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SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021

# The Evangel

## 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



St. Francis of Assisi

## GRATITUDE, PRAYER & FAITH

As we approach the start of St. Stephen's annual fall pledge drive we are reminded of the biblical tradition of giving back to God and the church. This certainly involves prayerful consideration of contributing a portion of our God given financial resources to support Church operations. But the Episcopal Church sees stewardship as more than simply contributing money. According to the national church website "It is also about contributing time and talents and volunteering for ministry and mission. It's about reaching out to build relationships from a perspective of abundance instead of scarcity."

St. Stephen's philosophy of stewardship is based on three important concepts: **gratitude, prayer and faith.** We are grateful for the resources given us by God in the form of Time, Talent and Treasure. Through prayer we are able to listen and discover God's wishes for how we use these Gifts. Through Faith we are able to align the use of these resources with how we live our lives.



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In previous communications you have heard of the current vibrancy and energy of St Stephen's. We have continued to hold services in spite of the restraints imposed by the COVID pandemic. We have also continued to support our many programs and ministries as outlined in the recent mailing from Nancy Anderson. In addition we have added two new staff positions, a Curate and a Youth Christian Education Director.

With so many blessings given us by God we have a wonderful opportunity to enable further growth in the programs and ministries of St Stephen's, to enhance its impact on our community and deepen our own spirituality. Our generosity and gratitude are integral to our life journey as children of God and disciples of Christ.

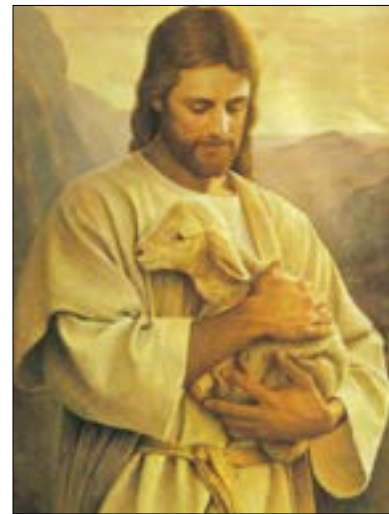
*Tom Clary*

## CATECHESIS IS ALL ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

How we pray, symbols of worship and of course scripture. We will start our work with the Good Shepherd reading John 10:3-5 and 11-6 and illustrating it with a diorama.

Over the next four weeks we will explore prayer, set the parameters for using our prayer table and learn about the colors of the church. All the while trying to create a space where children can contemplate their relationship with God. Catechesis may seem slow moving at times, and that is intentional. It is in the quiet moments that we recognize our connection with God and it is no different for children. May God gift you with that stillness in your heart so that you may hear him in all aspects of your life.

*Linda Twohig*



## GIVING STATEMENTS

As most of you have noticed we used the e-mail option to distribute our 3rd quarterly statements this year. Using email distribution will save St. Stephen's at least \$600 a year. However, if you need to receive a paper copy, please let us know by responding to the email or calling the church office. If you didn't receive an email statement, we probably don't have your email in our system. Please call the office and help us enter it into the church's database.

*~ Rob Steele*

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY



Looking for a Fall group project? Want to help a neighbor? ADFAC's Appalachian Housing Partners is seeking volunteers to help neighbors with a variety of repairs and/or fall yard cleanup projects. All skill levels welcomed! If you are interested in knowing more please contact our volunteer project coordinators:

George Paynter 865/300-0013 or Cande Seay 865/216-1538  
Aid To Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties, Inc.  
Appalachian Housing Partners  
Cindy Ross, Program Director 865/481-3837  
[www.adfac.org](http://www.adfac.org)



