

## Dear St. Stephen's: Getting to Know You by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



What a tremendous occasion it is to begin my ministry with St. Stephen's as your new rector! My family and I are extremely excited to call St. Stephen's home, and to share in God's love and grace with all of you.

### ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH FR. KEVIN

My first initiative as your rector will be to develop strong relational ties between us. Over the first several months I will want to meet with you, either individually or as family units. I encourage you to reach out to the church office, [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org), to schedule opportunities for us to meet. In this newsletter, you will find more information on how to begin this process. I look forward to becoming your friend and getting to know one another through our stories and shared mission of being Christ's own in the world.

Of course our current context of a global pandemic creates obstacles of being in relationship with one another. All of us have felt the effects of COVID-19 and will continue to be affected as time progresses. Though, by the grace of God, we will not let this deter our efforts of strengthening the ties that bind us and this great church of St. Stephen's. I have been overjoyed to see the many ways in which the church staff and leadership have developed and implemented extraordinary ways of maintaining and developing community, and I look forward to building upon that framework.

### IN-PERSON MORNING PRAYER STARTS OCTOBER

Beginning in October, we will create opportunities for the community of St. Stephen's to gather safely for in-person worship. These offerings will be in the form of Morning Prayer from our Book of Common Prayer each Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 9:00 am in the courtyard of the church (weather permitting). At these small worship services, you will be encouraged to participate in a safe, prayerful service. We will gather, socially distanced, to pray with one another, hear scripture and a short homily. Because we will be outside, masks will not be required although highly encouraged.

I understand not everyone will be able to attend these Morning Prayer gatherings during the week due to work, school, etc. My hope, though, is that this will be a small avenue in which we will begin gathering again in person. In the near future, there will be more opportunities to do even more. Our 10:30 am Sunday service will continue to be offered virtually until we can safely gather again. Once the new audio visual equipment is installed and up and running in the main sanctuary, I hope to move to virtual live streaming for the congregation. At that time, there will be an opportunity to begin another in-person gathering at 8:00 am in the courtyard. This service will consist of the Liturgy of the Word portion of the Holy Eucharist; without communion, but including prayers, readings, and sermon. I will be working with the staff, the Vestry, and other

leaders to develop procedures and guidelines regarding the best way to offer this in-person gathering. In the weeks to come, please watch your e-mail's inbox for more information regarding these new and exciting developments.

It is truly my great pleasure and delight to join such a grace-filled and beautiful congregation. I look forward to meeting each of you. May God bless you this day and always.

Peace,  
*The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert*

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## Senior Warden News by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



Anyone notice we have just experienced Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Eve, all of which culminated in a New Year?

Advent: we waited together for a new rector to be called. Christmas: it happened! Fr. Kevin Schubert received our call and accepted our invitation! New Year's Eve: we wished Fr. Phil Mason well as he exited from his time as our Interim Rector and will soon head out to Colorado for an overdue trip with Susan and the dogs, Rosie and Peaches. New Year: we embark on a new chapter in our spiritual journeys. In spite of

2020's obstacles, ahead of us now are brand new paths with more ways to be together, even if apart. Wait to you experience what Fr. Kevin has in store for us—creative and innovative ways to worship our God.

In this year of chaos, though, we have had a few constants. You may have wondered about a regular Sunday guest lector, unknown previously to most of us. His name is Eric Merrifield, and he is a friend of Allen Hennig. Thank you, Eric, for your eloquent delivery of Scripture each week.

Another constant—our staff: Jeannetta, Lydia, Elisa, Mike, Lonnie, Jackie, Hunt, Anne, Allen, and Rachel. They have been holding down the fort through it all—keeping our office, grounds, administrative and communication and music needs met, and all other components in top order awaiting our return. Our thanks and appreciation to all of you.

As we leave this hot summer behind, let us be ever grateful for the cooler weather and the prospects coming our way. Remember to tune in on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#) this Sunday, September 6, for Fr. Kevin's first sermon with St. Stephen's. He will also be hosting the [Virtual Coffee Hour on Zoom](#) immediately following the service. Links to the Sunday service and Virtual Coffee Hour will be e-mailed to you on Sunday morning.

