



Altar Flower Orders

ststeve.org/flowers

Calendar of Events

<https://www.ststeve.org/calendar>

Christ Centered Prayer (Zoom), Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81503572035?pwd=K3ZzYlloZXJDYnlRekZkTzZ5YkJSZz09>

Daily Meditations

ststeve.org/meditations

Facility/Room Reservations

<https://ststevewimberley.wufoo.com/forms/facilityroom-use/>

Sunday Service Live Stream (YouTube, Facebook), Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

ststeve.org/sunday

In-building, in-person services are held at 8:00 in the Chapel & 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

COLUMNS

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR: PANDEMIC PROCEDURES

By The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert



Dear St. Stephen's,

Greetings and prayers from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Over the past 18 months our community has been deeply affected by the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. We have experienced a number of hardships and difficulties to be sure. But, at the same time, we have also experienced a tremendous amount of hope, faith, love, and compassion. I have been taken aback by this community's resilience and determination through it all. Our community is strong and healthy; and continues to be a vibrant

reflection of God's love for our members and the community that surrounds us.

From the very beginning of my call to be your rector, we have maintained the importance to keep the safety and health of the community; striving to make responsible decisions to accomplish this. Over the past week or so we have been confronted by a new season within the pandemic. Though I had hoped that we would continue to move forward with decreasing our regulations regarding the pandemic, it is now apparent that we must take important and responsible actions to safeguard the health and safety of our community. The current introduction of the Delta variant of COVID-19 is extremely contagious and even affects those that have been previously vaccinated. This is a great concern of mine, and I have decided to take action to safeguard our community from its effects.

After careful discernment with our church staff, Senior Warden, and with support of the diocesan office through the Bishop; beginning this Sunday, August 8, 2021, I have decided to re-instate the use of masks for all persons (vaccinated and unvaccinated) for all church activities on campus.

***Beginning Sunday, August 8, 2021,
all persons—vaccinated and unvaccinated—
are required to wear masks for all church activities on campus.***

The current situation in which we find ourselves has determined this decision. You may also want to read the [Rt. Rev. David M. Reed's Pastoral Letter to the Churches](#) in our diocese, regarding the Delta Variant. At the bishop's request, I read his letter in church on Sunday, August 1, 2021.

The CDC advises that masks are the best defense against contracting the disease. We will continue all other activities for the time being: worshipping in building, gathering for meals, singing in service, etc. Hopefully we will be able to move forward without more change from our regular activities, but be prepared for more regulations if things become worse.

The decision to require masks for in-building activities is made to ensure that our community remains safe and healthy. This decision has been made with all members of our community in mind; especially for those that are not able to receive the vaccine yet, such as children under 12, and those with compromised immune systems. May we continue to have those in mind who are struggling right now with the effects of the pandemic, and may we continue to be diligent in our efforts to maintain the safety and health of our community. If you would like to discuss this decision further, please do [contact me](#). I am available for you and your family.

*Peace,
The Rev. Kevin LJ Schubert*

NEWS

JOIN US SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 FOR BACK TO SCHOOL WORSHIP SERVICE & SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE



On Sunday, August 15, the 10:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary will look very different. *(The 8:00 a.m. worship service in the Chapel will follow the regular order of worship for a Holy Eucharist Rite II service.)*

At the 10:30 a.m. service on August 15, we will dedicate this service to the celebration of the return to the school year. Although the service will be shorter, only 30 minutes, it will contain Holy Eucharist. The St. Stephen's Worship Band will be performing praise music, selected by Fr. Kevin, and both teachers and students will be invited up to the altar to have their lesson plans and backpacks blessed. During the same service we will commission the new school teachers and school board members. Please note that we will not live stream the Sunday, August 15 worship service. It will be

in-person only.

