



ANNUAL
MEEING

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020
 (AFTER ONE SERVICE SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M.)



St. Stephen's
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Wimberley

January 10, 2020

eNEWS

SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

[Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)

The child has been born. The Magi have paid him a visit.

"Should auld acquaintance" has come and gone. The ball has fallen, or in Wimberley's case, the golden armadillo has dropped. Let the newness begin.



Is it ever *Newness!* St. Stephen's is on the move! We have many additions to our bounty and to our dedication to be ever improving and growing.

ANNOUNCING...

For starters, our dream for a Youth & Children's Minister has come true! Coming to us from South Africa is Elisa Webster. Her talents are many, and I invite you to read her bio found in this *eNEWS* issue. She loves children and has worked with them in every age group from kindergarten to senior high school. If you haven't met her yet, please make an effort to introduce yourself soon. She will brighten your day. I guarantee it! Welcome to St. Stephen's, Elisa!



Are you engaged to be married, or just thinking of that momentous future day? We are happy to announce that Carolyn Stafford has resumed her position as Wedding Planner. Give her a call (phone number can be found in the directory) or send her an e-mail, cmsedgerton@gmail.com. She will be happy to help in any way she may.

KUDOS...

Our wonderful community leader and civil servant, Martha Knies, has done it again! Thanks to all her efforts to continue to beautify Wimberley, the City Council has

named a park in her honor. The property, located at the trail head of the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, has been named "The Martha Knies Community Park." Congratulations, Martha, on a well-deserved honor.

LEADER CHANGES...

Now to our church organization. We have a change in Division Leaders in our Pastoral Care Ministry. Evie Martin is completing her two-year stint as Director and Susan Behrmann is stepping up to take her place. Coming in to serve as Assistant Director for a two-year term is Judy Holmes. Job well done, Evie! You'll be great as Director, Susan! Judy, this ministry is tailor-made for you. Thanks to all of you.

We are all looking forward in anticipation to an outstanding 2020 here at St. Stephen's as we await the arrival of a new Rector while enjoying Fr. Phil's help in maintaining our community in the interim.

AND, A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR VESTRY

P.S. You thought you could get away, didn't you? Not so fast. I've got more NEW news to report. See my related article in this issue of eNEWS.

Blessings,
Nancy

*"Tell me and I will forget; teach me and I will remember;
involve me and I will learn."
- Benjamin Franklin*

SIGN UP FOR CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Adult confirmation classes begin Sunday, January 19, 2020 after the 10:30 a.m. service and continue for a total of six weeks. Fr. Phil will be teaching most of the six sessions and Jo Bourke and Bob Reed will be guiding us through Church History. To sign up, contact the church, 512-847-9956, or Fr. Phil, pmason@ststeve.org.



Would YOU like to begin, deepen, or strengthen your understanding of and commitment to Jesus Christ within the Episcopal Church?

If so, let's meet, talk together, question together, pray together, listen, and learn from one another in response to God's invitation as we grow in faith, hope, love, and fellowship. At the end of our 6 sessions together you may elect to be baptized, confirmed, received, or reaffirm. (See back for more details.) Study materials may be picked up in the church office: "A People Called Episcopalians" & "About The History of The Episcopal Church."

Let us know you are interested!

512-847-9956 (Church Office), or Fr. Phil Mason, pmason@ststeve.org

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

*(Childcare available in Nursery during sessions. **Childcare RSVP one week before needed: judyholmes1249@gmail.com. Adult classes in Rector's Office, 12 noon-1:30 PM)***

- SUN 01/19 Class 1: Confirmation (promises), Overview, Who We Are (identity)
- SUN 01/26 Class 2: Scripture & Sacrament
- SUN 02/02 Class 3: Church History: where Episcopalians and St. Stephen's fit in
- SUN 02/09 Class 4: Part 1: Unpacking the Nicene Creed and Prayer
- SUN 02/16 Class 5: Part 2: Unpacking the Nicene Creed and Prayer
- SUN 02/23 Class 6: Book of Common Prayer & Instructed Eucharist (Communion)
- SAT 02/29 Confirmation Vigil Service, Chapel, & Dinner, McArthur Hall @ 5:30 PM
- SUN 03/01 **Confirmation Sunday** @ 10:30 AM, Church
Eucharist with Bishop James Folts
Reception with parish-wide cake and celebration, McArthur Hall

On Being Baptized, Confirmed, Received, Reaffirmed

BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION

Baptism is the public ancient entry rite into the Church, which is also called “the Body of Christ.” In baptism, we affirm that we belong to the God who is made known to us in Jesus, and we promise (or, if we are infants or very young children, promises are made on our behalf) to live our lives in accordance with this deepest truth about who we are and whose we are.

