



ST. STEPHEN'S GOOD NEWS NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2021

“Some More Stewardship Badgering” ...

I drafted this article after the final of four Sundays “focused” on stewardship. October is the month here at St. Stephens where each Sunday we intentionally talk about pledging our time, talent, and treasure. After four weeks of our Stewardship Chair, Jason Hart, getting up to make a heart-filled appeal (or Hart-filled appeal if you will... I’m sorry, but that was too easy... I couldn’t skip that chance at humor), I am sure many are tired of hearing it. Especially those who turned in their pledge card early. I have shocking news for you... I am not done talking about it.

While leading Youth Group formation time on the October 24th, I led the youth in an exercise of reading the words of hymns that are considered related to stewardship. Then we tried to determine why “the wise people out there in the wider church” feel these hymns fit the theme. It was really a fun exercise. Sometimes it was obvious that a hymn was talking about trusting God. But what does trust in God have to do with stewardship? It was cool to hear the youth think aloud how trusting God can make it easier to just do what is right or give money for God works. Other times, it was more difficult to find the connection. For example, one hymn talked about the traditions of faith that have been passed down to us. It took us longer to find our way to a stewardship connection there. We ended up making a link with knowing we are not dealing with things for the first time and can trust that God has led and taken care of the church for two-thousand years, and God will not stop now.

The children and youth of the parish will have the next four weeks to think about their pledges of time, talent, and treasure to St. Stephens. On November 21st, we will once again empty the wooden box on the altar so that I can lay hands of thanksgiving on the kids’ pledge cards during the Eucharist.

We are only around 50% of the way to getting the financial pledges we need for 2022. So, just because we have had the blessing of the cards on the altar, does not make it too late to turn in your card. As Mr. Hart mentioned in his announcements, the difference between simply giving money and pledging to give a certain amount of money, is that pledging needs faith. We embrace that God is faithful to us and will see us through whatever is before us, and we express our faithfulness to God through a pledge.

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Talking about giving will not stop, of course, with the end of “pledge season.” We will have opportunities for you to give to special occasions and special projects soon. Those opportunities provide a space for you to give beyond in thanksgiving for all the God works happening through our collective ministry at St. Stephens.

As the youth observed, we can trust that God has led and taken care of the church for two-thousand years, and God will not stop now. God is leading St. Stephens. It is on us to move.
~Mother Laurie



Community Volunteer Opportunities:

If you are interesting in volunteering in our community, please contact any (or all) of the below for more information and opportunities. If you know of other opportunities, please contact the Parish Office!

- * **Breakthrough/ESS**—rachel.newell@breakthroughwichita.org
- * **ShowerUp ICT**—contact Mike McFerren 316.516.6183
- * **Sandwich Saturdays**—contact Joan Bledsoe, pansy1918@icloud.com
(see Curate Dillon Green’s article on page 4 for information on any of the above)
- * **The Lord’s Diner**—ku.jayhart@gmail.com or rebeccageher@gmail.com
The 3rd Saturday (upcoming on November 20th) 5-8pm. if you want to help out with preparing the take-out
- * **Reality U** (formerly “Communities in Schools”) - slmgraham78@gmail.com
Reality U is a financial education program that allows high school students to select a career category (the actual job is based on the student’s GPA) and then budgeting for monthly expenses. Volunteers are used to run booths and students must decide how to manage their finances to pay for rent, food, childcare, insurance, etc. It’s a great experience for all involved.





Thanks to all who have quickly turned in their pledge cards! We had 32 cards already in the box at Mtr. Laurie's first blessing on Sunday, October 24th, and more keep arriving. I am hopeful that, with your generosity and God's help, we can make the annual budget conversation one of "what do we do with all of these extra loaves and fishes?!?"

As you know, I really like the story of loaves and fishes as an analogy for Stewardship. Imagine the first person the disciples approached... "Hey, Jephthariat of Unpronounceable, we're going to try to feed all of these people. Can you share some of your fish or bread?" Looking around, Jephthariat probably initially thought "Are you guys insane?!?" and then "Why did you start with me?" followed by "Seriously, you guys are nuts." But, with faith and through love, Jephthariat gave what he could. I'm confident Jephthariat didn't hand over ALL of his fish or loaf, but Jephthariat gave what he felt wouldn't leave him hungry. I'm sure Jephthariat felt good about his contribution afterwards, and anyone watching Jephthariat was probably a bit inspired to share what they had. All of the sharing was done out of love for Jesus, and that's what made the miracle.

