



SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

[Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)

We have just celebrated a day of paradox: both somber tributes to our fallen *and* joyful thanksgiving for the survivors of those brave and patriotic men and women. Memorial Day was a day to stop and give pause and reflect on our many blessings for what we have survived to be where we are today.

Today, the world is engaged in another battle, only this time, we are all united against a tiny enemy with the power to destroy our psyches, our health, our livelihoods, and even our very lives. Yet, our resolve is the same today as it has always been--we are not going to allow it to happen. We may have casualties, but we will succeed in overcoming its threat to our way of life.

HEROES IN THE WORSHIP SERVICES

At St. Stephen's, we continue to worship and call on our faith to lead us through this crisis. We give thanks to those who give of their time each week to ensure our services are recorded and transmitted to our homes so that we may continue to be together although apart. We have mentioned the names before, but they bear repeating: Anne Jones and Allen Hennig for their musical contributions, Darelle Jordan for Godly Play, Robert McLemore for recording and directing, Fr. Phil for presiding and thoughtful sincere sermons, and Hunt Sparra for weaving the recordings and graphics together into files that can successfully transmit to us, the viewers. Thank you to the network of volunteers that serve as video greeters, guest lectors, guest music performers, and help with the conducting of the Eucharist service each week.

HEROES IN THE COMMUNITY

Indeed, we have heroes amongst us in the services. We are also proud of our members being recognized and receiving accolades for their work in the community at large. In "Best of Wimberley," the city has awarded St. Stephen's Episcopal School with the designation of "Best Private/Charter School." Members Traci Maxwell and Bill Perdue have also been recognized in their job roles. Traci for "Best Realtor of the Year" and Bill for "Fireman of the Year." Congratulations and best wishes to all of you.

CLARIFICATION ON PHASES 1 & 2

You may have read that Bishop Reed declared Phase 2 would begin this past Monday, May 25. Please know that moving into Phase 2 is not mandatory. He has left the decision of phased re-opening of the parishes to its leaders' discretion. Fr. Phil, being ever cognizant of the needs of our church and its members, has reiterated that St. Stephen's will not reopen until he is assured that the Phase 2 guidelines can be met and are in

place. Parishioners' safety is our primary goal.

KAREN MORRIS TO BE ORDAINED

One of our own, Karen Morris, will be ordained to the Deaconhood on Saturday, June 12, 2020. (See *separate article in this eNEWS for Karen's story.*) If you would like to join the Vestry in presenting a monetary gift to Karen, please apprise Jeannetta, jwatson@ststeve.org. However, if you so desire, you might send greetings to her at her home address: 4706 Sendero, San Marcos, TX 78666. We are so proud of and happy for her.

As we head into the summer months, remember to stay hydrated, wear your sunscreen, and eat lots of homemade ice cream! (*Speaking of ice cream, see Big Scoop update later in this eNEWS as well.*)

*Blessings,
Nancy*

*"Speak the word of God wherever you go,
even use words, if necessary*

- Saint Francis of Assisi



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

New developments are unfolding. You will be able to read more about the search committee's current activities in the Friday, June 5 issue of the *HUDDLE*.



ANITA MCNABB JOINS THE VESTRY

You may have recently learned that Anita McNabb has joined the Vestry and will be finishing out David Boles' term. As we continue to warmly welcome Anita with our gratitude, we thought you would enjoy learning a bit more about her.

Anita considers herself a "South Texas girl" that grew up in Harlingen, Texas and has been partial to the beach and water ever since. Yet her future had her headed for a life about 4.5 hours north toward St. Stephen's in the Texas Hill Country. From the moment she first visited with a new baby 17 years ago, looking for someplace to become her home church, once she stepped onto the St. Stephen's grounds, she fell in love.

"I fell immediately in love with the grounds, the welcome we received, honestly

everything," she recalled of that faithful day.

It was not long after that when she, husband Keith, and her growing family settled into Driftwood and church life at St. Stephen's in Wimberley. Both her daughter Hope and son Charlie attended St. Stephen's Episcopal School from PK4 until graduating in 6th grade.

Always one to help out even with a full-time job for a restaurant group in Austin and family commitments, she has found time over the years to volunteer with the Youth group, St. Stephen's Santas, and "any Jubilee I can participate in."

Anita is as adventurous in her food choices as she is with music preferences.

"I like all types of foods. Music is the same way. I like all genres--heavy metal to classical," she shares.

