

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

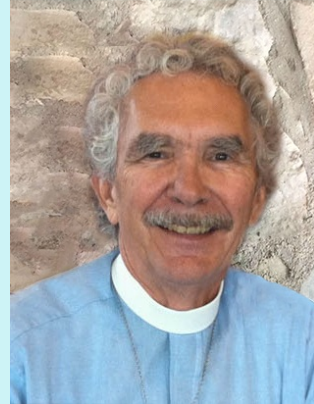
Unexpected Delights

Fr. Phil Mason, Interim Rector

My Dear Friends,

What an incredible way to start off the third week of August! On Sunday, August 18th, as I looked out that morning over the sanctuary filled with the combined congregations, my heart sang and my forearms sprouted goosebumps. The Holy Spirit was swirling amongst us all, filling our hearts. And, there looking back at me were about 140 of our faithful members with the hope for the future clearly evident upon their faces, as was my own. And the Spirit rode with us from the sanctuary to McArthur Hall as about 110 of us readied ourselves for the Parish Profile Workshop. I think our numbers were far, far more than anyone expected. So often meetings like these are -- what can I say -- less than exciting and not well attended. Not so here! For on this spirit-filled Sunday, we continued to be led through the *Taco Line* where deliciousness was served and almost \$900 was left in the basket for the Youth's mission fund.

The Parish Profile Workshop itself proved to be extraordinary! So much enthusiasm and positive input. Even the occasional "need for improvement" was received in the best of spirit. There is much to report from the meeting, and I can't wait to see the pictures and read more highlights in the upcoming eNEWS issues.



"It was at that moment that I realized how incredibly important our school is to so many people." - Fr. Phil

Monday was another unexpected delight. I officiated at the Back to School Convocation Ceremony for our St. Stephen's School.

Being a little new at this, I imagined that there would be a small gathering in which we would install Amanda Ebner, the new head of school, the 2019-2020 school staff, and anoint the hands of the teachers. I knew the school board members and trustees and church Vestry members would be there. However, I soon discovered that things were about to rocket to a whole new level. My first clue came when Charlotte Carter arrived in the Narthex with five acolytes dressed in their robes and Charlotte, herself, in her Verger attire. Hmmm, this is a little more formal than I thought. *But, where are the teachers?* Then, to my astonishment, the side door to the Narthex opened and into the Chapel, lo and behold, marched in the missing teachers! the parents! and about 75 beautiful children wearing their St. Stephen's shirts, all of whom were quickly filling up the pews. As we took our places and I approached the altar, turned around, and looked out over the room at all those beautiful faces, I was so moved that I wasn't sure I could continue.

My dear friends, I wish that every one of you could have been there in person. It was at that moment that I realized how incredibly important our school is to so many people -- important to the whole community that we serve.

St. Stephen's Episcopal School was established in 1989 under the auspices of the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas and has since been an excellent choice for families who desire a sound educational and religious foundation for their young children. St. Stephen's Church can be proud of the school's 40 year service to the Wimberley Valley.

*Peace and love to all,
Phil+*

SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins

Did you feel it? Did you feel the positive energy flowing through McArthur Hall on this past Sunday? Our count of 118 enthusiastic parishioners filled McArthur Hall to participate in our Parish Profile Workshop led by Archdeacon Mike Besson.

It wasn't long before we were seated at tables and given three guiding questions to answer.

1. What is best?
2. What should change?
3. What to share with candidates (for our new rector)?

Each person first wrote his/her own answers and then time was spent in small groups consolidating the thoughts of the table. Lastly, these consolidated thoughts from the more than 12 tables, were presented to the entire room. It was amazing how aligned we were in what we liked about our St. Stephen's community. Two words stand out for me:

*Diversity
Welcoming*

We also had great suggestions on what we could improve upon, do differently, and not to do at all. Our wish list for the attributes of the new rector were also closely in line.

It was an amazing day! For those of you who missed it, you will be receiving a survey to complete, and we request that you return it to the church office with alacrity. In fact, all members will receive a copy of the survey to use for further reflection. Your responses to this survey provide the basis that the diocese will use to create the St. Stephen's profile that is then sent to our Vestry for their approval to ultimately show to prospective new rectors.



