



New Year....New Hope!

In a few short weeks the Church will begin a new year. The Church year begins with Advent, which prepares us for the coming of Jesus on Christmas. The coming of Christ. The birth of hope. A new year for new beginnings.

This year ending has been filled with hurt, anger, illness, fear, tension, worry. I has been a year that most of us have never experienced before, and we hope, will never experience again. We have known quarantine and isolation. Keeping up with whether our schools are virtual or in-person is a challenge. I suspect that many of us, by now, have a collection of face masks.

As we have struggled with the pandemic we have also been caught up in national elections. We have watched news articles on both national and local elections. I can help but wonder why politics tends to often bring forth an ugly side of our humanity? It boggles the mind when you begin to add up the dollars spent for political campaigns. Millions and millions!

As we wind down the year, and begin to consider the next year, I think we would be well served to take a step back and find some beauty and love in the world around us. We are being told that COVID will be with us for some time to come. Regardless of who wins on election day I am sure the fallout will continue for some time. Maybe it is time for us to become intentional in trying to see the half-full glass rather than the half-empty glass. Maybe it is time for us to be the first to reach out to another and build bridges of understanding, compassion, dignity and love.

In the book Tales of a Magic Monastery, written by Theophane the Monk, there is an entry called "The Audacity of Humility". The entry goes thus:

"I walked up to an old,, old monk and asked him, 'What is the audacity of humility?' This old man had never met me before, but do you know what his answer was? 'To be the first to say "I love you".'

Moving toward the future you and I might be well served to meditate on the Audacity of Humility. Will we be the first to utter our words of love. Will we be the one to venture across the aisle and embrace another? When will we see that our common humanity transcends disease and politics?

On the Feast of All Saints, our first lesson was from the Book of Revelation. It was a vision of God's throne room, or maybe the Easter Eve Eucharist. What's important is who is there: "...a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne before the Lamb..."

All are invited to the "Supper of the Lamb". It doesn't matter your race, or color or political persuasion. For in the vision of John what we see is that the Altar of God is the gathering place of the saints.

I believe, in the language of St. Paul, that all Christians are saints. And we are called to offer God's invitation "to come out of the great ordeal". To offer God's invitation freely without strings or conditions. At the Altar of the Lamb there are Republicans and Democrats...there are Black and White and Hispanic and Asian, and Native American.

But alas, I wonder if this dream, this vision will remain only a dream. And maybe it will until each us is ready to embrace the Audacity of Humility!

A new year is coming. A new beginning is coming. A new opportunity if coming. Who will be the first.....

Yours in Christ, Bishop Milliken

Rector Search Update

Dale Graham, Chair

The Diocese has received several inquiries about St. Stephen's rector position, including one from England. Debbie Kremers (Diocese representative) is in the process of conducting an initial screening of the candidates and will forward their applications to the Search Committee and Vestry for their review.

Search Committee: Dale Graham, Barbara Fizer, Jason Hart, Gina Hollingshead, Janice Knox, Richard Shield, Joe Rothwell

SERVICES at St. Stephen's

Sundays—Holy Eucharist: Rite Two— 10:30 am

Sunday School—ages 3—4th grade—10:30 am

Junior Youth Group (hybrid) —10:30 am

Nursery provided

Wednesdays—Holy Eucharist: Rite One—at noon

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.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON, STAY CONNECTED

⇒ Sunday 10:30 am service is **"Live Stream"** on our Facebook Page in real time
Easy to connect, go to St. Stephen's Facebook page and click the link at 10:25 am

⇒ Sunday "Live Streaming" Service posted on Facebook Sunday afternoon and by E-notes and our web site (www.ststephensec.org) on Monday

⇒ Wednesday Bishop Chat on our Facebook, E-notes and website!

Any questions, please call the Parish Office at 316 634-2513.



Treasurer Report

For the first nine months of the most interesting year we have ever experienced, the Finance Committee and Vestry have done a very good job of managing the resources of the church to accomplish some long needed updates of facilities and to pay our great staff even while shut down for three months in the spring. Because we haven't had to pay a full-time rector, we have been fortunate to save some normal expenses that have allowed us to pave, paint and install some new equipment to accommodate our streaming needs.

None of this could have been done without the generosity of our membership and their commitment to fulfilling their pledges for 2020. As we look forward into 2021, we anticipate beginning the year very close to having a new rector and returning to possibly a more normal schedule that will allow us to meet together again and benefit from our spiritual life together. Much needs to happen to achieve some of those goals, but we remain hopeful.

Jason Hart is again leading our Stewardship effort for 2021 and our need for your generosity continues. We will be needing to fund the expenses of maintaining our new rector and we continue to have capital needs that will likely exceed our operating budget. The Finance Committee will be spending the next couple of months building our budget for next year so that we can present such a budget at the annual meeting in January.