While I have done a lot of the talking about Stewardship up to this point, YOU can help out... by encouraging your friends to get their pledge cards in as soon as possible. I am confident the reason why there were twelve disciples was peer pressure, er, Christ-like cajoling! Indeed, what would have happened if Jephthariat hadn't shared what he could, or hadn't lead with his faith? I'm guessing Simone of Whatsis probably said, "Well, if Jephthariat has parted with his perch, I suppose I can hand over this haddock. But I'm keeping the pita, Peter." Faith begets faith, but just to be clear... this is not the time to put "the last will be first" to the test.

There is a practical reason to get your card in now. We'll be having a Budget Town Hall meeting on November 3rd at 7 pm to get y'all talking about how or where we want to direct our financial resources. Mother Laurie needs to hear from us, and our Finance Committee and Vestry will also be listening! But they cannot do that if we're still waiting to hear from you.

I am also working on opportunities to engage in direct service with our community, and cultivating connection to the other Episcopal church's in our Minster. On the immediate horizon, we still have slots for helping at the Lord's Diner on the 3rd Saturday (upcoming on November 20th) at 5-8pm. Contact me (Jason, at ku.jayhart@gmail.com) if you want to help out with preparing the take-out. A little further out (start of next year), we'll be looking at taking on a quarterly or monthly Sandwich Saturday at/with St. John's Episcopal Church downtown, and looking at ways to get involved with Breakthrough/Episcopal Social Services. If you have an organization you love, and you'd like to spread that love by inviting SSEC over to help, let me know and we'll make it happen!

Lastly, because Stewardship is an all-the-time thing, I'm going to be targeting some folks (in a friendly way) to get involved as "Hands and Feats of Christ" to help find and lead our service opportunities. If that sounds like something you'd be interested in, you can contact me BEFORE I ask you.

Jason Hart, Stewardship Chair

CURATE DILLON GREEN'S MINSTER CORNER

Advent/Christmas Minster Festival of Music!

As part of our desire to come together, the churches of the Wichita Minster have decided to have an Advent/Christmas Festival of Music! The event will take place at St. John's Episcopal Church (402 N. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67202) on Sunday, December 12th, from 2-3 pm, with a light reception to follow in the undercroft. Ethan Moulds, the organist at St. John's, will be coordinating with each church's music program to include soloists and/or choirs from each parish. In addition, there will be a Minster choir that will sing two hymns all together, so please contact Ethan Moulds if you're interested at ethan.moulds@gmail.com. You can also contact Deacon Dillon Green at dillongreen7@gmail.com or Mother Christine Gilson at chrisgilson@mac.com. We're asking that names of soloists or ensemble/choir members and the piece(s) they plan to perform be submitted no later than November 15th so we can begin to put a program together. We hope you can participate or attend this wonderful event!



YAW! (Young Adults Wichita)

YAW (Young Adults Wichita) is a ministry of the Wichita Minster led by Deacon Dillon Green. It includes members from St. James, St. John's, Good Shepherd, and St. Stephen's. Brian Mutero, a member of St. Stephen's, is a faithful member! We meet weekly, currently Mondays at 6 (time/dates subject to change). If you know anyone interested in participating, please connect them with Deacon Dillon Green at 256-762-5110 or at dillongreen7@gmail.com. If you aren't a young adult (18-35) and want to be involved, we are always looking for people to provide meals for the group each week. Instructions are to prepare for 6-10 people. If you're interested in helping out that way, contact Deacon Dillon!

Minster-wide News and Projects!

The Minster participates together in all kinds of ministries already!

