

A Member of the Reconciliation Party by The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's,

I write to you this week as many of us will be venturing to the ballot box for early voting, or mailing in ballots for this highly contentious and divisive election. As your new rector, I am fully aware that a good portion of the St. Stephen's community is wondering where I stand along political lines. So, I thought I would let you know a little bit about how I approach politics, especially as it concerns my leadership in the church.

First and foremost, I want to express that I take to heart the necessity to never lead the church with any particular current political party position; this is especially regarding the ways in which I share the gospel from the pulpit. I believe that the mission of the church is to bring people together in relationship with one another and with God; and should in no way divide people. In all my words, actions, and pursuits, I try my hardest to follow Jesus. In so doing, I am reminded how Jesus sought to bring people together at all times, no matter the cost. Quite often he sat at table fellowship to break bread with people of divergent views and allegiances. In his teachings, Jesus often tackled political hot-button topics like taxes; and always moved the conversation to a deeper, spiritual perspective, resisting the traps to agree with one polarity or another.

As I will mention in Sunday's sermon, our identity in the world begins with the mark of being Christ's own. Every other identifier we may ascribe to is based upon this primary foundation. The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians that "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." As a member of the Body of Christ we receive a new identity that is about living as beloved Children of God, and treating others as such, even when we disagree.

*"There is no longer Jew or Greek,
there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male or female;
for all are one in Christ Jesus." - Apostle Paul*

For some this may sound like a cop-out, and I totally get that. But, in no way do I believe that we live in some 'Polly Anna' existence. It's imperative to acknowledge that we live in broken and divided times; and it is crucial to do the difficult work of reconciliation. This brings me to unabashedly proclaim what political party I ascribe to; I am not a democrat nor a republican..... I am a member of the Reconciliation Party, led by the teachings and values found within the teachings of Jesus Christ my Savior. This particular party is all

about bringing people together, healing estrangement, and speaking truth in the face of division and despair. This is the lens in which I make all my decisions: political, personal, spiritual, communal, social, etc.

This is the mission of the church; reconciliation: restoring all people to be in right relationship with God and one another. It is not a simple task, and quite often takes more work than the easy road of remaining in one political camp or another. It is the mission to strive to be in relationship with all of God's creation; led by the Gospel rather than whatever any pundit on CNN or FOX news may urge. It involves the quest for love and peace and grace; which takes vulnerability and risk. We are led by the commandments given to us by Christ; to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as you love yourself. In the Reconciliation party, this is the foundation from which we make our decisions and cast our ballots.

Of course, you will not be able to find the Reconciliation party on any ballot that you will be casting in the weeks to come. Each of us will make a prayerful, conscientious decision; and I challenge each of us to do so with the commandments of God at heart. When we encounter others with opposite views and political affiliations, let us welcome them as Christ welcomes all. However obnoxious and divisive the other side may seem, know that our words and actions can also be seen as such. In our interactions with others, let us seek unity, love our enemies, and put our trust in God more than any other power or principality that may be. The great chasms that exist in our current world will only grow wider if we continue to disregard our primary identity of being the Body of Christ. May we seek the love of God in others as God seeks his love in us.

I continue to pray for you and your families over the course of the next few weeks. Now more than ever we must ground ourselves in prayer for each other, our country, and the world. I have hope in the message of Christ, and believe that as a community of Christ believers we can strive for and accomplish reconciliation, ultimately transforming the world around us to be a place of grace and love. God bless you this day and always.

Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert

Senior Warden News **by Nancy Cooke-Jenkins**



It's happening! We have begun to gather! It was wonderful to actually "see" members of our church family at Morning Prayer, which started last week. We gathered in the courtyard, a perfect setting. Being out in nature, hearing the ripple of water in the fountain, and breathing in fresh air made for a perfect spiritual lift. Please consider joining in the Morning Prayer celebration held twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. All you need are a mask, a prayer book, and a chair. If you don't have a folding chair, there are benches around the area to accommodate you. (See separate article in this eNEWS for the latest details regarding Morning Prayer.)

