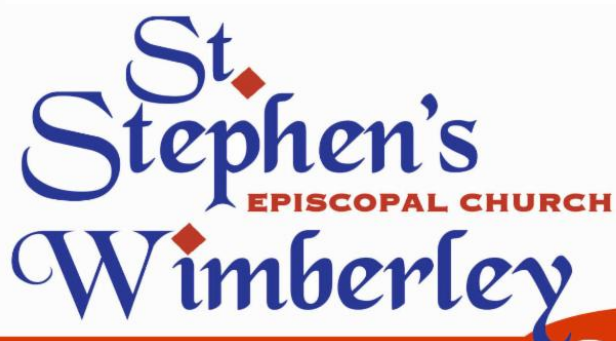


8:00 AM Sunday, January 10, Courtyard Holy Eucharist Service **canceled** due to weather.

11:30 AM Sunday, January 10, Courtyard Holy Eucharist Service is tentative depending on the weather. If weather is not good, service is canceled.



January 8, 2021

ENEWS

Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Happy New Year! I pray that you and your family are safe and well rested from the holiday festivities; even if they were out of the norm for everyone. Though our festivities for the birth of Christ were different than in past years here at St. Stephen's, I was thoroughly moved and uplifted by the community. Each of the services were occasions of praise and celebration; and I continue to be thankful for the special opportunity of the community to gather in person. I was also

blown away by the extraordinary generosity of the community to provide my family and me the Rector's Purse. From the deepest part of my heart, I am thankful for your generosity and care.

Now that the new year has begun, we turn our attention to all the exciting things on the horizon! At the end of this month, we will virtually gather over Zoom for our Annual Parish Meeting. The staff and ministry leaders are diligently working to provide reports about the past year and what the future has in store for us. In my report, I look forward to sharing some great initiatives that the community will engage in during 2021. It is an exciting time for St. Stephen's, and I am thankful for the positive energy and hopefulness that is ever apparent from the community.

Last year, 2020, was a difficult year, to say the least. I believe it is important to acknowledge the grief all of us experienced as well as the frustrations and moments of lament. Of course, we all know, we are not out of the woods quite yet. But the end is drawing nearer and nearer. In the months to come, it will be imperative to maintain the safety of our beloved community. Your church staff is working hard to provide alternative avenues in which to engage in community, while keeping the safety and health of the congregation at the forefront of our initiatives.

I am a strong believer in the theological expression of "*Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi*." This Latin phrase means, "the law of prayer is the law of belief." In the Episcopal Church we follow this line of thought, as we say that praying shapes believing. Our primary expression of belief is found in the services of worship that we participate in as the ministry of the baptized. For this reason, I believe it is important to provide greater opportunities for the community to gather for worship. Along with the 8:00 a.m. in person courtyard Holy Eucharist, and the 10:30 a.m. virtual Holy Eucharist, there is now an additional opportunity to worship Sunday morning at the in-person Holy Eucharist 11:30 a.m. service in the courtyard. My hope is that we will see more and more folks take advantage of this additional service.

Once the pandemic has subsided, and the very important vaccine becomes widely distributed, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church will resume our normal schedule of worship on campus. And, I am extremely excited for the big party we will enjoy when we are able to do so! Please know that I am praying for each and every one of you, and am available for any concerns, questions, or thoughts you may have. God bless you this day and always!

Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

NEWS



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 @ 11:45 AM

100% Virtual on Zoom!

ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

Sunday, January 31, 2021 @ 11:45 a.m.

Fr. Kevin and Senior Warden Nancy Cooke Jenkins invite you to join them virtually on Zoom for the church-wide annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:45 a.m. Be sure to mark your calendars now.

Here's how it will work. After you attend the Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II service of your choice, either at 8:00 a.m. in the courtyard or the 10:30 a.m. livestream no in-person/no in-building, grab yourself a snack and a comfortable place to sit and at 11:45 a.m., click the below Zoom link. **(There will be NO 11:30 a.m. service held on January 31, 2021.)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8531233729?pwd=ZWY3V0Y2c3JBQmNvUWpTY0lFaGVCDz09>

If it will be your first time using Zoom, you may want to install Zoom ahead of time. Zoom works best if your device (desktop computer, laptop, iPad, smart phone) has a camera and microphone.