Immediately following the service, all are invited to grab hotdogs and watermelon slices. This BBQ is sponsored by the church Vestry and the school board. School families will have an opportunity to meet their teachers and church families will have an opportunity to tour the school during its open house on Sunday, August 15. There will be more surprises in store, and we hope you will be able to join in the celebration and festive worship.

DWTX EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS: SUNDAY, AUGUST 15



The Rt. Rev. David Reed, Bishop of West Texas, has extended the deadline to submit a "We Will Continue" paper. The new deadline is Sunday, August 15, 2021. The categories and prompt for these papers are guided by the questions of the Baptismal Covenant. Submitted work will be considered by a panel of clergy and laity, then compiled in order to share throughout the Diocese. Author divisions are: adults, high school, middle school, and elementary school. Younger authors or artists may submit creative works in response to the prompt for potential inclusion in the diocesan compilation, but will not be judged by the panel.

[Submit Papers](#)

DAY BY DAY DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE IN PRINT & ONLINE

The printed copies of the August/September/October "Day by Day" are available for pickup in the Chapel and Sanctuary narthexes. If you prefer an online copy, visit:

[https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/forward_day_by_day.php?
d=4&m=8&y=2021](https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/forward_day_by_day.php?d=4&m=8&y=2021)



MORNING PRAYER OFFERED THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021



Morning Prayer will continue at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel on Tuesday mornings through the month of August. Our last Morning Prayer will be held Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

Beginning in September, the Healing Service will return.

(See separate article for more details.)

HEALING PRAYER RETURNS ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



This fall brings the much anticipated return of the St. Stephen's Healing Eucharist. This service will be held weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. and will last 45 minutes. On the third Wednesday of the month, we encourage you to stay after the service and to head over to McArthur Hall for "Great Generations."

The Healing Service will be held in the Chapel and begins in silence as we take our seat in the pews in prayerful consideration of God's saving Grace and Love. You can expect this

service to contain a shared homily and a laying on of hands and anointing. Fr. Kevin will invite persons seeking anointing to come forward to the altar rail, at which time they are to provide their name and any particular request for prayer. Fr. Kevin will lay hands upon the person with prayer and anoint the person with oil. Communion and a Blessing will follow.

The Episcopal Church's understanding is that through the laying on of hands and the administering of the sacrament of unction (anointing of oil) God's healing grace is bestowed upon the sick and needy. This is so, with the full knowledge that God's healing and grace is available for all conditions of humanity.

We invite you to join us on Wednesdays for this healing service beginning, September 22 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

MEAL TRAINS FOR CHARLOTTE CARTER & LU RUSSO-ELLIS



St. Stephens, we have two dear long-time church friends that are in need of meals. Charlotte Carter, our dean of lay ministry, has returned from the hospital and is recovering. Lu Russo-Ellis has suffered an injury leaving her with a compression fracture and a temporary inability to move about. If you would like to help our dear friends out by bringing them a meal, click the buttons below to choose your day. Please remember to read the dietary instructions when signing up.

[Meal Train for Charlotte Carter](#)

[Meal Train for Lu Russo-Ellis](#)

COFFEE & TEA FRIENDS MEETS FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 @ 9:00 AM



All ladies are invited to the casual social gatherings of the *Coffee & Tea Friends* held at [Sip! on the Square](#) on the first and third Friday of every month at 9:00 a.m. The group invites you to swing by and stay as long as your schedule allows. Our next meeting is scheduled for today, Friday, August 6. Meet you there!

