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The Guide

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

April 2024



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[April Calendar and Rota](#)

Dear friends,

My name is Jeffrey Nelson. By now you know that I have been called to serve as your next Rector and it is with great joy that I have accepted your call.

For the past five years, I have served as Priest-in-Charge and then Rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Parish in Denver, Colorado. My work at St. Barnabas was to take a congregation in turmoil and help set it on a firm foundation for future ministry. Recently I realized my work at St. Barnabas was complete, which set in motion the process of seeking another call. Since Nebraska was the locus for much of my ministry, I decided to seek a position there.

I was drawn to St. Stephen's for several reasons, both professional and personal. Professionally, I long a position in which I can exercise all aspects of ministry once again: worship, preaching, teaching, formation, pastoral care, outreach, etc. St. Stephen's offers this opportunity in its desire for a priest/pastor who will simply love the people of the congregation and walk with them "in good times and bad" as a "companion in Christ." What a beautiful description of parish ministry from your profile! Also, I have always been drawn to small parishes in which there is an opportunity to get to know one another deeply and well.

I grew up a Lutheran and served as a Lutheran pastor (ELCA) for twenty years before being received as a priest. I like to say that I speak two “dialects” of Christian fluently and am excited by the vibrant partnership you have developed with Messiah Lutheran Church and the possibility of deepened ministry in this specific ecumenical collaboration.

Personally, I long to come home to Nebraska. I have served much of my career both as a Lutheran and as an Episcopalian in Nebraska and have laid down deep roots here. My husband, Curt Bennea, is a small business owner in Lexington, and we have a lake house on Johnson Lake. My children grew up in Kearney and my son, Kurt, still lives and works there. My stepdaughter and son-in-law live in Grand Island with our granddaughter, Luna. We have many good friends in Nebraska, and I have colleagues, both Lutheran and Episcopalian, that I cherish. And, of course, the prospect of being a part of the Diocese of Nebraska and serving with Bishop Barker once again makes my heart sing. He is a fine bishop and a good friend.

All of this and more drew me to you; and, through the leading of the Holy Spirit, it seems you were drawn to me as well! I will begin my ministry with you on April 16 and look forward to forging the loving bonds between priest and people that make for good ministry. I can’t wait to get to know you and have you know Curt and me as we join you in ministry.

Peace!

The Rev’d Dr. Jeffrey S. F. Nelson



Make a Call, Send a Card, Say a Prayer

[On Our Prayer Lists](#)

Please pray for those in need of healing or other concerns: Donna, Deena, Russell, Frances, Charlie, Eva, Kathy, Lori, Richard, Blake, Sue V., Knox, Mary, Karen

Please pray for those who are home-bound: Lloyd, Melba, Paul, 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 [the parish office](#).*

Happy Birthday Wishes to:

April 2 Charlee Condy
April 5 Jentry Dugan
April 6 Tyler Cook
April 6 Kathy Patton
April 7 George Royse
April 11 Paul Camplin
April 12 Mike Wooden
April 13 Jeanette Timmerman
April 14 Don Dreier
April 16 Mike McElroy
April 17 Ted Harris
April 17 Angie Treadwell
April 18 Roxie Webb
April 22 Nancy Tilmeez
April 24 Billie Condy
April 25 Dalton Dugan
April 25 Cassidy Regier

How Can YOU Connect with St. Stephen's?

Worship Services

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Church Office Hours

by appointment

St. Stephen's Leadership and Staff

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

Ashley Jones

ststephengi@gmail.com



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church | 422 W. 2nd St., 308-382-4961, Grand Island, NE 68801

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