Two of our household names around here each lost a parent recently. Karen Morris' father, Don Doyle, passed away on Tuesday, October 6 and Bill Neukam's mom, Gwen Randall, passed away on Sunday, October 11. We send our condolences to the families of Karen Morris and Bill Neukam.

It is once again the time of year for the spiritual discipline that helps us to manage what God has entrusted to us while feeling the joy of giving as a response to God's generosity. Stewardship is defined as a theological belief that humans are responsible for the world and should take care of it; utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of his creation. It is not so much a "giving" as it is a collaboration between humans and God to maintain the work of creation and is closely related to being responsible for the world in which we live.

If we will all prayerfully consider what we may share to this end, our work will continue, and we may take part in pride of ownership.

Blessings,
Nancy

*"For everything there is a season
and a time for every purpose, under heaven." - Ecclesiastics 3:1*

NEWS

BSEACD DECLARES STAGE 2 DROUGHT

St. Stephen's has been informed by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, BSEACD, that we are in stage II drought restrictions. This means no outside watering at this time.



T/TH MORNING PRAYER TWEAKS

We hope you will be able to join us for Morning Prayer in the courtyard on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. We enjoyed debuting this outdoor service and have made some improvements based upon your feedback.



You are always welcome to bring your own copy of the *Book of Common Prayer*. If, however, you forget your copy and would like to borrow a copy during the service, there will be a small number of books kept in a box marked "Tuesday's Morning Prayer" and one marked "Thursday's Morning Prayer." To further help you navigate the service, we will also be sending out an e-mail before the Morning Prayer services that will contain the direct links to that service's readings. If you do not currently receive the church e-mails and would like to, please, send your request to: jwatson@ststeve.org. The church website will also have the readings through the calendar year with links.

Our continuing goal as we step into live worshipping again, is to offer the safest, most responsible environment in which to do this. When you arrive for Morning Prayer, please check-in. We are recording attendance for contact tracing purposes. You are asked to wear a mask and maintain a 6 foot social distance from others. In the event that you forget your mask, we will have some disposable masks available at check-in. In our excitement to see one another and to worship in-person once again, let us help one another by modeling safe practices at all times, whether it be before, during, or after an event.

WHAT TO BRING FOR MORNING PRAYER

your own chair
smart device (for accessing readings)
face mask (be sure to wear)



taking the **next step**

STEWARDSHIP SEASON UNDERWAY WITH NEW FEATURES

As we wrap up our first full week of our stewardship season, *Taking the Next Step*, we are moving closer to the culminating event, *Step Up Sunday*, November 1, which has a super fun surprise waiting for us. During the next 15 days, you can expect to receive stewardship letters and articles, links to video testimonies and prayers, social media posts, inspirational sermons, and a weekly e-blast to keep you hooked into the unfolding activities in store this season.

BRAND NEW FEATURES & OFFERINGS

As we continue taking steps to re-open our doors in a safe and responsible manner to live-worshipping and fellowship, we are thrilled to announce that on *Step Up Sunday*, November 1, we will debut an in-person 8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word service in the courtyard and will be live-streaming with no audience the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & All Saints Service. (See separate article "*All Saints Day Reading of Names*" for instructions on how to submit necrology names.)

Stewardship Web Portal

When you visit the ststeve.org website, you will see a [new blue stewardship button](#) to click. (An example of what it looks like is below.) This special web portal was created to house all of the stewardship information in one place making it easy for you to find and access. For instance, if you would like to hear the video testimonies from your church friends, click on "[Testimonials](#)." In [Robert McLemore's video testimony](#), we get a behind the scenes peek into our camera crew's life and involvement with St. Stephen's thus far. This coming week, we will hear the story of how the car of one of our ministry leader's accidentally turned itself into the driveway leading to St. Stephen's eleven years ago. Any guesses who that might be?

