



ST. STEPHEN'S STORY

May and June 2020



Dear Friends,

Sailing in uncharted waters makes us nervous. We are hearing many different voices telling us what to do, how to do it, and how we should react. Not sure how we can always tell the true prophets from the false prophets. It is time for us, as Jesus says, to be as wise as serpents and as innocent as doves.

Even though we are having trouble keeping our bearings and maintaining a direction, nevertheless, our life together goes on, and today I would like to chat about some of our ongoing activities.

First is the process of searching for a new rector for St. Stephen's. With the outbreak of our Corona Pandemic, we lost time on getting the search process underway. We are now trying to get back on track. As you may know, a search committee has been formed. It will be chaired by Dale Graham, and Dale will be assisted by Gina Hollingshead, Barbara Fizer, Janice Knox, Jason Hart, Joe Rothwell and Richard Shield.

Before too long, you will be hearing from the committee asking you to answer some questions dealing with your perceptions of St. Stephen's. We hope to conduct this survey in an on-line manner, with "paper" responses being offered to those who are not familiar with on-line surveys (they are fairly easy). Once your responses have been received, they will be reviewed and condensed into some succinct summaries which will become part of the Parish Profile that will be sent to prospective candidates.

The Vestry and the Search Committee will make every effort to keep the congregation fully apprised of the ongoing search process. Should you ever have any questions or wish to offer an opinion, please do not hesitate to contact Dale or Anne Stephens, our Senior Warden.

Second: Though we may not be using the church for worship, nevertheless our worship, and much of the business of the church goes on. This is made possible by the dedicated work of many of our members. In the office there is Vera! Vera is there every day, and she is the communication hub of the parish. She helps post many our on-line offerings and tries to keep her finger on the pulse of the parish. She is doing an outstanding job.

Ashley and Ben Winters bring the beauty and majesty of music to our weekly worship offerings. They not only sing and play several instruments, but they also function as lectors and intercessors during these service. If you would like to help with out electronic worship just call Ashley. We are looking for others who like to lead prayers and read lessons.

And let's not forget Julia Hart who prepares a weekly on-line Sunday school program for children (I think adults could learn a thing or two as well). Julia has this amazing ability to reach past the computer and engage our audience in a very personal way. Actually, while I don't have any hard data, we may be one of the few parishes offering a children's program each week.

Of course, many others are involved in the ongoing ministry of St. Stephen's. Our LEV's try to maintain some sort of contact with our shut-ins, and the vestry works hard to say

in touch all members of the congregation. Always remember, if there is some need the church can help you with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Finances... So far you have done an outstanding job of maintaining your financial support of the parish. While we may not be using the building, nevertheless, we still must pay for utilities, maintenance, insurance, etc. We still have a payroll to meet. In short, the expenses of the church continue in spite of the pandemic.

To help you maintain your pledge, or to make other gifts and offerings to the parish, we have set up a Pay Pal account for the church, and you can access this through the parish website: www.ststephensec.org.

Again, thanks for your continued generous and ongoing financial support.

Finally, we are beginning to think about some return to normality (whatever that may look like). One day, and we hope it will come soon, we will be returning to in-person worship and ministry. Our question is what will this look like? Will we simply back to just the way we were pre-pandemic? Or will our return be a series of baby steps, bringing us back gradually to a sense of safety and comfort. These are questions being discussed at all levels of the church. A few days ago, this was a topic of conversation for the weekly Zoom meeting of the House of Bishops, and it is being discussed by congregations in Western Kansas. I suspect that before too long Bishop Bascom will be sharing her thoughts on what our return to communal worship might look like.

Until then let us "...have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind" (1 Peter 3).

Yours in Christ, Bishop Milliken





Thanks to everyone who has so quickly and generously made commitments to our Church during the past several weeks. We have continued to pay our employees who have continued to contribute their talents for our benefits. With the church building closed, we have shampooed carpets and done some extra cleaning to be ready for us all when we are able to get back together.

Through March, we are ahead of our budget and are awaiting the replacement of two of our furnace/air conditioners. The Vestry will revisit the budget at the May 20 meeting and will consider adjustments as necessary.

