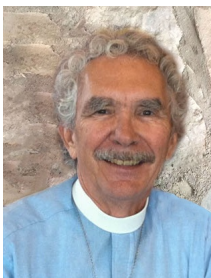


## **Letter from the Rector**

### ***At Any Given Moment, Anything can Happen***

**by Rev. Phil Mason**



Last Monday, June 22, as I sat down to write my "Rector's Report" to the Vestry, I found myself looking back to June 2019. I discovered that my memory--which is often in doubt these days of my life--was indeed correct. I saw that on Sunday, June 23, 2019 it was announced that you, with the blessing of the Bishop, had called me to be your Interim Rector.

I remember well announcing that my first official act as your Interim Rector would be to leave on the next day for a two week vacation.

Needless to say, it has been a very long journey these last 12 months. It would take the rest of this page and more to review all that has transpired in that time. I will say that this last year has been--without any doubt whatsoever--the most interesting, challenging, surprising, rewarding, fascinating, and satisfying time of my life as a parish priest. I really can't wait to see what happens next!

Attempting to look ahead, I find my crystal ball to be very cloudy. I have tried window cleaner and a few pagan incantations to clear it up, but nothing seems to work. One principle truth that I try to remember is that at any given moment anything can happen. Given that, I look to the future with great hope. So, I once again set aside my cloudy ball and see our beloved St. Stephen's in the present moment.

At our recent Vestry meeting, Carla Daws pointed out to us that St. Stephen's Church has become entirely a virtual church. Two things make this a reality. First of all, we remember that The Church is not a collection of buildings, but a community of faithful people loving one another and loving Christ. I have said before that the pandemic has brought us closer together in heart and soul as we remain separated for our own safety. I am happy that this paradox has its upside and I, like so many of us, look forward to the day we gather again and hug one another. As the pandemic continues to persist, I cannot say when that will be.

The second thing that makes it a reality is the great work of Anne Jones, Allen Hennig, and Robert McLemore who bring the beautiful Eucharist liturgy to us each week; Elisa Webster and Darelle, who see that our young people continue to know their church is there for them; and our communications director, Jackie McFadden, who keeps us in touch with seemingly everything.

I feel very privileged to be able to be present for and a part of these incredible historic times in our lives. I feel sure that the year of the great COVID-19 pandemic will be talked about for many generations to come. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that you have given me to bring the Word of God and the Blessed Sacrament to you in these

difficult times.

Peace and love to all,  
*Phil+*

---

## Senior Warden News

### by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



How's all this working for you? Having fun yet? Are you answering unknown phone numbers just to hear another human, whether animated or real? Find yourself taking the dog out six times a day just to get out of the house? Talking to the television?

One parishioner is busy making masks, stating if she has to wear them for the rest of her life, then she's going to be coordinated to her outfits! Some are taking advantage of nature's bounty, canning and pickling veggies from their gardens. Others are catching up on sorting and labeling old photographs, which they never had time to do before the pandemic. How about sharing with us some of the activities you are endeavoring to do in all this "down" time?

Creating art is one activity that can be accomplished, no matter what the surrounding conditions. We see evidence of this when we tune into [TAKE 5](#). We not only hear Allen play, but we see the great design of the chapel with musical notes flowing outward. Carroll Dolezal, once again, has done her magic for the enhancement of our church and campus.

#### AMIGOS DE JESUS

We are pleased to announce that Amigos de Jesus has obtained its 501c(3) status. Connie Maverick started this ministry to help the Hispanic community in Wimberley, and is now a member of it's Advisory Board. Al Sander is serving as president and Gina Fulkerson is secretary. At the June Vestry meeting, a motion was made and seconded to support Amigos de Jesus as one of St. Stephen's outreach ministries.

#### FIRST FRUITS

Ann Robertson has agreed to chair our third annual First Fruits! *Thank you, Ann!* Due to our present situation with COVID-19, the event has been postponed until Spring 2021. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this fun gala, please email Ann, [annrobertson95@gmail.com](mailto:annrobertson95@gmail.com).

#### VESTRY/LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Todd Schmidt, Interim Junior Warden, has accepted the role of Junior Warden, effective immediately. He will be working closely with Mike Williamson, Facility Director. Todd is a long-time parishioner and very familiar with our campus. Thanks, Todd!

