



SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED, REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3.



November 1, 2019

eNEWS

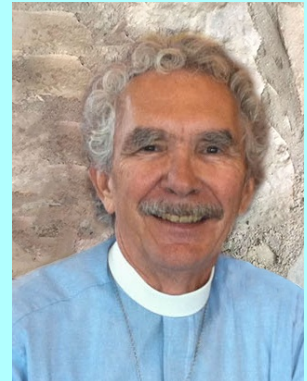
LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

Being a Christian

[Fr. Phil Mason](#)

My Dear Friends,

Life is interesting when one puts on a clergy collar. I can clearly remember one of the very first times I wore mine serving as chaplain at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin. I was leaving the parking garage after a difficult shift in the ER and was feeling a little stressed and, perhaps, a little grumpy. Another motorist pulled out in front of me and startled me--a rude move in my judgement. I yelled a common expletive which the other driver would not have heard, but I also instinctively issued the well known universal, uni-digital hand gesture, which the driver most likely *did* see. In that moment I felt the brand new collar around my neck begin to squeeze. I felt so very embarrassed and ashamed and un-priestly. I realized that I was being called upon to be something different now for I was wearing an outward sign of being a Christian and a priest at that. I said to myself, "This job might be a little harder than I thought." I have never forgotten that day.



"...those that seek God, will find God."

It seems to me, that in this present day, it is sometimes difficult or uncomfortable for any of us to acknowledge our faith. There are a good many Christian denominations, and they vary widely--or might I say wildly--in their doctrine and their belief systems. Some are very strict in their dogma and only those who comply are welcome. Some are more open and tolerant of a range of view points. Some, in my opinion, frankly stray far from

what I consider the Gospel; instead espousing hatred and intolerance and social injustice. Many of these have garnered considerable notoriety, too. So, if I simply tell another person that, "I am Christian," it leaves many questions--some difficult--unanswered. Even if I say, "I am an Episcopalian," there is often some clarification needed.

Many Christians feel that their most important task is to make more Christians--Christians of their particular denomination--and sometimes they are overly enthusiastic in their efforts. It is hard to argue against the notion that we could make Christians out of everyone, and I for one would like to share my faith and my understanding of Jesus' teachings and the Gospel with anyone who has ears to listen. On the other hand, the peoples of the world have found God and faith in many different ways, and I would be the last to interfere with another's strongly held faith. I have always been convinced that those who seek God will find God.

I often said that we might consider not trying so hard to be Christians and just *be* Christ for the world and perhaps in doing so we might attract others to a new way of living. Be the light that shines in the darkness. Let our life, filled with the presence of Christ, exemplify the love that Christ brings to the whole world. If we believe that the presence of Christ exists in the heart of everyone, we only need to remember the words of our sacred baptismal covenant, "Serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself," and "respect the dignity of every human being."

*"Lighthouses don't go running all over an island
looking for boats to save;
they just stand there shining." - Anne Lamott*

*Peace and Love to All,
Phil+*

SENIOR WARDEN NEWS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins

Mrs. Autumn has finally come to town!! Most of us are delighted to see her, and hope she plans to stick around. This time of year finds us gearing up for the coming holidays. Be sure to take time for yourselves and rejoice in your blessings.

VESTRY NOMINEES

We are pleased to announce that we have three nominees for Vestry for the coming three years. Three were needed, and three agreed to serve. The nominees are: Mary McIntosh, John Odell, and Todd Schmidt. They will be presented at the annual meeting to be held Sunday, January 26, 2020. Thank you, Mary, John, and Todd for your willingness to serve on a very rewarding ministry.



SEARCH UPDATE

Our search is moving forward. This week, Caroline Mowen, Canon of Administration and Ministry Support for the Diocese, spoke to your Vestry, advising them of, when the time comes, the process of negotiating a compensation package for the incoming rector. It is

a comfort to know the Diocese is taking such an active part in our selection. Additionally, to keep us all up to date, the Search Committee will continue to publish its updates in the eNEWS.

STEWARDSHIP

This Sunday, November 3, we will kick off our Stewardship Campaign with "Taking the Next Step." We will begin to hear from fellow parishioners telling us of exciting ways to support our church community's operations. As a preface to the campaign, each of you were mailed a copy of "Practicing Extravagant Generosity" to introduce you to this year's opportunities. (Read about more plans in the "Taking the Next Step" article in this eNEWS.)