Tip: If you are joining with a smart phone, you may be asked for the meeting's passcode.

Be sure to have this handy. The meeting passcode for the annual meeting is: **400923**.

Note: You are not required to download the Zoom application, however, your meeting experience from the browser will be limited.

Keep in mind that if you have already been using Zoom to attend St. Stephen's classes and meetings, you are already set up in Zoom and will simply join the annual meeting like you do for any other St. Stephen's class or meeting.

Agenda topics for the annual meeting include:

- Welcome
- Short video reports
- New Vestry and Outgoing Vestry recognitions
- Slide Show with highlights of 2020

We will post written reports on the church website, ststeve.org/records.



THREE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II SERVICES TO CHOOSE

Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

With Fr. Kevin at the helm, St. Stephen's now offers three Holy Eucharist Rite II services on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. (courtyard with communion in bread form), 10:30 a.m. (livestream no in-building/no in-person), and 11:30 a.m. (courtyard with communion in bread form). ***Please note that the 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services are identical.*** All courtyard services are weather permitting and face masks are required along with social distancing while on the St. Stephen's campus. Check-in for the courtyard services is required for contact tracing. To help guide you through the courtyard services, Allen Hennig has provided slides which will be shown on a tv screen. You are welcome to bring your own chair and *Book of Common Prayer*. An online order of worship for the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Live Stream is available on the church website and will be made available to download through the weekly church newsletters.

ATTENTION: THE 8:00 AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 HOLY EUCHARIST COURTYARD SERVICE IS CANCELED THIS WEEK DUE TO WEATHER. THE 11:30 AM COURTYARD SERVICE FOR THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 10 IS SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME BUT MAY BE CANCELED AS WELL DEPENDING ON WEATHER CONDITIONS. IF WEATHER IS BAD, 11:30 AM IS ALSO CANCELED.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, JAN 10, 2021

You can now download Sunday's Order of Worship for the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Live Stream straight from your Friday church newsletter. The order of worship also contains the YouTube and Facebook links for the live stream service.



ORDER OF WORSHIP: JAN 10, 2021



TUESDAY MORNING PRAYER READINGS ON WEBSITE

Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., Courtyard

All are invited to Morning Prayer in the courtyard on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., weather permitting. As with all courtyard services, check-in is required for contact tracing. Please wear your face mask and practice social distancing while on the St. Stephen's campus. You are encouraged to bring your own chair, *Book of Common Prayer*, and your smart device to access the readings.

Readings for Morning Prayer may be found on the church website and will no longer be sent by email to your inbox.

ststeve.org/morning-prayer

ORDER YOUR ALTAR FLOWERS FOR THAT SPECIAL OCCASION



Celebrating a wedding anniversary, birthday or new beginnings? Whether you would like to honor someone special or celebrate an occasion, we will feature your flowers on the altar for all to see at the livestream 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Sunday Service. Altar flowers are \$50 and may be ordered and paid for online.

[**Order Altar Flowers**](#)

END OF YEAR CHURCH STATEMENT OF DONATIONS BEING SENT

By January 31, 2021, you should receive an email from St. Stephen's with your church statement for your 2020 contributions. If you do not receive your statement by then, please contact: Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org.

Those who have specified that they wish to receive their church statement by U.S. Postal Service mail, should also be receiving their statements by January 31, 2021.

Thank you for your contributions this past year! These went a long way in meeting the known and unexpected needs of the church.

REMEMBRANCE DAY POSTPONED

Remembrance Day organizers, Dot Green and Becky Denton, wish to share that the annual **Remembrance Day** ceremony, which is ordinarily held the Saturday before Epiphany, is postponed.

"It is a very intimate service during which we both grieve and rejoice in a close circle. It would not be advisable to hold the ceremony at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic," regrettably explains Dot. "It is one of our favorite services with many readings, prayers, and remembrances of our dear ones who have



passed on."

We hope to hold **Remembrance Day** around Easter season and will keep you posted with any updates.

