

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Dr. G. David Lovett

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Patricia Reuss,

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The Evangel

October 2017

This starts our annual stewardship pledge drive. The financial pledges collected through this process provide the operating funds needed to finance activities of St. Stephen's Church during the next year. These include staff salaries, maintenance, ministry programs, diocesan support, outreach and other needs.

Our operating budget is based on the pledges received during the stewardship drive. It is extremely difficult to prepare a responsible operating budget without an estimate of income. Simply put, we can't budget what we can't anticipate.

While most every year our needs stretch beyond our resources, this coming year we will be saddled with additional financial challenges beyond the usual. Our interim rector, Fr. Larry Minter, will be joining us this fall, with the major goal of preparing our congregation for the coming of our next rector. As a part of that process, we will hire a "search consultant," appointed by the Bishop, to assist with the search for a new rector.

In addition to the foregoing expenses, we intend to retain our associate rector, Fr. David Lovett and hope to be able to hire a youth leader to strengthen our programs for the young people of St. Stephen's.

The schedule for the pledge drive is:

- ✦ Pledge cards mailed to the parish September 25.
- ✦ Official kick-off of pledge drive October 1.
- ✦ Pledge cards due back October 22.
- ✦ Blessing of pledge cards and "Thanks for Giving" potluck October 29, following the 11:15 a.m. service.

Our goal for the stewardship drive is to have 100% participation.

No gift is too small. Some may be able to give a lot, all can give a bit.

Please give this your prayerful and serious consideration.

*Your Stewardship Committee and
Vestry Representative, Brian Bovee*

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for GOD loves a cheerful giver."
2 C O R I N T H I A N S 9 : 7

PARISH EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Annual Report Due

If you chaired a committee, please meet with the new chair and combine your reports for this year. Reports run from October 2016 to October 2017. If you have not turned in your Annual Report, please do so immediately. Thanks...

Annual Parish Meeting October 22, 2017.

Only one service that day at 10 am. The 2018 Vestry will be elected at that time. Four seats are available. At this time there are four confirmed, strong candidates. If you are interested in serving this Parish through the Vestry, please call or email Dan DiGregorio (414-6853; donato60@gmail.com). If there is someone you would like to nominate, please be sure they are willing to serve. Nominations **will close on midnight, October 7**, two weeks before the meeting.



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct. 8, 3:00 p.m.

Join us in the Grove with your pet.

October Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Jamey Kennedy, Briley Miller, Haydin Miller
- 2 Jim Ball, Melissa Madgett
- 3 Virginia Hall
- 4 Ed Stickle, Amy Pennoyer
- 6 Charlie Higdon, Jenny Meredith
- 7 Jerry Hanna
- 8 Katie Kendall
- 10 Mike Boyd, Lela Nichols, Cyril Meredith, Jr.
- 12 Rachel Kirk
- 13 Jamie LaRose
- 15 Matt Bailey
- 16 Thelma McGrory
- 17 Harper Neal
- 19 Eph Klots
- 20 Cindi Jones
- 22 Blair Thurston
- 24 Frances Hodges, Karen Yearwood, Elisha McCoy
- 25 Brian Bovee, Jay Webber, III
- 26 Doreen Graf
- 28 Lew Felton

Birthdays

- 29 Rosalyn Gift, Patricia Hartman
- 30 Mary Fell, Mary Lockhart, Brennon Rosario



Anniversaries

- 7 Brent Sigmon & Nancy Carow
- 15 Bill & Mary Petersen
- 17 James & Beth Reed, Jim & Nancy Anderson
- 18 Marty & Denise Thibodeaux
- 19 Cleon & Heather Hartman
- 21 Charlie & Nancy Higdon
- 23 Ross and Carole Mol
- 26 Todd & Judy Hardt



Bishop's Purse

Our Bishop George will retire by the end of the year. This will conclude six years as our bishop. The diocese is receiving farewell and thanks gifts for Bishop George, to be presented to him at his farewell gathering at Grace Point on **October 28, 2017**. We are asking that anyone who wishes to contribute to this gift designate it "Bishop George" and turn into the treasurer by **Sunday, October 22**. This will give us time to get a check from our Parish to the diocese.

