

SAINT STEPHENS EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SSEC EPISTLE

May and June 2015

**Special services and events
during
May and June**

Sunday, May 10th

Special Mother's Day Brunch

Wednesday, May 13th

Youth Year End Party

Sunday, May 17th

**Recognition Sunday for Sunday
School Teachers, Assistants,
and Parents
DOK Meeting**

Sunday, May 24th

Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31st

ONE SERVICE ONLY

**Intergenerational Service
Recognition of Graduates
and blessing of the
Mega campers
at 10:30 am**

Sunday, June 7th

**Annual Ice Cream Social
6:30—8:30 pm**

Sunday, June 21st

**Father's Day
"Donuts for Dad"
"Short Tee Time for Dad"**



**KORTE
KONNECTON**

Red Geraniums

**Red geraniums against the sky
Make it a deeper blue.**

**White contrails from a plane's
flyby**

Add to this magic hue.

**Red, white and blue—a message
here.**

The colors of our flag;

**Reminds us of the lives so dear
Who for their country died.**

So plant geraniums everywhere.

Make certain they are red.

**Place them on balconies and
stairs**

To honor our war dead.

By Esther B. Campbell Gates

Posted: 18 March 2004

My mother put her geraniums in a southern exposure window in the fall. They would start blooming around March. I remember the scent and how pretty they were and before long they were ready to go outside, in New England usually not before Memorial Day.

In a few weeks it will be that time of year when red geraniums will be out in the sun and flags will pop up as the Memorial Day holiday approaches. Many folks have

memories that come to mind when this holiday of "Decoration" Day gets nearer. My earliest memories are going to the Memorial Day parade in Newport, Rhode Island. Sometimes we would ride our bikes to my Aunt Mary's house and park them under her Magnolia tree, then we would walk to the "Two Mile Corner" to sit on the stone wall to watch. We have stood or sat in drizzle, rain, sun and humidity to watch the Fire Department, Police, Scouts, the Navy band and the VFW lead the parade down Broadway.

Geraniums lined the window boxes of the houses and were in pots on the porches with flags. Community services were held at various sites and attended to honor the veterans. Guns fired a salute and taps brought tears to the eyes of many who gathered around memorial displays in town.

I explained what Decoration Day was to some teenagers last week and that it was first called this when people began starting to decorate the graves of Civil war victims. This year we will decorate the inside of the church with red geraniums; they can be pre-ordered as memorials or thanksgivings and taken home after the service on Pentecost to plant.

Peace be with you,
Rev. Mary

The ministry of photography is needed for St. Stephen's to capture our life in the church that can be used on our web site and in our publications. Please notify the parish office if you are interested.

Message From

Karen Norton, Senior Warden

Several years ago and again several weeks ago, members of St. Stephen's Vestry participated in an Appreciative Inquiry workshop. The idea behind Appreciative Inquiry is helping communities reframe their thinking to focus on what is going right, rather than emphasizing what is wrong. By encouraging the positives, minds are opened to dream about what can be, rather than what isn't.

Since then, I have heard about a new book *Strengths Finding 2.0*, which is written for the corporate world. The idea? Focus on what the organization does well and emphasize it, rather than pick out every little thing that is wrong or try to be everything to everybody. Hum. Where have I heard this before?

Appreciative Inquiry involves a new way to talk to each other, a new way to think about spirituality and faith, and a new way to vision. It starts with a commitment to the positive, moves to valuing the best of what we do, continues to visioning the ideal, then dialoguing what should be, and finally creating what will be. It is going to take time for the Vestry to grasp it all, but when we do, it will translate to a new vision for St. Stephen's. (You can find out more at the Appreciative Inquiry website: www.clergyleadership.com.)

What is especially appealing about Appreciative Inquiry is that it does not ignore problems. It is not the parent who ignores children's bad behavior, allowing them to get away with it, yet showers the naughty child with candy and praise when s/he finally behaves. Instead, it is approaching problems with a mindset that the problem can be solved in a positive and helpful way, without tearing people or processes down. Again, it is going to take time to put into action, but it is an exciting and uplifting approach to building a church.

The Vestry, and in turn the congregation, will be participating in more Appreciative Inquiry sessions. Reverend Mary is a trained leader and can continue with the core values, mission and visioning, and ideally, we could have The Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle, the one who synthesized several different forms of Appreciative Inquiry into a useful church model, work with us.