"Meanwhile we continue to pray for the repose of those souls and for the ones remaining with us," comforts Dot.

DISCOVERY CLASS FOR CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION, REAFFIRMATION BEING OFFERED

Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.



Fr. Kevin is offering the **Discovery Class** in a new one day format for those who wish to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed into the Episcopal Church. The first opportunity to take this class will be on Saturday, March 6, from 10:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. The class is open to all adults and to teens who attend St. Stephen's Church. Fr. Kevin will be leading the adult class and Elisa Webster, our Family & Youth Minister, will be leading the teen class. Both groups will join together the last portion of the class

to eat lunch with the Vestry and make their way to our worship spaces. Zoom will be available for those who would prefer participating online.

We invite all to attend who may be interested in becoming a member of St. Stephen's and/or would like to learn more about the church. You may sign up with Lydia, office@ststeve.org.

The **Discovery Class** will help you become familiar with St. Stephen's and the Episcopal Church as we discuss church process, history, biblical interpretation, and our common life in community. After completing the **Discovery Class**, those who wish may participate in the sacrament of Confirmation, or the rites of Reception or Reaffirmation, with The Right Rev. David Reed, Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas on Sunday, March 21. (*Watch your next eNEWS for more information on the Bishop's Visit in March.*)

If you are interested but cannot attend the March 6 **Discovery Class** and would like to be included in this round of confirmations, reception, and reaffirmations, Fr. Kevin can arrange a time to meet individually with you to cover the content of the class. Contact him at: kschubert@ststeve.org. If you are interested in learning more about baptism for yourself or a family member, contact Fr. Kevin to discuss the steps involved.

TO ANNOUNCE BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES, COMPLETE ONLINE FORM



If your special day, birthday or wedding anniversary, is coming up and you would like the announcement displayed in the online Sunday Bulletin, remember to complete the online form.

We announce these special days, **with your permission**, in monthly blocks. Please complete the form two weeks in advance so we have time to make sure it is displayed during the month you indicate.

If you would like to add optional altar flowers to your announcement, you may now do so by using the same form.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

DAILY MEDITATIONS NOW SENT ON MONDAYS TO YOUR INBOX

Each Monday you can look forward to that week's daily devotionals arriving in your email's inbox. These are lovingly written by the Meditation Writers.



Current and past meditations can also be accessed through the church website.

<https://www.ststeve.org/daily-meditations>

YOGA CLASSES ON HIATUS

Due to the now colder winter weather, Tuesday outdoor yoga classes at St. Stephen's are on hiatus. As soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and classes are able to resume indoors or springtime weather is conducive to resume in-person classes outdoors, we will post this information in the newsletter, on the [church web calendar](#), and on Facebook.



In the meantime, we invite you to visit the St. Stephen's YouTube Yoga Playlist, which contains 10 chair yoga routines and 10 floor yoga routines led by Carla Daws, Yoga Ministry leader. These recordings are available to you 24/7.

[CHAIR YOGA PLAYLIST](#)

[FLOOR YOGA PLAYLIST](#)

ROADSIDE CLEANUP QUARTERLY 2021 DATES

Roadside Cleanup Ministry coordinators: Becki Smith, Jon Smith, Todd Schmidt, and Mike Marcionetti, invite you to **WEAR THE VEST!** If you would like to be the proud wearer of the cool, awesome, make-a-statement orange vest, we've got one just your size! See below 2021 Quarterly cleanup dates. All adults and teens who are accompanied by an adult are encouraged to contact Becki, colorsmith1@yahoo.com to let her know which date/s you can serve, to receive any further late-breaking instructions, and to be added to the roadside volunteers email contact list.



2021 QUARTERLY CLEANUP DATES

March 13, June 12, September 11, December 11

More information about the Roadside Ministry can be found on the church website.

<https://www.ststeve.org/ministries>



Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster reports that several dates have been set for 2021 that families will want to know about.

MUSTANG ISLAND FAMILY CAMP

Thursday, July 29 through Sunday, August 1 (Session 9)

YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Sunday, July 11 through Saturday, July 17

Watch your next issue of eNEWS for information about Camp Capers, Souper Bowl Sunday, and Mardi Gras family activities.

