



ANNUAL MEETING

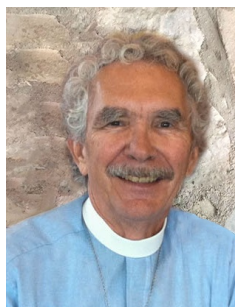
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020
(AFTER ONE SERVICE SUNDAY AT 9:00 A.M.)



St. Stephen's
 EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Wimberley

January 24, 2020

eNEWS



LETTER FROM YOUR RECTOR

FR. PHIL MASON

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, January 26, will be the annual meeting of the parish. (If you haven't heard, there will be one service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a breakfast taco Youth fundraiser in McArthur Hall at the start of our meeting.) I am so very happy to be with everyone to review the past year and to take a look at the bright future of our beloved St. Stephen's Church and School.

About June 20th of last year, I took a call from the Bishop's Office--actually, I am sure that the call was from our true Master--asking me to be your Interim Rector. I took a deep breath; said, "Yes, Lord."

It will be five months since July 21st when I began this interim journey with our Church. I continue each day to think on how honored I am to be the one who helps St. Stephen's collect itself after Sandy's retirement and to prepare for the arrival of the next chapter to be lived in St. Stephen's journey along it's path with the Lord.

In our journey so far, I have seen some remarkable activity and achievements. A few of these I had a direct hand in, but mostly I have been here to give my blessing and support to so many wonderful servants of the Lord who also said, "Yes!"

One of the most memorable for me occurred when we found ourselves in need of a pianist. Allen Hennig, a long-time friend of Music Director Anne Jones, answered the call and agreed to be the interim pianist long enough to get us through Christmas. That was a relief, but it wasn't long before Allen, one Sunday morning, discovered the dusty unused organ in the Chapel. It was a bit crippled and more than a little out of tune, but the talented Allen could manage it and played it during services for a couple

of weeks. Encouraged by many and with Allen's generous help some repairs were made, the instrument was tuned, and it now sounds great! As a result, Allen having already fallen in love with us *and* the old organ, and we with him, decided that he would be our organist-pianist into the foreseeable future.

Next, we ushered in Advent and with much new enthusiasm for the beloved Chapel, Anne and Allen along with the choir and the refurbished organ recreated the beautiful traditional *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*.

It was lovely and the Chapel was full. Christmas Eve was also one of the most wonderful in my memory anywhere. Stay tuned...for we are making plans for a holy Lent and a glorious Easter.

The Halftime service, given the support it needed and the green light to continue, experienced a huge boost when one day Pat Hector brought Thea, her beautiful golden lab service dog, to sing to the accompaniment of my Native American flute. Thea continues to sing for us most Wednesdays, and I am looking forward to hearing her at the next 10:30 a.m. Family Celebration Sunday.

We moved the Healing Service to 10:00 a.m. Wednesday mornings and revamped the liturgy. It continues to be a very important offering for those who seek the healing comfort of our Lord for themselves and others.

We will be offering Taize worship in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month, beginning February 5. Taize is a quiet meditative service with very easy to sing chants and periods of sacred silence and lots of candles.

Other happenings in the last year include: a new Widows Grief Support group and a year-round cancer support group to provide assistance to anyone with those needs. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) group is active again. A picture directory has been prepared and should be in our hands shortly.

New staff members have been added in the last year. In addition to Allen, our wonderful St. Stephen's Episcopal School received a big boost when the new Head of School, Amanda Ebner, came on board. Amanda's indomitable energy and experience has brought new life to SSES. Elisa Webster has joined the Church staff as the Youth & Family Minister and Lydia Baese has come to be the much-needed administrative assistant to Jeannetta, our Parish Administrator. Lydia will be in the office to greet you and at the phone to answer your calls. Both Elisa and Lydia have long experience serving the church and will certainly bring the help we need.

It has been a very good year for our precious church family, and it is my prayer and expectation that 2020 will be even more exciting as a new Rector arrives and a new vision unfolds. I will be a little sad, though, for when that time materializes, my chapter with you as your interim will come to a close. More on that next edition.

