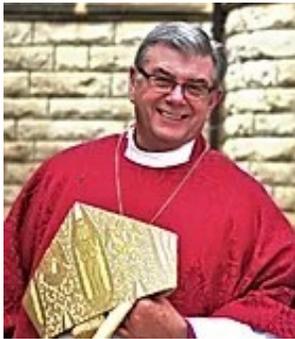


ST. STEPHEN'S STORY March – April 2021



Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the past 15+ months of ministry to St. Stephen's. To say the least this has been an interesting year. We began with a search for a new rector that we thought may be completed by Easter 2020. But then came COVID and our world changed overnight.

In the space of a couple of weeks we went from normal, in-person, liturgy to live streaming, online and other innovative ways of "doing church". It was a challenge for all of us.

But it was a challenge that St. Stephen's met head-on. During our time together, we worshipped together albeit on-line. We prayed for each other when we could not visit each other. Through the creative genius and unbounded energy of Julia Hart, we maintained a high-level of Christian education for our children with programs adapted to home use.

The challenge to worship, especially when we went on-line, was met with grace, dignity and a high level of professionalism. A large "tip of the halo" for this must go to Ashley Winters. This talented lady had not only a wealth of musical knowledge, but also a knowledge of internet technology. The first days we recorded worship from our respective homes and then Ashley put it all together, including music, and we broadcasted... Later we move our recording to the church itself; upgraded some equipment and recruited members to come in on Wednesday to read lessons and lead the Prayers of the People. No one ever said "No"!

So many made this past year plus such a wonderful time. Thanks to: Aubrey Watson for instrumental music during worship.... Anne Stephens who, as Senior Warden, shared the leadership responsibilities for the parish... Lyndy Wells who, as treasurer, kept us in the "black" and guided our financial stewardship of our parish resources. Gina Hollingshead and the members of the parish Altar Guild. They were always there to help in whatever way they could.... Sydney and Matt Anderson, our youth ministers, kept our youth involved, even if behind the scenes. Youth ministry done electronically seems to work well with that age group... Mike Morrow who often served as "our man, Friday". Mike was always willing to help in any way he could. The entire congregation who "kept the faith" in these trying times. We might not have been able to stand in each other's presence, but I could "feel" your faith and love and prayer upholding the parish.

Finally, Vera Aikman gets a "well done thou good and faithful servant". Vera has that wonderful talent to anticipate the needs of the parish and her people. Vera knows the congregation. She knows who to call to fix a leak. She carries in her head a lot of vital institutional memory. For Vera, St. Stephen's is her life, her family. Words will never be enough....

Let me say, in conclusion, that our 15+ months together gave me an opportunity to do what I love – minister to men, women and children in a parish setting. I don't know what my next project might be, but know that each of you will always hold a special place in my heart.

Yours in Christ, +Michael

PS: See ya Easter!!!

SPRING FORWARD



Daylight Savings Time
begins March 14th

St. Stephen's calls new rector!
WELCOME
THE RIGHT REV. LAURIE LEWIS



Born in Denver and raised in Wichita, I graduated from Goddard High School in 1993. After attending the University of Kansas for one year, I realized I needed to work full-time while attending college, and I transferred to Wichita State University. Over the next four years, I worked for Koch Industries, WSU Human Resources, and finally WSU University Computing before graduating in 1998 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Majoring in Marketing and Minor in Management. After graduation, I continued working in University Computing as a Cobol programmer through Y2K, eventually becoming a web programmer and software trainer for university staff and faculty.

In 1999, while getting certified as a SCUBA diver, I met Tom. This relationship, between an Evangelical Protestant and a Roman Catholic brought the us to The Episcopal Church. Tom and I were married at St. James Episcopal Church, Wichita, in August 2000. In 2005, we packed up our family that included 3-month-old TJ and two dogs and moved to seminary. I graduated from VTS in May 2008, and I was ordained to the priesthood in December 2008.

In my ordained life, I served one year as a curate at Trinity, El Dorado. Then I served four years as Associate Rector at St. Stephen's, Wichita. I accepted the call to be Priest-in-charge at Grace, Winfield, and Trinity, Ark City, in 2013. They then called me to stay as Rector in 2015. Being called now to return to St. Stephen's as Rector, is an honor.

I served seven years on the Council of Trustees for the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas and am also the nominations chair for Diocesan Convention. I am Dean of the Southwest Convocation of the Diocese and am privileged to be a deputy to General Convention of The Episcopal Church in 2022. All these greater church roles are part of my ordination vows to take part in the councils of the Church. Beyond that vow, however, these roles fire me up and fuel me for visioning with the local parish. I chose The Episcopal Church as my practice of Christian faith, and I hold dear the structure of local, state, national and global connection that is part of this church.

