



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
On Sunday, March 10
Remember to turn those clocks forward one hour.

St. Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH Wimberley

March 1, 2019

ENEWS



RECTOR'S CORNER

Principles 1 & 2:

The Elephant in the Boardroom

Editor's Note:

During the next few issues, Rev. Sandy will be sharing six principles that Jesus offered. Stay tuned next time for: complete the past and envision abundance.

[*The Elephant in the Boardroom*](#) (speaking the unspoken about pastoral transitions) by Carolyn Weese and Russell Crabtree offers Christian congregations a comprehensive reference book written to help parish

leaders execute a smooth pastoral transition. I want to share with you, as I did with the Vestry, some helpful concepts contained in their research.

You have often heard me say, "Jesus is our Model," and "the scriptures are our reference." St. Stephen's pastoral transition around "the rector's retirement" stands to gain important insights from pondering Jesus' model. Jesus had a transition plan too! It is well recorded in our gospels. His "transition plan" for his own disciples contained a vision for long-term results:



"You did not choose me but chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...fruit that would last." - [John 15:16](#)

Jesus managed two major leadership transitions in His life. He managed his succession of his predecessor (John the Baptizer), and He managed his own departure with his disciples at the end of his life. St. Stephen's leaders must also manage transitions. In this context, management transitions are fundamentally expressions of genuine discipleship. To that end, Jesus' example was rich and illuminating. He offered six principles:

1. Honor thy Predecessor
2. Build on Health
3. Complete the Past
4. Envision Abundance
5. Create Capacity
6. Fight the Demons

I will present two principles at a time over the next three eNEWS editions. I will be quoting from Weese and Crabtree's book with occasional commentary. I believe these principles may help give us all a solid frame of reference as we move through the next three months of transition to my retirement together.

PRINCIPLE 1: HONOR THY PREDECESSOR

Use TLC (tender loving care) with members regarding a predecessor. That's talk; listen and confirm. Leaders help the transition process if they simply talk about their predecessor. Jesus did. He talked about John the Baptist on multiple occasions in public settings. Here is a list of some things he said about John.

"For John came to show you the way of righteousness. For John came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, he has a demon."
- [Luke 7:33](#)

"The baptism of John...was it from heaven or from men?" - [Luke 20:4](#)

So...speak in positive terms. It is OK to speak in public. He/she was an instrument of God's plan for building the church. Listen to members and allow them to speak affectionately about the predecessor. It enables folks to integrate past into present.

"The surest way to botch a leadership transition and lock people up is to send the message that they cannot talk about the previous leader." -excerpted from The Elephant in the Board Room

This is often an obstacle posed by the ego...and ego means "Edging God Out!". So...confirm the importance of the past. Recall common threads and avoid itemizing series of unrelated "events." What are the important contributions? What differences in the life of the parish were made? So...Together: talk, listen, confirm...honor the predecessor!

PRINCIPLE 2: BUILD ON HEALTH

"Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of the house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." - [Matthew 13:52](#)

Jesus reached into the treasure chest of the past and pulled out what was healthy and strong, thus fashioning the timbers of the new work He was building. Many stories were not original, neither were many of His ideas. Jesus knew where to find islands of health in his tradition and that is where He planted his feet. Jesus knew that the history of His people that held pockets of disease and dysfunction. He did not harp on them (polygamy, concubines, divorce). Rather, he went to the scriptures and spoke about health in marriage...that the two should become one. He zeroed in on the greatest commandment...most visionary grounded in truth...Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind." - Deuteronomy 6:5

Do not focus on wounds and weaknesses...rather, on health and sources of strength and renewal. A pastoral departure should not be treated like a terminal diagnosis. Yes, theres is appropriate grieving of loss, but framing it as illness may be counterproductive. Rather, treat it as moving from something to something. We need not focus on old wounds, but on sources of health, strength, and renewal. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it is always possible to frame one's work as completing the good work of another. That's what Jesus did. (The question Jesus put to the man at the pool,

"Do you want to be made well?". - John 5:6

Considerable pressure is often brought to bear on a new leader to fix what is broken-- get inactive members to come back, restore the women's association to its former strength, visit the unhappy members, and listen to stories about problems with the former leader. Yes, tend the wounds, but do not focus on grief. Focusing on these pockets of dysfunction is a poor transitional strategy. Jesus knew that. Build on health. ^{**}

In Christ,
Sandy +

* *The Elephant in the Boardroom Speaking the Unspoken about Pastoral Transitions*
Weese & Crabtree - Wiley - 2012, pp. 1-27.



