

ST. STEPHEN'S STORY

July & August 2020

ORDINARY TIMES
Extraordinary God



I remember as a young driver, maybe 16 or 17 years old, being in my first “fender bender”. You may know whereof I speak – you can see the accident coming; you know there is nothing you can do to stop it; everything seems to go into slow motion! And then.... crunch!

Sometimes these days when I watch the news, I feel like I am in the middle of another accident about to happen. You see it coming. You know its going to happen. There is nothing you can do about it.

Black lives matter! Corona Virus is on the rise again! People have taken to the streets to protest. Where is it going? How are our lives changing? How is society changing? No one seems to be able to give us any answers. Many live in fear and frustration. How long can we go on? How long can we cope?

Someone once said that God will not give us any more than we can handle. Nice sentiment, but God and I have often had intense conversations on how much He thinks I can handle, and how much I think I can handle. Maybe God thinks more of me than I do. Or maybe God knows the strength he gave me when he created me. And, of course, Scripture often reminds us that God knows us better than we know ourselves.

But still, Lord.... what in the world is going on these days? How long, O Lord, will these present times continue? The stories of the Bible remind that the Hebrew People enslaved by the Egyptians asked the same question. And once these people were freed from slavery by Moses, they continued to ask the same question for 40 years in the desert. Days of trial and tribulation seem to come often in the Bible. Bad kings and good kings came and went. In the towns of Babylon, the people prayed, “how long O Lord”. When the people yearned for a deliverer, they prayed “how long O lord”?

There were times with Blessed Paul must have asked, “how long O Lord”? But somewhere Paul’s faith began to overcome this eternal question. In Romans he writes: “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (8:35ff).

The current days are tough and make us fearful. We have never seen days such as these. How shall we cope? Men and women have been asking these same questions for ages. Men and women have been praying to God in such times for ages. And if we can face the future based on the past then God will see us through. In these times the words of our Lord Jesus ring: “Take courage, I have conquered the world”! (Jn 16:33). Yours in Christ, Bishop Milliken



***"Here's the Church,
here's the steeple,
our doors are open,
and ready for the
people."***



The roof top unit for the Parish Hall and a new air conditioning unit for the classrooms were installed and ready for use. Thank you for a donation to cover the cost of the roof top unit from an anonymous donor.

Thank you to Don Norton and Dave Hudson for "making" it happen. Also, thanks to Dillon's Community Rewards Dollars and our parish family, the parking lot is being repaired!





Treasurer Report

Since mid-March, the St. Stephen's family has traveled a new course, one that could not have been anticipated and one that changed our perspective on worship and the importance of our church in our lives. I know we are all anxious to return to corporate worship and to be able to greet and pass the peace like we have been accustomed to for a long time.

Although we "reopened" in mid-June, many have chosen to delay their return, but a number of folks have found going back to a service was needed. All throughout the shut-down, however, all of our financial commitments have been made thanks to the generosity of our family. Thanks to all for your faithful adherence to your pledge commitments and for the extra gifts given by a few.

As the Vestry met in March, the importance of continuing to pay our staff was discussed and the decision was made to maintain staff payroll until mid-July. At the June Vestry meeting, that commitment was extended to September 1st at which time we might have a clearer picture of how to proceed.

We have seen the replacement of one of our two largest heating and air-conditioning units and the replacement of an air-conditioner for the Sunday School area of the church. We are in the process of contracting for the resurfacing of the parking lot and have seen all of the carpets shampooed, floors waxed and other deep cleaning during the shut-down.

In addition to the generosity of our parishioners, we applied for and received a Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the SBA and are in the process of documenting the use of the funds for payroll and utilities within the approved guidelines of the program. With review, we believe the loan will actually be forgiven and become a Federal grant.

Although the Rector Search Committee has been meeting, the Coronavirus delayed their start. So far, Bishop Mike has agreed to stay with us, and we hope to have a full time Rector by the end of the year. Our budget anticipated a full time Rector by October, but it appears it may be later. That delay is budget friendly, however, and should allow us to be able to cover some additional search costs with the savings of payroll costs.

Thanks to all for your loving support of St. Stephen's parish during this unprecedented time.