Outreach Food Baskets For Thanksgiving and Christmas

Food collection for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets has started. You may leave the food in the cart by the side door, the cart in the narthex, or on the stage. Monetary donations will also be accepted (please designate "Food Baskets").



Food items are: cornmeal mix, stuffing mix, flour, sugar, pie crust, rice, beans, low fat milk, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, boxed cereal, peanut butter, jam/jelly, apple sauce, apple juice, granola bars, crackers, graham crackers, cake mix, cake icing, mayonnaise, oatmeal, instant pudding, raisins

Canned items are: fruit, green beans, corn, peas, mixed vegetables, tomatoes/ tomato sauce, pumpkin, cranberry sauce, tuna, chicken, beef/chicken broth, soup/ stew

Non-food items are: toothpaste, bath soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, garbage bags, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant

Help us fill the baskets for our families in need.



News From The Associate Rector, Rev. G. David Lovett...

Adult Forum

This fall Forum line-up is so exciting I can hardly slow down to write this article. We began our study with “Faithful Dissent: Loving Our Way into a Brighter Tomorrow,” using The Rev. Ed Bacon, and Dr. Stanley Hauerwas as our moderators. That led us into answering the question: (since we have been so divided in our country) Should we pray for our president? The best is yet to come! We will cover issues of Refugees and Immigration, Race Relations, LGBT in the military, Healthcare, and much more. For our immigration study we will have Michael Beehan, immigration attorney and his wife, Lissie, immigration advocate with us to help lead our discussion. Then a very exciting part of our fall is that we have been invited to be a host for the newly – released Netflix documentary, *Chasing Coral*, (see the trailer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6fHA9R2cKI> here). If you are interested in being on the planning team please let us know immediately. For the entire fall, your attendance and participation is what will make this one of our best Forum offerings yet. To help you keep up with our weekly offerings Adam Boggs has set up a Google groups account just for St. Stephen’s so you can see what is coming each week and see what has been archived for the fall. To join, go to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ststephensadultforum> It will take a short time to be admitted to the group. You should receive a welcome notification. Please feel free to ask questions of the group or make comments.

Community Labyrinth Walk

Thanks to a very generous gift to this parish and the tireless work done by Deborah Clary and her team of helpers we now have the nicest labyrinth within at least a 25 mile radius. Did you know there is a World-Wide Labyrinth Locator? We are planning a community-wide labyrinth walk for Sunday, October 1, at 6 p.m. This will be open to the public. There will be candlelight, harp music, cider and seasonal snacks. Please help get the word to your friends in the area. It will be a great first event at the labyrinth.

Safeguarding God’s Children

Safeguarding God’s Children provides participants with the information they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and the ministries in which they serve. The program is based on the philosophy that if every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life. If we can all change one life, together we will make a difference in this generation of children. Two classes are currently scheduled at Church of the Ascension in Knoxville, October 22, from 12:30 – 3:30, and November 12, from 12:30 – 3:30. Please register for one. We are still working on holding a class here and will pass that information along as soon as we have it booked.

Advent Devotional

We have self-published Advent meditational booklets for a couple of years now. We are asking for volunteers to accept an assigned day’s reading and write a short reflection on the readings for that day. The reflection is 250 words or less. Some write prose; some poetry; some share art work as a response to their scriptures. We need twenty-four writers. If you are willing to submit a meditation, please call the church office.