Tom and I have lived in the same house since returning from seminary in 2008. Tom is an electrician and loves being a part of the Young Electric, Inc. family. Our oldest son TJ is a sophomore at The Independent School, and our youngest, Alexander is a 5th year student at Wichita Montessori School. Our family includes two dogs and one cat: Carlee Simon (6-year-old Hound-Akita mix), Carmen Sandiego (4-year-old German Shepherd), and Oreo Ignatius (9-year-old tuxedo cat). Our hobbies include bicycling, beekeeping, and the rare SCUBA diving adventure.

My last Sunday with Grace and Trinity will be March 14th. I will then take a couple of weeks off and will begin in the office at St. Stephen's on April 5th. Until then, may we all pray the vision of God for our journey will be made clear and the path opened before us.

Ever living God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In the peace of Christ, ~Mother Laurie



As you have probably heard by now, the Vestry is delighted to announce that the Very Reverend Laurie Lewis has accepted our call to be our next Rector. Mother Laurie will begin her work with us on Monday, April 5th and her first Sunday service will be Sunday, April 11th. We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and patience during this time of transition. The search took quite a bit longer than initially thought, due to the extenuating circumstances of the COVID pandemic, but we made it!

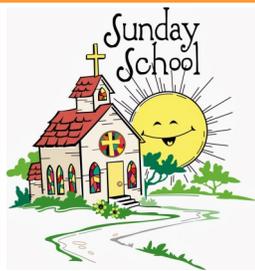
We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bishop Milliken for being willing to stick with us throughout our journey - when we were initially working through the agreement, he mentioned that he would be willing to stay with us through Easter, he just never clarified which year! His gentle, loving leadership has allowed the space needed for healing and peace. With great skill and care, he has tended to the congregation and leaves us in a nourished state bubbling with anticipation for the return of life and community. With Covid vaccines beginning to be distributed, there is a sense of latent anticipation, of readiness to return to community and to life. As we begin to re-open, we need to be mindful of the continued regulations that allow us to cautiously and carefully gather together.

As we journey together through the season of Lent, we look forward to the celebration of Easter and the coming of our new Rector and to the return of community.

Blessings, Anne Stephens, Senior Warden

St. Stephen's March—April 2021 Calendar

BOOK CLUB	Noon via phone	Every Thursday
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	To be announced via In-person on Phone conference	Sunday, March 21st Sunday, April 18th
EFM	By Zoom 6:00 pm	Every Monday
FINANCE COMMITTEE	Tuesday's 6:00 pm—Zoom	March 9th & April 13th
VESTRY MEETING	Wednesday's, 6:30 pm—Zoom	March 17th & April 21st
YOUTH GROUP	Zoom In-Person	Every Thursday Night Every Sunday at 10:30 am
WORSHIP		
Sunday, March 7th	The Rev. Larry Carver	Guest Celebrant & Preacher
Sunday, March 14th <i>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS</i>	The Rev. Patrick Funston Canon to the Ordinary	Guest Celebrant & Preacher
Sunday, March 21st	The Rev. Jennifer Allen	Guest Celebrant & Preacher
Sunday, March 28th	PALM SUNDAY	READING OF THE PASSION BY MARK
Sunday, April 4th	The Rt. Rev. Michael Milliken EASTER SUNDAY	Guest Celebrant & Preacher



Hello St. Stephen's Children and Families!

Sunday School is working towards moving back to in-person learning. Over the course of Lent (now until Easter, April 4th), you have received a Lent at-home bag with Sunday School materials. Since we recently pivoted back to in-person worship, if your family is coming to St. Stephen's Church on Sundays, feel free to bring your Lent at-home lesson for the week and head on back to the Sunday School wing. Teachers will be back there and be ready to help with in-person Sunday School if you so choose!

Beginning the first Sunday after Easter, we will be back exclusively to in-person Sunday School. Over the season of Easter and through the end of the school year, we are going to be working on a little bit of "Church 101" lessons. We will spend the first six weeks discussing the sacraments, and the final week, we will be talking about colors of the church calendar.

- April 11: What are the sacraments?
- April 18: Sacrament of the Eucharist?
- April 25: Sacrament of Baptism
- May 2: Sacrament of Vocations
- May 9: Sacrament of Reconciliation
- May 16: Sacrament of Confirmation
- May 23: Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
- May 30: Colors of the Church/the Church Calendar

We are excited that we will be seeing you all in person soon! We have missed you!