Confirmation in the Episcopal Church is a sacramental rite in which a baptized person makes a mature and public affirmation of the promises that are typically made at baptism by parents and godparents. After making these affirmations, a bishop lays hands on the candidate and prays a prayer of confirmation. (*See the Book of Common Prayer pp. 301 and following.*)

RECEPTION

In some dioceses, reception is reserved for those who have already been confirmed in another denomination by a bishop in *apostolic succession. Here at St. Stephen's a more widely accepted understanding of reception is that it is a way of honoring anyone who has made a mature confession of faith in any other denomination by saying, in effect, we recognize and honor your spiritual journey in another fellowship, and we welcome you into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church, as you continue that journey. The bishop lays hands on the person received and says, “We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion” (*Book of Common Prayer p. 418*).

REAFFIRMATION

Reaffirmation is for people who have already been confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Some people presented to the bishop during the service of Confirmation are there to “reaffirm” their Christian vows. These might be people who have been away from church for a period of time and want to make a new beginning. Others might be people who sense that they are at a new stage in their spiritual life journey and want to affirm this in ritual. We all go through many changes in our life's journey, and reaffirmation provides a rite for those who want to publically celebrate their religious and spiritual life anew.

What is “apostolic succession”?

Apostolic succession is the teaching that those who have been consecrated (ordained) as bishops represent a direct, uninterrupted line of continuity from the apostles of Jesus Christ. This teaching confers upon such bishops the authority to confirm church members, ordain clergy (including those newly elected as bishops), and exercise authority in their dioceses. The Episcopal Church is now in full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

SENIOR WARDEN NEWS: PART TWO

[*Nancy Cooke-Jenkins*](#)

NEW MINISTRIES

In an on-going effort to provide something for everyone at St. Stephen's, two new ministries will begin this year: TAIZE and Widow Support.



TAIZE

The practice of TAIZE, an ecumenical contemplative service consisting of chanting, meditation, silence, and readings will be led by [Sharon East](#) and [Susan Webb](#). **TAIZE services will be held the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, starting February 5.** The TAIZE service will last about 30 minutes. Halftime services will be held the remaining Wednesdays of the month.

TAIZE is a beautiful service and an excellent vehicle to calm the racing mind.

WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT

As unthinkable as it is, life sometimes deals us blows that leave holes in our hearts and the inability to function. Leaders of the Women's Grief Support Ministry, Evie Martin and Mary Goodwin, will provide help in learning to cope with these feelings. They will provide a space to understand the loss, emerge from isolation, and form new friendships. The first organizational meeting will be held Tuesday, January 14, 3:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 1. See more details in a separate article in this issue of *eNEWS*.



IN OTHER NEWS....

Confirmation classes begin on Sunday, January 19, and last six consecutive weeks. See the separate article in this issue of *eNEWS* for more details. If you are interested in baptism, confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation, please contact Judy Holmes. See the church directory for her phone number or e-mail her at: judyholmes1249@gmail.com. As a reminder, confirmation is joining the Episcopal Church; reception is transferring in from a different denomination; and reaffirmation is just that: reaffirming your confirmation vows. Even if you have already been through the process or just want to learn more about the Episcopalian faith, please consider attending these worthwhile, informative sessions.

ANNUAL MEETING & ONE SERVICE SUNDAY REMINDER

Remember to mark your calendars for our annual meeting, Sunday, January 26, immediately following *One Service Sunday* at 9:00 a.m. There will be only one service held on Sunday, January 26. Brunch will be served by our youth as a fundraiser for their mission trips. This is the time for you to be brought up-to-date on the status of the church, what we are about, and how we will look forward to the future. *See you there!*

*Blessings,
Nancy*



Bring Donations
SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
through
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Chapel or Church Narthex

To fight hunger and poverty in our own Wimberley Valley, SSEC and SSES will be collecting food and supplies for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. The Youth will be passing out grocery bags and a list of the 10 most needed items in the chapel and church narthexes on Sunday, January 19 and 26. Simply take a bag, fill it, and return it to a narthex by Sunday, February 2. The Youth will also be helping with the delivery.

100% of our donation goes directly to Crisis Bread Basket

St. Stephen's has been a generous participant in the past! Let's continue this wonderful tradition by filling those bags with food and supplies.

