

July 03, 2020

## TIME SENSITIVE NEWS & ALERTS



THE HUDDLE

JULY 03, 2020



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

[Visit our Website](#)

### CLARIFYING THE TRUTH: DISPELLING RUMORS

*Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, Senior Warden*



Early this week, I heard the rumor that St. Stephen's would be re-opening in a couple of weeks. Understandably, in this time of chaos, a lot of confusion is in the air, and your Vestry is concerned that you may have heard the rumors as well. St. Stephen's will remain closed to the public. We will continue to conduct our business, ministry activities, and worship virtually as we have been doing since the Spring.

***To clarify,  
we are NOT re-opening in a couple of weeks,  
nor do we have a new rector.***

There are several reasons why we are NOT re-opening:

- The surge in the past two weeks in new and confirmed COVID-19 cases is an indicator that businesses and institutions reopened too quickly,
- Many of us at St. Stephen's are over the age of 65 and, therefore, more susceptible to the coronavirus,
- A significant number of us have compromised immune systems,
- The real possibility that some of us could be asymptomatic.

We realize there are mixed emotions on this matter; some really miss the church, communion, and camaraderie. Others prefer to wait out the pandemic. As much as we would love to open the doors, we simply cannot risk any of us

becoming ill or endangering lives.

Please, please--if you hear that we are re-opening or that we have a new rector, contact a [Vestry member](#) to talk about it. [Their e-mail addresses](#) can be found on the church website. I can assure you that when we learn of either, you will be the very next to know.

Thank you for your patience during these times, and know, if you tune into the Sunday Service being streamed through [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#), you will see live comments being posted by your fellow parishioners. Remember, too, that Fr. Phil makes himself available every week for 90 minutes in an Open House style session through Zoom. He invites us to visit virtually with him on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. to talk about what may be on our mind. That is some assurance that we may not be together, but we are still a family.

Blessings,  
Nancy

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### FAITHFUL FUN DAY VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY, JULY 03, 10 a.m.

[YouTube streaming](#)  
[Facebook streaming](#)



Airing today on St. Stephen's YouTube and Facebook is the second episode of a brand new virtual summer Sunday School called "Faithful Fun Day." **Today's episode features the Godly Play Sacred Story of Creation.** Sometimes a gift is so big that you have to go back so far that the beginning and ending are together.

After the initial 10:00 a.m. airing, the recording will be made available through the [church website](#), and may be viewed and enjoyed at any time and as often as you like.

Faithful Fun Day's lineup includes a Godly Play story by Darelle Jordan, music and sing-alongs led by Tom Dawson, and prayers and crafts introductions by Elisa Webster, Family & Youth Minister. Ahead of time, before each episode airs, your young family members are mailed a thematic packet. These packets contain the prayers, song lyrics, and arts & crafts activities. We invite you to gather your young family members around and be sure to have your envelope of activities along with scissors, glue, and coloring crayons or pencils nearby and easily accessible.

We're ready to play and have some fun! Come join us!

For more information, contact: Elisa Webster, [elisawebster9@gmail.com](mailto:elisawebster9@gmail.com).

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### HOW TO ORDER YOUR SSEC FASK MASKS

The Vestry recently approved purchasing face masks. The first batch of face masks has arrived. This set is on blue cloth with the St. Stephen's logo and Episcopal shield.



If you would like to purchase some for your family, e-mail: [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org), and indicate in the e-mail how many face masks you will need. Face masks cost \$10 per mask with an additional \$2 charge to mail you your family's order. To pay for your order, you may either mail a check or make an online payment. Checks should be mailed to: St. Stephen's Church, 6000-A FM 3237, Wimberley, TX 78676. Remember to write "face masks" in the memo line of the check. If you prefer to pay by card, you may do so through the [church website](#). Choose "face mask" in the pull down menu of the "Give" field in the Tithe.ly online form.

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## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR Sunday, July 05, immediately following service

Do you miss seeing your Sunday church friends, or having an opportunity to meet new faces? If so, you can plan on catching up at Virtual Coffee Hour hosted by Fr. Phil on Sundays, immediately following the airing of the 10:30 a.m. service on YouTube and Facebook. This is the perfect and safest way to see everyone without even leaving the comfort of your home.

Watch your e-mail's inbox Sunday morning for both the Sunday Service YouTube and Facebook links and for Coffee Hour Zoom instructions.

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## THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR A SUCCESSFUL DEBUT TO VIRTUAL DONUT SUNDAY!



This past Sunday, June 28, families received their donuts from volunteer drivers and brought them to the first-ever virtual kid's coffee hour known as Donut Sunday! The kiddos weren't the only ones jumping up and down with excitement to receive the donuts, so was Family & Youth Minister, Elisa Webster, and Godly Play teacher Darelle Jordan, when they got to visit with their young friends through Zoom. Thank you, Fr. Phil, for co-hosting Donut Sunday. We are appreciative of our volunteer drivers for safely delivering the donuts to families and managing not to eat them in the process.

### **BIG THANK YOU TO DONUT DRIVERS**

Jones Family  
Richard and James Paul Jordan  
McNabb Family  
Jeannetta Watson  
Elisa Webster

***The next Donut Sunday is scheduled for July 26.*** If you would like to be a sponsor or make a one-time donation, contact: [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org). All donation amounts are welcome.

Watch your *eNEWS* July 10 issue for more photos from Donut Sunday.

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**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
MONDAY, JULY 6  
for July 4th Holiday**

St. Stephen's Church Office will be closed Monday, July 6, in observance to the 4th of July holiday. Offices will be ready to take your calls, e-mails, and texts at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

Fr. Phil, Jeannetta, and the entire staff wish everyone a safe and happy 4th!

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**TAKE 5: Episode 6  
Thursday, July 9, 2020, 10 a.m. CDT**

Join TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig as he shares, "To God be the Glory" with us. Allen will be sharing Fanny Crosby's hymn that was lost to history and rediscovered for a Billy Graham crusade in London in 1954. There's no better time to rediscover this hymn first hand with Allen at the next TAKE 5. So, why not go ahead and plan on treating your ears, eyes, and spirit, to a five minute music break on Thursday, July 9, at 10:00 a.m. CDT?

Watch your e-mail's inbox for the [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) links on the morning of each airing. All TAKE 5 episodes will also be accessible through the [church website](#).

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 512-847-9956 |  
6000 FM 3237, Wimberley, TX 78676 | [ststeve.org](http://ststeve.org)

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