For more information, contact: Elisa Webster, elisawebster9@gmail.com.



TAKE 5 UPCOMING JANUARY EPISODES

TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig presents new episodes this January treating us to refreshing five minute music breaks for the mind and spirit.

TAKE 5 episodes air on YouTube and Facebook on Thursdays at 10 a.m. CST.

January 14: features hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

January 21: features Isaac Watts' hymn "Jesus Shall Reign"

TAKE 5 PLAY LIST

JANUARY 2021 SCHEDULE OF MINISTRIES & CLASSES

The New Year is in full swing as are the following classes and ministries. Please see the below alphabetical listing for latest.



ADULT BIBLE CLASS taught by Dentons using *The Lord and His Prayer*

starts Sunday, January 17 @ 9:15 AM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87309759306?pwd=QVZGZW1Zk1JQRW1TNmViZkNVYUhh3QT09>

CHRIST CENTERED PRAYER

currently meeting Wednesdays @ 5 PM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84358750653?pwd=VG85c3BQZWdualpjZnBmSFZGTzY5Zz09>

COMPANIONS MINISTRY

currently meeting in the courtyard on Tuesdays @ 3 PM, weather permitting

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

resumes January 17 and will hold meetings 3rd Sunday of month @ 11:30 AM, courtyard, weather permitting

KINGDOM KIDS & MOUNTAIN MOVERS

currently meeting Sundays @ 9:00 AM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86394109047?pwd=SWtEaVlwSVhTeW5s4N1A0SHY3Q2x0dz09>

MONDAY BIBLE BABES

resumes Monday, January 11 @ 12 noon, courtyard & Zoom

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89385259800?pwd=SWtqU05La29tMXRrQU1ZWkpsUzI4dz09>

TEENS

currently meeting Sundays @ 5:00 PM

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86839472914?pwd=WkxkRXRldGN4YnhudFJtbU5PRVY0QT09>

THURSDAY BIBLE BABES

resumes Thursday, January 14 @ 4 PM, Nancy's patio & Zoom

YOGA MINISTRY

on hiatus

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.

JANUARY COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Sharon East, sharoneast2@gmail.com

Connie Maverick, joemaverick@verizon.net

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

St. Stephen's debuted a new 11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II Service in the Courtyard as a second in-person worship choice on Sundays and this was enjoyed by more than 20 people. Speaking of debuts, thank you, Allen Hennig and Anne Jones for treating us to our first ever "Feast of Saint Stephen" TAKE 5! And who could forget this year's children's pageant on Christmas Eve. More than 70 people gathered in the sanctuary to watch and listen to these young angels, shepherds, and Holy Family actors.





SAVE THE DATE

SUN, JAN 10

Kingdom Kids & Mountain Movers (Zoom), 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.

*Holy Eucharist Courtyard, 11:30 a.m., **weather permitting***

MON, JAN 11, 18, 25

Bible Babes, courtyard & Zoom, 12 noon

TUES, JAN 12, 19, 26

Morning Prayer, courtyard, 9:00 a.m., weather permitting

Companions, courtyard, 3:00 p.m., weather permitting

WED, JAN 13, 20, 27

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

TH, JAN 14, 21, 28

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

Bible Babes, Nancy's patio or Zoom, 4:00 p.m.

SUN, JAN 17



Holy Eucharist Courtyard, 8:00 a.m., weather permitting
Kingdom Kids & Mountain Movers(Zoom), 9:00 a.m.
Denton Adult Bible Class (Zoom), 9:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Courtyard, 11:30 a.m., *weather permitting*

SUN, JAN 31

Holy Eucharist Courtyard, 8:00 a.m., weather permitting
Kingdom Kids & Mountain Movers(Zoom), 9:00 a.m.
Denton Adult Bible Class (Zoom), 9:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Sunday Service (Livestream no in-person), 10:30 a.m.
ANNUAL MEETING (ZOOM), 11:45 a.m.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Manager, eeant@mac.com

Visit our Website



[ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[BIRTHDAYS](#)

[FLOWERS](#)

[VISITORS](#)

Church Office open M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.