MOST WANTED

Cereal Healthy	Canned Tuna or Chicken
Fruit (packed in water)	Jelly
Applesauce	Juice (low/no sugar added)
Canned Vegetables (peas, spinach, mixed, potatoes)	Deodorant
	Shampoo

For more information: Mary McIntosh, Mary.mcintosh@att.net





**Introducing SSEC'S
New Youth & Children's Minister
ELISA WEBSTER**

My name is Elisa Webster, and I was born in South Africa of American parents who came here with the Episcopal Church in 1961 as missionaries. My father, Bishop Richard Kraft died in 2001 and my mother returned to the USA and is living with my youngest brother in San Antonio. My two daughters live in Austin.

My husband and I have now re-located to the Texas Hill Country. Before relocating and starting my role as your new Youth & Children's Minister this month, I served as the Youth Minister at Church of the Ascension Rangeview, preparing the Youth there for baptism, first communion, and confirmation.

As a life-long learner, I am working toward my Bachelor of Theology and attending a program which is discernment and training for parish ministry and ordination.

My passion is Youth and spirituality, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you. Please consider stopping by the Youth Center before our 5 p.m. Sunday Youth meetings to chat more.



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Editor's Note: The following update was provided by co-chairs Sharon East and Darelle Jordan.

Teams of search committee members are hard at work interviewing candidates for our next rector. At the conclusion of the interviews, we look forward to the next phase involving field visits, which we anticipate beginning in early February.



WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m., Meeting Room 1

Before the holiday season, Evie Martin began praying about moving forward with an idea for a new ministry, Women's Grief Support. **The first meeting will be held in Meeting Room 1 on Tuesday, January 14, 3:00 p.m.** You are invited and encouraged to pass along the invitation to others.

"For certain each of us is on a very different path and time frame with our grief, yet I pray that each member will be able to share words or answer questions that help others find peace in this path we share," explains co-leader, Evie Martin.

These informal gatherings are private and information shared will be honored with confidentiality and respect. Those attending the meeting are also encouraged to consider staying afterwards for Carla Daws' Tuesday Yoga class at 4:00 p.m., as another way to renew and gain strength.

For more information, contact: [Evie Martin](#) or [Mary Goodwin](#).



GREAT GENERATIONS GATHERING

Wednesday, January 15, 11:30 a.m., McArthur Hall

Please join us Wednesday, January 15 at 11:30 a.m. in McArthur Hall for Tammy Kelley's program about her non-profit, Keeping it Wild. She rescues and rehabs wild animals, mostly fawns and other smaller creatures in need. She is Wimberley-based and has "dozen of animals" to take care of at any given time. We are sure to have a fun get-together for this program along with lunch, music, door prizes, and ministry.

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



FRIDAY COFFEE & TEA FRIENDS

January 17, 9:30 a.m.

OFFSITE: Wimberley Cafe

The Friday Coffee and Tea Friends meet at Wimberley Cafe every first and third Friday, except holidays, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited to share this time of fellowship and conversation.

For more information, contact: [Ann Robertson](#) or [Marsha Acock](#).



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 19, 12 noon

Meeting Room 1

For His Sake, the Daughters of the King will gather for prayer and discernment. We welcome you to be with us. Please contact Sue Wright at: wright5212@sbcglobal.net to learn how you can participate in this ministry!



TED Talkers

Wednesday, January 22 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall

Please join us Wednesday, January 22 at 12 noon for the viewing of "What happened when we paired up 1000s of strangers to talk politics" by Jochen Wegner.

On TED Talkers 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!

Psst...look what participants are saying...

"I like TED Talks because it gives me a break in the middle of the day. The talks are always interesting. And by the way, no pressure to be there every time, and you only share if you feel like it."

"I was first introduced to TED Talks at an University of Texas Ollie Program. After viewing the less than 18 minutes video, a discussion is held, which is diverse and informal. You don't have to say a thing and can just listen. It is always informative and interesting." - Al Sanders

TED TALKERS SCHEDULE

JANUARY 22, 2020

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

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

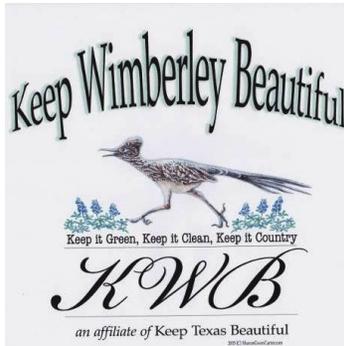


Part-time Church Sexton Wanted

Lonnie Brown will continue as our Water Tech. *Thank you, Lonnie!*

What we are currently seeking is a part-time Sexton at 15 hours per week. If you have someone that you would like to recommend, please, see our Parish Administrator, Jeannetta Watson, or e-mail her, jwatson@ststeve.org.

