

St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt, lives are changed!

March 9, 2018

Adult Forum

This week we have read Luke 12 to 18. There have been healings and warnings and difficult sayings. As you prepare for our class, consider the question – “Is it possible to own things without having them own you?” That will get us started on our discussion on Sunday. Come on Sunday prepared to share the passages that have meant the most to you and those that have been the largest challenge.

Church Pews

Unfortunately the humidity and much higher use has taken a toll on the pews in St John, which were shipped there from the former St Matthew's parish in Dayton. Many now need repair. During the work on the school last week, I spent about 2 days working with a carpenter/cabinet maker named Estilin and was impressed with his skill. We made a verbal agreement with him to repair 20 of the pews at a cost of \$1,700. The Priest, Pere Banna, will direct the work. Please help us with this cost so that we can get it started right away. You could just indicate “Haiti – Pews” on your check. Thanks, Cameron



Banns of Marriage

I publish the banns of marriage between Amber Lee Odom of the parish of Cross & Crown Lutheran, Charlotte, NC, and Jay Brennan Sigmon-Carow of this parish. If any of you know cause or just impediment why these persons should not be joined together in Holy Matrimony, you are to declare it. This is the second time of asking.



Pastoral Care

JOIN US THIS WEEK AS WE PRAY FOR John & Olivia Cox; Charles Crume & Bonnie Nestor; Steve & Mary Ann Damos; Teddy Dantzler; Edgar Darden.

Please add these names to your prayer list.



Lenten Dinner & Study

Bag Dinner and Study
Continuing through March 21
Every Wednesday beginning at
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

*Parish life will supply
dessert and drinks.*

Stations of the Cross

*Booklets are available for those
wishing to walk the Stations anytime
during the week.*



Wednesday Nights in Lent

Our week's meditations this week have been around the theme, “I have called you friends.” We have explored the friendships of Jesus with John, Thomas, Peter, Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, and Andrew. So, on next Wednesday we will share with the group the impact these friendships have had on our journey for the week. Comments have been about how meaningful these sessions are where we have been vulnerable with one another. This is much more than just another scripture study. If you have not been able to do each day you can still catch up by going to the website <http://www.meetingjesusinjohn.org> to register for this study. We still have a few copies of the journal. Just stop by the office to pick yours up.

Coffee Hour

Volunteers—Is This Your Ministry?

We still need volunteers for April “Coffee Hour”. If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, please call the office.

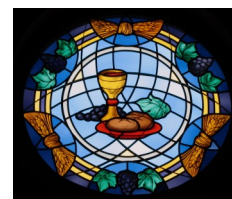
Nursery Volunteers

If you can help in the Nursery **once every two months**, please call Sharon Thomas, 765-6146 or meplusfiveplusfive80@bellsouth.net.



Sermon

The lesson from Numbers makes very little sense as it stands. If you were hearing the story of the Bible for the first time, you would hear about the people of Israel wandering in the wilderness, complaining of the food God supplied. Next you would hear about poisonous snakes, and Moses setting up a bronze serpent, so that when the people looked at it they were healed. This is a story of things not going the way people thought they would. It took God's intervention to set things right. This is true for you. If you are over eighteen, you will have lived through at least two crises. Things do not always turn out the way we thought they would. Jesus prepares Nicodemus in the Gospel to look to the cross for help, as old Israel had looked at the bronze serpent on the pole. In other words, people have to keep learning to look to God for help. Both stories teach us that we are really at our best when we look to God for the grace we need. This Sunday at the late service, we will celebrate the burning of a mortgage for a Habitat for Humanity House. We will hear about the ministry of Habitat, and we will witness another sign of God among us, giving help for God's children. In each service at St. Stephen's this Sunday, let us look to God for the grace that helps in time of need. Fr. Minter



Adult Bible Study

This Sunday in Acts, Ch. 17, Paul continues his Second Missionary Journey, now in Greece, including stops in Athens, which was then the greatest university town in the world, and in Corinth, which was possibly the most wicked city in the world. Join us at 10:00 am in Room 209 to follow Paul's harrowing efforts to bring Christianity to “all nations”. Jack Campbell will lead this session.

