

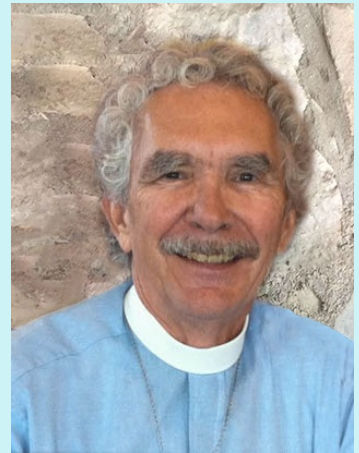
LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

Lessons from Dog Beings

Fr. Phil Mason, Interim Rector

My Dear Friends,

I brought our two Golden Retrievers to my church office for the first time today. Goldens have always been a part of our family. Most of the time we have had two, so Rosie and Peaches are our fourth and fifth canine children. Rosie is seven years old and Peaches is two -- 49 and 14 in dog year calculations. Rosie is the calm, wise one and Peaches, the adolescent rascal who sees herself as a 65 lb. lap dog. Susan and I love these two as we would any other member of our family. They teach us some very basic lessons of life -- how to live life in the present moment and what unconditional love looks like. They teach us to wag more and bark less. Over and over in our lives we rejoice at the arrival of a new puppy and grieve when they all too soon die and then we start the cycle all over again.



Do dogs got to heaven? I can't say for sure, but as Mark Twain put it, "If dogs don't go to heaven, I want to go where they go."

As I sit and ponder these two, beautiful creatures of God, my thoughts expand to a much wider scope to consider the myriad of species on our planet -- our Pale Blue Dot -- all a part of the same creation.

"All creatures of our God and King" sings the words of the hymn written by St. Frances of Assisi. I seem to be continually making the point that we are all the same, made from the same stardust. And even more importantly, that we are all a part of the same thing -- the creation. Our Judeo-Christian tradition seems to say that there is a creation and then there is us, somehow separate from it and in charge of it. There is no doubt that you and I are human beings and Rosie and Peaches are dog beings, and we have a great advantage over them and most other beings. The truth is there is no *us* and *them*, there are no others; there is only us.

God "blessed us with memory, reason, and skill" the eucharistic prayer proclaims. We have the intellectual capacity to hold one another in the highest personal regard, or indifference, or utter contempt. We can address the creation and its lesser creatures in the same manner. If we hold it to be true that we are all a part of the same thing and there are no others, are we not loving or despising ourselves? Is the lovingkindness that

we show forth for the birds of the air in some way increasing the lovingkindness that we feel for ourselves along with all other beings? I can tell you that when Peaches maneuvers into my lap or Rosie gives me a kiss on the nose, my heart sings.

*Peace and love to all,
Phil+*



Rosie



Peaches

SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins

THE LOOOOOONG HOT SUMMER ... ain't over yet!
However, that doesn't mean that activities for fall will wait for it to end! This Sunday begins our Bible Study groups for adults along with kickoffs for children and youth programs. See separate eNEWS articles in this edition for all the details.

The two major studies for the term are "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr, and "Acts for Everyone" by N.T. Wright. With the various offered meeting days and times, it is possible to attend both classes, if you wish to do both studies.



Our many, many thanks to Tom Fulkerson who has served as a leader to our Youth for the past few years. He has given of his time and energy by accompanying them on mission trips, planning outings including parties at his and Gina's lakeside home, and simply being present for counsel. Now, it's time for someone else to take the reigns, although Tom will be around for special occasions. *Blessings to you, Tom.*

September has also brought anguish for the victims and their families of the Midland/Odessa shootings and Hurricane Dorian. Let's remember them, continue to pray, and work on ways that we may help.

*Yours in Christ,
Nancy*

*"We would not be able to be brave or patient
if there was only joy in the world."
- Helen Keller*



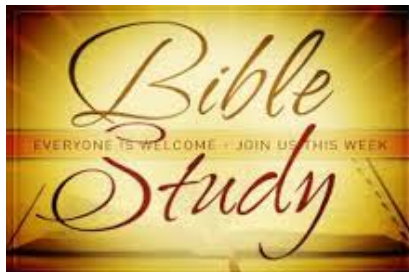
ALL-WOMEN BIBLE CLASSES

Calling all Bible Babes! All women are welcome!

