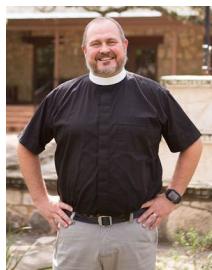


St. Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH Wimberley

November 6, 2020

eNEWS

A Light at the End of the Tunnel by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's,

Over the past eight months our community has waited patiently for some semblance of communal gatherings on the beloved church campus. An enormous part of our communal life together has been disrupted by the effects of this pandemic. This is especially in regards to the regular rhythms of the churches' calendrical seasons. We began in the midst of Lent with the hope to be together for Holy Week and Easter; which passed by quickly. The Easter Season, including the Day of Pentecost, seems like a distant memory. And, the Season after Pentecost, or what is commonly referred to as Ordinary Time, is almost over. It's hard to believe, but we are about to begin the season of Advent at the end of this month!

Hopefully you have been paying attention to the ways in which our communal patient waiting for in-person in-building services is drawing to an end. Since October we have been gathering for Morning Prayer on Tuesday and Thursday in the courtyard. And, beginning this past Sunday on November 1, an 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word service was added to the weekly schedule and is being offered in the courtyard. These services have been extremely helpful as we slowly begin to see a light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a joy to gather together, and I greatly look forward to their continuation.

Since my arrival to St. Stephen's on September 1, the vestry, staff, and various ministry leaders have been working diligently towards in-person in-building gatherings. The introduction of the aforementioned courtyard services has enabled our community to slowly begin gathering again; and I am happy to announce that we hope to begin in-person in-building services on Sunday, December 6th! If all goes as planned, that day we will open the doors to the chapel for the 8:00 a.m. and the church for the 10:30 a.m. services.

Sunday, December 6
in person in building gatherings begin
8:00 a.m. (Chapel)
10:30 a.m. (Church)

Unfortunately, the pandemic has not gone away, and because of this we continue to keep the safety of our community as our primary goal. The services that will begin on December 6 will look different than they did before the pandemic. Each service will be paired down to be accomplished in a tighter time frame, allowing for less time spent indoors. We will also follow the recommendations and policies of the Diocese of West Texas to maintain the safety of all. This will include the wearing of masks, social distancing, temperature checks,

contact tracing, refraining from congregational singing, and distribution of communion in bread form only. I hope and pray that everyone has patience during this time. I especially ask for your patience if, for some reason, we will need to alter these grand plans; which may occur if there is a spread of the virus in our community or if the government and/or diocesan regulations of closing the doors are enforced.

***December 6 Heads-up
for in person in building gatherings***

*mask wearing
social distancing
temperature checks
contact tracing
refraining from congregations singing
bread form only communion*

I am very thankful for the tremendous work of your vestry, staff, and ministry leadership to have our plan for re-gathering come to fruition. Everyone involved has stepped up in a big way to make these gatherings happen in a safe, orderly, and joyous way. We are all also working to begin an occasion of celebration for the St. Stephen's community to be together for Christmas! These plans are in the works, and I hope to share the details with you soon.

Last, but definitely not least, I want to speak briefly about the current state of the nation in regards to the election. We are witnessing one of the most divisive eras that our country has ever experienced. It is ever apparent that this election season, especially the presidential election, has been extremely contentious. As I write this on Wednesday afternoon the presidential election is still too close to call. I pray that whatever the outcome we treat those that differ from us with the respect, dignity, love, and compassion that all of God's creation deserves. Remember, that some of us will be joyous and some of us will be sad; depending on who wins. I pray that the community of St. Stephen's grows stronger during this time of national conflict; as we strive to come together to have the focus of the Gospel and the building up of the Kingdom of God at the forefront of our mission.

Again, I thank you for your patience, support, and compassion during these difficult times for our world, nation, state, and community. If at any time you would like to discuss any of the topics I have mentioned, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. God bless you this day and always.

Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Senior Warden News

by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



Last Sunday, November 1, we enjoyed a beautiful morning in the church courtyard, listening to the organ's music being piped out through an open window during the *Liturgy of the Word* service at 8:00 a.m. *Liturgy of the Word* will be held in the courtyard each Sunday in November beginning at 8:00 a.m. (See separate article in this eNEWS edition for more details.) It was wonderful to see faces of our church family that we have been missing during the pandemic. Following the service of prayer, music, and full sermon, Fr. Kevin held his first Sunday School class at St. Stephen's. The class uses N.T Wright's book, *God and the Pandemic*, and the class can be attended either in person in McArthur Hall at 9:15 a.m. or through Zoom. We send the class Zoom link Sunday mornings. Incidentally, group meetings are still not being held indoors, however, certain staff-driven meetings are allowed. These include Fr. Kevin's adult Sunday School class and Elisa Webster's Kingdom Kids (ages 7-9), Mountain Movers (ages 10-12), and Teens Sunday School classes.

