



Altar Flower Orders

ststeve.org/flowers

Calendar of Events

<https://www.ststeve.org/calendar>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84058991664?pwd=Z25MdEpheXh2YzJlNzNaTU9TSTgwZz09>

COVID Guidelines

<https://www.ststeve.org/covid>

Daily Meditations

ststeve.org/meditations

Facility/Room Reservations

<https://ststeve.wimberley.wufoo.com/forms/facilityroom-use/>

God's Garden Registration (Summer Program ages 4-12)

ststeve.org/registration

Sunday Service Live Stream (YouTube, Facebook), Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

ststeve.org/sunday

In-building, in-person services are held at 8:00 in the Chapel & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

COLUMNS

RECTOR'S LETTER: The Birthday of the Church

Dear St. Stephen's,

This coming Sunday, Pentecost, is always a monumental occasion for the church; and this particular year proves to be even more of a celebratory affair! The observance of Pentecost conjures up wonderful images of Jesus Christ providing his disciples with an advocate and

mediator between God and God's creation. After Jesus had ascended to the Father in heaven, the Holy Spirit becomes the intermediary between God and those of us living upon the earth. The Holy Spirit is a reminder of Christ's presence in our midst every day, every minute, every second. Being in the presence of our trinitarian God, we are assured of: companionship along the journey, confidence in our convictions, and the unbounded love that transforms the world. Traditionally, Pentecost is also commonly referred to as the birthday of the Church; as Peter and the other disciples open the doors of salvation and grace to the nations of the world; no matter what race, language, culture, or geographical distance.



I love this understanding as Pentecost being the birthday of the Church because in many ways we are being reborn into a new chapter of a life's journey here at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church! It is very fitting that this Sunday will begin a new understanding of life together as community. We will be gathering again for the first time in what seems like forever for in-building, in-person worship services at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary (the 10:30 is also live-streamed). Each Pentecost service will begin in the Courtyard to ritually and thoughtfully enter the doors of our worship spaces.

*On Sunday, May 23, 2021
meet first in the Courtyard.
We will then process to the Chapel for the 8:00 a.m. service and
the Courtyard for the 10:30 a.m. service.*

I imagine many of you are wondering how our ecclesial guidelines for in-building, in-person worship services have changed following the CDC's announcement to eliminate the requirement of wearing masks for fully vaccinated individuals. Though we have come a long way in maintaining the safety of our particular communities, it is important to acknowledge that we are not out of the woods just yet.

For our worship gatherings on Sunday mornings, we continue to ask that you wear a mask. I strongly encourage all in the congregation to become fully vaccinated. However, I understand that some in our community have decided to refrain from doing so. The current vaccines are also not available to the youngest members of our community at this time. For these reasons, it remains important for us to continue wearing our masks during in-building large gatherings. Another important caveat to all of this is that, as the Episcopal Church, we are under the authority and jurisdiction of our Diocesan Bishop. I am very pleased with Bishop Reed's latest communication that indicates the wearing of masks remains to be the expectation of churches in the diocese. Along with wearing masks, it's important to follow the guidelines that enable us to return to in-building, in-person worship services. *(See separate article in this edition for a review of these guidelines.)*

I am extremely excited to finally be able to worship at our regularly scheduled services in the Chapel at 8:00 a.m. and in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. beginning this Sunday, May 23. I also recognize the excitement and energy that all of you are having for this great occasion. I want to express a tremendous amount of thanks to all who have been involved to prepare for these gatherings. It has taken a great deal of planning and creativity from various folks. I pray that you recognize God's blessing to be upon you this day and always. And, I will see you all on Sunday! You are invited to wear red clothing to signify this monumental celebration!

*Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert*

NEWS

PENTECOST GOSPEL READING AVAILABLE IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES



This Pentecost Sunday, May 23, you will be invited to read the Gospel reading in your language of choice: English, Spanish, German, French, and Zulu. Fr. Kevin will then read the Gospel scripture in English, followed by his sermon.

To access the translations, focus your smart phone's camera on the QR code seen in this article. Once in focus, the document will automatically open up to the various translations.