We are so fortunate to have our beautiful church, chapel, grounds, and fellow worshippers in this church community. Let's remember to give thanks for all we enjoy.

Blessings,
Nancy

"He who looks outside, dreams; he who looks inside, awakens"
- Carl Jung



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee continues to meet, pray, and exercise discernment while we begin to receive preliminary rector candidate information. We are as eager as you are to see who and what is coming our way. We will have more information for you after the committee's "Name Night" with Archdeacon Mike Besson. Stay tuned to our next report in the Friday, November 15 issue of eNEWS.

In Christ,
[Sharon East](#) & [Darelle Jordan](#), Search Committee Co-Chairs



taking the **next** step

THE NEXT STEP: 2020 STEWARDSHIP

This year's stewardship program, *Taking the Next Step*, is now in full swing. You will see many components that look familiar, but this year the program is different in the prayer aspect that we as a church family are undertaking. We have distributed the daily devotionals to each household. The book, *Practicing Extravagant Generosity*, helps us all to focus on the part that giving plays in our lives, and will ultimately lead us all to *Taking the Next Step Sunday* when we ask ourselves where God is leading us in our giving. We are also distributing prayer cards to everyone, and we have recruited the Daughters of the King to pray for the success of our program.

We will celebrate *Taking the Next Step Sunday* on November 24 when we will worship together at one combined service at 9:00 a.m. We will conclude with a Thanksgiving catered meal in McArthur Hall on that special Sunday.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of the Stewardship Committee listed below:

[Sharon Neukam](#), Chairperson

[John Stark](#), Co-Chair

[Ed Galle](#)