In the meantime, we can begin by talking to each other and thinking about the church community in positive ways. Rather than point out what went wrong, concentrate on the things that gave joy. Rather than allow someone to annoy you, ask yourself what you like about that person. It takes time, but I believe the more positive mindset will allow us to achieve goals we never thought possible.

The Appreciative Inquiry approach is becoming quite popular within our church, and from what I am seeing, in the corporate culture also. Although nothing is perfect, if we look for the best in every situation, it will make for a happier and more fulfilling life.



LARKSFIELD PLACE
Holy Eucharist Service
Clergy lead
May 24th & June 28th

Holy Communion
by Lay Eucharistic Visitor Team
May 10th & June 14th

Both in the Meditation Chapel 2:00 pm



DILLONS COMMUNITY **REWARDS PROGRAM**

We have 28 families/individuals who have enrolled their Dillon's Plus Shopper's Card in the Dillon's Community Rewards Program. We just received our first check of \$301 from this program!!!!

If you haven't registered, you can do so on line at dillons.com. We are listed as "ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH" or our assigned number 88504. For assistance, please call the Parish Office.

YOUTH PAGE



90+ Hygiene Kits put together by the Youth Group at St. Stephen's for Price –Harris School.

Mega Camp
May 31st - June 6th
YMCA Camp Wood
3rd grade - HS Seniors
Register at
EDOKYOUTH.Wordpress.com
NOW!!!!

Thank You For Your Support
Of Our Youth's Mission Trip


Vacation Bible School
Is Coming!!!!
Plan on it!
July 20th - 24th
10 am—1 pm
Lunch Included
Servant Leadership Week
6th - 12th Graders
July 13th - 17th, 9^{am}— Noon
Monday - Friday


May 10, 11:30 am
(after the 10:30 Service)
Come and Celebrate the Women in your Life!
Lovely Brunch Buffet
Fruit Kabobs
Cinnamon Rolls / Muffins
Quiche & Egg Casserole
Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes
Sausages
And More!
Free Will Offering
Proceeds to Support
Youth Mission Trip
to Honduras Next June
Sign Up Please! 



Episcopal Summer Mega Camp

Three Camps : One Week - Faith ~ Friends ~ Fun

Episcopalians have been attending Summer Camp the first week in June at Camp Wood YMCA for over 70 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 all three 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: Sunday, May 31st, 2 pm to Saturday, June 6th, 11 am, 2015

Where: Camp Wood YMCA, Elmdale, KS

Who: Students in grades 3-12 for 2014-15 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.

Cost: \$420 (\$450 after May 8) *There are a limited number of \$140 scholarships available. Apply early and indicate your request for a scholarship on the application. You may also ask our parish for a scholarship.*

Priority Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2015 (fee increases by \$30 after this date). *There are absolutely no refunds after Friday, May 15th. Regardless of your payment status, you will still owe the full price for camp unless you notify us that you are canceling your registration by May 15th.*

Registration forms: Registration online at [The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas/Youth web site](#).

*Please note, registrations and payments received after May 8 will be expected to pay a \$30 late fee.

SUNDAY, May 17th

During the 10:30 am service,
we will be recognizing the Children's
Sunday School Teachers, Parent(s), those
devoted to helping and for the wonderful
things they do for- **THE CHILDREN!**

Recognition

Sunday, May 31st

During the 10:30 am
service, we will be recognizing our
GRADUATES! If you have a graduate
from Junior High, High School or
College. Tristan Holmberg will
preach on the Young Adult Service
Corp.



There is an individual in need of the following items. If you can assist with any of them, please

call the Parish Office or see Rev. Mary.

- * Dresser
- * Desk
- * File cabinet
- * Paper shredder
- * Bookcase
- * Entertainment cabinet/shelves
- * Food processor/juicer
- * Dog treats, toys water container
- * Blood Pressure Meter
- * Cold Packs
- * TENS unit
- * Thermometer
- * Bath scales
- * Sunglasses
- * Pedicure nail kit
- * Gift card for haircut

Welcome to Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth Ministry

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Kansas is home to about 12,000 people in 45 congregations in cities and towns across eastern Kansas. Our congregations make up our diocese, and our diocese is part of the wider Episcopal Church, which in turn is part of a larger, global community of Christians in the Anglican Communion. In the Episcopal Church there is room for your questions about God, faith and the church. There's a place for you here.

The mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth Ministry program is to gather, equip, and send young disciples of Jesus Christ to witness to God's reconciling love.

The youth program serves all youth in grades 6-12 within our diocese through a variety of events during the year, bringing together a community of young people who worship, play, and learn together. Read more about us [here](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- [Recharge](#), May 1-2, Priority Deadline: Monday, April 20, 2015
- [Episcopal Summer Mega Camp](#), May 31-June 6, Priority Deadline: Friday, May 8, 2015
- [General Convention of the Episcopal Church](#) youth and college trip, June 22-29, 2015

Celebrations May Birthdays

5/2 Jerrod Bishop
 5/4 Sally Alefs
 5/7 Karen Norton
 5/8 Susie Stallings
 5/11 Emily Bishop
 5/13 Janice Adams
 Joe Rothwell
 5/14 Jean Moddrell
 5/15 Rhea White
 5/16 Derek Kruger
 Karen Phillips
 Olivia Williams
 5/24 Criss Schulz
 5/25 Susie McFall
 5/28 Aidan Hartman
 5/29 Spencer Alefs
 5/31 Jan Newman

Celebrations May Anniversaries

5/6 Joe and Jean Moddrell
 5/12 Michael and Linda Henry
 5/21 Richard and Peg Bowman
 5/24 Thomas and Katherine Sanneman
 5/31 Dan and Susan Taylor

June Birthdays

6/4 Sam Taylor
 6/5 Mary Lynn Priest
 6/6 Hank Hoesli
 6/7 Audrey Kramer
 Bob Shurden
 6/8 Rev. Mary Korte
 6/10 Jason Kice
 6/12 Laura Hill
 6/13 D'Ambra Kruger
 Victoria Whitetree
 6/14 Owen White
 6/16 Anne Elsworth

6/17 Patti Mann
 6/19 Al Higdon
 6/22 Nathan Williams
 6/23 Thomas Sanneman
 6/25 Bill Rogers
 Casey Rothwell

June Anniversaries

6/1 Innes and Karen Phillips
 Joe and Devon Rothwell
 6/2 Rick and Susan Gaskill
 6/5 Tim and Mary Korte
 6/6 Jerrod and Kathy Bishop
 6/8 A.J. and Audrey Bradley
 6/17 Dwight and Patricia Oxley
 6/20 Bill and Carolyn Whitaker
 6/26 Don and Karen Norton

May and June Celebrations

**St. Stephen's
Neighborhood
Ice Cream Social
SUNDAY
JUNE 7th
6:30—8:30 pm**

**Delicious *HOMEMADE*
ice cream,
scrumptious treats,
hot dogs
and hamburgers.
Fun for ALL AGES.**

If you would like to help, **sign up** on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. **Some ways to help...** donate a themed basket for the raffle, prepare homemade ice cream, cookies, brownies or some other tasty dessert, help set up or clean up on the day of the event.

***MOST OF ALL invite your
neighbors, friends &
family!***

Questions, please contact
Susan Gaskill (688-1045)
or call the Parish Office.



BASKETS - We are soliciting baskets to raffle or sell at the silent auction.

SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE PARISH HALL BULLETIN BOARD!

We need baskets that adults would like, such as a coffee basket; a chocolate basket; or a Music Theater basket. Other popular ones have been root beer theme, barbecue theme, wine theme . . .there are so many possibilities. We also need children's themed baskets. Some ideas include movies, outdoor fun, local attractions and crafts. We need them for children and youth of all ages. If you are willing to put together a basket and have it at church by June 6th (or before), please contact Karen Norton (683-1104) or the Parish Office.

Raffle tickets will be available for a \$5.00 donation with separate drawings for adults and children.

Summer Music Notes

Summer will be upon us soon and the opportunity for summer music from the entire congregation is here again. If you have any kind of musical ability, piano, flute, cello, singing, water glasses, we would love to have you share your gift with us for the offertory anthem during the summer. All ages are welcome to participate and any joyful noise is appreciated. Please email me at ashleywinters79@gmail.com or catch me after a service to pick a date that works for you.