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR CARRYOUT BOXES OF JORDAN BBQ AFTER PENTECOST 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY, MAY 23 SERVICE



The Jordan Family is helping us celebrate the return to in-building, in-person services on Sunday, May 23 by providing carryout boxes of their famous, lip-smackin' BBQ. After the 10:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday Service, be sure to head on over to the Courtyard to pick up a box. You are welcome to eat at the tables setup in the Courtyard or to take your carryout box home to enjoy. We have planned the amount of barbecue available based off the 8:00 am. and 10:30 a.m. attendance in the church service.

We are also looking for folks to donate individually wrapped servings of dessert, like brownies and cookies. You are invited to bring these up to the church kitchen ahead of Sunday, May 23, and store them in the freezer.

SENIOR BLANKET CEREMONY RESCHEDULED TO MAY 23

Our high school graduating seniors: Kat Jaime, Hope McNabb, and Quin Webber will receive their senior blankets at the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service in the Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021. (This event had been rescheduled due to last week's inclement weather.) ***Congratulations, seniors!***



Kat Jaime



Hope McNabb



QuinXing Clementine
Webber

ST. STEPHEN'S COVID GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING



Temperature checks are no longer required. Name tags will replace pandemic check-in at worship services. Please be patient as you wait to retrieve your name tag Sunday mornings and remember to social distance.



At indoor worship services, masks are required. A six foot distance between households must be maintained.

At indoor ministry activities, masks are required. A six foot distance between households must be maintained.

Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. Masks are required. A six foot distance between households must be maintained.



No mask required outdoors if six feet of distance between households can be maintained.

Coffee Hour will be held outside only in the Courtyard after the Sunday services. No mask is required outside if six feet of distance between households can be maintained.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY READING ON SUNDAY, MAY 30



We will have a special Memorial Day reading during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 30, 2021.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 31



The church office will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2021. We will reopen at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

GARDENING ANGELS SANCTUARY CLEANUP UPDATE



In Luke 13:6-9 Jesus shares a parable with a group of Galileans: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

For well over a year now the garden that greets us at the Sanctuary door has yielded no fruit and Mother Nature did her best to cut it down. With Pentecost and our regathering as a church family upon us, it was time to prune and dig. Due to the hard work of the following volunteers and plant donors, major progress was made during the Gardening Angels' Volunteer Work Day. Our Sanctuary garden is fruitful once again. Oh, and the back entrance to McArthur Hall was spruced up as well.

Plant Donations: Martha Knies, Larry & Ann Robertson, Todd Schmidt, Phil Muth, Joe & Sondra Blanford

Work Volunteers: Becky Denton, Nancy Henson, Evie Martin, Todd Schmidt, Sondra Blanford, and Joe Blanford

There is still some fine tuning to be done and the Nursery area needs attention, but that is for another day. A big "Thank You" to all who helped and many blessings!!! See you, in person, this Sunday, Pentecost, May 23!



TAKE 5: EPISODE 62 ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK, THURSDAY, MAY 27



TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig has put together a reflective Memorial Day tribute and is featuring Hymn #717 "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." He wishes to thank those who are serving and have served their country for their service, commitment, and sacrifice.

"It's important to our memory of them," emphasizes Allen. "My father was one of those enlisted in the Army. He was a records keeper and close to the front lines where the records were kept."

Recommended scripture for Episode 62 is Proverbs 14:34. The featured tile can be found on the nature trail at St. Stephen's. Carroll Dolezal did the basic design of the tiles found on the trail and 18 people from 11 years old to 80+ years old did the carving and painting of the entire set. The nature trail is open to the public dawn 'til dusk seven days a week.

We hope you enjoy this music break and that it serves to lift the spirit and as a treat to your ears and eyes.

TAKE 5 EPISODE 62 (YOUTUBE)

TAKE 5 EPISODE 62 (FACEBOOK)

TAKE 5 PLAYLIST

**MISSION SUNDAY:
JUNE 13 @ 2:00 PM, MCARTHUR HALL**

Church & school families with children and teens are especially encouraged to come and participate in Mission Sunday's service and outreach activity.

