

ST. STEPHEN'S
STORY
January – February
2020



The Feast of the Epiphany
January 6th

The Feast of the Epiphany, in the West, is generally associated with the arrival of the Magi bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Gifts which celebrated royalty and divinity. Later there was a story of a fourth “Wise Man” whose gift was pearls; and was sidetracked, only to finally encounter Jesus on Good Friday.

The Epiphany, of the “Manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles” is one of the oldest Holy Days in the Church and used to rank equally with Easter and Pentecost. Originally, in the East, the Epiphany was associated with Jesus’ Baptism, and one of the main features of the Epiphany Rite was the solemn blessing of the baptismal water.

It is in the Western Church the we develop the story of the Magi. These were gentile “wise men”, intellectuals, professors, if you will. To them the new star heralded the birth of a new king, a new ruler.

It was during Epiphany that the tradition of giving gifts to family and friends arose. Sometimes it makes me sad to see how a tradition that arose from honoring the Baby in the manager, has become such a hectic ritual of spending and greed.

Be that as it may, gifts are an important part of our keeping Epiphany. Maybe, after 12 days of Christmas we are ready to step back from Christmas paper and golden bows and take a few moments to reflect on other gifts.

In Jesus, God offers to humanity the priceless gifts of love, forgiveness, acceptance, and presence. In the Epiphany we unwrap the gift of “God with us”.

God has given us much. What can we give back in return? We all have many gifts to offer the Christ Child. Talents and abilities... But what Jesus really wants from us is our heart! He wants our love. He wants us to use our many gifts – gifts of the Spirit – to find ways to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. He wants us to discover forgiveness for those who have wronged us. He wants us to take the time to sit with the hurting, the grieving, the abandoned. He wants us to discover the joy and peace of being in Christ, and having Christ within us.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Milliken

You could be St. Stephen's JUST ONE!
Many volunteer opportunities!
Call the Parish Office to give it a try!

ACOLYTES

Assists in worship by carrying the processional cross or crucifix, lighting and extinguishing candles, holding a torch at the reading of the gospel, helping with the presentation of the bread, wine and gifts of the people, and assisting in the preparation of the altar for communion. Age-must be able to carry the processional cross. Serve at either 8:30 am or 10:30 am service.

ALTAR GUILD

Parish group organized for the purpose of preparing the altar for worship at the eucharist, weddings, funerals and other ceremonies. Includes making sure the altar hangings are the correct liturgical color, arranging the altar flowers, preparing the chalice, paten, purificators, corporal and burse and cleaning up after the service.

CHALICE BEARER

Sixteen years (16) and older. Administer the chalice at the eucharist, vest and serve at the altar. Serve at either 8:30 am or 10:30 am. Training provided.

LECTORS

Lectors are the readers at the services. Read for either service 8:30 am or 10:30 am or even special services. Any age that can read.

Call the Parish Office if you are interested in serving or volunteering, or talk to someone who is serving. Easy training provided.

New



Choir Members
Welcome!



CHOIR

Do you like to sing! Join our choir members. You can sing with the choir as often as you wish, they rehearse at 9:15 am on Sunday.

LAY EUCHARIST VISITOR

Volunteer to visit our home-bound, senior facilities and infirmed, normally on a Sunday after service. The training is easy and only requires about an hour of your time.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

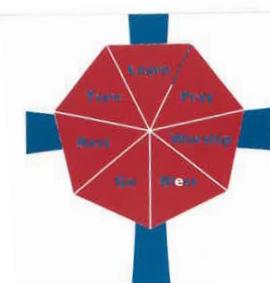
Serve on a team to provide meals to the homebound and infirmed as needed.

USHERS

Distribute bulletins, serve during the service, assist with the alms, take attendance, and help those who need assistance.



