

NOVEMBER
2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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The Evangel

FOR WHAT ARE WE THANKFUL?

What do I have to be thankful for? For sentences that do not end in prepositions! This was a familiar trick of one of my high school English teachers who would always ask his students to write an essay on Thanksgiving, asking us to use the aforementioned title. It always led to his redundant but necessary dogma that a good writer must learn the fundamentals, particularly when it comes to learning the proper structure of a sentence.

But really, what do I have to be thankful for besides improper sentences? Today's season of anxiety on so many fronts has been an involuntary lesson on teaching us a more basic set of fundamentals. What do we value? What is worth keeping? What is worth giving up in order to find health and wellness?

These fundamentals are crucial because, if we listen to all the voices in our culture that are speaking over each other these days, you would think that everything that is good and noble and of value is being taken away from us. There is no doubt that questions of freedom, personal responsibility, and the values we share together as a society and country are very much in debate and even in question. I hope you have heard me say plenty of times over the last few months that our political responsibility is to be engaged and to make our voices heard spoken in truth mixed with the compassion that can only be given through our faith in Jesus. But part of that engagement – or, more aptly, our conflict with fear and confusion and doubt – is to open our hearts and eyes to the things that are really important.

To answer a question I have been asked a surprisingly frequent number of times: yes, we will have a **Thanksgiving Day service**. This year it will be pre-recorded, but a reason for that besides COVID is that I want the sermon to be a montage of videos from a number of families who will be asked for what (thanks Dr. Bires for good preposition placement!) they are thankful. Thanksgiving will be a hard season for so many people – those who have lost loved ones from COVID, those whose income has been affected, those who will be unable to see family or friends this year. I want our Thanksgiving service to reflect the rich bounty of grace that God has given us because so many are desperately seeking it right now. To quote one of my favorite professors from seminary, Bishop Mark Dyer, we can find the Lord on all the paths we travel. But sometimes, and especially now, we need to help each other in order to more clearly see the mileposts.

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I also ask you to think about why your faith and your faith community is important to you right now. I would love to hear those reflections, particularly as we have to continue to be agile in finding ways to promote both a healthy and safe environment and ways in which we can be together as community. These reflections will greatly help me as I pray and work with your Vestry in striking this challenging balance. They can be simply a thought or two or an essay, and they will be for my eyes only. Please e-mail them to me at revnorman1011@gmail.com.

As we work ever closer toward the season of hopeful expectation that is Advent, we can hear God's message of salvation much more clearly when we seek out the things that God is doing in our lives in spite of everything else – and to be thankful for the abundance of blessings that continue to be poured upon us.

~ Fr. Bailey

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

SHARING OUR FAITH

For several years, St. Stephen's has invited its parishioners to offer reflections for each day of the Advent season. This year, we want to offer this opportunity for families to record videos based on questions from our series Sharing Our Faith that we had begun before the pandemic began. There are 26 days in Advent, so ideally we would love for 26 individuals and/or families to record a video. If you have no experience doing a video but are interested, we will be happy to record you! If you are interested in signing up, please contact Adam Ballintoy at aboggs89@me.com or 865-360-2946.



SHARING OUR FAITH

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

LISTEN TO OUR LIVESTREAM

DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

YOU CAN STILL LISTEN TO OUR LIVESTREAM ON SUNDAYS!

Beginning at our Annual Meeting in October, we introduced a new service that allows those of you without computers – or who would prefer to simply listen – to call a simple number and listen to our



service! This is a service we hope to keep, but we want to make sure that everyone is aware of it who might be interested! As our livestream is now at 9 AM on Sunday, all you have to do is call 865-498-6483 and you will be linked right in! If you call before the stream starts at 9, you may hear silence for a few minutes, but once the stream has been turned on, you will automatically be connected. If you know of someone in the parish who either does not have a computer or does not prefer to use one, please make sure they know about this opportunity to remain connected to our worship on Sunday mornings!

EYF IN NOVEMBER

November 1: Movie Night

November 8: Family Feud

November 15: Gratitude Trees

November 22: No EYF!

November 29: Hike

~ Caroline Wood, Youth Minister

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



ST. STEPHEN'S AGAINST EXTREME POVERTY



Many of you know that St. Stephen's has been involved, along with other parishes in our diocese, in ministry to the people of Haiti. Starting twenty-five years ago, members from several parishes have been going to Haiti to work on providing education, clean water, children's nutrition, and medical care. Mary Ellen and Eph Klots were the first from our parish, but over the years St. Stephen's has sent almost 50 caring individuals, of all ages, some multiple times. When

you participate in the Sunday "Grove" services or zoom meetings, we missionaries are among you.

We have been working in an area of the south-east peninsula between the towns of Léogâne and Jacmel, but focusing on remote community in the mountains called Petit Harpon.

