



SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

[Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)

We may be quarantined, but the Spirit of Easter is alive and well at St. Stephen's. If you did not see our Easter service on Sunday, April 12, please give yourselves a treat and watch it here on [YouTube](#). Thanks especially to the efforts of Fr. Phil, Allen Hennig, Anne Jones, and Robert McLemore, it was a glorious service, filled with love and joy. The flowered cross and altar flowers were beautiful and uplifting, due to the efforts of Mary McIntosh and Mary Goodwin. *(Article continues below photo.)*



Some of you have been wondering about our pictorial directory. Judy Holmes reports that the company, LifeTouch, has temporarily shut down to comply with "stay at home" orders. We will continue to wait and have another reason to celebrate when we are once again together in-person.

While we are taking this "walk in the park," you might consider volunteering for one of the many ministries SSEC has to offer when we DO return for in-person services. Actually, many of these ministries continue whether we are together or not. In order to introduce you to some of these entities that make our church work, we will be featuring one in each upcoming issue of the *eNEWS*. If you find one you would enjoy, please contact the chair. Ministry contact information and descriptions can be found [here on our website](#). Remember we are all members of this community and the more active we are, the smoother the operation.

Some of you may have missed the letter from me and the Search Committee Chairs, Sharon East and Darelle Jordan, sent to you on Wednesday, April 8, in *The HUDDLE* newsletter. The entire letter is also re-printed and can be found in this issue of *eNEWS*. See below. The comments thus far have been in total agreement with our unanimous decision to wait until the quarantine has been lifted before the Search Committee resumes its work. For the full details, I urge you to read the following article which has the letter printed in its entirety.

For now, let us enjoy a beautiful spring and hope it chases our difficulties away.

*Blessings,
Nancy*

*"Each day comes bearing its own gift.
Untie the ribbon."*

- Ruth Ann Schahacker

SEARCH COMMITTEE LETTER

Recently your Search Committee received a proposal from the Diocese which would allow them to continue the search during this time of quarantine. It would change some of the requirements in order to level the playing field with states having no quarantine in place. The personal visitations would still take place, only electronically.

Essentially, this would mean hiring a Rector, sight unseen, so to speak. There would be no in-person visiting his/her church to hear a sermon and no personal visit here to have a tour of our facilities. This would all be done electronically.



After prayerful consideration on the part of your Vestry and Search Committee, it was decided unanimously that this was not the avenue we wanted to take. We feel that this hiring is too important not to follow the normal procedure of meeting and vetting a prospect in person. Therefore, we will continue to wait until the quarantine has been lifted before the committee resumes its work.

We are a church family, and as in all families, we want to offer what is the greatest good for all involved. Please continue to pray with us and support the plan that has been put in place. We feel that the person who feels called to serve us will wait with us.

Faithfully yours,

*Darelle Jordan, Search Committee Co-Chair
Sharon East, Search Committee Co-Chair
Nancy Jenkins, Senior Warden*

FROM YOUR TREASURER

Your Financial Support Keeps Us Steady

[Roy Buckley](#)



This month we find ourselves bursting with pride and gratitude for our resilient Members whose spirit of generosity and compassion can not be deterred by either a pandemic or economic crisis. St. Stephen's Members have been resolute in maintaining their devotion to both pledge commitments and donations. Our March financials revealed that we are back on track with respect to Pledge revenues and collection plate receipts. In addition to this good news, St. Stephen's March Operating & Staff Expenses have fallen below budgeted expectations, placing our financial picture in a good light, considering the challenges that we all have faced. "Undaunted" should be our rally cry as we move through these difficult days and weeks.

These big challenges we face will not deter us in the next few weeks either, as St. Stephen's is working out the details to put in place additional processes and means through which recurring gifts can be applied via options such as PayPal, Amazon Pay, and Apple Pay. I realize we all long for the good old days where we can simply write a check and place it in the Collection Plates, but that just will not be an option for us in the next few weeks.

We shall remain focused and resolute. While doing so, let's give ourselves a big pat on the back for maintaining the faith that will surely carry us through dark times.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please email me, roy.r.buckley@rice.edu. I look forward to soon seeing all the happy faces repositioned in the pews we have grown accustomed to and where we once again offer to each other greetings and the sign of peace in God's house and under God's blessings.

*Be safe, be cautious, and stay healthy,
Roy R. Buckley, Treasurer*

GIVING

Visit the church website: ststeve.org/online-giving for all your choices:

- Recurring payment using Tithe.ly
 - One-time payment using Tithe.ly
- (Altar Flowers, Back to School Fiesta, First Fruits, Memorial)
- Pledging
 - Sunday Offering
 - smile.amazon.com
 - Checks made out to *St. Stephen's Church* and mailed to:
6000 FM 3237, Unit A, Wimberley, TX 78676



WHY KARST & PIPELINES DON'T MIX

Editor's Note:

The following is excerpted from the April 8, 2020 TESPA Press Release

TESPA ISSUES NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE PERMIAN HIGHWAY PIPELINE FOR CONTAMINATION OF AN UNDERGROUND SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER

WIMBERLEY, TX Attorneys acting on behalf of the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA) today issued a notice of intent to sue the Permian Highway Pipeline LLC (PHP) and its managing partner, Kinder Morgan, for contamination of an underground source of drinking water as a result of PHP construction operations in Blanco County on March 28, 2020.

