

St. Stephen's Story

September and October 2017



Dear People of God,

The Way of Mediation, Contemplation and Centering Prayer (with blessings to Jane Taylor)

KORTE Introduction

KONNECTON What is contemplative prayer? It is easier to say what it is not. According to Cistercian monk, Thomas Keating, it is not a technique, a relaxation exercise, self-hypnosis, charismatic or psychic gifts or a paranormal phenomenon. Nor is it the felt experience of God. All these things may be present, but they are not in themselves contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer is a relationship with God. One of the most common metaphors for contemplative prayer is of the lover or friend. God desires our simple presence more than any action or service we might give. The Lutherans call this being saved by Grace. Sr. Ellen Stephen of the Episcopal Order of St. Helena (Benedictine), says that prayer is a gift to God. "Honey, I brought you a present. It is my behind in this chair." Relationship with the divine lover and cultivating the capacity to love other persons was, and is, the reason for undertaking the discipline of prayer. Increasing the capacity to love and healing the inability to love is not assumed to happen quickly, or without cooperation on our part. Prayer is a discipline, undertaken as one would undertake to learn to play the piano. Practice is the key.

Christian contemplative prayer dates back at least to the 4th through 6th centuries when the early Desert Fathers and Mothers were active in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. If a single scripture text can be said to sum the philosophy of these early teachers is was Jesus' teaching that the sum of the Law was to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and your neighbor as your self." At the time of the Reformation contemplative prayer declined or disappeared among Protestants, and went into long decline in the Catholic countries. Under the influence of rationalism, the mystic direct experience of God became suspect. By the 19th century the contemplative prayer tradition had almost disappeared except among the cloistered Catholic religious orders, and it was marginalized even there. Christian contemplative practice began to revive among the Benedictines and other monastic orders. During the mid-20th century interest in contemplative practices increased, with the most popular writer on the subject being the Cistercian monk Thomas Merton. Nonetheless meditation was more generally associated with eastern traditions such as Zen and yoga, and many who wished to explore the contemplative life turned to Eastern teachers who were beginning to establish themselves in the West.

Jesus taught no specific method, but did regularly withdraw to be alone with God. The fruits of prayer described by Paul the Apostle are love, joy peace, patience, generosity, faithfulness, kindness, gentleness, self-control, and purity. (Galatians 5:22-23). According to Thomas Keating, the fruits of centering prayer are freedom from self-centered motivation, action in service to others, a sense of interconnectedness with all creation, dis-identification with our self-image, healing of fear, conviction of our basic goodness, and capacity for union with God.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina, translated as sacred reading, was likely brought to the Western Christian Church from the desert fathers of Egypt, Syria, and Palestine in the early fifth century. It was recommended for both lay persons and monastics in the early Christian centuries. Lectio Divina is closely associated with the St. Benedict and Benedictine spirituality, and is highly recommended today by the Benedictines and Cistercians. Many later forms of Christian prayer are based on Lectio.

Lectio Divina, as it is traditionally taught, has four parts or elements:

Activity	Description	Purpose
Lectio	Read the passage, seek the word or God	Listen
Meditatio	Meditate on the passage and apply it to our own situation and needs	Reflect
Oratio	Pray in response to the	Integrate
Contemplatio	Listen in contemplative silence, open to whatever God may wish to invite or impart	Receive

The Method

1. Choose a scripture or other sacred reading.
2. Sit comfortably, but not too comfortably, back straight, chest open so the breath is free and open.
3. Read the passage slowly. Savor each phrase. What word, phrase or idea speaks to you?
4. Read the passage again. Where does this passage touch your life? What do you see, hear, touch, or remember?
5. Read the passage a third time. Listen quietly.
6. Note insights, reflections, and personal response to the reading in your journal.
7. Follow the steps in order or go back and forth between them as you feel moved.
8. Finish by waiting for a few moments in silence.

Suitable subjects for Lectio include:

1. Psalms
2. The Lord's prayer
3. All scripture
4. The daily office lectionary
5. Devotional readings. The sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, Merton's Seeds of Contemplation or No Man is an Island, the writings of Kathleen Norris, Roberta Bondi, Brother Lawrence, Thomas Kelly, are all suitable. Try also Zen and the Art of Archery, Peace Pilgrim, and works by Thich Naht Hanh.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method of prayer, which prepares us to receive the gift of God's presence. It emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God. At the same time, it is a discipline to foster and serve this relationship by a regular, daily practice of prayer. Centering Prayer is drawn from ancient prayer practices of the Christian contemplative heritage, notably the Fathers and Mothers of the Desert, Lectio Divina, (praying the scriptures), The Cloud of Unknowing, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila. It was distilled into a simple method of prayer in the 1970's by three Trappists (this is another name for Cistercians, a subset of the Benedictines) monks, Fr. William Menninger, Fr. Basil Pennington and Abbot Thomas Keating at the Trappist St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The following method of Centering Prayer is drawn from the writings of Father Thomas Keating.