Peace and love to all,
Phil+

FROM YOUR TREASURER

JOE BLANFORD

This will be my final newsletter article as my three-year term as your Treasurer comes to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed my six years working with you, the first three being on the Vestry. I am, however, looking forward to spending more time in my studio, garden, and on musical interests. As my swan song, I am happy to report that we close out 2019 slightly ahead of budget and poised to grow and serve our parish as we are introduced to a new Rector. Details on these plans will be front and center at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26.



I am pleased to let you know that Roy Buckley will be taking over as Treasurer and will be presenting the financial information along with Ken Ellis, Finance Committee Chairman. Roy has taken a leadership role in preparing the 2020 budget and is eager to serve you and the parish.

See you on Sunday!



**Bring Donations
through
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Chapel or Church Narthex**

To fight hunger and poverty in our own Wimberley Valley, SSEC and SSES will be collecting food and supplies for this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. The Youth will be passing out grocery bags and a list of the 10 most needed items in the chapel and church narthexes on Sunday, January 19 and 26. Simply take a bag, fill it, and return it to a narthex by Sunday, February 2. The Youth will also be helping with the delivery.

100% of our donation goes directly to Crisis Bread Basket

St. Stephen's has been a generous participant in the past! Let's continue this wonderful tradition by filling those bags with food and supplies.

MOST WANTED

Cereal Healthy
Fruit (packed in water)
Applesauce
Canned Vegetables (peas,
spinach, mixed, potatoes)

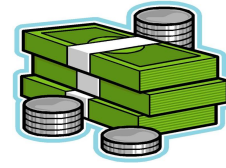
Canned Tuna or Chicken
Jelly
Juice (low/no sugar added)
Deodorant
Shampoo

For more information: Mary McIntosh, Mary.mcintosh@att.net

St.
Stephen's
Wimberley

2019 Contribution Statements Have Been Sent

The 2019 SSEC Contribution Statements have been sent out electronically for those with e-mail addresses on file. If you did not receive your statement, please contact: Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org.



Introducing SSEC'S Administrative Assistant **LYDIA BAESE**

From the moment Lydia Baese saw the job posting she felt, "God brought me to St. Stephen's!" On Mondays through Thursdays, you will find Lydia in our church front office and serving as our church Administrative Assistant. She also has stepped up to assume a leadership role as the Newcomer Coordinator. Veronica Erwin and Carla Daws will serve as team leaders assisted by Cindy Dawson, Dorothy Harris, and Sue Wright.

Lydia is originally from Louisiana yet grew up in Dallas. Her husband is from New Braunfels, and that's where Lydia and her family have made their home. She has two sons, ages 15 and 18. Before coming to St. Stephen's, Lydia spent 10 years in Human Resources, then worked for Fellowship Church Southwest as the Office Manager, and later as the bookkeeper and development for the family businesses.

When she's not at work, she enjoys taking care of her family and shopping! If seafood is your favorite food, then you have something else in common with Lydia.

We are thrilled to have her on board with us and can't wait for you to meet her.



Youth Firewood Collection & Delivery

The Youth are collecting firewood this Sunday, January 26 in coordination with Souper Bowl of Caring. If you have firewood that you would like to donate or are willing to join the collection efforts, driving your truck and/or trailer on Sunday afternoon, after the annual meeting, please contact: Lexi Jones, alexisajones@gmail.com. The donations of firewood, Souper Bowl food, and money benefit the Wimberley Crisis Bread Basket and support our fellow neighbors during this winter season. These neighbors solely depend on firewood to heat their homes.



DEER CREEK JANUARY SERVICE

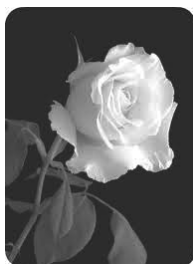
Sunday, January 26 @ 3:30 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237, Wimberley

You may be familiar with the singing dog, Thea, who frequents Wednesday Half-time Services, but did you know about Deer Creek's religious birds? Curious? Then come check it out at Deer Creek with your own eyes and ears on Sunday, January 26 at 3:30 p.m. Our St. Stephen's team of volunteers will be leading this offsite service of hymns, lots of gospel music, and familiar prayers, as part of the rotation of local churches in the Ministerial Alliance.