At the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we follow the Way of Jesus. His way is the Way of Love, and that love has the power to change lives and change the world. How will you and your ministry grow more centered in Jesus and share his loving, liberating, life-giving way in the world? Presiding Bishop Michael Curry invites us to join him in **THE WAY OF LOVE, Practices for Jesus-Centered Life**. Find resources from across the church and share your gifts and stories: www.episcopalchurch.org/





Message from the Senior Warden

As the year comes to a close, many questions have been asked about when we will begin searching for a new rector. The short answer is that we don't know yet. In order to begin the process, we need to be given permission by Bishop Bascom. We have not received this yet, but hope to receive permission to begin the preliminary steps shortly after our parish annual meeting. With all that being said, I thought that it might be helpful to provide you with a brief outline of the search process as there are many steps involved.

The first step in the process is to form a search committee. The search committee will be established by the Vestry with the assistance of Bishop Milliken. The committee will likely consist of five—seven parishioners. We fully intend for the committee to be representative of our entire congregation. We hope to have a diverse group with members from all age groups and ministries on the committee.

The second step in the process is to conduct a parish profile. The parish profile describes the congregation's history, mission, goals, hopes, dreams and the qualities we seek in our next rector. There are resources available that will assist us with this profile. This process will take the involvement of the entire congregation. Everyone will be asked for their input as the profile is formed for our church.

Once the parish profile is completed, the Vestry and the Search Committee will work with the Diocese to post the position. The position will be advertised nationwide. If you know of anyone that might be interested in applying for the position, they will need to contact the Diocese and go through the official application process. Neither the Vestry nor the Search Committee will be able to assist anyone who may be interested in applying.

As applications start coming in, the Diocese will review the applications and provide an initial screening of the applicants. Once the Diocese has performed an initial screening, a list of candidates along with their applications will be provided to the Search Committee for their initial screening. The Search Committee will review the applications and narrow down the list to a few candidates that they would like to continue on with either requesting additional information, contacting references and/or setting up a phone interview. The Diocese will notify any applicants that are no longer in consideration.

Following the phone interview, a few members of the search committee will make a visit to the candidate's home parish to attend a service and speak to members of their congregation. The final candidates will be invited to St. Stephens for an in person interview and tour of our church, the Wichita area and will meet with Bishop Bascom.

The Search Committee will make a final recommendation to the Vestry and the Vestry will take a vote to approve the final candidate. The Vestry will contact the Bishop to ask for her consent, and if received will make the phone call to offer the position to the candidate. Once the candidate accepts, the final salary package is negotiated, the Letter of Agreement is signed and a start date is established.

The entire process can take anywhere from six to fifteen months. While the majority of the search process will remain within the Search Committee, we will strive to make sure that the congregation is kept as informed as possible. Names of candidates will not be provided to the congregation until the final candidate is selected and has accepted the call due to confidentiality reasons. This is the standard process within the Episcopal Church.

In Peace, Love and Light,
Anne Stephens, Senior Warden

Vestry

The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken, Interim Rector
Anne Stephens, Senior Warden
Don Norton, Junior Warden
Lyndy Wells, Treasurer
Jane Mossman, Asst Treasurer
Amanda Shield, Clerk

Members

Jorinda Brant (2020)
Julia Hart (2021)
Dave Hudson (2021)
Mike Morrow (2021)
Richard Samaniego (2019)
Ben Winters (2019)

VESTRY MEETINGS:

January 15th

February 18th

6:30 pm in the Fireside Room

Reminder for Vestry Members

If you are scheduled as Vestry in Charge for Sunday, it is important to be on time to open the doors. Front door to be locked for safety 10 minutes after a service begins. The duties are printed and a copy is on the refrigerator in the parish kitchen and in the sacristy.

FOR SAFETY, BE SURE ALL LIGHTS ARE OFF and DOORS ARE ALL LOCKED PRIOR TO LEAVING.

If you split the early service and late service with another vestry member, please notify the Parish Office. If you are away on the Sunday you are scheduled, notify the Parish Office.



ST. STEPHEN'S RECEIVES DILLON'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you shop at Dillon's, you can support St. Stephen's as your charity by using your Dillon's Reward's Card. For information or assistance in enrolling, call the Parish Office. Your Dillon's Rewards fuel points or coupons are unaffected but "rewards" our parish! Donations received support St. Stephen's Repair & Replacement Fund.



St. Nicholas Story

St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group

First off, thank you so much to everyone who donated and participated in Operation Holiday! Our annual outreach mission couldn't be possible without the generosity of our outstanding parish.