Our Favorite Hymns. A box will appear in the parish hall on Pentecost for the congregation to submit requests for singing "Our Favorite Hymns" during the summer. Requests will be included in services throughout the summer months. Please fill out the form and drop it in the box. If you have a short story to share with why the hymn is meaningful to you please include it. I hope this will be an opportunity for music to minister to all through the community sharing music's special personal touch in our lives of worship.

Ashley Winters, Director of Music

YOU. LEAD. NOW. is a three-day leadership development experience during which you will learn new skills and gain new knowledge and insight based on the Kansas Leadership Center principles:

- Leadership is an activity, not a position.
- Anyone can lead, anytime, anywhere.
- It starts with you and must engage others.
- Your purpose must be clear.
- It's risky.

You. Lead. Now. is offered once each month in 2015 (February through November) at the Kansas Leadership Center & Kansas Health Foundation Conference Center in downtown Wichita. Participation in *You. Lead. Now.* also brings four weeks of post-program coaching to help you better understand and apply the training and new skills.

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF KANSAS SOUTHWEST CONVOCATION

- **PROMO CODE:** Our grant code is **SWEPISCOPAL2015**. This covers the fees for all convocation stakeholders who want to register for a program. This will automatically provide the scholarship and cover lodging.
- **LODGING:** Please promote all of your stakeholders to come and stay at the hotel; it helps solidify an immersion style experience



YOU. LEAD. NOW. WILL PROVIDE:

- Knowledge to create change within an organization.
- Skills to intervene more effectively to help a team or small group make progress.
- Insight into your unique, personal opportunity to make a difference, to lead. Now.

2015 PROGRAM DATES:

Feb. 16-18
March 16-18
April 13-15
May 18-20
June 15-17
July 13-15
Aug. 17-19
Sept. 14-16
Oct. 12-14
Nov. 16-18

REGISTER BY:

Jan. 23
Feb. 20
March 20
April 24
May 22
June 19
July 24
Aug. 21
Sept. 18
Oct. 23

TIMES:

Day 1 – 10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Day 2 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Reception following)
Day 3 – 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

COST:

\$300 including meals and most materials.
You will be asked to complete pre-work prior to arrival.

REGISTER:

www.kansasleadershipcenter.org/youleadnow



Summer 2015 Weekend Classes: Children's and Youth Ministries

MINI 340:

Christian Education Leadership Survey

June 13-14, 2015

In this class, you will learn about some of the "big picture" issues in leading Christian education programs for children and youth, including:

- Engaging clergy and vestry support
- Developing mission, vision, goals and objectives
- Budgeting
- Safety guidelines
- Gift discernment
- Recruiting, training, supporting and appreciating volunteers
- Exploring cultural issues
- Self-soul care

Required readings:

- *The Episcopal Christian Educator's Handbook* by Sharon Ely Pearson: Christian Ed Stuff (1-58), Paperwork and Checklists (89-110), and Your Sanity (139-159)
- *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry* by Doug Fields **OR** *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark DeVries

MINI 350:

Christian Education Teaching Survey

July 18-19, 2015

In this class, you will learn about teaching logistics and best practices for working with children & youth, including:

- Human growth and development
- Welcoming and hospitality
- Effective teaching and behavior management
- Curriculum evaluation and selection
- Designing, adapting and implementing lessons
- Relational ministry with children and youth

Required readings:

- *The Episcopal Christian Educator's Handbook: Teaching Tips* (59-88), *Episcopal Stuff* (119, 126, 135-138), *Bible Stuff* (164-168)
- *Creating Classrooms Where Teachers Love to Teach and Students Love to Learn* by Bob Sorenson

Who Should Attend?

These classes are designed for anyone currently serving in Christian education ministries for children and youth, or for anyone seeking to build/rebuild such ministries in their church. These classes will help you deepen your knowledge, share your experiences, and make connections with other children and youth leaders in the region. Although these classes are offered by the Episcopal Church, we welcome and encourage participants from other church traditions. You will receive a certificate of participation upon completion of each class.

What Should I Expect?

Before class meets, you will be expected to read the assigned materials, which will give you the necessary foundation to actively participate in the class. If you have not completed the online *Safeguarding Our Children* training, you will be asked to do that as well. Following the class, you will be asked to complete and submit a project one month later (July 15, August 19).

What is the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry?

The Bishop Kemper School for Ministry is a collaborative venture of the Episcopal Dioceses of Kansas, West Missouri, Nebraska and Western Kansas. It offers classes and programs to educate people for church leadership in both lay and ordained vocations.

