

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=QVZGZWM1ZkJKRW1TNmViZkNVYUUh3QT09>

Altar Flower Orders

ststeve.org/flowers

Anniversary (Wedding) Announcements

ststeve.org/anniversary

Birthday Announcements

ststeve.org/birthday

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84358750653?pwd=VG85c3BQQWdualpjZnBmSFZGTzY5Zz09>

Daily Meditations

ststeve.org/meditations

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8531233729?pwd=ZWY3V0Y2c3JBQmNvUWpTY0lFaGVCDz09>

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>

Online Order of Worship

ststeve.org/order

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Live Stream Service

ststeve.org/sunday

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839472914?pwd=WkxkRXRldGN4YnhudFJtbU5PRVY0QT09>

COLUMNS

Opportunities to Observe Lent by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Greetings and blessings to you all! I imagine many of you have already received the COVID vaccination and others are on a waiting list. If not, I encourage everyone to do so. Lately we have already seen the numbers of new cases decrease in our surrounding communities due to the diligence of folks taking safety precautions and the wider distribution of the vaccine. It is important for us to continue along this path with a light becoming ever more visible at the end of the tunnel.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, marks the beginning of our holy observance of Lent. Elisa Webster and I have prepared an Ash Wednesday Service to share with you on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#), which may be watched at a time of your choosing.

I pray that you will take the opportunity to observe Lent in some form or fashion. Lent is a season of self-reflection, as we inwardly reflect on our words, actions, and motives in order to better reconcile them with Christ's own. The season affords us a time to reflect upon our relationship with God through meditation, prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

There are countless ways in which to productively observe Lent. Maybe you decide to cut out a food or drink that gets in the way of a healthy relationship with yourself and God. You may decide to take something on (rather than giving something up) like serving at a local non-profit on a regular basis. Your discipline may entail taking a few minutes out of your day and committing to a short prayer service. You might consider attending a new class such as the five-week online Lenten Series that several churches in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas have put together. (*See related article in this issue for details.*)

Whatever you ultimately choose, I encourage everyone to find what fits for them in order to grow in your relationship with God. The practice of a Lenten discipline is intended to improve your relationship with God to prepare yourself to be fully present for the coming of the resurrected Christ at Easter.

In all facets of our common life together here at St. Stephen's, I pray that you recognize the blessing you are to this community. I continue to be blown away by the generosity, compassion, and energy that is present here. Thanks for waling on this journey together! God bless!

Peace,

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

NEWS

INCLEMENT WEATHER BRINGS CHANGES TO CHURCH SCHEDULE

You received an email letter from Fr. Kevin earlier this week outlining some schedule changes at St. Stephen's during the next few days of inclement weather. Below is a recap.

- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Virtual Service for Sunday, February 14, will happen on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) with no in-person and no-in building. Fr. Kevin and Elisa Webster will offer a scaled down version of the service.
- **CANCELLED:** 11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in the Courtyard for Sunday, February 14 is cancelled.
- Adult, Teen, Children's Sunday School for Sunday, February 14 will happen at regular times on Zoom.

- **CANCELLED:** 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Courtyard for Tuesday February 16 is cancelled.
- **CANCELLED:** 3:00 p.m. Companions Meeting in the Courtyard for Tuesday February 16 is cancelled.
- **CLOSED:** Church office will be closed Monday, February 15 (and may need to adjust opening times on Tuesday, February 16 and Wednesday, February 17.)
- Virtual Ash Wednesday Service on February 17 available on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)
- Imposition of Ashes offered as a Drive Through experience on Wednesday, February 17 at lunch time (12 noon until 1 p.m.) and after work (5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.). Fr. Kevin will be waiting outside to administer the ashes with a Q-tip onto the foreheads of all who wish it to be so. You asked to remain in your car.

MUSIC DIRECTOR CELEBRATES 15 YEAR WORK ANNIVERSARY



Music Director, Anne Jones, celebrates her 15-year work anniversary with St. Stephen's this month. Her angelic singing voice has graced both church and school for many years, and we are especially appreciative of her voice's soothing constant presence during the pandemic. She has provided the ministry of music to us through it all.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS STARTS FEBRUARY 19, 2021 @ 10 AM



We will hold Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays: February 19, 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) OFFERED Wednesdays in Lent, 6:30 p.m. CST

Lent

Several churches of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, including St. Stephen's, have organized an online Lenten Series, "Nevertheless, the Kingdom Has Come Near to You." It will run each Wednesday in Lent and is an exploration of how God has been moving and blessing us through the last year. Each session includes a MC and a presenter teaching on a topic and a piece of

scripture. 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.

FEB 24: THROUGH SLOWING DOWN, The Rev. Dr. Jane Patterson
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 TRULUY IMPORTANT, The Ven. Mike Besson

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

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

BISHOP TO VISIT ST. STEPHEN'S & ADMINISTER CONFIRMATION **Sunday, March 21 2021**



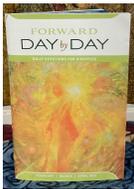
The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop Diocesan of West Texas will be with us at St. Stephen's on Sunday, March 21, 2021. The Bishop will preside and preach at the 10:30 Live Stream Holy Eucharist Sunday Service, as well as administer the sacrament of Confirmation and preside at the rites of Reception 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.

