

Navigating Uncharted Waters by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's,

I want to express my deep gratitude for the warm welcome my family and I have received from the community of St. Stephen's. We have been blessed beyond measure, and we are extremely thankful to call this beautiful place home. It is an exciting time for our community, and I look forward to a time when we can celebrate more fully in person.

Each and every one of us in navigating uncharted waters as we live into a new reality amidst the current pandemic. Over the past several months our individual and communal lives have changed dramatically and will continue to change, but I know deep within my heart that the love that God has for each one of us has not wavered. God's continual presence remains, even in the midst of fear, anxiety, and the unknown. I want to assure you that as we begin to take small steps toward introducing in-person gatherings over the next few months, safety and responsibility will be our utmost concern.

St. Stephen's has witnessed tremendous changes to the common life of the parish. The church has had to set aside much of our normalcy, desires and hopes during this time. This has been especially difficult during this time of transition as I begin my ministry with you as the new rector. I do want to urge you to participate in the different ways in which we can express community: Meet the Rector Group Zooms, personal meetings with the Rector, Sunday morning virtual worship, adult/youth/children formation, Godly Play, TAKE 5, and the upcoming in-person Morning Prayer. Your church staff is working diligently to provide multiple avenues to stay connected and be in community. For this I am thankful. Their diligence and commitment to serve St. Stephen's is infectious and life giving.

Thankfully, we have a great amount of theology from our tradition to guide us at this time. We, as Christians, know a bit about sacrifice; as our religion is based upon the greatest sacrifice the world has ever known. I am reminded of these words from the Gospel of Luke said by Jesus.

*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves
and take up their cross daily and follow me.
For those who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will save it.
What does it profit them if they gain the whole world,
but lose or forfeit themselves?"
- Gospel of Luke 9:23-25*

I believe that at this time our calling, to take up our cross and follow Jesus, means working toward the health and safety of our communities. This requires much sacrifice on our part—wearing our masks, refraining from gathering in large groups, for some to shelter in place, and socially distancing. By sacrificing in these ways, we are losing a great deal in the near term, but in the long run we are literally saving lives. So, let us take up our crosses together and allow God to transform the world by doing our part for the well-being of the Kingdom of God. Our tradition informs us that the result of sacrifice is our redemption through resurrection. May God bless you, and surround you with his loving care.

Peace,

The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Senior Warden News

by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



The change of seasons is always exciting, I think, because it offers new possibilities in the way we live. COVID-19 has put limitations on that. However, we are still able to adorn our homes with proper indicators of the season we are celebrating! So, in that spirit, whatever your pleasure and inspiration to break up the monotony, I say, "bring it on—the witches, goblins, pumpkins, turkeys, and any other accessories needed to brighten the mood and heart!"

We recently held a Labor Day special envelope offering and the results were astonishing—**\$7,000 and counting**. Your generosity will allow us to continue the day-to-day operation of our church home in a positive, productive manner. With the cessation of the Sunday "plate," these donations are critical, and your administrative office is very grateful. THANK YOU!

With our new Rector, Fr. Kevin Schubert, in place, we have a return to *somewhat* normalcy and stability in our church community. If you have not had an opportunity to visit with him, please do yourself a favor and e-mail Lydia, office@ststeve.org, with your preferred November dates and indicate whether you prefer mornings or afternoons. Lydia will get back with you to nail down the specifics.

If you prefer a no appointment approach, then I urge you to avail yourself of the group Zoom meetings to *Meet the New Rector* on September 30 and October 7 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. We will send you an email reminder the morning of each group Zoom. Come and join in any time during that one hour time slot.

Our Sunday school classes and study groups have regrouped for the fall. Thank you to all the facilitators and attendees for your faithful following and flexibility in the manner that the lessons are presented. Although classes have started, rosters are not completely set, so if you are wanting to join, please do so this week. See the separate article on classes in this issue.