Lyndy Wells, Parish Treasurer

While the COVID-19 virus is still around and racial tensions are still high, I look around and I see hope. I see hope in the re-opening of St. Stephens, I see hope in the signs of life returning all around. Children's activities and camps starting back up and the people beginning to gather together once again. Amidst all this good news, I also see a sense of caution, a sense of trepidation. I am reminded of the children's song "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. They will know we are Christians by our love". Our beliefs don't need to be loudly proclaimed on street corners, but in the quiet everyday acts. The phone calls, the thoughts, reaching out to one another to let them know that we are still here and we care. While some are very much concerned and against re-opening of the church, I know that there are many who truly need us right now and that is our call - to meet people in their time of need and to walk with them through the valley of darkness and into the light. I ask that each and every one of you be gentle - not only with yourselves, but with the wider community. We are slowly emerging into a new normal and finding our way as best we can. There will be mistakes made and there will be things we can do differently and/or better, but as long as we keep love of Christ in our hearts, we will inevitably move forward in a positive, life-affirming manner. Just remember that "They will know we are Christians by our love". How will you spread the love of Christ today? Blessings, Anne Stephens



St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group

The youth have been enjoying the much needed summer break! We are ready to come back refreshed, and look forward to meeting for youth group again, either virtually or hopefully in-person.



Matt and I are working on the logistics of an event in early August.

We are looking at outdoor activities like a water balloon fight. Please look for more information about this in our Facebook group or in your email.

We sure miss everyone! Looking forward to seeing you all soon. Until then, be well and stay safe!

Sydney Anderson, Youth Director & Matt Anderson, Assistant Youth Director

EPISCOPAL DAY AT CAMP WOOD

Young Adults: Saturday, July 11, 1-5 pm
Grades 6-12: Sunday, July 12, 9:30 am -12:30 pm
Grades 6-12: Sunday, July 12, 2-5 pm



Join us for a Day at Camp Wood!

We have three options for youth and young adults to spend some time together at our beloved Camp Wood!

- Saturday, July 11, 1-5 pm, Young Adults & College Students
- Sunday, July 12, 9:30-12:30, Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents

Sunday, July 12, 2-5 pm, Youth in grades 6-12 and their parents

Approximate schedule for each event:

- Check-in
- Worship on High-Y
- Activities (Hike, Arts & Crafts, Games) / Parent Discussion Time
- Discussion

Check-out

[Pre-registration is required \(click here to register!\).](#) Face masks will be required of all participants and social distancing will be enforced.

The cost is approximately \$10/person, but we understand the economy is hard right now and not everyone may be able to pay. When you register, there are options to pay \$0, \$10, or \$20, depending on what you can afford.

Since we know parents will need to bring their children to this one-day event, they are invited to join us for Worship, then we will have a separate facilitated discussion time for all parents present. If you plan to attend as a parent, please register since we are limiting these events to a maximum of 45 participants.

Questions? Contact Karen Schlabach at kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org

Seeking ye willing to volunteer and willing to share!



- * Usher—need only one each Sunday
- * Lector— both Sunday and Wednesday
- * Acolyte—both Sunday and Wednesday
- * Volunteers willing to share instrumental music during offertory and/or communion during Sunday service. Please contact Ashley (ashleywinters79@gmail.com) to arrange a date.

Episcopal Summer Mega Zoom!

We know not having camp this summer is a huge disappointment, and nothing can replace that. However, we can still spend time together in community and enjoy activities that we typically only have at camp each year.

- Monday, July 6: **GAME NIGHT**, Join us on Zoom for a night of fun games ... Pictionary, Family Feud, Jackbox Games, Trivia ... we'll split up into teams and compete for the coveted prize!

Tuesday, July 7: **MOVIE NIGHT**, we'll set-up a Netflix Watch Party and enjoy a movie together with chat options (note: you must have a Netflix subscription to participate). Questions? Contact Jonah Brandley at jonah.r.brandley@gmail.com

Wednesday, July 8: **Cardboard Boats!** Make your own miniature cardboard boat using only cardboard, duct tape, and plastic sheeting -- no larger than a shoe box -- and join us on Zoom to show off your creation and test it out in the sink or bathtub. Questions? Contact Michael Funston at mfunston@episcopal-ks.org

Thursday, July 9: send in your **TALENT SHOW** video by Wednesday at noon, then tune-in on social media to watch the whole show! E-mail your entry to Carson Avery at cgavery44@gmail.com

Friday, July 10: our graduating high school seniors are invited to participate in the annual **Senior Game Show**, followed by a short worship service. We'll record the show and share it on social media for everyone to watch that night. Are you a graduating senior who wants to participate? Email Karen Schlabach at kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org.

RSVP for Episcopal Summer Mega Zoom in UltraCamp to make sure you get the links to be invited to each activity!



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!