- **ShowerUp ICT** is a Shower ministry provided at St. John's every Thursday night from 6-7:30. It will be on hiatus after October 28 due to cold weather and will be back in the Spring, though there may be opportunities to volunteer once a month, so look out for those! If you have any questions, contact Mike McFerren at 316-516-6183 or Deacon Dillon Green at 256-762-5110.
- **Sandwich Saturdays** is a food ministry that provides sandwiches and other foods to the unhoused population and anyone else in need in downtown Wichita! Different churches and groups choose Saturdays to make sandwich lunch bags and pass them out at St. John's Saturday mornings at 11:00 am. If you have any questions, contact Joan Bledsoe at 316-932-5568 or pansy1918@icloud.com.
- **Breakthrough/ESS** is a member of the Wichita Minster and we are always looking for ways to support them in any way we can. They are looking to make sure their pantry and kitchen are stocked for the winter, so they are in need of some supplies: vitamins in bulk, any large can of fruits or vegetables, large juice containers, cases of bottled water, Spaghetti O's/Canned Spaghetti, Peanut Butter/Cheese crackers, Instant Oatmeal, Canned Chili, Beef Stew (easy tab top), Small individual can openers, Hot chocolate packages, Vienna Sausages, Applesauce packs, Breakfast bars, Canned chicken (easy tab top), Canned Tuna (easy tab top), Canned Ham (easy tab top), Ensure packets, and Baby formula. Any questions can be directed to Rachel Newell at Rachel.newell@breakthroughwichita.org.

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Weekly Minster Morning Prayer!

Deacon Dillon Green leads Minster Morning Prayer on Zoom every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:30-10:00 am. You can join live on Zoom or watch it streamed on Facebook at facebook.com/wichitaminer. The Zoom link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85465386325?pwd=L2J4eHZMZ0lkWFJVVYtc4b0h4OTI0Zz09>.



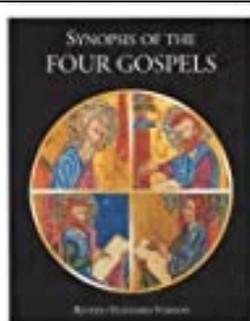
Ashley's Music Notes

How nice it is to have had the choir back for the last several weeks. We will continue with rehearsals at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings and singing at the 10:30 am service. ***There is always more room for voices in the choir*** and we are happy for you to consider this as part of your stewardship and service. The more voices we have in the choir the greater the joy and sharing of responsibility for all involved. We take all voices including youth, so if you are a youth needing to get involved this is a GREAT WAY to serve your congregation on Sunday morning. And even if you're not a teen, it's still a GREAT WAY to get involved with your community here at St. Stephen's. With Advent coming soon, it is the best time of year to come and sing! Lots of special music opportunities and many favorites to sing.

Ashley Winters, Choir & Music Director

Upcoming notes of musical interest--

- ⇒ Advent IV (December 19th) will be our Celebration of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and will also be host to the Children's Annual Christmas Pageant.
- ⇒ Parents: our children will learn their song during children's worship time at 10:15 Sunday mornings starting on November 28th. We also have many activities planned during ADVENT for our children that you wont want to miss out on!
- ⇒ We will have one "dress rehearsal" on Saturday, December 18th at 4:00-5:00 pm followed by cookies and cocoa. Be sure to ***Save the Date!***
- ⇒ Christmas Eve will be a full Choral Festival Eucharist. We are looking forward to a wonderful celebration!



ADULT FORMATION

Continued comparison of the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, examine the differences in the different accounts as they reported the miracles, parables and stories of Jesus. A great opportunity to ask questions. You are welcome to join at any time!

Meets every Thursday through December 2nd (no meetings on November 4th and 25th).

Mike Morrow, Presenter



St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group

Can't believe we are already prepping for the holidays! We will have youth group the following days in November and December:

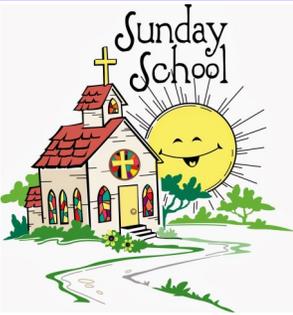
- November 7th
- November 21st
- December 5th
- December 19th

At the end of November and beginning of December, we will do our annual **Operation Holiday Drive**! The youth will be putting up door hangers and gathering donations from our local community, along with putting up a donation box in the Narthex at St. Stephen's. Please keep an eye on the email blast and bulletin for more information coming soon.

Our youth look forward to participating in our Christmas pageant and other holiday activities fast approaching for the month of December. Until then, we will keep learning more about the Bible, the church, and each other.