1. Choose a sacred word as a symbol of your openness to being changed within. (Examples: Jesus, Abba, peace, grace, trust, love)
2. Sit in moderate comfort, eyes closed, back straight, chest fully open.
3. Settle briefly, and silently introduce the sacred word.
4. When you become aware of thoughts, return gently to the sacred word.
5. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.
6. Expect to experience distracting thoughts, including bodily and emotional feelings, perceptions, images, memories, reflections, insights, and commentaries. Remain detached from both pleasant and difficult distractions. They will go away. Expect casual thoughts, flashy ideas, psychic phenomena, reflection on the quality of your prayer, theological

or psychic breakthroughs, and emotionally charged thoughts. Let them go gently past, and return to the sacred word. Thoughts, even highly charged ones, are normal. Don't repress or become distracted. Simply return to the sacred word.

A Further Word on Thoughts

The intensity of their thoughts is the single biggest problem beginners in centering prayer experience. When you become quiet in prayer the first thing you are likely to notice is the how busy the mind remains. Ideas, observations, memories, and resistance compete persistently for your attention like undisciplined children. This is normal, though unnoticed in everyday life. Some find the interior noise overwhelming at first. Don't panic. Think of your thoughts as boats sailing along a deep river. Boats will sail into view, and they will sail past. Let them sail on; you do not need to be concerned with them. Even if some appear to be on fire, just let them go past. Instead let yourself sink down into the river, leaving the boats to sail unnoticed above. Another image I enjoy is of walking down an embankment toward a meadow, leaving a busy highway of cars (thoughts) behind and above. You can let the cars pass by. You do not need to get in and go down the road with any of them.

Above all do not try to control or stop your thoughts. Watch what happens in your mind when you command yourself not to think of a white bear. You will have the same lack of success if you try to stop your thoughts. Don't frustrate yourself by trying. Just let thoughts pass by. The quality of your prayer time is not measured by the quality or intensity of your thoughts or by how often your attention is captured by them. When your mind wanders, gently return to the sacred word.

Contemplative Walk or Action

Any action can be performed mindfully and contemplatively. Walking is particularly suitable, and is a good way to start. Any daily activity may be used; try washing the dishes, eating, or cleaning mindfully. Poet David Whyte says that doing one thing without hurry each day is the way to bring greater awareness into life. For a vivid description of this method, see Thich Naht Hahn's *Peace is Every Step*. (In Rhode Island, we did paddle and prayer in canoes and kayaks.)

Format for a Wilderness Walk

1. Walk mindfully, keeping your awareness on your immediate surroundings or on your own breath as you walk.
2. Walk slowly, toe to heel, savoring each step as a gift.
3. When your mind begins to wander, draw your awareness back to the present and what is happening now.
4. As you walk allow creation to speak to you. Notice the trees, sky, flowers, birds, water, stones.
5. Listen.

Prayer of Active Imagination, taught by St. Ignatius of Loyola

This practice actively uses the imagination and senses. For a full treatment of this method, see *The Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. The following adaptation is a much-abbreviated form. The stories in Luke's gospel contain vivid images and are particularly suited to this method.

1. Read the sacred text. (Luke 5:1-11)

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. and they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and

so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

2. Use the five senses to explore the scene:
 1. What do you hear? (birds, water crowd, Jesus...)
 2. What do you touch? (oars, ropes, rocking boats, sun...)
 3. What do you smell? (water, fishing smells, boats, people...)
 4. What do you see? (water, Jesus, boat, crowds...)
 5. What do you taste? (What have you eaten today? How does the air taste?)
3. Read the text again.
4. Imagine you are washing your nets when you help Jesus escape from the pressing crowds. Didn't he look funny scrambling into the boat? Listen to him preach as you continue washing, though you fished all night and yearn for rest and sleep. Help in the boat as you row out to deep water. Do you think you will catch anything? Let down the nets, though you have fished all night and caught nothing. What jokes do you tell as you wait to pull the nets back in? What does the net feel like as you pull it back into the boat? What goes through your mind as you row back to shore in a boat so laden it is in danger of capsizing.
5. Reflect on this experience and what it has to teach you in silence.
6. What practical fruit do you draw from this experience? Ask Jesus what you should learn from this.
7. What special grace do you need to amend your life?
8. End with, "Our Father..."