***June 13:
bring & sort donations
for refugees in McAllen, TX.***

Mission Sunday is an activity that the whole family can engage in and enjoy. Coordinator Anita McNabb and Fr. Kevin Schubert have put together an extraordinary opportunity for us this summer to help refugees in McAllen, Texas. Here's how it will work...

We will be collecting and sorting the following items listed below. Please consider bringing as many as you would like. Items, with the exception of backpacks and purses, should be new. The local thrift store would be a good place to shop for used and in gently used backpacks and purses. After Sunday's collection and sorting, Fr. Kevin and a smaller group of volunteers will drive the donations to McAllen, Texas to deliver to St. John's Episcopal for distribution to the refugees through St. John's ministry, Tacos & Backpacks. While there, Fr. Kevin's group will also help make meals for the refugees.

The St. John's Tacos & Backpacks ministry was recently featured in a two-part series by Sue Perkins called "Along the U.S. Mexico Border" and is available to watch on Youtube.



NEEDED ITEMS

backpacks and/or purses (new or gently used)

children's picture books (Spanish and/or English)

hair brushes and combs

coloring books

crayons

hair ties and ribbons

individually wrapped snacks

small toys

stuffed animal toys

NEXT QUARTERLY ROADSIDE CLEANUP: SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Our next quarterly roadside cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, June 12, 2021. Volunteers will work in pairs to beautify our St. Stephen's



segment of FM 3237, as designated by the Texas Department of Transportation.

If you are able to help, contact: Todd Schmidt, tkschmidt88@gmail.com, or Mike Marcionetti, mikeydrum@gmail.com.

We are saddened to report that Roadside Cleanup Ministry co-coordinator Becki Smith passed away on May 4, 2021. If you would like to silently remember Becki during the next Roadside Cleanup, we invite you to do so. She will be missed more than words can express.

SUMMER SESSION FOR MONDAY BIBLE BABES STARTS JUNE 14



All women are welcome at Monday Bible Babes. Over the summer, this ministry will meet at a member's home in Wimberley. The Babes will be using the Episcopal Bible Study "Living the Way of Love in Community" and co-leaders: Cindy Taylor and Becky Denton will have printed copies for you of the study to take and prepare throughout the summer session. The summer session will begin on Monday, June 14 at 12 noon. For directions, contact: [Cindy Taylor](#) or [Becky Denton](#).

KINGDOM KIDS & MOUNTAIN MOVERS RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS SEPTEMBER 2021

Kingdom Kids, ages 7-9, and Mountain Movers, ages 10-12, will return shortly after the beginning of the fall school semester. In September, they will be meeting in-person in the Log Cabin at 9:00 a.m.

In the meantime, if you are looking for a summer activity for your children, ages 4-12, we have a spot for them in God's Garden, our new summer week-long program, August 2-6, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. *(See separate article in this eNEWS for how to register and make payment.)*

**NO KK/MM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS HELD:
MAY 23, 30, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST**



TEEN ACTIVITIES

Youth, ages 13 and older, are meeting in-person throughout the summer.

Sunday, June 6 @ 2 p.m. - Painting Log Cabin & Pizza
Sunday, June 13 @ 2 p.m. - Refugee Outreach Project
Sunday, June 20 @ 11:30 a.m. - Mini Golf
Sunday, June 27 @ 12 noon - Nursery Garden, Clean, Paint
Saturday, July 10-17 - Memphis Mission Trip

NO TEEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS HELD: MAY

ATTN: FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGES 4-12 SPEND A WEEK IN GOD'S GARDEN

St. Stephens will be debuting a new summer program called



God's Garden this August 2-6, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Children ages 4-12 are invited to this program being organized by Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster. *God's Garden* will be limited to 25 spots. Cost is \$30 per child, which includes a t-shirt, arts & crafts, and snacks. Extended care from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. may also be arranged. *God's Garden* will be held at St. Stephen's and each day we will feature food and cultural traditions from a different part of the world while also exploring the importance of life-giving water for all. Children ages 4-12 are invited to come and discover God's garden gifts for us and how we can share these with one another, near and far.