First Communion & Confirmation

On our rolls we have 75 children and youth who fall into the category of “Unconfirmed Youth.” These include the youngest of only a few months to youth who are nearing adulthood. Some of our children, though baptized, are waiting for a first communion class before they take communion with the rest of our communicants. We have heard the need for this class and are making plans for later this fall. If you want your child(ren) to be a part of this class please contact the office so we will be sure not to overlook you. For those children and youth who are of the age to be thinking about confirmation, we will be conducting a comprehensive confirmation experience beginning after the first of the year. Children who are eleven or twelve are often beginning to think seriously about their faith and may be ready for such a class. There are 26 children and youth in this age group. If your child would like to be considered for confirmation when our new bishop comes in June 2018, please contact the office so we can begin that planning and get adult sponsors to walk with them on this journey.

Opportunities at St. Stephen's

There is a place for you...

Committees

Christian Education - Courtney Manrod

*Sunday School, Episcopal Youth Fellowship,
Parents Night Out, Adult Classes*

Evangelism - Judith Delaney, Barbara Neill

Bread Upon the Waters

Liturgics - David Lovett

Eucharistic Visitors—John Wilson

Altar Flowers—Lill Hise

Altar Guild—Bonnie Nestor

Altar Flowers/Aumbry Candle Sign-up—Roni Boyd

Acolytes—Diane Sams, Bill & Mary Petersen

Ushers—John Cox

Chalice Bearers—Barbara Steele

Choirs—Simon Hogg

Outreach - Cameron Ellis

Dorothy's Box—Eph Klots, Susan Wells

Ecumenical Storehouse—Jim Kring

Holiday Food/Gift Baskets—Mary Jeanne French

Building and Grounds—Chris Tavino, Courtney Manrod

Communication - Jim Ball

Webpage—Jim Ball

E-News—Vicki Hancock

Evangel—Vicki Hancock

Facebook—Deb Johnson, Teddy Dantzler

Finance - Dean Hartley

Counters—Roger Johnson

Gifts and Memorials - Barbara Steele

Memorial Garden - Brent Sigmon/Nancy Carow

Parish Life - Betsy Ellis

Dinners—Betsy Ellis

Kitchen Coordinator—Kathy Chippendale

Stewardship - Deborah Clary, Ray Evans, Brian Bovee

Support Ministries

Library - Mary Fell

Archivists - Mike & Roni Boyd

Crisis Ministry (food coordinator) - OPEN

Daughters of the King - Deborah Clary, Carole Akers

Hospitality Ministry - Roni Boyd

Artist-of-the-Month - Judy Kidd

Audio CD's (Sermons/Classes) - Jim Ball

Book Shop - Judy Kidd

St. Francis Garden Guild—OPEN

St. Therese's Guild (Sunday Flower Distribution) - Katherine Grubb

Walk Over Wednesday (Lunch) - John Murphy, Deborah Clary

You Are Needed

Get **IN** volved

Tai Chi

New Class for Beginners

Tai Chi for beginners will commence October 3, Tuesday at 2:15 immediately following the current novice group in the Parish Hall. The goal to learn the long Yang form has no set time table to learn all the postures. The combination of slow movements and steps improves posture, center of gravity, leg strength, gentle and deep breathing and flexibility in a package of moving meditation. Added benefits are the natural dance like martial art moves embedded in the postures. Call Roger Johnson (482-2205) for more information.



Parents Night Out (PNO)

**St. Stephen's PNO
ministry is in need
of...
CHILDREN!!!!!!**



Every third Friday night of the month we have a group of willing caregivers waiting for your children to come visit with them. Childcare is provided from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. No reservations are necessary. Call Karen Yearwood, 216-6880 with questions.

Clearfork Outreach

Our Appalachian Outreach continues this fall with Dora Marmon providing music and art appreciation classes for the children at Clairfield Elementary. Dora needs an assistant to do the driving and help with the (very well behaved) children. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office or call Dora Marmon, 291-8800 or Cameron Ellis, 414-5742.

Help is needed on Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:
October 6, 12, 27; November 3, 10, 17; December 1

Outreach is also in need of old used or new Christmas cards. Dora Marmon will use them for an art project at Clairfield School—part of our Clearfork Outreach Ministry. Please leave the cards on the counter in the mail room.