**Rewards Donations received support St. Stephen's Repair & Replacement Fund
(funds were just used for the A/C in the Sunday School classrooms).**



Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King held their June meeting on Sunday, June 21st, 2020 using Free Conference Call.com. Eight members were online from 1:00-2:00 pm, including Deacon Patsy Abshier. We continued to pray for our church, church family in need, and also offered prayers for fathers and father figures.

Barbara Fizer gave the program, "Living the Way of Love, the final review," based on notes from the book The Way of Love. This completed our year-long study of Presiding Bishop Curry's book. At the conclusion, the group took the Vow of Commitment to continue living the Way of Love. We voted to adopt a book by Madeline L'Engle for study beginning in fall 2020: Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art.

Members were reminded to continue support for Episcopal Social Services, which continues to need water and other staples as they are still serving bag breakfasts and lunches. The best way to help is to either send a check or go online and make contributions. We also discussed participating in ESS's annual "Kindness Moves Me Walk" which is being held July 23rd-25th. This year participants will pledge money and then walk in their neighborhood or local park. Details are at: [https://www.breakthroughwichita.org/
event/kindness-moves-me-walk-2020/](https://www.breakthroughwichita.org/event/kindness-moves-me-walk-2020/)

DOK is traditionally on break during the summer months. However, since we have not been together socially since March, we tentatively plan to get together for a short visit after the 10:30 am service on Sunday July 19th, using the Parish Hall and social distancing. Our regular meetings will resume on Sunday, September 20th.

Nan Myers, President



BOOK CLUB

CHURCH BOOK CLUB STILL MEETING

Despite the unusual spring and summer, the Book Club is still meeting-by telephone conference! We have been keeping up on our members' activities and sometimes even discussing the book we are reading. This is a great way to stay in touch, without mask or social distance, and we have managed to stay on schedule for our reading despite the virus. The current book, The Left Hand of God, by Ursula Le Guin, is providing a challenge. We will be starting a new book in just a couple of weeks, so please join us any Thursday at noon. You just need a telephone (smart or dumb). **Call 978-990-5000, meeting number 701904.**

Barbara Fizer



Breakthrough is serving sack meals for breakfast & lunch.

Needs: Bread, peanut butter, sausage patties, eggs, individual cracker packages, individual fruit cups (no sugar), individually wrapped granola or protein bars, small fresh apples/oranges/mandarin oranges (cuties). The Breakthrough building is closed to the public. Deliver donations directly to 1010 N. Main, for drop off please call ahead to our front office at 316-269-4160. They can coordinate with you a safe way to get the donation. **CASH DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED!** Thank you.

KINDNESS MOVES ME WALK 2020

JULY 23-25 | VIRTUAL WALK

#KMM20

KINDNESS MOVES ME WALK HAS GONE VIRTUAL!

Our annual Kindness Moves Me Walk will take place virtually this year, in neighborhoods all across Wichita! Walk by yourself, or gather a small group of friends to walk together. Stroll your own neighborhood or a favorite park, or explore a new path.

As in the past, participation is free, but participants are asked to generate donations from sponsors. We're also thrilled about our new text-to-donate option! Register for the walk using the form below.

Participants can purchase a T-shirt for \$5 to wear during their walk to generate awareness about all the services Breakthrough provides to our community. And since we're all walking separately this year, let's come together online with lots of pictures on social media using the tag #KMM20!

We're so excited to celebrate this year's virtual Kindness Moves Me Walk, and to know that all proceeds raised will allow Breakthrough to continue our mission of restoring lives for people in need in Wichita and the surrounding communities, and to help our community break through the cycles of poverty and mental illness.

STEPS TO GET STARTED:

Step 1: Sign up below!

Step 2: Plan your strategy- where are you walking, who will you invite to walk and/or ask for a donation, what dates/times you are walking, etc.

Step 3: Get started sending out emails and letters, but remember to ask Allison for any help.

Step 4: Add the Kindness Moves Me photo frame to your Facebook profile picture by [CLICKING THIS LINK](#).

Step 5: **GET YOUR T-SHIRT** at 1010 N Main to wear on your walk.

Step 6: Watch our Facebook watch party starting July 23, at 8 am (more details later).

Step 7: Kindness Move Me Walk – at your own pace and place.

Step 8: Share your walk on our FB event and your own social media.

Step 9: Turn in donations and steps or miles to Allison VanNahmen in Development at Breakthrough.

Step 10: Receive your award for fundraising and walk participation.

Contact with questions: Allison.vannahmen@breakthroughwichita.org.



