

ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS
Today Sunday, January 17, 2021
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

WELCOME!

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, please be sure and say hello in the comments.

LOOKING FORWARD



St. Stephen's Book Study Group

The St. Stephen's Book Study Group is ready to restart on Zoom!

We will meet at 11:00 AM on Wednesdays and go for probably an hour. We will plan to finish in time for the Wednesday Eucharist Live Stream! We will be reading Hallelujah Anyway, by Anne Lamott, which is available at most book stores, and Amazon has it in print and for e-readers. The format will be that we will take turns reading aloud, and questions and comments are always welcome throughout our time together. Please contact Fran Cantella or the church office to get on the list. All are welcome!



Daughters of the King (DOK) would like to thank everyone who contributed pictures this year for our annual nativity display. It's been a huge success!

The full display is available for viewing through Epiphany, at St.

Stephen's web page: www.st-stephens.org, by going to the "Worship" tab near the top of the page and clicking in the drop-down on "Annual Nativity Display". It can also be accessed by clicking on the nativity picture in the slide show near the bottom of the page.

Special thanks go to Linda Weifenbach and Cathy Gero who took pictures of some nativities in last year's live presentation that we were able to use in the display this year.



"The residents of the asylum seekers' community in San Bernardino were grateful for computers, warm jackets, and clothes during the Christmas season and amazingly, the

funds to build a shower area in 2021. The drivers, who put in time and miles to deliver everything, made it all possible. Your generosity really is making a difference in the lives of the immigrants housed at St. John's Episcopal Church!"

GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue to supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here st-stephens.org/giving. As you may have heard, you can now also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support, especially right now.



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during the service, if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy at office@st-stephens.org no later than **5PM on Thursdays** with all of the relevant details.

St. Stephen's Prayer List

On-Going Needs: Joanne E., Mary Lou C.

Current Needs: Erin & family, Dorcas, Jim & Judy G., Diane P., Anna, Anna & Richard, Bob W., Susan B., Byron, Wilson B., Ken T., Judy, Tom J., Madeline, Ann H., Fran K., Elizabeth, Ann M., Melody, Bree, Inez, Barbara G., Tom L., Lester, Adrian & EJ, Mike M., Jill J., Barbara & Christian, Salley S., Beth Ann, Cacilda, Franz, Mary, Brian L., Mark A-J, Larry, Rick M., Andrew P., Bob J., Cathy A., Sara, Michael C., Maria T., Jenny & husband, Diana T. & Gary H., Dorothy W. & family, Michelle H., Daniel C., & their children, Lucy B., Pegg M., Carl B., Barry D., Terrie S.

Deceased: Eva, Larry Levey, Marith Levers, Matthew Wheeler, Br. Rafael Campbell-Dixon OHC, Margie Jackson, Tom Stabile, Judith Grider Ricket,

If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please call the church office @259.7307 or Flo Krejci @626.421.6829. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Flo or the office to be on the list again.

St. Stephen's Week		January 17, 2021 to January 24, 2021	
TODAY'S SERVICE		10:00am	
SUNDAY 1/17			
10:00am		Holy Eucharist via Facebook Live	
		Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom immediately following the service - VPOD Rachel Rieckhoff	
4:00pm		YESS via Zoom	
MONDAY 1/18			
TUESDAY 1/19			
6:00pm		Finance Committee meeting via Zoom	
WED. 1/20			
9:00am		Circle of Gratitude via Zoom	
11:00am		Book Study Group via Zoom	
12:00pm		Holy Eucharist via Facebook Live	
5:00pm		YESS "Game Time" via Zoom	
6:30pm		EfM	
THURS. 1/21			
12:00pm		SAGES via Zoom	
FRIDAY 1/22			
SAT. 1/23			
NEXT SUNDAY 1/24			
10:00am		Holy Eucharist via Facebook Live	
		Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom immediately following the service	
4:00pm		YESS via Zoom	

Prayers during times of challenge.

It has been a trying time here at home and around the nation. Rev. Christopher would like to encourage us all to persevere in our prayers for healing for all those affected by COVID-19 and for peace and reconciliation for our nation. To support us in that effort here is a link to several prayers from *The Book of Common Prayer* as read by our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry. [From the Book of Common Prayer | Episcopal Church](#)

A Message from Rev. Christopher regarding the annual meeting.