First, a K-11 school was built and continues to provide regionally superior education at Petit Harpon. Church of the Good Shepherd in Chattanooga has been the leader in building and maintaining the school including providing 2 meals each day to the students. St. Stephen's also has supported the school faithfully as well as the Children's Nutrition Program (Kore Timon), mobile medical missions, and even an amazingly successful clean water project through Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary. Our main effort and calling, continues to be with providing health care **to a community of subsistent farmers who otherwise must walk several miles to get on a bus and ride another hour for health care that must be paid for at the time of service.**



In May 2015, after years of preparations, the St. John Medical Clinic opened, using intended spaces in the rebuilt St. John the Evangelist church building. The clinic is operationally modest open one day per week, with one doctor and one nurse. It is what we at St. Stephen's could manage as we are the only supporter thus far. Medications and medical supplies are

provided as needed. The doctor and nurse are paid on the basis of \$500 and \$400 per month respectively. St. Stephen's supported our current nurse, Ginose, all through the Episcopal 4-year nursing college in Leogane. The previous nurse, Margerite has married and is now living in Port-au-Prince. Dr. Wilkine Syllin also received sponsorship for his training but from parishioners at Good Shepherd. His father, Lorfis, has spent a lifetime of subsistent farming in the area and was a faithful organizer of community labor in building the school and the church. St. John's nave serves as the waiting room on clinic days when typically 20 to 30 patients are seen. Frequent diagnoses include: arthritis, flu (but no



incidence of Covid), diabetes, hypertension, gastritis, parasites, urinary and vaginal infections, anemia, and shortness of breath although a number of other conditions are encountered. "Hurry" cases often involve; burns and wounds, anemia, dehydration, high blood pressure, malaria, and tuberculosis. Acute malnutrition in children is less of a problem now but is found occasionally. Because of the cost of health care and the remoteness of this community, patients who are referred to more complete care, such as Hôpital Sainte Croix in Léogâne, often are not able to go. We do what we can to support good health and extend life. A report from Ginose follows on the next page.

Our last mission to Petit Harpon was an eye clinic and a great success. Next a larger work trip to repair some facility problems and install needed equipment (actual examining table, etc.) is needed. Unfortunately, events at St. Stephen's and, politically, in Haiti have delayed plans a bit. Meanwhile through Dr. Syllin and nurse Ginose, we continue to treat abscesses, wounds, and illnesses. We continue to be the Church reaching out to God's own, living in extreme poverty.

~ Cameron Ellis, Outreach

CLINIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE PETIT-HARPON
 RAPPORT DU MOIS DE SEPTEMBRE 2020

Nombre de Cas	85
Répartition par cas	
Arthrose	11
Syndrome grippal	17
Diabète	4
HTA	21
Gastrite	15
Parasitose intestinale	5
Flatulence	3
Infection urinaire	1
Anémie	7
Gale	4
Infection vaginale	4
Abcès dentaire	1
Infection genito- urinaire	1
Vulvo vaginite	1
Epilepsie	1
Malnutri on kwashiorkor	1
Entérite bactérienne	1
Fibrome probable	1
Trouble menstruel	1
Angine de poitrine	1
Amygdalite	1
Infection cutanée	2
Impétigo	2
Furoncle	1
Mycose du lobe de l'oreille	1
Oreillon	1
Ulcère de la jambe	1
Hernie inguinal	1
Conjonctivite	1
Pityriasis versicolore	1
Cathéter Foley a demeure	1
Prostatite	1



Malnutrition in Haiti



Ginose doing triage at the clinic.

November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Elijah Mauk-Olson	11/14	Charles Crume
11/2	Alexis Aaron		Victoria Medaglia
11/3	Walt Gardner	11/15	Don Madgett
	Michael Trank	11/16	Mila Giuliano
11/4	Mary Ellen Klots	11/17	Carol Gardner
	Allan Reiss		Andie Lenhard
11/6	Melinda Beach	11/18	Derek Baker
11/7	Beth Reed	11/19	Simon Ballintoy
11/8	Margaret Terrell		Ray Evans
	Samantha Berven	11/21	Dorothy Skinner
	Barbara Matich	11/23	Cleon Hartman
11/10	Liz Baker	11/24	Jim Hilton
11/11	Deb Johnson	11/26	Charmaine Hensley
	Ruth Prince	11/27	Mary Cooper
11/12	Deborah Clary	11/28	Scott Aaron
	Nancy Bischoff		Thomas Cox
	Eric Miller		

ANNIVERSARIES

11/7	Carol & Al Skyberg
11/16	Carol & Adolf King
11/26	Jo Kelley & Drew Shane
11/27	Margaret & Bill Baldauf, Jr.
	Judith & Wes Delaney



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.

Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.” ~ 1 Corinthians 13:12

In a “normal year”, I would be filling this space with all our planned activities for Advent, Christmas and even Epiphany. I would be joyfully designing Christmas bulletins! Sadly, scheduling our typical holiday events is not entirely clear, even to us. We are looking into creative ways we can adapt “what we always do” to what we realistically *can* do this year.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS PLANS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE!)

Advent begins this month (already!), and we are thinking of ways that you can build your own Advent Wreath at home. We are also *tentatively* planning for two in-person worship services on Christmas Eve in the afternoon, with some music for this festive day. We will share more details as we get closer to these special days!

In all the uncertainty we’ve faced this year, I am ever more aware that we are not truly alone. Our faith is strong and resilient, and we remain connected and caring in spite of physical limitations. As Br. Jim Woodrum, Society of St. John the Evangelist writes, “Jesus is prepared to meet us exactly where we are. All we have to do is come forward, put our hands together and receive the sustenance we most need and desire - and in turn find our place and purpose in this world.”

~ Elizabeth Pack

Where God is seen, love is felt, lives are changed!



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