Blessings,  
*Nancy*

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## News From Your Treasurer by Roy Buckley



Financial activities for the month of July 2020 revealed similar revenue shortfalls as were reflected in the June 2020 Financial Activities period. Pledge receipts of \$25,382 fell to the second-lowest level of the year, as did cumulative revenue receipts of \$26,117, which fell \$13,385 short of budgeted expectations. Expense outflows, on the other hand fell \$4,462 under budgeted expectations. Revenue inflows less Expense outflows left us in a deficit position for the month at -\$14,462, the second-largest deficit for a month during 2020. *See chart below.*

To remedy our struggling financial position, immediate efforts should be made to improve the revenue stream or find ways to cut or eliminate one or more expense categories. Restoring the revenue stream to robust levels seen in March, April, and May of 2020 would be a significant step in the right direction. As can be seen from the below financial summary, only by reducing Operating or Staff expenditures can we improve our financial position through an expense reduction approach. That would, however, impose substantial hardships of Staff and would require shifting administrative and accounting functions from outside vendors to Parish administration. We are currently taking steps to mitigate our deficits by seeking relief through SBA Payroll Protection Program and applying for Apportionment cancellation relative to one or more months where we have suffered the severest financial hardships. These two avenues for expense relief will be of big help in the short run, but improving the revenue stream is likely the best remedy for our current difficulties.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to e-mail me, [roy.r.buckley@rice.edu](mailto:roy.r.buckley@rice.edu).

Blessings to all,  
Roy

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>Jun-20</b>	<b>Jun-20</b>	<b>Jul-20</b>	<b>Jul-20</b>	<b>To-Date</b>	<b>To-Date</b>
<b>Pledge Income</b>	\$26,906.32	\$37,460.42	\$25,382.49	\$37,460.42	\$271,708.18	\$262,222.90
<b>Plate Income</b>	\$345.00	\$2,083.33	\$350.00	\$2,083.33	\$7,585.58	\$14,583.35
<b>Fund Raising Income</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$0.00
<b>Special Gift</b>	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$6,872.00	\$1,750.00
<b>Flower Income</b>	\$225.00	\$158.33	\$50.00	\$158.33	\$1,310.00	\$1,108.35
<b>Prior Year Pledge</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Ordinary Inflow</b>	<b>\$27,476.32</b>	<b>\$39,952.08</b>	<b>\$26,117.49</b>	<b>\$39,952.08</b>	<b>\$289,810.76</b>	<b>\$279,664.60</b>
<b>APPORTIONMENT</b>	\$8,341.00	\$8,340.00	\$8,341.00	\$8,340.00	\$50,043.00	\$58,380.00
<b>CONTRACT LABOR</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00
<b>EVANGELISM &amp; FORMATION</b>	\$0.00	\$62.50	\$0.00	\$62.50	\$196.39	\$1,808.50
<b>MINISTRY</b>	\$142.74	\$472.24	\$241.90	\$472.74	\$3,918.48	\$5,009.34
<b>OPERATING</b>	\$13,458.32	\$14,498.33	\$6,091.87	\$6,402.33	\$64,383.32	\$71,788.35
<b>STAFF</b>	\$24,464.06	\$24,396.10	\$26,037.12	\$29,896.55	\$166,475.50	\$185,845.95
	<b>\$46,406.12</b>	<b>\$47,769.17</b>	<b>\$40,711.89</b>	<b>\$45,174.12</b>	<b>\$285,191.69</b>	<b>\$322,832.14</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$18,929.80)</b>	<b>(\$7,817.09)</b>	<b>(\$14,594.40)</b>	<b>(\$5,222.04)</b>	<b>\$4,619.07</b>	<b>(\$43,167.54)</b>

## NEWS

### HOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR ONE-ON-ONE WITH FR. KEVIN



Fr. Kevin would like to meet you and give you an opportunity to meet him! To schedule your one-on-one for yourself or your family unit, simply e-mail or call the church. Let us know your preference for days and times (mornings, afternoons).

**E-MAIL LYDIA:** [office@ststeve.org](mailto:office@ststeve.org)

**CALL CHURCH OFFICE:** 512-847-9956

We invite you to carve out an hour for your one-on-one time with Fr. Kevin and let us know whether you prefer meeting him on-site at the church or off-site. Fr. Kevin is always up for a walk with you down the nature trail, visiting at your favorite coffee house, or pulling up a cushioned chair in his office to chat. In our excitement to meet one another, let's remember to keep it safe by following social distancing and wearing our masks. There are more than 180 family units, so heads-up, it is likely to take a bit of time for Fr. Kevin to make his way through these visits, and our patience with the process is always appreciated. Rest assured, Fr. Kevin is excited to meet you and spend time with each and every one of us.

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## GROUP ZOOM: MEET THE NEW RECTOR SEPT. 16, 30 & OCT. 7, 2020



Fr. Kevin has scheduled several group times to "Meet the New Rector" using the St. Stephen's Zoom account. From the safety and comfort of your home, you are welcome to Zoom-in anytime during these 60 minute sessions that is convenient for you.

