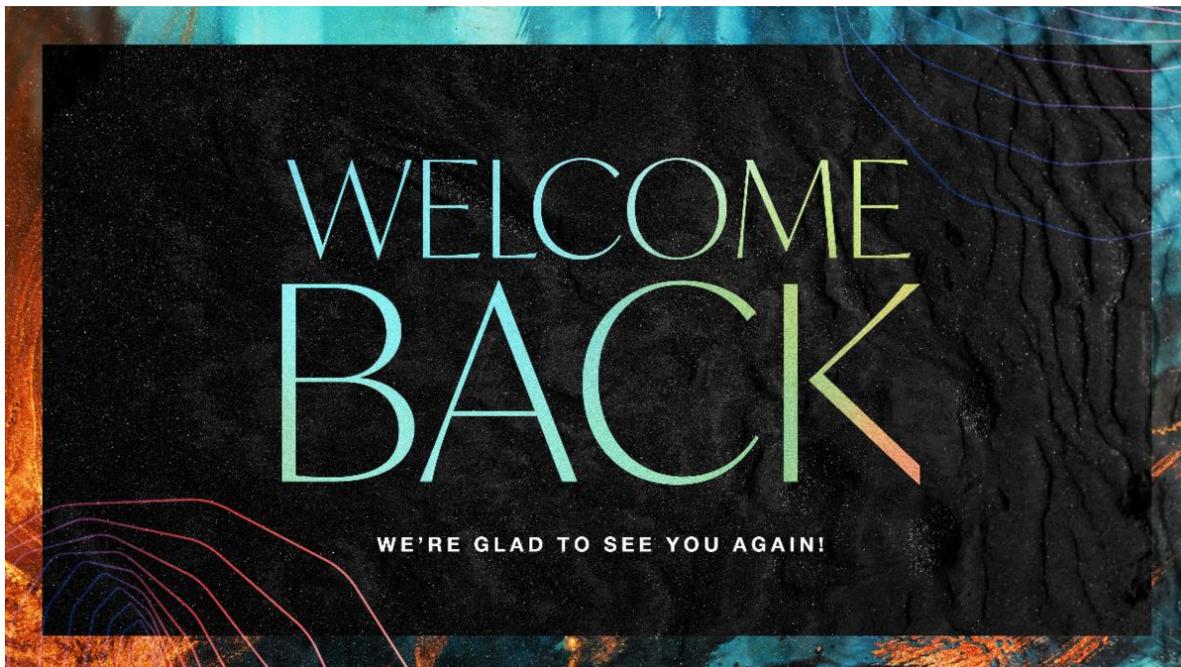


The Guide

A Newsletter of
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
October 2020



Visit our Website



In-person Worship Resumes Sunday, October 4

Barring a dramatic increase in Covid-19 cases in Hall County, we hope to continue worshipping with Morning Prayer on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Please read carefully and observe the following guidelines for our worship together at St. Stephen's:

- Parishioners will enter and exit the building **only through the glass doors** by the parking lot (so those who need the elevator will have access), with other church doors remaining locked
- Beginning at 9:50, ushers will invite parishioners into the building **one family unit at a time** (a family unit being one or more people who live together and/or drove to church together)
- All parishioners **must wear masks** covering their nose and mouth while they are inside the building
- One family unit at a time will proceed through the parish hall to the sanctuary, maintaining a **distance of at least six feet** from other family units
- Ushers will guide each family unit to a pew, where the parishioners will stay until they are dismissed at the end of the service
- Parishioners will be seated in alternating pews and no one is to sit in the pews from which the red cushions have been removed
- At the conclusion of the service, parishioners will remain in their pews until

dismissed by an usher, at which point each family unit will proceed directly through the parish hall to exit the glass doors