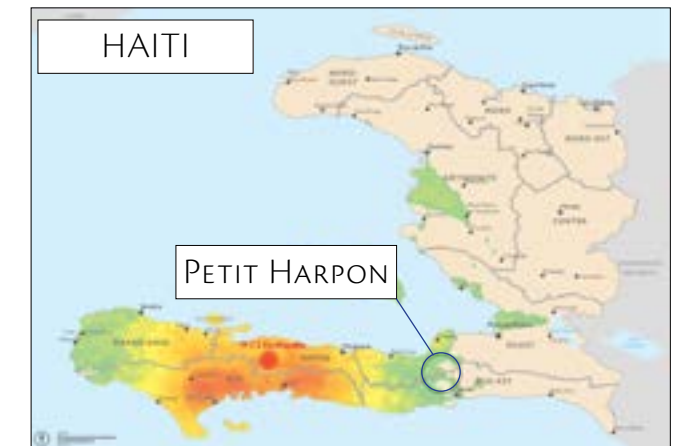
## MATCHING HAITI RELIEF FUNDS

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*



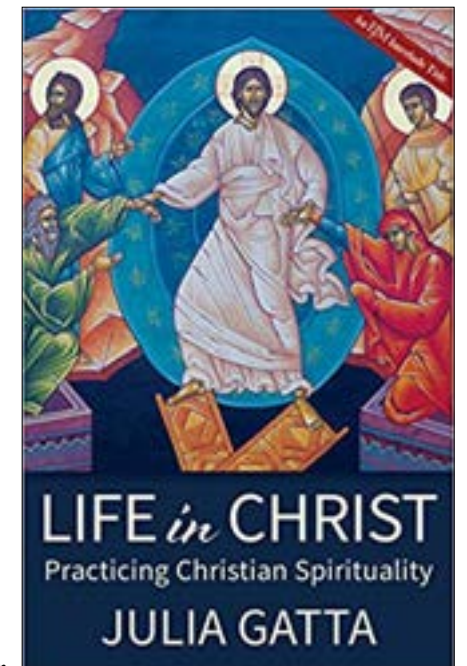
## LIFE IN CHRIST: PRACTICING CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Beginning on October 10, 2021, and extending into mid-November, please join Fr. Ashton Sims from 11:45 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. 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.

*Fr. Ashton Sims*



# September & October Celebrations

## BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Gene Lane  
9/2 Adam Cavender  
Jeanne Kring  
Gabe Ledford  
9/5 Jack Pennoyer  
9/7 James Knight  
9/8 Kathy Moore  
9/9 Roger Derby  
9/12 Mitchell Gibbons  
9/14 Beth Stickle  
9/17 Richard Neill  
Willy Mauk-Olson  
9/18 Matt Berven  
Harold Davis  
9/19 Jacob Anthony  
Nancy Caldwell  
9/20 Mark Henry  
9/24 Elizabeth Shane  
9/28 Tom Clary  
Serge Fournier  
Peggy Volk  
9/30 William Cavender

10/1 Briley Miller  
Haydin Miller  
Jamey Kennedy  
10/2 Jim Ball  
Melissa Madgett  
10/4 Ed Stickle  
Amy Pennoyer  
10/6 Jenny Meredith  
Charlie Higdon  
10/7 Jerry Hanna  
10/8 Katie Kendall  
10/10 Mike Boyd  
Cyril Meredith, Jr.  
10/12 Rachel Kirk  
10/13 JoAnn Baker  
Jamie LaRose



## ANNIVERSARIES

9/1 Deborah and Roger Johnson  
Katie and Ken Kendall  
9/4 Barbara and Paul Scheirer  
9/5 Linda Twohig and Andrew Payzant  
9/15 Lola and Chuck Estes  
9/25 Kelly and Jeff Cooper  
10/3 Molly and Caleb Justice  
10/6 Adam and Simon Ballintoy  
10/7 Nancy Carow and Brent Sigmon  
Anna Davis and Ashton Sims  
10/11 Sara and Bailey Norman  
10/15 Mary and Bill Petersen  
10/17 Nancy and Jim Anderson  
Elizabeth and James Pack  
Beth and James Reed  
10/19 Heather and Cleon Hartman  
10/21 Nancy and Charles Higdon  
10/23 Carole and Ross Mol  
10/27 Hella and Pete Peterson

10/15 Matt Bailey  
10/16 Thelma McGrory  
10/17 Harper Neal  
10/19 Eph Klots  
10/22 Blair Thurston  
Rebecca Cavender  
10/24 Karen Yearwood  
10/25 Brian Bovee  
10/26 Doreen Graf  
10/28 Lew Felton  
Susan Nalls  
10/29 Patricia Hartman  
10/30 Mary Fell  
Brennon Rosario



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

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