**Note:** Watch your e-mail's inbox for event reminders with Zoom links.

[Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.](#)

[Wednesday, September 30, 10:00 a.m.](#)

[Wednesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m.](#)

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## JOIN US FOR VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR SUNDAYS: SEPT. 6, 13, 20 immediately following the airing of the service on YouTube and Facebook



We will be holding virtual coffee hour on Sundays, September 6, 13, and 20, immediately following the airing of the Holy Eucharist Sunday Service. Please note that the ZOOM COFFEE HOUR link has changed. Another reminder with the new link will be e-mailed to you on Sunday mornings before the service.

### [VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR LINK](#)

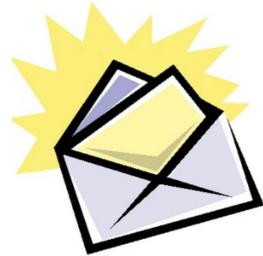
Meeting ID: 853 123 3729

Password: 400923

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## LABOR DAY SPECIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING

Special Labor Day Offering envelopes were mailed to your homes this week. As mentioned in the letter, donations of any amount are appreciated. Your collected donations from the Labor Day special envelope offering will be put to immediate use to cover the church's unexpected needs stemming from the pandemic. For instance, we have had to purchase online licensing, subscriptions to Zoom, and special cleaning supplies and equipment to ensure our offices and buildings are safe.



Donations may be returned in the envelopes provided in this week's mailing or may be made [online](#). Select "one time gift" in the pull down menu.

The letter also invites those that find their own family in need of a helping hand of any kind, to feel comfortable in reaching out to us. All needs are kept in the strictest confidence.

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## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY



The church staff wishes you a "Happy Labor Day" and hopes each of you will have an enjoyable and safe three day weekend.

The Church office is closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of the Labor Day holiday and will reopen Tuesday, September 8 at regular hours ready to take your calls.

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## 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 ticker of the Sunday Service YouTube and Facebook recordings and 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](#)

### ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL UPDATE: Enrollment Up 48% Percent!



Head of St. Stephen's School, Amanda Ebner, reports that enrollment has increased by 48% to a total of 111 students. A new PreK 2 program was added this year and the church's very own David Boles will be joining the SSES teaching

staff as the 5th/6th grade teacher. Fr. Kevin will be leading the school's chapel in the church on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. beginning September 9.

This year's school theme is "Faith Over Fear" and can be found on many of the school staff's and students' t-shirts. School Office Manager, Laurie Schlameus, has her new t-shirt!



"This represents how we have to live every day," explains Amanda.

## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

### CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER HAS NEW ZOOM MEETING

Christ Centered Prayer (CCP) continues to meet virtually on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. CDT using Zoom. Please note that the ZOOM address has changed. Sharon Carter has agreed to host this ministry. If you would have questions about CCP and/or would like to join us, please contact Sharon, [sharon.artcart.carter@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.artcart.carter@gmail.com), for the new ZOOM instructions.



### TAKE 5: EPISODE 15 AIRS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 10:00 a.m. CDT

You are invited to join host Allen Hennig as he treats our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break during episode 15. This selection, "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart,"

comes from an online viewer request. We hope you enjoy this deeply moving prayer of confession set to hauntingly beautiful music.

[YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 15 link](#)  
[Facebook TAKE 5: Episode 15 link](#)

## **WEAR THE VEST! MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROADSIDE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020**



Roadside Cleanup ministry leaders: Becki Smith, Jon Smith, Todd Schmidt, and Mike Marcionetti are asking you to "Wear the Vest" at our fall roadside cleanup. More volunteers are needed!

### **ROADSIDE CLEANUP SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 (Pickup equipment and supplies in the Courtyard beginning at 7:00 a.m.)**

Roadside ministry leaders are confident that the September roadside cleanup can be done safely, pending weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

If you will be new to roadside cleanups and wish to volunteer, please contact Becki Smith who will direct you to any TxDOT training that is required ahead of time. All other volunteers for September are also asked to contact Becki, [colorsmith1@yahoo.com](mailto:colorsmith1@yahoo.com), and let her know ahead of time that you will be coming so she

knows who to contact should there be any sudden changes.

In the meantime, for more information on this ministry, including age guidelines, please visit the church website, <https://www.ststeve.org/ministries>.