Each week women gather for study, prayer, and fellowship. Meeting time is 12 noon for brown bag lunch and fellowship with 12:30-1:30 p.m. earmarked for discussion and study. There are two opportunities each week, either Monday or Thursday. Monday's Bible Babes will read through the book of Acts using N.T. Wright's study guides. Thursday's Bible Babes will have discussions surrounding Richard Rohr's new book, *The Universal Christ*. Bible Babes meet at various locations.

Monday Bible Babes, contact: Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com or Cindy Taylor, taylorcindy34@gmail.com.

Thursday Bible Babes, contact: Nancy Jenkins, nmjenkins@austin.rr.com.



ALL-ADULT BIBLE STUDY MEETS SUN, TUES

Last year we studied *THE STORY*, a sweeping overview of the entire Bible. This season we will study what might be called "Our Story" as we read through the books of Acts, the story of the beginning of the church. Our study guide author, N.T. Wright, encourages us to keep our eyes ever open for the presence of the resurrected Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit as we learn more of the fascinating beginnings of Christianity. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.

Also offered at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings is a second choice facilitated by Bob Reed. Discussions will be of Richard Rohr's new book, *The Universal Christ*. The identical Rohr discussion material is being offered on Tuesday mornings at the Co-ed Bible Study at 10:45 a.m. as well.

Sunday ACTS class, contact: Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com.

Sunday ROHR class or Tuesday ROHR class, contact: Bob Reed, nreed@austin.rr.com.



KICKOFFS ORANGE & GODLY PLAY



Parents & Kids,

You are invited to our spectacular kickoff party on:

Sunday, September 8
9:30 a.m.
Log Cabin

It's a brand new season of Sunday School, and we're eager to share all that Orange and Godly Play have to offer.

For our kick off, kids PK4 through 5th grades and their parents are invited to munch on some breakfast tacos and fabulous fruit. Then, best of all, kids get to go on a secret mission SCAVENGER HUNT while parents stay behind to get their questions answered and to register you! Our teacher friends: Donna Hoyland (Orange), Darelle Jordan (Godly Play), and Jamie Wallendorf (Orange) will be there! We wrap up just in time for everyone to head over to the 10:30 a.m. worship service together. So, hurry on down for your hugs.



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 5PM
YOUTH CENTER

(located in the back of the church campus)

Catered Dinner Meeting

FIRST FRUITS ON-SITE RESERVATIONS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

First Fruits reservations may be made this Sunday, September 8. Look for Carolyn Galle and Dorothy Harris in the narthex. ***Seats are \$100 per adult with no charge for children when accompanied by paying adult.***

Jamie and Andrew Wallendorf are spearheading fun activities for the children attending. For the adults, we have Mark Anthony Cruz, a classical guitarist, providing entertainment throughout the event, a silent auction with some very different items (*stay tuned!*), and a photo booth complete with props set up in an adjacent room for everyone to make some free fun photos to take home.

We look forward to seeing you there! QUESTIONS? Please contact our team: [Carolyn Galle](#), [Patrick Cox](#), [Carroll Dolezal](#), [Dorothy Harris](#), [Susan Webb](#), [Corlea Burnett](#), [Jeannetta Watson](#), or [Ann Robertson](#).



***Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus
to those around us
and let our generosity shine.***



COME ONE, COME ALL!
FIRST FRUITS WINE & DINE

Sunday, October 13, 2019

3:00 p.m.

Mc Arthur Hall

There will be food and fun for all ages. It's a sure to be lively, tasty, and fun way to raise much needed funds for our church campus to continue providing for our church family and outreach to the community.

PHOTO BOOTH with props

Tillie's Sommelier, Clint Carter

Hors d'oeuvres, Dinner, Dessert

Children's Menu

Emcee Patrick Cox

Mark Anthony Cruz, classical guitarist

Fun kids activities

SOME VERY DIFFERENT SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

SEATS: \$100

(per adult with no charge for children when accompanied by paying adult)

Questions? Contact: Carolyn Galle, carolyng@bigdogtx.com

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**



MELODYMAKERS

an outreach program of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Children in grades 1st through 6th, including home schoolers, are invited to join the MelodyMakers, directed by Anne Jones. All experience levels and talents in children's choir are welcome. We meet once a week during the regular school year on Wednesday afternoons at 4:15 p.m. in the St. Stephen's Church Choir Room off of McArthur Hall. During the school year, we take what we've created together musically and share it with everyone on Family Sundays as we lead the worship music. *Come join us!*



STARTS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 4:15 -5:00 P.M.