Our Stewardship campaign culminated Sunday, November 1, with a drive-through delivery of pledges. See the "In the Life of SSEC" section of this newsletter for photos. Parishioners had the opportunity to drop off their sealed envelopes containing pledges as well as meet the entire Schubert family! Fr. Schubert will bless the first batch of pledges at the altar this Sunday, November 8. There's still time to [turn in your pledge online](#). Remember pledges are for 2021 and take effect January 1.

Condolences are in order for the families of Anne Stowe and Bill Bedingfield, long time church members who passed away this past week. We also offer condolences to the Wallendorf family who lost all their essentials to a fire in the trailer that they were residing in while their new home is being built. The St. Stephen's School has been coordinating all their meals, and the church has been coordinating a "gift card train." If you would like to lend a hand, please send physical gift cards (GAP, Old Navy, Academy, Visa, Cabela's, and Tractor Supply) to the church office. These can be dropped off during regular office hours: M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. If you are coming to Tuesday or Thursday morning prayer at 9:00 a.m., the gift cards may be placed in the offering basket. Some gift cards have the option of being e-mailed. The e-mail to use if you prefer to send a virtual gift card is: jamie.wallendorf@gmail.com.

Especially during the pandemic and, in fact, year round, many of us find solace, encouragement, and much food for thought reading the "Daily Meditations" sent to our email inboxes each week. T.Cay Rowe has been heading up this ministry for many years. A huge THANK YOU goes out from all of us at St. Stephen's to T.Cay for her leadership, dedication, and creativity. She will be taking a well-earned sabbatical while Carroll Wilson will be stepping into the role of leader for the Meditation Writers. We are so fortunate to have so much talent in our community and look forward to each and every future meditation writing headed our way.

As the pandemic rages on, we are taking baby steps to reunite all of us in worship, in building and in-person. It is our hope to hold indoor services for both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services beginning Sunday, December 6. Thank you all for your patience and support as we strive to keep us all safe.

Blessings,
Nancy

NEWS

THREE MORE VIRTUAL COFFEE HOURS SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars! Fr. Kevin will be hosting three more virtual coffee hours immediately following the 10:30 a.m. CT livestream/no in-person Sunday Holy Eucharist November services. We will send coffee hour Zoom links on Sunday mornings to your e-mail's inbox.



*November 8
November 15
November 22*

Watch your next eNEWS, for more December plans at St. Stephen's.



LITURGY OF THE WORD, SUNDAYS, 8 AM, COURTYARD

Weather permitting, St. Stephen's offers an in-person *Liturgy of the Word* at 8:00 a.m. in the courtyard on Sundays. We hope you will be able to join us for this 40 minute service and feel free to bring your own *Book of Common Prayer*. Lectors lead the Old Testament and New Testament readings, Allen Hennig and Anne Jones provide the music, and Fr. Kevin will deliver a sermon and lead the prayers. The online order of worship e-mailed to you on Fridays for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday livestream no in-person service may also be used for

the 8:00 a.m. *Liturgy of the Word* in the courtyard.

WHAT TO BRING

your own chair

copy of your own prayer book

smart device (for accessing readings)

face mask (be sure to wear)



taking the next step



STEWARSHIP SEASON HIGHLIGHTS by Robert McLemore, Stewardship Chair

Thanks to your generous pledging, as your Stewardship Chair, I consider this year's Stewardship Campaign a wild success. In any way of objective measuring, there is likely cause for concern. However, the Lord truly works in mysterious ways and considering the environment, the stresses, and uncertainties we are all under - I think it was a wonderful season.

For the first time ever, most of the pledges came in from the online opportunity. Everyone using it has exclaimed how easy it was. At the time of this writing, we have about 40 families that have pledged this way. In a last minute move, we set up a Pledge "Drive-Through" to follow our live-streamed 10:30 a.m. no in-person service. No one would have imagined this scenario last year, but we adapted, innovated, and as a result, we received about a dozen more pledges "In the Real World" AND we had folks stop by to celebrate at the Drive-Through that had already pledged online. Thank you to everyone! (See photos of the Drive-Through in the "Life at SSEC" section of this newsletter.)

It should be noted that in comparison to pledges received at this same time last year, we are still way behind. Less than a third of our congregation has pledged. That is likely the least outcome ever. I think I should consider myself, as your chair, a miserable failure, but I am optimistic that per Paul - the Lord gives me the strength to overcome trials. I REALLY didn't want to have to start reaching out to folks individually, but I think that is going to be our next step. In order to continue our mission to the community, we need to make that pledge. Go ahead. There is no better time.