This position will work under the general direction of the Parish Administrator and the Junior Warden and will be responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of the St. Stephen's Church campus. We are seeking just the right person who can work both indoors and outdoors and will have an eagle eye with constant awareness of any special needs or attention needed to be addressed with our buildings and grounds.



St. Stephen's Church Wins KWB Grant

The Trailblazers and SSEC KWB grant coordinator, Ann Robertson, continue to enhance the beauty of our church grounds. Most recently they used a portion of the St. Stephen's Keep Wimberley Beautiful grant to add a tree near the nature trail. We encourage you to share the St. Stephen's two mile nature trail and labyrinth with your neighbors, friends, and family. After all, it's open dawn 'til dusk, for that next adventure in its peaceful natural surroundings.



Roadside Cleanup: *Wear the Vest!*

It's a new year and a great time to *Wear the Vest!* If you would like to be the proud wearer of the cool, awesome, make-a-statement orange vest, we've got one just your size! Next time you are at church on Sunday, track down Becki Smith.

In the meantime...here's a recap of the guidelines and 2020 cleanup date. More

Age guidelines:

- Children under the age of 7 can be snack and check-in hosts in McArthur Hall and help hand out supplies, but they **cannot** participate in the cleanup along the roadside
- At least one adult must be present for minors ages 15 to 18
- Children younger than 15 must be accompanied by an adult

2020 Quarterly Cleanup Dates:

- March 21
- June 13
- September 19
- December 12

For information on how to participate contact:

Becki Smith, colorsmith1@yahoo.com

Jon Smith, jurysmith@msn.com

Todd Schmidt, tkschmidt88@gmail.com

Mike Marcionetti, jkmarcionetti@gmail.com



DEER CREEK JANUARY SERVICES

Wednesday, January 22 @ 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 26 @ 3:30 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237, Wimberley

You may be familiar with the singing dog, Thea, who frequents Wednesday Half-time Services, but did you know about Deer Creek's religious birds? Curious? Then come check it out with your own eyes and ears at either or both upcoming January services on the 22nd and the 26th.

SSEC's Community of Hope will share a Holy Eucharist service with the residents on Sunday, January 22, 3:00 p.m. as part of the regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month ministry. And, as part of the rotating schedule with other area churches in the Ministerial Alliance, St. Stephen's will be at Deer Creek again on Sunday, January 26, 3:30 p.m. Please join them as they lead this offsite service of hymns, lots of gospel music, and familiar prayers.

All are welcome to attend.

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

ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIAL MEDIA: INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK

Did you know that St. Stephen's Church has BOTH Facebook and Instagram accounts? You may have wondered what we tend to post on social media. We post important reminders of upcoming events, share images and videos of happenings around St. Steve, and highlight local Wimberley events of interest. Follow us on either (or both) platforms!

HOW TO JOIN ON INSTAGRAM:



If you don't already have the Instagram app for your mobile smart phone, you will need to first create an account. Once you have an account, you can look up "ststevewimberley." The final step is to click the "Follow" button.

HOW TO JOIN ON FACEBOOK:

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/ststeveepiscopal/>. Click "Follow," and you are now set.

THE HISTORY OF CHRISMONS

Contributing Writer: Jo Bourke



During Christmas you may have spotted the Chrismon Tree either in McArthur Hall or in the Chapel. These Chrismons were made by the women of St. Stephen's Church in 1985. Until the large church was built the tradition was to decorate a live tree with Chrismons and place it behind and to the right of the lectern as you face the altar.

Traditions do (and must) change, but it is my hope that these ornaments will be used occasionally and preserved as a part of St. Stephen's history. - Jo Bourke

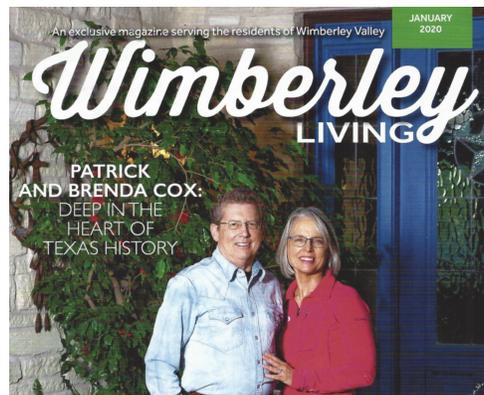
Here's the meaning behind a few...

The Cross symbolizes that Christians believe Jesus Christ died for everyone on a cross.

The Dove is the symbol of peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.

The Shell is a symbol for baptism. It reminds Christians of the water that they are baptized in. It is also a sign of Pilgrimage, as Pilgrims to the Holy Land would use a shell as a drinking vessel.