Thanks to all for your support during this past year and thanks in advance for your continued support.

Lyndy Wells, Parish Treasurer



2020 EPISCOPAL DIOCESE CONVENTION

Saturday, October 24, 2020

The 2020 convention was a success. Many thanks to Ashley Winters for making it possible to zoom from St. Stephen's. At St. Stephen's, we had six people in attendance from the Heartland Minister group. We covered a wide variety of reports and awards. Elected two people (running unopposed) to the Disciplinary Committee and two people to the Council

of Trustees. In the Minister portion of the meeting, it was suggested that each parish publish in it's newsletter the web and Facebook addresses of the other parishes so people can view services across the Minster to see how others are doing at this time. After the Minister meeting as there was no new business we adjourned until next year.

Leland Sinclair, Delegate. and Jorinda Brant, Alternate Delegate



Hello St. Stephen's Children and Families!

The Sunday School has been busy studying the Jesse Tree Stories from the Old Testament. A big thank you to Amanda Shield who has been faithfully volunteering to teach the "Littles" classroom until their regular teacher gets back in town! We sure appreciate Amanda! Also, welcome Maddie and Sophie Ramsey who share assisting each Sunday with the "Littles". We are so glad to be back together, learning in person.

To those parents who aren't comfortable returning to in person worship/Sunday school yet, please reach out to Julia Hart if you or your child/children would be interested in some at-home Advent materials. We miss you all and are happy to help in whatever capacity we can in these "outside of normal" times!

Here is our schedule for the remainder of the Fall and Advent Session!

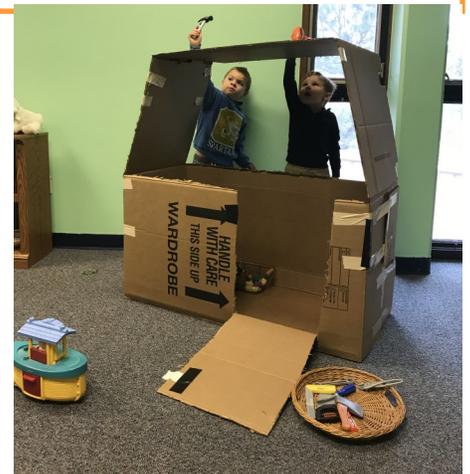
November 8	Joshua and the Wall of Jericho
November 15	David and Goliath
November 29	Annunciation (Mary/Elizabeth)
December 6	Angels
December 13	Shepherds
December 20	Holy Family/Jesus's Birth
December 27	St Stephen's Feast Day
January 3	Three Kings
January 10	Flight into Egypt.

Blessings, Julia Hart, Coordinator
juliamow-



NOAH'S ARK

Thank you to the Shurden's for donating the wardrobe boxes that became the ark!



St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group



I want to start by thanking our youth and parents for continuing to prioritize youth group, despite the many challenges and distractions in this time. We love seeing your faces every week and enjoy the many discussions that come from our meetings.

A reminder that our new SENIOR youth time will be Thursday evenings at 7 pm. All youth in 9th-12th grade are welcome - please feel free to invite a friend to our virtual meeting, as well!

Now to November and December. We are gearing up for the holidays and looking forward to an exciting holiday season! Here are a few upcoming events in our youth group:

- November 8-November 29: Our annual **Operation Holiday drive** will begin November 8 through 29. We will be accepting non-perishable food items in a box in the Narthex. We are more than happy to take any monetary donations and go shopping for you- please leave those with Vera in the parish office.

For more information about Operation Holiday, please visit the HumanKind Ministries (formerly InterFaith Ministries) website.

- November 21 from 7-9 pm: All youth game night in the Parish Hall (virtual option as well for anyone who would feel more comfortable that way). We will be socially distancing and playing games for online and in-person participation. There will be games, prizes and light, individually wrapped snacks and drinks provided. Please bring a friend, bring a mask, and be prepared for a fun evening!
- November 29: Starting our Advent lesson series and assisting in Advent activities (more to come via email)

Thank you all for a great 2020, and we look forward to ringing in 2021!

Happy Holidays, Sydney Anderson



EDOK YOUTH GAME NIGHT

On the first Sunday of the month, there will be a youth game night for all youth in the diocese in grades 6-12. Join us!

- Sunday, December 6, 7-8:30 pm, Christmas Games and Compline

To join on Zoom, use meeting ID: 857 4195 0793 and the passcode is the name of our January youth event. (Don't know? that's okay, e-mail kschlabach@episcopal-ks.org and she'll send you the info, or text her at 913-708-5927).