We are kicking Youth Group back off starting January 5th with our Senior group. This next semester, the Senior Youth Group will be focused on relationships with others, including family, friends and romantic relationships.

Our Junior youth will focus on The Church for the first half of the semester as we take a deeper dive into the background of building faith and community within (and without) a building.

Sydney Anderson, Director

Here's our tentative youth schedule for January/February:

Jan 5th	- Senior	Feb 2nd	- Senior
Jan 12th	- Junior	Feb 9th	- Junior
Jan 19th	- Senior	Feb 16th	- Senior
Jan 26th	- Junior	Feb 23rd	- Junior

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth Ministry Upcoming Events



January 18-20 @ Grace Cathedral
Grades 6-12



Come, let us sing to the Lord!

*Music
Weekend*

February 21-23
Grades 9-12
\$20 (\$30 after Feb. 14)
[www.edokyouth.wordpress.com/
mustard-seeds](http://www.edokyouth.wordpress.com/mustard-seeds)

When: Sunday, May 31st, 2:30 pm to Saturday, June 6th, 11 am, 2020

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Students in grades 3-12 for 2019-20 school year (you must have *finished* third grade to attend); Camp is NOT restricted to Episcopalians. All are welcome.

Cost: \$465 if you register by April 1st: \$480 between April 2nd-May 8th: \$495 after May 8th. There is a \$50 non-refundable deposit required at the time of registration, the remainder is due by Friday, May 8th. **Those needing scholarships should register for camp by April 1, 2020.** The diocese has 20 scholarships for \$150 available for those with *extreme* financial need. You can apply for scholarships on the registration form. Information about your household income will be required. Scholarships are awarded by a committee. **SCHOLARSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE AT ST. STEPHENS.**



THE SHROVE SHOW Watson, Winters and Winters

TUESDAY—FEBRUARY 25th
6:30 PM

**COME FOR THE
PANCAKES,
STAY FOR THE SHOW!!!**

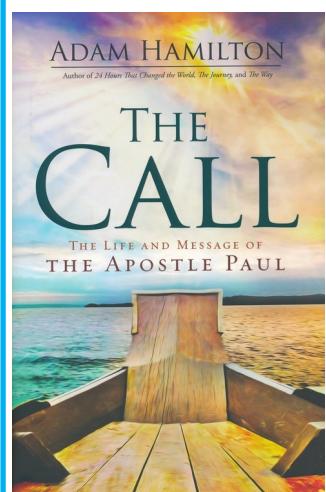
***Good will offering for the
Music Program***



SHROVE TUESDAY

"Good Will Offering" to benefit the Music Program.

Men of St. Stephen's mark you calendars, gather your aprons, oven mitts, pancake spatulas, sign up sheets soon to be posted!



Adult Book Study

On Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, we will begin a book study of The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul by Adam Hamilton. The hardback costs \$18.99, but is available on Amazon for \$10.48. You will need to purchase the book if you want to have one for the class.

We will meet on Thursday from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm in the evening. We will meet for eight (8) sessions, from January 9th through February 27th. If you have any questions, email Mike Morrow mmorrow4@cox.net or call 316-258-4834.

Mike Morrow, Presenter

St Stephen's Legacy Committee

**Newsletter – Parish Education
Gifting Methods & Opportunities**

As we begin our New Year, have you considered your Legacy at St Stephens? As you make your financial plans with your trusted advisors, have you included St Stephens in your plan?

St Stephen's has established an Endowment Fund for the purpose of securing our future and broadening our parish mission and outreach. Through generous initial gifts our fund is currently at \$97,675. The fund is held at and managed by the Episcopal Church Foundation. In 2020, we will begin to make our initial distributions so the parish will be able to see the benefits.

The Legacy committee plans to offer some parish education to help people better understand how your endowment gifts will be used and how they will not be used. What is important is to know that we have an Endowment that can accept current gifts in any amount, but it truly serves as a fund that can accept your planned gifts from either your estate or retirement accounts. The **St Stephen's Legacy Fund** can be named as a beneficiary of your Will, personal trust, or Individual Retirement Account. The **St Stephen's Legacy Fund** can be an appropriate choice for directing your Memorial donations. Your current gift or future gift secures the long term mission of the St Stephen's parish. There are many options in how you can structure or direct your gift.

