



taking the next step

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Whoever you are and wherever you find
yourself on the journey of faith, you are
welcome at St. Stephen's!*

6000 FM 3237
Wimberley, TX 78676

512.847.9956
ststeve.org

Dear St. Stephen's Family:

Not too long ago, Fr. Phil Mason came up to me with a sparkle in his eye. I knew something was up. He asked me, "Robert, I have something I would like your help with." Thinking he needed the candles lit before the service or help with filming a message, I was about to say, "yes," when an amber of concern started to burn within me. So, I hedged. "Fr. Phil, if you want me to help with the congregation, you have to know that I am a curmudgeon—a deep introvert. I don't do well with all the hugs during the Passing of the Peace. I don't do well in a crowd. At heart, I am a bashful, shy kind of guy."

With that, he knew he had me; he just slyly smirked and said: "What I would like you to think about will certainly cause people to avoid you, not get too close, and may cause some people to edge away when you enter a room." So, I foolishly replied, "Well, that sounds perfect! What would you like me to do?"

And, that's how I became your Stewardship Chair.

We are a little more than 20 days out from *Step Up Sunday* to be held November 1, 2020 at the 10:30 a.m. service. Between now and then you will notice an emphasis on stewardship in Fr. Kevin Schubert's sermons, through video testimonies, letters, a website portal, newsletter articles, and social media. Our stewardship committee: Carla Daws, Ed Galle, and myself urge you to give prayerful consideration to the stewardship messages, prayers, and thoughts. We would also like to recommend that you mark your calendars for the live stream broadcast of *Step Up Sunday* on November 1st. It will be a special day indeed with a few extra surprises in store.

This year we will again have a biblical, spiritual, inspirational campaign approach designed to enrich our understanding of Christian stewardship. The focus of this approach is not built on the need of the church to fund a budget, but on the need of each person to contribute proportionately from their resources as a part of his or her own spiritual maturity and discipleship of Christ. Sometimes, we have measured too much of our success on whether or not we could underwrite a particular budget. We will continue to measure success by how much the people of St. Stephen's are willing to take the next step in their giving. Instead of strictly emphasizing commitments to a budget, we are asking each person to consider taking a step up in their giving as their response to all that God has done for them. Just as I have been asked to step out of my comfort zone and take a step forward to help our church, the same is being asked of you.

You are being invited, as someone who cares about the life and the ministries of our church, to plan now to attend the livestream *Step Up Sunday* service on November 1, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. to make your response. It will be a special time together! I look forward to trading comments with you from Facebook Live and YouTube Live. Let's get pushed out of our comfort zones together.

Vaya con Dios,

Robert McLemore, Stewardship Chair
Taking the Next Step campaign