General Guidelines for Contemplative Prayer of all kinds

- Pick a quiet, comfortable place to pray and treat this place as sacred. Arrange a pillow or chair to sit on. Have a bible or other sacred reading at hand. Adorn your place with a plant, a candle, or other things that please you.
- Keep a spiritual journal. Write down dreams, feelings, and impressions from your prayer time, and anything else that seems important in your life. Date your entries.
- Sit up straight to make room for the breath. Breathe naturally and slowly.
- Pray regularly. Treat this time as you would an appointment with a valued friend. 20 minutes is a standard prayer period. This is about the amount of time the body and mind need to become receptive and able to listen. Doing this twice a day will boost your spiritual growth.
- Focus on your relationship with God or on being receptive. Do not become attached to gifts such as visions or feelings of ecstasy and closeness to God. Neither be disturbed by trials such as loud thoughts, disruptive feelings, and the like. Both gifts and trials come and go. They are not a sign of how well your prayer is going, only that you are being changed. Look for the fruits of your prayer in everyday life, not in the prayer period itself.
- Pick a practice that suits you and stick with it. Be prepared to move beyond that practice as you are called to do so.
- Suspend the judging mind, but make room for the spirit to act within you. Expect to be transformed, but do not grasp after it. Rest and be intentional in your practice and the work will be done in you.
- A spiritual friend is someone you can talk about your practice and spiritual life with. It is good to have companionship along the way. A good spiritual director may be hard to find, though they are more common now than they were 10 years ago. Seek such a person if you feel called to do so or your inner way becomes hard and you need direction. A good spiritual director is someone who has prayed for many years. Consider asking at your local Church for monks or nuns who are experienced in prayer or spiritual direction. Teachers from the Eastern traditions such as Buddhism may be helpful to you. Many are highly skilled. Remember above all, "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men (people) generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him (James 1:5)
- Be gentle with yourself. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and God is seeking you as eagerly as you are seeking God.



***The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston,
retired Bishop of Alaska,
Elder of the Choctaw Nation***

***Speaking Engagement
Saturday, September 30th
at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,
Wichita, KS***

\$15.00 per person will reserve your space (limited tickets available).

A light lunch is included at noon.

Bishop Charleston will speak at 1:00 pm

followed by a book signing, books will be available for purchase.

***("Four Vision Quests of Jesus" , "Sanctuary of the Spirit" and "Hope as Old as Fire")
Nursery provided.***

St. Stephen's is excited to sponsor Bishop Charleston as he talks about his book
"FOUR VISION QUESTS OF JESUS".

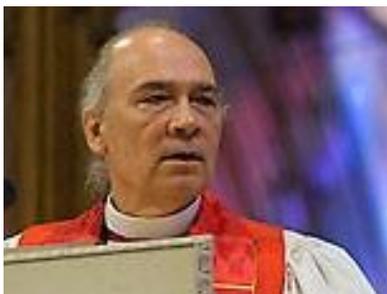


Steven Charleston is a Native American elder, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation and a bishop in the Episcopal Church. He comes from a family with a long history of service in the Native American community. His great-grandfather and grandfather were both ordained pastors who preached in their native language in rural communities throughout Oklahoma. Following in their footsteps, Steven was ordained at Wakpala, South Dakota on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. He was the national director for Native American ministries in the Episcopal Church, a tenured professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary, the

Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, and the President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Currently, he teaches at the Saint Paul School of Theology at Oklahoma City University. In 2014 Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, named a building after him to honor his work in inter-faith cooperation.

Bishop Charleston began his writing with only four people as his audience. Today there are over 10,000 people who read his daily meditations on Facebook and thousands more who have discovered him through Red Moon Publications' flagship book, ***"HOPE AS OLD AS FIRE"***. Along with his daily meditations, thousands more around the world read his books.



For tickets or information contact:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

7404 E. Killarney Place, Wichita, KS 67206

316 634-2513

ssec@sbcglobal.net

***Reserve your tickets now,
tickets unavailable day of event!***





Lincoln Thomas Brasser Baptism

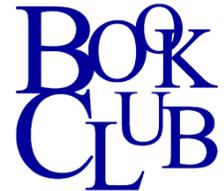
August 6, 2017



Education for Ministry (EfM)

Education for Ministry (EfM) is the Episcopal Church's answer to the age old problem of educating the lay members of the church for ministry. This program is a four year course that covers the four basic fundamentals of seminary: Old Testament (Hebrew Bible), New Testament, Church History, and Theology. Each of the subjects is covered for a year. The cost of the program is \$375.00 per course (year) and is due at the first meeting. There are scholarships available reducing the amount due to \$175.00. The class will meet on Monday evenings (6:30 pm) in the Fireside Room at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. The first meeting for the 2017-2018 year is August 27th. If you are interested or have questions, please call Kitty Shield (655-1453), Teresa Ryther (461-7213) or Vera at the St. Stephen's office (634-2513).

