



# St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

October 1, 2021

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

This Sunday is the 19th Sunday after Pentecost. Our readings for Sunday are:

- Job 1:1, 2:1-10
- Psalm 26
- Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
- Mark 10:2-16

This Sunday, October 3, 2021, we hold our Annual Parish Meeting. We will have ONE service at 10 a.m., and the Annual Meeting will take place during the normal sermon time. The meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

## NEW PHONE NUMBER

Fr. Bailey has a new local cell phone number! You can reach him at 865-323-1417. Please feel free to contact him for any pastoral emergencies. 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.

## NAME TAGS

Please wear your name tags in church! If you need a new name tag, please fill out your name on one of the clipboards near the name tag racks. Or, contact the Parish Office to request a name tag.

## EYF

EYF is on Fall Break for the next two weeks! Enjoy some down time!

## WEEKLY PRAYERS

We pray for Parish Members

Allan Reiss and Jamey Kennedy  
Pat Reuss

Wayne and Mary Rhoades  
Jeffrey and Sandi Robertson, Brian  
Jim and June Rousey

Please include these people in your prayers.

## STEWARDSHIP VIEWPOINTS: JUDY KIDD

Recently Brent Sigmon sent a letter to the parish about "forks in the road." As many of you know, I hit one of those forks, made a quick decision, and took the path to Tallahassee, FL in August. Many thanks for the kind words and lovely reception by the DOK, but there are still many of you that I didn't get to see or talk to, so let me do that now. I will miss old friends and wish I could get to know the many new members. You've come to the right place!



George (my husband who passed away in 2012) and I were very active in the community - but especially in the arts - for 64 years, including just about every job possible in the church: buildings and grounds, Vestry, starting the Evangel and Bookshop, many committees, but the most important to us was working on Stewardship. George always wrote our pledge check first each month and always raised our pledge each year. In addition, we devoted many hours and days organizing the annual bazaars which aided Haiti and local groups many years, beyond the annual budget.

I can't leave without urging you to support the great plans being developed now. Who would have thought a few years ago when things didn't look too rosy that we would have a great young Rector, very promising assistant, a potential new priest in the making, two or three Sunday services, many building upgrades, Zoom services and classes, a Christian Ed person, and much in the midst of covid! Obviously the Spirit is moving among you. This is the time that an increased budget can solidify the projects and plans already on the drawing board. Outreach has always been my special love and I urge you to continue our work in the community and our longtime partner Haiti during this especially tough time.

This coming year I will have two churches as well as my Franciscan order and other charities I love to consider when planning my giving, so many ways to express gratitude for 87 years, my family, and two more great grandchildren on the way. God is Good!

*-Judy Kidd*

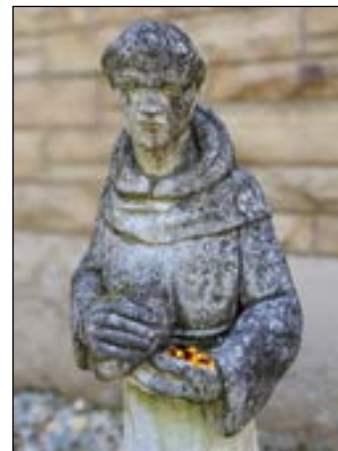
## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, we will have our annual Blessing of the Animals on **Saturday, October 2, 2021 starting at 10 A.M. in the Grove**. This is a special liturgy for our special animal friends.

Bring your dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters and reptiles! If you have a beloved animal who has passed away in the last year, please send a photo of your pet, and they will also receive a blessing.

All pets will receive a certificate of blessing and (perhaps less enthusiastically) a sprinkling of holy water! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, October 2nd!

*~ Fr. Bailey*





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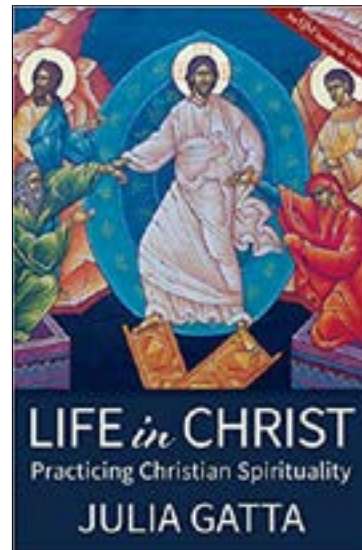
## LIFE IN CHRIST: PRACTICING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Beginning on October 10, 2021, and extending into mid-November, please join Fr. Ashton from 11:45 to 12:30 on Sunday mornings as we study and discuss 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, a position that she has held since 2004. An author of several books on the pastoral and mystical tradition from an Anglican perspective, this book is the culmination of her teaching on the practice of Christian spirituality, which Mother Gatta has taught in both parochial and seminary contexts. In it she dives into the longings of the human heart whose deepest, sometimes unspoken or even unknown, desire is to seek the face of the Lord, and how rooting ourselves in the sacramental life of the Church aids us in the lifetime endeavor.

