

## **Advent, a Time of Patient Anticipation** by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's Family,

Advent is here! Sunday, November 29 marked the first Sunday of the season of Advent in which we are urged to prepare and anticipate the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. The season is a time of expectant waiting and anticipation for the coming of Jesus Christ, especially for the nativity scene on Christmas Day. The four Sundays of Advent, leading up to Christmas, mark a time of patient anticipation that calls Christ believers to reverently and prayerfully prepare for Christ's entrance into the world.

The Advent season begins a new year of the church calendar as well, following a three-year cycle. Each year highlights one of the synoptic Gospels of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, and Luke with a scattering of the Gospel of John throughout all three years. We are currently in the second year of that cycle (Year B) and at our primary worship services on Sunday will be reading and hearing from the Gospel of Mark. Throughout the year we will read Mark almost in its entirety. Over the past few years, I have made a tradition of beginning Advent by reading the appointed Gospel for that year in its entirety. If possible, I invite you to do the same. It's a great way to see the rhythms and textual implications of the Gospel as we enter into the new church year.

In the midst of our cultural hustle & bustle, Advent invites us into a radical notion of reflection and slowing down in order to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming. Of course, our current context of the pandemic has afforded us the opportunity to do just that. This year is a great opportunity to not miss the important design of the Advent season to slow down and enjoy the necessary preparations of the seasons to come with Christ at the center of our mind.

Advent has also traditionally been a season in which I personally take a respite from the busyness of life. For the past 15 years, some friends and I take an annual retreat the second week of Advent. This time away affords us (especially the five Episcopal priests in the group) a time of reflection, rest, and seclusion. Each year we look forward to venturing to my family ranch outside Junction, Texas in order to bask in God's creation. We spend the majority of time supporting each other in ministry, talking about church, and playing a lot of music on the porch. Every year I return from the retreat with a renewed sense of mission and gratitude for my ministry. After church this Sunday, December 6th, the group will head to the ranch for our retreat and will return the following Friday.

I am fully aware that, for many, the seasons of Advent and Christmas are difficult; as memories of loved ones that have passed or thoughts of family from whom we are estranged bring waves of grief. I pray that you feel the warm embrace of your St.

Stephen's family during this time and allow God's grace and love to pour into your soul. Wherever you may be during these upcoming seasons, I pray that you are filled with God's love and restorative grace. God bless you this day and always.

Peace,  
*The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert*

---

## Senior Warden News

### by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins



This year, the word "Thanksgiving" conjured up many different images to all of us. For our church families, it may have been visiting with our related families by Zoom or phone, hating to be apart but grateful to be well and at home. Some may have given thanks reminiscing over past holidays and commiserating over the news that not one, but three vaccines are going to be distributed to combat the sinister virus that has held us captive since March 2020. Yes, indeed, let us give thanks for those who have worked so tirelessly to make this happen.

Now, we enter Advent. The church is busy planning programs that will remind us of this period of waiting, with joy of what is to come. Although we will have to curtail some activities, we will enter into the season with a spirit of community and hope for our joint future. As you continue to read this newsletter, you will note dates that you might want to enter on your calendar. Thanks to all our staff members for their ongoing efforts to provide us with the most meaningful programs in our period of quarantine and isolation.

Since we are experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19, Community of Hope members and volunteers will be resuming phone calls to our parishioners. The purpose of these calls is to just say, "Hi, your church is thinking about you." If you have needs of any kind, or suggestions as to how we can better serve, please relate them to your caller; they will be heard. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to be a caller, please contact Sharon East, [sharoneast2@gmail.com](mailto:sharoneast2@gmail.com). If you have not received a call by the end of the month, please contact her, and we will get you on the list.

"As a leader, you must possess integrity, empathy, resilience, vision, and positivity among other characteristics," quoted from a recent article in the *San Marcos Daily Record*. This certainly describes Traci Maxwell, one of the realtors listed in Women in Leadership as Top Producers and Leaders in the Real Estate community. *Congratulations, Traci!!*

Well, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" all around Wimberley. Although we will experience it somewhat differently than past ones, we still have hope and goodwill toward man. Let's remember that.