Join us at noon on **Thursday, September 7th** as we begin the study of a new book chosen for us by the late Wanda Rogers, ***"All Over but the Shoutin"*** by Rick Bragg. *A little info about the book (from the internet):* A New York Times **Notable Book of the Year**, this haunting, harrowing, gloriously moving recollection of a life on the American margin is the story of Rick Bragg, who grew up dirt-poor in north-eastern Alabama, seemingly destined for either the cotton mills or the penitentiary, and instead became a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The New York Times*.



I am looking forward to seeing everyone and reading this book! Best regards - your Book Club member list keeper and email scribe – Mary Sloan

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| September 7th—Chapters One through Five | October 5th—Through Chapter 27 |
| September 21st—Chapters Six through Fifteen | October 12th—Through Chapter 33 |
| September 28th—Through Chapter 21 | October 19th—Through Chapter 42 |

WHAT IS EpiscoPals? It has been the group responsible for planning some social activities for the parishioners for many years. The main activity for the group has been Dinners for 8. Other social activities have included game nights, attending local music theater productions as a group (such as the Chris Mann "Home for Christmas" concert) and hosting the "Chili Dump" at Halloween Trunk or Treat. It's fun to get together in a social setting and meet others that you might not have had the opportunity to talk to. Suggestions for future social activities are appreciated, and new volunteer committee members are needed. If you would like to assist with social events for St. Stephen's call Linda Floyd, 785 213-8724 or the Parish Office.

A graphic with a yellow and orange background, featuring the text "Youth Group Fall Kick Off" in a stylized font. There are decorative elements like leaves and a banner.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

This Summer has flown by, and our St. Stephen's youth are ready for some exciting events coming up this Fall. We are moving back to ONE youth group starting at 10:15 until the Peace. So, all youth ages 5th grade to Seniors in high school are welcome to join us Sunday mornings in the Youth Room. We will also have some activities outside of the church (similar to last year) to help keep excitement up for our youth group. Last year was a year of new experiences for everyone, and we are still in some trial phases of perfecting our youth group. Some things I hope to accomplish this year with the youth are volunteer opportunities (Habitat for Humanity, ESS, etc.), planning more fundraisers, and

hosting a Parish-wide event of some kind sponsored by the youth. We have a great group of kids, and I'm so excited to get this new year going. There will be some age specific activities throughout the year.

As far as EDOK events coming up, we have the Fall Fun Fest from 1 pm Saturday, September 9th to 11 am Sunday, September 10th at St. Margaret's in Lawrence, KS. Also something to keep on your calendar is the Official Youth Presence at Diocesan Convention 2017. This is a great opportunity to get to know other youth and adults from across the Diocese and see the inner workings of the Episcopal Church. Diocesan Convention is Friday, October 20th to Saturday, October 21st. If you have any questions about any EDOK Youth events, please contact myself or visit the website at www.edokyouth.wordpress.com.

That's all for now. Please encourage your kids, grandkids, and their friends to attend our youth events and youth group meetings. We are still growing and transitioning, and would love to see more faces in our meetings every Sunday. Derek Kruger has accepted a new position and will not be available for some youth group activities. He will be missed.

Peace be with you,
Sydney Runyan, Youth Group Director

EDOK Youth Upcoming Events and Deadlines --

- **Fall Fun Fest**, Sept. 9th-10th @ St. Margaret's, Lawrence, register by Aug. 25th, 6th-12th grades
- **Official Youth Presence at Diocesan Convention**, Oct. 20th-21st @ Grace Cathedral, Topeka, 8th-12th grades
- **Happening #92**, Dec. 1st-3rd @ St. Michael's, Mission register by Nov. 17th, 9th-12th grades
- **Miqra**, Jan. 13th-15th, 2018 @ St. David's, Topeka, register by Dec. 29th, 6th-12th grades
- **Youth Leader Workshop**, Feb. 17th, 2018, 9:30-3:30 @ Upton Hall, Topeka
- **Music Weekend**, March 2nd-4th, 2018 @ St. Francis, Overland Park, register by Feb. 23rd
- **New Beginnings**, April 27th-29th, 2018 @ Good Shepherd, Wichita, register by April 13th
- **Mega Camp**, June 3rd-9th, 2018 @ Camp Wood YMCA, register by May 11th
- **MissionWichita**, June 26th-July 1st, 2018. @ St. John's, Wichita, register by June 19th
- **Youth & College trip to General Convention**, July 9th-13th, 2018, Austin, TX, register by May 1st
- **Happening #93**, July 20th-22nd, 2018 @ TBA, register by July 6th

**YOUTH
FUNDRAISERS**

**St. Stephen's Sensational Youth Group
will be taking orders for
ST. STEPHEN'S TEE SHIRTS,
adult, youth and children sizes!**

Mark your calendars!



