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# The Evangel

JUNE & JULY 2021

## A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

For the last year or more, I found myself sharing a sentiment so many of us were espousing, "There is a light at the end of the tunnel." This was always a well-meaning attempt to express hope for an entirely unprecedented event. Unfortunately, many times I found the short-term reality of that end-of-the-tunnel to resemble a massive oncoming freight train rather than an actual exit from the darkness and frustration of our extended isolation.

While we must maintain vigilance that variants of the pandemic may arise among us later in the summer, we are also finding in the last couple of months that the fresh air and sunlight of gathering together in person and returning to familiar routines has finally been made manifest. Life is not returning to what it was, but the shackles of the pandemic have released us sufficiently to find and establish new patterns and routines of being together.

As such, it is my great excitement and pleasure to announce to you what I hope to be the PERMANENT schedule for us at St. Stephen's beginning on August 15:



## SUNDAY SCHEDULE (BEGINNING AUGUST 15, 2021)

7:45 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Nave

9:00 A.M. Coffee and Refreshments/Choir Rehearsal

10:00 A.M. Choral Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Nave (Nursery Provided)

11:15 A.M. LUNCH

11:30 A.M. Christian Education for All Ages (including Nursery)

While the service times may be familiar from schedules of prior years, there are a couple of substantial changes. First, the time between services (beginning around 9) is devoted solely to fellowship, except for the choir who will be practicing! There is no agenda for that period other than spending time together. After the later service, we will be planning a parish wide lunch each and every Sunday. Some weeks the lunch will be "fancier" than others

– most weeks, it will be simple - but again, it is an opportunity to be together. People will flow from lunch either to designated Christian Education classes or, if they wish, more time to simply visit. Picking up a pattern here?

This schedule was proposed by me to Liturgics, Parish Life, Christian Education, and ultimately to the Vestry. While there are always different opinions as to times and structure, I can say that these bodies agree that the priorities for our Sunday mornings are being together and equipping our people for ministry in the world. This schedule originated not only from these conversations but also from the parish Re-Opening Survey you took several months ago where we asked about service times. (See the April/May 2021 Evangel for full survey results and comments.) Again, we obviously can't do a service for every time that is preferred, but we think this schedule reflects an inclusiveness that allows all of our people to find a place to connect on Sundays.

There are two other important considerations that have come out of this schedule:

1. A glaring omission to some is the absence of the old 9 AM service. Let me state on the front end that a vision coming out of this schedule is to eventually create a NEW service – most likely on Sunday evenings – that will build on and enhance many of the qualities so many people loved about the 9 AM service. Beginning in the fall, I will be putting together a planning team that will look at how we can create a service that is more informal, more liturgically diverse, more lay-led, possessing a rich variety of music that is not centered around the organ like our beautiful choral music. From conversations I've had with ministry colleagues in Oak Ridge, there is a great need and desire among people in our wider community for a service that expresses the richness of what the church has to offer but in a way that doesn't feel like "traditional" church. If you are interested in participating or simply sharing ideas, call me. I would love to talk with every person who has a thought about this service.
2. If it isn't obvious, our new Sunday schedule will require a TON of volunteers. This is the big risk with this new schedule. While we are making calls to recruit, I want to put the onus on you to look at the list below and see what you may feel called to do. There are a few big jobs, but most of the jobs would involve helping once every 6-8 weeks. The more people we have for these ministries, the better they will be! For all of these, if you are interested, please contact me either by e-mail [revnorman1011@gmail.com](mailto:revnorman1011@gmail.com) or by phone/text 251-604-1705. I will pass you on to the right person who will get in touch with you.

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## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

There is a running joke in the Parish Office: we are always looking for the "slow time" and just when we think we have found it...where did it go again?!

The Parish Office is now open, and while we have a little "quiet time" in the summer, there's almost always something afoot! Meetings of various ministry groups are beginning to resume, either in person or with the addition of a virtual option.

If you need to drop by the Parish Office, the **office hours in summer are Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., and Fri. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** The front doors are unlocked around 9 a.m., and are locked after our Hospitality volunteers leave at 1 p.m., for security purposes. If you come to the office and the door is locked, please knock, and we'll let you in! Thanks!