[Carla Daws](#)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019

8:30 a.m. until 12 noon

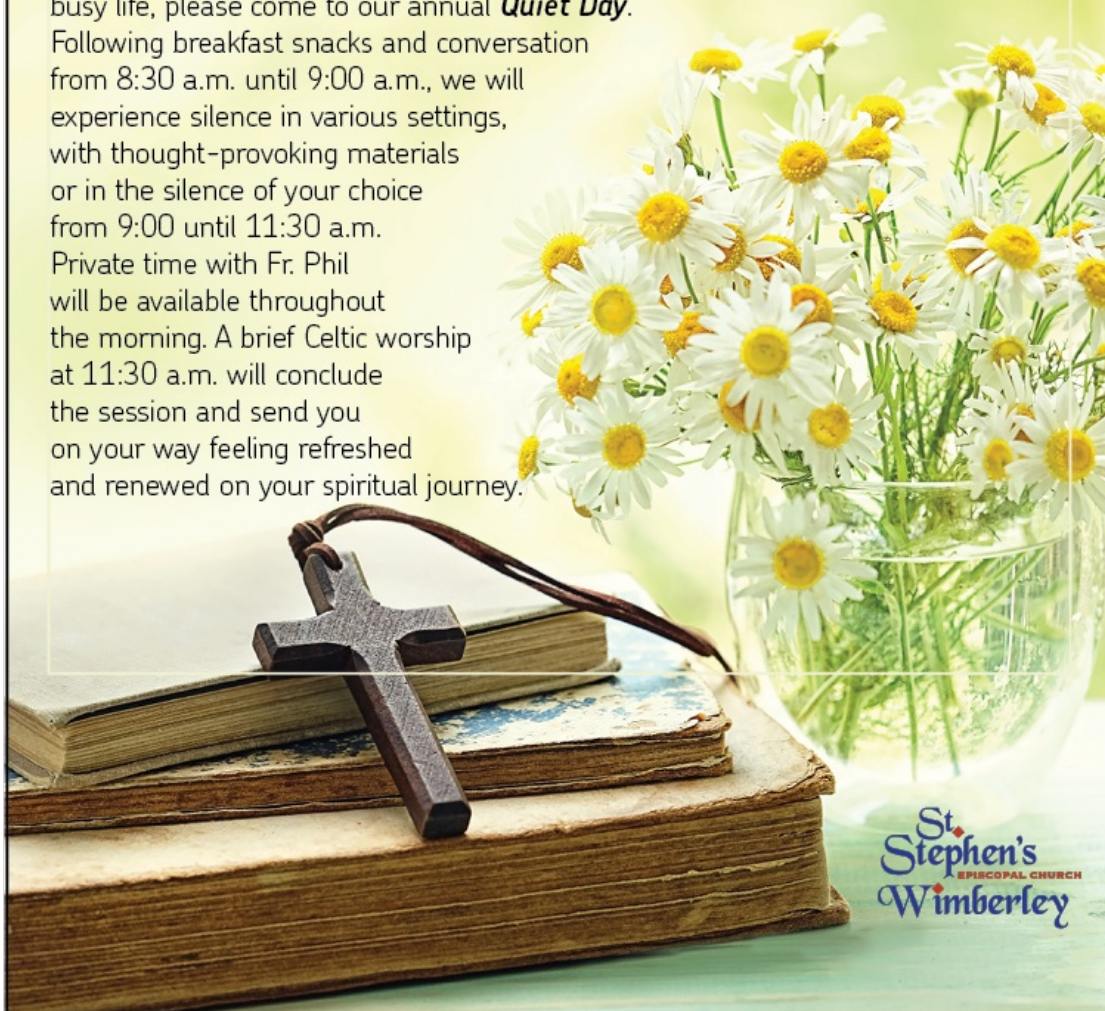
Quiet Day

**Sponsored by St. Stephen's
Community of Hope**

If a slice of serene silence and contemplation appeals to you in the midst of your busy life, please come to our annual **Quiet Day**.

Following breakfast snacks and conversation from 8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., we will experience silence in various settings, with thought-provoking materials or in the silence of your choice from 9:00 until 11:30 a.m.

Private time with Fr. Phil will be available throughout the morning. A brief Celtic worship at 11:30 a.m. will conclude the session and send you on your way feeling refreshed and renewed on your spiritual journey.



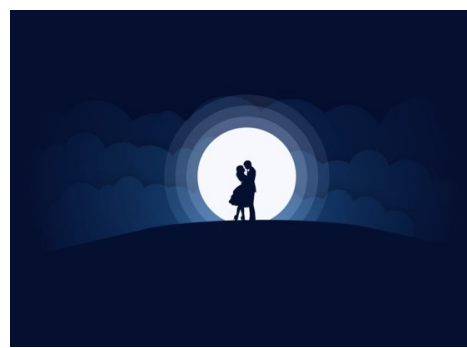
St.
Stephen's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Wimberley

**For more information, contact: Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net
or Sharon East, sharoneast@verizon.net. No fees nor registration required.**

MOONGLOW BIG BAND DANCE

Saturday, November 2, 2019 @ 5 p.m.

OFFSITE: Downtown Wimberley, BackStage venue



The Wimberley Valley Big Band is excited to present a whole lot of great big band music in a FREE dance, a *MoonGlow*

Big Band Dance, in downtown Wimberley on Saturday, November 2. This ticketed but free dance will be held at the Back Stage venue, located behind the burned-out Cypress Creek Cafe building. The gates will open at 4:30 p.m. and the music will go from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. Your donations make these events possible. As a local non-profit dedicated to providing great music to the Wimberley Valley community, the Wimberley Valley Big Band is always appreciative of our sponsors and donors.

Eventbrite tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/wimberley-valley-big-band-your-hometown-21-piece-non-profit-dance-band-27332838873>



For more information, contact "the jazziest small town big band in Texas."

wimberleyvalleybigband.org.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2019

8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. services

Submitted names of the dead will be read at the annual All Saints Sunday service on November 3rd during the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.

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

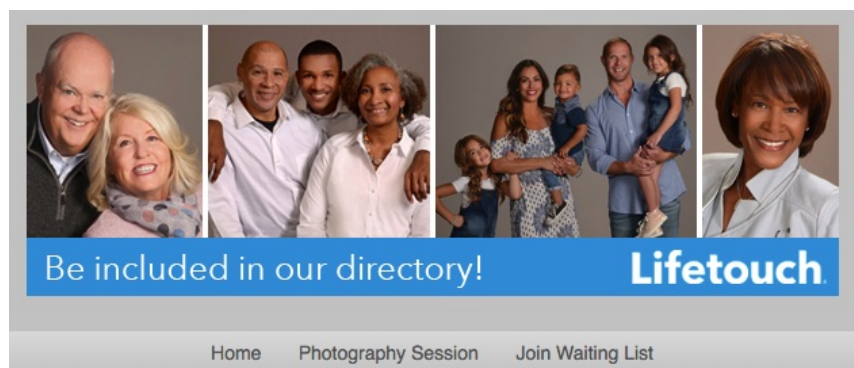


DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSION WAITING LIST

STILL NEED TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION? Although the November 21 and 22 photo sessions are now filled, if we have 15-20 people on the waiting list, we will be assigned an additional day/s in December. So, if you still need to make your reservation for your photo session, please do so by visiting:

[BOOK YOUR PHOTO SESSION](#)

Once you have gone to the above link, click on "join the waiting list." The screen will look like this:



If you have any difficulties joining the waiting list, you are always welcome to put your name on the list attached to the front desk in the St. Stephen's Church office.