St. Stephen's
Annual Rummage
and Bake Sale
**ONE DAY ONLY-Thursday,
September 14th,
7 am—5 pm**

*Clean out your closets, garages
and storage units for this annual
fund raiser.*

We hope you will also join us at the sale.

It's lots of fun to work with each other and raise money for church projects. Mary Sloan and Amy Staples are coordinating this year's sale, with the help of Cheryl Navarro, Patti Mann and Susan Gaskill. There is a [sign up sheet](#) on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall to volunteer to help and/or to bring bake goods.

PRICING: **NO NEED** to mark items. It will be done for you.

CLOTHES: Adult clothing **MUST** be on hangers. We are not equipped to accept clothes not on hangers except for shorts or small children's items. Please don't send clothing in a bag with hangers. Look for the box of hangers we will provide for all at the sale.

WHAT TO DONATE: Bring only items in good working order and clean condition. We cannot accept old TV's or obsolete computers/printers. Large items that do not sell will need to be picked up by 5 pm on Thursday, no exceptions.

WHEN TO DONATE: Bring your treasures to the church beginning Sunday, September 10th after 1:00 pm. Tables will be set up and marked with signs, place your items on the appropriate tables. (i.e., linens on linen table, electronic on electronics table, etc.) ***Donations accepted Sunday, September 10th through Wednesday, September 13th.***

**The funds raised are used for special needs
(i.e., carpet, dishwasher, kitchen needs for the parish kitchen, tables, chairs, etc.)**



Episcopal Social Service (ESS)/Venture House Calendar

THURSDAY, September 14th ESS is hosting a donor cultivation dinner at Carrabba's beginning at 6:30 p.m. If you have someone you know who fits one of the descriptors below, please let Rachel Newell (269-4160 ext. 105) know as she would like to invite them to one of ESS's events:

- ◆ A business owner who is interested in supporting our work
- ◆ An individual or couple that has capacity to give and is interested in ways to help us
- ◆ Someone who has expressed interest in mental health issues and wants to learn more
- ◆ Someone at church who would like to learn more about poverty and volunteering with BTC/ESS

TUESDAY, October 17th Kindness in Action Fundraising Breakfast at Botanica. We're working on filling tables of 8, so **please send me referrals** for this VERY IMPORTANT **FREE admission** event for ESS. Last year, we raised \$30,000 that morning. We plan to offer a little bit more in the way of food this year and have people arrive earlier to accommodate that part of the morning. I'll send around a flyer on this next week.

TUESDAY, November 14th Thanksgiving Community Meal – Tuesday, November 14th.

TUESDAY, December 12th Christmas Community Meal – Tuesday, December 12th



DINNERS FOR 8 SUMMER END PARTY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

at the home of

Chuck and Kitty Shield, 13420 E. Harry, Wichita

Wine tasting and appetizers at 6 pm (if you

would like to participate in wine tasting bring you favorite wine) and dinner at 7 pm.



St. Stephen's has reserved a block of tickets for this wonderful concert. The tickets are \$49.00 each and will be in the medium range of seating. If you would like to attend, please contact either Linda Floyd at 785 213-8724, dlhaskns@gmail.com or Vera in the Parish Office 634-2513, ssec@sbcglobal.net. Reservations with payment need to be received by **Friday, September 15th.**

Chris is the son of Mike and Patti Mann and brother of Becky Mann Samaniego.



Babe McGabe Stephen's and Princess Lily Higdon say:
"Put on your cool shades and come to Holy Eucharist: Rite Two BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS! Sunday, October 1st, 10:30 am

Outside, weather permitting!



Baptism Date	Baptism Service Time	Baptism Instruction (required)
Sunday, November 5, 2017	All Saints Day, 10:30 am	Sunday, October 29th, noon

ALL ARE INVITED TO

Join Us For

Trunk
or
Treat



October 31st

Tuesday, October 31st
5:30—8:30 pm

The St. Stephen's south parking lot will be well lighted, bring your treats and goodies, decorate your trunk, come in costume for our ghosts and goblins!

Last year we had over 100 visitors! Once again, we will have chili (everyone bring their favorite and we combine for a delicious "chili mingle), chili fixins', hot dogs and cookies. There will be a sign up sheet in the Parish Hall to volunteer to bring the goodies.

It is a GREAT, creative fun time, just Boo-tifull !