If you are considering a planned gift to St Stephen's or have questions, please contact Vera to set up a time for you to meet with a member of the Legacy Committee to discuss a strategy for funding the future of the Church. Literature is available on the table in the Narthex.

Paul Attwater III, Chair

2020 Committee Members: Paul Attwater, Chair; Jane Mossman, Secretary; Vera Aikman, Joe Rothwell, Criss Schulz, Lyndy Wells

2020 Scheduled Meetings – Noon in the Fireside Room. February 23rd, May 17th, September 20th, December 6th

WICHITA Alternative GIFT MARKET

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

On November 9th, St. Stephen's again had a table at the Annual Alternative Christmas Gift Market. Our project helped the Dalit (or Untouchable Caste) women of India. Our help will allow these women to have sewing lessons in tailoring and supply them with a sewing machine on which they can make a decent living while staying at home with their children. For the third year, St. Stephen's has supported a gender equality project. The big market on November 9th raised more than \$25,000 for all of the 31 different projects represented in one day! Our minimarket at St. Stephen's raised \$255 for the Dit women's sewing project. Thank you for your generous support!

Many thanks to Ann Jambor and Jamie Keil and Maggie Benefiel without whom we could not have had a successful market.

Submitted by Melanie Shurden

Daughters of the King

Our Daughters of the King chapter enjoyed a half-day retreat on December 6th. Reflection and practice of the visual arts were part of the program, followed by the Eucharist. Many thanks to Rev. Kitty Shield, Tish Seely and Deacon Patsy Abshier for their planning efforts and to Deacon Patsy and Melanie Shurden for refreshments.

On January 19, 2020, we will resume our regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 12:15 pm after the 10:30 service. Our programs for 2019-2020 are based on *The Way of Love*. Deacon Patsy's program on Prayer is scheduled for January. We welcome guests at our meetings and offer a training program for those interested in committing to a deeper life in prayer. Please contact Nan Myers at 755-3818 or nan.myers@wichita.edu if you would like additional information.



**St. Stephen's
kids visited
Larksfield Place
with gifts,
greetings and
joy!**



St. Stephen's

January—February 2020 Calendar

SPECIAL EVENTS		
The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul	Thursday's 5:00—6:00 pm Fireside Room	January 9th—February 27th Mike Morrow, Presenter
"De-Greening" of the Church	Sunday, January 5th following the 10:30 am service	Come casual and help to pack away all the Christmas decorations
Parish Annual Meeting and Potluck Lunch	Sunday, January 26th following the 10:30 am service	<u>ONE SERVICE ONLY</u>
SHROVE TUESDAY	February 25th 6:00—8:00 pm Parish Hall	Men of St. Stephen's Pancakes & Such Winters, Winters, Watson Music Extravaganza Free will offering for the Music Department
MEETINGS		
BOOK CLUB	Noon, Fireside Room	Every Thursday
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Noon, Fireside Room	Quarterly Meeting January 12th
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	12:15 pm, Fireside Room	3rd Sundays January 19th & February 16th
EFM	6:30 pm, Fireside Room	Mondays Through May 2020
FINANCE COMMITTEE	6:00 pm, Fireside Room	Tuesday, January 7th Tuesday, February 11th
LEGACY COMMITTEE	Noon, Fireside Room	Sunday, February 23rd
VESTRY MEETING	6:30 pm, Fireside Room	Wednesday, January 15th Wednesday, February 19th
WORSHIP TEAM MEETING	Noon, Fireside Room	Wednesday, January 22nd
SERVICES		
ASH WEDNESDAY	<i>Watch for details</i>	Wednesday, February 26th
LARKSFIELD PLACE SERVICE	2nd & 4th Sunday's 2:00 pm	January 12th & 26th February 9th & 23rd



WINE DEDICATION January & February 2020

NEW SIGN UP SHEET FOR 2020 on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.
Dedicate the Communion Wine in Celebration, Memory or Thanksgiving.
Suggested donation \$15.00. Donations help support the parish.

