



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

August 6, 2021

11 Pentecost

Psalm 130

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday, August 8, 2021, we will have two services of **Morning Prayer**: 9 A.M. worship outside in the Grove, and 11:00 A.M. indoor worship and livestream in the Nave.

BACK TO MASKS

As Fr. Bailey announced last week, we are back to wearing masks in the office and at our in-person worship services. For the safety of all, please wear a mask when you enter the building. Thank you!



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The adult Bible Study will meet on **Tuesday, August 10, 2021**, at 10 A.M. The first study, will be on the Parables of Jesus. Over the next few months, we will read and discuss 33 parables from the Gospels. Come join us in the Pollard Room. We'll have coffee together and discuss some of Jesus most familiar words.

~ Jim Rousey

PASTORAL CARE

THIS WEEK, WE PRAY FOR PARISH MEMBERS:

Dora Marmon
Murray and Fay Martin
Joe and Thelma McGrory
Victoria Medaglia.

Please include these people in your prayers.

SUNDAY WORSHIP, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND LUNCH ON HOLD

BEGINNING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

- 7:45 A.M.** Holy Eucharist Rite II, spoken service in the Nave
- 9:00 A.M.** Coffee and Refreshments (Parish Hall) / Choir Rehearsal (Nave)
- 10:00 A.M.** Choral Eucharist Rite II in the Nave (Nursery Provided)
- 11:30 A.M.** Christian Education for All Ages (including Nursery)

UPDATE: Our upcoming Worship and Christian Education Schedule is still moving forward as planned. **However, we will NOT be offering lunch on August 15th as previously advertised.** At this time, we are suspending lunch until the COVID numbers settle. However, we will offer food options for our children before Christian Education, and they will eat their meals in their respective classrooms. We thank you for your understanding.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE



The Communications team has been working to transition our email server and launch a new website for St. Stephen's. Once we begin the transition process, we will **lose access to our current website and current email.** It will take 8-24 hours for email routing to update and 24-48 hours for the website routing to update. This is because we have to pull management from TNSC (our current host for our website and email service) back to Network Solutions and then update the DNS routing information.

This process is scheduled, starting at noon on **Friday, August 20, 2021.** Throughout the weekend, our website will not work and any email sent will not be received. Please be patient while we complete this transfer!

PARISH CHOIR OPEN NIGHT

Simon Ballintoy, the Director of Music, is inviting interested singers to come to the Parish Choir Open Night, on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021**, at 6:45 p.m. Come tryout the choir and get a taste of our rehearsals and see if it's for you. You do not necessarily need to be able to read music, but an ability to carry a tune and be a team player is crucial to the ensemble! Choir sings every Sunday for morning worship, and at special services throughout the year. We have room for all voice parts! For more information, contact Simon at choir@ststephensor.org, or see him after worship on Sundays!



FUNERAL: CHARLES KIRK, SR.

There will be a funeral and interment for Charles Kirk, Sr. on Friday, August 13, 2021 at 11 a.m. Parishioners are welcome to come pay their respects to one of our brothers in Christ.



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SMALL GROUP THEOLOGY

Small group theology exploration will meet in St. Alban's Chapel on **August 15, 2021 at 11:30 A.M.** Have you ever thought about all of the connotations of the spiritual words we use every day? Do you think about how you would explain the meanings of those words to a friend who was not churched? Do you think about how different faith traditions use the same words very differently? If these questions interest you, come join us for a deeper exploration of the meanings of these words and your experience with them.



Please bring notebooks or pads of paper and something to write with because we will begin each exploration by writing about what these words mean to you personally. As people are willing, we will share as much or little of these writings as we are comfortable doing with each other. I look forward to seeing you there.

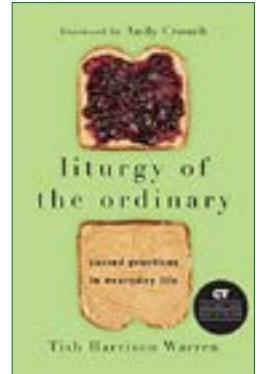
~Jamey Kennedy

ADULT BOOK STUDY: LITURGY OF THE ORDINARY

Please join us on August 15th from 11:30 A.M. to 12:15 P.M. in the Pollard Room for a guided study through Liturgy of the Ordinary by Tish Harrison Warren. Warren is an Anglican priest, a wife and mom who shares her experience of finding deep connections with God through the mundane rituals of the day. From brushing her kids' teeth to the maddening frustration of losing her keys, each of these experiences invites each of us to a deeper understanding of our baptism, the Eucharist, and our rich life of daily prayer.

This study is geared towards all, and will be especially helpful for the many of us who live at a frenetic pace with all of our daily responsibilities. Come find your faith affirmed, deepened, and expanded to include not just the "religious" experiences of church but the everyday rituals that invite us to a greater awareness of and dependence upon God.

The book is readily available online both in print and digital forms. If you need any assistance in getting a copy, please contact the Parish Office.