Again, we thank all of those people that have allowed us to continue to worship together, yet separately. Ben and Ashley Winters have shared their considerable talent, Sydney and Matt Anderson have kept in touch with our young people, Julia Hart has recorded some terrific Sunday School sessions, Bishop Mike has helped us look forward to Sundays and Wednesdays for his messages and Vera has kept our office running smoothly. Thanks to all for your extra efforts.

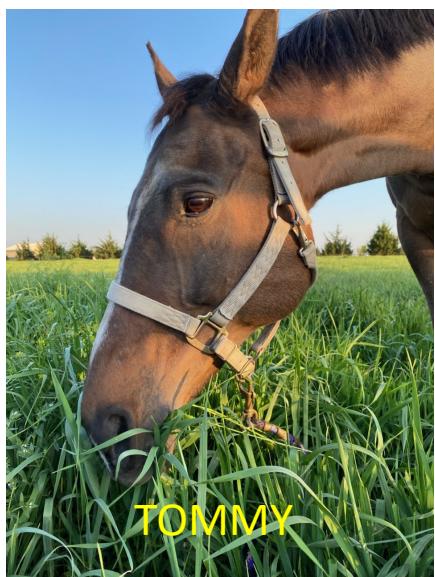
Lyndy Wells, Parish Treasurer

So many of our daily lives and routines have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic that we struggle to find a sense of normalcy. We are fortunate in that many have stepped up to help provide our church community with a sense of togetherness - whether it is the online services and weekly chats, to the weekly zoom meetings of our junior and senior youth groups, to the children's and youth services, to all of the phone calls that have been made to check in on parishioners by Vestry and Daughters of the King members. If you find yourself struggling and just want to chat or to check in, we are here for you. While our doors may be temporarily closed, our hearts are still open!



The Vestry continues to work on ways to maintain communication and is beginning on looking at how we will re-open. We are waiting on word from the Diocese in Topeka before we make too many plans, but it will likely look like limited attendance at church services and possibly the addition of a Sunday service so all who want to attend will be able to.

The search committee is in the very beginning stages and will be meeting to draft a parish survey to assist them in filling out the parish profile about "who we are as a parish community".



As for myself, my daily schedule hasn't changed a whole lot. At work, City of Bel Aire - our doors are closed to the public, but we still show up every day. I'm remaining quite busy since new residential developments and construction haven't slowed down. I have been making a conscious effort to make time for exercising every day (so much easier when it's not raining) and visiting Tommy out at the barn.

Until we get to see each other in person again, stay safe and well!

Blessings, Anne Stephens



Episcopal summer camp announced with new dates

From Karen Schlabach, Youth, Young Adult and Campus Missioner

We have decided to postpone Episcopal Summer Camp (scheduled for May 31 – June 6) to later in the summer so that we might still be able to have camp this year. We felt that many people would likely not feel safe attending camp in early June.

The health and safety of our campers, staff and greater camp community is our top priority. We will have camp on these new dates as long as it is a healthy and safe option.

- **New dates:**

- Senior High Camp, grades 9-12, July 12-18
- Elementary and Junior High Camp, grades 3-8, August 2-8
- **Where:** Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale
- **Cost:** \$465, fully refundable in the event of a Covid-19 related cancelation. You may register now to reserve your space and pay later once we know for sure camp will happen. Scholarships are available; apply via the registration process.

Register online: <http://www.ultracamp.com/info/upcomingsessions.aspx?idCamp=986&campCode=1sC>