For those that have spent time with Anita during the 10:30 a.m. service, it may surprise you to learn that Anita's an early morning person, and likes to hit the 8:00 a.m. service from time to time, too. In fact one of her favorite cherished moments is to walk the St. Stephen's nature trail early in the morning.

Thank you, Anita, for your sunny disposition and willingness to help out on the Vestry.

**BRING SOMEONE TO CHURCH
YOU JUST NEVER KNOW WHERE IT WILL LEAD**

*By the grace of God,
and with the consent of the Standing Committee and the people,*



The Right Reverend David M. Reed
Bishop of West Texas
will ordain
the 2020 Graduating Class of the
Iona Collaborative in West Texas,
John Blackburn, Mikel Brightman,
Dexter Lesieur, **Karen Morris, Gerald Phelps,**
Arnoldo Romero, and Betsy Stephenson,
to the Sacred Order of Deacons
in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church
Saturday, the thirteenth day of June
Two Thousand Twenty
Camp Capers
Waring, Texas.

*Join the Diocese in offering prayers of thanksgiving on this joyous occasion.
Your **online-only** presence is requested, via recorded video at dwtx.org.*

St. Stephen's is so proud to announce that it's very own Karen Morris will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 13, 2020! This is truly a significant moment for Karen, her family, and St. Stephen's. This ordination is considered the step that precedes ordination into the priesthood.

"Bring someone to church and you just never know what will happen," muses Karen's friend and discernment committee member, Jo Bourke.

Decades ago, Jo recalls that Karen was invited by a friend to visit St. Stephen's.

"On that first Sunday, Karen came with her little boy, Stephen, who was about five years old at the time," explains Jo. "I noticed that she had that look that people get when they are not familiar with the Episcopal Church."

In fact, Karen's own experiences with church were first etched during the years her father served as a Baptist missionary in Guatemala and Costa Rica. As a result, Jo explains, Karen is "truly bilingual" and fluently speaks both English and Spanish. "What a help this will be in her work (as a deacon and future priest)."

Karen has been a part of the life and workings of St. Stephen's Church for many years. She's lent her voice to the choir, served on the Vestry, been a senior warden and a worship ministry coordinator. She is also instrumental in having our Altar looking beautiful during our special Christmas and Easter services. She knows how to add just the right, needed touch. With as active as Karen continues to be in the church, many may forget that Karen has a day job with a hospital in San Marcos. She truly is a remarkable being, and we are grateful to her for her service both in and out of the church. We are incredibly excited for where her spiritual path is leading her. She has been assigned to Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Lockhart, Texas. Congratulations, Karen!

For those that would like to join the Vestry and contribute to a monetary gift for Karen, contact Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org. For those that would like to send a card or note to Karen, we know she would love to receive these at:

Karen Morris
4706 Sendero
San Marcos, TX 78666



CONGRATULATIONS, 2020 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Ian McIntosh (Dripping Springs High School), Miranda Lewis (Wimberley High School), and Summer Myles (Katherine Anne Porter School) will soon be high school graduates. We wish them all good fortune in their lives and look forward to honoring them in a special St. Stephen's recognition ceremony soon.

Way to go, Ian! Way to go, Miranda! Way to go, Summer!

Thank you for sharing yourselves with St. Stephen's over the years in our Sunday School classrooms, working and volunteering in the church nursery, serving as acolytes, and making all those breakfast tacos for us to eat to raise money for mission trips!

Photos of the 2020 high school graduates can be seen in various places around town--some in front of Ace Hardware and others in front of King Feed. See below for a sneak preview.



TAKE 5

MUSIC BREAKS

JUNE 4, 10 A.M. CDT

Organist/Pianist Allen Hennig will begin hosting a weekly five minute music break for our enjoyment. Join us for our first music break, "My Father's World" on Thursday, June 4 at 10:00 a.m. CDT on the St. Stephen's [YouTube channel](#). A special thanks to Carroll Dolezal for providing the artwork for TAKE 5.



If you are interested in more information on how to sign up to perform for TAKE 5, contact Allen Hennig, acraigach@aol.com.



SESSION 4 REMOTE YOGA AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

Carla Daws has graced us with all new yoga routines for both gentle and chair remote yoga. Session 4 recordings are now available on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Incidentally, each session can be enjoyed independently, they do not build upon the prior. All levels can comfortably enjoy these yoga offerings.

To view the entire playlist for Gentle Yoga, [click here](#).
To view the entire playlist for Chair Yoga, [click here](#).

JUNE 13 QUARTERLY ROADSIDE CLEANUP *CANCELLED*

Becki Smith would like to confirm that the quarterly roadside cleanup, previously scheduled for Saturday, June 13 is cancelled.