The Feast of All Saints

My Dear Daughters of the King,

To say that this year has been frustrating is an understatement. So too, in the church. For a while we were closed (and who knows if that might not happen again), we have had to modify our services, and we, basically, have nothing in the way of social activities. Only recently have we **resumed** a form of Sunday School for our young children and a modified nursery for infants. And, if the doctors are correct, this may be a fact of life for many months to come.

One of the deeply felt restrictions in churches is our inability to offer the level of pastoral care we would like to extend to our members. Currently we cannot visit our family and friends who may be in the hospital or a care facility. For those who are at home but with compromised health issues they too must endure a level of enforced isolation.

One of the major ministries we have had to curtail is that of the Eucharistic Visitors. These dedicated men and women delivered the Holy Bread and Wine to those who could not come to church. But, in addition, they also brought the human touch and the presence of all their friends at St. Stephen's. Further, they would sometimes report back to the clergy any concerns they might have.

So, at this time, we, the family of St. Stephen's, must rethink how we do pastoral care. As you are well aware, my time at St. Stephen's is limited. Also, at this time, we have no Deacon to help. So, I would like to turn to the Daughters of the King to help maintain a high level of pastoral care for our parish.

The DOK rule of prayer, service and study fits very well into this pastoral need. So, I would like ask if you would accept a higher level of pastoral responsibility for our parish? I would envision this to include, but not be limited to....

Maintaining a level of contact with our members in the hospital, nursing home, or confined to their own homes. This might include cards, phone calls, and when possible, maybe even a visit under any required conditions.

The DOK would coordinate with Vera in the office to make every effort no one "falls through the cracks".

I would urge the DOK to recruit other members of the congregation who may have a heart for this sort of pastoral ministry (they don't have to join the DOK, just have a willingness to help).

While this goes without saying, I urge the DOK to maintain an active prayer ministry for those of our family that are in "...trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity".

Many in our family have chosen to remain home during this pandemic. Maybe they could be included in our outreach as well in some way.

Please know that the resources of our parish are at your disposal as you reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Milliken



Daughters of the King (Julian of Norwich Chapter) will continue to hold virtual meetings on the 3rd Sundays of each month through the end of 2020 and perhaps beyond. Using Free Conference Call.com, we will meet on Sunday, November 15th and Sunday, December 20th, both at 1:00 pm. Detailed agendas will be sent to members prior to each meeting.

At our October 18th meeting, members discussed the SSEC's Pastoral Care Committee and what more we as Daughters can be doing in this time of pandemic to uplift SSEC members. This will be our greatest area of focus as we move forward this year, working with Bishop Mike to redefine our members' needs and how we can meet this challenge. In addition, we had a program on the Nehemiah Prayer Project, which suggests a 52-day prayer litany and journal asking, as did Nehemiah in the Old Testament, for a restoration of our relationship with God. Focus is on the four "R's:" Repent, Restore, Revive and Recommit. This is a call to action that can be followed by anyone. Here is a link to the material: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.doknational.org/resource/resmgr/dok_resources/Nehemiah_Prayer.pdf

We learned that our DOK Province VII will donate \$5,000 it saved this fall from having a virtual assembly to food banks in the province's seven states. Distribution is based on numbers of chapters and members in each state. The Diocese of Kansas has received \$200 for the use of a Kansas food bank and we are waiting on approval of Bishop Bascom for the chosen food bank.

We welcome new members, inquiries about our activities, and relationships in partnership with other SSEC groups. Contact any DOK member or Nan Myers, President.



YOUTH GROUP PROJECT

Help at the Holidays for Those Most in Need

The Youth Group is sponsoring their annual **OPERATION HOLIDAY DRIVE**. They will be accepting non-perishable food items in the Operation Holiday box in the Narthex.

You can also drop you non-perishable food items in the Parish Office, Monday –Friday, 9 am—1 pm. Also, more than happy to take any monetary donations and go shopping for you—please leave those with Vera in the parish office.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED NOVEMBER 8th—NOVEMBER 29th

For more information about Operation Holiday, please visit the HumanKind Ministries (formerly InterFaith Ministries) website.



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

BE A HELPING HAND

A small Pastoral Care Committee as been established with representative from various areas of the church (DOK, Altar Guild, LEVs, etc). The committee will meet with the Parish Administrator monthly to review those whom we feel would benefit from our care, or have concerns, or need help.

Generate a cadre of volunteers who could provide direct contact with church members. Volunteers would deal with 3 or 4 parishioners to establish a relationship. Ideally, each person would be contacted at least twice each month.