More symbol explanations can be found at: <https://www.whychristmas.com/>.



COX FAMILY HIGHLIGHTED IN WIMBERLEY LIVING MAGAZINE

The lives of our very own Patrick and Brenda Cox recently were featured in the *Wimberley Living* magazine that goes out to all Wimberley residents. If you haven't yet, check it out for interesting factoids like: Patrick was the first and youngest editor of the *Wimberley View* newspaper!

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 JANUARY, contact:
Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net or Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net



EVENING EUCHARIST & PRAYER

featuring the Half-time Band

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for eucharist, prayer, and contemporary music. On the first Wednesday of the month you are invited to a new service, TAIZE. See related article in this *eNEWS* for more details.



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](mailto:JackieMcFadden).

UPCOMING DEADLINES:
12 noon Wednesday or earlier

January 22

February 5



SAVE THE DATES

TUES, JAN 14, 21, 28

Women's Grief Support, 3:00 p.m., Meeting Room 1

WED, JAN 15

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

WED, JAN 17

Friday Coffee & Tea Friends (OFFSITE), 9:30 a.m., Wimberley Cafe

SUN, JAN 19

Confirmation Class 1 of 6, 12 noon, Rector's Office

SUN, JAN 19

Daughters of the King Meeting, 12 noon, Meeting Room 1

WED, JAN 22

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

WED, JAN 22

Deer Creek Eucharist (OFFSITE), 3:00 p.m., Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237

SUN, JAN 26

One Service Sunday (Church) & Annual Meeting following (McArthur Hall), 9:00 a.m.

SUN, JAN 26

Youth Breakfast Taco Fundraiser at Annual Meeting, 10:15 a.m., McArthur Hall

SUN, JAN 26

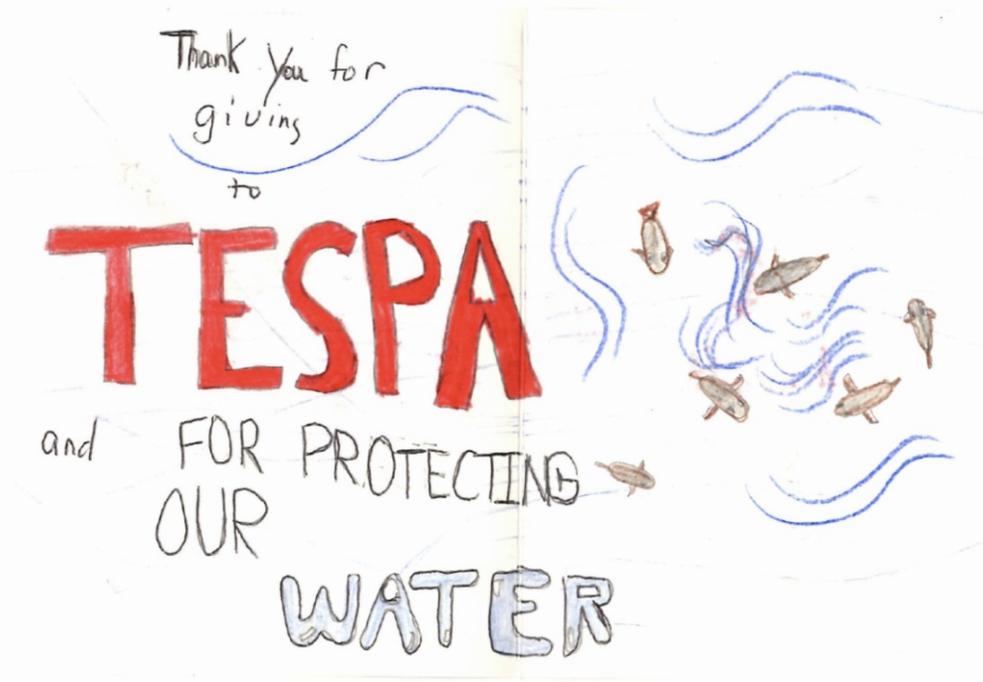
Confirmation Class 2 of 2, 12 noon, Rector's Office

SUN, JAN 26

Deer Creek Sunday (OFFSITE), 3:30 p.m., Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237

LIFE AT SSEC

Although we're off and running into all the activities that the New Year has brought. We wish to share with you some special moments of 2019: the Children's Christmas Pageant and a sample of a water issues letter campaign from the St. Stephen's School students.



The children say Thank You!

After a local lesson about our groundwater and the need to protect it, students at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Wimberley responded with their words and art.

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. and 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Fridays if you have any questions.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)