If you have already scheduled your photo session for November 21 or 22, please make every effort to be there. All photo sessions will be in McArthur Hall.

Remember to keep your clothing simple. If coordinating attire, consider solid or subtle patterns.

For more information, contact: Judy Holmes, judyholmes1249@gmail.com.



FRIDAY COFFEE & TEA FRIENDS

Friday, November 1 & 15, 9:30 a.m.

OFFSITE: Brookshire Brothers

The Friday Coffee and Tea Friends meet at Brookshire Brothers deli every first and third Friday, except holidays, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited to share this time of fellowship and conversation.

For more information, contact: [Ann Robertson](#) or [Marsha Acock](#).



VETERANS WILL BE HONORED & ARE INVITED TO BRING MEMORABILIA

Sunday, November 10, 2019

We will be honoring our veterans during both the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday, November 10, 2019. On that day, veterans are invited to bring memorabilia and place it on the reserved tables in McArthur Hall. Mack Gray will read a special tribute. Please join us in McArthur Hall for the late coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service for refreshments. If you are able to lend a hand during the Veterans Day coffee hour, please contact Martha Knies, martha.knies306@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



WIMBERLEY AREA CANCER SUPPORT MEETING

Wednesday, November 13 @ 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 and Dave Boyd, davemarcyboyd@anvilcom.com.

TED Talkers

Wednesday, November 13 @ 12 noon

McArthur Hall



Please join us Wednesday, November 13 at 12 noon for the viewing of "The danger of a single story" by Chimamanda Adichie.

Note: Unlike other months, TED Talkers will meet only one time in November and December due to the holidays. Beginning January, we will return to meeting every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. St. Stephen's members, guests, and the

general public are invited to St. Stephen's Church to enjoy these open, facilitated discussions on various, timely topics.

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 FALL 2019 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 13, 2019
DECEMBER 11, 2019

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



NOVEMBER DEER CREEK SERVICES

Wednesday, November 13 & 27 @ 3:00 p.m.

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237, Wimberley

On Wednesday, November 13 and 27 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.



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 17, 12 noon

Meeting Room 1

For His Sake, the Daughters of the King will gather for prayer and discernment this Sunday, November 17 at 12 noon in Meeting Room 1. This ministry is led by new DOK leader, Sue Wright. We welcome you to be with us!

For more information, contact: Sue Wright, wright5212@sbcglobal.net.



ST. STEPHEN'S SANTA ADOPTIONS

BEGINS: Sunday, November 17, 2019

Mark your calendars now for the opening day of the Santa Tree, which will be Sunday, November 17. This season's Santa adoptions will continue through Sunday, December 8.

St. Stephen's Santa ministry was created to help provide needy families in the Wimberley community with gifts and food for Christmas. The children of these families are "adopted" by our church members, who then donate money or purchase gifts for them. **All gifts, along**

with a full Christmas meal, will be delivered to the families on Sunday, December 15, 2019.

The purpose of this program is to identify families who do not have the resources to provide their children with gifts for Christmas nor a full Christmas meal.