We've been doing some organizational adjustments during this period to continue to improve our operations. Carla Daws will be leading our Newcomer Team and Veronica Erwin, [veronicaerwin47@gmail.com](mailto:veronicaerwin47@gmail.com), will move to Outreach to assist Mary McIntosh, [mary.mcintosh@att.net](mailto:mary.mcintosh@att.net). If anyone would like to join either team, please feel free to email them. Thanks, Carla and Veronica, for your involvement in these very important ministries.

I have been thinking a lot about the word "unity" this week. How may we obtain unity in reacting to COVID-19? How do we corral thousands of protestors to speak in one voice? Joan Chittister, noted Benedictine sister and international lector, describes it this way:

"The kind of unity that is born out of differences and becomes the glue of a group has four characteristics: it frees, it enables, it supports, and it listens." - from the book *Uncommon Gratitude* by Joan Chittister

I think of it as parts working together to make up the whole, as in the body. No matter how we describe it, I pray we all attain it.

If you've got thoughts to share, I'm here. Email me, [nancycookejenkins@gmail.com](mailto:nancycookejenkins@gmail.com), any

*"Unity makes strength, and since we must be strong,  
we must also be one. - Grand Duke Friedrich von Vaden (1826-1907)*

## News From Your Treasurer by Roy Buckley



May 2020 financial activity once again, by the smallest of margins, found St. Stephen's in a surplus position, i.e., revenue inflows exceeding expense outflows. Our budgeted expectations for the month had anticipated a \$6,058 shortfall. Pledge receipts, however, exceeded budget expectations by \$2,659 and cumulative revenue exceeded the budget by \$1,936. May outflow, in all expense categories, met or fell under the month's budgeted expectations. These revenue and expense markers are notable considering that our livestream, social media, and website services have placed a heightened burden upon our social media/communications and website staff in ways we could not have possibly foreseen at the beginning of 2020. Set forth immediately below is a chart summarizing May's revenue and expense activities juxtaposed against the same activities through the first five months of the year.

	<b>Actual May-20</b>	<b>Budget May-20</b>	<b>Actual To-Date</b>	<b>Budget To-Date</b>
<b>REVENUE (Pledge, Plate &amp; Other)</b>	\$41,887.76	\$39,952.08	\$194,371.27	\$161,891.73
<b>Total Inflow</b>	<b>\$41,887.76</b>	<b>\$39,952.08</b>	<b>\$194,371.27</b>	<b>\$161,891.73</b>
<b>APPORTIONMENT</b>	\$8,341.00	\$8,340.00	\$25,020.00	\$33,360.00
<b>CONTRACT LABOR</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00
<b>EVANGELISM &amp; FORMATION</b>	\$0.00	\$62.50	\$196.39	\$1,392.50
<b>MINISTRY</b>	\$1,256.05	\$1,322.74	\$2,277.79	\$3,134.55
<b>OPERATING</b>	\$8,267.92	\$8,762.33	\$36,562.29	\$41,833.73
<b>STAFF</b>	\$23,999.68	\$27,522.76	\$91,336.80	\$91,470.54
<b>Total Outflow</b>	<b>\$41,864.65</b>	<b>\$46,010.33</b>	<b>\$155,568.27</b>	<b>\$171,191.32</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$23.11</b>	<b>(\$6,058.25)</b>	<b>\$38,826.11</b>	<b>(\$15,357.84)</b>

St. Stephen's financial health remains on a sound footing. Our Rector Search Committee has been cleared by the Diocese to resume its mission. Its search and vetting for a new Rector will, of course, add to our expense outflows, but I believe we have budgeted adequately for its mission.

Allow me to conclude with a special thanks to our webmaster, Hunt Sparra, and our Communications Manager, Jackie McFadden, for all the fine work, hard efforts, and long hours they have put in during this extraordinary time.