Blessings, Sydney Anderson, Youth Director

NOTE: To youth and parents: Be sure to bring weather appropriate gear (hats, coats, gloves, etc) November 21st and December 5th. We will be walking the neighborhood to put up the door hangers and then collect the goodies for Operation Holiday those days.

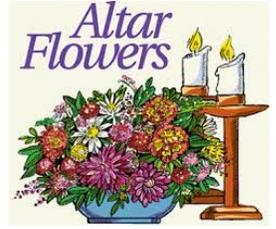


We have had such a busy few months in Sunday School! We are so glad to begin our worship together in Children's Chapel in the Holy Spirit Chapel. We want to especially thank Ashley Winters for helping lead our children in prayer and song during this time. We have experienced an influx of new friends in Sunday School these last few months. We are diligently working to get to know one another and to foster a strong sense of community amongst ourselves! Curriculum-wise, we began the school-year with the Creation story and have progressed through the Old Testament. Recently, we took a short respite from these stories to talk about the importance of stewardship and the many ways our children can help serve our church family. Our children have filled out age-appropriate pledge cards where they have indicated areas that they want to help serve. If your young person was not in Sunday School on October 24th, be watching in the mail for their pledge card to arrive! We will be working to put this desire of service into action, so if you see one of our children taking on a new-to-them helping role, please give them words of encouragement to help foster their giving spirits! Soon, we will begin an in-depth unit on the story of Jesus's birth, from the Annunciation to the Holy Family's flight to Egypt. Over the remainder of the year, all the children in the Littles' and the Bigs' classes will be working on crafting their own Nativity sets. As always, we are honored to be entrusted in helping foster a love of Christ and each other in the children of St. Stephens.

Most Sincerely, Julia Hart, Hazel LeVardi, and Tish Seely

Altar Flowers Dedication November & December

MANY "OPEN" OPPORTUNITIES



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.

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

Call or email the Parish Office to save your date!

11/7	Memory of Mark Maska	Ric & Darlene Knorr
11/14	Celebration –2nd Anniversary of Kidney Transplant	Gary & Janice Knox
11/21	OPEN DATE	
11/28	OPEN DATE	
12/5	Celebration -13th Anniversary of Ordination	Tom & Mtr. Laurie Lewis
12/12	OPEN DATE	
12/19	Celebrate Anderson’s 2nd Wedding Anniversary	Vera Aikman
12/26	OPEN DATE	

November & December Celebrations

<p><u>November Birthdays</u></p> <p>11/1 Libby Ceramella</p> <p>11/2 Esam Sohail</p> <p>11/3 Darlene Knorr</p> <p>11/6 Lora White</p> <p>11/8 Kim Dugger-Attwater</p> <p>11/10 Bill Estes</p> <p>11/15 Chris Graham</p> <p>11/16 Barbara Kice</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">DiAnne Graham</p> <p>11/17 Don Norton</p>	<p>11/18 Joan Jaedicke</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Judy Higdon</p> <p>11/22 Alan Dohogne</p> <p>11/26 John Alefs</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Mtr. Laurie Lewis</p> <p><u>November Anniversaries</u></p> <p>11/08 Tom & Maggie Benefiel</p> <p>11/08 Chris & DiAnne Graham</p> <p>11/16 Richard & Becky</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Samaniego</p> <p>11/17 Justin & Ellen Cooke</p>	<p><u>December Birthdays</u></p> <p>12/07 Vera Aikman</p> <p>12/15 Joan Schulz</p> <p>12/19 Sondra Reber</p> <p>12/20 Megan Loftin</p> <p>12/23 Carolyn Goree</p> <p><u>December Anniversaries</u></p> <p>12/11 Jason & Julia Hart</p> <p>12/16 Benn & Ashley Winters</p> <p>12/21 Matt & Sydney Anderson</p> <p>12/30 John & Nan Myers</p> <p>12/31 Mike & Linda Floyd</p>
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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 not affected but "rewards" our parish!



