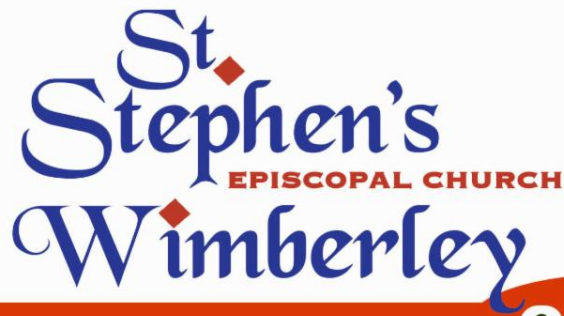


REMEMBER...

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 WILL BE A SINGLE SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.  
WITH A CATERED THANKSGIVING MEAL FOLLOWING.



November 15, 2019

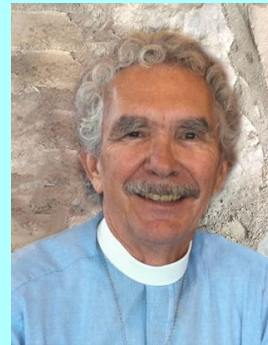
## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR:

### Membership

[Fr. Phil Mason](#)

*My Dear Friends,*

Sometimes someone will ask, "How can I become a member of the church?" and I often respond, "If you walk through the doors of the church, you are a member of this church." In saying this, I take my stand on what I believe about Jesus' radical open heart for all people in his infinite circle of friends. Jesus was then--and is today--an *all find a welcome* kind of guy, and we should be too.



OKAY, but there is much more that can be said about membership in the Episcopal Church. As a cradle Episcopalian, here is a little history from my own experience...

Long ago when I was a youngster the sacrament of Confirmation was considered the rite of membership in the Episcopal Church. One was not to receive communion unless they were baptized and subsequently confirmed. I am not quite sure of what the Canons of the church stated regarding these matters, but I do remember that at the age of about 15, I was expected to go to Confirmation classes and be confirmed, in order to be a member of Good Shepherd Church. And, I did so obediently.

During the period that the 1979 version of the *Book of Common Prayer* was introduced, there were many substantial changes in the liturgy, the doctrine, and discipline of The Episcopal Church. It was kind of a big deal in the church and some congregations split away because of it. One of the changes introduced was in the idea of membership. The current Canons of the Church states:

*"All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof. Members sixteen years of age and over are to be considered adult members." Title I - Canon I.17.1(a-b)*

OKAY good, this comes close to my "everybody is a member" position, but there is more to consider. The canons set out the criteria by which a member would be considered a "Communicant":

*"All members of this Church who have received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year are to be considered communicants of this Church." - Title I - Canon I.17.2(a)*

*All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing." - Title I - Canon I.17.3*

So, if you walk through the door, you are a member and if you have been baptized, you have recognized your own membership in the body of Christ. If you continue to walk through the door, you might want to acknowledge that. By simply doing so, you have--maybe without even being aware--become a "communicant" of this church. If you keep on returning and sign up to be on the altar guild or be a Sunday School teacher, you have become a "member in good standing."

One last thing--the Sacrament of confirmation, while not a rite of membership, is the opportunity for one who has studied carefully the affirmations of faith that one has made in their baptism--or was made for them as they were too young to understand--to make a public commitment to those vows. In a beautiful sacred liturgy, the church will acknowledge one's commitment to Christ by the laying on of hands by the Bishop. We will be offered that opportunity to do that sometime in the first of the year. Watch this space for those dates of confirmation classes and the date of the Bishop's visit.

*Peace and Love to All,*  
*Phil+*

## **SENIOR WARDEN NEWS**

[Nancy Cooke-Jenkins](#)

**CHRISTMAS IN NOVEMBER?! Indeed!** SSEC parishioners have received presents to be enjoyed by all!

### NEW STAFF & ORGAN



First, Allen Hennig, guest pianist during the years, is now on staff as our organist and pianist.

He will be sharing his tremendous talent with us on a permanent basis. *Welcome, Allen!*

Our second gift, thanks to some generous donations, is a repaired organ. Allen is quite proficient playing this complex and versatile instrument, as you will soon discover first

hand during the Sunday 8:00 a.m. service. If you normally attend the 10:30 a.m. service, it is worth the effort to arrive for the earlier 8:00 a.m. service just to hear Allen play that glorious pipe organ in the Chapel.



#### FIRST FRUITS DOLLARS IN ACTION

Thanks to your generosity, your First Fruits dollars are at work. The Buildings and Grounds committee has begun work on improving our buildings and campus. Works now in progress include:

- painting the church offices
- repairing the parapet wall/roof issue to eliminate leaks
- improving the parking lot for safety
- installing a monitored fire alarm system in the Chapel.



Kudos to Chair Carolyn Galle and her crew for hosting the event to make all this possible.