*Please give careful consideration to each question.
It's from your answers that the profile will be formulated.*

It was evident on Sunday that this is a very united church, even though we may have differing opinions. We aspire that St. Stephen's truly and naturally embody the sentiment:

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

KUDOS!!! To the volunteers in the kitchen on Sunday, August 18, who provided the brunch tacos. They were delicious and everyone of them was eaten! Thanks also to the generosity of the parishioners who donated more than \$800 for the Youth program. We are so proud of you!!

*Yours,
Nancy*

*"A comfort zone is a beautiful place, but nothing ever grows there."
- Anonymous*



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Co-chairs: [Sharon East](#) and [Darelle Jordan](#)

Be on the lookout in your e-mail's in-box or your postal box for a copy of the survey that was handed out at the August 18 Parish Profile Workshop. All St. Stephen's members are encouraged to reflect further upon the qualities we wish to see in our next rector and to return the survey responses either by:

- e-mail to jwatson@ststeve.org
- snail mail to the church office, 6000 FM 3237, Unit A, Attn: Jeannetta
- in a sealed envelope in the offering plate.

**DEADLINE FOR RESPONSES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**



CHURCH DIRECTORY COMING SOON

Stay tuned for more details to come as we make plans for a St. Stephen's Photo Directory of our members.

TED Talkers

Wednesday, August 28 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall



Please join us Wednesday, August 28 at 12 noon for the viewing of "Where joy hides and how to find it" by Ingrid Fetell Lee.

Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month members, guests, and the general public are invited to St. Stephen's Church to enjoy an open, facilitated discussion of various, timely topics. On those days, we watch a pre-selected TED Talk video at 12 noon, eat our brown bag lunch, and discuss the topic in a non-judgmental setting with coffee and water provided. It all wraps up by 1:00 p.m. You are encouraged to bring a friend, neighbor, and join in the next sure-to-be lively, mind-stimulating discussion. We'll save you a seat!

TED TALKERS

SUMMER 2019 SCHEDULE

AUGUST 28, 2019
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

For more information, contact: Jo Bourke, jobourke33@gmail.com, 512-468-1267.



AUGUST DEER CREEK SERVICES

Wednesday, August 28 @ 3:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 RR 3237, Wimberley

On August 28 at 3:00 p.m., SSEC's Community of Hope will share a Holy Eucharist service with the residents as part of the regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month ministry. **All are welcome to attend.**

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net and Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net.



MON FALL BIBLE BABES (ACTS)	Mondays @ 12 noon <i>beginning September 9</i>	Becky Denton and Cindy Taylor
TH FALL BIBLE BABES (ROHR)	Thursdays @ 12 noon <i>beginning September 5</i>	Nancy Cooke-Jenkins
TUES CO-ED BIBLE STUDY (ROHR)	Tuesdays @ 10:45 a.m. <i>beginning September 3</i>	Bob Reed
SUN MORNING BIBLE STUDY (ROHR)	Sundays @ 9:15 a.m. <i>beginning September 8</i>	Bob Reed
SUN MORNING BIBLE STUDY (ACTS)	Sundays @ 9:15 a.m. <i>beginning September 8</i>	Becky Denton

Fall means the beginning of a whole new line-up of classes here at St. Stephen's. We know you are excited to get started, and we wish to share with you a preview of what to expect after Labor Day.

[Bob Reed](#) is planning on working his classes through a discussion of Richard Rohr's new book, *The Universal Christ*. Fr. Rohr is a Franciscan monk with a broad ecumenical approach and a prolific writer and speaker. Many subscribe to his daily meditations from the Center for Action and Contemplation.

"Rohr's writings are steeped in Scripture so we'll be delving into the Bible extensively, covering 15-20 pages of reading each week," explains Bob.

The same discussion material is planned to be offered twice a week on Tuesday and Sunday mornings at church. You can participate in either. The book is available from Amazon in hardback and paperback or in Kindle format. *See chart above for specific class start dates and times.*

The Thursday Bible Babes will also be using *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr, and the first meeting will be at Nancy Jenkins house on Thursday, September 5, 12 noon. All women are welcome.