For more information, contact: Ann Robertson, annrobertson95@gmail.com.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP MEETS OFFSITE AUGUST 11 @ 11:30 AM

The Wimberley Area Cancer Support Group, sponsored by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, is meeting offsite once again on the second Wednesday of every month. If you have had cancer now or experienced it in the past, we invite you to bring a brown bag lunch to the Wimberley Chamber/Visitors Center conference room. Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held:

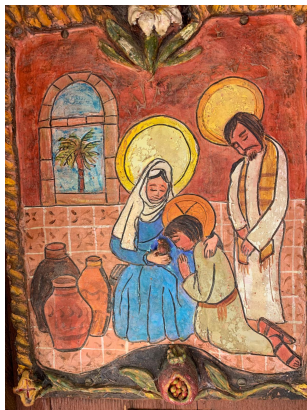


Wednesday, August 11, 2021 @ 11:30 a.m.
Wimberley Chamber/Visitors Center in the conference room

These meetings are an ideal place to relax, catch up, and talk with others who share or have shared your journey with cancer. Fully vaccinated persons are welcome. Masks and social distancing are recommended at this time.

Ministry leaders Sharon East, sharoneast2@gmail.com, and Dave Boyd, davsimpboyd@gmail.com, look forward to meeting and seeing you at the August 11 meeting. If you have any questions beforehand, please feel free to contact them.

TAKE 5: EPISODE 73 ON YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK, THURSDAY, AUG 12



In Episode 73, TAKE 5 Host Allen Hennig has selected a song setting from the most popular, most iconic of the Psalms—Psalm 23, *The Lord is My Shepherd*. The melody from Erneueton Gesangbuch, 1665, is arranged by Victor Labenski. Episode 73 airs on Thursday, August 12 at 10:00 a.m. CT on YouTube and Facebook. Featured artwork is courtesy of Elisa Webster.

Recommended scripture for Episode 73 is [Psalm 23](#) and [Daniel 4:37](#).

We hope you enjoy this music break and that it serves to lift the spirit and as a treat to your ears and eyes. TAKE 5 episodes air every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. CT on Facebook and YouTube.

[TAKE 5 EPISODE 73 \(YouTube\)](#)

[TAKE 5 EPISODE 73 \(Facebook\)](#)

[TAKE 5 PLAYLIST](#)

GREAT GENERATIONS MEETS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18 @ 11:30 AM



Alice Le Duc of Texas State University will share her beautiful bird photos and expertise with us at the next Great Generations Gathering on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. in McArthur Hall. All generations are invited to come join in this fellowship-based gathering, which has occurred monthly for more than 10 years. We meet the third Wednesday of the month throughout the year. Please feel free to invite your neighbors and friends as well! Door prizes

and music are part of the fun!

For more information, contact: Carroll Dolezal, carrolldolezal99@gmail.com.

RSVP FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 28 LITURGICAL MINISTRY TRAINING

The Liturgical Ministry Training for Lectors, Intercessors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, and Ushers is quickly approaching. Fr. Kevin is eager to gather all Lay ministers and recruits together on Saturday, August 28, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. (*Lunch will be provided from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m.*) Both Charlotte Carter and Fr. Kevin are dedicated to delivering the training that you will need to become comfortable and confident. The training will review the new changes, adaptations, expectations, and duties of the Lay Ministers.

Lunch is included in the Saturday, August 28 training. Please RSVP by 12 noon, Wednesday, August 25 to let us know that you will be attending so that we may have your boxed lunch ready. Training is strongly advised for both new recruits and current lay ministry.



RSVP to Charlotte Carter

charlotteanncarter@gmail.com

by 12 noon Wednesday, August 25

The church website, www.ststeve.org/serving-on-sunday, also contains helpful information on the Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Readers, and Lectors.

*"Serving in this ministry,
brings such a quiet inner peace and joy,
reflecting the unity that binds us together in God's love and grace."
Judy Seaberry*

A/V VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 28



Adeline Crowley, A/V Coordinator, is holding a training on how to run the A/V equipment for the Sunday worship service livestream. The training will take place on Saturday, August 28, 2021 in the Sanctuary beginning at 11:00 a.m. If you have questions and/or would like to RSVP, contact Adeline, acrowley@ststeve.org.

Once trained, A/V volunteers will work in pairs and be scheduled once a month. All new volunteers will have an opportunity to shadow experienced team members.

