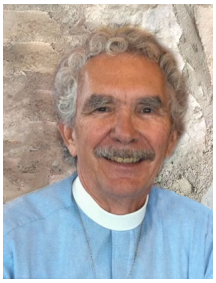
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Wimberley eNEWS
June 12, 2020

Letter from the Rector
"You've Got to be Taught" by Rev. Phil Mason



No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, then can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." - Nelson Mandela

I think, I hope these days will be remembered for a very long time, as days of pandemic and days of social upheaval collide in spectacular fashion. It would be so easy to rant about the tragic death of George Floyd and everything it represents. Make no mistake it was and is a tragic and horrific crime among way too many such crimes. It has caused me to wonder again, how in God's name did we come to this place in our country's history? It's a very long story, however, let's try to remember again.

Slavery came to our shores with the first explorers and settlers but the historians have marked August of 1619, when a ship brought approximately 20 slaves from Africa to Point Comfort, Virginia. As I ponder the question of slavery, it occurs to me that the view one must take to enslave and hold as chattel another human being is that the slave is somehow less than human. This brings to mind the iconic phrase in The Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.

Our country was founded on some very lofty and noble ideals, yet Jefferson wrote that line and he as many of the founders were slave owners. Doing a little research I found that some historians say, "By saying all men were 'created equal,' Jefferson intended to abolish the system of hereditary aristocracy, where some individuals were born as lords and others were ordinary." Nevertheless, that phrase has been reinterpreted to stand for one of the fundamental tenants of Judeo-Christian faith and most of the world's great religions--that all men and women were and are created equal.

The idea that slavery was wrong or immoral had been brewing for a long time. In 1772 English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton wrote of his epiphany, which was to become the familiar hymn "Amazing Grace."

As time moves on to 1862, Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation, which ultimately led to the Civil War. That war was more about states' rights and the economic impact of the emancipation on the industrial and economic systems mainly in the South. The moral ethical nature of slavery itself was hardly a cause for war.

Following the war, The Reconstruction era, which lasted from 1863 to 1877 ended remnants of Confederate secession and abolished slavery. This made the newly freed

slaves citizens with all the civil rights ostensibly guaranteed by the three new constitutional amendments.

The so called "Jim Crow" laws were enacted in the late 19th and 20th centuries by white state legislatures mostly in the South to disenfranchise and remove any political and economic gains made by blacks during the Reconstruction period. They passed state and local laws that enforced racial segregation and effectively took away virtually all the civil rights of the former slaves. In the years and decades since this time, people we now call African Americans have been an outcast culture that has struggled for the rights that were promised in The Constitution. In those days, racism was not really a concept that was discussed and segregation was the law of the land. Hatred was everywhere between the races as hatred and prejudice was handed down from generation.

I was born in 1940. At home I was not taught to hate--my peers and culture taught me that--but at home, I was taught prejudice and disrespect toward the black people and that they were inferior. My family regarded black people with a kind of patronizing benevolence. The culture I grew up in was entirely segregated and among my peers' hatred. Blacks were mistreated in some cruel and violent ways.

Then the Civil rights movement of the 1960s came. Protest and violence was rampant. The Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 were passed and some good came, but here we are in 2020 still seeking "liberty and justice for all."

Is there hope? Of course there is, but it is going to take a long while. For centuries young white children have been taught that Africans or black people or slaves were inferior, dangerous, to be feared and even hated.

"You've got to be taught before it's too late
Before you are six or seven or eight
To hate all the people your relatives hate. .."
- Oscar Hammerstein, South Pacific

In the play it was love that conquered hate in the end, and I think it will be love that will be the solution to our problem yet.

For centuries young white children have been taught that Africans or black people or slaves or African Americans were inferior, dangerous, to be feared and even hated. I can't use the words or names or slurs that were used. Early on this was generally understood to be true of everyone. Hundreds of years later we are still suffering the consequences of that flawed doctrine.

There is no law that can be passed or doctrine that can be preached that will bring the kind of cultural change that is needed to bring us all together as one. It will take a long time for this hatred and bigotry to be wiped away and become simply something you read in the history books. I sincerely hope and pray that the protestors of the oppression will persist in their impatience for as long as it takes.

At the same time, I pray that generations of new mothers and fathers will be teaching their children that all men and women are equal in the sight of God and love will be the law of our hearts.