September Birthdays

- 9/2 Thornton Anderson
- Kirsten Johnson
- 9/6 Paul Attwater III
- Tom Steele
- 9/7 Lauren Floyd
- Nick Staples
- 9/8 Ben Winters
- 9/9 Carolyn Whitaker
- 9/10 Violet Black
- 9/18 Lyndy Wells
- 9/19 Ric Knorr
- Audrey Korte
- Shannon Mutero
- 9/22 Linda Henry
- Jane Taylor
- 9/23 Rick Gaskill
- 9/24 John Abboud
- 9/27 Lee Sinclair

Anniversaries

- 9/2 Dale & Suzanne Graham
- 9/4 Bill & Barbara Thompson
- 9/13 Paul & Sally Attwater
- 9/14 Mike & Patti Mann
- 9/17 Ric & Darlene Knorr
- 9/24 Tom & Liz Steele
- 9/27 Bryan & Violet Black

October Birthdays

- 10/1 Peggy Lewis
- Bruce Schriefer
- Emily Williams
- 10/2 Aubrey Resch
- 10/3 Sydney Runyan
- 10/5 Joe Johnson
- 10/6 Larry Arbuckle
- 10/9 Frank Priest
- 10/10 Steven Stephens
- 10/12 Jeanne Yankey

10/14 Linda Floyd

- 10/15 Kaydance Navarro
- 10/16 Sophia Williams
- 10/19 Cooper Winters
- 10/21 Innes Phillips
- 10/23 Brielle Cooke
- 10/23 Bea Hutchinson
- Maddie Ramsey
- 10/26 Betty Johnston
- 10/28 Jean White

Anniversaries

- 10/7 Dan & Cynthia Walton
- 10/11 John & Sally Alefs
- 10/20 Bob & Carolyn Goree
- 10/25 Ron & Rosalee Myers

September and October Celebrations

Daughters of the King Julian of Norwich Chapter (DOK) will resume its regular meeting schedule on Sunday, September 17th after the 10:30 am service in the Fireside Room. Prior to that, President Melanie Shurden has invited us to her home for a welcome back luncheon on Saturday, September 2nd at 11:00 am (5206 Pembroke Circle; 687.5866). More info and directions to follow.



Also a reminder that DOK'S annual dues are payable by September 1, 2017. You may pay online at www.doknational.com. Your user name is your DOK member number. Or you may mail a check to DOK with dues on the memo line and your chapter name and member number. (Address: The Order of the Daughters of the King, 101 Weatherstone Dr. Ste 870, Woodstock, GA 30188. Telephone 770.517.8552; email dok1885@doknational.org)

DOK held a summer get-together on August 9 at St. Stephen's for our "rosary project." Ten daughters made beautiful Anglican rosaries for our fund-raising efforts on behalf of Episcopal Social Services. Jane Taylor was our leader-trainer and we can't thank her enough for her generosity and determination to carry on with this ministry. Did you know there is an Anglican rosary distinct from the Roman Catholic rosary and other prayer beads? The Anglican rosaries have no prescribed prayers, only suggestion on how to use them.

Did you know that praying with a rosary is a contemplative kind of praying that, with practice, helps our minds become more united with God? Did you know that these beautiful rosaries are available for purchase with all proceeds going to charity? We have many available, or we can custom make one for you using the colors, beads and a cross that is special to you and be incorporated into your rosary. Prayer suggestions are included. We also make traditional Roman Catholic rosaries on request. They make great Christmas, baptism/new baby or simply "any time" gifts. Please call Jane Taylor, 303-5858, Melanie Shurden, 687-5866 or the Parish Office.



ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Saturday, November 11th

at the University Congregational Church.

Activities for the Alternative Gift Market will start soon. St. Stephen's will once again participate and hope to repeat our benchmark as the highest amount of donations received for any project. Our project this year is "Bridge the Gender Gap with higher education for girls in Kenya". We are excited about this project and know that we will have fantastic support from our congregation. Watch for more updates. To answer questions or if you would like to join the project team, please contact Melanie Shurden (mshurden@cox.net), Carol Fizer (fizercarol@gmail.com) or the Parish Office.

DON'T FORGET THE DOK LITTLE RED WAGON



Items needed for their pantry: pull top cans of chicken, meats, tuna, soups and vegetables; canned fruits; peanut butter; pasta and sauce; boxed/bottled baby food; packaged crackers (in sleeves); packaged cheese/crackers or peanut butter/crackers; deodorant (male and female); diapers and feminine hygiene items, travel size shampoo, lotion, tooth paste, tooth brushes, Drop in the little red wagon in the foyer and DOK will deliver! **Thank you.**