General Information:

- Location:** Classes take place at the Upton Hall Conference Center, just south of Grace Cathedral in downtown Topeka, Kansas.
- Schedule:** Class begins at 8:30 on Saturday morning and will wrap up by 12:00 noon on Sunday. Participants will attend Holy Eucharist together at the Cathedral at 8:30 on Sunday morning.
- Cost:** Each class costs \$125 per person, per weekend. This fee includes all handouts, meals and overnight accommodations at Upton. It does not cover books.
- Instructors:** Both classes are taught by *Karen Schlabach*, Diocese of Kansas Youth Missioner, who holds an M.S. in Student Counseling and Personnel Services, and *Sue Crew*, Director of Christian Formation at St. Michael and All Angels, Mission, KS, who holds an M.S. in Adult and Continuing Education.
- Register:** For complete information and to register, visit www.bishopkemperschool.org.
- Questions:** Contact the Very Rev. Dr. Don Compier, BKSM dean, at (816) 217-4053 or bksmdean2@gmail.com.



See Rev. Mary or the Parish Hall bulletin board for the information. Our own John Olsen will be going this year with Diane Kruger.

We will begin fund raising opportunities soon.

HELLO, FRIENDS!

Just want to say how much I appreciate all of you, not just today, but for all the years of love and support and compassion. All of you made such a HUGE impact and are a treasure. A hope chest of truth and goodness. I am overwhelmed just writing to you, because I wonder what would have happened to the kids and me without you wonderful Christians. Honest Christians who loved me beyond belief!! Way, way beyond what you had to do.

Dr. Mary sent an Easter card to us and I was filled with tears and love for all of you. Almost weekly, I drink out of the Jesus mugs, I am quickly filled up with gratefulness every time I see those 2 mugs in our cupboard. I needed to stop and just tell you all this. I feel far from Wichita. I do pray you know how grateful I am.

And yes, I am working on thank you's from the wedding, (teeheehee) every weekend goes by and Ken and I try to have 5 done. ---I have NOT forgotten the sweet souls who have given to me, my family, my new marriage and my new start in life! I appreciate your generous love, and I miss you all....precious Sunday night-family, to choir family and to all my church family. ---You are all vivid in my mind and heart. I truly am so very happy to know you.

I feel prayers being answered. And I also appreciate you all listening to me when I needed an ear. Also, for coming to the wedding in December and for just being people who love the Lord to whom I have admired for many, many years. I truly want you to know, I have not forgotten God's goodness by sending ALL OF YOU into my life. It's like my eyes are open to understanding real love and the joy of precious, relationship love. I always admired so many couples' marriages at St. Stephen's, but NEVER thought God would give me something so wonderful. I am madly in love with Ken. Can I say that? I am. It's so fun and beautiful. We are both giddy with God's kindness and sharing our whole lives together.

Ken and I are singing together in the Brahms's Requiem this Sunday at Bethel College at 3pm. We are sharing in the joy of music together!! Ben and Ashley know all about this, but I now have that experience and it's really pretty cool.

Honestly, it's wonderful to be in a place of peace and of rest from the weary trials and the tough past... God is extremely good and I have never felt such warmth, fun and love as I am experiencing in being married to Ken. Living in the sweet utopia of Hesston in a fabulous house and with a fabulous school system --is amazing. I feel God's miracle surrounding me, actually WE ALL FEEL GOD'S MIRACLE and I had to let you know, I wanted to share an update. I wanted to say thanks. I didn't want you to think I forgot all you have done for one second.

Spiritually, I walk in joy every day. So do Ben and Lizzy. They have said many times, "God sent Ken to us!" And love the home and their new friends and school. Biking to school is pretty cool.

As far as church goes, I am helping with the worship at First Mennonite Church of Newton and the kids have enjoyed sitting with their grandparents, Helen and Don Bachman, who are in their eighties and are priceless. We all sit together. They have quickly embraced the kids as their own and visa-versa. My mind thinks of Suzie & Jack and their four grandsons in the pew, and I realize I have that for my children now!! WOW!! How awesome is the Lord Jesus? I never would have imagined this happening in our lives. So much goodness, it's only a miracle.