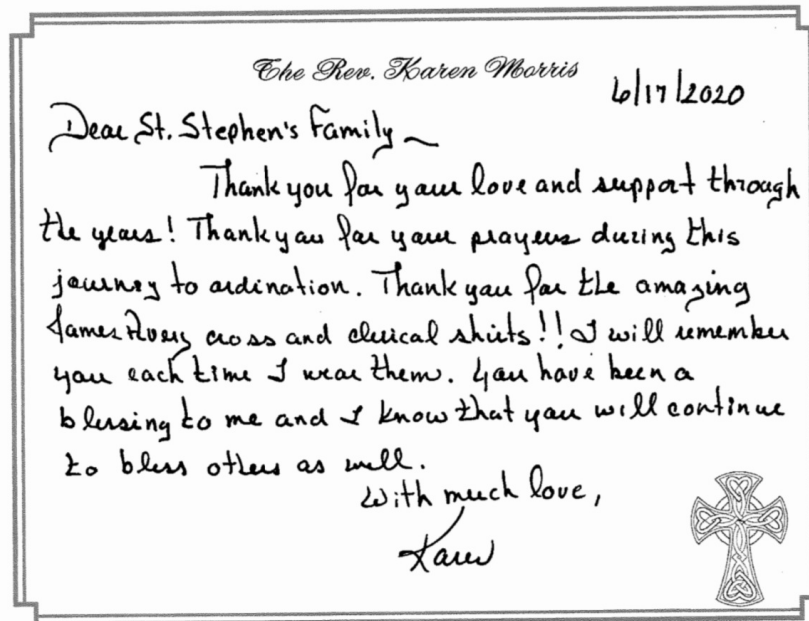
If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to e-mail me, [rb3982@rice.edu](mailto:rb3982@rice.edu).

## RECENTLY ORDAINED KAREN MORRIS SENDS THANK YOU TO SSEC



Our very own Karen Morris was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 13, 2020. Karen and her now grown son, Stephen (pictured in this article) spent many years with us at St. Stephen's. Karen shared her gifts with us at St. Stephen's in the choir, Vestry, as Senior Warden, worship ministry coordinator, and friend.

St. Stephen's recently sent a congratulatory gift to Karen and received this thank you from her.



---

## SSEC FACE MASKS WITH LOGO AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER



The Vestry approved purchasing 50 face masks with the St. Stephen's logo printed on them. We are in the process of final art approval and placing the order. This initial set of 50 face masks will be available for purchase this summer at the cost of \$10 per mask. A sneak preview of the face mask is pictured.

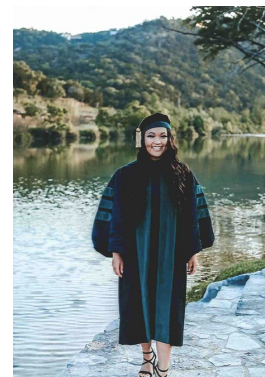
Watch your next issue of HUDDLE for ordering and pickup instructions.

---

## FORMER MEMBER KYRA FROST GRADUATES MEDICAL SCHOOL!

It seems like yesterday that Kyra Frost was serving as an acolyte and attending St. Stephen's School. Fast forward a few years since she and her mom, Bettie Frost, attended St. Stephen's, and that same young girl is now a medical school graduate!

Congratulations, Kyra, on your Doctor of Medicine Degree from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Next up for Kyrie is her residency training in pediatrics at Phoenix Children's Hospital. *Way to Go, Kyrie!*



## DONUT SUNDAY, KIDS COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 12 noon



Summer is not just for ice cream, it turns out. It's an ideal time for DONUTS! This Sunday, June 28, teams of one to two St. Stephen's Youth volunteers will be delivering donuts to the front porch of the St. Stephen's children. These sweet treats will arrive just in time for children to save and eat at a children's coffee hour equivalent, aka *Donut Sunday*, to be held at 12 noon. Zoom instructions will be sent to you the morning of *Donut Sunday*, in time for your children to ZOOM-in, with their donuts at the ready, and to visit virtually with our Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster, Fr. Phil, the Youth, and the

children of St. Stephen's. ***Donut Sundays occur on the last Sunday of the month.***

If you have special dietary requests for your donut, such as gluten-free, be sure to e-mail: Elisa Webster, [elisawebster9@gmail.com](mailto:elisawebster9@gmail.com).

---

## VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR SUNDAY, JULY 5, 12, 19 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING VIRTUAL SERVICE

Virtual Coffee Hour will continue all summer long through Zoom. And, even better news, beginning July 5, Virtual Coffee Hour will start up immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service stream ends.