You will notice on the stewardship portal that one image is outlined in red. (An example of what it looks like is below.) If at any point during these next 15 days, you are ready to take that next step, we encourage you to click the "[Pledge Here](#)" button to fill out your pledge online. This ability is immediately available to you 24/7 and unlike previous years, you don't have to wait for a pledge card to be mailed or given to you.

"We are encouraging you to search your heart and pray-fully consider *Stepping Up* this year. We are growing more ministries in a blended way, and we are seeking ways to reunite, grow, and be safe with our church family," encourages Stewardship Chair Robert McLemore. "Your pledges will support all of the great work that we have ahead of us to grow our Church and its mission."



HALLOWEEN GOLF-A-THON SCHOOL FUNDRAISER NEEDS YOU!



St. Stephen's Episcopal School is excited to announce the First Ever (because we couldn't have the regular tournament) Golf-a-Thon. The event takes place on Halloween, Saturday, October 31. If you would like to sign up as part of the golfing teams, and/or would like to place your pledge for a golfer, or sponsor the event, it is easier than ever to do so. Visit the Golf-a-Thon website.

<https://charity.pledgeit.org/SSESGolfathon>

This year we have reimagined this major school fundraiser into a more socially-distanced form where only a small number of golfers are playing two rounds of golf. You can help by pledging at least \$1 per hole, or making a flat dollar amount donation.

Watch this short video as Golf Chair, John Odell, also a SSEC Vestry member and SSES Board member, walks us through the specifics of this spook-tacular event.

[Golf-a-thon Short Video](#)

At St. Stephen's School, their mission is to empower each student to live authentically, think expansively, and serve selflessly. The school's population has grown more than 40% for the 2020-2021 school year, and offers classes from PK2 through sixth grade. With this growth, comes additional needs for facility improvements, new upper-level curricula, and increased technology. One hundred percent of your pledges will go toward helping the school.

We are so blessed to be part of such a vibrant and caring school and church community. We look forward to your support.

For more information, contact; John Odell, johnodell8929@comcast.net.



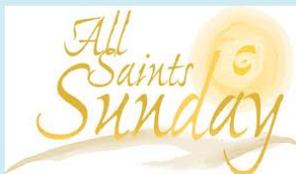
JACK & JO BOURKE OUTDOOR CHAPEL



We learned in the last issue of *eNEWS* that the outdoor chapel would be renamed in honor of Jack and Jo Bourke, who have been a part of St. Stephen's Church and School since its early history. Since then, we are elated to report that Jo had a successful move to Arkansas and sends this message to you:

"Words can't fully express my gratitude for being honored by the designation of the Jack and Jo Bourke Outdoor Chapel. What we may have done at St. Stephen's was far surpassed by what it has done for us. Our church family was with us for 30+ years as the Bourke clan celebrated births, baptisms, confirmations, marriage, and burial and provided us with a wealth of dear friends. We may be separated by miles now, but a piece of my heart will remain with St. Stephen's. God's peace to each and every one of you."

HOW TO SUBMIT NAMES FOR ALL SAINTS DAY: SSEC & DWTX



St. Stephen's will have its reading of the necrology names on Sunday, November 1, at the 10:30 a.m. live-streaming service with no audience. If you have a name to be added to the list, email: Lydia, office@ststeve.org, **by the deadline of 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 26.**



Facebook accounts.

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas will offer a diocesan-wide All Saint's Day Online Evening Prayer to pray for, honor, and remember all the faithful departed from our congregations and communities, who have died in 2020. This online-only Evening Prayer service will be broadcast live on the [diocesan Vimeo](#) and

Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org, will be collecting the names for St. Stephen's. She will be the one representative submitting these names to DWTX for the All Saints' Day Evening Prayer. Please submit the names of each person whose name you would like remembered **by the deadline of 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 26.**

The 117th Annual COUNCIL 2021

FEBRUARY 26 - 27, 2021 | ONLINE

#DWTXCOUNCIL2021

SEEKING ST. STEPHEN'S DELEGATES TO COUNCIL

If you are considering running for Council Delegate, we encourage you to contact Fr. Kevin soon. Pre-Council meetings happen in January.