The Monday Bible Babes will study Acts and use the N.T. Wright study series. They meet at various locations at 12 noon. See chart for start date and contacts. All women are welcome.

Bob and Becky Denton will be teaching a Sunday bible class at 9:15 a.m. and will study Acts and use the N.T. Wright study series.

"You are invited to join us for a story of travel, riots, jail time, storms, and ship wreck, but most of all a story that we are part of, as we strive to follow Jesus and work for His Kingdom," explains Becky.



Church Office Closed
Labor Day, September 2, all day

We wish you a, "Happy and Safe Labor Day Weekend!" as you fire up the grill and throw those inner tubes into the river. The church office will be closed all day, September 2, and will re-open for regular business hours, Wednesday, September 3, 8:30 a.m.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Sunday, September 8, 2019
6:00 p.m., McArthur Hall

Dinner Buddies Kickoff



**Dine in or Dine out.
Dinning together
is what it's all About.**

Have your forks ready on Sunday, September 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m. as we begin another scrumptious six-month season of Dinner Buddies, led by Clark and Corlea Burnett. It's a tasty way to meet more of your fellow members at St. Stephen's Church.

At our kickoff, we'll receive our final instructions, sign up for small groups, and enjoy a potluck dinner together. Small groups meet monthly at either a member's home or at a local restaurant. Your group decides. The new season runs October, November, January, February, March, and April. (We DO NOT meet in December.) Registration opens during September or at the Dinner Buddy Kick-Off and is on-going for the season. Hard copies of the new season's registration form will also be available in McArthur Hall.

If your last name begins with:
A-M: bring a side dish or dessert
N-Z: bring an entree.

**For more information, contact:
Corlea Burnett, corleaburnett@gmail.com, 901-356-4322**



FALL ROADSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULED

Saturday, September 14

McArthur Hall

Becki, Jon, Mike, and Todd, our Roadside Ministry leaders promise us that "temperatures should go down after Labor Day, just in time for our next Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, September 14th."

Volunteers should plan on meeting in McArthur Hall between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. for bags, grabbers, partners, and vests. Do let Becki know if you can come and whether you have a specific person you would like to work alongside. If enough people sign up, volunteers will have approximately a mile to walk. The trash bags will be picked up if you leave full bags on the side of the road. There will be water and snacks at St. Stephen's in McArthur Hall.

"Remember, first come/first pick of road section," Becki advises.

Todd, Mike, Jon, and Becki really appreciate everyone who comes out to help. It's good clean fun and a new way to meet people, working together to make this part of the world a better place, all in one morning!"

The roadside volunteers will be cleaning up along the communities of River Mountain Ranch, Rolling Oaks, and Los Lomas. If you know neighbors or friends that live in these communities, encourage them to come share in the fun on Saturday, September 14.

"The more the merrier, and the roadside looks so good when we are finished," assures Becki.

For more information , contact: Becki Smith, colorsmith1@yahoo.com



NEWCOMERS' DINNER & GET TOGETHER

Sunday, September 15, 5:00 p.m.

Newcomers are invited to a casual get together at Veronica Erwin's lovely home in the country. No need to bring anything. We'll enjoy dinner together, a visit from Fr. Phil Mason, Senior Warden Nancy Jenkins, and Parish Administrator Jeannetta Watson. This is a wonderfully, relaxing way to meet other new friends and learn more about St. Stephen's and what we can offer to you and your family.

Childcare is provided. Please remember to [RSVP](#) how many children and their ages will be attending. Look for additional information to appear in your inbox and mailbox

soon.

For more information , contact: Veronica Erwin, veronicaerwin47@gmail.com.



Yoga Returns
Tuesday, September 17, 4 p.m.

Yoga classes with Carla Daws will return on Tuesday, September 17, 4:00 p.m.



More than \$2K Raised!

The generous contributions from St. Stephens gave \$2075 to support Barnabas with the purchase of backpacks and school supplies for Wimberley children in need who attended the Back to School Fiesta Saturday, August 9. The 474 children were all smiles as they selected their backpacks and received the supplies they will need to have a successful school year. The Lions Club performed 57 eye screenings and made nine referrals for further testing. Hair stylists did 63 haircuts!

