

# The Guide

## A Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

July 2021



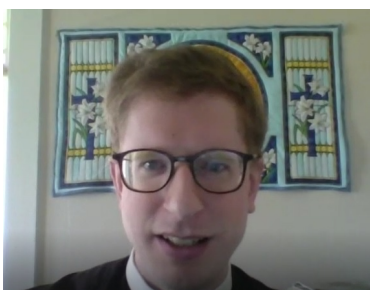
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[July Calendar and Rota](#)



Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*A Prayer for the Nation, BCP, pg. 258*



## Evangelism for the Summer

Episcopalians are notoriously averse to the 'E word,' evangelism. When someone talks about evangelism, we immediately envision strangers knocking on your door with pamphlets or random people asking if you've been saved. Such evangelism is awkward and rarely results in anything other than aggravation and frustration for both parties, and with such things in mind we understandably want to run the other way when we are told we need to evangelize our neighbors.

However, awkwardly approaching strangers is not the evangelism Jesus calls us to do. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and our evangelism should occur in the context of loving our neighbors, which is to say, we do not evangelize by bringing up our church immediately when we encounter strangers because very few people love that. Instead, as Episcopalians our evangelism mostly involves issuing invitations to family members, friends, and others with whom we engage on something more than a cursory level. Such evangelism also has a greater likelihood of success: I (like most people, in my experience) am extremely unlikely to accept an invitation from someone who invites me to their church without preamble, but I feel very differently if the invitation comes from a friend or was issued in the context of a longer conversation.

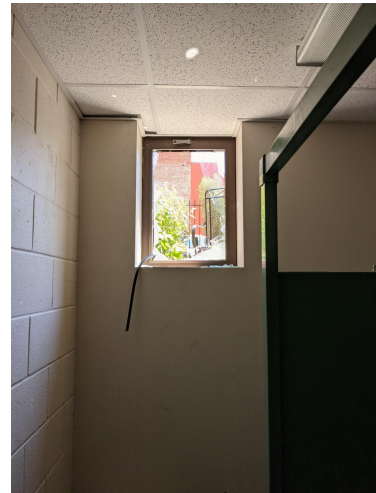
Of course, it's not enough to just tell someone 'come to church.' Effective evangelists must know why church is important to them and be able to articulate to others why accepting the invitation would be good and desirable. In a society where many set foot in a church only rarely, a worship service may be too intimidating, especially if they must find the entrance, walk through the building, and navigate the service on their own. Episcopal evangelism is often most successful in first inviting folks to social events or casual services at times other than Sunday mornings.

I bring this up now because we (at St. Stephen's, and at many other churches in the US) are in an odd moment, with things returning to normal just as we enter the summer doldrums (as church activities and attendance are curtailed while schools are out). At one level, we can invite folks to church now in a way we really couldn't for over a year, but at another level, there's not much outside of Sunday mornings to which we could invite folks.

This, therefore, is a twofold request from your priest-in-charge: 1) Be evangelists to those with whom you have relationships, inviting them to St. Stephen's without being pushy and not only inviting them to worship but offering to meet them when they get here and sit with them. 2) Think about what things outside of Sunday morning worship you would like to attend and perhaps invite others to as well. In addition to the weekday worship service and weekday educational opportunities, are you interested in a monthly dinner, or an outreach ministry, or a regular social event, or other gathering of this community? When you are excited by something going on at St. Stephen's, your excitement spills over in your evangelism, and so I ask you to talk with me ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294) if you have ideas that excite you and so might be opportunities to invite others to experience this loving community so that we may be able to evangelize further when Fall comes.

## Break-in at St. Stephen's

As you may have heard on the news or through the grapevine, St. Stephen's was broken into the night of June 22, one of a series of at least three downtown break-ins that week. Although the kitchen and unlocked rooms downstairs were rifled through, the burglar or burglars did not enter the sanctuary, sacristy, chapel, or office. Several items were taken (including a weedwhacker, a vacuum, and a number of tools), but nothing irreplaceable (or terribly expensive) is missing, and no one was hurt. Incidents like this are always challenging for parishes. On the one hand, our building has been violated and we cannot pretend that nothing happened; on the other hand, God's call for us to love our neighbors remains the same and we cannot allow our desire for security to compromise that mission. The Vestry will be considering what measures, if any, to undertake in response to this, but in the meantime I invite you to pray for the person or persons who felt the need to do this.



## Sunday Morning Help Wanted

As we enter July, our Sunday morning services are increasingly close to what they were before the



pandemic. Except for those who are not yet fully vaccinated, masks are no longer required for any part of the service. Passing the peace by making physical contact is again an option. While sipping from the chalice is still prohibited, intinction (dipping) is permitted. Coffee hour is back. The most significant remaining difference from worship in early 2020 is not

actually Covid-induced: our music is limited because of the difficulty in finding trained accompanists in central Nebraska who don't already have Sunday morning gigs (forcing us to rely on recordings), not because singing is restricted. So if you've been waiting until things were normal, we cordially invite you to return to St. Stephen's at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings.

