resistance that they receive. Mostly I think they are good ideas, but I must stop with that. For I am writing to a congregation of good people of faith that are likely as divided as our country on these and many other issues.

I welcome the possibility that we might be divided on the ideology surrounding this issue, otherwise I will be writing and preaching to people standing on one side of a great ideological chasm that divides us from "the others" and truthfully there are no "others." As I have said to you so many times, we are all the same--human beings crafted from the same stardust. It is my task to bring us together, not to divide us further. Any one of us or our loved ones could die from wounds of a fatally pointed gun, and we must do something to make that less likely.

*"Truthfully, there are no "others."
We are all the same.*

Human beings crafted from the same stardust." - Fr. Phil

At the core of all this, I think we have a spiritual problem and a complex one at that. We do have a great teacher that we can turn to (you know the one--that itinerate preacher from Nazareth). I will do my best to bring him to us in the time I have to spend with you.

*Peace and love to all,
Phil+*



SENIOR WARDEN

NEWS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



I had intended to give you a rest this month from "The Senior Warden News," but people have been asking me about dates and events. We've been throwing lots of both dates and events at you, which is a good thing. It means we are active and doing.

All of the dates below are important to our church community. They involve our future, our upkeep of our church home, and our safety.

The *Dog Days of August* are certainly with us! Remember to wear your sunscreen, cover up, and hydrate.

*Stay Safe,
Nancy*

<p>SUN, AUG 18, 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary (service) McArthur Hall (workshop)</p>		<p><u>RSVP</u> for childcare and/or elementary activities for the Parish Profile Workshop & Brunch after the 9:00 a.m. worship service .</p>
<p>SUN, OCT 13, 3:00 p.m. McArthur Hall</p>		<p>Make your <u>on-line reservations</u> today for this fundraiser benefitting our buildings and grounds.</p>
<p>WED, OCT 16, 11:30 a.m. McArthur Hall</p>		<p>Darrell Ayres of the Hays County Constable's office will be the presenter at the October Great Generations Gathering. He will present guidelines on what to do should an active shooter arrive on our campus. Open to the public. Lunch served. Potluck brought by members and donation basket at the side for various supplies.</p>

*"There are 100s of languages in the world,
but a smile speaks all of them." - Anonymous*



SEARCH COMMITTEE PROFILE SERIES **Fischer McIntosh, Kristen Schmidt, and Jamie Wallendorf**

In this eNEWS edition, we feature three more SSEC Search Committee members: Fischer McIntosh, Kristen Schmidt, and Jamie Wallendorf. This wraps up our series. We hope you've enjoyed getting to know the folks that are

focused on finding our next rector.



FISCHER MCINTOSH:

Student, actor, and acolyte advocates open minds

Fischer McIntosh splits his time admirably between school, acting, and serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) and acolyte for St. Stephen's. In fact, this Texas State student has been in the life of St. Stephen's his whole life, which indeed gives him a unique take. He has been on the Youth mission trips as both a participant and later as one of its leaders. He has been through the children's Sunday School programs, including Godly Play, as a participant and then later working in both the Church Nursery with the "Little Ones" and with Darelle's Godly Play students.

"Teaching Godly Play and seeing how the children interpret the word of God really opened my eyes to different interpretations I had never considered," says Fischer.

It's that openness that Fischer would like to see expand in the world.

"Sitting down and having a conversation with someone while having an open mind," he begins to explain, "So many arguments and disagreements could be solved if people were willing to sit down and have civil discussions instead of yelling at each other over Facebook."

When asked what God-quality he would most like to cultivate, he shares, "Being diligent and not letting my ADHD take over."

What a blessing it is for St. Stephen's to have someone that has literally grown up in the church continue to make himself available as a volunteer for a decade and counting. With Fischer's interest in open communication and respect for differences, the search process for our next rector will be rich indeed.

KRISTEN SCHMIDT:

Nurturing the School-Church connection

When Kristen is not working in Austin as a designer for a civil engineering firm or managing precious family life, you will find her involved with several ministries at St. Stephen's.



She's been a part of Community of Hope, the Celebration of Life ministry, a Sunday School teacher, and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) leadership. Stepping from the church campus onto the school's campus, you may have also run into her when she has been volunteering for St. Stephen's School. Both parts of the campus, she feels, are vitally connected.

"I have been a SSES school board member for five years and that has helped me see the importance of character building in schools and how our church is vital to our school in that," she explains.

Equally important to her is honoring the gift of childhood and her desire "to help kids be kids as long as possible."

The God-Quality this working mom most wishes to cultivate is patience.