Lastly, believe it or not, the season of Advent will be upon us before we know it. Let this time of waiting and expectancy fill our hearts with hope and love.

Blessings,
Nancy

NEWS

ST. STEPHEN'S DEAR FRIEND, JO BOURKE, MOVING TO ARKANSAS

Jo Bourke has been with our St. Stephen's family, both church and school, since its early history. She has served in just about



every capacity over the decades—Parish Administrator, Verger of the School, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry member, ministry leader, TED Talkers co-founder with Rev. Sandy, and office volunteer. Many of you also remember the equally impressive dedication of Jack, Jo's late husband. Their ministry was key to the nature trail's formation, outdoor chapel creation, and Trailblazers.

We would like to share the news that Jo will be moving to Arkansas at the end of this month to be closer to her family there. Although she will be a few states away from us, she confides with us that "St. Stephen's will always be my home," and that she looks forward to joining us through the service livestreams and visits back to Wimberley.

Our dear friend, Jo, will be terribly missed. We wish her a wonderful time in Arkansas with family close at hand, and want her to know that she has an open invitation always with us here at St. Stephen's.

"I will miss her wisdom, her laugh, and her sense of humor," reflects Nancy Cooke-Jenkins.

"Jo and Jack were the first ones I met when I began working at St. Stephen's. I consider Jo my life mentor, calling on her MANY times for advise, and she always has the answers," Jeannetta Watson contemplates. "This is not goodbye, but until we see each other again. I told her, 'don't be surprised if I show up on your doorstep one day'."

Jo has sold her home in Woodcreek and moving boxes are packed, so if you would like to send her a message, we recommend e-mailing her at: jobourke33@gmail.com.

SCHEDULING ONE-ON-ONE WITH FR. KEVIN FOR NOVEMBER



Fr. Kevin has been thoroughly enjoying meeting you and your families in one-on-one meetings. If you would like to schedule a time for yourself or your family unit, we are now booking appointments for November. E-mail Lydia, office@ststeve.org, and let her know your preference for November days and times (mornings, afternoons) and where you would like to meet.

E-MAIL LYDIA: office@ststeve.org

Fr. Kevin is always up for a walk with you down the nature trail, visiting at your favorite coffee house, or pulling up a cushioned chair in his office to chat. In our excitement to meet one another, let's remember to keep it safe by following social distancing and wearing our masks. There are more than 180 family units, so heads-up, it is likely to take a bit of time for Fr. Kevin to make his way through these visits, and our patience with the process is always appreciated. Rest assured, Fr. Kevin is excited to meet you and spend time with each and every one of us.

GROUP ZOOM: MEET THE NEW RECTOR SEPT. 30 & OCT. 7, 2020



Fr. Kevin has scheduled several group times to "Meet the New Rector" using the St. Stephen's Zoom account. From the safety and comfort of your home, you are welcome to Zoom-in anytime during these 60 minute sessions that is convenient for you. There is no appointment needed for

these group Zoom meetings.

Note: Watch your e-mail's inbox for event reminders with Zoom links.

[Wednesday, September 30, 10:00 a.m.](#)

[Wednesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.](#)

T/TH MORNING PRAYER STARTS OCT 6 @ 9 AM



Happy days are here indeed! All are invited to join us in the courtyard, weather permitting, for Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., starting October 6. To prepare for worshipping in this new way outside, we are in the process of adding a wireless router in the courtyard to boost the internet signal.

For those who like to plan ahead, here's a checklist of what to bring and expect:

- your own chair
- smart device (for accessing church website's links to *Book of Common Prayer* and readings)
- mask (be sure to wear)

We will be using Morning Prayer Rite II found in the *Book of Common Prayer* and readings from *Holy Women*, *Holy Men*. Watch your next eNEWS for more details.