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It seems hard to believe that we are coming up on a year since the pandemic changed so many things about the way we live. As we continue to follow guidelines from state and local government as well as from Bishop Taylor's office, it is clear we will not be able to gather for the annual parish meeting and luncheon which was scheduled for January 24th, 2021. After consultation with clergy colleagues from around the diocese and diocesan leadership, the vestry and I have decided that it is best that the annual meeting is postponed until sometime in the fall when we can gather as a community not simply for business but also for the joy of gathering as a parish family.

Rest assured that we will still be preparing all the reports that are usually shared during the annual meeting. They will be presented via email and in hard copy for those who do not use email in February. The only order of business that cannot be postponed is the election of new vestry members and a letter has been sent via email to all our qualified electors with more details about this year's vestry election. We have mailed hard copies to qualified electors who do not use email.

In October, the Vestry Nominating Committee began its work of identifying 8 nominees; 4 to serve 2-year terms and 4 to serve 3-year terms. Their work resulted in an extraordinary slate of candidates each bringing their own brand of wisdom and expertise with a healthy balance of institutional knowledge and new energy.

The candidates are as follows:

2-Year Terms: Claudia Alexopoulos, Jay Clark, John Noonan, Jason O'Leary

3-Year Terms: Jennifer Aston, Shannon Brintnall, Aubrey Hardman, Julie Johnson

You can find out more about these excellent nominees at st-stephens.org/vestry

As we move through this transition of lay leadership, I offer this prayer:

Gracious God, you are the source of all wisdom and blessing. We turn our hearts to you in gratitude for the abundance and blessing you have lavished on our congregation. We pray always to be good stewards of your Church and dedicated servants of your beloved creation and we thank you for lifting up new leaders to serve our parish through the vestry. We look to you to guide all those who lead our congregation with the wisdom of your Holy Spirit and the light of your love for all people. May we shine as a beacon of hope for all the world to see today, tomorrow, and always through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

Even though we continue to move through challenging times, I am confident and hopeful about the future of our congregation. I look forward to collaborating with our new vestry members and I am so excited to see where we will go together this year and beyond.

Faithfully,
Christopher+



A pastoral letter from the Bishops of the Episcopal Dioceses in California

We, the Episcopal Bishops of California, have watched the events of January 6 and following days with deep concern. As Christians we follow Jesus, who is the Way of Love.

This weekend, when we remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we call upon the leaders of our cities, states and country to stand firmly in the place of non-violence, truth-telling and mutual respect.

To lead from the place of non-violence is not passive acceptance of wrongdoing; it is an active call to summon the “better angels of our nature” (Abraham Lincoln, 1861). We know of the difficulty Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. faced, even among his own followers, as they resisted hatred and physical violence with prayer, song and marches for justice. **We call on all people to embrace words and actions that are non-violent.**

To lead from the place of truth calls us to resist misinformation and convenient half-truths, and embrace what is real. Jesus said, “You will know the truth and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32). To do otherwise is to incite, to inflame and to spread lies. We honor the many thousands of election workers and officials of both parties who worked tirelessly, honestly, and at times in peril, to shepherd our nation through the election process. **We call on all people to search for truth.**

To lead from the place of mutual respect is to stand against racism in any form. We cannot, any of us, ignore the role that our nation’s sad history with race has played with events in our country. As Christians, we remember that each person is someone’s child, someone’s beloved, God’s creation. When we fail to remember that, we dehumanize our brothers and sisters. In our Baptismal Covenant, we vow to “respect the dignity of every human being.” **We call on all people to practice mutual respect.**

As we approach Inauguration Day, we ask our leaders to dig deeply into their consciences and to act with integrity to preserve, protect and defend our fragile democracy. **We call on all people to pause and pray for the peace of our country, a peace rooted in the Way of Love.**

The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. —Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In hope and prayer for peace and grace,

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus
Bishop of California

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Brown Snook
Bishop of San Diego

The Rt. Rev. Lucinda Ashby
Bishop of El Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor
Bishop of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce
Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Megan Traquair
Bishop of Northern California

The Rt. Rev. David Rice
Bishop of San Joaquin