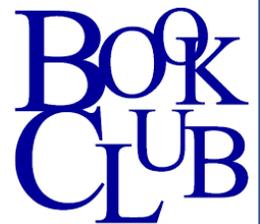
Volunteers could be asked to:

- * Deliver flowers from the altar to front doors, without visits.
- * Make phone calls
- * Write notes
- * Send cards (The office can provide cards and postage)
- * Find other ways to check and see how people are getting along.
- * Make the office aware of any critical situations

Barbara Fizer has agreed to chair this committee. If you would like to volunteer to be a ***HELPING HAND***, call Barbara or the Parish Office.

ST. STEPHEN'S BOOK CLUB

Reading is one thing that helps keep us sane in these crazy times, and the St Stephen's Book Club is doing fine by reading, and sharing our thoughts at our weekly phone meetings. We are currently going through a history of our part of Kansas titled: Heartland, a memoir of working hard and being broke in the richest country on earth by Sarah Smarsh. We've been able to recognize many of the references to places right here in Wichita. We are always glad to have readers join us on Thursday at 12:00 in our telephone meetings (Call 978-990-5000, access code 701904)



Cold weather needs: gloves, socks, stocking hats!

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.

St. Stephen's 2020 Calendar November & December

BOOK CLUB	Noon via phone	Every Thursday
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	To be announced	Quarterly Meeting
DAUGHTERS OF THE KING	To be announced via In-person on Phone conference	Sunday, November 15h Sunday, December 20th
FINANCE COMMITTEE	6:00 pm—Zoom Meeting	Tuesday, November 10th Tuesday, December 8th
VESTRY MEETING	6:30 pm—Parish Hall	Wednesday, November 18th Wednesday, December 16th
YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT	7:00—9:00 pm—Parish Hall	Saturday, November 21st
THANKSGIVING SERVICE	Noon—Sanctuary	Wednesday, November 25th
FIRST SUNDEY OF ADVENT <i>"HOPE"</i> <i>St. Andrew's Celebration</i> <i>Saltire Pipers</i>	10:30 am service	Sunday, November 29th
SAINT NICHOLAS VISIT	10:30 am service	Sunday, December 6th
HANGING OF THE GREENS	11:30 am following the service	Sunday, December 13th
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE	5:30 pm—Sanctuary	Thursday, December 24th
CELEBRATION OF ST. STEPHENS	10:30 am service	Sunday, December 27th
FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME	10:00 am	Friday, January 1st.



Come ye thankful
People come...

Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 25th
at noon.

**Begin your holiday by joining us as
we give thanks for our bounty.**

Altar Flowers Dedication—November & December



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.



11/1	<i>Birthday Celebration of Piper, granddaughter</i>	<i>Criss & Joan Schulz</i>
11/8		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>
11/15		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>
11/22		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>
11/29		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>
12/6	<i>Memory of Stewart B. Coffin</i>	<i>Anne Coffin</i>
12/13		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>
12/20	<i>1st Anniversary Celebration Matt & Sydney Anderson</i>	<i>Vera Aikman</i>
12/27		<i>“THIS COULD BE YOU”</i>

<p><u>November Birthdays</u></p> <p>11/1 Libby Ceramella 11/2 Esam Sohail 11/3 Darlene Knorr 11/6 Lora White 11/8 Kim Dugger- Attwater 11/10 Bill Estes 11/15 Chris Graham 11/16 Barbara Kice DiAnne Graham 11/17 Don Norton 11/18 Joan Jaedicke Judy Higdon 11/26 John Alefs</p>	<p><u>Anniversaries</u></p> <p>11/8 Tom & Maggie Benefiel Chris & DiAnne Graham 11/16 Richard & Becky Samaniego 11/17 Justin & Ellen Cooke</p> <p><u>December Birthdays</u></p> <p>12/7 Vera Aikman 12/15 Joan Schulz 12/18 Deacon Patsy Abshire</p>	<p>12/19 Sondra Reber 12/20 Megan Loftin 12/22 Bryan Black 12/23 Carolyn Goree 12/30 Ella Jean Resch</p> <p><u>Anniversaries</u></p> <p>12/11 Jason & Julia Hart 12/16 Ben & Ashley Winters 12/21 Matt & Sydney Anderson 12/30 John & Nan Myers 12/31 Mike & Linda Floyd</p>
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November & December Celebrations

Nine Lessons and Carols

**ADVENT IV
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 20th
10:30 am Service**

Join us for this service of a mix of instrumentals, solos and duets of our favorite carols of the season!

Volunteers of all ages for reading of the lessons.



with traditional candlelit singing of Silent Night.

**THURSDAY
DECEMBER 24th
5:30 pm**
Congregation will gather under the portico to sing favorite Christmas hymns before being joyfully led into the service with organ fanfare. Service will close



**Sunday
December 13th
following the
service.**

**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 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, 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