Rather than being a prescriptive 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. You will 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 be invited into deeper avenues of grace and spiritual growth. The book is available in both physical and digital formats. Please order a copy and feel free to read ahead! If you need any assistance in obtaining a copy, please contact the Parish Office.

~ Ashton Sims



## FOOD CARD DISTRIBUTION

This Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 9 to 11 A.M., St. Stephen's will have our quarterly food distribution to needy families in our area.

During COVID, the parish has been distributing ALDI gift cards instead of food baskets. It is important to keep this impactful ministry fresh in the parish's mind. In addition, it gives us an opportunity to extend an invitation to you to contribute specifically to supporting this ministry. Our outreach budget only covers about 1/3 of the cost; the rest is provided through the generous support of individual contributions.

For this Sunday, in addition to your usual pledge contribution, please consider making a special gift for the Food Baskets. If you write a check, write it to St. Stephen's but make sure to write "Food Baskets" in the memo. If you contribute on the Online Giving portal on our website, please make sure to indicate "Food Baskets" in the Memo line. Many thanks!

~Fr. Bailey

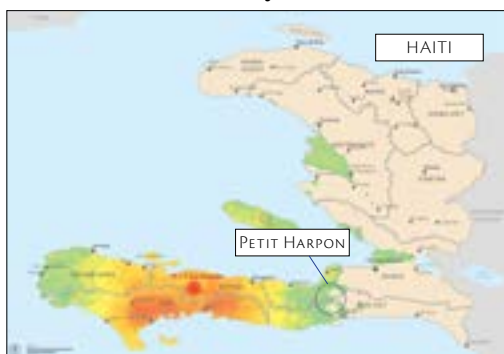
## HAITI: MATCHING RELIEF FUNDS

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





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## VESTRY CANDIDATE: ADAM CAVENDER



**Family:** Rebecca, William, Tatum and Ellis Cavender

**How long have you been at St. Stephen's:** Approximately 2 years

**In what ministries have you previously served or are currently serving?**

I am new to formal service at St. Stephens.

**Why are you running for Vestry?**

For some time, I have had a desire to contribute to the ministry of St. Stephen's. I have business and professional experience that I am sure will be of benefit for the strategic planning of the church, and I will be glad to contribute in this way.

**What are some goals you would like to see our parish pursue during your time on Vestry?**

I feel we need to create more opportunities for relationship development among parishioners. Particularly important for new church members, but no less valuable for longtime members, strong relationships are vital in creating a spiritual and personal support network for parishioners while also improving engagement for ministry efforts both internal and external to the church.

## VESTRY CANDIDATE: TOM CLARY



**Family:** Deborah

**How long have you been at St. Stephen's:**

Married at St. Stephen's July, 1981. Member since 1985

**In what ministries have you previously served or are currently serving?**

Previously served on Vestry and as Junior Warden, Finance Committer, and chair G&M. Currently Usher, B&G, and Haiti committees

**Why are you running for Vestry?**

I am excited about the energy and enthusiasm currently at St Stephen's and would like to be an integral part of assisting that to move forward.

**What are some goals you would like to see our parish pursue during your time on Vestry?**

I would like to expand our Outreach programs, focus on youth programs and maintain our beautiful building and grounds.





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## VESTRY CANDIDATE: LEW FELTON



**Family:** Linda Pettit Felton, David

**How long have you been at St. Stephen's:**

We have been members since 1997.

**In what ministries have you previously served or are currently serving?**

Financial support for choir and music programs, as well as various infrastructure projects.

**Why are you running for Vestry?**

For the last two I have been a Vestry member filling a vacant position in 2019.

**What are some goals you would like to see our parish pursue during your time on Vestry?**

I am interested in finance, infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. We are glad we chose to retire from the Navy in Oak Ridge, and our association and membership at St. Stephen's has been extremely rewarding and fulfilling. After "fully" retiring earlier this year, I am looking forward to further serving God as a member of St. Stephen's Vestry, if elected, in whatever capacity is needed.

## VESTRY CANDIDATE: BETH REED



**Family:** James Reed, Alex and Tucker

**How long have you been at St. Stephen's:** Over 12 years, a member over 10 years

**In what ministries have you previously served or are currently serving?**

I have previously served on Vestry and have been the Christian Education Coordinator. I have been on the Christian Education Committee, Outreach Committee, and Search Committee. I am very passionate about the Clearfork Camp and have been there every year. I am a trainer of Safeguarding God's Children and would love to see as many people as possible complete the training. I currently work in the nursery one Sunday a month, am a member of Bread Upon the Waters, and a lector.

**Why are you running for Vestry?**

I loved being a part of vestry the first time and have felt a pull towards it again. I see lots of exciting things happening at St. Stephen's and I want to be a part of it.

**What are some goals you would like to see our parish pursue during your time on Vestry?**

I would like to see us continue to be family friendly and also see intergenerational activities that bring all people together. I think St. Stephen's is a very loving parish. I have so enjoyed experiencing its members pour the love of Christ into my husband, children, and me. I hope that I do the same for others. I want to serve our community, help continue our Episcopal traditions, and create new opportunities for community and service among our current parish members, newcomers, and our community beyond our walls.