I must say the "Menno" service seems a little fast! Lizzy will ask, sometimes, "Is that it??" And I say, "Yes, that's it!" I will try to visit you all this summer FOR SURE!! Or have you out here for a visit. We have had so many activities at school, sports, music, etc. That it's been hard to get to Wichita. I am loving being with my Sweetie and sitting on our back porch on Sunday nights drinking wine and relaxing --but I do notice the time, and think of Sunday Night Lights and say a sweet blessing.

So, please know, you are in my heart and I ask God to bless you ten-fold for all you have done and will continue to do to other people all over Wichita and beyond. You are precious to the Lord and he is using St. Stephen's Church all the time.

I have seen the hand of the Lord in my life. My sales are amazing and my heart is full. Ben and Lizzy love life here. I pray my joy gives others hope. To ask God for every need, every heart's desire and to never feel alone and to call out to God when hurting. He hears. I am proof of that.

So, THANK YOU!!! And if driving North please drop by, we'd love to see you.

Sincerely grateful, Rachel Bachman and family

We are proud to announce that

Diane Renee Kruger

will be presented for ordination as a deacon on ***Saturday, June 13th*** at 10:30 am at Grace Cathedral, Topeka. Deacons are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.



Look for a sign up on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to go to Topeka and celebrate with Diane, perhaps we will rent a bus or van to travel to Topeka for this special event!

Happy
FATHER'S
Day

Join us on Father's Day
Sunday, June 21st

Donuts
For Dads

and



"Short Tee Time with Dad"

After the
10:30 am service

St. Stephen's please take note.

A parish administrator gives security tips for metropolitan churches.

Two years ago, a man claiming he wanted to save people from idol worship began smashing statues in a historic cathedral in San Antonio. Stunned, worshippers at San Fernando Cathedral stood frozen as the man toppled seven statues from their pedestals, breaking them into pieces. He later told police that he was God and was saving souls by destroying the idols that sinners worship.

While such extreme acts of vandalism are rare, parish administrator Bob Esparza says he deals with milder acts of vandalism at the downtown cathedral at least once a month, such as homeless people fishing for dollars in donation boxes or using confessionals as urinals. Such incidents have forced Esparza and church leaders across the country to wrestle with the same question: How can we protect ourselves while staying open to the public?

You need a plan

Security professionals say that the first step is to acknowledge that all churches need a security plan.

“People like to think that churches are havens of safety and security; but they’re not, and they should be,” says Steve Wilder, president and COO of Sorensen, Wilder & Associates, a security firm based in Bradley, IL. “Sometimes we need to deal with the criminal element in churches, just as we do in society.”

Vandalism, thefts, burglaries — even murders — occur regularly in America’s churches. More than 5,000 church burglaries and thefts are reported each year in the 24 states that submit data to the FBI’s National Incident-Based Reporting System. Experts believe vandalism is more common but less reported.

You need not spend thousands of dollars to develop a security plan. In fact, law enforcement officers within the church or community may be willing to help develop one at little or no cost.

Most cities and counties have crime prevention officers who do security assessments. If the police can’t help, look at what big businesses in your vicinity are doing, recommends Charles R. Carroll, president and CEO of ASET Corporation, a security company based in Dayton, OH. If any church members work for a large company, they can ask the security professional there to advise the church for little or no cost, Carroll says. Some security consultants will also reduce fees or give free advice to churches that can demonstrate financial hardship.

Assess your risks

If you’re not sure that your church really needs a security plan, do a risk assessment or hire someone to do one for you. You should:

- Determine the type and frequency of crimes occurring in your area. Is your neighborhood’s crime rate higher or lower than the state and national average? What types of crimes are being committed in your neighborhood?

- Examine your facility, both outside and in. Do you have adequate lighting on your walkways and parking areas? Are valuables always secured?
- Examine your policies and procedures. Are any of them leaving you vulnerable, such as leaving a door open at all hours for people wishing to pray?

The results of a crime analysis alone can be eye opening. “When clients see their numerical score (based on their local crime rate), they realize they’re not doing anything wrong if they improve their security,” Wilder says. “They realize they’re in an area where the crime rate is higher than the average, and they need to take preventive steps.”

Reduce your risks

Knowing your church’s risks and vulnerabilities gives you the wisdom to address them effectively. Here are some common security measures professionals recommend, from improving your facility to training your staff and congregation.