All are welcome to attend.

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



NEW MINISTRY: WOMEN'S GRIEF SUPPORT

Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m., Meeting Room 1

Evie Martin is coordinating a new ministry at St. Stephens, Women's Grief Support. **They meet on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 1.**

"For certain each of us is on a very different path and time frame with our grief, yet I pray that each member will be able to share words or answer questions that help others find peace in this path we share," explains co-leader, Evie Martin.

These informal gatherings are private and information shared will be honored with confidentiality and respect. Those attending the meeting are also encouraged to consider staying afterwards for Carla Daws' Tuesday Yoga class at 4:00 p.m., as another way to renew and gain strength.

For more information, contact: [Evie Martin](#) or [Mary Goodwin](#).



Part-time Church Sexton Wanted

Lonnie Brown will continue as our Water Tech. *Thank you, Lonnie!*

What we are currently seeking is a part-time Sexton at 15 hours per week. If you have someone that you would like to recommend, please, see our Parish Administrator, Jeannetta Watson, or e-mail her, jwatson@ststeve.org.

This position will work under the general direction of the Parish Administrator and the Junior Warden and will be responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of the St. Stephen's Church campus. We are seeking just the right person who can work both indoors and outdoors and will have an eagle eye with constant awareness of any special needs or attention needed to be addressed with our buildings and grounds.



TAIZE MONTHLY SERVICE: 1st Wednesdays

A new monthly service begins, Wednesday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. TAIZE will be held the first Wednesday of the month. This will replace the Halftime Service *only* on the first Wednesday. (Halftime services will be held the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Wednesdays of the month.)

Expect the beautiful candlelight TAIZE service to include:

- 30 minutes of worship and reflection
- prayers
- music
- readings
- brief periods of silent meditation

Prayer benches, cushions, or other informal seating methods are encouraged. Committee members: Sharon East, Susan Webb, Dale Cegielski, Dot Green, Fr. Phil Mason, Julie Ray, Tom Dawson, and Anne Jones are filled with gratitude for this opportunity to return TAIZE to St. Stephen's. Please consider attending a service and giving yourself this most precious gift of renewal.

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



CAMP SUNDAY IS COMING

Sunday, February 9, 2020

St. Stephen's will participate in Camp Sunday on February 9. On this day we will be invited to donate money toward camp scholarships and to share stories of the transformational love and community that takes place at our diocesan camping programs (Camp Capers, Duncan Park, and Mustang Island Family Camp) or Camp Good Sam. Our Youth & Family Minister, Elisa Webster, will be available to register you early for this summer's Mustang Island Family Camp. Spots fill up quickly, so early registration is encouraged. Those registering are invited to choose the same session to be together on July 24-26, 2020. Be sure to look for Elisa at the camp registration table in McArthur Hall on Camp Sunday.



TED Talkers

Wednesday, February 12 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall

Please join us Wednesday, February 12 at 12 noon for the viewing of "How to defend earth from asteroids" by Phil Plait.

On TED Talkers 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 SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

MARCH 11, 2020

SEARCH FEATURE ON [STSTEVE.ORG](http://ststeve.org)

It's a snap to find what you are looking for on the St. Stephen's website, ststeve.org. When you visit the homepage, you will see a Search field in the upper right. Simply type in a word or two of what you are seeking into the search field, press enter, and "Viola!"

Speaking of handy features...did you know that starting, Monday, January 27, you will be able to fill out church reimbursement forms and upload your receipts at ststeve.org? Special thanks to our webmaster, Hunt Sparra, for taking Jeannetta Watson's fantastic idea and making it happen!

Our website is ever-evolving. So, if you've got an idea for an addition, improvement, or a suggestion, we would like to hear it. E-mail these to: Communications Manager, Jackie McFadden, eeant@mac.com.