Until that day, is there hope? Of course there is. My hope lies with our young people. I am very moved by the multitude of young people--teenagers--that are taking part in the protests.

Generation after generation we give birth to our children and teach them. I know that these young people of all races and colors will be carefully teaching their children.

"You've got to be taught to love
people whose eyes are oddly made
And people whose skin is a different shade
You've got to be carefully taught."
-Oscar Hammerstein, South Pacific

Senior Warden News
by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins

Those of us who were coming of age in the 50s and 60s probably remember a song by the Coasters titled "Searchin'." Well, we don't have a Northwest Mountie, Sam Spade, or Boston Blackie, but we do have our intrepid Search Committee leaders: Sharon East and Darelle Jordan and their merry band of 11, who are back on the trail of finding that special person to be our next rector. Please pray for their discernment for this most important selection.

Some of you have asked about "in person" gatherings in church to resume study classes and social activities. These are still excluded in Phase II. We will see what Phase III has to say. However, knowing how we all long to see one another, we are tickled to announce that **Virtual Coffee Hour using Zoom will begin this Sunday at 12 noon on June 14 and 21st.** There is a special children's coffee hour equivalent that will be held on Sunday, June 28. *(See separate article "Donut Sundays.")* We'll be sending you the link each Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m. to both the service and coffee hour.

Speaking of this weekend, don't forget! Our very own Karen Morris will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 13. For those who wish, they can watch the ordination virtually, starting at 12 noon. Use these links:

DWTX Facebook account
DWTX Vimeo account

If you happened to have watched our Pentecost service, wasn't that a beautiful version of an Irish lullaby sung by Elle Fox, the granddaughter of Charlie and Nancy Henson?! If you missed it, you can still catch this beautiful voice from a beautiful girl on the church YouTube Sunday Service playlist.

We have been blessed that our church family, as far as we know, has thus far, escaped contracting the coronavirus. We did have reports in March of possible out-of-state relatives returning from college who had contracted the virus, and are now recovered. I believe part of our success to our church family remaining free of the virus thus far, is because we have NOT opened the doors for in-person Sunday services. With the number of active cases in Hays County on the rise, and the fact that we have no vaccine nor treatment readily available yet, rest assured, we will stay the course and will continue to keep our church family's health and safety a priority in every decision we make going forward. I welcome your thoughts and input. Email me, nancycookejenkins@gmail.com, any time!

"In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."
-Anne Frank

FEATURE

COMMUNITY OF HOPE:
"The Two-way Gift of the Holy Listener"
by Jackie McFadden

"You are suddenly faced with the terminal illness of a loved one and you cope with your chin up, yet you feel helpless and hopeless. Then someone calls just to ask how you are doing."

"I was pregnant and assigned a Community of Hope caregiver. She was so kind and

kept up with me throughout my pregnancy and afterwards."

"They were life savers to me during both surgeries--mine and my husband's. They were just there."

St. Stephen's Community of Hope (COH) and its band of 22 holy listeners have been here for our church and school families and the larger community for 20 years and counting. St. Stephen's is one of 125 COH centers. What once started as a training program at St. Luke's Hospital in Houston, Texas, for hospital chaplains under the guidance of The Rev. Helen Appelburg, is now a community with an international reach with other centers as far away as British Columbia, Canada, Mexico, and Malawi, Africa.

So, what exactly is Community of Hope?

What all COH centers have in common is they serve as places to train individuals in the art of compassionate listening, also referred to as active listening, through the Rule of St. Benedict. Balance, humility, and hospitality are the hallmarks of St. Benedict's Rule that is 1500 years old and has been distilled into such practical language that it remains relevant today.

Another commonality among the 125 centers is that they all use the same 40-hour training curriculum that was created by The Rev. Helen Appelberg. At St. Stephen's, this curriculum is taught over three Saturdays, all day, with the remaining training hours performed on-site at a local hospital or nursing home, in the form of an internship.

Something notable is that even though the Episcopal Church was the beginning of today's COH, this ministry is meant for all denominations, and other faiths and traditions are invited to come and learn as well. The original ministry was intended as training to become a hospital chaplain and has now expanded the training to become lay chaplains in a variety of settings: hospitals, rehabilitation centers, churches, and retirement centers.

How did it get started at St. Stephen's?