Christian Formation

Children and Youth

Nursery (Up to 3 Yrs.)	Sharon Thomas & Volunteers	Room 103
Catechesis I (3 to 5 Yrs)	Linda Twohig & Peggy DeVan	Room 102
Catechesis II (1 st - 3 rd Grades)	Jo Kelley & Sarah Hemenway	Room 108
Older Children (4 th & 5 th Grades)	Dora Marmon & Volunteer	Room 212
Middle School (6 th - 8 th Grades)	Lou & Peggy Volk	Room 204
High School (9 th - 12 th Grades)	Craig Brent & Volunteer	Room 202
Episcopal Youth Fellowship (EYF 5 th - 12 th Grades)	Craig Brent, Mary Petersen, Adam Boggs	Room 202

Adult Classes

Adult Forum	Fr. David Lovett, Instructor Rotation	Parish Hall
Adult Bible Class	Jack Campbell, Instructor Rotation	Room 209

Music

Children's Music Program

If your child/children would be interested in participating in the music program, please call Simon.

Parish Choir Rehearsals

Adult Choir Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

September - May.

Consider joining!



Thanks
be to God
for his
incredible
gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15



Adult Forum

Fall 2017

Addressing the Moral Issues That Face the Church

October 1	LGBT in the Military?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
October 8	Still Talking Race Relations in 2017?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
October 15	What Do We Do About Refugees/Immigration?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
October 22	Parish Annual Meeting	Fr. Lovett facilitates
October 29	Climate Change?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
November 5	Healthcare Crisis?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
November 12	Standing With the Indigenous?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
November 19	Advocacy for Hunger?	Fr. Lovett facilitates
November 26	Advent Fair	

Adult Bible Class Studying Book of Acts

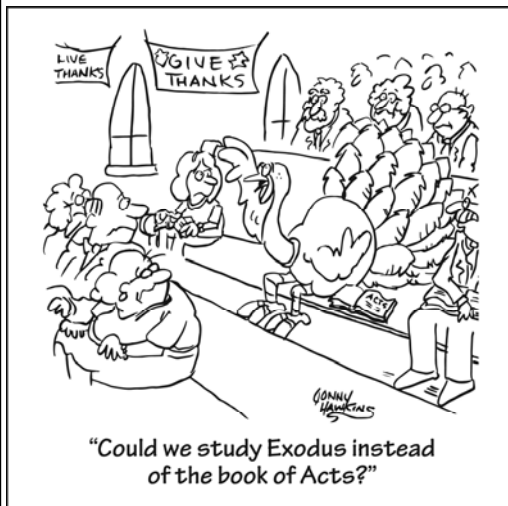


The Adult Bible Class just began its second year. It is currently studying the Book of Acts, considered to have been written by Luke. It is a very important book of the New Testament because it is the only book that covers the beginning, development, and growth of the early church.

During the 40 days between the resurrection and ascension of Christ, He spent a lot of time teaching the Scriptures to the apostles, as Luke says. He taught the apostles the deep meaning of the Scriptures, about the nature of the Kingdom, how to preach the Gospel and help those who received their message to become followers of Christ.

Paul, considered by many to be the greatest of the apostles, put great stock in the apostolic teachings and believed they could not be challenged. Jesus appeared to place great importance on understanding the Scriptures. He devoted much time teaching them to the apostles and then, and only then, gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles and to the rest of the world.

Anyone who would like to join the class may do so by contacting Jack Campbell or by coming to Room 209 at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings.





ST. STEPHEN'S CHOIRS

Immortal Invisible Parody
(To Hymn Tune: Immortal, Invisible...)

Immoral, impossible, God only knows
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
At service on Sunday are rarely the same
As those who on Wednesday to choir practice came.

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
Not counting, not blending, they tighten their throats.
A descant so piercing is soaring above
A melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but one wonders why
No one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.
It's clear by his flailing, he wants them to look
But each singer slouches with nose in the book.

Despite the offenses, the music rings out.
The folks in the pews are enraptured, no doubt.
Their faces are blissful, their thoughts appear deep.
But it is no wonder, for they are asleep.