HAYS CITY STORE TO FEED SEPTEMBER 11 ROADSIDE CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS



Tamra Tindol, owner of Hays City Store & Ice House, has generously offered to buy lunch for all September 11, 2021 volunteers who help with the roadside ministry's quarterly cleanup. Adult and teen volunteers are welcome! We will be beautifying the five mile stretch of FM 3237, assigned to St. Stephen's by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot).

As an added incentive, the names of those participating in the September 11 roadside cleanup will be placed in a raffle. One winner will be chosen and will receive a gift card from Hays City Store to use at a later date.

Registration for this ministry event is necessary and greatly appreciated. Safety information and instructions will be sent to you ahead of the scheduled cleanup date.

Click the button below to signup. It's that easy.

On the day of the event, those who have registered, will check in between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. in the Courtyard to pick up orange vests, trash grabbers, and other supplies. Together, in pairs, we will then head out to beautify our five mile stretch of highway. This is a great opportunity to get some exercise, enjoy the outdoor Texas Hill Country views, help out the entire community, and earn a free delicious lunch from Tamra and the good folks at Hays City Store. Be a part of the amazing "before & after" of a cleanup. It's rewarding!

For more information, contact Cindy Taylor, taylorcindy34@gmail.com or Todd Schmidt, tk Schmidt88@gmail.com, or Mike Marcionetti, mikeydrum@gmail.com.

SIGN UP FOR SEPTEMBER 11 CLEANUP

COMPANIONS (WIDOW GRIEF SUPPORT) WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST



The Companions (Widow Grief Support) ministry will not meet in August. This ministry will return at its regular day and time in September.

For more information on this ministry, visit the church website, www.ststeve.org/ministries.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FIRST FRUITS; DONOR ONLINE FORM AVAILABLE



The *First Fruits 2021 Wine & Dinner Pairing Fundraiser* is back and scheduled for Sunday, October 24. This year's event will be held at Old Glory Ranch from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and will include an online auction. Please save the date for this wonderful event.

SEATS: \$100 (per adult) with children/students FREE with an Adult Purchase.

New this year will be our first ever online auction. Attention, donors! You can now use the online donor form to submit information.

ststeve.org/forms/first_fruits

If you would like to help cover the costs of the event, please consider sponsorship, and contact Jeannetta Watson, jwatson@ststeve.org.

SPONSORSHIP: \$250 - 1 ticket, \$500 - 2 tickets, \$1,000 - 4 tickets

Proceeds from *First Fruits* are used to support the Church and its mission. More details about this year's event are coming, but mark the date on your calendar now!!!

AUGUST 14 IS BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA EVENTS IN WIMBERLEY

Thank you to all who have donated this year to the bigger and better *Back to School Fiesta*. Two checks, totaling \$3,065, were delivered to Barnabas Connection to help provide necessary school supplies and backpacks to pre-registered Wimberley children in need. These pre-registered children will be receiving their backpacks and supplies on Saturday, August 14 at the Barnabas Office. Later that same morning, all families are invited to:



Celebration for ALL Families
(games, crafts, music, food)
Saturday, August 14, 2021
Cypress Creek Church @ 10:30 a.m.

No RSVP is needed for the Celebration for ALL Families event. While you are there, be sure to stop by the St. Stephen's information booth and say "Hi!" to our very own Family & Youth Minister Elisa Webster. Rumor has it that she has got a new St. Stephen refrigerator magnet waiting for you.

\$1,000+ RAISED FOR AMIGOS DE JESUS



The final tally is in and the church office happily reports that more than \$1,000 was raised for Amigos de Jesus. Special gratitude goes out to those who made donations in honor and tribute to Connie Maverick and her long-time dedication to Amigos de Jesus.

**REGISTER NOW FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT @ WELLSPRINGS,
SEPTEMBER 10-12, 2021**



The SSEC ministry for Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is sponsoring two events in September—a retreat and an after-retreat get together.