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9



JAMIE WALLENDORF:

Representing kids and their parents

Jamie's strong faith, kind spirit, and positive attitude make her a wonderful addition to the Search Committee. Both of her children, Stella and Leo, attend St. Stephen's School, and it is through her connections at school and church that prepare her to represent the points of view of the St. Stephen's kids and their parents.

This athletic woman has been known to run a mean "Fun Run" to raise money for SSES and still manages to find time to teach Sunday School to the 1st-3rd graders in our log cabin classrooms for the past three years.

Jamie is part of a dynamic duo. Her husband, Andrew, has been an active volunteer in both the St. Stephen's Church and School. We are indeed fortunate to have this outstanding family with us for the past seven years and counting!

"We love calling St. Stephen's our home," relays Jamie.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 11, 10:30 a.m.

Students remember to bring your backpacks and teachers remember to bring your lesson planners to this Sunday's 10:30 a.m. service. Fr. Phil will be helping us all start out the new school year with a special *Blessing*

of the Backpack.

**PSALM 150 BIG BAND CONCERT
Nets \$1K for St. Stephen's
Ministries**

A heartfelt THANK YOU!!! goes out to The Wimberley Valley Big Band for their planning and flawless execution of the Psalm 150 Big Band Concert at St. Stephen's earlier this month. A whopping \$1,000 was raised for the St. Stephen's ministries as we enjoyed the free tribute to America's Big Band hits. The Wimberley Valley Big Band made King David, the great harpist musician of the Old Testament proud.



Prayer and Healing Service

Wednesdays @ 10 a.m. in the Chapel

The Holy Eucharist Worship and Healing Service has returned. Please note that the day of the week is now on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.



EVENING EUCHARIST & PRAYER

featuring the Half-time Band

Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for eucharist, prayer, and contemporary music.



AUGUST DEER CREEK SERVICES

Sunday, August 11 @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14 @ 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 28 @ 3:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 RR 3237, Wimberley

During August, St. Stephen's will be offering three services offsite at Deer Creek Wimberley. **All are welcome to attend.**

As part of the rotating schedule with other area churches in the Ministerial Alliance, St. Stephen's will be at Deer Creek this Sunday, August 11, at 3:30 p.m. SSEC's Community of Hope will lead this service of hymns, lots of gospel music, and familiar prayers

On August 14 and 28 at 3:00 p.m., SSEC's Community of Hope will share a Holy Eucharist service with the residents as part of the regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month ministry.

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net and Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net.



WIMBERLEY AREA CANCER SUPPORT MEETING

Wednesday, August 14 @ 11:30 a.m.

OFFSITE: Chamber of Commerce Members Room, Wimberley

The Wimberley Area Cancer Support Group, sponsored by SSEC, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Chamber of Commerce's Members Room. Each participant brings a brown bag lunch. All who have been diagnosed with cancer now or in the past are invited to attend and share a time of relaxation and conversation with others who share their experience.

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net or Dave Boyd, davemarcyboyd@anvilcom.com.

TED Talkers

Wednesday, August 14 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall



Please join us Wednesday, August 14 at 12 noon for the viewing of "An Underwater Art Museum" by Cheryl Steed.

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month members, guests, and the general public are invited to St. Stephen's Church to enjoy an open, facilitated discussion of various, timely topics. On those days, we watch a pre-selected TED Talk video at 12 noon, eat our brown bag lunch, and discuss the topic in a non-judgmental setting with coffee and water provided. It all wraps up by 1:00 p.m. You are encouraged to bring a friend, neighbor, and join in the next sure-to-be lively, mind-stimulating discussion. We'll save you a seat!

TED TALKERS

SUMMER 2019 SCHEDULE

AUGUST 14, 2019
AUGUST 28, 2019

For more information, contact: Jo Bourke, jobourke33@gmail.com, 512-468-1267.



PARISH PROFILE *Workshop*

PARISH PROFILE WORKSHOP & BRUNCH SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019

Single Service at 9:00 a.m. with workshop and brunch following

"Our only chance to give the Diocese of West Texas our input."

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Meet with old and new friends Sunday, August 18, 9:00 a.m. at our single worship service. The Parish Profile Workshop, facilitated by Archdeacon Mike Besson, and our brunch will immediately follow the worship service. We will be serving breakfast tacos, fruit, juice, and coffee. Donations are welcome and will go toward supporting the Youth mission trip/s for 2020.

This important meeting will be our only chance to give the Diocese of West Texas our input as they put together the information package that goes out to prospective applicants for our new rector.

Childcare is provided for ages 5 and under in the Nursery. Elementary age children will have supervised activities in the log cabin. Youth and teens are encouraged to attend the workshop.

RSVP to: jwatson@ststeve.org for childcare and elementary activities and please include in your e-mail the name/s and age/s of the children attending.



