

July 31, 2020

TIME SENSITIVE NEWS & ALERTS



THE HUDDLE

JULY 31, 2020



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Dear St. Stephen's Church Family,

The wait is over! As you probably already have learned from my video message to you yesterday, Thursday, July 30, we have a new rector! Fr. Kevin Schubert hails originally from right here in Texas—Brenham, to be specific. For the last 10 years, he has served as rector for St. George's Episcopal Church and School in Austin, TX.



His first official day as our new St. Stephen's rector will be Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

***New Rector's First Day!
Tuesday, September 1, 2020***

As you will read below, he and his wife, Heather, and two boys, Holden and Harper, are eager to start their new life in Wimberley with us all. Come September, let's all give him a warm welcome through written letters, e-mails, or phone calls. I'm sure Fr. Kevin will have some inventive and safe ways to meet you individually, as well.

Only a few more weeks, people! Watch your newsletters for more details as

they unfold.

Blessings to all,
Nancy

LETTER FROM FR. KEVIN SCHUBERT

Dear St. Stephen's Parish Family & Friends,

My family and I are overjoyed to be called to be your next rector! It is a true blessing and honor to become part of such a vibrant, healthy, and loving community. Over the past several months I have been thoroughly impressed and delighted to learn more about the wonderful church of St. Stephen's. It is clear that there is an excellent foundation of Christ's love, compassion, and grace present; and with an enormous opportunity for growth as well.



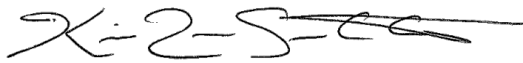
Over the next several months we will get to know each other better, but to begin let me tell you a little about me. I am married to my best friend, Heather, whose vocation is a middle school librarian in the Eanes school district. We have two young boys; Holden is seven and Harper is five. And, we are rounded out by our beloved dog, Willie Nelson. I grew up in Brenham, TX, where my parents still live, and was raised in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. I attended Texas State University in San Marcos studying Anthropology and History. After graduation I was hired by the university as an archaeologist; and actually lived in Wimberley during that time. In 2001 I moved to Houston accepting the position of Director of Ministries at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Heights. My time in Houston afforded many milestones; two of great importance being that Heather and I met, and I discerned a call to ordination. In May of 2004 Heather and I were married, moved to Austin, and I entered into the Seminary of the Southwest that August. I graduated from seminary in 2007 and began my ordained ministry at St. Matthew's in Austin. In May of 2010, I began as the rector of St. George's in Austin.

I have learned many things from God through life's experiences. One of the most valuable being the importance of relationship. In essence, my theology is rooted in a quote from the 13th century theologian Thomas Aquinas, "The one thing our souls desire most is to be in friendship with God." It is this basis that defines my ministry; to be a friend with God in all avenues of life. I have come to realize that to be friends with God is to be in relationship with the people of God. My hope and prayer is that we become friends through God to share the vast enormity of God's love and grace with the world around us. This is why the first thing we are called to do at St. Stephen's is for us to become friends. The first several months of being your rector I will want to hear your stories, and for you to hear mine. Though the current context of being in a global pandemic will hinder this initiative, I know we can find imaginative ways to accomplish it. Once I begin on September 1st I will want to hit the ground running with this initiative, so get ready!

It is our great pleasure to be moving to the Wimberley area and begin our

ministry alongside all of you. I look forward to this next chapter along my faith journey, and am thrilled to do so with such a tremendous church as St. Stephen's. I want to give a special thanks to the search committee, the vestry, and staff for your commitment and devotion to God and the church during the time of discernment. You have been a true delight to work with in discerning our call together, and I look forward to what the future holds in store. May God bless you and keep you this day and always!

Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



[Click for Short Schubert Family Video Greeting](#)

SNEAK PEEK AT OUR NEW RECTOR

by T.Cay Rowe



In the process of interviewing Fr. Kevin Schubert, our search committee learned more about him and we are excited to share these details with you.

Liturgical Style

Describing his liturgical style as "wide ranging," Fr. Schubert believes liturgy done well must be "theologically grounded, communally oriented, and aesthetically pleasing."

Musical Talents

He is a musician himself—he plays with a band that includes two other priest friends—and sometimes uses a drum in processing.

Leadership Style

As far as his leadership style, he says it's collaborative. "After all, the church is made up of all ministries of the baptized, so they should be empowered to lead, engage, and have an active role in the ministries of the church."

Fr. Schubert was the unanimous choice of the Search Committee, co-chaired by Darelle Jordan and Sharon East, as well as the unanimous choice of the Vestry.

"We all agreed that he and his family are a good fit for us," Darelle said. "We are really looking forward to their being part of the St. Stephen's family."

FAITHFUL FUN DAY
VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL
TODAY, JULY 31, 10 a.m.

[***YouTube streaming***](#)

[Facebook streaming](#)

Airing today on St. Stephen's YouTube and Facebook is the fourth episode of a brand new virtual summer Sunday School program called "Faithful Fun Day." ***Today's episode features the Godly Play Sacred Story of The Great Family: Abraham and Sarah.*** In order to tell the story we'll need a piece of the desert. Watch and find out how we get a piece of the desert for our story that will fit into the Godly Play classroom.



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.



TAKE 5: Episode 10
Thursday, August 6, 2020, 10 a.m. CDT
[YouTube link](#)
[Facebook link](#)

Join TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig as he and Anne Jones share the hymn "Take My Life and Let it Be."

"This hymn has always held a special, private place, close to my heart," shares Allen. "The words to this hymn are exactly what my parents taught me about life: how to act, how to feel, how to believe, how to treat others."

Many of you may recall that both Allen and Anne had fathers who were pastors. Their dads both died within the last three to four years. In fact, at Allen's Dad's memorial service, Anne sang this same arrangement by Mark Hayes, that you will hear on this TAKE 5 episode.

Allen and Anne dedicate this song to their memory and ministry and wonder, "Who are you holding close to your heart?" On Thursday, August 6, you are invited to join Allen and Anne as they treat our ears, eyes, and spirit, to a five minute music break on TAKE 5's episode 10.

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](#).

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