Zoom instructions are included in the same e-mail that you receive Sunday mornings with the YouTube and Facebook links to the Sunday Service.



Virtual Coffee Hour is held every Sunday of the month except for the last Sunday. The last Sunday of the month is reserved for the children's equivalent of Coffee Hour, called *Donut Sunday*.

If it's been awhile since you've seen the faces of your church family, this is the perfect and safest way to be with them without even leaving the comfort of your home.

### VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR SUNDAYS July 5, 12, and 19



---

## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 6 FOR JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

St. Stephen's Church Office will be closed Monday, July 6, in observance to the 4th of July Holiday. Offices will reopen at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

Fr. Phil, Jeannetta, and all the staff wish everyone "a safe and happy 4th of July!"

# MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

## STILL TIME TO SEND IN DONATIONS FOR **BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA**



You recently received a special offering envelope and letter inviting you to make a donation to *2020 Back to School Fiesta*. St. Stephen's will be collecting your donations through the end of the month and then presenting the group donation to Barnabas and earmarked for *Back to School Fiesta*. A donation of \$50 will pay for a year of school supplies for a child. ***Donations of all amounts are welcome.***

***A donation of \$50 will pay for a year of school supplies for a child.***

Please continue to use the special "Father's Day Offering Envelope" to make your *Back to School Fiesta* donation. Remember to make checks made out to "St. Stephen's Church" and to write "BTSF" in the check's memo line. If you prefer to make a donation using a credit card, you may do so on the church website,

[ONLINE DONATIONS HERE](#)

Please send your checks and online ***donations to the church no later than Tuesday, June 30.*** Thank you for helping the children in need in the Wimberley community. The need is greater than ever.

The Fiesta, organized by the Barnabas Connection, helps provide necessary school supplies and a backpack to pre-registered Wimberley children in need. Area churches, like St. Stephen's, and community service organizations participate in this annual event. We expect 700 children to participate this year!

---

## SESSION 6 GENTLE YOGA & CHAIR YOGA AVAILABLE ONLINE NOW



Once again, Carla Daws has generously provided us with new yoga routines. Both Session 6's Gentle Yoga and Chair Yoga are now available on St. Stephen's YouTube channel and Facebook. Each session is a stand-alone and may be done in any sequence. To get started, wear comfortable clothes, grab a sturdy chair for Chair Yoga and/or a mat for Gentle Yoga. It's always a good idea to have some drinking water handy too.

Did you know that Chair Yoga is one of the most popular forms of yoga? With each yoga session, you will be building flexibility and strength. Carla recommends to shoot for three sessions a week as an ideal way to receive yoga's full benefits.

[YouTube Gentle Yoga Session 6](#)  
[YouTube Chair Yoga Session 6](#)

[Facebook Gentle Yoga Session 6](#)  
[Facebook Chair Yoga Session 6](#)

---

## TAKE 5: EPISODE 5 AIRS THURSDAY, JULY 2

Episode 5 of TAKE 5, hosted by Allen Hennig, and filmed at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will air on Thursday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m. CDT. ***This episode will be our July Fourth special tribute.***

TAKE 5 treats our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break. This upcoming week's music will feature Allen Hennig performing "Battle Hymn of The Republic" on the



piano and Anne Jones as the soloist.

Tune in on Thursdays at 10 a.m. CDT to discover whom in the St. Steve community will be highlighted next. TAKE 5 is guaranteed to soothe your soul!

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

---

## FAITHFUL FUN DAY/GODLY PLAY SUMMER SERIES UNDERWAY



The first-ever virtual Faithful Fun Day made its debut this month with episode one. Darelle Jordan shared the first of six Godly Play Sacred Stories, which was about Baptism. Tom Dawson led us in sing-alongs accompanied by Family & Youth Minister, Elisa Webster, who also provided us with prayers and instructions to the episode's arts & crafts response.

New packets with Episode 2's sing-alongs, prayers, and arts & crafts materials have been mailed to families in time for the next Faithful Fun Day to be held on Friday, July 3, airing at 10:00 a.m. Episode 2 will feature the Godly Play Sacred Story: Creation.

**Next Faithful Fun Day: Creation**  
**Friday, July 3, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.**  
**on YouTube & Facebook**

*Did you miss Episode 1?* If so, you can catch up by accessing the video recording on St. Stephen's YouTube and Facebook.