Your Sunday School team (Julia Hart, Tish Seeley, Hazel LaVardi)

Lectors

In-person worship has opened up a need! Volunteers are needed to lector (read) during the service. Also, Acolytes to serve at the altar. Training provided! If you are willing for either or both, please call Vera in the Parish Office. Thank you!



Ushers

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, we have received approximately \$1,000 Community Rewards \$\$\$ this year!

St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group



2021 is flying by!

The youth are continuing to meet virtually on Thursday evenings for our Bible study and discussion time.

For Lent, we will be adding an in-person session, focusing on Lenten activities - open to Senior and Junior youth that would like to join us. We will be making stained glass Lent crosses, writing in Lent journals, and other fun Lent activities.

After Lent, we will reevaluate meeting times once again, as these things are ever-evolving! Looking forward to meeting safely in-person once again.

Wishing you all Easter blessings! Sydney and Matthew Anderson

Camp



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS
Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

IF we have camp in 2021, we will follow the recommendations from Camp Wood YMCA and the American Camp Association (their accrediting body) to provide as safe an environment as possible, but **we know we cannot eliminate 100% of the risk.** Check out campwood.org/covid-19 for more details on their plans, including a “policies and procedures” document at the very bottom that details specifically all the cleaning and social distancing protocols.

Episcopalians have been attending Summer Camp the first week in June at Camp Wood YMCA for over 80 years. Camp Wood is accredited by the American Camp Association—a process that has over 300 safety and quality standards. There are separate age-appropriate Christian education, camp activities, and sleeping arrangements for four age-groups, as well as healthy well-balanced meals with accommodations available for allergies.

Camp Wood features a variety of activities such as horseback riding, archery, climbing tower, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, water slide, mud slide, arts and crafts, and sports. The volunteer Episcopal staff provides solid Christian education, featuring worship, music, small group discussions, and prayer.

When: June 6-12, 2021

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Students in grades 3-12 for 2020-21 school year (you must have finished third grade to attend); Camp is NOT restricted to Episcopalians or regular churchgoers. All are welcome, so feel free to invite friends and family. 2021 Camp will be limited to 104 campers.

Cost: \$500 -*Payment plans are available. If you choose, UltraCamp will automatically divide the cost of camp over the remaining months between when you register and the start of camp.*

Registration: will be online via UltraCamp beginning March 1st

Scholarships: You can apply for scholarships on the registration form. Information about your household income will be required. Scholarships are awarded by a committee. ***St. Stephen's also has scholarships available.***

Cancellation Deadline: Two weeks prior to the start of the camp session for a 100% refund. At any time with a doctor's note for 100% refund.



January & February Celebrations

March Birthdays

- 3/6 Bob Goree
- 3/8 Dan Loftin
- 3/10 Jorinda Brant
- 3/12 Susie Hill
- 3/19 David Olson
- 3/22 Julia Hart
- 3/24 Dan Taylor
- 3/24 Susan Taylor
- 3/25 Mike Mann
- 3/27 Ellen Cooke
- 3/28 Amani Seely
- 3/29 Earlene Foote
- 3/31 Kathy White
Barbara Fizer

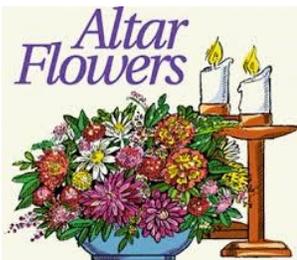
March Anniversaries

- 3/18 Leland Sinclair
& Kirsten Johnson
- 3/19 Lyndy & Marty Wells
- 3/29 Eric & Audrey Kramer

April Birthdays

- 4/6 Dale Graham,
- 4/7 Ashley Winters
- 4/10 Paul Attwater II
- 4/15 Deanna Klenda
Laveta Abboud
- 4/24 Marty Wells
- 4/25 Mike Floyd

Altar Flowers Dedication—March & April 2021



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.