- Parishioners **should not plan to use the bathroom** while at the church
- There will be **no coffee hour** or social time inside the building
- Initially, we will not be celebrating Eucharist or incorporating music in our worship, though we hope to add communion and instrumental music down the road if we are successful in observing these guidelines (congregational singing will likely have to wait until the dissemination of a Covid-19 vaccine)
- A plate will be available in the back of the church, into which parishioners may drop checks or cash as they enter or leave the sanctuary

October Calendar of Events

October Schedule of Volunteers



Dear Members of St. Stephen's,

I write to you at the very end of September, and when I wake every morning for the past few days, I've thought, "brace yourself." On top of whatever natural disasters, Covid-19 developments, and

shocking celebrity deaths this month has in store for us, each news cycle is likely to bring more outrageous statements, contentious confrontations, and unpleasant surprises because, as we enter October, we're about a month away from Election Day. Thanks, 2020.

A couple weeks ago, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry issued a [word to the church](#) about this upcoming election, reminding us that although the Episcopal Church (and all tax-exempt religious institutions) cannot, should not, and does not endorse or oppose particular candidates, we are nonetheless charged to exercise our vote in accordance with the teachings and example of Jesus. "What does voting have to do with the Gospel? What does voting have to do with being a Christian? An election for public office is not a popularity contest between two or more people. It's a contest of ideas about how to shape the future of a community, nation and maybe even a world. It's a contest, a debate, a discernment of moral values and their relationship to public policy. Voting is an act of moral agency. It is an act of moral discernment and decision. It is how a community or a nation decides how the moral values that it holds and shares shape public policy and the lives of people. The children of God. It is salutary to remember that partisan neutrality does not mean moral neutrality."

Bishop Curry is entirely correct that what Jesus did (dining with the outcast, healing the sick, feeding the hungry) and taught (love your neighbors as yourself, as you did it to the least of these you did it to me, it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle) are relevant in election season. Insofar as we can discern between candidates and party platforms that intend for our nation to do what Jesus did and act as he taught and those that do not, it becomes a moral imperative to use our ballot to support the former and resist the latter.

So this letter is to encourage each of you to exercise your right to vote. Make a plan and execute it between now and November 3, whether that entails voting by mail or casting your vote in person. Before filling out your ballot, take some time to study the candidates, considering whether they have acted or have pledged to act in ways that are consonant with the life of Jesus or opposed thereto. Pray, inviting Jesus to be part of the conversation about how you will vote, and let him, rather than your favorite news channel or a partisan voter guide, direct your hand.

And to address the general anxiety and frustration of this month, which have me and perhaps you constantly bracing for whatever comes next, I encourage you to spend some quality time with the Bible. I particularly recommend the later chapters of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (40-66, often referred to as Second and Third Isaiah), in which the suffering of God's servant is juxtaposed with the proclamation of God's salvation. With St. Stephen's, there are two opportunities to study this together, beginning October 6: Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall, and Tuesdays at 6:00 pm over Zoom (with links to the latter in the Thursday emails).

In a time when we are all acquainted with infirmity, I strongly encourage you to exercise your vote in accordance with the morals we learn from Jesus, and I invite you to find the comfort God promises us in Holy Scripture.

In Christ's love,
The Rev. John Adams



Hello Everyone!! As we all start getting back to church services and Bible studies, we understand that everyone's comfort level is different and having options are needed. Starting October 11th we will be rolling out some youth programs both online and group session that all can be included in.

October 11th, two youth programs will be rolled out for youth to participate in. They are...

Faith 5: This is designed for all ages and will happen over Zoom. This is a program that will focus on our youth's:

- Highs for the week
- Lows for the week
- A Bible verse and how that verse relates to them
- Pray for one another

Zoom info to go to so you are able to get on the call.

Faith Lens: This is designed for our middle/high school youth who want to challenge connecting world events with the Bible and their faith. This group will meet the second Sunday of the month. Our first meeting will be October 11th at 11:30 a.m. at GRACE ABBOTT PARK. We will meet at the stage. Due to COVID and needing spaces big enough to hold our group, emails will be sent for future meeting spots.