Big Scoop Planning Meeting

Friday, March 1, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

OFFSITE: W.I.S.D. Office, 951 FM 2325

Come join us as we start to work on The Big Scoop Ice Cream Festival 2019. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 1 at the Wimberley Independent School District's office located at: 951 FM 2325.

The Big Scoop is a wonderful fundraiser for Camp Good Sam Wimberley, a summer program for at-risk children in our area. Come be part of this wonderful community event.

For more information, contact: Ann Robertson, annrobertson95@gmail.com.



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

SSEC OFFERS SELF-GUIDED LENTEN PROGRAM

WWW.STSTEVE.ORG/LENTEN

Dear St. Stephen's Parishioners,

As a LENT discipline, the Episcopal Church USA has prepared *Life Transformed: The Way of Love Practices for Jesus-Centered Life* as a curriculum for your consideration. Presiding Bishop Carey has preached publicly on these practices. He reminds us that a Jesus-Centered Life includes:

- Learn
- Pray
- Worship
- Bless
- Go
- Rest
- Turn

As a LENT curriculum, *The Way of Love*, Hillary Raining and Jennifer Gambler have taken those disciplines and presented them in a seven-week program. The material is available on our church website, www.ststeve.org/lenten. It is presented as if you were participating in a small group. However, due to the STORY groups this year, we are unable to form more small groups. Perhaps, you would enjoy sharing the curriculum with a friend or two and creating your own small group.

My hope/suggestion is that those who have time and are inclined to add a Lenten practice may engage the weekly study in the curriculum. It is based on a particular scriptural passage each week. It would be good to keep a journal of your thoughts, feelings, insights, and observations. Each week you will find background information along with suggested prayers, reflection questions, and a plan for action.

For instant access to the curriculum, visit www.ststeve.org/lenten, or if you prefer a hard copy, contact me ahead of time, and I will make a copy for you.

Yours in Christ,

Sandy+



BONUS LENT REFLECTION

Editor's Note:

Rev. Sandy offers the below piece to you, originally published in "Wishful Thinking" by Frederick Buechner, to offer you some challenging questions to ponder during Lent, which begins Wednesday, March 6.

Lent

IN MANY CULTURES there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year's income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the 40 days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year's days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness where he spent 40 days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn't, which side would get your money and why?

When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore?

If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in 25 words or less?

Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember?

Is there any person in the world, or any cause, that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for?

If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sack-cloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.



SEEKING WEDDING COORDINATOR

PAID POSITION

If you have patience, flexibility, and creativity as your attributes and would enjoy on-the-job training for coordinating the weddings taking place at SSEC, then let's talk! You can expect your new job to be exciting, dynamic, and customized for each one-of-a-kind wedding.

For more information, call the church office, 512-847-9956



LEM TRAINING AVAILABLE

St. Stephen's Licensed Lay Ministry is looking to add Lay Eucharist Ministers/LEMs. A LEM is a Worship Leader licensed by the Diocese of West Texas to deliver the consecrated elements at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. We are not in the process of scheduling training. The LEM training is usually two 60 minute sessions between the early and late services on a Sunday. Upon the completion of training, Lay Eucharist Ministers are assigned to one of our three teams. Each newly trained LEM will have a mentor assigned by their Team Captain.

Those who are now serving as LEMs find it to be a spiritual experience, "a humbling blessing to see the peace, joy, and wonder" on faces as they receive the cup at the altar. If you feel a calling to this ministry, or have questions concerning the ministry or training, please contact us.

For more information, contact: Charlotte Carter, charlotteanncarter@gmail.com or Sharon Neukam, mrsnuke86@gmail.com.



WISH LIST

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're wishing you were here!

We've got free hugs, coffee, and tea waiting for you in the church office in exchange for a few volunteer hours a week.

- Monday mornings
- Wednesday mornings
- Wednesday afternoons

Would you rather customize your schedule? Have a knack for organizing? If so, helping clean, cull, and tidy the church closets and cupboards may be just the new 2019 project you are seeking.

Wising you were here already!

For more information, contact: Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org.

Big Band Mardi Gras Dance/Concert *FREE!*

Saturday, March 2, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Wimberley Community Center

Yes, Mardi Gras is coming! We are going to let the good times roll with a **FREE** dance to celebrate! Not only will we be playing great big band music, we will also bring New Orleans to Wimberley through music.



So, get out your dancing shoes, find your Mardi Gras mask, round up your friends, and get some tickets. (The tickets are **FREE**, but we have a fire marshal limit of 150 party-goers.)

The Wimberley Valley Big Band is a 501c(3) nonprofit dedicated to bringing quality Big Band music to the Wimberley Valley.

Get your free tickets: jazztix4u@gmail.com. Donations appreciated!