FOR KIDS 1ST THROUGH 6TH



IT'S TOTALLY FREE! REALLY!

Please release my child/children _____
to Anne Jones to attend MelodyMakers on Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. in the
Church Choir Room. Return this release to the school office before 9/11/19.



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

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

There are three more days to return your survey responses to the church office. If you need a PDF of the survey and additional questions e-mailed to you, please, contact: Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org. If you had already completed a survey at the Parish Profile Workshop held August 18, then your responses have already been collected. However, if you prefer to send new responses, upon further reflection, feel free to send in your new responses. Remember the survey and your written responses are an excellent method to share what's on your mind and of importance with regards to what qualities our next rector should possess.

On or before, Monday, September 9, please return your survey responses either by:

- e-mail to jwatson@ststeve.org
- snail mail (postmarked September 9) to the church office, 6000 FM 3237, Attn: Jeannetta Watson
- in a sealed envelope in Sunday, September 8 offering plate.

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



10 REASONS TO BE IN THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

1. You'll celebrate being a part of the St. Stephen's Church community.
2. You can choose to include all or none of your personal information on the secure website.
3. You're still beautiful after all these years.
4. You'll never forget your spouse's or best friend's name -- their picture will be on the mobile app.
5. You'll get a complimentary 8" x 10" picture just for showing up...FREE BABY!
6. No hard sell, guaranteed.
7. You can exchange the old printed church directory covered with coffee stains for a

clean one.

8. You can take advantage of the Shutterfly Storefront and get your Christmas shopping started early.
9. You can bring your family, a pet, a plant, your grandchildren, or your best friend for moral support.
10. YOUR NAMES & FACES WILL WELCOME OUR NEW RECTOR!

Instructions for scheduling your photo session will be coming soon! In the meantime, be sure to save these dates:

Friday, October 4, 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



WIMBERLEY AREA CANCER SUPPORT MEETING

Wednesday, September 11 @ 11:30 a.m.

OFFSITE: Wimberley Chamber of Commerce, Members Room

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

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

TED Talkers

Wednesday, September 11 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall



Please join us Wednesday, September 11 at 12 noon for the viewing of "How Photography Connects Us" by David Griffin.

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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

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



SEPTEMBER DEER CREEK SERVICES

Wednesday, September 11 & 25 @ 3:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 RR 3237, Wimberley

On September 11 and 25 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.



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



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING MEETING

Sunday, September 15 @ 12 noon

Meeting Room 1

For His Sake, the Daughters of the King will gather for prayer and discernment on Sunday, September 15, 12 noon in Meeting Room 1. We welcome you to be with us.

For more information , contact: Dale Cegielski, doilydo@yahoo.com.

You're Invited!



**St.
Stephen's**
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Wimberley

Newcomers Dinner & Get Together

Sunday, September 15, 2019

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Veronica Erwin's Home

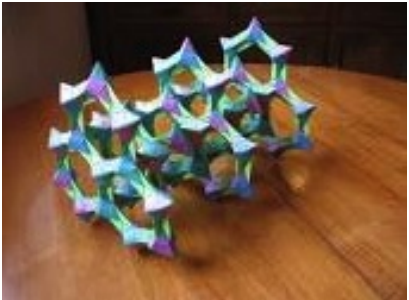
(830) 613-9397

RSVP BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

veronicaerwin47@gmail.com

(Remember to include the number of children coming and their ages.)

Please join us for a casual get together at Veronica's lovely home in the country. No need to bring anything. We'll enjoy dinner together, a visit from Fr. Phil, 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. **SAVE THE DATE!**



Great Generations Gathering

Wednesday, September 18, 11:30 a.m.

In September we will learn about the Japanese art of origami, presented by Tomoko Long, gourmet Japanese cook. Hands-on participation is optional. Just to see how these amazing sculptures are made from a simple piece of paper is an experience that all can appreciate. Please join us if you can for free food, fellowship, music, and door prizes. What a fun way to exercise our fingers and brains.

