



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

WHERE GOD IS SEEN, LOVE IS FELT, LIVES ARE CHANGED.

October 8, 2021

SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is the 20th Sunday after Pentecost. Our readings for Sunday are:

- Job 23:1-9, 16-17
- Psalm 22:1-15
- Hebrews 4:12-16
- Mark 10:17-31

Tune in this week as we return to our regularly scheduled worship on Sundays: 7:45 a.m. spoken service, 10 a.m. choral communion and livestream, and 1 p.m. outdoors spoken service!

Fr. Ashton Sims will be preaching!

CLERGY DAYS OFF

Fr. Bailey Norman will be out of the Office from October 13 - 15, 2021, enjoying some family time! For pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. Ashton Sims at 334-730-2132.

Do not leave a message on the church phone. Phones are not checked except during regular business hours - not on evenings or weekends. Thank you.

EYF

EYF is on still on Fall Break this week.

We hope that students (and parents!) can enjoy the fall weather and get some rest!



WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for Parish Members

Kathie Shearer
 Paul Scheirer and Barbara Hudak-Sheirer
 Brent Sigmon and Nancy Carow
 Wesley and Carolyn Singer
 Mary Shepard
 Dorothy Skinner
 Carol Skyberg

Please include these people in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINTS: NANCY ANDERSON

Are we really looking for volunteers to do a project, or are we looking for stewards to fulfill a ministry? Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7: *"Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* As stewards, we are not simply accomplishing a task, but taking care of what has been given to us by God.

This responsibility lies with all of us at St. Stephen's. We have all been blessed by God with certain gifts and talents, opportunities to use them, and are called upon to give back a portion of these blessings in thanksgiving for what we have received. *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."* (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Some of our stewardship opportunities, such as Building and Grounds or Parish Life, offer a wide variety of time commitment, from one to several hours per month.

If you are musically inclined and have about two hours a week for rehearsal (Wednesday evening and Sunday morning), we invite you to sing with the PARISH CHOIR.

If you are unable to commit to a year-round schedule, apply yourself to our SEASONAL ministries, including Holiday Food Baskets, Nativity Pageant, Advent Fair, Clearfork Reading Camp, and the Ecumenical Storehouse.

With FOUR HOURS per month, you can cook and serve WOW lunch to our high school neighbors.

With THREE HOURS a month, you can minister in our Nursery. With three hours twice a month, you could serve at our Hospitality Desk.

With TWO HOURS per month, you can set up or close out services with the Altar Guild, help with the Flower Ministry, or Live Stream our 10:00 service.

With ONE HOUR a month, you can be an Usher, a Sunday School assistant, or a Counter of the Sunday collection. You could also help prepare Sunday School lunches.

With a HALF HOUR each month, you can be a Greeter in our Bread Upon the Waters ministry.

If you have ZERO time to spare outside of your weekly church service, we invite you to be the extra adult during Children's Chapel, a Lector/Reader, or a Eucharistic Minister/Chalice Bearer.

We are each of infinite value to God and a vital part of the management and stewardship of St. Stephen's. Let us all go forth and be faithful to our calling, each in his or her own way: *"See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord"* (Colossians 4:17).

--Nancy Anderson





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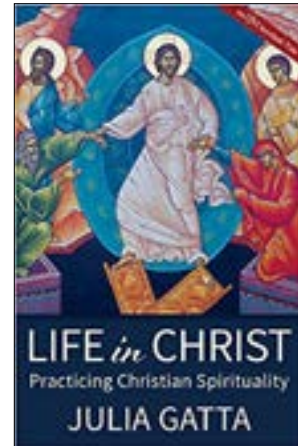
BOOK STUDY: LIFE IN CHRIST: PRACTICING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Fr. Ashton Sims begins a book study this Sunday on Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality by Julia Gatta. Mother Gatta is an Episcopal priest and serves as the Bishop Frank A. Juhan Professor of Pastoral Theology at Sewanee's School of Theology. Rather than being an instruction manual of spiritual practices, Life in Christ explores the deeper realities of "the basics" as understood through the lenses of Scripture, the Book of Common Prayer, and the larger Christian Tradition. Enrich your understanding of what it means to be baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, transform your experience of what we do on Sunday morning, and enter into deeper avenues of grace and spiritual growth. The group will meet in the Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m.

The book is available in both physical and digital formats. Please order a copy and feel free to read ahead! If you need a copy, please contact the Parish Office.

NOTE: We have ordered several copies of the book, and hope to have them available early next week. We'll let you know when you can pick up a copy!

~ Ashton Sims



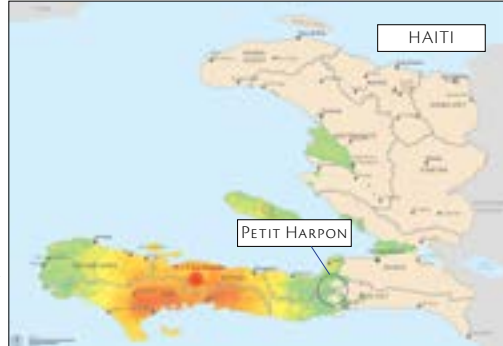
HAITI: MATCHING RELIEF FUNDS

On August 14, 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck the Tiburon peninsula in Haiti, and at least 2,200 people are confirmed dead and over 12,000 injured in this disaster. The epicenter is west of the area called Petit Harpon. People in Petit Harpon and Leogane were not as devastated but continue to struggle with day-to-day survival.

St. Stephen's founded and is the sole supporter of a small medical facility, the St. John the Evangelist Medical Clinic, which you hear about in our prayers every week. Each month, funds that we send are used approximately half for medicines and half for the doctor and nurse. In an approach unique to Haiti, the treatments are provided at no cost to the patients. This little clinic, operating within the St. John the Evangelist church building, is the only medical care available for a significant distance. Even the Episcopal hospital in Leogane is unaffordable for most in the region.

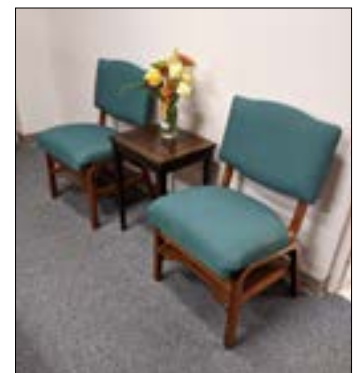
Right now, one of our St. Stephen's families is offering matching funds up to \$2600 for other donations. Please chip in to help make up the \$2600 before the end of the year. This is strictly Parish to Parish, no middle-men or admin costs. Your donation goes directly to providing care to poor subsistent farmers. Thanks.

~ Cameron Ellis



CHAIRS NEEDING HOMES

We have a number of chairs that need new homes! For example, green chairs like the ones in the photo have been living in the second floor hallway. If your ministry or group could use them, please feel free to relocate them in the church! Or, if you are willing to give some chairs a new home, please contact Lew Felton at lewfelton@me.com.



A new sitting area

ALTAR FLOWERS IN NOVEMBER

There are two openings for Altar Flowers in November: November 7 and November 21st. If you would like to sign up for either of those Sundays, please write your name on the corresponding poster outside the Parish Office. Altar Flowers are \$65 and the Ambry Candle is \$5. Thank you!