Our Bishop Diocesan spends much of his time with congregations throughout the diocese in order to provide whatever support and guidance the parishioners and clergy need, and to maintain connections between the various parishes of our far-flung diocese. We are honored to have his help and presence on Sunday, March 21 .

The sacrament of Confirmation is a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and of the promises made at one's baptism. It is administered by a bishop because bishops serve as symbols of the wider Church and its continuity throughout the centuries. Confirmations performed in most other Christian traditions are considered valid in the Episcopal Church, so those confirmed in such a tradition who now wish to join the Episcopal Church do not need to be confirmed again. They may participate in the rite of Reception, in which an Episcopal Bishop receives them into the Episcopal Church. At times, adult members of the Episcopal Church wish to publicly reaffirm their faith, either because they have returned to the church after a period of absence, or because they have come to a new understanding of their faith, which they wish to acknowledge liturgically. The rite of Reaffirmation provides an opportunity to do so with the blessing of a bishop, and may be repeated as many times as one feels called to do so.

Bishop Reed's visit is only a little more than a month 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, to notify Fr. Kevin that you will be attending and for further instructions.

LARGE PRINT DAY BY DAY DEVOTIONALS BOOK AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP WHEN INCLEMENT WEATHER HAS PASSED



Just in! After a printing delay, we are happy to announce that St. Stephen's has now received its shipment of the Large Print version of the new "Day by Day" devotionals for February, March, and April 2021. Once the inclement weather has passed and roads are safe to drive, you may pickup your new large print copy from the box outside of the chapel. We also keep a couple of copies of each size of "Day by Day" in the church office.

You may also find the meditations online at:

https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/forward_day_by_day.php?d=11&m=2&y=2021

ORDER & PAY FOR YOUR EASTER LILIES THROUGH CHURCH WEBSITE

It is 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. If you are paying by check, be

sue 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 printed in the Easter Service online bulletin.

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

[ORDER EASTER LILIES HERE](#)

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.



CONCERT DURING HOLY WEEK BY FR. KEVIN & BAND

We will have more details available soon. In the meantime, we wanted to share the late breaking good news that 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.

GOOD FRIDAY ACTIVITIES AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Plans are well underway for our church's Holy Week services and activities, which we look forward to with great anticipation. New this year 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.

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.



ELECTRO PURIFICATION ENDS CONTESTED CASE HEARING IN HAYS COUNTY

Editor's Note: The following update was provided by [Patrick Cox, Ph.D.](#) and is a February 4, 2021 press release from a TESPA.

On February 4, 2021, the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) approved Electro Purification's (EP) request to cancel the trial-like hearing where Hays County, the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA), and 13 local landowners were set to challenge EP's application to produce a substantial amount of groundwater from the Trinity Aquifer. EP's application will now be sent back to the Barton Springs Groundwater Conservation District (BSEACD) while EP considers whether to continue pursuit of a groundwater permit, signaling the possible end to the long battle to protect the aquifer.

EP's action to cancel the hearing follows recent testimony from the BSEACD General Manager who recommended a permit for EP be reduced to 0.25 million gallons per day (MGD) with the opportunity to increase production, at most, to 0.5 MGD. After six years of public outcry and legal wrangling, the situation has been compared by some to David landing a major blow to Goliath towards victory for property owners living in the Driftwood and Wimberley communities of Hays County where groundwater wells are the primary water supply for homes, ranches, and businesses.

TESPA executive director Patrick Cox, PhD, gives context to the situation, "Our organization was formed in 2015 in response to EP's permit request to pump 2.5 MGD from the Trinity Aquifer—the equivalent of 2,800 acre-feet per year. As a water speculator, EP's intention was to transport groundwater by pipeline to buyers in other parts of Hays County or beyond. TESPA, area landowners, and local governments opposed this draining of our aquifer and strongly contested the permit before BSEACD. Our science showed a five-mile radius of negative influence on existing wells, and potentially Jacob's Well, with aquifer drawdown ranging from 150 to 500 feet over the life of the project. We found this unsustainable and unacceptable."

Hays County Commissioner Lon Shell assured continued vigilance, "The protection of groundwater is extremely important to Hays County. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of TESPA and the many Hays County residents who fought against the EP permit. Though this issue will no longer be before SOAH, we will stay engaged and work alongside our partners as we continue to protect our natural resources."

Other Hays County landowners and participants in the contested case against EP weighed in:

"Our family owns and lives on ranchland located between the two proposed EP well fields, so you can imagine our relief when the District reduced the volume on the

pumping permit and when EP withdrew its hearing,” said Dana and Dennis Pape. “We were also approached by EP to sell our water rights but knew the detrimental effects over-pumping the groundwater would have on the water supply of our neighbors and how the aquifer level would surely drop. Our water is safe, for now.”