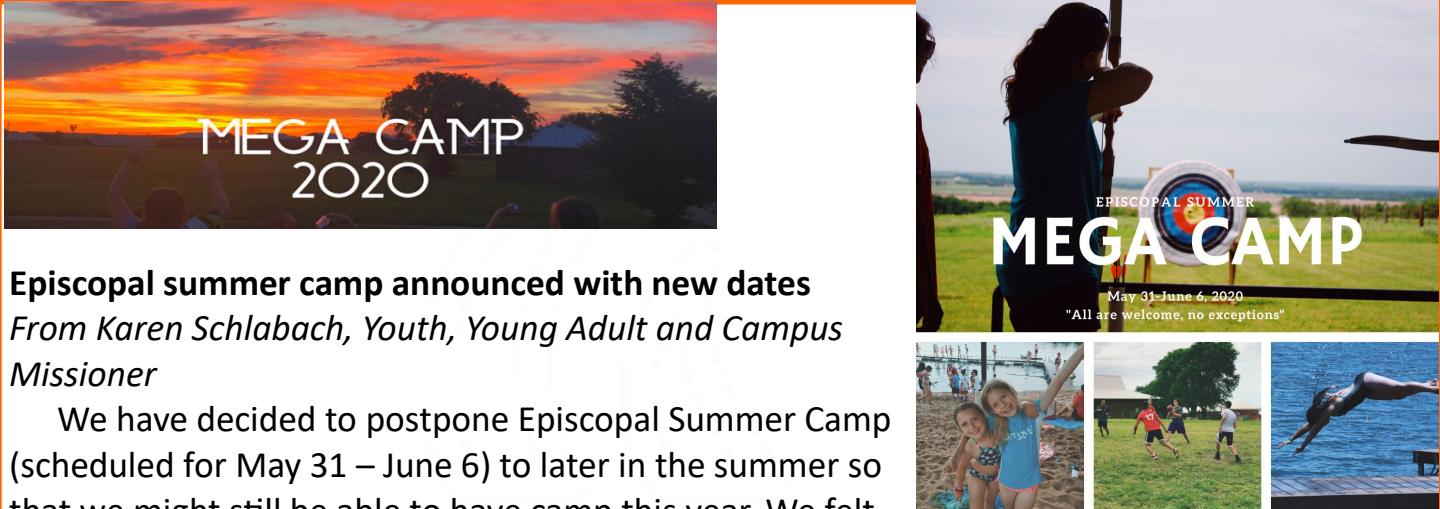
Camp Wood YMCA is working closely with the Kansas Department of Health to maintain effective protocols for the identification and appropriate treatment of any illnesses that may occur at camp, including COVID-19.

Camp Wood YMCA is taking necessary precautions to ensure that our campers and staff are safe. They are enhancing their staff training and will be practicing additional hygiene and cleaning practices to ensure that our facilities and program locations remain safe and ready for the 2020 camping season.

Read more on our website: <https://edokformation.wordpress.com/2020/04/22/camp-woods-covid-19-preparation/>

Learn more about camp in the new Episcopal Camp Parent Handbook: <https://edokyouth.files.wordpress.com/2019/12/episcopalparenthandbook.pdf>

SCHOLARSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE AT ST. STEPHENS.



St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group

As we look to wrap up youth group for the 2019-2020 school year, we certainly aren't doing it the way we planned. And I'm sure that's something everyone can relate to.



We are so thankful for our kiddos and their parents for jumping right into virtual youth group! We meet once a week with both the Junior and the Senior group on Sundays.

It has been wonderful being able to meet with both groups every week and keep a consistent dialogue going. Now more than ever it is important to stay connected, and that's certainly what our youth group is all about.

The last day of youth group will be Sunday, May 17th. All things considered, we'd like to meet one last time in person and have a ice cream party and game night at the church. We will of course abide by any ordinances in place at that time, so please be on the lookout for more information on this event in your email or the private Facebook group.

Thank you again to everyone who has made this year so special! We look forward to a refreshing summer and starting the 2020-2021 youth group year resuming our in person lessons.

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

Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth Ministry (EDOK) has **a new website!**

Visit us at <http://edokformation.wordpress.com>



Virtual
Youth
Group



Remember Breakthrough as they are serving sack meals for breakfast and 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.

Daughters of the King

St. Stephens' Daughters of the King held their April meeting on Sunday, April 19th using Free Conference Call.com. Twelve members were "present" and we met for one hour from 11:15 am-12:15 pm. We enjoyed hearing each other's voices and being able to pray and study together. The program was on The Way of Love: Go. This seemed a very pertinent topic in these difficult times, as we reviewed our commitment to outreach, especially to our fellow SSEC members, via phone calls, text messages, email and cards. We are keeping statistics in order to support the effort of SSEC's office in tracking communications.



A period of silence was expressed for the recent death of Jane Taylor, a much loved member of our chapter, and several members shared memories about her. She was a past president and training officer. We will be sending an honorarium donation of \$50.00 to the DOK National Office, as is our tradition for daughters who have passed.