"It was a busy morning and a great Fiesta," reports Linda Reed.



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH NURSERY

Joining SSEC Nursery Manager, Chu Robertson, is mother and daughter team, Miranda and Katy Lewis. WELCOME! Let's extend a big, Texas-sized *"Howdy"* to these staffers who look after our youngest flock each and every Sunday morning. We sure do appreciate seeing their happy, smiling faces as they greet us at the door.

In addition to being skillful at early child development, this duo has experience catering, including a gig that led to meeting Willie Nelson at the Whitewater Amphitheater. They've made it all including: BBQ, mediterranean, fajitas, breakfast, and their specialty, customized mini desserts.

When daughter Miranda is not in the Church Nursery, you may catch a glimpse of her playing the flute with the Wimberley High School band on a football night. When mother Katy is not at St. Stephen's, you will find her teaching middle school special education.

We're so grateful to have them with us at St. Stephen's and appreciate all they do including Miranda's many years as an acolyte.

"We love being at St. Stephen's. It has been a very supportive church," voices Katy.

STAFF & LEADERSHIP UPDATES

- MARY MCINTOSH has joined the Vestry. She will finish out Greg Estes' term, who has moved to Illinois to be closer to family.
- ALLEN HENNING is serving as our interim pianist.

We are grateful to Mary and Allen for jumping in to help out.



Wednesdays @ 10 a.m. in the Chapel

The Holy Eucharist Worship and Healing Service has returned. Please note that the day of the week is now on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel.



EVENING EUCHARIST & PRAYER

featuring the Half-time Band

Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for eucharist, prayer, and contemporary music.

SSES ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ST. STEPHEN'S
Episcopal School**

Wimberley, Texas • Founded 1989



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
5th Annual
GOLF TOURNAMENT

SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER
SEPT 28 QUICKSAND GOLF COURSE
WIMBERLEY, TEXAS
BBQ LUNCH PRIZES & AWARDS
BENEFITING ST. STEPHEN'S
CHECK-IN: 8 AM EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
SHOTGUN START: 9 AM IN WIMBERLEY, TEXAS

TO REGISTER: 512-847-9857 OR OFFICE@STSTEPHENSWIMBERLEY.ORG



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PER TICKET
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DRAWING
WILL TAKE PLACE
AT THE ST. STEPHEN'S
GOLF TOURNAMENT ON
SEPTEMBER 28TH.
Need not be present
to win.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
call 512-847-9857
or visit www.ststephenswimberley.org

Community of Hope Ministry

HOPE
LIVES

Do you need someone...