TO ANNOUNCE BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES, COMPLETE ONLINE FORM



If your special day, birthday or wedding anniversary, is coming up and you would like the announcement displayed in the ticker of the Sunday Service YouTube and Facebook recordings and the online Sunday Bulletin, remember to complete the online form.

We announce these special days, **with your permission**, in monthly blocks. Please complete the form two weeks in advance so we have time to make sure it is displayed during the month you indicate.

[Online Birthday Announcement Form](#)

[Online Wedding Anniversary Announcement Form](#)



DWTX UPDATE: FALL FAMILY WEEKENDS & RETREATS AT CAMP CAPERS



Registration is open for *Fall Retreats at Camp Capers*; individuals, couples, and families needing a safe, stress-free weekend getaway are invited to:

- Creation Care Family Retreat (Sept. 24-27)
- Helping Hands, Serving Hearts Family Retreat (Oct. 2-4)
- Mother/Son & Father/Daughter Retreat (Oct. 9-11)

For more information about the above retreats and special holiday retreats, visit the [DWTX website](#).

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

TODAY'S LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR 9/19 ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Contact Becki Smith, colorsmith1@yahoo.com, if you are able to help with the Roadside Cleanup this Saturday, September 19. All adults are welcome. If you are an adult with a teen 15 years and older, your teen may accompany you and help with the cleanup. At this time, children younger than 15 are not allowed to participate due to safety concerns. Registered volunteers may pick up supplies between 7:00-8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 19 in the courtyard.



The weather is expected to be gorgeous just in time for this weekend's cleanup. With a five mile section on both sides of our designated TxDOT route, we sure could use more helping hands, so come on over and join Fr. Kevin and the Roadside ministry volunteers this Saturday, September 19.

CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER ZOOM CHANGE

Christ Centered Prayer (CCP) continues to meet virtually on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. CDT using Zoom. Please note that CCP will now use the St. Stephen's ZOOM account. If you would like to be added to the CCP reminder list or have questions about CCP, please contact Sharon, sharon.artcart.carter@gmail.com.



GODLY PLAY FALL SERIES DEBUT AIRS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 10:00 a.m. CDT

We are ecstatic to announce that the fall debut of Godly Play is this Sunday, September 20, and will air on YouTube and Facebook at 10:00 a.m. CDT. These recordings can be enjoyed at any age and are especially geared for ages PK and Kindergarten. Darelle Jordan shares the Godly Play story, "The Ark and the Tent." The Godly Play fall series will have a new recording for you every other Sunday. Watch your e-mail's inbox for direct links to these recordings. Besides enjoying Darelle's storytelling, Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster will share prayers and Tom Dawson will be providing the music to sing along.

[YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 17 link](#)
[Facebook TAKE 5: Episode 17 link](#)



TAKE 5: EPISODE 17 AIRS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 10:00 a.m. CDT

You are invited to join host Allen Hennig as he treats our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break during episode 17. The selection, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," has its roots as an Indian Folk Tune.

"I found a very interesting story behind the selected song," explains Allen. "The words are said to be based on a story about Nokseng, a man in India, who after converting to Christianity in the mid-1800s, recited verses of the 12th chapter of the book of John as he and his family were killed. Another Indian missionary, Sadhu Sundar Singh, took this story, and the Indian Folk Song, Assam, and wrote this hymn."

Be sure to tune in at 10:00 a.m. CDT on Thursday, September 24, to learn more about this hymn.

