



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

June 4, 2021

2 Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-20, 11:15-15

Psalms 138

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday, June 6, 2021 is and we will have two services of **MORNING PRAYER**. We are beginning "ordinary time" in the long, green season of Pentecost.

SERVICE SWITHCEROO!

9 A.M. worship: outside in the Grove
11:00 A.M. indoor worship + livestream: in the Nave.

Reservations are NOT required to attend the indoor worship! So, beginning June 6th, simply show up for indoor church! **For the month of June, masks will be required for indoor worship.** We will also continue to block off every other pew which will limit capacity and help maintain physical distancing. With that said, you may simply show up at **11 a.m., the new time for the indoor worship and livestream.**

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

We look forward to seeing you on our Sunday Evening **Social Hour at 5 p.m.**

[Join Sunday Social Hour](#)

Zoom Credentials:

Meeting ID: 829 7991 8885

Passcode: 799322



PASTORAL CARE

JOIN US AS WE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR:

Liz Johnson
Roger and Deb Johnson
Charles and Virginia Jones
John C. Joyce

Please include these people in your prayers.

FAMILY PICNIC IN THE PARK

Mark **Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 5 P.M.** on your calendars! St. Stephen's will be hosting a "Picnic in the Park" for all of our families at Melton Lake Park. We will provide hamburgers (and veggie burgers!) and hot dogs; bring a side dish for your family and 2-3 others; and most importantly, bring yourself and your kids! We will eat under the pavilion while the kids can romp on the playground and in the park! An RSVP to Fr. Bailey at revnorman1011@gmail.com or to 251-604-1705 would be helpful to make sure we have enough burgers (and especially if you'd prefer a veggie burger), but if you forget, come on anyway! And if you miss this one, we will have another "Picnic in the Park" on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Hope to see you on the 13th!

~ Fr. Bailey



STARTING SMALL

The Office Staff have all returned to working in the office during the week, and we are slowly starting to have small groups use the church rooms for meetings. It would be helpful to know when meetings are taking place. Please contact the Parish Secretary at secretary@ststephens.org to request your group meetings to be added to the calendar!



MUSIC OF THE SPHERES
ORGAN RECITAL

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Emma Whitten this evening **Friday, June 4, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.** for a livestream organ recital entitled "Music of the Spheres".

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Whitten holds a Doctoral of Musical Arts in Organ Performance from Arizona State University and is represented by Seven Eight Artists. Emma's programs are engaging and diverse, drawing from a repertoire spanning eight centuries of organ music!

Emma resides in Oceanside California, where she maintains a busy studio, but is no stranger to St. Stephen's. Her parents reside in Wartburg, TN, and her sister Cathy sings in the parish choir. You can read more about Emma on her website at emmawhitten.com.

Tune into our [YouTube Channel](#) at 6.30pm on Friday, June 4th for a livestreamed program. In light of the easing of restrictions around gathering in person, we are opening the recital to parish members and guests of the artist. As it is an indoor program, masks and social distancing will be required.

Our music program at St. Stephen's is supported by both the parish budget and donations given to the Music Memorials Fund. Please contact the Director of Music, [Simon Ballintoy](#), for more information. Your donations are greatly appreciated!



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NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As we gear up to resume services with our families, we find ourselves in need of volunteers for the Nursery. Sharon Thomas, our Nursery Coordinator, has relied on a stable of 7-8 rotating volunteers to fulfill the additional adult requirement in child care situations. At this time we have ONLY 2 volunteers scheduled to return. Sharon takes care of the nitty gritty (e.g., diapers), and so the Sunday volunteers are left with the truly enjoyable task of simply playing with our little ones. Please consider this opportunity for stewardship - not of giving money, but giving your time and heart to our youngest parishioners. Let Nancy Anderson know when you're ready. 482-3285 or nanderson124@gmail.com.



HAPPY THOUGHTS

"Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy."

~Guillaume Apollinaire



CAMP CLEARFORK

Time is drawing near for St. Stephen's parishioners to conduct reading camp at Clearfork in Claiborne County. The yearly summer camp is held to provide summer fun and games as well as reading assistance and receiving books to take home. Music, art, plays, science, math, writing and money have all been worked into previous camp programs. Most importantly, a true bond has been formed between the campers, their parents and guardians and the SS volunteers from our church who go to camp to help. Many other parishioners help at home by getting things ready to go to camp. Our first campers are now in high school. Many still have connections by letters or texts from us or they still receive a gift book from a former volunteer. One camper who will be a senior sends letters to the church. If you are willing to be a part of this meaningful camp **Wednesday to Friday, July 7 - July 9, 2021**, please call Carol Gardner at 865-385-7584 if you would like to help.



LIFE IN SCRIPTURE

"Are we there yet?" How many times have we said or heard this on a long road trip? This question is *really* old. Case in point: Numbers 2:10-18.

At the Lord's command, Moses recorded the stages in their journey. This is their journey by stages:

They left Elim and camped by the Red Sea.

They left the Red Sea and camped by the Desert of Sin.

They left the Desert of Sin and camped at Dophkah.

They left Dophkah and camped at Alush.

They left Alush and camped at Rephidim, where there was no water for the people to drink.

They left Rephidim and camped in the Desert of Sinai.

They left the Desert of Sinai and camped at Kibroth Hattaavah.

They left Kibroth Hattaavah and camped at Hazeroth.

They left Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

(Note: These verses are followed by 27 more mind-numbing verses of leaving and camping locations. Count them up, and you'll find 42 different campsite locations for the Israelites!)

Ultimately, the cliché rings true: life is a journey, composed of many stages. My son will frequently say, "I can't wait until I'm older to [fill in the blank]!", to which I always say, "Don't wish away your youth." But it's human nature: when we finish one thing, we are immediately on to the next. True confessions: I do it all the time with my knitting! Granted, skills learned or aquired help us on the next stage or project, but it's important to stop once in a while and appreciate the beauty in exactly where you are, in whatever stage you find yourself.

~Elizabeth Pack