We only have 10 spots left.

Click the link below to register your children and pay online through the church website.

Payments may also be by check, made out to "St. Stephen's Church" and dropped off at the church office M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Remember to write "God's Garden" in the memo line of your check.

If you are interested in volunteering for God's Garden, contact Elisa, elisawebster9@gmail.com for training date and other instructions.

REGISTER FOR GOD'S GARDEN

ST. STEPHEN'S LECTORS: A WAY TO CONNECT AND SERVE

by Charlotte Carter



As St. Stephen's moves to in-person worship on Sunday, May 23, you may be looking for ways to be more involved in Sunday and weekday worship. During the pandemic, St. Stephen's Lay Eucharistic Ministry (LEM), has been assisting as Lectors for the Sunday live-streaming and Courtyard services and also with the Tuesday Morning Prayer service. We will continue in this capacity when services are in-person.

Lay people are an integral part of worship in the Episcopal Church. Lectors read the Lections and lead Prayers of the People (POP) on Sundays and read lessons for Morning Prayer.

St. Stephen's will be offering Lector training this Spring before we move to in-person worship on Pentecost Sunday, May 23. We will be announcing the training date and time soon.

Lector training includes:

- access to readings and POP
- preparation of readings and POP before and day of service
- procedures for announcing readings and POP
- resources available including websites
- practice reading (use of mic, pacing, and connecting with congregation).

When training is completed, new Lectors are assigned to a team and mentor.

For more information about this ministry and/or the training, contact: Charlotte Carter, charlotteanncarter@gmail.com.

*"Serving in this ministry,
brings such a quiet inner peace and joy,
reflecting the unity that binds us together in God's love and grace."
Judy Seaberry (former Dean of St. Stephen's Lay Eucharist Ministry)*

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.

MAY COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, nancycookejenkins@gmail.com
Kristen Schmidt, kris10.schmidt@gmail.com

JUNE COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net
Sharon East, sharoneast2@gmail.com

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

The ministries of St. Stephen's are up and running with more in-person opportunities once again. Many of these meet 12 months of the year, including Great Generations. Why not join them over the summer for fellowship, fun, and learning? They meet every third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m., either in the Courtyard or McArthur Hall. For more information, contact: Carroll Dolezal, carrolldolezal99@gmail.com.



Photo Credit: Sharon East

On May 19, those attending the Great Generations Gathering brought their own bag lunch and were treated to a presentation by Carroll Wilson, music by Joe Blanford, and door prizes! Next meeting is Wednesday, June 16 at 11:30 a.m.



Photo Credit: Sharon East

Carroll Wilson presents his poetry books.

SAVE THE DATE

SUN, MAY 23, PENTECOST & RETURN TO IN-BUILDING/IN-PERSON

Holy Eucharist Service, Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Service, Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.

Jordan BBQ, Courtyard, 11:30 a.m.

Choir Practice, Sanctuary, 12:30 p.m.

**MON, MAY 24**

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

Cursillo Reunion Group, Courtyard, 10:30 a.m.

Vestry Meeting, McArthur Hall, 6:00 p.m.

TUES, MAY 25

Morning Prayer, Chapel, 9:00 a.m.

Companions: Women's Grief Support, McArthur Hall, 3:00 p.m.

Yoga, McArthur Hall, 4:00 p.m.

WED, MAY 26

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

TH, MAY 27

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

Bible Babes, Nancy's house, 4:00 p.m.

SUN, MAY 30

Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, Chapel, 8:00 a.m.

Newcomer Committee Meeting, Meeting Room 2, 9:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.

Choir Practice, Sanctuary, 12:30 p.m.

MON, MAY 31

Church Office closed all day for Memorial Day.

TUES, JUNE 1

Morning Prayer, Courtyard, 9:00 a.m.

Companions: Women's Grief Support, McArthur Hall, 3:00 p.m.

Yoga, McArthur Hall, 4:00 p.m.

WED, JUNE 2

Life Long Learning Commission Meeting (McArthur Hall), 10:00 a.m.

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

TH, JUNE 3

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, eeant@mac.com

Visit our Website



[VISITORS](#)

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