For more information, contact: Carroll Dolezal, carrolldolezal99@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.

FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICE

returning:

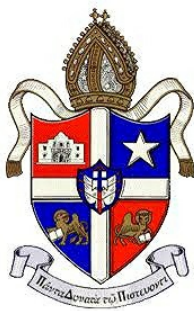
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

10:30 a.m.

St. Stephen's Church



DWTX Spiritual Retreat in Recovery #114



We all know someone - spouse, family member, co-worker, friend, etc. - who is in "recovery". (Or at least someone we imagine ought to be - maybe even that face in the mirror.) Many folks think "recovery" is about what we run away from. It soon becomes clear that it is so much more about what we run toward.

The earliest founders and medical practitioners of recovery programs understood that the root cause of abuse is a "spiritual malady". As old as the Garden of Eden, it is the hubris that our human, ego-driven self-will can supplant the will of God. As we accepted our "dis-ease" and recognized that there would be no cure provided by any *human* power, we prepared ourselves to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to care that out. What could be more fitting for a recovery retreat than that it be grounded in the historically spiritual roots of the Oxford Movement and the Episcopal Church.

The seminal Twelve Step recovery program Alcoholics Anonymous was co-founded in 1935 by Bill W. and Dr. Bob. The Rev. Dr. Sam Shoemaker, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in New York, was an early and essential spiritual guide in the early years. In 1941, the Rev. Everett Jones, as rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in San Antonio, learned of the organization and understood its mission. He corresponded with the AA Central Office in New York, and later in 1955 with the help of members from Dallas and Houston, recovery became an active ministry in San Antonio. (Associated Twelve Step groups would subsequently form: Al-Anon, Adult Children of Alcoholics, NA, CA, *et al.* Recovery would later become a ministry of the national Episcopal Church.)

Following his consecration as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, the Rt. Rev. Everett Jones advanced the idea of holding recovery services in the church, leading to semi-annual Spiritual Retreats in Recovery beginning in 1961. This October 4-6, 2019, we will gather at our Mustang Island Conference Center for Retreat #114. As spiritual leader, Rev. Philip May, Associate Rector of Church of the Good Shepherd in Corpus Christi, will explore "family systems" and how people form groups - systems which can help us understand the sources of addiction and give us new tools to change patterns of the past and find healing. Break out sessions offer a variety of topics and activities. Members of AA, NA, CA, ACA and Al Anon share their experience, strength, and hope in a community of love and support.

The mission of the Spiritual Retreat in Recovery is to provide a safe place to deepen one's spiritual journey. It is open to anyone in recovery from alcoholism or other substances, and to families and friends affected by the disease of addiction. Here we seek its spiritual solution. Although grounded in Episcopal liturgy, this is not a specifically denominational event, and no church affiliation is required. Attendees will be treated to warm hospitality, delicious food, and thoughtful presentations in this beautiful setting along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Check-in is 5:00pm Friday and dismissal is 10:45am Sunday. The cost is \$195 per person (includes double-occupancy room and 5 delicious meals). A \$75 day rate is available for commuters. Reservation and Registration information can be found at <https://www.dwtx.org/departments/committees/recovery-ministries/>. Cut-off date for reservations is Tuesday, October 1, 2019.



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

To register for this event visit:
<https://ststephenswimberley.org/2019-golf-tournament>




**5th Annual
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER
SEPT 28 QUICKSAND GOLF COURSE
 WIMBERLEY, TEXAS
BBO PRIZES & AWARDS
LUNCH 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

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

GOLF CART

Raffle

\$20
PER TICKET
OR 6 FOR
\$100



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



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 18
October 2



SAVE THE DATES

SUN, SEPT 8

Children's/Godly Play/Youth Kickoffs, (Children's/Godly Play), 9:30 a.m., Log Cabin & (Youth), 5:00 p.m., Youth Center

SUN, SEPT 8

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

WED, SEPT 11

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

WED, SEPT 11

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

WED, SEPT 11

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

SAT, SEPT 14

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

SUN, SEPT 15

Daughters of the King, 12 noon, Meeting Room 1

SUN, SEPT 15

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

WED, SEPT 18

Great Generations Gathering, 11:30 a.m., McArthur Hall

SUN, SEPT 29

Family Celebration Service, 10:30 a.m., Church

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!](#)