The dates are now set for the 117th Annual Council, February 26-27, 2021, and for the first time it will be held virtually using secure sessions hosted on Zoom. Individuals wishing to view the business of the Council, will be able to access a live broadcast streamed on the diocesan Facebook, Vimeo, and website.



DWTX PUBLISHES PHISHING EMAIL SCAM REMINDER

In light of recent email scams, the DWTX reminds us to "please remember if you receive an email that looks like it is from your rector parish administrator, diocesan staff member, or bishop requesting a "favor" and instructing you to reply, DO NOT REPLY and DELETE IT. If you would like read the DWTX reminder in its entirety, click the link below.

[Phishing Email Scam Reminder](#)



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

CHECK OUT THE NEW NAMES FOR CHILDREN'S & TWEEN PROGRAMS



Children ages 7-9 are now known as the *Kingdom Kids*, and they are using new curriculum, *Forbid Them Not*, by Carolyn C. Brown. Kingdom Kids meet in the Log Cabin on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and have the option of also meeting by Zoom if they are unable to attend in-person. Teachers are Donna Hoyland and Jamie Wallendorf.

ZOOM TO KINGDOM KIDS

Children ages 10-12 are now called the *Mountain Movers*, and they are using the "Journey to Adulthood" curriculum. Teachers are Melissa Odell and Elisa Webster. The Mountain Movers meet in the Log Cabin on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in a different room from the Kingdom Kids. There is no Zoom option for the Mountain Movers Sunday School class.

Hey parents, if you are looking for something to do while your children are in Sunday School, why not join the 9:30 a.m. adult Sunday School classes. Becky and Bob Denton offer [their class by Zoom](#). You could find a spot in the courtyard and join using your laptop. And, beginning in November, Fr. Kevin will offer his Sunday School adult class in McArthur Hall, starting at 9:15 a.m.

GODLY PLAY FALL SERIES: Jonah AIRS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 10:00 a.m.

In this episode of the Godly Play Fall Series, Darelle Jordan will share with us the story of Jonah, the backward prophet. You are invited to remember Jonah by putting on something backwards as you watch. Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster and Tom Dawson will be with us once again singing songs, offering prayers, and giving us direction for arts & crafts that were sent to the church families with children ages PK4 through 6 years old.



Did you know that Darelle Jordan has been leading our Godly Play for 23 years?! We encourage you to watch the [Sunday, October 18 Holy Eucharist Service](#) to hear Fr. Kevin recognize our beloved teacher and friend. If you would like to send your own thank you to Darelle, e-mail her at: darellejordan@gmail.com

[YouTube link: GODLY PLAY: Jonah link](#)



TAKE 5: EPISODE 21 AIRS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 10:00 a.m. CDT

You are invited to join host Allen Hennig and Music Director Anne Jones as they treat our ears, eyes, and spirit to a five minute music break during episode 21. You may already be familiar with the Gregorian chant "Ubi caritas," but do you know the words to its English translation? Perhaps, up until now, you have only used the Latin words to this ancient piece of music dating to the 8th century.

We invite you to sit back and relax and hope you can join us Thursday, October 22 at 10

a.m. CDT.

[YouTube TAKE 5: Episode 21 link](#)
[Facebook TAKE 5: Episode 21 link](#)

HELP NEEDED MAKING 80 BAGS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S SANTA MINISTRY



St. Stephen's Santa Adoptions will kick off on Sunday, November 15. There's much we can do to help in the meantime. Our most immediate need is assistance in making 80 bags for placing the donated items inside. Santa Ministry Leader Sharon Krebs says, "We decided on making the bags about the size of a 13 gallon trash bag, 24" wide by 30" high. That should require about 1 yard of fabric per bag." If you can help out making bags, please let Sharon know about how many you expect to provide.