St. Stephen's Calendar September and October 2017

Sun-Sept 3	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
Mon-Sept 4	LABOR DAY	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
Tues-Sept 5	5:30 pm	Visioning Committee, Fireside Room
Tues-Sept 5— Thurs— Sept 7		Clergy Retreat
Wed-Sept 6	5:30 pm	IONA Service & Potluck Defibrillator Training
	7:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee, Fireside Room
Thurs-Sept 7	Noon	Book Club
Sun—Sept 10	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
RECONNECT	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
	2:00 pm	Larksfield Service
Mon-Sept 11	6:30 pm	EFM, Fireside Room
Tues-Sept 12	5:30 pm	Planned Giving Committee Meeting, Fireside Room
Wed-Sept 13	5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Worship
	6:30 pm	Bible Study Group with Mike Morrow, Chapel
Thurs-Sept 14	7:00 am— 5:00 pm	RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE Parish Hall
Fri-Sept 15	6:00 pm	Dinners for 8 Summer End Wine Tasting and Dinner at Chuck & Kitty Shield
Sun-Sept 17	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
		DOK Meeting to follow the service, Fireside Room
	2:00 pm	Larksfield Place Service

Sun-Sept 17	1:00 pm	Planned Giving Committee with ECF Representative, Fireside Rm
Mon-Sept 18	6:30 pm	EFM, Fireside Room
Tues-Sept 19	5:30 pm	Finance Committee, Fireside Rm
Wed-sept 20	5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Service
	6:30 pm	Bible Study, with Mike Morrow. Chapel
	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting, Defibrillator Training, Fireside Room
Thurs-Sept 21	Noon	Book Club
Sun-Sept 24	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
	2:00 pm	Larksfield Service
Mon-Sept 25	6:30 pm	EFM , Fireside Room
Wed-Sept 26	5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Service
	6:30 pm	Bible Study with Mike Morrow, Chapel
Thurs-Sept 27	Noon	Book Club, Fireside Room
Sat-Sept 30	Noon	The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston Event
Sun-Oct. 1	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS (outside weather permitting)
Mon-Oct 2	6:30 pm	EFM , Fireside Room
Wed-Oct. 4	5:30 pm	IONA Service & Potluck
	6:30 pm	Bible Study with Mike Morrow, Chapel
	7:00 pm	Buildings & Grounds Committee, Fireside Room

St. Stephen's Calendar September and October 2017

Thurs-Oct. 5	Noon	Book Club, Fireside Room
Sun-Oct 8	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
	2:00 pm	Larksfield Place Service
Mon-Oct 9	6:30 pm	EFM, Fireside Room
Tues-Oct 10	5:30 pm	Planned Giving Committee, Fireside Room
Wed-Oct 11	5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Service
	6:30 pm	Bible Study with Mike Morrow, Chapel
Thurs-Oct. 12	Noon	Book Club, Fireside Room
Sun-Oct 15	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
		DOK Meeting following the service, Fireside Room
Mon-Oct 16	6:30 pm	EFM, Fireside Room
Tues-Oct 17	5:30 pm	Finance Committee, Fireside Rm
Wed-Oct 18	5:39 pm	Wednesday Night Service
	6:30 pm	Bible Study with Mike Morrow, Chapel
	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting, Fireside Room
Thurs-Oct 19	Noon	Book Club
Sat-Oct 21	9:30 am	Altar Guild Meeting
	10:30 am	Worship Meeting
	11:30 am	LEV Training

Sun-Oct 22	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite One
	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:15 am	Children's Church School
	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
		STEWARDSHIP KICK OFF
	2:00 pm	Larksfield Place Service
Mon-Oct 23	6:30 pm	EFM, Fireside Room
Wed—Oct 24	5:30 pm	Wednesday Night Service
	6:30 pm	Bible Study with Mike Morrow, Chapel
Sun-Oct 29	9:15 am	Choir Rehearsal
Inter—	10:15 am	Children's Church School
Generational	10:15 am	Youth Group
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
Tues-Oct 31	5:30 pm— 8:30 pm	HALLOWEEN TRUNK AND TREAT



The 2017 St. Stephen's Vestry

The Rev. Dr. Mary J. Korte
 Tom Steele, Senior Warden
 Linda Floyd, Junior Warden
 Mary Sloan, Clerk
 Paul Attwater III, Treasurer

MEMBERS

Joe Johnson, John Rothwell, Richard Samaniego,
 Charles Shield, John Staples, Linda Stewart,
 Ben Winters

REMINDER

VESTRY MEETINGS

September 20th and October 18th.
 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room



Why should you sign up your Dillon's Plus Card for Community Rewards? Dollars received are designated for special church projects.

If you shop at any Dillon's or Kwik Shop, ENROLL in this program and RAISE MONEY for St. Stephen's it doesn't affect your Dillon's Plus Card points. Call the Parish Office for assistance in enrolling, It's easy!