Hello St. Stephens' children and families!

This summer we are learning "**How to Be the Church**". Please tune into our weekly Children's Worship video (on Facebook, E-Notes and our web site ststephensec.org) to learn how you can be the church through your actions in this time of worshipping separately together! Every week we will be reading a different children's book that expands on the theme for the week.

If you are interested in helping read and audio record a book for Children's Worship, please contact Julia Hart or the Parish Office.

Here is our remaining summer schedule; please tune in!

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| July 5th: | Lesson: Do not grow weary in doing good/reap what you sow.
Book: <u>Drawing God</u> , by Karen Kiefer |
| July 12th: | Lesson: Do not hold onto your anger.
Book: <u>There's No Wrong Way to Pray</u> , by Rebecca Ninke and Kate Watson |
| July 19th: | Lesson: Focus on the good and pure.
Book: <u>Psalm 23</u> , Illustrated by Tim Ladwig |
| July 26th: | Lesson: When you get dressed, put on kindness.
Book: <u>Picturing God</u> , by Ruth Goring |
| August 2nd: | Lesson: Help and care for the weak and timid.
Book: <u>Maybe God is Like That Too</u> , by Jennifer Grant |
| August 9th: | Lesson: Mind to your business.
Book: <u>The Secret of Saying Thanks</u> , by Douglas Wood |
| August 16th: | Lesson: You're not too young.
Book: <u>God's Paintbrush</u> , by Sandy Sasso |
| August 23rd: | Lesson: Don't be ashamed of what you believe.
Book: <u>I am God's Storyteller</u> , by Lisa Hendey |
| August 30th: | Lesson: Be good citizens.
Book: <u>Because Nothing Looks Like God</u> , by Lawrence and Karen Kushner |
| September 6th: | Lesson: We are the church.
Book: <u>We are the Church</u> , by Sarah Raymond Cunningham |

Truly yours, Julia Hart



**THANK YOU to
ASHLEY WINTERS & the
WINTERS FAMILY
for the VIRTUAL
SUNDAY SERVICE.**

**THANK YOU to
JULIA HART for the
CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL.**



St. Stephen's 2020 Calendar

July and August

	MEETINGS	
BOOK CLUB	Noon via phone	Every Thursday
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	To be announced	July Quarterly Meeting
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	Sunday, July 19th, Parish Hall after 10:30 am service	No August Meeting Meetings to resume September 20th
FINANCE COMMITTEE	6:00 pm—Parish Hall	No Meeting in July Tuesday, August 11th
VESTRY MEETING	6:30 pm—Parish Hall	No Meeting in July Wednesday, August 19th

Carol Fizer and Jane Mossman were presented their certificates for completing the four (4) year EfM (Education for Ministry).



Education for Ministry



years and three fourth year students.

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program that covers the core courses of seminary- Hebrew Bible, New Testament, Church History and Theology – over a four-year period. Each year stands alone and course work may be taken over the four-year period or a year at a time with space between the years. Basically, whatever is more convenient for a person's life at a given time. While there is a large amount of reading and discussion, there are no papers to be written ever. At our graduation party last year, one of our first year students reminded Teresa and I that the other part of EfM that is so wonderful is the community that is formed over the years. There is no way to fully describe this formation of community --but people are always amazed how close they become over the four years. The one thing that they all gain is the ability to think theologically about the world in which they live – God truly becomes always present to them.

We will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room from September to May. Join us this fall! For questions contact. The Rev. Kitty Shield or Teresa Ryther, Facilitators

Altar Flowers Dedications - JULY & AUGUST 2020

7/5	<i>Belated Celebration of Mike Floyd's Birthday</i>	Linda Floyd
7/12	<i>Belated Celebration of Criss Schulz Birthday</i>	Joan Schulz
7/19	<i>Celebration of Diana Norton & Daniel Stucky Wedding</i>	Don & Karen Norton
7/26	<i>Dearest Love & Memory of Joe Moddrell</i>	Jean Moddrell
8/2		
8/9		
8/16	<i>Memory of Sally Hoesli</i>	Hank Hoesli
8/23	<i>Thanksgiving for Diana Norton Stuckey Birthday</i>	Don & Karen Norton
8/30	<i>Celebration of our anniversary</i>	Dale & Suzanne Graham



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.

Call or email the Parish Office.

Suggested donation for altar flowers is \$60, lamps \$5.