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

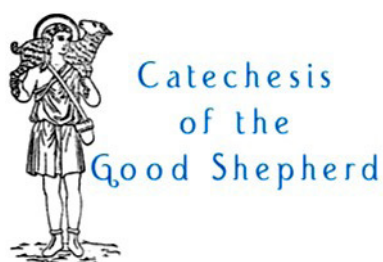
## NURSERY



Nursery will run from 9:30 to 12:30 each Sunday. We need one volunteer each week to be present to assist our Nursery coordinator, Sharon Thomas. Our list of volunteers has dwindled over the last few years, so we are in great need of help here. Remember, if you are in the nursery that Sunday, you can always go back and watch the recording later on our YouTube Channel!

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Each Sunday at the 10 AM service, our children during service will have their own chapel service during the sermon! We need adults who simply are willing to assist the chapel leader. Like with nursery volunteers, you can go back and watch the service later!



## CATECHESIS

Our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for this fall will encompass ages 3 to 8. Linda Twohig is our lead Catechist, but each week she will need at least one volunteer to assist her in the atrium during Christian Ed time from 11:15-12:30.

## COFFEE

We need 2 volunteers each Sunday to make and set up for coffee, one to make coffee before the early service for fellowship after that service, and one to make coffee before the 10 AM service for lunch following.



## LUNCH



Parish Life will take on responsibility once a month for making lunch. However we will be looking for other ministries and/or individuals to sign up for prepping lunch. While it may sound like an onerous and expensive task to prepare lunch for 100 people, meals do not need to be complicated! Casseroles, taco bars, chili, pasta, and other menu selections that can provide food for many people at reasonable costs can be done with a team of 4-6 people each week. The church is happy to reimburse and will ask people to contribute what they can each week to support the cost of the food. If you are interested as a group in helping, or you are an individual who would like to help but would like a team to assist you, please let me know!

Of course, there are plenty of other opportunities to volunteer and serve! If you are interested, please let me know! As we seek to grow both in numbers and in the depth of our knowledge of God, active and vibrant participation from as many people as possible is key. St. Stephen's has traditionally been a parish with strong lay leadership and participation, but we are also an old engine that has lain idle for the last year or so during the pandemic. But the new light on the far side of the pandemic light has given us the enthusiasm to seek new ways for us to be together. The old engine is getting kick-started, and this is the invitation for all of you to find your place in finding your place here at St. Stephen's for your own walk with God AND to help raise this hope up in the lives of others.

*Christ's Peace,  
Bailey*



# June & July Celebrations

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6/1 Emily Cooper  
Chi Kirk  
6/5 Michael Potter  
6/7 Stella Schramm  
Jeff Cooper  
6/8 Bill Schramm  
6/11 John Cox  
6/13 Bob Reuss  
6/17 Barbara Lopes  
6/18 Sharon Frost  
6/22 Murray Martin  
Mary Rhoades  
Tom Beehan  
6/23 Tommy Meredith  
Chris Dollman  
6/24 Roni Boyd  
6/26 Jo Kelley  
6/27 Judy DiGregorio  
6/28 Barbara Steele  
6/29 Cheryl Scappaticci

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/7 Mike Bautz  
7/10 James Reed  
7/13 Phyllis Petersen  
7/14 Susan Wells  
James Pack  
7/18 Ken Kendall  
7/19 Bill Baldauf  
7/21 John Murphy  
Bill Petersen  
7/23 Stacy Cox  
7/24 Linda Felton  
7/26 Lisa Kennedy  
7/28 Carol Ann Lane  
7/30 Robin Thurston  
7/31 Wendy Whitten



## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6/2 Doug & Elissa Aaron  
Chuck & Melinda Beach  
Steve & Liz Herbes  
6/9 Cyril & Susan Meredith  
6/11 Arthur & Sharon Frost  
6/13 Jeff & Robin Thurston  
6/14 Rob & Barbara Steele  
6/15 Bob & Pat Reuss  
6/16 Shafik & Horia Iskander  
Dominic & Lynn Giuliano  
6/17 Gene & Carol Ann Lane  
6/18 Scott & Kathy Chippendale  
6/20 Matt & Samantha Berven  
6/25 Scott & Ann Aaron  
6/29 Dustin & Stacy Cox

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/2 Jeff & Sandi Robertson  
7/10 Ted & Caroline Swilley  
7/13 Gary & Mary Morris  
7/15 James & Amelia Knight  
7/18 Tom & Deborah Clary  
7/19 Mike & Roni Boyd  
7/20 Joe & Thelma McGrory  
7/27 Dean & Eileen Hartley  
Don & Melissa Madgett  
7/28 Brian & Barbara Bovee



**\* If your birthday or anniversary is NOT listed, please contact the Parish Office to let us know your special dates, and we will include them in the Evangel newsletter! We only publish the month and day for birthdays and anniversaries.**

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

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