Of primary concern, and contrary to public comments by Kinder Morgan, the Notice Letter identifies a class 1A carcinogen on the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the drilling mud that contaminated the aquifer and the water supply of area homeowners. Investigation is ongoing by the TESPA legal team to evaluate the risks posed by this carcinogen in the water supply, as well as in the air.

The TESPA full release may be
[read here](#).



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH & APRIL MEETINGS

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 VESTRY MEETING

Your Vestry met by conference call to discuss the letter received from Arch Deacon Mike Besson which outlined how our search committee could continue the rector search via methods other than face-to-face (during COVID-19 quarantine). Vestry unanimously agreed to wait until such time as the virus is no longer a threat.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020 VESTRY MEETING

Your Vestry met by conference call. Roy Buckley gave the Treasurer's Report, Veronica Erwin shared highlights from the ministries, Mike Williamson sent a grounds report, and Father Phil Mason delivered the Rector Report. Senior Warden Nancy Jenkins sent her report by email. Vestry members are watching CDC and governmental guidelines and are prepared to meet more often.

Full reports may be viewed on the [church website](#).



RECAP OF METHODS TO KEEP US CONNECTED

While COVID-19 guidelines are in place, know that St. Stephen's will continue to reach out with:

- check-ins from the Community of Hope ministry volunteers,
- updates from our electronic newsletters called *eNEWS* and *The HUDDLE*,
- worship services through [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#),
- Bible Study classes and ministry meetings through ZOOM and conference calling
- [Chair Yoga](#) & [Gentle Yoga](#) classes by Carla Daws accessed through YouTube
- Sunday School packets mailed directly to your children's home address and emailed to the youth.

If your email and/or physical mailing address has recently changed, and you would like to connect, please contact us: office@ststeve.org. For those that may now wish to resubscribe, we all know things change, and we will be happy to quickly get you back on the mailing list to keep you connected. To resubscribe to church emails, please email: eeant@mac.com and/or office@ststeve.org.

Tip: if you have joined the St. Stephen's Church Facebook and/or YouTube, remember to turn on "notifications" to receive alerts when new worship services are about to start or new postings drop into your smart device.

Second Tip: Each new YouTube stream will also include an option to join the St. Stephen's Church Wimberley YouTube. If you would like to do this, then why not take that opportunity right then and there.

Lastly, if you have additional ideas on how St. Stephen's could keep us connected, please do send these to: jwatson@ststeve.org and/or eeant@mac.com. We love fresh minds and their ideas!



DWTX IMPORTANT MATTERS

THEOLOGY OF GRATITUDE CONFERENCE NOW FREE!

Friday, April 24

The "Theology of Gratitude Conference: Human Expressions While Living in a Complex World" will now be a free, live one-day webinar conference on Friday, April 24, hosted by United Thank Offering (UTO) and Bexley Seabury. Keynote speakers and renowned scholars will explore gratitude as a radical practice that is needed now and as abundant grace given by God that we are all called to share. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

CAMPS & CONFERENCES UPDATES FOR SUMMER 2020

The Camps & Conferences Department shares an update on continuing plans and precautions for Summer 2020. [Click here](#) to read more.



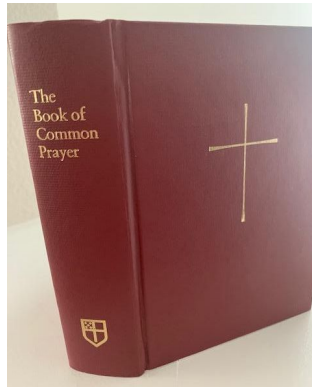
GODLY PLAY STORIES BY DARELLE JORDAN

RECORDED & ONLINE
[**CLICK HERE**](#)

Now you and your family can enjoy Godly Play stories together. These approximately 15 minute stories were originally recorded by Fr. Phil Mason for Lent and Good Friday. Although Godly Play stories are particularly enjoyed by PK4 through

Kindergarten ages, many adults, teens, and older children look forward to "settling in" for a *Great Story* told by Godly Play teacher Darelle Jordan.

I wonder which story you will choose to listen to first and what messages are awaiting for just your ears and eyes?



BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE
[CLICK HERE](#)



More Yoga Routines Available
[Click here](#) for Chair Yoga Session 2
[Click here](#) for Gentle Yoga Session 2

Carla Daws is offering free Chair and Gentle Yoga classes available to us online. You can find both Session 1 and Session 2 routines on [St. Stephen's YouTube](#). Each session is free standing, meaning one does not have to be done before the other. Enjoy these routines as often as you would like and in any order. Look for Session 3 classes coming your way in May. Stay tuned.