“As an active participant in the Wimberley and Blanco River Valley community, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church and School are committed to being good stewards of God’s creation—including our community’s water resources,” said Fr. Kevin Schubert, rector. “We joined with TESPAs to challenge the Electro Purification permit because irresponsible depletion of our life-giving aquifers runs counter to our innate human identity as God’s stewards. We are thankful for the recent development.”

Hays County landowner Louie Bond responded to the news, “When I saw that EP had filed for a non-suit, I felt immediate relief for my family and my neighbors. We have been fighting to Save Our Wells since 2014, with nothing to gain but everything to lose. Water is life, and no one has the right to take that from us. Many thanks to TESPAs, Hays County, BSEACD and most importantly, all the good people who stood up for their rights, no matter how hard or long they had to fight.”

“We were pleased with the latest BSEACD statement that the EP groundwater permit should be significantly reduced,” added Dr. Cox. “The BSEACD staff clearly recognize that this aquifer needs protection, and everyone owes the BSEACD staff a tremendous thank you for stepping up to protect our springs and the sole source of drinking water for so many.”

While EP’s recent actions deliver a promising development for everyone trying to protect aquifers and prevent groundwater over-pumping and depletion, some uncertainty remains. EP could choose to continue pursuit of its permit, or possibly file a new permit application with BSEACD in the future. TESPAs will monitor EP’s application and act accordingly.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING WRAPS UP WITH RECORD DONATIONS



Souper Bowl Coordinator, Melissa Odell, extends her gratitude to St. Stephen’s generosity during the recently held Souper Bowl Season of Caring. Your contributions of money and non-perishable pantry items were well received by the eagerly awaiting volunteers at the Wimberley Crisis Bread Basket. In the last week alone, St. Stephen’s provided 34 bags of goods and five cases of canned goods to help fill up pantry shelves for those in need.

“The crew at Crisis Bread Basket were thrilled to receive our gifts and appreciated the separate deliveries from St. Stephen’s throughout the past few weeks of the campaign,” explained Melissa. “Thank you, St. Stephen’s! Your love of neighbor is showing.”

YOUTH FUNDRAISER: LENT IN A BAG

With the absence of pancake suppers and other monthly food Youth fundraisers due to the pandemic, the Youth have had to get extra creative to raise money for their summer mission trip. What they are offering for the next few weeks is pure genius—*Lent in a Bag*. For \$10 a bag, St. Stephen’s parishioners may place their orders now, which will be delivered by Youth & Family Minister, Elisa Webster,



as soon as the inclement weather has passed and it is safe driving conditions. She will deliver your bag/s straight to your home, or you may pick up your pre-purchased bags at the church office on Ash Wednesday when you drop by for the *Drive Through Imposition of Ashes*.

Each "Lent in the Bag" contains: instructions, sand, bulb, rock, shell, toy little person, and a candle. To order, please email Elisa, elisawebster9@gmail.com, **no later than Wednesday, February 17**. Let her know how many "Lent in a Bag" orders you need filled and whether you will be picking up at the church or prefer that she deliver it to your home. Make checks payable to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and write "Lent in a Bag" in the memo line and mail

to: St. Stephen's Church, 6000-A FM 3237, Wimberley, TX 78676. If you prefer paying online, visit the [church website](#) and choose "one time payment" in the pull down tithe menu.

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



TAKE 5: FEBRUARY 18, 2021 ASH WEDNESDAY EPISODE

TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig welcomes Fr. Kevin to this Ash Wednesday episode. Allen also treats us to an a capella version of "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" on Thursday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m. CST on Facebook and YouTube.

You may also notice this episode features ceramic tiles created by Carroll Dolezal. All of these ceramic tiles may be found on the St. Stephen's Nature Trail. We hope you enjoy this five minute music break for the mind and spirit.

TAKE 5 PLAY LIST

MENS PRAYER GROUP NOW MEETING OFFSITE FOR BREAKFAST

The St. Stephen's Men's Prayer Group/Cursillo Reunion meets on Mondays at Wimberley Cafe at 7:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining them, please contact: Joe Blanford, lazyboutpost3@aol.com.



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.

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com

Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

Special gratitude goes to our Souper Bowl of Caring Coordinator, Melissa Odell, who made seven separate deliveries to the Wimberley Crisis Bread Basket over our multi-week campaign. "High Five!" to St. Stephen's for helping us fill those Crisis Bread Basket pantry shelves during this pandemic.



SAVE THE DATE

SUN, FEB 14

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.

MON, FEB 15

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

Bible Babes, Zoom, 12 noon

WED, FEB 17

Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist Virtual Service (YouTube, Facebook), anytime



Drive Through Imposition of Ashes, 12 noon until 1 p.m. & 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

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

TH, FEB 18

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

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, eeant@mac.com

Visit our Website



[ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[BIRTHDAYS](#)

[FLOWERS](#)

[VISITORS](#)

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