"Carrie Watson worked at St. Stephen's. She was assigned by our rector at the time, The Rev. Mac Keeble, to 'train a bunch of people to do hospital visits.' She researched this and found COH through a newsletter and contacted The Rev. Helen Appelburg, who provided the training materials. Helen is considered the 'mother of Community of Hope' and that's how we got started at St. Stephen's," explains Sharon East, one of the six COH coordinators at St. Stephen's. The other five coordinators include: Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, Becky Denton, Dot Green, Connie Maverick, and Kristen Schmidt. As a COH center, the coordinators conduct trainings here onsite at St. Stephen's, are part of the pastoral team working in tandem with the rector on referrals, and the group holds congregation-wide events such as Quiet Day.

Who Can Use COH? How do I get started? What can I expect?

While most of the COH requests for help come through referrals from either the St. Stephen's rector or Jeannetta, our Parish Administrator, anyone is invited to contact one of the six coordinators. *(See their e-mail addresses at the end of this article.)* Everything is kept in the strictest of confidence, and there is no charge for COH's help.

“Some people are hesitant to call on us because it’s the Texas way to handle your own problems,” begins Nancy Cooke-Jenkins. “I don’t think the general congregation understands, though, the person asking for help is actually being very strong.”

Community of Hope can fit a variety of situations when the timing is right: broken leg and subsequent rehabilitation, chronic illnesses and conditions like cancer or autoimmune disorder, degenerative diseases, divorce, becoming a new parent, marriage, moving, loneliness, job loss or change, and end of life transitioning, to name just a few.

“We work very hard to match up caregivers and receivers based on the care requested and take into account personalities, commonality, and interests,” shares Kristen Schmidt. “We emphasize and stress privacy with all our care givers. I believe that saying your problems out loud helps you work through them. Sometimes a close friend, spouse, or relative is too close to the situation, and it can be emotional for everyone to talk through tough problems. We (COH caregivers) are a little more detached so sometimes it’s easier to talk to us.”

Dot Green also reiterates a very important piece of COH that makes it unique among other helping services, “We are trained to listen but not give advice nor fix problems.”

Becky Denton keeps it real, “We all, in our daily lives, have our mask on. Yet, COH has a way of making it (the problem or situation) something comfortable to talk about without that mask always having to be on.”

A COH care receiver especially appreciated the tenderness and honesty from her lay chaplain. “She continued to check in and later on gently nudged me to go to lunch or a movie. I’d cry, I’d laugh, and for a little while I’d forget my new normal. I began to count on those calls or notes, realizing that there will be no advice or even veiled suggestion. That presence continues as you put your life back together.”

Each situation is unique, and each approach is individualized for both the lay chaplain and care receiver. In the case of lay chaplain Jan Atkins, she recently was inspired to take her CD player and wear a bright colored apron over her street clothes and subsequently chose to dance to the music while encouraging the special person she was visiting: “All you need to do is clap.” And, all that clapping led to a big smile for both.

In the last few years, there have been events that have shaken whole towns and the world including the Wimberley flood of 2015 and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. COH members have stepped up both times with a helping hand and extended hope. In the case of the 2015 Wimberley flood, Nancy Cooke-Jenkins reveals that not only did the COH receive 35 new requests for help, but divinely planned, there were exactly 35 COH lay chaplains available to respond.

In the case of our current world-wide crisis and pandemic, COH has already completed three rounds of calls to everyone in the St. Stephen’s church and school family to check on us and see if there is any need they can help facilitate. As the pandemic runs its course, we can all expect another round of “checking in” courtesy the COH.

A Two-Way Gift and Bond

At St. Stephen’s, COH trainings are held when there are more needs than current lay

chaplains. We have people on the waiting list now who would very much like to put their calling into spiritual action. Whether you have been a COH lay chaplain for less than a year or for 20, all agree that COH is a ministry of heart and love.

“It’s in my heart. It’s just something that fills me up. It’s just been my passion,” thinks Dot Green.

“It just feeds my soul,” realizes Nancy Cooke-Jenkins. “If one person can feel comfort or relief by talking about something, then that gives me comfort too. If forms the basis of bonding.”

“COH is definitely a commitment. It never feels like a burden, though. It feeds me. It is always something I enjoy,” reiterates Connie Maverick.