01/05		
01/12		
01/19		
01/26	Thanksgiving for St. Stephen's	Steve & Anne Stephens
02/02		
02/09		
02/16		
02/23		



January Birthdays

- 1/5 Mallory Floyd
- 1/6 Melanie Shurden
- 1/7 Brad Vining
- 1/9 Amanda Shield
- 1/10 Suzanne Graham
- 1/15 Lincoln Brassier
- 1/18 Kathy Bishop
- 1/24 John Myers
- 1/28 Becky Samaniego
Joan Seaton
Dodie Seymour
- 1/29 Kim Vining
- 1/31 Jan Benningfield

January Anniversaries

- 1/11 Steve & Anne Stephens
- 1/15 Bruce & Lisa Schriefer
- 1/21 Seth Miller & Nadia Gibson
- 1/28 Dick & Earlene Foote

February Birthdays

- 2/4 Liz Steele
- 2/5 Dick Foote
- 2/6 Maggie Benefiel
- 2/8 Libby Marshall
- 2/11 Wyatt Shield
- 2/14 Susan Gaskill
Amy Staples
- 2/19 Jim Lawing
- 2/23 Justin Cooke
- 2/27 Lisa Schriefer
Ted Shurden
- 2/28 Nadia Gibson

January & February Celebrations

Altar Flower January & February 2020

01/05		
01/12	Celebration our 23rd Wedding Anniversary	Steve & Anne Stephens
01/19		
01/26		
02/02		
02/09		
02/16		
02/23		

New sign up sheets for 2020 on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

Sponsor Altar Flowers, Memory Lamp, or Sanctuary Lamp a great way to celebrate an event, a memorial for a loved one, or thanksgiving, as well as, help support the parish.



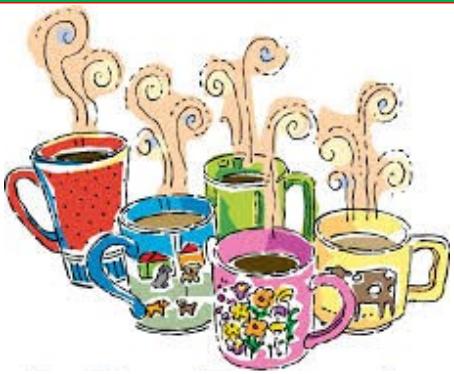
SIGN UP SHEETS

are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
Suggested donation for altar flowers is \$60, lamps \$5.



Coffee Hour Treats January & February 2020

Alphabetically by Last Name



Coffee, Tea and Thee

Check the schedule for the week of your last name and bring your

favorite treat (i.e., cheese/crackers, baked items, fruit, meat/cheese, etc.).

The group will also be responsible for setting up the table with treats and for clean up (even if you don't bring treats you can help with setting up and clean up).

CHECK THE BULLETIN AND WEEKLY E-NOTES FOR ANY CHANGES.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS and SAVE THE DATE

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:30 AM

Meeting will immediately convene
following the service in the Parish Hall.

Potluck Lunch

If your name begins with the following letter,
please bring a dish to serve 8.

A—I Meat or Main Dish

J—R Salad or Side Dish

S—Z Dessert

We will need assistance in set up/clean up.
Sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
Thank you.



St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church
7404 E. Killarney
Wichita, KS 67206
Phone: 316 634-2513
Fax: 316 634-2580
Parish Office Hours
Monday ~ Friday
9 am- 1 pm
ssec@sbcglobal.net

www.ststephensec.org

The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken, Interim Rector
Vera Aikman, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Ashley Winters, Choir and Music Director
Aubree Brasser, Music Section Leader
Aubrey Watson, Organist
Julia Hart, Church School Coordinator
Hazel LeVardi, Church School Coordinator
Emma Bishop, Olivia Williams, Primary
Church School
Sydney Anderson, Youth Director
Matt Anderson, Assistant Youth Director
Lise Van Arsdale Hansen, Nursery Coordinator
Natalie Lemanski, Nursery
Nan Myers, DOK President