Please pledge on-line now

Pledges may also be mailed to the church office:

*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
6000-A FM 3237
Wimberley, TX 78676*

Another option available to you is to drop off pledges in a sealed and marked envelope at the church office M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Better yet, if you are already at church on Sunday for *Liturgy of the Word* or here on a Tuesday/Thursday for Morning Prayer, simply drop the pledge inside its envelope into the offering plate.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the folks who made this task less of a burden. These are the friends you meet, the friends you deepen your ties to - the people that join you in service to others. Stewardship Committee members Ed Galle and Carla Daws brought great experience and enthusiasm. Nancy Cooke-Jenkins brought her wonderful style and comfort. Jackie McFadden brought her mad skills to this communication thing along with

Hunt Sparra's help with the Stewardship online presence. And I will always value the support and input from Father Kevin and Jeannetta Watson.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: M-TH 8:30 AM UNTIL 4:30 PM



The St. Stephen's Church office is open M-TH beginning 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and available to you during regular hours. If you have an emergency before or after hours, please contact Parish Administrator, Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org.

When visiting the office, please remember to wear your mask.

SIGN UP FOR 1ST ANNUAL WIMBERLEY TURKEY TROT



The Wimberley Ministerial Alliance presents the first annual Wimberley Turkey Trot 5K! In 2020 style, the event is going virtual! Make sure to stretch your legs on Thanksgiving Day by running or walking a 5K. Little ones won't want to miss the Kids 1K. All proceeds will benefit Operation Good Shepherd, a community effort to support families and individuals in need in Wimberley and the surrounding area.

[TURKEY TROT REGISTRATION](#)



DWTX SPRING/SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is now open for 2021 Spring and Summer DWTX camps. Fr. Kevin and Elisa Webster plan on attending the summer camp at Mustang Island and hope you will start making plans to join them as well. By the next eNEWS, we will let you know which session will be the "SSEC week" at Mustang Island. You are welcome to sign up for any session, however, if you prefer going the same week in the summer as other SSEC families, you will want to register for the session that Fr. Kevin will choose for "SSEC week."

Visit the DWTX camp webpage, www.dwtx.org/events, for a full list of events.



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 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](#)

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

GODLY PLAY FALL SERIES: Prophets AIRS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:00 a.m.

In this episode of the Godly Play Fall Series, Darelle Jordan tells the story of the people who forgot who they were and the prophets that helped them hear and see God again. Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster and Tom Dawson lead us in songs of prophets coming to show us the way, prayers, and art activities to make our own chariot, mini box, and door hanger. The story, songs, and prayers will help us all remember to keep close to God.



[YouTube link: GODLY PLAY: Prophets](#)
[Facebook link: GODLY PLAY: Prophets](#)

COMPANIONS: WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT MEETS TUESDAYS 3 PM, COURTYARD

The Women's Grief Support Group: Companions will meet in the courtyard on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m., right before Yoga class, beginning November 10. You are invited to bring your own chair.



For more information, contact: Evie Martin, evieartin@yahoo.com.



ADVENT ACTIVITIES FOR KINGDOM KIDS & MOUNTAIN MOVERS

Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster has a lineup of fun and engaging Advent activities planned for our Kingdom Kids, ages 7-9, and the Mountain Movers, ages 10-12. Your young family members and their friends are invited to the Log Cabin on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Be sure that they are registered for this season's Sunday School. That helps us be better prepared with enough supplies and plan for proper social distancing and other necessary safety precautions at this time.

If you are unable to come in person or would prefer to do the activities at home, please contact Elisa, elisawebster9@gmail.com, so that she can verify your mailing address and send you the matching kit/s.

Advent activities include: making Advent wreaths, Chrismon tree decorations, Christmas cards for Deer Creek residents, and practicing for the Christmas play.

This Sunday, November 8, the Kingdom Kids and Mountain Movers will be learning all about the Saints. On November 15 the children will learn about Hanukkah and the Festival of Lights. The whole family is invited Sunday, November 22 to the Log Cabin to make Advent wreaths together and then invited to listen to the live-stream of the Family Service with Elisa giving the children's homily during the Family Sunday Service.

You don't want to miss out! St. Stephen's wants to learn about your family's holiday traditions, too, so make your way to the Log Cabin and/or Zoom to class. Teachers Donna Hoyland, Melissa Odell, and Jamie Wallendorf look forward to seeing you soon. Remember to wear your mask.