Church Women United will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 6, in the fellowship hall at First United Methodist Church. Naomi Asher, executive director of United Way of Anderson County, will be the guest speaker. The program and brief meeting will start half an hour earlier than usual. Fellowship begins at 11 a.m. For information, contact Gay Marie Logsdon (483-7940).

EVANGEL'S EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome articles of interest to the congregation. Publication is always subject to space constraints; articles may be shortened or edited if necessary. Deadline for the following month's Evangel is the 15th of the current month. Send to: secretary@ststephensor.org.



ECUMENICAL STOREHOUSE AUGUST SUMMARY

St. Stephen's had another active month taking our turn at running the storehouse. We especially THANK the 20 volunteers from our church and several other churches for their tireless help. Our biggest project was picking up a donation from Quality Inn in Oak Ridge consisting of 160+ king and full sets of mattresses and foundations. It took two days to complete this project using our truck. We especially appreciate the help of the Men's Group at St. Stephen's for the several trips they made.

On Tuesday of our final week, two of our volunteers went to Wal-mart to purchase pillows. They picked up all 13 of the available pillows, and as they were in line to check out, a woman behind them said "you all must be going to have one heck of a pillow fight." They explained to her about Ecumenical Storehouse and how we purchased many items that our clients needed which were not generally donated in sufficient numbers, such as bed frames, fans, heaters, can openers, pillows, etc. Much to their surprise and unnoticed, she took money from her purse and handed them a \$100.00 dollar bill and said she would like to help. With tears in their eyes, they graciously accepted her donation. She told them that the week before she was buying a cart full of school supplies for her class that she needed for this fall to meet her needs for them. A man behind her handed his credit card to the cashier and told her he would like to purchase her school supplies. She told our volunteers that the amount he paid was over \$250.00 and she was just paying it forward to help the storehouse. We are blessed each week with so many generous donations of items and money, that our volunteer time donated to the storehouse is filled with joy. The storehouse has been assisting our neighbors in need for 33 years with the help and assistance of many local churches and volunteers. Visit our website EcumStore.org to learn more about our organization.

We want to thank everyone at St. Stephen's for the wonderful gift presented to us by Dan DiGregorio on behalf of the Vestry and parish family on Sept. 10. Your generosity humbled and overwhelmed us.



We greatly appreciated your kindness and thoughtfulness. We will treasure the memories of the last 13 years, and we look forward to seeing you when we are visiting Oak Ridge. You will be in our thoughts, prayer, and hearts always. May God bless you all.

Love Pat and Bob Reuss



It's THANKSGIVING

Well, almost. But it is time to remember how nice and yummy it was last year at the St. Stephen's Thanksgiving Luncheon and to make a few plans.

Remember:

- ___ Great fun !
- ___ Great fellowship !
- ___ Great stories !
- ___ Great singing !
- ___ Great "best thanks" contest !
- ___ Great fireplace !
- ___ Yummy food !

So:

- ___ Mark your calendar
- ___ Invite your guests
- ___ Sign-up (in a couple of weeks) to bring a dish.

And, if you have any questions or comments, just call Jack or Mary Nell Campbell. It won't be the same without you.

November 23, 11:00 a.m.

Improved Hearing Accessibility

Do you know if your hearing aids have a t-coil?

Coming soon at St. Stephen's!

New hearing accessories for those who have difficulty hearing/understanding what is being said/sung during services will soon be available. Some questions need to be asked and answered before implementation. If you wear hearing aids, **do they have t-coil??** Don't know - ask your audiologist. If your **hearing aids do have t-coil, please ask your audiologist to activate that setting.** Then you will be ready to use our new neck-loops. If your hearing aids do not have t-coil, we have some inconspicuous earbuds for you to use. Both work well and hopefully will enhance your worship experience. We still have a few sets of compact headphones also available.

Questions - check with the Boyds or the Delaneys.



Stewardship is  WORK