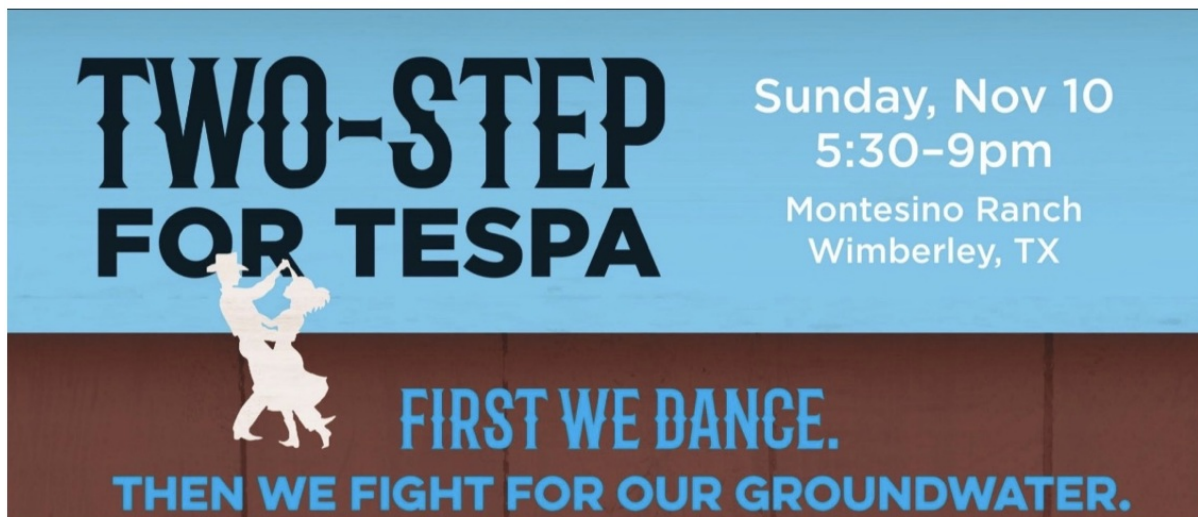
The Santa ministry is an opportunity for EVERYONE to take part in the spirit of giving during the Christmas season.

Ways you can participate in the the Santa ministry:

- Adoption of a child: \$100 minimum per child
- Monetary donations, any amount is appreciated
- Donate gift wrapping supplies: boxes, wrapping paper, tape, etc.
- Wrap gifts
- Deliver meals and gifts

Watch your next *eNEWS*, November 15, for the Santa Ministry's complete schedule for events.

For more information, contact: Sharon Krebs, krebss@austin.rr.com.



TIME TO BUY YOUR TICKETS

To read the all the details and to purchase tickets, visit:

<https://tespatexas.org/events/two-step-for-tespa>

Volunteers are needed for this fundraiser. If you would like to actively make a difference, get a decent meal, and some great country music, Please contact: Karen Ford, kford@waterpr.com.

The biggest areas of need are:

- Pre-Event Ticket Sales Ambassadors

- Day of Event Set Up Tables, Chairs
- Night of Event Welcome Table Host
- Night of Event Dessert Service
- Night of Event Tear Down and Clean Up

For more information, contact Karen Ford, kford@waterpr.com.



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.

Community of Hope Ministry



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 NOVEMBER, contact:

Nancy Jenkins, nmjenkins@austin.rr.com or Kristen Schmidt, tkschmidt@anvilcom.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

November 13
December 4



SAVE THE DATES

FRI, NOV 1 & 15

Friday Coffee & Tea Friends (OFFSITE), 9:30 a.m., Brookshire Brothers Deli

SAT, NOV 2

Quiet Day, 8:30 a.m., meet in McArthur Hall

SUN, NOV 3

All Saints Day Sunday

SUN, NOV 10

Veterans Honored at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services

WED, NOV 13

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

WED, NOV 13

TED Talkers, 12 noon, McArthur Hall

WED, NOV 13 & 27

Deer Creek Eucharist (OFFSITE), 3:00 p.m., Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237

SUN, NOV 17

Daughters of the King Meeting, 12 noon, Meeting Room 1

SUN, NOV 17

Santa Adoptions begin

SUN, NOV 24

Taking the Next Step Sunday, 9:00 a.m. combined service with catered meal after

LIFE AT SSEC

St. Stephen's draw and reach has been proven to be near and far and significant to people of all ages and pets, alike. There certainly seems to be that special something that fills our spirits at SSEC.

Thank you, Pat Hector, for bringing Thea, your Honey Labrador emotional therapy dog, to St. Stephen's. Thea's spirited singing is now a delightful regular feature during the Wednesday night service in the Chapel, and a most excellent accompaniment to Fr. Phil's Native American flute's music.

Thank you, Bill and Kathleen Cline, for hosting a glorious day of "River Fun" for the St. Stephen's Youth in October. You've reminded us all that fellowship can reach from within the church all the way to the river.

St. Stephen's draw and the special people that it brings into our lives is irreplaceable. Take, for instance, Pat and Connie Eagan. Connie was a founder of St. Stephen's and was on the first-ever Vestry. Although neither Pat nor Connie are driving at this stage in their lives, this has not diminished their love and connection to SSEC. Recently, Carroll Dolezal visited with the Eagans, taking them communion, and catching them up on the folks they miss dearly. Thank you, Carroll, for the connection and providing us with a glimpse on how well our dear friends, the Eagans, are doing.





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!](#)