Control access: Ideally, all churches would restrict public access to their buildings when services aren’t in session. “I believe the days of leaving your church doors open and unattended are over,” Carroll says. “Not only has there been a decrease in respect for human life, but there has been a decrease in respect for authority.”

There are ways to provide building access while offering protection to people and property inside. Options for controlling access include:

- Locks and keys
- Keypad entry systems
- Magnetic proximity card readers
- Video cameras at entrances
- Magnetic locks controlled by secretary/receptionist

Some leaders firmly believe that church doors shouldn’t be locked. Some churches, such as the San Fernando Cathedral, are historic sites or tourist destinations. There are steps leaders can take to improve security while keeping their buildings open to the public. Options include:

- Establish operating hours.
- Allow people to ring for escorted admittance when doors are locked.
- Have a security person present while doors are unlocked.
- Monitor the area remotely with video cameras.

All valuables or artifacts should be secured, and visitors should be unable to access other parts of the building, such as offices, classrooms or day-care areas.

During Sunday or midweek worship services, interior church doors should be secured unless a specific function is going on in that room or wing, recommends Chuck Chadwick, founder and director of Gatekeepers Alliance. Sensitive areas of the church should have an access control

system that allows only authorized people to enter, he says.

Improve lighting: Provide at least 3- to 5-foot candles of illumination for walkways and parking lots (use a light meter to check). Mount lights at least 10 feet above the ground to minimize shadows.

Install fencing: Erect an ornamental fence at least 6 feet tall to help keep graffiti artists and vandals at bay.

Remove hiding places: Trim plants near entrances, windows or sidewalks to a height of 2 to 3 feet or keep them just below window level.

Install alarms: Choose a security alarm system certified by Underwriters Laboratories and have it professionally installed. Ideally, the alarm should alert a call center operated by a security company (not an answering service).

Use video surveillance: Monitor the building with video cameras during worship gatherings so you can watch for suspicious behavior. Cameras are smaller and more affordable than they were a decade ago, and digital technology provides amazing flexibility for viewing, storing and retrieving images. Cameras can be concealed within fixtures, such as exit lights or smoke detectors, so they don't detract from a church's appearance. The area's crime rate and church's experience will help determine whether to monitor the cameras during off-peak hours.

Use security officers: Hire police or security guards to patrol the building and parking lot, or use a volunteer force of off-duty officers and trained, unarmed lay people.

Train your people: Train staff members and a volunteer security force how to recognize signs of trouble and respond appropriately. A trained security team improves the overall security and demonstrates to insurance companies that you're trying to control property and liability exposures.

You have options

Could the idol-smashing incident at San Fernando Cathedral have been prevented? Possibly. A church deacon was quoted in a newspaper saying the man was agitated and started yelling that he was going to save the people in the church and was going to start by smashing the statues. Security officers are trained to keep an eye on people who appear nervous or agitated — indicators of potential trouble.

Esparza isn't convinced that a security guard would have averted the man's rampage, but he believes a guard may have subdued him by the second or third statue.

Churches, by nature, are places of refuge. You wouldn't want to lock the gates and wrap the buildings in barbed wire, but you do need to protect your property and the people your ministry serves. There are many options to consider. Investigate them. Educate yourself. Inform your congregation. Find what works for you, and share your experience with others.

A security plan should include:

- An objective: What are you trying to achieve? In what time frame?
- A risk assessment: What is the neighborhood’s crime rate? How is the church vulnerable?
- A security assessment: How can the problems be solved? What problems take first priority?
- Training: Is staff trained in security awareness? What role should staff members and volunteers play in an emergency situation?
- Implementation: What steps will we take to improve security in the next one to five years?

REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED



Memorial Day isn’t a feast day in the church (although some might understand feast in a different way with all the BBQ’s and cookouts). A few of our hymns are usually patriotic in nature—*“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”* and *“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”* (the Navy hymn). And our prayers of the people include a special mention of veterans. It is time to thank them for their service and to pray for their families and friends left behind.

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL

“Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servants, and we pray that, having opened to them the gates of larger life, you will receive them more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, they may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.” (The Book of Common Prayer, page 253)



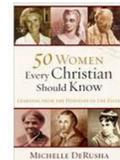
If you haven’t visited our web site, take a tour, www.ststephensec.org! It is a work in progress and a lot of new information has been added! A HUGE thank you to *John Rothwell* for the many hours of work in enhancing the site!