July Birthdays

- 7/1 Bob Fizer
- 7/7 Donna Calbeck
- 7/11 Richard Samaniego
- 7/19 Barbara Thompson
- 7/22 Bill Whitaker
- 7/25 Mike Henry
- 7/27 Linda Stewart

August Birthdays

- 8/4 Richard Navarro
- 8/7 Devon Rothwell
- 8/8 Nan Myers
- 8/16 Anne Stephens
- 8/19 Richard Shield
- 8/24 Tom Benefiel
- 8/27 Bobbie Hansen
- 8/27 Annaliese Miller
- 8/29 The Rev. Kitty Shield
- 8/30 Parker Graham

July Anniversaries

- 7/9 Bob & Melanie Shurden

August Anniversaries

- 8/14 Bob & Barbara Fizer
- 8/20 Criss & Joan Schulz
- 8/23 Al & Judy Higdon

Congratulations to the August couples all married more than 60 years!



July & August Celebrations

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund

HISTORY

The St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund was established in November 2017 with contributions and bequests from parishioners of St. Stephen's.

The SSEC Endowment Committee oversees the management of the invested funds and monitor the distributions from the Fund in compliance with the approved Spending Rule and in accordance with the purpose and distribution policies as defined.

There are two types of Fund Accounts:

Permanent Endowment Fund gifts are held in perpetuity, which are donor-restricted with a percentage being distributed annually.

General Endowment Fund gifts are not donor restricted. Donations can be made in any amount with a percentage being distributed annually.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S BOUNTY

Christian stewardship involves the faithful management of all of God's gifts – time, talent, the created world, and money, including accumulated, inherited, and appreciated assets.

Parishioners can give to the work of the St. Stephen's through a variety of gift vehicles, in addition to cash, including bequests in wills, life income gifts, annuities, trusts, life insurance policies, real estate, securities, and other assets.

It is the desire of St. Stephen's to encourage, receive, and administer these gifts in a manner faithful to the loyalty and devotion to God expressed by the donors and in accord with the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Kansas and the policies of this Parish.

*Your gift will make a vital difference
in the stainability of
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.*

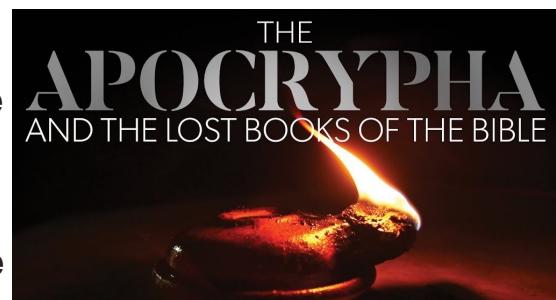
Opportunities for Planned Giving

- ◊ Designated gifts to the Endowment while living
- ◊ Charitable Gift Annuities
- ◊ Life Insurance Designation
- ◊ IRA Designation
- ◊ Pay on Death Accounts
- ◊ Charitable Remainder Trust
- ◊ Memorials
- ◊ Wills and Estates
- ◊ Stocks and Bonds
- ◊ Land or Real Estate

If you would like a copy of this brochure or more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Mid-week Bible Study by Mike Morrow

Every Thursday (June 18th through Sept. 3rd) from 5:45 - 6:45 pm in the Parish Hall. We will be studying the books of the Apocrypha. With people traveling over the summer, it is designed to allow people to read with us even though they may be out of town for some of that time. If have questions, call Mike at 316-258-4834.



Volunteers needed to help with the grounds around the church, weeding, picking up branches, cleaning flower beds, etc. Roll up your sleeve, put on your gloves and hat if you would like to help, come anytime at your convenience and pitch in. A list will be on the front door and during Parish Office hours, rakes, clippers, etc. will be available for your use. For information call the Parish Office.



Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

SERVICES at St. Stephen's

Sundays

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
10:30 am

Wednesdays

Holy Eucharist: Rite One
at noon

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Reminder Masks and social distancing.
Reservations are required.

Call by Friday, noon for Sunday service
and Tuesday, noon, for Wednesday
service. *You can make a "standing"
reservation so you don't have to call
weekly.* Thank you.

*[View Video of Sunday Service, Kid's
Virtual School Sunday and Wednesday
Bishop Chat on our Facebook, E-notes
and website!](#)*



**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**

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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, Hazel LeVardi, Tish Seely,
Church School Coordinators
Emma Bishop, Olivia Williams, Primary
Church School Assistants
Sydney Anderson, Youth Director
Matt Anderson, Assistant Youth Director
Lise Van Arsdale Hansen, Nursery Coordinator
Natalie Lemanski, Nursery
Nan Myers, DOK President