Blessings,  
*Nancy*

*"Earth laughs in flowers." - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

---

## NEWS

### POSTPONEMENT OF IN-BUILDING, IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICE

We will be postponing the in-building, in-person regathering for 10:30 a.m. Sunday services until further notice. This means that the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service will be live-streamed ONLY with NO in-person, in-building.





## **BREAD ONLY COMMUNION OFFERED AT 8:00 A.M. SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD, COURTYARD**



The 8:00 a.m. Sunday Service of Liturgy of the Word will now offer bread only communion. This service is held in the courtyard, weather permitting. When communion is served, you will remain seated and Fr. Kevin will come to you with the communion bread and blessing. Be sure to check the weather before you head out, and we recommend bundling up in layers for any chilly mornings. Remember to wear your masks and social distance while on the campus. You are invited to bring your smart device to access the Sunday order of worship, your prayer book, and a chair.

We look forward to sharing the Advent season with you and worshipping together as we celebrate the coming of Christ.

---

## **COUNCIL DELEGATE SLATE WILL BE PRESENTED SUN, DEC 6**

Earlier this week you received, by email, the bios and photos of our three new council delegate candidates that will join Marsha Acock for 2021. The slate consisting of: Marsha Acock, Evie Martin, Lynda McCrocklin, and Anita McNabb, will be introduced this Sunday, December 6 at the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service, which will be live-streamed with no in-building, no in-person.

The Diocese of West Texas assigns the number of delegates that St. Stephen's will have at the Council. We have been assigned four delegates for 2021. The 117th Annual Council 2021 will be held virtually February 26-27, 2021.

We would also like to thank the 2020 delegates for their service: Marsha Acock, Tom Dawson, Sharon Neukam, and Katy Shugart.



EVIE MARTIN



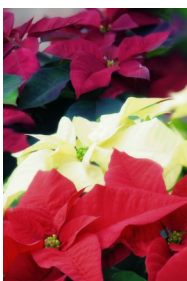
LYNDA MCCROCKLIN



ANITA MCNABB

---

## **ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR through Friday, December 18, 2020**



Sign up and pay online to dedicate a poinsettia in celebration, honor, or in memory of your loved ones. Orders need to be in by Friday, December 18. Cost of poinsettias is \$15.

[ORDER POINSETTIAS ONLINE](#)

[PAY FOR POINSETTIAS ONLINE](#)

If you are paying online, please remember to type "poinsettias" in the memo field. If you are paying by check, please remember to add "poinsettias" in the check's memo line and mail to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 6000-A FM 3237, Wimberley, TX 78676. Checks should be made out to: St. Stephen's Church.

Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship.

For more information, contact: Jeannetta Watson, [jwatson@ststeve.org](mailto:jwatson@ststeve.org).

---



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE RESERVATIONS

MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE RESERVATION ONLINE

[ststeve.org/christmas-eve](https://ststeve.org/christmas-eve)

At this time, plans are going forward to offer three in-building, in-person **Christmas Eve services** at 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24. Holy Eucharist will be offered at all three services. The children's pageant will be held at the 4:00 p.m. service in the sanctuary. Reservations for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service will be capped at 100 people. A candlelight service will be held at the 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. services in the Chapel with a cap of 30 people for the 7:00 p.m. and 30 people for the 9:00 p.m. Seating will be limited, therefore, everyone will need to make a reservation online. RSVP is required. Remember to wear your mask and social distance while on the church property.

[ststeve.org/christmas-eve](https://ststeve.org/christmas-eve)

---



# CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLING

**Thursday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.**

All are invited to the courtyard for hymn Christmas caroling at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020. No reservations are needed for courtyard caroling. Remember to



dress in layers if it is chilly, wear your mask, and social distance. We will be joining together in merriment to sing favorite Christmas hymns.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*from Fr. Kevin & the Church Staff*

## THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY

Wednesday, December 23

Thursday, December 24

Friday, December 25

Thursday, December 31 (closes at 12 noon)

Friday, January 1

The church office will re-open for regular hours on Monday, January 4 at 8:30 a.m.

