



# St. Stephen's E-NEWS

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

December 17, 2021

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

This week is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Here are the Sunday readings:

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Canticle 15: The Song of Mary
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-55



## ADULT BIBLE CLASS

### THE BOOK OF MARK

If you would like to learn more about Jesus in a non-threatening environment, St. Stephen's may have the class for you. You'll have friendly, caring classmates and class participation is not a requirement. Give us a try this Sunday at 9 A.M. in the Pollard room (library). We will watch a brief video on the [Book of Mark](#). ~ Jack Campbell

## ADVENT BOOK STUDY

"The Precious Memories of Christmas" is the focus of our final week in our Advent Book Study with The Rev. Dr. Paul Scheirer

Sunday morning at 11:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall.



## WEEKLY PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR NEW\* PARISH MEMBERS

Ann Long  
Bill Molony  
Amy Partin and Emma Elliott  
Jeff and Jennifer Pemberton  
Bethany Peterson  
Sharon Pinner

*Please include these people in your prayers.*

*\*In the final weeks of the calendar year, we recognize visitors and new members to St. Stephen's!*

## SAYING GOODBYE TO SHARON THOMAS

We are sad to announce that Sharon Thomas, our Nursery Coordinator, will be leaving St. Stephen's at the end of December. Her last Sunday with us will be December 26th. Sharon will be able to travel more and visit her grandchildren who live all across the country. We celebrate this new opportunity with her while recognizing that she has been a tremendous gift for our children and families over these last several years.

A tradition at St. Stephen's has been to collect a purse for departing staff members. If you would like to make a donation, please mail or drop off a check to the church. Make sure it is designated for "Sharon Thomas" in the memo.

As we send her away, we are in the process of putting together a renewed job description for this position. We are especially looking for candidates who have certification or training in early childhood development. If you know of anyone who might be a good candidate or who would like more information, please contact Fr. Bailey ([revnorman1011@gmail.com](mailto:revnorman1011@gmail.com)) or our Children/Youth Christian Ed Director Sherry Burchfield ([mommaburch@gmail.com](mailto:mommaburch@gmail.com)).

Lastly, during the interim period as we search for a new Nursery Coordinator, we will be looking for some extra volunteers to help staff the nursery beginning in January. Besides the hours of being in the nursery and having a love of children, the only other requirement is that any volunteer must complete Safeguarding God's Children (if they haven't done so already). If interested, please contact Sherry Burchfield at [mommaburch@gmail.com](mailto:mommaburch@gmail.com).



## 2022 GIVING ENVELOPES

If you requested giving envelopes for 2022, you can find them in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes and be sure to sign the sheet indicating that you have collected your booklet! Thank you!



## EYF

EYF is on their winter holiday! Have a Merry Christmas, everyone!

~ Craig Brent



## 2022 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are new printed charts in the Parish Office for 2022 Altar Flowers & Ambry Candle dedications. This will be the primary place where you can request dates for 2022 for Altar Flowers or the Ambry Candle. You can still make a donation online, however the online payment platform does not let me know if someone has made a gift.

During the last year, I tried using an online Google form to keep track of names, donations and occasions, in addition to the printed charts, which resulted in creating a fair amount of confusion - for me and for parishioners - and sometimes names and occasions were forgotten. I sincerely apologize for any occasions that were not recognized.

~ Elizabeth Pack, Parish Secretary





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## *Advent & Christmas Schedule*

### 4 ADVENT : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite I - 7:45 and 10 A.M.
- Lessons and Carols - 5 P.M. - A traditional Anglican celebration of nine lessons with hymns and anthems led by our choir. A great way to enjoy the beautiful music and Scriptures that vividly portray the hope of Christmas.



### CHRISTMAS EVE : FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

- Children's Pageant/Holy Eucharist Rite II - 4:30 P.M. in the Parish Hall - Our traditional Christmas pageant led by our children with communion following. Special guest musicians The Missing Goats, who will be playing familiar Christmas hymns in bluegrass style!
- Carol Singing - 10 P.M. in the Nave
- Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10:30 P.M. - This will be a "high" church celebration of Christmas with choral music and incense. This service will be live-streamed.

### CHRISTMAS DAY : SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite I - 10 A.M. - Come in your pajamas if you wish! A good hour on Christmas Day to help keep the focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

### FEAST DAY OF ST. STEPHEN : SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

- Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 A.M. only (no early service) - December 26 is the feast day of our patronal saint, Stephen. We will sing Christmas music, but our readings and sermon that day will focus on the life of Stephen and keep us mindful of the contributions of the saint whose name we bear.

## *Merry Christmas*

### OFFICE CLOSURES

The Parish Office will be closed on the following dates for Christmas and the New Year holidays:

- Friday, December 24, 2021
- Monday, December 27, 2021
- Friday, December 31, 2021
- Monday, January 3, 2022