"We'll shoot for September to be able to safely cleanup the roadside together again," Becki reports. "Hopefully, staying home (during COVID-19) means less trash gets left on the roadsides."



SUNDAY SERMONS



VIDEO SERMONS

[May 17, 2020](#)

[May 10, 2020](#)

[May 3, 2020](#)

[More...](#)

SERMON VIDEOS AVAILABLE ONLINE

In case you miss a Sunday service, know that videos of the May sermons are available online at the church website, ststeve.org/sermons. Audio recordings of past sermons are also available on the same webpage.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

ELISA TO GIVE SERMON, JUNE 5

Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster will be delivering the sermon on Sunday, June 5. Be sure to tune into the St. Stephen's YouTube channel to hear her message for families of all sizes.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP RESCHEDULED FOR 2021

Mission

With the need to continue social distancing due to COVID-19 and with safety of our children of the utmost concern, the Youth Summer Mission Trip has been canceled and rescheduled for summer 2021. Those that paid a deposit for the 2020 summer mission trip will be refunded. Contact Elisa if you have questions.

YOUTH ZOOM MEETINGS SUNDAYS 5 PM CDT

JH/HS Youth are invited to join Elisa this summer on Sundays at 5 p.m. CDT through Zoom. If you have not received your invite with the meeting information, contact her today. Joining the Sunday meetings is a great way to discover what plans are in store for the summer.

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



BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA

Donations Deadline: Wednesday, July 8, 2020

Planning is underway for the 2020 Back to School Fiesta to be held on Sunday, August 2, 2020. The Fiesta, organized by the Barnabas Connection, helps provide necessary school supplies and a backpack to pre-registered Wimberley children in need. Area churches, like St. Stephen's, and community service organizations participate in this event. More than 500 children were served last year. *We expect 700 this year!*

In order to protect all shoppers from COVID-19, Barnabas will be purchasing a prepared kit of school supplies for each child who has made an application. A donation of \$50 will pay for a year of school supplies for a child.

***A donation of \$50 will pay
for a year of school supplies for a child.***

Your donation of any amount can be sent to St. Stephen's with **Back to School Fiesta** either noted on the physical check's memo line or chosen in the pull down menu from the online donation Tithe.ly form on the church website, <https://www.ststeve.org/online-giving>.

Please send your checks and online donations to the church ***no later than Wednesday, July 8***. Thank you for helping the children in need in the Wimberley community. The need is greater than ever.



GODLY PLAY SUMMER SERIES STARTS JUNE 19 RECORDED & ONLINE

All ages are in for a treat this summer as Darelle Jordan shares "Godly Play" with us through a series running June, July, and August on St. Stephen's YouTube. The first episode will air Friday, June 19 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.

In the meantime, to tide us over, we can sit back and enjoy a Pentecost Godly Play lesson with Darelle airing on YouTube and Facebook during the streamed Sunday, May 31 Holy Eucharist service. Make sure your email address is up to date and on file with the church office, office@ststeve.org. This is one you won't want to miss.



BIG SCOOP & CAMP GOOD SAM UPDATE

Fellow ice cream scoopers, Judy Holmes reports that the Good Samaritan organization announced that their camps will not be held summer 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns. Therefore, your Big Scoop Co-Chairs have also decided that Big Scoop 2020 will not be held, in solidarity with our Big Scoop sponsors, the small businesses and individuals who find themselves faced with the burden of reopening and finding their way during the extraordinary circumstances presented by this pandemic.

Though things will look differently this summer, *Good Sam, Wimberley* will be supporting Wimberley's at risk students by providing them with their own copy of the book *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, which had been chosen for this summer's camp. They have also offered support to help meet students' nutritional needs and are working with Wimberley ISD in other creative ways to address summer slide.

Big Scoop will return in July 2021 and provide a sweet community event to celebrate next summer. Check your future issues of *eNEWS* for information concerning new ways you can volunteer to support children during this summer.

"We will update you as we continue to be all in this together," reassures Judy Holmes.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ONLINE FORMS

FOR FLOWER DEDICATIONS, BIRTHDAYS, WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the comfort of home, save yourself a car trip, and take advantage of visiting the church website to help you make Altar Flower dedications, birthday announcements, and wedding anniversary acknowledgments.

Please note that physical sign up forms in McArthur Hall have been temporarily removed while facility cleaning and repairs are in progress. Online forms, though, are available 24/7.