**Community Rewards Donations received support our ministries.
We received \$1147 for the 2021, 49 families are enrolled.**

St. Stephen's November—December Calendar

	SPECIAL EVENTS	
BUDGET TOWN HALL	Wednesday, November 3rd	7:00 pm—Parish Hall
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	Sunday, November 7th	Necrology Endowment Recognition
ENDOWMENT FORUM	Following the 10:30 am svc	Parish Hall
CHRIST THE KING	Sunday, November 21st	10:15 am & Procession Wichita Caledonian Pipes
WICHITA MINSTER	Tues, November 9th	7:00 –9:00 pm Parish Hall, Fireside Room, Chapel
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday, December 5th	A visit from St. Nicholas 10:30 am service
GREENING OF THE CHURCH		Following the 10:30 am service Cookies & Cocoa
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Sunday, December 12th	Rose Sunday
MINSTER ADVENT FESTIVAL OF MUSIC	Sunday, December 12th	St. John's Episcopal 2-3 pm , Light Reception to follow
FESTIVAL NINE OF LESSONS & CAROLS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	Sunday, December 19th	10:30 am service
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	Friday, December 24th	5:30 pm Full Choral Festival Eucharist
CHRISTMAS DAY	Saturday, December 25th	NO SERVICE
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	Sunday, December 26th	St. Stephen's Feast Day (No music at 10:30 am service)
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS	Sunday, January 2nd	Regular 8:30 am & 10:30 am services

St. Stephen's November—December 2021 Calendar

	REGULAR EVENTS	
ADULT FORMATION	Thursdays (<i>thru Dec. 2nd</i>)	5:30—6:30 pm—Fireside Room
BOOK CLUB	Thursdays	Noon—Fireside Room
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	Sunday, Nov. 14th	Noon —Fireside Room
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	3rd Sunday—Noon Fireside & Phone	November 21st December 10th
EfM	Mondays	6:30 pm—Parish Hall
FINANCE COMMITTEE	December 8th	7:00 pm—Zoom
BUDGET PLANNING FINANCE COMMITTEE/ VESTRY	Monday, November 15th	7:00 pm—Parish Hall
VESTRY MEETING	November 17th December 15th	6:30 pm—Zoom
YOUTH GROUP	November 7th & 21st December 5th & 19th	Following 10:30 am service Parish Hall
	OUTSIDE GROUPS	
AEROTUNES	Fridays	7:00—8:00 pm—Parish Hall
FLINT HILLS HIGHLANDERS	Tuesdays	7:00—8:00 pm—Parish Hall
WICHITA CALEDONIAN PIPES	Thursdays	5:45—7:45 pm—Parish Hall
	PARISH OFFICE NOTES	
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	Thursday, November 25th Friday, November 26th	
	Monday, December 27th Tuesday, December 28th	
	Monday, January 3rd Tuesday, January 4th	



Daughters of the King (DOK)

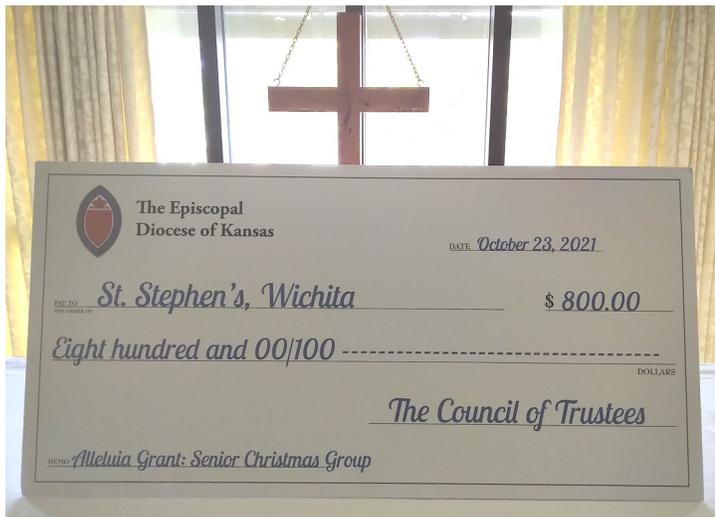
We offer two ways to attend our monthly meetings (3rd Sunday of month, right after the 10:30 am service) – in person or virtually by phoning via speaker phone.