“I can’t tell you how much this means to me,” confesses Sharon East of her time at Deer Creek. “When we sing the old gospel hymns, they (the Deer Creek residents) come alive. Some may not know their daughter’s face, but they can conjure up the lyrics to those old gospel songs we sing.”

I am interested in becoming a COH care giver. What’s my next step?

Of the six COH coordinators, some were invited to consider taking the training and others had been involved with similar ministries at other churches and were seeking an equivalent at St. Stephen’s when they moved to the area. What each had in common, though, was a strong calling to become a COH chaplain.

“You are listening with the ear of your heart,” advises Becky Denton. “Community of Hope takes a certain amount of discernment. Before you take the training, you will have to fill out an application and be approved by the rector.”

“With Community of Hope you are literally building a community, a community of love and support to each other and out beyond the church into the wider world with other people in your daily interactions, all the time fostering hope. Hope is really important. If you think you would like to be a part of this ministry, contact a coordinator,” encourages Connie Maverick.

COH Coordinators
Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, nancycookejenkins@gmail.com
Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com
Sharon East, sharoneast2@gmail.com
Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com
Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net
Kristen Schmidt, tkschmidt@anvilcom.com

NEWS

BRAND NEW! VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY, 12 NOON

As you may have already learned reading our Senior Warden's column in this issue of *eNEWS*, we're all tickled to announce that starting this Sunday, June 12, at 12 noon, we will be offering a virtual coffee hour. If it's been awhile since you've

seen the faces of your church family, this is the perfect and safest way to see them without even leaving the comfort of your home. ***Watch your e-mail's inbox Sunday morning for both the Sunday Service links and for the Zoom instructions to Coffee Hour.*** The Sunday Service will air at its regular time at 10:30 a.m. CDT on St. Stephen's YouTube and Facebook. After the virtual service, you will have time to stretch your legs for just a bit before meeting back on Zoom to see those long awaited smiles from all of our church family, starting 12 noon this Sunday.

Virtual Coffee Hour this month is scheduled for Sunday, June 14 and 21. The children and Youth of St. Stephen's will get their own equivalent of coffee hour on Sunday, June 28. *See the article "Donut Sundays" for more details.*

BRAND NEW! DONUT SUNDAYS

Summer is not just for ice cream, it turns out. It's an ideal time for DONUTS! This summer small teams of one to two St. Stephen's Youth volunteers will be delivering donuts the last Sunday of the month to the front porch of the St. Stephen's children. These sweet treats will arrive just in time for children to save and eat at a children's coffee hour equivalent, aka Donut Sunday, to be held at 12 noon, the last Sunday of the month. Zoom instructions will be sent to you the morning of Donut Sundays, in time for your children to ZOOM-in, with their donuts at the ready, and to visit virtually with our Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster, the Youth, and children of St. Stephen's.

Donut Sundays are currently scheduled for Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 26.

If you have special dietary requests for your donut, such as gluten-free, be sure to e-mail: Elisa Webster, elisawebster9@gmail.com.

BRAND NEW! FAITHFUL FUN DAY

St. Stephen's has an added surprise for you and your children this summer. In addition to the Godly Play summer series, debuting on Friday, June 19, we will be treated to virtual sing-alongs with Tom Dawson and guided through prayers and arts & crafts by Elisa Webster. The materials for the arts & crafts materials will be mailed directly to your home. Make sure to be on the lookout for your *Faithful Fun Day* packet. When it comes, keep it handy, so you'll be ready for our virtual time together.

The first-ever Virtual Faithful Fun Day will be aired on Friday, June 19. We'll send you the specific time and YouTube and Facebook links before the 19th. At the moment, we are planning on airing a new Faithful Fun Day every other Friday. If you miss one, these will be recorded after the initial airing and will be available through the church website on the following Monday of their initial air date.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

FAMILY & YOUTH

- Recent High School graduates, like Ian McIntosh, have

begun receiving their senior blankets, presented to them by Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster.

- **Sundays @ 5:00 p.m. Youth Zoom meetings** will continue throughout the summer. Contact Elisa Webster if you need the Zoom instructions.
- **BRAND NEW! Donut Sundays**, a coffee hour for children, will be held through Zoom with real donuts on Sunday, June 28 and Sunday, July 26. *See separate article in this eNEWS.*
- **BRAND NEW! Faithful Fun Days**, a virtual semi-monthly summer 30-minute program that includes the Godly Play Summer Series for children, will begin Friday, June 19. *See separate article in this eNEWS*.

BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA

Planning is underway for the 2020 *Back to School Fiesta* to be held this August. 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. We expect 700 children to participate 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. St. Stephen's will be sending you a special "Father's Day Offering Envelope" in the mail to make a donation to *Back-to-School*. A return envelope will also be included in this Father's Day mailing. Checks should be made out to: "St. Stephen's Church" with "BTSF" written in the memo line.

St. Stephen's will be collecting your donations through the end of the month and then presenting the group donation to Barnabas and earmarked for *Back to School Fiesta*. A donation of $50 will pay for a year of school supplies for a child. ***Donations of all amounts are welcome.***

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

Please use the special "Father's Day Offering Envelope" being mailed to you to make your *Back to School Fiesta* donation. Remember to make checks made out to "St. Stephen's Church" and to write "BTSF" in the check's memo line. If you prefer to make a donation using a credit card, you may do so on the church website,

ONLINE DONATIONS HERE

Please send your checks and online ***donations to the church no later than Tuesday, June 30***. Thank you for helping the children in need in the Wimberley community. The need is greater than ever.

SESSION 5 GENTLE YOGA & CHAIR YOGA AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW

Carla Daws has provided us all with new yoga routines in Session 5 for both Gentle Yoga and Chair Yoga available on St. Stephen's YouTube channel. Each session is a stand-alone and may be done in any sequence. To get started, wear comfortable clothes, grab a sturdy chair for Chair Yoga and/or a mat for Gentle Yoga. It's always a good idea to have some drinking water handy too.

Did you know that Chair Yoga is one of the most popular forms of yoga? With each yoga session, you will be building flexibility and strength. Carla recommends to shoot for three sessions a week as an ideal way to receive yoga's full benefits.

Gentle Yoga Session 5

Chair Yoga Session 5

TAKE 5: EPISODE 3 AIRS THURSDAY, JUNE 18

Episode 3 of TAKE 5, hosted by Allen Hennig, and filmed at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will air on Thursday, June 18 at 10:00 a.m. CDT.

TAKE 5 treats our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break. This upcoming week's music will feature Allen Hennig performing "O God, Our Help In Ages Past" on the piano and will begin to explore the musical setting of Psalm 90.

Tune in on Thursdays at 10 a.m. CDT to discover whom in the St. Steve community will be highlighted next. TAKE 5 is guaranteed to soothe your soul!

YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 3 link

GODLY PLAY SUMMER SERIES & FAITHFUL FUN DAY

The first-ever virtual Faithful Fun Day, which will feature the Godly Play stories in our summer series, sing-alongs, prayers, and arts & crafts, **will be airing on the church YouTube and Facebook on Friday, June 19**. Darelle Jordan will be sharing the Godly Play story of baptism. Tom Dawson will be leading us in sing-alongs with his voice and guitar. Rumor has it that Elisa Webster will be his harmonizing singing partner and will be leading the prayers.

ZOOM TIME WITH FATHER PHIL
WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 A.M. CDT

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CDT we are invited to Zoom-in and visit with Fr. Phil about whatever is on our minds.

"It's a lot of fun. We have a good time and laugh a lot,," assures Fr. Phil

No appointment is needed, and you can use the same meeting ID and password each week.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

SUN, JUNE 14

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

SUN, JUNE 14

Coffee Hour (online), 12 noon, Zoom

WED, JUNE 17

Zoom Time with Fr. Phil (online), 10:00 a.m, Zoom

WED, JUNE 17
Christ Centered P with Fr. Phil (online), 5:00 p.m, Zoom

TH, JUNE 18
TAKE 5 (online), 10:00 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

FRI, JUNE 19
Faithful Fun Day (online), YouTube, Facebook

SUN, JUNE 21
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

SUN, JUNE 21
Coffee Hour (online), 12 noon, Zoom

WED, JUNE 24
Zoom Time with Fr. Phil (online), 10:00 a.m, Zoom

WED, JUNE 24
Christ Centered Prayer with Fr. Phil (online), 5:00 p.m, Zoom

TH, JUNE 25
TAKE 5 (online), 10:00 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

SUN, JUNE 28
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (online), 10:30 a.m, YouTube, Facebook

SUN, JUNE 28
Donut Sunday (online), 12 noon, Zoom

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, eeant@mac.com

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