KITCHEN ANGELS MARCH SIGNUP

Great news! We've got our January and February Kitchen Angels. Thank you!! Do we have any March Kitchen Angels out there? If so, please sign up in the church kitchen on the chart inside the kitchen door. For those of you that especially enjoy company, why not find a "partner angel" to share the March time. It is not necessary to do an entire month.

"Times of service are totally free and open for your own schedules," assures Evie Martin.

If anyone is curious as to the angel duties, there is a small red stand with "Kitchen Tips" posted by the sign up sheet. Feel free to check it out next time you snag a snack

PROMO CODE: SSEC

Good until: Friday, January 31

Use the promo code "SSEC" for \$25 off when buying tickets.

A poster for a Mardi Gras Masquerade event. The background is a solid mustard yellow. In the center, there is a large, stylized purple masquerade mask with three feathers. Below the mask, the text "mardi gras" is written in a cursive font, followed by "MASQUERADE" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below that, "BENEFITTING ST. STEPHEN'S" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the central text block, there is a small, stylized white masquerade mask. The entire central text and mask are enclosed within a decorative white border that features a star and a masquerade mask motif on the left and right sides. Below the central text block, the text "FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST" and "IVORY OAK" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the entire poster, the text "Masks Optional. Fun Required!" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below that, the text "All tickets include open bar, music by Boss Street Brass Band, and Cajun food provided by Brooklyn's Down South." is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Buy Your Tickets Today!" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the URL "https://one.bidpal.net/ssesmardigras" in a bold, sans-serif font.

mardi gras
MASQUERADE
BENEFITTING ST. STEPHEN'S

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
IVORY OAK

Masks Optional. Fun Required!

All tickets include open bar, music by Boss Street Brass Band, and Cajun food provided by **Brooklyn's Down South.**

Buy Your Tickets Today!
<https://one.bidpal.net/ssesmardigras>



Save the date for
February 23, 2020!

This event benefits
Camp Good Sam
Wimberley and is
hosted by Dodie and
Dick Scott at their
home located at
11030 Mt. Sharp
Road, Wimberley, TX.

Tickets are limited
and available on line at
the link provided. Hope
to see you there~

Purchase your tickets at:
<http://ow.ly/girr5QxYu1F> or call us and we will help
you to register. 512-393-9996 or 210-434-5531



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 JANUARY, contact:
Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net or Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net



EVENING EUCHARIST & PRAYER

featuring the Half-time Band

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for eucharist, prayer, and contemporary music. On the first Wednesday of the month you are invited to a new service, TAIZE. See related article in this *eNEWS* for more details.



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 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](#).

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

12 noon Wednesday or earlier

February 5

February 19



SUN, JAN 26

One Service Sunday (Church) & Annual Meeting following (McArthur Hall), 9:00 a.m.

SUN, JAN 26

Youth Breakfast Taco Fundraiser at Annual Meeting, 10:15 a.m. McArthur Hall

SUN, JAN 26

Youth Firewood Collection after Annual Meeting

SUN, JAN 26

Confirmation Class 2 of 6, 12 noon, Rector's Office

SUN, JAN 26

Deer Creek Sunday (OFFSITE), 3:30 p.m., Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237

TUES, JAN 28 & FEB 4

Women's Grief Support, Tuesdays, 3:00 p.m., Meeting Room 1

TUES, JAN 28

Gentle Yoga, 4:00 p.m., McArthur Hall

SUN, FEB 2

Souper Bowl Sunday

SUN, FEB 2

Confirmation Class 3 of 6, 12 noon, Rector's Office

WED, FEB 5

TAIZE Service (new!!!), 1st Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m., Chapel

FRI, FEB 7

Friday Coffee & Tea Friends, 9:30 a.m., Wimberley Cafe

SUN, FEB 9

Camp Sunday

FRI, FEB 14

Faithful Families Saint Valentines Party, 6:00 p.m., McArthur Hall

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 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon Fridays if you have any questions.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)