We are looking into other ways to keep our youth connected during these difficult times. Please contact Pastor Steven, Father John, or Courtney if you have any questions, concerns or would like ideas on Faith Practices you could use at home.

Blessings,
Courtney!

- Bless one another

This Zoom call will happen on Sunday evenings from 7-7:45 p.m. In order to have your youth be a part of this Zoom call, please email [Courtney](#) or the [church office](#) the email address you would like the



Make a Call, Send a Card, Say a Prayer



Please remember these friends when you pray

Those in need of healing or for other concerns: Robin, Marilyn, Mark, Sandra, Ken, Jason, Cindy, Gary, Steve, Angelica, Don, Rebekah and Jerry

Those serving in the military: Lucas and Tim

Homebound: Virginia, Marla, Mickey, Vera, Audrey, and Connie

If you would like to add a name (or remove a name from) the prayer list or submit birthdays and anniversaries, please call the church office at 308-382-4961 or e-mail them to [Lynne](#).

Prayers run in the weekly bulletin as well as monthly in The Guide.

Prayer Chain requests can be called to Mary Kvetensky at 308-382-4090 or e-mailed to [Donna Weaver-Smith](#).

October Birthdays

Xavier Briseno - Oct. 1
 Terry Babcock - Oct. 2
 Jan Moore - Oct. 4
 Fred Rauch, Jr. - Oct. 6
 Stacia Dreier - Oct. 8
 Spencer Goodman - Oct. 8
 Eryn Korensky - Oct. 13
 Ethan Briseno - Oct. 14
 Toree Wieland - Oct. 14
 Ibrahim Geberia - Oct. 15
 Ann Thorndike - Oct. 17
 Lucy Nilson - Oct. 21
 Kiley Keck - Oct. 22
 Raegen Hillman - Oct. 23
 Bob Condy - Oct. 24
 Rich Webb - Oct. 25
 Nate Wieland - Oct. 27
 John Albers - Oct. 28
 Sue Clement - Oct. 28

October Anniversaries

Don & Stacia Dreier - Oct. 8
 Don & Becky Young - Oct. 8
 Mick & Sandy Fowler - Oct. 21

Our Opportunity to Say THANKS!

There must be a hundred ways to let our new priest-in-charge know how glad we are he is here!

Whether it's a note, a phone call, a text, a gift, don't let October go by without showing your appreciation for his ministry among us.

October is
**CLERGY
APPRECIATION
Month**

"...honor those leaders who work so hard for you..."
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (The Message)

How Can YOU Connect with St. Stephen's?

Worship Services

Morning Prayer on Sundays at 10 a.m.
Evening Prayer Zoom call, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Christian Education (September - May)

Bible Studies, Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and by Zoom at 6 p.m.
Faith 5 Zoom call for all ages, Sundays at 7 p.m.
Faith Lens for Middle/High Schoolers, Second Sunday of Month at 11:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Leadership and Staff

Priest-in-Charge

Fr. John Adams

[johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto: johndavidadams85@gmail.com)

Rector's (Senior) Warden (2019)

Paul Fischer

Buildings & Grounds
[paul.c.fischer@gmail.com](mailto: paul.c.fischer@gmail.com)

People's (Junior) Warden (2022)

Tracy Babcock

Buildings & Grounds
[TracyBabcock@me.com](mailto: TracyBabcock@me.com)

2021 Vestry

Mike Smith

Finances

[grumpy72smith@outlook.com](mailto: grumpy72smith@outlook.com)

2022 Vestry

Kaeleigh Post

Liturgy & Parish Life Committee
[kaeleigh.post@icloud.com](mailto: kaeleigh.post@icloud.com)

Office Manager

Lynne Nuss

[lynne@ststephengi.org](mailto: lynne@ststephengi.org)

Youth Director

Courtney Berg

[courtney.levanders@hotmail.com](mailto: courtney.levanders@hotmail.com)

