

The Guide

A Newsletter of
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
May 2023



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Reflections from your Rector (Interim)



May is far and away my favorite month. Admittedly that may be because it's my birthday month (and my second son's birthday month.) However, there's more to May than my special day! Spring has sprung completely, winter is gone (finally) and the natural world is letting us know this with its profusion of colors, smells and growth. My front yard is full of tulips, daffodils and now, thanks to the local nursery, even a multicolored coleus planter. Even the leaves are colorful! The weather is milder; even if a chill wind blows occasionally, the big winter coats are stored for a while now. And it seems to me that this brightens and softens people right to their hearts. Possibility is alive, beauty is alive, change is alive (and good!), and we are alive in a different way. Sure, we still worry about the same things, taxes, world peace and our city, but we can now enjoy being outside in it instead of trying to escape it quickly to avoid the chill or wind or snow. And when we are outside we see the rainbow of possibilities, the good along with the troublesome and that gives us hope. Being Christian is about embodying that hope, knowing that despite the hard knocks of life, God is with us all the time, loving us. Furthermore there is absolutely nothing we can do to shake God's love in us, nothing! We will always be in God's love. We may stumble and fall, but we are raised up again by this love and hope. And it is always there. Period. End of statement. Woo hooo! along with a whole bunch of alleluias! Go out into the world, see God's love for you reflected in the beauty all around, in the people who love you, and in the love you feel for others. May God's blessings flower your heart and soul and may you in turn send them out into the world to show others the great and glorious power of God's love.



Theology on Tap
Thursday, May 4, 5:30 p.m.
at Kinkaiders

*Interesting voices,
Good company,
Lively conversation*

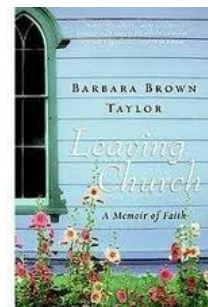
SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Search Committee has been hard at work in the past couple of months compiling the Parish Profile. Currently they are putting together their responses to the in depth questions given to all parishes looking for a new priest by the Office of Transitional Ministry for the entire Episcopal Church in the United States. The profile will be available soon and we will make sure you have the opportunity to see it; it's a beautiful and informative document about St. Stephen's. Meanwhile, continue to pray for them and for the parish as we travel through this time.

New book group

Starts Friday April 28 @ 10 am in the Church office area
***Leaving Church* by Barbara Brown Taylor**

This time we are taking a more personal look at faith as we explore the spiritual memoir of Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor. One of the premier preachers in the Episcopal Church and a professor of religion, This story of her faith is all about her own life in a parish as their priest and how she grew in her calling as a beloved of God. Taylor writes exquisitely and in the plain spoken, heartfelt words of her thoughts, feelings and prayers. Get a behind the scenes look at church and get to know one of the most brilliant authors in the Episcopal Church.



New Bible Study Coming in June



Starting the first Saturday in June, we are switching it up in our bible study. Using N. T. Wright's book, *Matthew for Everyone*, we will read, learn and inwardly digest (to paraphrase a prayer) the entire gospel for this year. Each week we will take a small portion of both the gospel and the book and explore the meanings and pearls available to us in this gospel. You are welcome to join in person or on zoom. If you're interested in "zooming in" please let

Rev. Susanna know so she can send out the necessary invitation to you.

To Let You Know

We are sad to announce the retirement of our parish secretary, Lynne Nuss. Lynne is leaving us after over 8 years of service to this community, to spend time with her husband and family and hopefully a new cat. We have been so blessed with her loyalty and hard work over the years and over the several transitions she has seen, and we will mark her leaving in a special way (look for further news on that.) We wish her the very best in this new adventure of her life.



Make a Call, Send a Card, Say a Prayer

On Our Prayer Lists

Those in need of healing or for other concerns: Jerry, Don, Jayda, Nancy, Russell, Hayden, Sandra, Dan O'Hare, Elliot, Daina, Joalie, Corrine, Rene, Hunter, Mike and Donna, Cindy, Laney, Don, Mike, Terri, Derek, Jaclyn, Stan, Liesa, Dow, Ana, Jim

Homebound: Lloyd, Melba and Paul Kunzelman, Sue, and Donna

Prayer requests can be emailed to Donna at dowesm@yahoo.com
The prayer lists are printed in the bulletin weekly and monthly in *The Guide*. If you would like to add a name (or remove a name) from the prayer list or add birthdays and anniversaries, please call the church office at 308-382-4961 or email Lynne.



Birthday Blessings to:

Emma Goodman - May 5
Kaila Roeser - May 5
Jennifer Cook - May 7
Barb Beck - May 9
Nathan Reisinger - May 9
Mick Fowler - May 16
Laurie Amsberry - May 18
Susanna DesMarais - May 21
Collin Jepson - May 24
Jeff Vinson - May 24
ReeAnn Regier - May 31

Anniversary Congrats to:

Mike & Donna Weaver Smith - May 1
Dave & Christy Jepson - May 19

How Can YOU Connect with St. Stephen's?

Worship Services

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Christian Education

Book Group, Friday mornings, 10 a.m.
Bible Study, Saturday mornings, 9 a.m.

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Stephen's Leadership and Staff

Interim Rector

Rev. Susanna DesMarais
revsusanna@gmail.com

Senior Warden (2024)

Don Young
dryoung@hamilton.net

Junior Warden (2025)

Dave Jepson
dcjep24@gmail.com

Sue Cameron, Vestry (2024)
skcameron44@gmail.com

Raynette Martin, Vestry (2025)
raynette@charter.net

Clerk

Dave Beck (2026)
harryd68959@yahoo.com

Church Treasurer

Terry Babcock
terry.babcock@mccain.com

Parish Administrator

Lynne Nuss
lynne@ststephengi.org