[Click Here for Family Fun Day Videos](#)



---

## ZOOM TIME WITH FATHER PHIL (OPEN HOUSE STYLE) WEDNESDAYS @ 10:00 A.M.

Every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. CDT we are invited to Zoom-in and visit with Fr. Phil about whatever is on our minds. Zoom Time is open house style, meaning you can virtually stop by anytime beginning 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. CDT.



"It's a lot of fun. We have a good time and laugh a lot,," assures Fr. Phil

No appointment is needed, and you can use the same meeting ID and password each week.

### [ZOOM TIME LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 824 792 5886

Password: 2468

Thank you to Carroll Wilson and Tom Dawson for creating the entertaining theme song. To listen, click [here](#), and in no time at all don't be surprised if you find yourself singing along to the [catchy ditty](#).

---

## CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER

If you are interested in learning a form of centering prayer called Christ Centered Prayer (CCP), e-mail Fr. Phil, [pmason@ststeve.org](mailto:pmason@ststeve.org), for an introduction. CCP meets via Zoom every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. CDT. A reminder with Zoom instructions is mailed to those on the CCP roster.

---

## 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.

### JUNE/JULY COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Sharon East, [sharoneast2@gmail.com](mailto:sharoneast2@gmail.com)

Connie Maverick, [joemaverick@verizon.net](mailto:joemaverick@verizon.net)

---

## IN & AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### Judge's Order for Mandatory Face Mask Wearing

With the current rise in COVID-19 cases in Hays County, several government agencies have recently put forth statements. Among them are the Hays County Sheriff's Office and the City of Woodcreek. Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra has issued a fourth order related to COVID-19. *(Click button below to read full order.)*

St. Stephen's Church is located in Hays County and most of its members live within the County. Below are excerpts of some of the more recent government statements. For more information, we encourage our members to visit the websites of the Hays County Sheriff's Office, the County Judge's Office, and the City of Woodcreek.

*Hays County Sheriff's Office:*

"Sheriff Gary Cutler is concerned with the current rise in COVID cases in Hays County and would like to urge everyone to voluntarily comply with the recent County Judge's order for the mandatory wearing of masks when appropriate and practice social distancing."

*City of Woodcreek shared an excerpt from Judge Becerra's order:*

"The local disaster declaration and public health emergency will continue in Hays County. All people aged 10 and older will be required to wear a face mask in public, when unable to keep 6 feet away from other people. All employees or visitors to commercial businesses or other facilities must wear face coverings. There are some exceptions to the face mask requirement; this includes when exercising outside or engaging in physical activity outside, or while pumping gas or operating outdoor equipment."

[CLICK HERE FOR JUDGE RUBEN BECERRA'S 4TH ORDER](#)

## TESPA Files Suit Against Kinder Morgan for Polluting Ground Water

St. Stephen's former Senior Warden, Patrick Cox, is serving as the Executive Director of the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA), which recently issued a press release regarding Kinder Morgan being sued for violations of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

"The threat of groundwater contamination strikes a primal fear into the hearts of all who depend on these freshwater aquifers as their sole source of drinking water," Patrick explained. "Those of us who live here understand the dire need to protect this irreplaceable resource."

St. Stephen's Church and School receives its water from a well tapped into the Trinity Aquifer.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL PRESS RELEASE](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

### SUN, JUNE 28

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

### SUN, JUNE 28

*Donut Sunday* (online), 12 noon, Zoom

### WED, JULY 1

*Zoom Time with Fr. Phil* (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

### WED, JULY 1

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

### TH, JULY 2

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

### FRI, JULY 3

*Faithful Fun Day* (online), 10:00 a.m., YouTube, Facebook

### SUN, JULY 5



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

### **SUN, JULY 5**

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

### **MON, JULY 6**

Church Office closed in Observance of July 4th Holiday.

### **WED, JULY 8**

*Zoom Time with Fr. Phil* (online), 10:00 a.m., Zoom

### **WED, JULY 8**

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

### **TH, JULY 9**

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

---

## **NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

*(articles, photos, graphics)*

**WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON**

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

---

**Visit our Website**



[ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[ASK & ANSWER](#)

[BIRTHDAYS](#)

[FLOWERS](#)

[VISITORS](#)