If you prefer to make an online donation while it is fresh on your mind, visit the church website, <https://www.ststeve.org/online-giving>, and choose "Santa Ministry" in the tithe.ly drop down menu.

Here are the key dates for you to mark on your calendars:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Kickoff for St. Stephen's Santa Adoptions

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Deliver gifts before or no later than this date to the church.

***Pro Tip 1:** If you are delivering M-F, it is best to avoid the school drop off and pickup times of 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. McArthur Hall is the best place to drop off items.*

***Pro Tip 2:** If you get a notification of a back order, cancel the order and order something else.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Sign up sheet posted for you to select your volunteer time

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Santa Distribution Day, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact: Sharon Krebs, skrebs@realhound.com or call Anita McNabb at (512) 567-5909.

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.

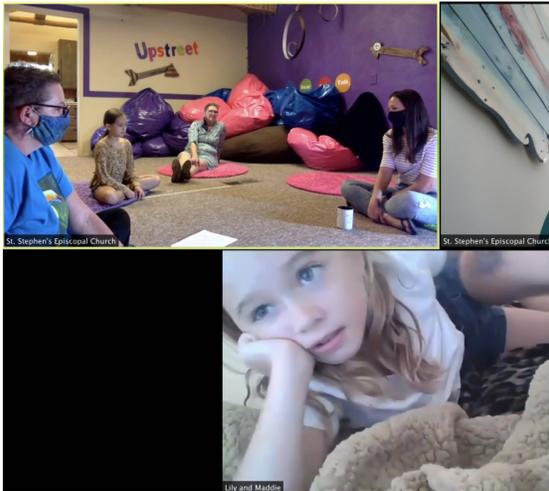
OCTOBER COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Nancy Cooke-Jenkins, nancycookejenkins@gmail.com
Kristen Schmidt, kris10.schmidt@gmail.com

IN THE LIFE OF SSEC

Several ministries, like Kingdom Kids for ages 7-9, have embraced a duo-approach to their classes by offering students the option of joining the meeting in-person in the Log Cabin or through Zoom. Other ministries, such as Yoga, are making the most of the fall weather while being diligent with their social distancing.

Morning Prayer in the courtyard also began this month and worship outside is being enjoyed on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings.



SAVE THE DATE

SUN, OCT 18

Kingdom Kids (Log Cabin & online), 9:00 a.m.

Mountain Movers (Log Cabin), 9:00 a.m.



SUN, OCT 18

Way of Love (online), 9:30 a.m., Zoom

SUN, OCT 18

Godly Play (online), 10:00 a.m, YouTube & Facebook

SUN, OCT 18

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

SUN, OCT 18

Virtual Coffee Hour (online), immediately following airing of 10:30 a.m. service, Zoom

SUN, OCT 18

Teens Sunday School, 5:00 p.m., Log Cabin

MON, OCT 19

Monday Bible Babes (online & in-person), 12 noon, Zoom & Courtyard

TUE, OCT 20

Co-ed Bible (online), 10:30 a.m., Zoom

WED, OCT 21

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

TH, OCT 22

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

TH, OCT 22

Thursday Bible Babes, 5:00 p.m., Nancy's Home

SUN, OCT 25

Kingdom Kids (Log Cabin & online), 9:00 a.m.

Mountain Movers (Log Cabin), 9:00 a.m.

SUN, OCT 25

Adult Sunday School, 9:30 a.m, Zoom and in-person (Courtyard)

SUN, OCT 25

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

SUN, OCT 25

Virtual Coffee Hour (online), immediately following the airing of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service

MON, OCT 26

Monday Bible Babes (online) and in-person (Courtyard), 12:00 noon

TUE, OCT 27

Co-ed Bible (online), 10:30 a.m., Zoom

WED, OCT 28

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

TH, OCT 29

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

TH, OCT 29

Thursday Bible Babes, 5:00 p.m., Nancy's Home

SAT, OCT 31

SSES Halloween Golf-a-thon, Offsite

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Director, eeant@mac.com

Visit our Website



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