#### SHOUT OUT TO CARLA DAWS

Speaking of kudos if you haven't already purchased tickets for the EmilyAnn Theatre production of "Steel Magnolias," do yourself another favor and do so right away. Our own Carla Daws turns in a totally believable and hilarious performance as "Ouzia Boudreaux." Carla is a very talented actress as well as a loyal parishioner of SSEC.

#### CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATE COUNCIL

The Diocese has assigned us four delegates to represent St. Stephen's to Council in Corpus Christi on February 22-24, 2020. The slate of: Marsha Acock, Tom Dawson, Sharon Neukam, and Katy Shugart will be presented on Sunday, December 8, 2019. Watch your e-mail's inbox for their bios and photos coming soon.

#### TAKING THE NEXT STEP SUNDAY

Taking the Next Step Sunday is November 24. There will be one service held on Sunday, November 24, at 9:00 a.m. followed by a catered Thanksgiving meal served in McArthur Hall. For more details see "Taking the Next Step" article in this eNEWS issue. Please mark your calendars to attend this very important service.

Times for family and gratefulness are upon us. Let us enjoy these times, never forgetting those less fortunate. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

Blessings,  
Nancy

*"Better by far you should forget and smile,  
than you should remember and be sad."  
- Christina Rossetti 1830-1894*



## **RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Search Committee met with Archdeacon Mike Besson earlier this week at *Name Night* during which he delivered the names of the vetted rector candidates. Next up for us, as committee co-chairs, is to contact the candidates on the list to ascertain whether they are interested in moving forward. We left *Name Night*, with a strong list of candidates in hand, and excited to begin this next phase of the search journey.

*In Christ,*



# 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](#)

## THANK YOU!

**THANK YOU** to Mack Gray for your special reading, and to all the veterans that provided memorabilia for the armed service recognition table, and the gracious volunteers that helped us remember and honor our military last Sunday, November 10, 2019.

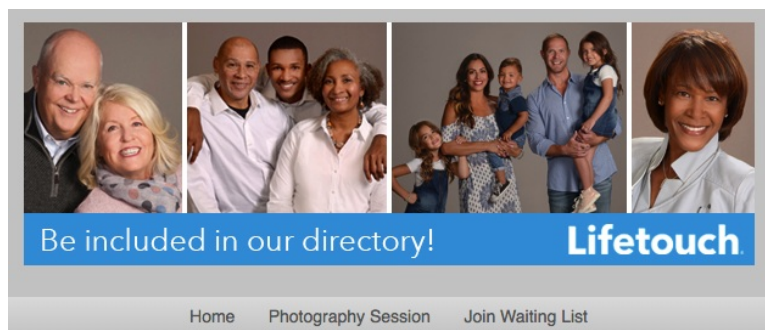


## DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSION WAITING LIST

***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](mailto:judyholmes1249@gmail.com).





# FRIDAY COFFEE & TEA FRIENDS

Friday, November 15 & December 6, 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](#).



## 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

### SANTA'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019	OPENING DAY FOR SANTA TREE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019	YOUTH SHOPPING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019	DISTRIBUTION DAY

For more information, contact: Sharon Krebs, [krebss@austin.rr.com](mailto:krebss@austin.rr.com).



## ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL BOOK FAIR HOURS

You have a few more days to purchase early Christmas presents at the St. Stephen's School Scholastic Book Fair. Either head on down to McArthur Hall during open hours, or purchase books on-line. Either way, our wonderful school will get credit and you'll have a few more gifts checked off your list.

<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17</b>	after the 10:30 a.m. service
<b>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18</b>	2:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.
<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19</b>	during SSES Grandparents Day



## NOVEMBER GREAT GENERATIONS GATHERING

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 11:30 a.m.**

*McArthur Hall*

In addition to our annual Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings, we'll enjoy hearing from Karen Hulene Bartell as she stops by to share scrumptious details about her new novel with us. Please join us if you can for free food, fellowship, music, and door prizes.

For more information, contact: Carroll Dolezal, [carrolldolezal99@gmail.com](mailto:carrolldolezal99@gmail.com).



## ST. STEPHEN'S WEBSITE GETS UPGRADE

Be sure to check out the [St. Stephen's website](http://www.ststeve.org) for it's new upgraded look and navigability. Same web address: [www.ststeve.org](http://www.ststeve.org); new functionality.

As you are exploring the site, you will soon discover:

- Daily Meditations are easier to access. There is now a link on the front page.
- Search button helps you find what you are looking for quickly.
- *Welcome Message* to greet our web visitors with integrated hyperlinks.
- Schedules and descriptions of both Sunday and Wednesday services and related activities.
- Descriptions of our music.
- Ministry listings.
- Latest DWTX information.

Websites are ever-evolving. We welcome your help in keeping the information current, relevant, and accessible to our audiences. As you are navigating the site, if something in particular catches your eye, let us know!