3/7		
3/14		
3/21		
3/28	NO FLOWERS PALM SUNDAY	
4/4	Memory of Sally Hoesli	Hank Hoesli
4/11	Memory of Ava Count Birthday of Ella Count	Ric & Darlene Knorr
4/18		
4/25		

Current Needs:

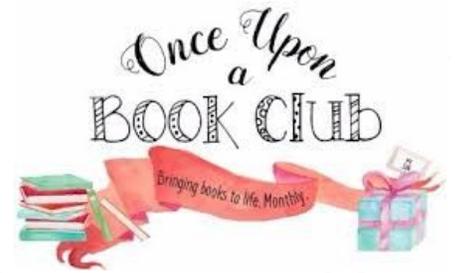
Hygiene items (small travel size is best); **Pantry items** (canned goods with pop-top); **Men's used shoes** in good condition (sizes 10-11-12); **Men's belts** (med – large); Used winter clothing; **Kitchen goods in bulk** – pasta, dried potatoes, soups; Fresh food items each week
Juice for breakfast



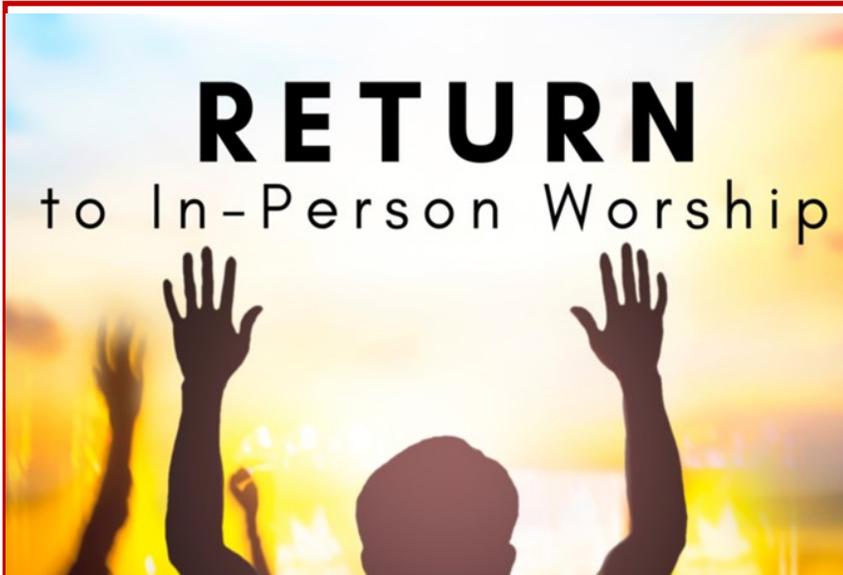
Items can be dropped in the little red wagon in the narthex and will be delivered to Breakthrough (ESS)!

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

So many books-so little time...Our book club members have been studying a fine list of titles and trying to make selections for reading during the next few months. We participated in the Wichita Big Read, so in January/February, along with many other Wichitians, we read Circe. While still selecting titles, we are enjoying a fine old classic, the Towers of Trebizond a British romp through the Middle East, with camel. We welcome any interested readers to join us by phone each Thursday at noon. (701-802-5150, access 786650).



Daughters of the King, along with all of St Stephen's congregation, supports Breakthrough (Episcopal Social Services) by placing donations in the little red wagon and DOK delivers them. We certainly want everyone to continue to give ESS our support monthly. However, the members of DOK have been looking for additional ways to be of service in our community during these difficult times. We have decided to highlight one local charity each month for the remainder of our meetings this term. Each month a DOK member introduces her favorite charity, its purpose, clientele and needs. At our February meeting, Jorinda Brand told us about the Wichita Family Crisis Center (formerly the Women's Crisis Center) and their work. During the next two weeks, DOK members are asked to bring contributions of things needed by the Center to St Stephen's office. Jorinda will collect the contributions on March 9th and deliver them to the WFCC. In March we will learn about another local group, and collect items for them. We would welcome anyone of the parish to add to our collection. (You can go on line and see the list of needs for WFCC.) and help meet the needs of our community.



RETURN to In-Person Worship

**In-person Sunday
Worship**

10:30 am

***Masks, social distancing,
sign in required.
No reservation needed.***

FILL THE SANCTUARY WITH EASTER LILIES

Sponsor an Easter Lily in memory, celebration, or
thanksgiving. Suggested donation \$20.00.

Watch for sign up information!



**SAINT
STEPHEN'S**



WICHITA

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 Very Rev. Laurie Lewis, Rector
Vera Aikman, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
Ashley Winters, Choir and Music Director
Aubree Brasser, Music Section Leader
Aubrey Watson, Organist
Julia Hart, Tish Seely, Church School Coordinators
Maddie Ramsey, Sophie Ramsey, Church School
Sydney Anderson, Youth Director
Matt Anderson, Assistant Youth Director
Lise Van Arsdale Hansen, Nursery Coordinator
Natalie Lemanski, Nursery
Nan Myers, DOK President