## ADULT SUNDAY CLASSES WRAP UP; WINTER CLASSES START JANUARY

Fall adult bible classes have been wrapping up for the season. Watch your December 18 newsletter for January start dates and class descriptions of the new lineup.

### LAST CLASS DAY FALL SCHEDULE/WINTER PREVIEW

Monday, December 14, Monday Bible Babes. Returns Monday, January 11, continuing with Psalms



## 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.

[Online Birthday Announcement Form](#)

[Online Wedding Anniversary Announcement Form](#)

## MINISTRY ACTIVITIES



## SANTA PROGRAM IN DIRE STRAITS

We have 77 children for "adoption" in this year's St. Stephen's Santa and only six, to date, have been "adopted." What this means is that only six children from two families will receive presents and a Christmas meal unless more parishioners are able to "adopt" the remaining families.

All gift purchasing for the remaining families can be done online through our special [Amazon Smile page](#). These gifts will be automatically shipped to the church. You do not need to physically go to a store to shop for Santa gifts this year. It can all be done through the comfort and safety of your home. In order to receive the gifts in time for the families to come to St. Stephen's to pick up, [please order gifts by Sunday, December 6](#). Our adopted families will be picking up their children's gifts and their family's Christmas meal on Sunday, December 13.

If you have questions, please contact: Sharon Krebs, [krebss@austin.rr.com](mailto:krebss@austin.rr.com).

---



## A/V VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY TEAM

Join Todd Schmidt and Mike Marcionetti for the next training for those wanting to help St. Stephen's livestream. You will learn how to use the new cameras and software. All experience levels with technology are encouraged to attend training. After your training, you and your preferred A/V partner will choose which single Sunday a month to run the A/V during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. There will be an opportunity to shadow Todd and Mike before your scheduled volunteer Sunday and a detailed cheat sheet of instructions is kept at the A/V station. If you are a parent or grandparent with a teen in your family, and you are looking for a regular activity to do together, this cool opportunity is available now!

For more information, contact: Jeannetta Watson, [jwatson@ststeve.org](mailto:jwatson@ststeve.org).

---

## CHILDREN & FAMILY ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Due to the surge in Texas COVID cases, all children's and family Advent activities will be done remotely. Please note that Kingdom Kids, ages 7-9, and Mountain Movers, ages 10-12, **will meet on Sundays using Zoom** and will NOT meet in the Log Cabin. Teens will be mailed packets directly to their home addresses and will NOT meet in the Log Cabin.

On the schedule for this Sunday, December 6, is a family activity to make Chrismon tree decorations and learn





about the symbolism. Packets have been mailed to your homes. When you call into the Zoom meeting this Sunday, have your packets nearby and teachers Elisa Webster, Donna Hoyland, Jamie Wallendorf, and Melissa Odell will remotely lead families through prayers, songs, stories, and art activities.

[Zoom Link for Sunday, December 6 @ 9:00 a.m.](#)

[Zoom Link for Sunday, December 13 @ 9:00 a.m.](#)

[Zoom Link for Sunday, December 20 @ 9:00 a.m.](#)

The Family Sunday Service will be held, December 13. Elisa Webster will be giving the homily and Youth will be serving as readers and acolytes.

On the schedule for Sunday, December 20 is making Christmas cards for the residents of Deer Creek. Your packets of materials are being mailed directly to your homes. During your child's 9:00 a.m. Sunday Zoom classes, you will receive instructions on how to return the completed Christmas cards.

Watch your December 18 *eNEWS* for details on the Children's Christmas Pageant scheduled for 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary on Thursday, December 24.

We have no children's Zoom classes on Sunday, December 27.

For more information, contact: Elisa Webster, [elisawebster9@gmail.com](mailto:elisawebster9@gmail.com).