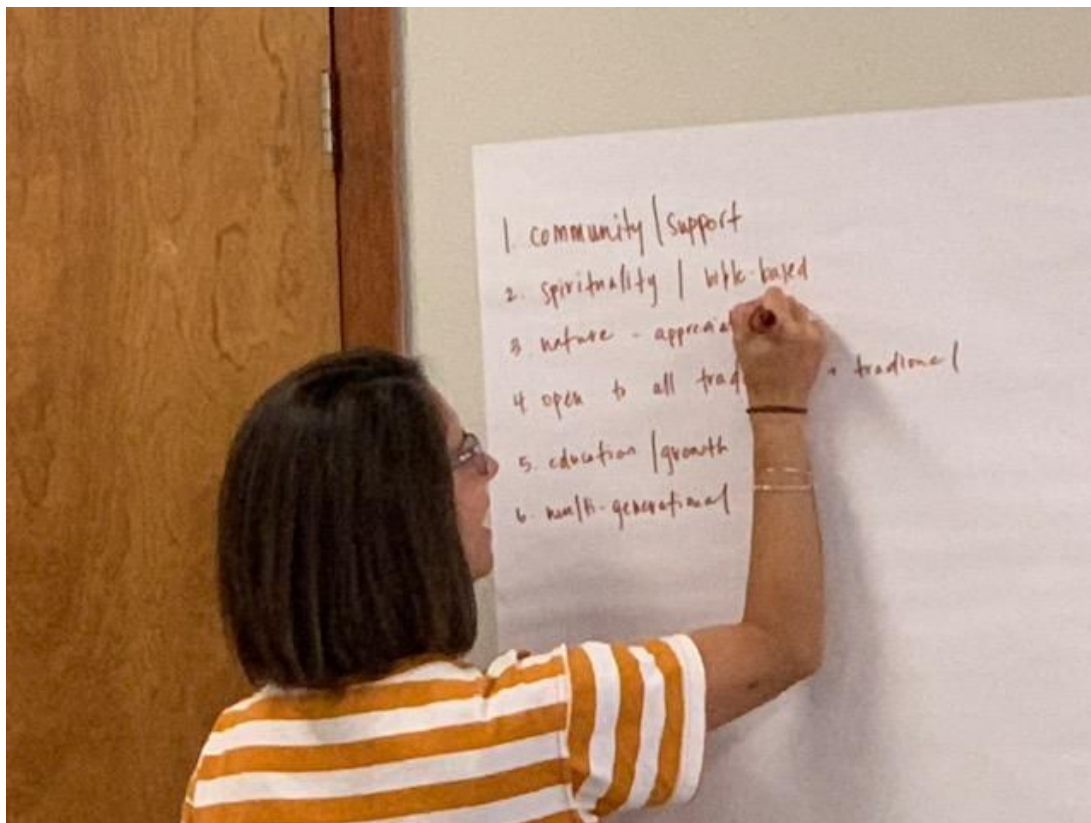
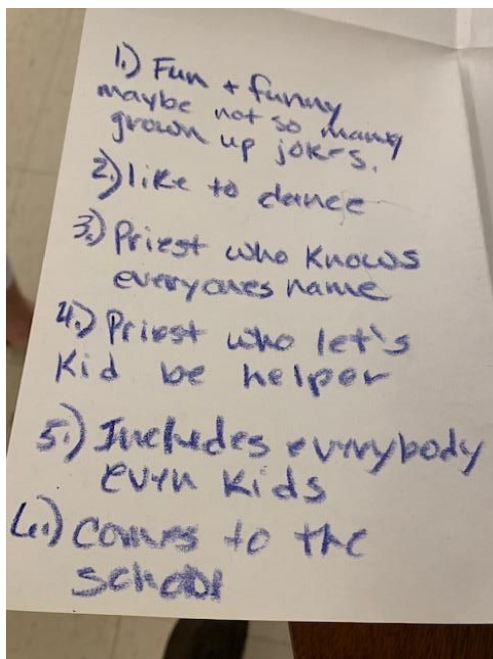
*To listen, without judgment, to what is weighing on your heart?
To recognize your needs and respect your rights to your feelings?
To honor any conversation with complete confidentiality?
To support you as you take steps of change on your journey?
To just walk with you and let you be you.*

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 AUGUST and SEPTEMBER, contact:
Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com or Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com

LIFE AT SSEC

We had more than a dozen small groups and a total of 118 people enthusiastically participating in the August 18 Parish Profile Workshop. Darelle Jordan collected the children's comments, which were received with delight. See some of their comments below in the blue crayon list. Let's give a *shout out* to the "kitchen crew" who played double duty on Sunday, August 18. Not only did they serve up delicious tacos that supplied us with fuel to think, they also found the time to deliver their small group's comments. And, of course, an extra special THANK YOU to Archdeacon Mike Besson for his skillful and entertaining job facilitating this worthy event.



Newsletter

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.

With more than 20 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](#).

UPCOMING DEADLINES:
12 noon Wednesday or earlier

September 4
September 18



SAVE THE DATES

WED, AUG 28

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

WED, AUG 28

Deer Creek Eucharist, 3:00 p.m., (OFFSITE): Deer Creek Wimberley

MON, SEPT 2

Labor Day Holiday, Church Office Closed, All Day

SUN, SEPT 8

Dinner Buddies Kickoff, 6:00 p.m., McArthur Hall

SAT, SEPT 14

Roadside Cleanup, 7:00 a.m., McArthur Hall

SUN, SEPT 15

Newcomers Dinner, 5:00 p.m., (OFFSITE), Veronica Erwin's home

Are you on Facebook? 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. if you have any questions.
(During June and July, the church office is closed on Fridays.)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)