FALL CLASS UPDATES (CHILDREN, TWEENS, TEENS, ADULTS)



THE KINGDOM KIDS SUNDAYS

ZOOM:
9/20 & 9/27 @ 9:00-9:30 AM
using Orange

LOG CABIN:
Starting 10/4 @ 9:00-10:00 AM
using *Forbid Them Not*

Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)
[Register Online](#)



SUNDAYS

ZOOM:
9/20 & 9/27 @ 5:00-6:00 PM
Using *The Journey to Adulthood*

LOG CABIN:
Starting 10/4 @ 5:00-6:00 PM
Using *The Journey to Adulthood*

Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)
[Register Online](#)



FRIDAYS

ZOOM:
9/18 & 9/25 @ 5:00-6:00 PM
Using *The Journey to Adulthood*

LOG CABIN:
Starting 10/2 @ 5:00-6:00 PM
Using *The Journey to Adulthood*

Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)
[Register Online](#)



SUNDAYS

ZOOM
9/20 & 9/27* @ 9:30-10:15 AM
Using *The Way of Love*

**in-person option may be
available beginning this date*

Contact: [Becky Denton](#)



EVERY OTHER SUN

YOUTUBE & FACEBOOK
9/20 & 10/4 @ 10:00-10:20 AM

Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)
[Register Online](#)

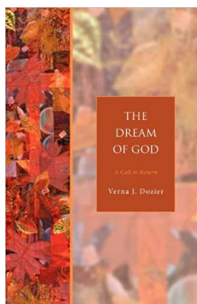


MONDAYS

ZOOM
9/21 & 28* @ 12:00 noon
Using *The Book of Psalms*

**in-person option may be
available beginning this date*

[Becky Denton](#) or [Cindy Taylor](#)



TUESDAYS

ZOOM
COED BIBLE CLASS
9/22 & 9/29 @ 10:30 AM
Using *The Dream of God*

**in-person option may be
available soon.*

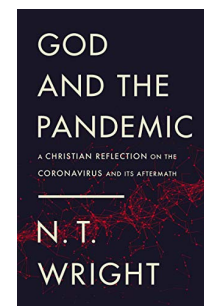
Contact: [Bob Reed](#)



THURSDAYS

ZOOM
NANCY'S HOME OR ZOOM
THURSDAYS @ 5:00 PM
Using *The Dream of God*

Contact: [Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)



SUNDAYS

beginning Nov. 1 @ 9:15 a.m.

[Order your book now.](#)

More details coming.

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.

SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com
Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

The willingness to adapt and use new technology have helped us connect and remain together as a church community during the pandemic. This week many of our leadership and staff, including Fr. Kevin and Bob Reed could be found Zooming to meet with us for "Meet the Rector" and Co-ed Bible Study. Thank you to ALL the ministry leaders for their class fall debuts: Sharon Carter, Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, Darelle Jordan, Becky & Bob Denton, Donna Hoyland, Melissa Odell, Bob Reed, Cindy Taylor, and Elisa Webster



SAVE THE DATE

FRI, SEPT 18

Tweens Bible School (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

SAT, SEPT 19

Roadside Cleanup, 7:00-8:00 a.m. pickup equipment, Courtyard

SUN, SEPT 20

Orange Sunday School (online), 9:00 a.m., Zoom

SUN, SEPT 20

Way of Love (online), 9:30 a.m., Zoom



SUN, SEPT 20

Godly Play(online), 10:00 a.m, YouTube & Facebook

SUN, SEPT 20

Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

SUN, SEPT 20

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

MON, SEPT 21

Monday Bible Babes (online), 12 noon, Zoom

TUE, SEPT 22

Co-ed Bible (online), 10:30 a.m., Zoom

WED, SEPT 23

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

TH, SEPT 24

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

TH, SEPT 24

Thursday Bible Babes, 5:00 p.m., Nancy's Home

FRI, SEPT 25

Tweens Bible School (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

SUN, SEPT 27

Orange Sunday School (online), 9:00 a.m, Zoom

SUN, SEPT 27

Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m, Zoom and in-person (Courtyard)

SUN, SEPT 27

Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

SUN, SEPT 27

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

MON, SEPT 28

Monday Bible Babes (online) and in-person (Courtyard), 12:00 noon

TUE, SEPT 29

Co-ed Bible (online), 10:30 a.m., Zoom

WED, SEPT 30

Group Zoom: Meet the New Rector(online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

WED, SEPT 30

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

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Director, eeant@mac.com

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