NEW CURATE AT ST. STEPHEN'S

We are looking forward to welcoming a new curate at St. Stephen's, beginning on September 1, 2021. If you don't know, a "curate" is the title given an individual for their first assignment out of seminary. Until then, please take a moment to get to know Ashton!



Hello St. Stephen's! For those of you who have not had the chance to meet me, my name is Ashton Sims, and in the next few weeks I will be joining you all as St. Stephen's next curate. I grew up in Decatur, Alabama and attended the University of Alabama where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and religious studies. It was at Canterbury Chapel that I joined the Episcopal Church in 2013, and it was through that place that I heard the first inklings of a call to the priesthood. Most importantly, however, Canterbury is where I met Anna, and it was at that church where we were wed in October of 2017.

After college I attended the School of Theology at Sewanee where I discovered a love of the works of St. Thomas Aquinas and J.R.R. Tolkien, as well as a deep appreciation of the riches of the Daily Office. While at Sewanee I received a Griffin Fellowship which afforded me the opportunity and privilege to study at St. George's College in Jerusalem. From there I moved to Knoxville where I completed a chaplain residency at UT Medical Center, and I have continued to work there in various capacities.

As far as personal interests are concerned, I have been a lifelong gamer, an avid podcast listener, and from an early age I developed a love of fantasy and science-fiction literature. I am also deeply interested in liturgy, biblical studies, and the Christian mystical tradition. Anna and I share a mutual love of camping, (craft beer,?) giving our cat Thecla treats, and taking our dog Pip anywhere we can get away with it. Above all, we are absolutely ecstatic to begin this stage of our life and ministry with you all, and we look forward to officially becoming a part of the St. Stephen's family.

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UPDATED COVID PROTOCOLS

We are excitedly moving into the launch of our in-person programs, but the recent arrival of the Delta variant of COVID-19 into our area and our parish has disrupted those plans – without cancelling them. Here are a few updates you need to know for what to expect going forward:

- Once again, **MASKS ARE MANDATED** for inside the building both on Sundays and for any activity at the church during the week. Like you, I have enjoyed NOT wearing them everywhere over the last few months. But the positivity rate in Anderson County and the direct impact on St. Stephen's already has made mask-wearing a necessity once again for awhile. I remind you that the reason we wear masks is both to protect ourselves but even more so to protect the vulnerable among us. As the Delta variant seems to be hitting children much harder, we have a responsibility to be mindful of those among us who either are not vaccinated or are vaccinated but still susceptible due to health concerns.
- For the duration of our mask mandate, **OUR PARISH-WIDE LUNCHEAS ARE POSTPONED**. For both the 7:45 and 10:00 services, **WE WILL STILL HAVE COFFEE** served following each service. Please feel free to sit and enjoy a cup of coffee in the parish hall, knowing that "mask-sliding" can be done a little more easily between sips of coffee than it can over a meal.
- **FOR MEALS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**, parents will soon be hearing about ways in which we can do meals for them within their classrooms. One of the necessities of having Sunday School around 11:30 is that our kids will need to eat! We will allow kids and their teachers to eat lunch or snacks in their classroom space. More information to come.
- Once again, **IF YOU HAVE A COUGH, FEVER, EXCESSIVELY RUNNY NOSE, OR ANY SYMPTOMS THAT MAY BE SUSPICIOUS, DO NOT COME TO CHURCH. IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE WHOM YOU KNOW HAD COVID WHEN YOU SAW THEM, DO NOT COME TO CHURCH UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A NEGATIVE REGULAR COVID TEST** (Rapid Tests are not particularly reliable indicators). Please do your part to keep everyone safe.
- A few people have approached me about continuing the outdoor service. For now, I want to leave the schedule as we have planned – inside at both 7:45 and 10. However, if you are interested in having an outside, spoken service, let me know! If there is enough interest, I will consider adding that as an additional (temporary) 3rd service. This would NOT take the place of the proposed Sunday night service for which we are about to begin initial planning conversations. It would be a simple, no-music, Rite II Eucharist outside for a short duration.
- One last thing – I have granted special dispensation to the WOW (Walk-Over Wednesdays) to allow for lunches to be served to the high school students beginning August 11. Two factors: 1) there is a great need to reestablish this ministry, as it is not only a service to the juniors and seniors, but we have discovered that there are several students who rely on this ministry for a hot meal every week; and 2) our cooking teams feel safe as long as they are masked. On good weather days, we will encourage the students to sit outside. On days where they need to be inside, we will require masks in the building until they sit down to eat.

I cannot give you a timeline except to say that, when I see our local positivity rate going down and cases no longer prevalent at St. Stephen's, I will remove the mandate. In the meantime, your cooperation in this is the key to allowing us to remain in person. The last thing I want to do is to go back fully virtual, but we must return to a stricter level of caution for a period to prevent that from happening. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly at 251-604-1705 or revnorman1011@gmail.com if you have any questions about these policies.

~ Bailey