As you return, we also ask you to prayerfully consider contributing your efforts on Sunday mornings in one or more of the following capacities:

- Ushers greet folks as they enter the sanctuary, distribute bulletins, lock the exterior doors after the service starts, close and open the altar rail, and help the congregation come forward for communion
- CD Operators operate the CD player in the back of the sanctuary (which works just like, and is just as easy to use, as any other CD player in your car or home) to play the opening and closing hymns, and, if possible, push the button to start and stop recording the sermon
- Acolytes light and snuff the altar candles and process with the cross, and potentially double as chalcers
- Chalcers offer the chalice (right now for intinction only) to the congregation during communion, and potentially double as acolytes
- Readers read two lessons from Scripture and lead the congregation in the Psalm and Prayers of the People
- Altar Guild assists the celebrant in setting up before and cleaning up after the service
- Counters count and lock up donations left in the offering plate
- Coffee Hour Hosts make coffee for folks to drink after the service, set up and clean up dishes, and potentially offer food to go with the beverage (sign up sheet available in the parish hall)

If you are willing and able to help with any of the above, please contact Lynne ([lynne@ststephengi.org](mailto:lynne@ststephengi.org) or 308-382-4961) or Fr. John ([johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294).

## Last Supper

The new model of the Last Supper adorning the entrance to chapel comes from the home of late members Tom and Liz Baxter and was donated to St. Stephen's by their son Greg, to whom we are grateful for this beautiful art.



## Youth News



Soon the youth will be heading to Colorado to be God's hands! We will leave July 9<sup>th</sup> and return July 13<sup>th</sup>. Due to Covid, restrictions are still in place in many areas. We will not know our schedules until July gets closer. We ask that you pray for our group and those we will be working with. May God work through us to make a difference in Colorado this year! Thank you to everyone who donated to the youth to help fund this trip!

**Camp Canterbury 2021  
Register NOW!!**

As they continue to track vaccine distribution and Covid-19 rates

throughout the state, plans on what Camp Canterbury will look like in the Summer 2021 is still being discussed. But for now, please **save the date July 19-23, 2021**.

Camp Canterbury is extending camp ages for registration so that our camp **seniors** can attend camp for their last year in July 2021! We look forward to having 2021 high school graduates at camp.

Register for camp at <https://campcanterbury.episcopal-ne.org>. If any family needs financial assistance, please contact the church offices or Courtney.

**VBS:** Thank You everyone who helped make this year's collaboration with Messiah Lutheran, St. Stephen's Episcopal, St. Pauls Lutheran and United Congregational Church a successful VBS event! We hope you were able to make it to the concert that was held Saturday night.

Blessings,  
Courtney

## Workday Gratitude

Fr. John wishes to express thanks to Bob Allison, Tracy Babcock, Sue Clement, Sandy Fowler, Lynne Nuss, and Don and Becky Young

for their help as the Diocesan Youth Mission Trip worked at St. Stephen's last Monday (clearing out the downstairs classrooms, polishing brass and silver in the sanctuary, and





cleaning up the garden beds among other things).



## Altar Flowers

A great way to remember or honor loved ones or special events is to give altar flowers for a Sunday mass. Just [email](#) or call the office (308 382 4961) with the date and the wording you'd like in the bulletin.

## Make a Call, Send a Card, Say a Prayer

### On Our Prayer Lists

**Those in need of healing or for other concerns:** Robin, Marilyn, Cindy, Rebekah, Jerry, Cody, Reece, Jade, Keith, Elaine, Brendan, Sue, Carrie, Arland, Cindy, Jok, Randy, Dennis, Russell, Frances and Ryan

**Those serving in the military:** Tim

**Homebound:** Virginia, Marla, Mickey and Vera

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 [Lynne](#). Prayers run in the weekly bulletin as well as monthly in The Guide.

Prayer Chain requests can be e-mailed to Donna at [dowesm@yahoo.com](mailto:dowesm@yahoo.com)

### Happy Birthday to

Mary Kvetensky - July 2  
Mary Hall - July 9  
Lucas VanWie - July 11  
Kathy Stoddard - July 14  
Sara Beth Bosselman - July 14  
Fr. John Adams - July 15  
Cris McElroy - July 17  
Kaylee Condry - July 19  
Madison Wieland - July 20  
Bill Matin - July 22  
Chris Vinson - July 27  
Carson Reisinger - July 28  
Dave Beck - July 31  
Pam Hirschhorn - July 31

### Anniversary Congratulations to

Jim & Tracy Goodman - July 19  
Tom & Susan Briseno - July 23

### Contact Info

Fr. John can be reached at [johndavidadams85@gmail.com](mailto:johndavidadams85@gmail.com) or 571-232-1294. Please email, call, or text him if you are sick, having surgery, or are otherwise in need of prayer or conversation.



Our friend, Betty Crittenden, will be in Grand Island July 18th. Make sure you're in church that day so you're able to say Hi and catch up a bit. We miss Betty since her move to Florida and will be glad to see her again.

## How Can YOU Connect with St. Stephen's?

### Worship Services

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

### **Christian Education**

Study of Church History and Denominations on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Bible Study of Judges over Zoom on Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

Youth Activities as Announced

### **Church Office Hours**

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

The office will be closed Monday, July 5, in honor of Independence Day.

## **St. Stephen's Leadership and Staff**

### **Priest-in-Charge**

Fr. John Adams

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

### **Senior Warden (2023)**

Tracy Babcock

[TracyBabcock@me.com](mailto:TracyBabcock@me.com)

### **Junior Warden (2024)**

Don Young

[dryoung@hamilton.net](mailto:dryoung@hamilton.net)

### **Clerk (2023)**

Kaeleigh Post

[kaeleigh.post@icloud.com](mailto:kaeleigh.post@icloud.com)

Mike Smith, Vestry (2022)

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

Sue Cameron, Vestry (2024)

[skcameron44@gmail.com](mailto:skcameron44@gmail.com)

### **Church Treasurer**

Terry Babcock

[terry.babcock@mccain.com](mailto:terry.babcock@mccain.com)

### **Parish Administrator**

Lynne Nuss

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

### **Youth Director**

Courtney Berg

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