*Send feedback and enhancement suggestions to:*

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



### NOTE MEETING CHANGE

**New: Sunday, November 24 @ 12 noon**

*Meeting Room 1*



For His Sake, the Daughters of the King (DOK) will gather for prayer and discernment on Sunday, November 24 at 12 noon. Please note this is a new date. (There is no meeting on Sunday, November 17.) 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](mailto:wright5212@sbcglobal.net)

## Wimberley Thanksgiving Service

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019**

**SERVICE TIME: 4:00–5:15 P.M.**

**CHAPEL IN THE HILLS**



A chorus of community voices will sing for this Interfaith Service. All are invited.

Fr. Phil will be participating as well in this special annual service sponsored by the Wimberley Ministerial Alliance.

If you would like to be a part of the choir for this event, music will be provided. Please register your name, contact information, and voice part. There will be a 2:15 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. rehearsal on Sunday, November 24 in the Chapel Avey Hall of Chapel of the Hills. Jean Wood is directing and Pat Gillory is the pianist. Dress is white top, black skirt or slacks, and black shoes.

A love gift offering will benefit the Barnabas Connection.

For more information, contact: Jean Wood, [jeanwood1941@gmail.com](mailto:jeanwood1941@gmail.com).



### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS**

We wish you and your loved ones a very "Happy Thanksgiving!" May we all enjoy this special time of gratitude and feasting. The church office will be closed:

**Wednesday, November 27, at 12 noon**

**Thursday, November 28, all day**

**Friday, November 29, all day**

As usual, there will be no services nor meetings held during the above days either,

with exception of the November 27 offsite Deer Creek Service. The church office will re-open for regular business hours on Monday, December 2, 2019.



## **NOVEMBER DEER CREEK SERVICES**

**Wednesday, November 27 @ 3:00 p.m.**

OFFSITE: Deer Creek Wimberley, 555 FM 3237, Wimberley

On Wednesday, November 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](mailto:sharoneast@verizon.net) and Connie Maverick, [joemaverick@verizon.net](mailto:joemaverick@verizon.net).



## **HELP WITH GREENING THE CHURCH & CHAPEL**

**Saturday, November 30 @ 10:00 a.m.**

**All are welcome!** Join us on Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m. for the *Greening of the Church*. We need many hands to get our church and chapel ready for Christmas. So, come on by.

For more information, contact: Sondra Blanford, [lazyboutpost@aol.com](mailto:lazyboutpost@aol.com)



**IT'S TIME FOR  
THANKSGIVING COFFEE HOUR BYOB  
Bring Your Own Bounty**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019  
COFFEE HOUR BYOB**

**IF YOU HAVE WAY TOO MUCH THANKSGIVING LEFTOVERS...**

and don't know what to do with it, why not share that bounty with your church family? We'll take 'em! On Sunday, December 1, clear out those Thanksgiving goodies from your fridge, pack 'em up, and bring 'em to the church Coffee Hour.

***JUST ONE MORE THING...***

Santa's helpers haven't quite arrived yet, since we just will have finished with Thanksgiving, so please remember to be nice and not naughty and take your own leftover container, carrying case, etc., home *after* Coffee Hour.

Thanks for sharing your bounty!

**LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Saturday, December 14 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Chapel

***All are welcome!*** Mark your calendars now. Join us on Saturday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel to celebrate *The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*. Watch your e-mail's inbox next week for a special message from Father Phil recounting the history of the first Festival at King's College, Cambridge.

**Prayer  
and Healing  
Service**

**Wednesdays @ 10 a.m. in the Chapel**

The Holy Eucharist Worship and Healing Service is on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. *Please note that there will be no service on Wednesday, November 27.*



**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. *Please note there will be no service held Wednesday, November 27.*

**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](mailto:nmjenkins@austin.rr.com) or Kristen Schmidt, [tkschmidt@anvilcom.com](mailto: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**

**December 4**  
**December 18**



## ***SAVE THE DATES***

**FRI, NOV 15**

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

**SUN, NOV 17**

*Santa Adoptions begin*

**SUN, NOV 17, 18, 19**

*SSES Book Fair, various hours, McArthur Hall*

**WED, NOV 20**

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

**SUN, NOV 24**

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

**SUN, NOV 24**

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

**SUN, NOV 24**

*Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service (OFFSITE), 4:00 p.m., Chapel of the Hills*

**WED, NOV 27**

*Church Office Closes at 12 noon*

**TH, NOV 28 & FRI, NOV 29**

*Church Office Closed all day*

**WED, NOV 27**

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

**SAT, NOV 30**

*Greening of the Church & Chapel, 10:00 a.m.*

## ***LIFE AT SSEC***

Our recent *Quiet Day*, sponsored by St. Stephen's Community of Hope, proved to be a welcome day of spiritual respite. Participants left feeling refreshed and renewed after a treasured, contemplative experience. Fr. Phil's presence enhanced the day,



from individual conferences for prayer, anointing, or conversation to ending the day with a beautiful Celtic Eucharist worship service. Thank you also to Carroll Dolezal for sharing her artistic flare to create just the right ambience with her decorating. We hope you all will be able to join us next year!







**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!](#)