YOGA MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

On most Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m., if you were to venture into McArthur Hall, you would discover a ministry that uses yoga mats and chairs instead of study guides. This Yoga ministry has been led by Carla Daws for about five years; is open to the public, and welcomes you to join them.

So, how exactly did this ministry come about? Well, it all began with a doctor's prescription for his patient to do yoga two times a week and that same patient asking a fellow parishioner, who is a yoga instructor, to consider starting a class at St. Stephen's. And, a little paper work later, the SSEC Yoga Ministry was born.

Carla leads this gentle yoga class for all abilities. No prior experience is needed. This class is by donation and a portion of the donation benefits SSEC. You should bring a

yoga mat, or feel free to use a provided chair for this class. In these hour long sessions, we will use yoga to teach us to sharpen our focus, improve our posture, and to help us heal the aches and pains of body and heart.

For more information, contact: Carla Daws, geminipisces@hotmail.com.



Newcomer Potluck
Sunday, March 3, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
OFFSITE: Veronica Erwin's Home

It's a great time to meet other newcomers to St. Stephen's and enjoy the hospitality of Vestry member Veronica Erwin as we meet for a potluck dinner on Sunday, March 3, 5:30 p.m.

Rev. Sandy and Newcomer Coordinator Robyn Sanders will help us get to know all about the St. Stephen's church and community. Children are welcome. *We love 'em!*

For more information, contact: Newcomer Coordinator, Robyn Sanders,
rswelcomessec@gmail.com

YOUTH FUNDRAISER: SHROVE PANCAKE DINNER

Tuesday, March 5, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.
McArthur Hall



The SSEC YOUTH are hosting a Shrove Pancake Dinner in McArthur Hall on Tuesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Proceeds go towards the JH/HS summer mission trips.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES



St. Stephen's invites you to a Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
6000 FM 3237, Wimberley TX 78676

March 6, 2019

offered three times in the Chapel

8:00 a.m.

12 noon

6:00 p.m.

The St. Stephen's YOUTH will hold a Shrove Pancake Dinner Fundraiser.
TUESDAY, March 5, 2019, 5:30 PM, McArthur Hall, St. Stephen's Church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, Beginning March 8, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

Courtyard or Nature Trail



Stations of the Cross will be held at 10 a.m. on Fridays, and are led by our Lectors, beginning March 8 and ending April 12. Prayer alternates between the courtyard and the nature trail, depending on weather. This is a powerful discipline to augment scripture study, fasting, alms giving, and worship.



Wimberley Area Cancer Support Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 11:30 a.m.

OFFSITE: Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce, Members Room

The Wimberley Area Cancer Support Group, sponsored by St. Stephen's Church, meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. in the Members Room of the Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce. Each participant brings a brown bag lunch. All who have been diagnosed with cancer or in the past are invited to attend and share a time of relaxation and conversation with others that share their experience.

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net or Dave Boyd, davemarcyboyd@anvilcom.com.

TED Talkers

Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall

Please join us for TED Talkers on Wednesday, February 27, at 12 noon. We will be watching "How can we address ocean plastic pollution and poverty at the same time?" explained by David Katz.

TED Talkers is held twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday. We watch a pre-selected TED Talk video together at 12 noon, eat our brown bag lunch while watching the video, and enjoy a facilitated discussion of the TED Talk. Coffee and water are provided. It all wraps up by 1:00 p.m.

TED talks are videos created to provide information from a variety of people knowledgeable on an immense number of topics; they provide information but also invite conversation. Each is about 15 minutes long. If you are curious, visit www.ted.com and select and watch a topic of interest to you: science, ecology, history, you name it!



TED Talkers is open to the general public, and you are encouraged to bring a friend, neighbor, and join in our sure-to-be lively, mind-stimulating discussions. We'll have a warm cup of coffee waiting and there's always room for one more.

TED TALKERS

WINTER 2019 SCHEDULE

MARCH 27, 2019
APRIL 10, 2019

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



Invitation to Celebrate Candidates with Cards

DEADLINE: no later than Thursday, March 14, 2019

Bishop Reed will present on Sunday, March 17 to confirm, receive, and bless those that are reaffirming their confirmation. Please help us celebrate this special occasion by writing a personal card or note to the candidates and placing these in the basket in McArthur Hall, no later than Thursday, March 14.

The candidates are:

Emily Brewer	to be confirmed	
Veronica Erwin	to be reaffirmed	
Carolyn Galle	to be received	
Ed Galle	to be received	
Kris Kennedy	to be reaffirmed	
Paul Kennedy	to be confirmed	Youth
Charlie McNabb	to be confirmed	Youth
Hope McNabb	to be confirmed	Youth
Aimee Robles	to be received	
Brittany Vest	to be confirmed	
Quin Webber	to be confirmed	Youth

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net.