### **TAKE 5 HAS AN ADVENT SERIES! AIRS TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 10:00 a.m. CT**

With the abundance of great Christmas music, we couldn't get it all in just one day a week. Therefore, TAKE 5 host Allen Hennig, has the solution! He has created a special [Advent TAKE 5 series](#) that airs on YouTube and Facebook on Tuesdays and Thursdays during Advent.

There is a new music treat waiting for us each episode, and you may watch any of the episodes in any order and as often as the Christmas mood strikes. In the first episode, Fr. Kevin introduces us to Advent and in the second episode Anne sings in Latin and English. Expect another six episodes coming our way during this Advent.

Each episode provides us with a delightful five minute break in which we will also learn about the song's historical background. New Advent episodes will be added to the [TAKE 5 playlist](#) each Tuesday and Thursday in Advent. If you are on the St. Stephen's email list, you will receive a YouTube and Facebook link the morning of each new episode.

Allen would love to hear from you with your comment regarding this new TAKE 5 Advent series and/or your suggestions for future episodes. [Drop him an email](#) anytime.

### **TAKE 5 PLAY LIST**

### **GODLY PLAY ADVENT SERIES: CONTINUES THROUGH WED DEC 23**

Darelle Jordan, with the help of film crew Robert McLemore, has prepared a video series of Godly Play stories so that we may walk together through the season of Advent. These five minute videos are available through YouTube and Facebook. The Godly Play Advent Series can be enjoyed by all ages. If you are on the church email list, you will receive YouTube and Facebook links the morning



of each Advent episode. You may also want to share the schedule and links below with your relatives, friends, and family.

Sunday, November 29 @ 10 a.m. CT/Story 1  
Sunday, December 6 @ 10 a.m. CT/Story 2  
Sunday, December 13 @ 10 a.m. CT/Story 3  
Sunday, December 20 @ 10 a.m. CT/Story 4  
Wednesday, December 23 @ 10 a.m. CT/Story 5

[STORY 1 LINK](#)

The Start, the prophets

[STORY 2 LINK](#)

The Holy Family

[STORY 3 LINK](#)

The Shepherd, Sheep, Angel

[STORY 4 LINK](#)

The Magi, Wild Star

[STORY 5 LINK](#)

Celebration, Birth of Jesus



## ROADSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULED FOR DEC 12

### WEAR THE VEST!

The next roadside cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. We need 9 more volunteers. This will be our last cleanup of 2020.

"For sure, this cleanup won't be hot outside," encourages co-leader Becki Smith. "We'll be able to clean up our portion of the highway for Christmas. Now is a great time of year for new folks to join us and see what a cleanup is like."

To sign up, contact Becki Smith, [colorsmith1@yahoo.com](mailto:colorsmith1@yahoo.com). You can sign up with a partner or Becki can assign you a partner. Start time of cleanup is between 7:00-7:30 a.m. You will be provided with a TxDot orange vest, collection bags, and an optional first come/first serve grabber.

"With COVID safety paramount, we can do it!" assures Becki. "We'll be through well before lunch time, too!"

Participating in our quarterly cleanups is a great way to do your bit for the environment, get some exercise, and visit a little. Becki would love hearing from you.

## 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.

### DECEMBER COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Sharon East, [sharoneast2@gmail.com](mailto:sharoneast2@gmail.com)  
Connie Maverick, [joemaverick@verizon.net](mailto:joemaverick@verizon.net)





**TUES, DEC 15**

*Morning Prayer*, 9:00 a.m. courtyard

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

*Companions: Women's Grief Support*, 3:00 p.m., courtyard

*Yoga*, outside, 4:00 p.m.,

**WED, DEC 16**

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

**TH, DEC 17**

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

---

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

*(articles, photos, graphics)*

**WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON**

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

---

Visit our Website



[ANNIVERSARIES](#)

[BIRTHDAYS](#)

[FLOWERS](#)

[VISITORS](#)

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