	Click here to make a wedding anniversary announcement.
	Click here to make a birthday announcement.
	Click here to make flower dedications.



DIRECTORY UPDATE

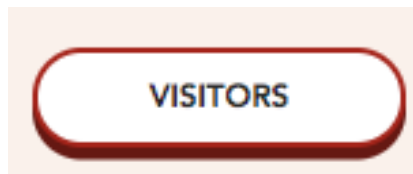
St. Stephen's photo directory coordinator Judy Holmes reports that LifeTouch is in the stages of re-opening and our St. Stephen's photo directory should begin printing around June 30th. Watch your future eNEWS editions for an expected delivery date.



***BRAND NEW!* TEXT MESSAGE TREE ON ITS WAY**

You have heard of phone trees, in which staff and volunteers split up a list of names to contact members to relay important, timely messages. Well, now St. Stephen's will soon be adding a text message tree, which will deliver a text message to your smart phone. If your smart phone's cell number is on file with the church office, you will automatically be included in the text message tree. You will also soon have the option of receiving these messages by text, phone call, email, or "all options." Additionally, there will always be the option of unsubscribing all together or opting out of a previously chosen option.

The type of text messages that you can soon expect to receive include: service reminders and other church alerts. Watch your *eNEWS* for more details.



VISITOR WELCOME CARD ONLINE

If you know someone: a friend, neighbor, or family member, that has been visiting St. Stephen's Church virtually, please let them know about the [new visitor's card](#) on the church website. Even though we are worshipping virtually at the moment, we would love to begin getting to know your friend, neighbor, or extended family. On the [online form](#), they can indicate what kind of information that they would like sent to them and by whom they would like to be contacted. With your help, we can continue to welcome our newcomers.

If you have ideas on helping newcomers to the church, please share your suggestions by emailing, Newcomer Coordinator, [Lydia Baese](#), or Newcomer Team Leads, [Veronica Erwin](#) and [Carla Daws](#).

CCP MEETS THROUGH ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS

Christ Centered Prayer (CCP) has been a ministry at St. Stephens Church for several years. Ordinarily this group meets weekly in the Rector's Office. Due to COVID-19, the

group now meets through Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. CDT for about an hour with Fr. Phil as the coordinator.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20 KJV

Although CCP is an individual contemplative prayer practice, the CCP ministry members have experienced a strengthening of their practice when together, whether in-person or now via Zoom.

If you are new to CCP and are considering joining this ministry, please contact Fr. Phil Mason, pmason@ststeve.org for more information.

ZOOM TIME GETS THEME SONG

Each Wednesday between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Fr. Phil Mason waits, coffee cup in hand, to talk about whatever is on your mind. No appointment is needed, and you can use the same meeting ID and password to Zoom in.



ZOOM TIME LINK

Meeting ID: 824 792 5886

Password: 2468

Thank you to Carroll Wilson and Tom Dawson for creating the entertaining theme song. To listen, [click here](#), and in no time at all don't be surprised if you find yourself singing along to the catchy ditty.



ASK & ANSWER AVAILABLE 24/7

You can now find a form on the church website called ["Ask & Answer."](#) It is available to you 24/7 for all those questions that you don't know quite who to ask. [Fill out the simple form online](#), and we'll get started on your answer.

Community of Hope Ministry



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 JUNE contact:

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



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, office@ststeve.org.

With more than 25 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, eeant@mac.com.

UPCOMING DEADLINES:
12 noon Wednesday or earlier

June 10

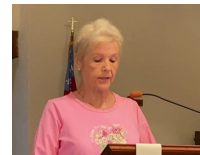
June 24

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC



Life at St. Stephen's continues to be out of the ordinary right now during COVID-19. Although church worship services are 100% virtual for the time being, parishioners are finding inventive ways to extend their love and support to one another and St. Stephen's Church. Thank you to all our recent guest lectors, video greeters, and to you for sharing your comments during the Sunday worship services being aired on YouTube and Facebook. Watch this "In the Life of SSEC" for more shared photos.

"Miss being with our church families, but this service online is wonderful. Thanks to all of you for making this happen." - Kathleen Cline



SUN, MAY 31

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

TH, JUNE 4

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

SUN, JUNE 7

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

TH, JUNE 11

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

SUN, JUNE 14

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

TH, JUNE 18

FRI, JUNE 19

Godly Play Summer Series Episode 1 (online), 10:00 a.m. (YouTube, Facebook)

**Are you on Facebook? YouTube? Instagram?
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!](#)

Stay Connected