“Like” on Facebook at “St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church”



To the members of the **Finance**

Committee and the **Buildings and Grounds Committee**. The generous donation of their time and effort is greatly appreciated and important to the ministry of St. Stephen’s!



Do you like to read? Join the “BOOK CLUB” which meets every Thursday at noon in the Fireside room.

Currently reading *“50 Women Every Christian Should Know”* by Michelle DeRusha, an invitation to a journey—that moves from kitchen to slums, to plantations, to modern day and always straight to the heart of God. The author invites us into the lives of fifty women whose stories are our stories.



Mad Max invites you to join the fun for Vacation Bible School, mark your calendars for July 20th through July 24th!

St. Stephen's Calendar May and June 2015

Sun-May 3	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	9:30 AM	Adult Forum
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
		Pastoral Care Meeting
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights with Potluck Dinner
Mon-May 4	6:00 PM	EFM
Tues-May 5	6:00 PM	Campus Ministry <i>(End of Semester)</i>
Wed-May 6	6-7:30PM	Adult Inquiry Class Fireside Room
	6:30-8:00 PM	Youth Group -Youth Room
	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-May 7	Noon	Book Club
Sun-May 10	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
		MOTHER'S DAY PASTRIES
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	9:30 AM	NO Adult Forum
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
		MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH
	2:00 PM	Larksfield Place Service
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights
Mon-May 11	6:00 PM	EFM
Wed-May 13	1:00 PM	Eastside Cancer Group
	5:30 PM	Finance Committee Mtg.
	6-7:30PM	Adult Inquiry Class Fireside Room
	6:30-8:00 PM	YEAR END PARTY Youth Group -Youth Room
	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
	7:00 PM	Buildings and Grounds Committee Mtgs.
Thurs- May 14	Noon	Book Club
Sun-May 17	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	9:30 AM	Adult Forum
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
		DOK Meeting after service
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights
Wed-May 20	6-8 PM	Vestry Meeting
	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-May 19	Noon	Book Club

Sun-May 24	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	The Day of Pentecost	9:00 AM Choir Practice
		10:15 AM Children's Sunday School
		10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II and Holy Baptism
		2:00 PM Larksfield Place Service
		5:30 PM Sunday Night Lights
Wed-May 27	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-May 28	Noon	Book Club
Sun-May 31	9:00 AM	Choir Practice
	10:30 AM	Intergenerational Service
Wed-June 3	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-June 4	Noon	Book Club
Sat.-June 6	9:30-10:30 AM	Altar Guild Meeting
Sun-June 7	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights
	6:30-8:30 PM	ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Wed-June 10	5:30 PM	Finance Committee Mtg.
	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
	6:30 PM	Education Committee Mtg
Thurs-June 11	Noon	Book Club
Sun-June 14	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	2:00 PM	Larksfield Place Service
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights
Wed-June 17	6-8:00 PM	Vestry Meeting
	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-June 18	Noon	Book Club
Sun-June 21		FATHER'S DAY
	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights
		"Donuts for Dads" during coffee hour with "Short Tee-Time for Dad" following
Wed-June 24	6:30 PM	Prayer Group
Thurs-June 25	Noon	Book Club
Sat-June 27	11:00 AM	Worship Committee
Sun-June 28	8:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite I
	10:15 AM	Children's Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Holy Eucharist Rite II
	2:00 PM	Larksfield Place Service
	5:30 PM	Sunday Night Lights



**Mother's Day Brunch, make
your reservations now!
Sunday, May 10th**

**The Day of Pentecost
with Baptism
Celebrate by wearing RED!
Sunday, May 24th**

**I scream, you scream, we all scream for
ICE CREAM**

**St. Stephen's Annual Ice Cream Social!
Sunday, June 7th**

**Donuts for Dad and Short Tee Time,
Celebrate Fathers!
Sunday, June 21st**

**SAINT
STEPHEN'S**



WICHITA

**St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church**

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Monday - Friday
9 am—1 pm

ssec@sbcglobal.net—www.ststephensec.org

The Rev. Dr. Mary Korte, Priest in Charge
Vera Aikman, Parish Administrator
Debra Butler, Bookkeeper
Teresa Rogers, Youth Ministries
Liz Steele, Children's Sunday School
Aubrey Watson, Organist
Ashley Winter, Choir and Music Director