TRINITY GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PLANNING MEETING

Monday, August 19, 6 p.m. @ St. Stephen's Church

"The fight to protect our aquifer is not over. In fact, it's just beginning"
Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association

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Editor's Note: We are sharing the below information excerpted from the Trinity Edwards Springs

NEEDMORE. NOW WHAT?
CHARTING THE BEST PATH FORWARD.

"On July 29, the Board of the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District voted to approve the Needmore Water LLC permit for the full amount of its request -- 289 million gallons per year -- now the largest permit in the Trinity aquifer under the jurisdiction of the BSEACD."

To learn more on what happened and lessons learned, current legal and communication strategies, and the community coordination now being taken, attend the Trinity Groundwater Protection Planning Meeting.

Monday, August 19, 2019
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
6000 FM 3237, Wimberley, TX

SSES ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMPUS CLEANUP:

SUN AUG 11, 8 AM

Any and all help is wanted to get the school campus ready for the new school year.



ST. STEPHEN'S
Episcopal School

Wimberley, Texas • Founded 1989

FIRST DAY CONVOCATION/NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL INSTALLED:

MON AUG 19, 9 AM

The first day of school for St. Stephen's Episcopal is Monday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to join us in the Chapel for the opening convocation, installation of the New Head of School, Amanda Ebner, followed by the Welcome Coffee in McArthur Hall.

Great Generations Gathering

Wednesday, August 21 @ 11:30 a.m.

McArthur Hall



CELEBRATING ALL THINGS BRITISH!

All are invited to this month's Great Generation Gathering on Wednesday, August 21, at 11:30 a.m. We will be celebrating *All Things British*, serving British fare, watching another episode of "The Vicar of Dibley," and keeping our eyes out for a couple of surprise "guests" representing British Royalty. It's going to be a fun day full of fellowship, free food, music, and door prizes. We can't wait to laugh the afternoon away with you.

For more information, contact: Carroll Dolezal, carrolldolezal99@gmail.com.

SSEC FALL SCHEDULE 2019/2020

St. Stephen's
WIMBERLEY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



SUMMER MON BIBLE BABES	Mondays @ 11 a.m. through August 19	Becky Denton and Cindy Taylor
TH BIBLE BABES	Returns Thursdays beginning September 5	Nancy Cooke-Jenkins
CHOIR	Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.	Anne Jones
CO-ED BIBLE STUDY	Returns Tuesdays @ 10:45 a.m. beginning September 3	Bob Reed
PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY	Returns Thursdays @ 4 p.m. beginning September 5	Lynne Huston



NEWCOMERS' DINNER & GET TOGETHER **Sunday, September 15, 5:00 p.m.**

Newcomers are invited to a casual get together at Veronica Erwin's lovely home in the country. No need to bring anything. We'll enjoy dinner together, a visit from Fr. Phil Mason, Senior Warden Nancy Jenkins, and Parish Administrator Jeannetta Watson. This is a wonderfully, relaxing way to meet other new friends and learn more about St. Stephen's and what we can offer to you and your family.

Childcare is provided. Please remember to [RSVP](#) how many children and their ages will be attending. Look for additional information to appear in your inbox and mailbox soon.

For more information , contact: Veronica Erwin, veronicaerwin47@gmail.com.

Community of Hope Ministry

HOPE LIVES

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 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.

*For more information during AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, contact:
Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com or Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com*

LIFE AT SSEC

Our YOUTH have safely returned from this summer's mission trip. We look forward to hearing their stories in person and learn their plans for 2020.





UPCOMING SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The eNEWS is published on Fridays generally every two weeks and delivered straight to your e-mail's in-box. If you have an e-mail address update, please make sure to send these to the church office.

With more than 20 ministries and groups here at St. Stephen's Church, we've got a lot happening! Help us cover your event by submitting articles, photos, and artwork to: *Communications Manager, [Jackie McFadden](#)*.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:
12 noon Wednesday or earlier

August 21
September 4



SAVE THE DATES

SUN, AUG 11

Deer Creek Sunday Service, 3:30 p.m., (OFFSITE): Deer Creek Wimberley

WED, AUG 14

Wimberley Area Cancer Support Meeting, 11:30 a.m., (OFFSITE): Chamber of Commerce Members Room

WED, AUG 14

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

SUN, AUG 18

Parish Profile Workshop & Brunch, following 9:00 a.m. one service only, McArthur Hall

WED, AUG 21

Great Generations Gathering, 11:30 a.m. McArthur Hall

Are you on Facebook? St. Stephen's is!

**[Click here to visit our Facebook page](#)
and don't forget to **LIKE** and **SHARE** us!**

Please contact the church office at 512.847.9956, Monday through Thursday,
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. if you have any questions.
(During June and July, the church office is closed on Fridays.)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)