With COVID issues making statewide assemblies difficult, we have decided to expend our energy on our service projects, as well as prayer and evangelism. We support SSEC's Prayer List, Flower Delivery, Pastoral Care and Breakthrough/ESS projects. We are exploring to establish a Junior Daughters of the King chapter, mentored by DOK members. We welcome members who are not Daughters to participate in our meetings or to seek information. Contact Nan Myers, President or Jorinda Brant, VP, or our members for more Information.



We would like to invite

YOU to join St. Stephen's Acolyte Ministry. If you are in 4th grade/ 9 years old or above which Includes adults. Whether you are actively serving or have been inactive for a while we need you serving God at the Altar. Please, plan on joining us for lunch and training on **November 14th after the 10:30 am service.** We should be done by 2 pm. We will learn what an Acolyte does, how to do it, and a few changes in how we will be doing things. Come and join us for lunch and training. Please, let the office know if you will be attending. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Ryther at 316-461-7213 or teresaryther@gmail.com or call the Parish Office.



St. Stephen's is receiving an **ALLELUIA GRANT** of \$800.00 as a matching grant to fund a Christmas Outreach Project to the residents at Larkfield Place Retirement and Assisted Living Facilities, as well as, our St. Stephen's homebound parishioners. **HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Amanda Shield** for her creative for planning the project and writing the grant application. Watch for an invitation to help assembly these gift bags!

MATCHING \$1,000 GRANT for first time recurring gift, match up to \$50 for first donation.



ON LINE GIVING AVAILABLE THROUGH "SIMPLE GIVE".

Click on this icon and donations may be made with a credit card or ACH and is directly deposited to St. Stephen's. You can also visit our web site and going to the "Giving" tab and complete the form available. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office.



ENDOWMENT FORUM—SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

following the 10:30 am service in the Parish Hall.

Kim Vining, Estate Planning Attorney will be present to answer questions along with other members of the Endowment Committee. Come learn more about gifting methods and opportunities for St. Stephen’s Endowment and how your can plan for the future, both yours and ours. Also, if you would be interested in serving on this committee, please call the Parish Office.

2021 Committee Members: Mtr. Laurie Lewis, Paul Attwater-Chair, Anne Stephens-Sr. Warden, Dave Hudson–Jr. Warden, Chris Graham, Jason Hart, Criss Schulz, Kim Vining



CARBON FOOTPRINT—Bishop Cathleen: Stories from Anglicans around the communion underline real impacts of climate change. An outstanding resource launched by the Diocese of California, and now in use across the Episcopal Church, provides a tool to support individuals, households, congregations and dioceses to discover their carbon footprint and then take measurable actions toward more sustainable living. I would like to invite every congregation in our diocese to register and use this tool as a means to deepen our faithful commitment to the care of creation. As an extra incentive I’d like to challenge our churches to a friendly competition to see who can show the most progress, relative to the number of individuals and households participating from each church. As a prize the diocese will offer a \$500 gift toward the purchase of trees or a new water cooler. Learn more about [Sustain Island Home](#) and register your congregation.

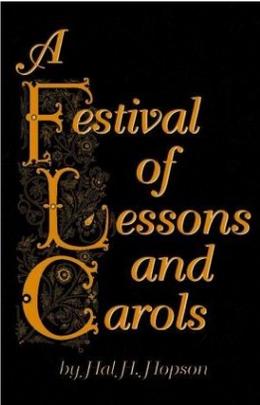




Sunday, Dec. 5th
Visit from
St. Nicholas of Myra
will fill the
children's shoes
with goodies.



Sunday, Dec. 5th
following 10:30
am service with
Cookies & Hot
Chocolate



Sunday, Dec. 19th
10:30 am service

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
with Children's Christmas Pageant



Choral Festival Eucharist
Friday, December 24th—5:30 pm
ONE SERVICE ONLY



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
 Anne Stephens, Vestry Senior Warden
 David Hudson, Vestry Junior Warden
 Jane Mossman, Vestry Treasurer
 Vera Aikman, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper
 Ashley Winters, Choir and Music Director
 Aubrey Watson, Organist
 Julia Hart, Hazel LeVardi, Tish Seely, Church School
 Coordinators
 Sydney Anderson, Youth Director
 Lise Van Arsdale Hansen, Nursery Coordinator
 Natalie Lemanski, Nursery
 Nan Myers, DOK President