Deer Creek Services

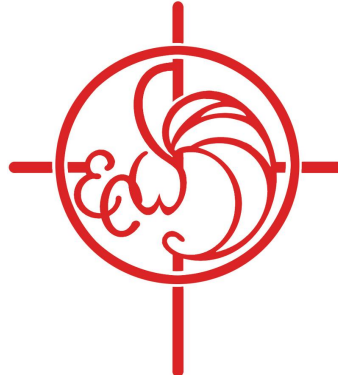
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 @ 3:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 RR 3237, Wimberley

On Wednesday, March 13, 3:00 p.m., St. Stephen's will share a Holy Eucharist service with the residents of Deer Creek as part of the Community of Hope's regular 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month ministry. All are welcome.

Deer Creek Wimberley is located at: 555 RR 3237, Wimberley, TX 78676.

For more information, contact: Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net.



Episcopal Church Women's Exploratory Meeting

Friday, March 15, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Room 1

If you are interested in developing a new ministry for the women at SSEC, we would love to have your input and assistance as we consider the possibility of restarting the Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) group. We are open to all ideas for how we can serve the community as called by Christ. Please mark your calendar for Friday, March 15, 10:00 a.m., Meeting Room 1.

For more information, contact: Ann Robertson, annrobertson95@gmail.com.



2019 Dates for Roadside Cleanup

Begins Saturday, March 23, 2019 @ 7:00 a.m.

McArthur Hall

We need your help making the St. Stephen's TxDot-designated section of FM 3237 look fantastic this Spring! On Saturday, March 23, we'll meet in McArthur Hall beginning at 7:00 a.m. We provide the orange safety vests, trash and recycling bags, and grabbers. So, come on by and pick these up as you enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks to get your started for your morning's cleanup adventure. Remember to wear boots or closed-toe shoes, gloves, and hats. Long sleeves are highly recommended for sun protection. It's always a good idea to bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and insect repellent as well.

This year's coordinators are: Becki and Jon Smith, Todd Schmidt, and Mike Marcionetti.

2019 ROADSIDE CLEANUP DATES:

March 23

June 15

September 14

Thanks so much for helping to beautify our spot of the Texas Hill Country.

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

LIFE AT SSEC

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, and participants for making our St. Valentines Faithful Families program such a fun-filled time together. You can find more photos on the church Facebook page.



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

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL
PICNIC
AT THE
VISTA

Extravaganza is now
PICNIC AT THE VISTA!

Save the Date!

March 30th, 2-6pm

at VISTA BREWING in Driftwood

A Family Event with activities for kids, plus our traditional live and silent auctions, live music, and great Vista food and beer. Please invite your friends and neighbors; this event will be fun for everyone!

Tickets available for purchase in the school office or at

<https://ststephens.tiptopauction.com/extravapicnic>



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

March 13

March 27



SAVE THE DATES

SUN, MAR 1

Big Scoop Planning Meeting: OFFSITE, 10 a.m., Wimberley I.S.D. Office, 951 FM 2325

SUN, MAR 3

Adult Confirmation Class #3, 12 noon, Meeting Room 1

SUN, MAR 3

Regular YOUTH Meeting/Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., McArthur Hall

SUN, MAR 3

Newcomer Potluck, 5:30 p.m., Veronica Erwin's Home

TUE, MAR 6

Yoga, 4:00 p.m., Log Cabin (room change)

TUE, MAR 5

Shrove Pancake Dinner, 5:30 p.m., McArthur Hall

WED, MAR 6

Ash Wednesday Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes, 8:00 a.m, 12 noon, 6:00 p.m., Chapel

TH, MAR 7

Prayer Shawl Meeting, 4 p.m., Meeting Room 2

FRI, MAR 8

Stations of the Cross, 10 a.m., Courtyard or Nature Trail (weather dependent)

SUN, MAR 10

Adult Confirmation Class #4, 12 noon, Meeting Room 1

SUN, MAR 10

Regular YOUTH Meeting/Confirmation Class, 5 p.m., McArthur Hall

WED, MAR 13

Wimberley Area Cancer Support Meeting/OFFSITE, 11:30 a.m., Wimberley Chamber of Commerce

WED, MARCH 13

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

WED, MAR 13

Deer Creek Eucharist Service/OFFSITE, 3:00 p.m., Deer Creek Wimberley

FRI, MAR 15

Episcopal Church Women's Exploratory Meeting, 10 a.m., Meeting Room 1

FRI, MAR 15

Stations of the Cross, 10 a.m., Courtyard or Nature Trail (weather dependent)

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. and Fridays 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon, if you have any questions.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)