[REGISTER FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL](#)



TAKE 5: EPISODE 24, TRIBUTE TO VETERANS AIRS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 10:00 a.m. CDT

In recognition of our veterans and active service women and men across the ages and across the seas, TAKE 5 host Allen Hennig has chosen the hymn, *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*.

This hymn paraphrases the dangers of traveling on the open sea and is from Psalm 107. Allen reminds us, "The Royal Navy recognized 'Eternal Father, Strong to Save' as their official hymn in the late 19th century, as did the United States Navy. As a result, it has become more universally known as *The Navy Hymn*."

We invite you to sit back and relax and hope you can join us Thursday, November 12 at 10 a.m. CT.

[YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 24 link](#)

[Facebook TAKE 5: Episode 24 link](#)



SEEKING A/V TEAM MEMBERS

A/V ministry teammates Todd Schmidt and Mike Marcionetti are planning the next training session for all those wanting to help St. Stephen's livestream. You will learn how to use the new cameras and software. All experience levels with technology are encouraged to attend the training. After your training, you and your preferred A/V partner will choose which single Sunday a month to run the A/V during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

There will be an opportunity to shadow Todd and Mike before your scheduled volunteer Sunday and a detailed cheat sheet of instructions is kept at the A/V station. If you are a parent or grandparent with a teen in your family, and you are looking for a regular activity to do together, this might be the one!

For more information, contact: Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@steve.org.

HELP NEEDED MAKING SANTA BAGS

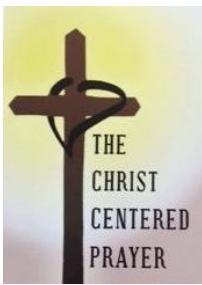


St. Stephen's Santa Adoptions will kick off on Sunday, November 15 with online ordering from the Amazon Smiles St. Stephen's charity account. We will send you all the information next week in a separate e-mail.

In the meantime, there is much we can do to help. Our most immediate need is assistance in making 80 bags for placing the donated items inside. Santa Ministry Leader Sharon Krebs says, "We decided on making the bags about the size of a 13 gallon trash bag, 24" wide by 30" high. That should require about 1 yard of fabric per bag." If you can help out making bags, please let Sharon know about how many you expect to provide.

If you prefer to make an online donation to the Santa Ministry while it is fresh on your mind, visit the church website, <https://www.ststeve.org/online-giving>, and choose "Santa Ministry" in the tithe.ly drop down menu.

If you have questions, please contact: Sharon Krebs, skrebs@realhound.com or call Anita McNabb at (512) 567-5909.



CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

The contemplative prayer ministry, Christ Centered Prayer (CCP), meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. CT on Zoom. No prior experience in meditation is needed. All are welcome. If you are looking to start or have more regularity and perhaps even strengthen your practice in a supported, welcoming, friendly environment, this ministry is waiting for you. For an introduction and Zoom instructions, contact Sharon Carter, sharon.artcart.carter@gmail.com.

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

CCP will NOT meet on Wednesday, November 25, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

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

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

A buzz of excitement filled the air over the past weekend with both school and church activity. Fr. Kevin and his brother formed one of the golfing teams at the school's *Golf-a-thon* fundraiser. Beautiful weather blessed the Texas Hill Country on Sunday, too, and made for clear roads and sunny skies at the *Step UP Sunday Drive-through* as folks came by to drop off their church 2021 pledges.





SAVE THE DATE

SUN, NOV 8

Liturgy of the Word, courtyard, 8:00 a.m.
Kingdom Kids (Log Cabin & Zoom), 9:00 a.m.
Mountain Movers, Log Cabin, 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School (McArthur Hall, Zoom), 9:15 a.m.
Godly Play Fall Series (online), 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom), immediately following 10:30 a.m. service
Teen Meeting, Log Cabin, 5:00 p.m.



MON, NOV 9

Monday Bible Babes (courtyard & Zoom), 12 noon

TUE, NOV 10

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

WED, NOV 11

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

TH, NOV 12

TAKE 5 (YouTube, Facebook), 10:00 a.m.
Thursday Bible Babes, Nancy's home, 5:00 p.m.

SUN, NOV 15

Liturgy of the Word, courtyard, 8:00 a.m.
Kingdom Kids (Log Cabin & Zoom), 9:00 a.m.

Mountain Movers, Log Cabin, 9:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School (McArthur Hall, Zoom), 9:15 a.m.
Godly Play Fall Series(online), 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.
Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom), immediately following 10:30 a.m. service
Teen Meeting, Log Cabin, 5:00 p.m.

MON, NOV 16

Monday Bible Babes (courtyard & Zoom), 12 noon

TUE, NOV 17

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

WED, NOV 18

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

TH, NOV 19

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

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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Director, eeant@mac.com

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