## **ADULT, TEEN, TWEEN, CHILDREN'S FALL BIBLE ONLINE CLASSES**



AGES 7-10  
**STARTS Sun, 9/6 @ 9 AM**  
Using Orange  
Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)  
[Register Online](#)



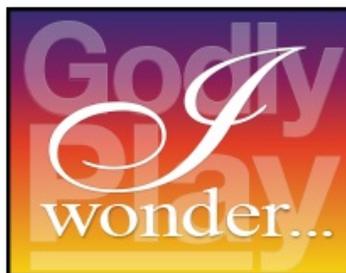
AGES 13-17  
**STARTS Sun, 9/6 @ 5 PM**  
Using *The Journey to Adulthood*  
Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)  
[Register Online](#)



AGES 11-12  
**STARTS Fri, 9/11 @ 5 PM**  
Using Orange  
Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)  
[Register Online](#)



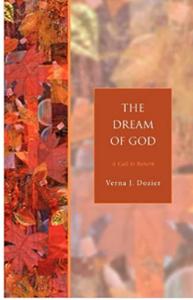
**ADULT SUNDAY**  
**STARTS Sun 9/13 @ 9:30 AM**  
Using *The Way of Love*  
Contact: [Becky Denton](#)



AGES 4-6  
**STARTS Sun 9/13 @ 10 AM**  
Contact: [Elisa Webster](#)  
[Register Online](#)



**MON BIBLE BABES**  
Using *The Book of Psalms*  
**Starts 9/14 @ 12:30 PM**  
[Becky Denton](#) or [Cindy Taylor](#)



COED BIBLE CLASS  
Using *The Dream of God*  
Starts Tues 9/15 @10:30 AM  
Contact: [Bob Reed](#)



TH BIBLE BABES  
Using *The Dream of God*  
Starts 9/17 @ 5:30 PM  
Contact: [Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)



BIBLE STUDY W/ RECTOR  
TBA

## 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.

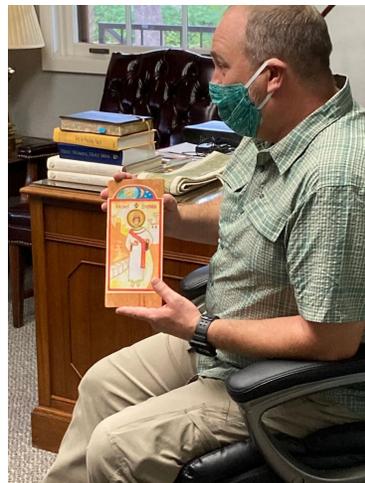
### SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Dot Green, [dotgreen@anvilcom.com](mailto:dotgreen@anvilcom.com)  
Becky Denton, [dentonrebecca1@gmail.com](mailto:dentonrebecca1@gmail.com)

## IN THE LIFE OF SSEC



Turn out for Fr. Phil's Drive-by, Good-bye was record breaking. Watch the church social media for more photos and videos.



Fr. Kevin is presented on his first day on the job as the new rector with a welcome present made by Carroll Dolezal.



Parishioners drove from all parts of town and Fr. Phil's family even drove from Memphis, TN to wish him "until we meet again."

# SAVE THE DATE



**SUN, SEPT 6**

*Orange Sunday School for ages 7-10 (online), 9:00 a.m., Zoom*

**SUN, SEPT 6**

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

**SUN, SEPT 6**

*Virtual Coffee Hour* immediately follows airing of Sunday service (online), Zoom

**SUN, SEPT 6**

*Teen Sunday School (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom*

**MON, SEPT 7**

*Labor Day Holiday, Church office closed*

**WED, SEPT 9**

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

**TH, SEPT 10**

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

**FRI, SEPT 11**

*Tweens Bible School (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom*

**SUN, SEPT 13**

*Orange Sunday School for ages 7-10 (online), 9:00 a.m., Zoom*

**SUN, SEPT 13**

*Adult Sunday School (online), 9:30 a.m., Zoom*

**SUN, SEPT 13**

*Godly Play for ages 4-6 (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube & Facebook*

**SUN, SEPT 13**

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

**SUN, SEPT 13**

*Virtual Coffee Hour* immediately follows airing of Sunday service (online), Zoom

**SUN, SEPT 13**

*Teen Sunday School (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom*

**MON, SEPT 14**

*Bible Babes (online), 12:30 p.m., Zoom*

**TUE, SEPT 15**

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

**WED, SEPT 16**

*Group Zoom: Meet the New Rector (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom*

**WED, SEPT 16**

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

**TH, SEPT 17**

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

**TH, SEPT 17**

*Bible Babes*, 5:30 p.m., Nancy's house

**FRI, SEPT 18**

*Tweens Bible School* (online), 5:00 p.m., Zoom

**SAT, SEPT 19**

*Roadside Cleanup*, 7:00-8:00 a.m. pickup equipment, Courtyard

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## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

*(articles, photos, graphics)*

**WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON**

Jackie McFadden, Communications Director, [eeant@mac.com](mailto:eeant@mac.com)

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