Breakthrough/ESS need bottled water and other staples as they are serving bag breakfasts and lunches to the needy. Currently, the best and fastest way to help is to send a check (see Breakthrough Club notice above) or their web site <https://www.breakthroughwichita.org/>

In May, DOK will hold our May 17th meeting via phone unless SSEC has resumed physical meetings. On our agenda will be: 1) Election of officers; and 2) re-engaging with Legacy Ministries (see below) for an update on how we can be helpful to them over the summer and after.

Finally, the National Office of DOK just announced via email to members that Daughters will be gathering in a virtual community to celebrate the National Day of Prayer on May 7th. There will be an initial meeting providing details about this via Zoom, Saturday, May 2nd at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

Nan Myers, President

An update on Legacy Ministries

Our chapter of Daughters of the King supports Legacy Ministries and we want to solidify St. Stephen's relationship with them.

The sad news is that they are struggling with Covid virus just as the rest of us are. Staff is short and they are down several kids to do the garden work. This impacts their ability to produce enough to provide subscriptions to their produce. In fact the subscriptions are sold out for shares in the garden. They will have a presence selling coffee, produce and pottery at the Old Town Farm and Art Market. Details to follow.

We can still support them by buying coffee and pottery which are available online at www.legacy-ministries.com or phone 316.247.0463. Contact person is Shelly Westfall. She and one of the kids visited us in March and brewed free coffee for us.

We will keep you updated. Please pray for this community ministry which fosters discovery, creativity and accountability in Wichita youth



I truly enjoyed and appreciated the virtual services provided during this lockdown. It was very comforting to see the same faces and to be able to keep a routine during this time. I appreciate everyone's efforts in providing the services. During the "Stay at Home" I was finally able to complete this mosaic. This was the last of the 14 stations of the cross. I had started it back in September, but due to work had to put it off. Seemed appropriate that I picked it back up on Good Friday of this year and proud to have finally completed the project.

Anonymous



**Hearing those beautiful church bells
sure lift spirits around the
neighborhood. Thank you for the
wonderful music. Your Lawrence Lane
neighbor.**

My newest needlepoint ornament designs—We are painting them as fast as we can and sending to fine retail needlepoint boutiques across the country! www.pattimann.com

Computers, Coffee, and Covid

(Note: This is the IT consultant for St. Stephen's)

Nearly everyone is using their computers more during this pandemic, from school to work, social media to online bill pay, keeping in touch and staying informed. We all rely heavily on the technology in our homes and the networks they connect to. Computers are an excellent tool when used and maintained correctly, but a wrong click/download has the potential to cause incalculable harm.

Phishing scams are among the most prevalent forms of cybercrime. The best way to combat these scams is to learn what phishing looks like, and how to protect yourself.

1. **Never** follow links in an email unless you are absolutely certain they are authentic.
2. **Never** respond to an email asking for account, personal, or other sensitive information.
3. If the email seems to be from a trusted source, call the company directly through their publicly listed telephone number. **Never** call a number listed in a suspicious email.

If you're unsure, or simply wish to be certain, you may forward any email to info@sleepyowl.com. Our team will quickly verify its authenticity and follow up with instructions to keep you safe. It is best to be cautious of any unsolicited emails. Feel free to email us at support@sleepyowl.com if you have questions about the above information. Additionally, you may call or email us if you need website work, IT services, or help with anything computer- or network-related. **SleepyOwl is a family business, trusted in Wichita and the surrounding areas for 25 years.** Reasonable pricing and excellent service, guaranteed. Website design and development services: (316) 323-2792; IT services; any computer-related requests: (316) 734-1749.



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.





Hello St. Stephens' children and families!

I speak for all of us when I say we truly miss you guys and cannot wait to have Children's Chapel and Sunday School together, in person again soon.



Please continue to tune into the St. Stephen's webpage to see opportunities to worship and participate in Sunday School at home this Easter Season.

This summer we will be using a Lego-based Sunday School curriculum, so if you have any spare Legos that you are no longer using, the children of St. Stephens will put them to good use if you'd donate them to us!

Truly yours, Julia Hart



"Watch for information on Vacation Bible School 2020!"

Hopefully, the last of June but I will let you know as soon as our "Stay at Home" is over.