LARKSFIELD PLACE

**in the Meditation Chapel-2 pm
 Sept 10th and 24th
 Oct 8th and 22nd**



Altar Flower September and October

9/3	Memory of Laura Tausz	Tom & Maggie Benefiel
9/10	Memory of Walt Aikman and our Wedding Anniversary	Vera Aikman
9/17	Memory of Alice Virginia Knorr and Ann Knorr Addison Thanksgiving for birthday of Audrey Korte	Ric & Darlene Knorr Tim & Rev. Mary Korte
9/24	Given in appreciation for wonderful memories of St. Stephens	Janice Adams
10/1	Memory of Mitch Maska	Ric & Darlene Knorr
10/8	Celebration of Sydney Runyan's Birthday	Vera Aikman & Romey Runyan
10/15		
10/22	Stewardship Thanksgiving	
10/29	Memory of Virginia Knorr and Melissa Maska	Ric & Darlene Knorr



Sponsor Altar Flowers, Memory Lamp, Sanctuary Lamp this is 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.



Coffee Hour Treats September and October

Alphabetically by Last Name

Coffee, Tea and Thee



9/3	LAST NAME G—L
9/10	LAST NAME M—R
9/17	LAST NAME S—Z
9/24	LAST NAME A—F
10/1	LAST NAME G—L
10/8	LAST NAME M—R
10/15	LAST NAME S—Z
10/22	LAST NAME A—F
10/29	LAS NAME G—L

Check the schedule for the week of your last name and bring your favorite treat (i.e., cheese/crackers, baked items, fruit, meat/cheese, etc.). The group will also be responsible for setting up the table with treats and for clean up (even if you don't bring treats you can help with setting up and clean up).



Don't miss being with us on
Sunday, October 1st
 as we ROLLOUT our 3 year
 Vision for St. Stephen's.

VISIONING OBJECTIVES

- Involvement
- Legacy/ Financial Security
- Visibility/Communication
- Education
- Facilities/Brick & Mortar/Enhancement

It just takes ONE.

As the fall season will soon be with us, we encourage you to look at your calendars and volunteer for **JUST ONE!**

One hour a week, One hour a month, One?

There are unlimited opportunities that don't require a lot of time or a lot of training. **JUST ONE!** You could serve on a rotation on the altar guild team, sing with the choir as often as you wish, visit our home-bound and infirmed, serve as an usher, greeter, acolyte, chalice bearer or lector, help with Sunday School, chaperone a youth outing, bring your favorite treat on the week that your last name is scheduled, assist with special events, **JUST ONE!**

GREETERS: A new ministry and a new opportunity! Greet people at the front door before the 10:30 am service on Sunday mornings, make visitors welcome and offer assistance or directions. One Sunday a year! Call the Parish Office or pick a Sunday on the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Prayer for the search for the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Kansas

Gracious and loving God, thank you for the directing presence of your Holy Spirit upon those who have been set apart to discern your call of the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Kansas. Look graciously on your people as we lift up the search process in fervent prayer. Guide us to the faithful pastor who will nurture your people and cultivate the myriad gifts that abide in the people of this diocese. Empower this search with a spirit of joy and discernment as together we journey with Jesus the road ahead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



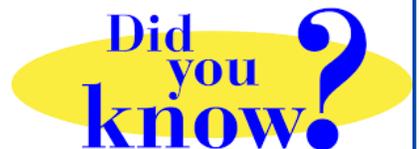
The Church Periodical Club is an Episcopal institution; its ministry is to supply books, magazines, tapes, videos and computer programs FREE to those who cannot otherwise obtain them and to raise the money to do this.

Church Periodical Club is charging the world one book at a time...

To contribute to the Church Periodical Club, drop your pennies in the large jar in the Parish Hall!



The "Loose Offerings" (undesignated cash) from "alms and contributions" at the first Sunday of each month is designated for the "Rector's Discretionary Fund". These funds are used for charitable needs among the congregation and the community. You might consider contributing extra cash on the First Sunday of the month to meet the special needs of our community.





**Caring
Connecting
Creating**

**Stewardship Kick Off
Sunday, October 22nd**



**Walk the way of Jesus each with a
distinct footprint and cadence**

**All Saints Sunday Holy Eucharist with Baptism and
Ingathering
Sunday November 5th**



**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**
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Fax: 316 634-2580
Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9 am - 1 pm
ssec@sbcglobal.net
www.ststephensec.org

The Rev. Dr. Mary J. Korte, Rector
Vera Aikman, Parish Administrator
Ashley Winter, Choir and Music Director
Aubrey Watson, Organist
Julia Hart, Intermediate Church School
Cheryl Navarro, Intermediate Church School
Hazel LeVardi, Primary Church School
Mary Sinclair, Primary Church School
Sydney Runyan, Youth Director
Lise Van Arsdale Hansen, Nursery
Audrey Korte, Interim Nursery Assistant