THANK YOU, CARLA!



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR DAY AT SSEC

ATTN: Parents, grandparents, and guardians of graduating high school seniors

Each May, St. Stephen's Church honors our seniors in a special tribute and presentation of the senior blankets. We want to be sure to include your high school senior. Let Elisa know you will be there! Send digital headshot photos to: eeant@mac.com **by Friday, May 8.** Stay tuned for more details.

MAY PACKETS ON THEIR WAY

Be on the lookout in your email's inbox for the next part in our series on fear and how to talk together. Keep checking your home's mailbox, too, for the beads to arrive. You'll need these to make your very own Anglican rosary. If you have JH/HS friends and neighbors that would like a packet sent to them, let Elisa know.

ELISA GIVES SERMON ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Our very own Family & Youth Minister, Elisa Webster, will be delivering the sermon in our virtual Sunday Morning Prayer on April 19 at 10:30 a.m. CDT. Find out what Elisa has to say about "Precious Gold" by logging into the St. Stephen's Church [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

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



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Thank you for relaying your family's stories about how you used the palm fronds to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday and how excited your children were to receive their Easter packets.

We are now heading into our two part series on fear and how to talk together. Very soon you will be receiving a new packet which includes a lesson and accompanying craft materials for an activity.

Elisa has some more exciting news for families! She will be delivering the sermon on Sunday, April 19, during the Morning Prayer service. Be sure to gather the family around the computer or smart tv to watch at 10:30 a.m. CDT on [YouTube](#).

As of this week, we continue to plan for the family events you see below. If things change, we will be sure to let you know. And, if you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, contact: Elisa Webster, elisawebster9@gmail.com.

Although you see scheduled events below, please be aware that we continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make adjustments as necessary. As you may notice all in-person April events have been canceled.

Friday, May 8	6:00 p.m.	McArthur Hall	Kid's Fun & Faith/Parent's Date Night
Saturday, May 16	1:00 p.m.	Courtyard	Church & School Picnic



GROUPS MEETING VIRTUALLY

While we continue to follow COVID-19 guidelines and are unable to meet in-person, several ministries, classes, and groups are now meeting virtually. See the chart below for details. If your group is not on the list below and would like to be added in the next eNEWS, please email, Jackie McFadden, eeant@mac.com.

Monday Bible Babes	12:30 p.m.	ZOOM	contact: Cindy Taylor
Thursday Bible Babes	12:30 p.m.	teleconference	contact: Nancy Cooke-Jenkins
Cancer Support		email, text, phone	contact: Sharon East & Dave Boyd
Grief Support		email	contact: Evie Martin



DAILY MEDITATIONS ON CHURCH WEBSITE

Each Friday a week's worth of "Daily Meditations" written by the St. Stephen's Meditation Team of writers is emailed directly into the email inboxes for those that have indicated they would like to receive emails from St. Stephen's. If you are not receiving your "Daily Meditations" or would like to be added to the list to receive church emails, please email: office@ststeve.org for help.

We also keep a repository of "Daily Meditations" on the church website, <https://www.ststeve.org/daily-meditations>. You can always find the current and past meditations by clicking the worship tab on the home page and choosing "Daily Meditations."



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 APRIL contact:
Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, nmjenkins@austin.rr.com or Kristen Schmidt, tkschmidt@anvil.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

April 29
May 13

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

A year ago, who would have predicted that St. Stephen's Church would be streaming its Holy Week and Easter services! Yet, we did. Thank you for participating in this new way to be together. Until the time when we can be together again for in-person services and activities, we hope you enjoy these latest photos and comments.



More than 200 palm crosses were made in time for pickup.



The Dentons are ready for Palm Sunday.



The Gibson family says, "It's time for Palm Sunday."



On Maundy Thursday, we were graced with a candlelit service.



On Good Friday, Fr. Phil Mason pointed out the stripped altar and the stripping of our other trappings.



People joined the streamed Easter Service from Texas, California, and Florida.

COMMENTS:

"I cannot remember a more moving, powerful, and beautiful Maundy Thursday service. My thanks for providing this spiritual event for me and for us all. This is not a lesson I wished to learn; however, the crisis has taught me that physical proximity is not a requirement to be totally immersed in worship together." - Sharon East

"Marvelous singing and beautiful chapel." - Linda Jennett

"There was something about the chanting that moved my spirit so powerfully. Thank you, Allen." - Linda Lang

"Beautiful service. The altar is so well embellished. Great sermon by Fr. Phil. Vocals are fabulous. I feel like I am there with you." - Tom Dawson

"A beautiful reminder that all things are possible through God. Thanks be to Him." - Joe Blanford



SUN, APRIL 19

Sunday Morning Prayer (online), 10:30 a.m. (YouTube, Facebook)

SUN, APRIL 26

Sunday Morning Prayer (online), 10:30 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