All adult women are encouraged to register now for the Women's Retreat at Wellsprings Retreat Center, to be held September 10-12, 2021. Cost is \$30. Look for the sign up sheets and poster in McArthur Hall. Activities at this relaxing weekend of fun and fellowship include: yoga with Carla Daws, music with JoAnn Seeberger, movie night, and a presentation by Rev. Bryn Caddell.

***Last day to sign up for the Women's ECW Retreat is
Sunday, August 22.***

***Payment of \$30 will need to be received no later than
Sunday, August 29.***

Following the retreat at Wellsprings, all women from St. Stephen's are invited to attend a get together at Carolyn Galle's home in Wimberley, Texas on Saturday, September 18 @ 1:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Do you need someone...

- To listen, without judgment, to what is weighing on your heart?*
- To recognize your needs and respect your rights to your feelings?*
- To honor any conversation with complete confidentiality?*
- To support you as you take steps of change on your journey?*
- To just walk with you and let you be you?*



Each one of us, at some point or at several points in our lives, could use a "companion" to walk with us during the challenges of our journeys. A Community of Hope Lay Chaplain is someone who cares about you, will not promise miracles, will not decide for you what you should do, will not take steps for you, and will not rescue you. He or she will be available to you, support you, pray for you, and assure you that you are God's beloved. Please, if you are walking alone, invite one to join you on your path.

AUGUST COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONTACTS

Becky Denton, dentonrebecca1@gmail.com
Dot Green, dotgreen@anvilcom.com

SAVE THE DATE



FRI, AUGUST 6

God's Garden, McArthur Hall, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee & Tea Friends (offsite @ Sip!), 9:00 a.m.

SUN, AUGUST 8

Holy Eucharist Service, Chapel, 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Service, Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.
Choir Practice, Sanctuary, 12:00 noon

MON, AUGUST 9

Men's Prayer Group (offsite @ Wimberley Cafe), 7:30 a.m.
Cursillo Reunion Group, McArthur Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Monday Bible Babes (offsite @ Rene's home), 12 noon

TUES, AUGUST 10

Morning Prayer, Chapel, 9:00 a.m.
Yoga, McArthur Hall, 4:00 p.m.

WED, AUGUST 11

Cancer Support Group (offsite: Wimberley Chamber of Commerce), 11:30 a.m.
Christ Centered Prayer(Zoom), 5:00 p.m.

TH, AUGUST 12

TAKE 5 (YouTube, Facebook), 10:00 a.m.

SAT, AUGUST 14

Wimberley Community Celebration for Families (offsite @ Cypress Creek Church), 10:30 a.m.

SUN, AUGUST 15

Holy Eucharist Rite II Service, Chapel, 8:00 a.m.
Back to School Sunday Service, Sanctuary, 10:30 a.m.
Back to School Hotdog Reception & School Open House, 11:00 a.m.
Choir Practice, Sanctuary, 12:00 noon
Daughters of the King Meeting, McArthur Hall, 12:30 p.m.

MON, AUGUST 16

Men's Prayer Group (offsite @ Wimberley Cafe), 7:30 a.m.
Cursillo Reunion Group, McArthur Hall, 10:30 a.m.

TUES, AUGUST 17

Morning Prayer, Courtyard, 9:00 a.m.
Yoga, McArthur Hall, 4:00 p.m.

WED, AUGUST 18

Great Generations Gathering, McArthur Hall, 11:30 a.m.
Christ Centered Prayer(Zoom), 5:00 p.m.

TH, AUGUST 19

TAKE 5 (YouTube, Facebook), 10:00 a.m.

FRI, AUGUST 20

Coffee & Tea Friends (offsite @ Sip!), 9:00 a.m.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

(articles, photos, graphics)

WEDNESDAYS, 12 NOON

Jackie McFadden, Communications Director, eeant@mac.com

Visit our Website



[VISITORS](#)

Church Office open M-TH 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.