Our plan is for evenings, 5:30–7:00 pm, Monday—Thursday.

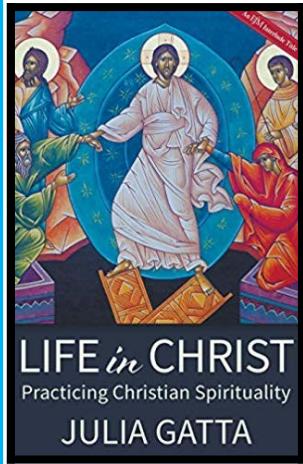
I look forward to our adventures as Knights of North Castle!

Sparky the Dragon

St. Stephen's 2020 Calendar

May & June

	MEETINGS	
BOOK CLUB	Noon, Fireside Room	Every Thursday
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Noon, Fireside Room	Quarterly Meeting July 5th
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	May— By Phone or Zoom June—12:15 pm—Fireside Rm	May 17th June 21st
EFM	6:30 pm—Zoom	Mondays Through May 2020
FINANCE COMMITTEE	To be announced	Tuesday May 23th & June 9th
VESTRY MEETING	6:30 pm to be announced	Wednesday, May 20th & June 17th
WORSHIP TEAM MEETING	Noon, Fireside Room	Wednesday, June 17th
LARKSFIELD PLACE SERVICE	To be announced	



BOOK STUDY
 Will be rescheduled
'Life in Christ (Practicing Christian Spirituality)'
 Teresa Ryther, Facilitator

Aubrey Watson
"And the beat goes on!"
Recording for Virtual Service.



When this is all over and we can get back together, won't it be fun resuming Dinners for Eight? I've had two or three calls asking the status of that activity and my answer is, "Yes, like everything else, it's been pushed back." Perhaps we'll be having our first round of dinners in August instead of April!

When we've been given the "all-clear", Julia Hart and I will be getting back together in case there are changes to be made. Meanwhile, do whatever is available to stay connected as a church family. We are so blessed to be a part of St. Stephens and when this is over and we can gather safely once again, thanks be to God!

Altar Flowers May & June 2020

5/3		
5/10		
5/17		
5/24		
5/31		
6/7	Memory Sally Hoesli	Hank Hoesli
6/14	Memory Doris Faye Purcell	Aubree Brassier
6/21	Celebration Mike Floyd's Birthday	Linda Floyd
6/28	In Loving Memory Jo Ann Estes	Bill Estes & Family



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.



Wine Dedication May & June 2020



Dedicate the Communion Wine in Celebration, Memory or Thanksgiving.

Suggested donation \$15.00. Donations help support the parish.

SIGN UP on the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall.

5/3		
5/10		
5/17		
5/24		
5/31		
6/7	Memory Elaine Knox	Gary & Janice Knox
6/14		
6/21		
6/28		

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.



May Birthdays

5/2	Jerrod Bishop
5/4	Lou Ann Robertson
5/7	Sally Alefs
5/13	Karen Norton
5/13	Seth Miller
5/14	Joe Rothwell
5/14	Jean Moddrell
5/15	Rhea White
5/16	Karen Phillips
5/17	Aubrey Watson
5/24	Criss Schulz
5/25	Susie McFall
5/25	John Staples
5/31	Sophie Ramsey

May Anniversaries

5/31	Dan & Susan Taylor

6/22 Nathan Williams

6/25 Lillian Gattis
6/29 Colin Hart

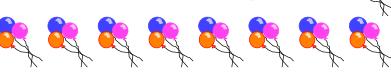
June Birthdays

6/5	Mary Lynn Priest
6/6	Hank Hoesli
6/7	Audrey Kramer
	Bob Shurden
6/14	Owen White
6/15	Jason Hart
6/17	Patti Mann
6/19	Al Higdon

June Anniversaries

6/1	Innes & Karen Phillips
	Joe & Devon Rothwell
6/2	Rick & Susan Gaskill
6/6	Jerrod & Kathy Bishop
6/7	Richard & Amanda Shield
6/20	Bill & Carolyn Whitaker
6/26	Don & Karen Norton

May & June Celebrations





**Watch for information about St. Stephen's re-opening!
Before long, we will gradually return to a new normal.
“The Word” will be the same!**



**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, 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