

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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# The Evangel

August 2017

There is a theory that churches like pipe organs because they camouflage the pneumatic tube. “What pneumatic tube?” you ask. The answer is, “the pneumatic tube into which the offerings are placed and then sent straight to Heaven.” *Whoosh!*

We have a pipe organ, but not a pneumatic tube. Our offerings are deposited in the bank and spent on Earth. How dull! What isn't dull is our budget. (It's posted outside the offices for all to read.)

Did you know that some of our staff get paid? They have to pay for food, mortgages, and so forth and if they do work for us, we should pay for that work. A big chunk of our disbursements fall into the category of “Parish Staff.” The second biggest chunk is “Parish Service.” This contains our payments for utilities, maintenance, insurance, and so forth. Together, these account for more than three fourths of our expenses and we haven't even started doing God's Work ... or have we?

The Parish Staff are doing ministry as they collect those salaries. Leading worship, communications, pastoral care, emergency assistance, educational programs, ... you know the kind of stuff. And ... there is a reason for a Parish. Most of us aren't cut out to be hermits. We can't be holy all by ourselves. We need each other to provide strength and support when times are tough and when we have doubts. We need to gather together and learn together. Our communal services are part of God's Work. The costs in these big chunks are what we think reasonable to support this part of God's Work.

A third big chunk of the costs is “Evangelism and Renewal.” This is where we provide support to others ... another part of God's Work.

When we build the budget, we know about costs. What we don't know about is the part at the top of the budget ... “Receipts.” And that's where pledging comes in. Pledges let us know what we can expect as income to balance against the expenses. Because our bylaws require a balanced budget, if our expected income is less than our desired expenses, we have to cut the expenses.

Just remember, none of those pipes behind the altar is a pneumatic tube to Heaven. The money you pledge must be spent on Earth to support God's Work.

Dean Hartley, Vestry

# WHY NOT GET INVOLVED?

## Sunday School Program

We are in need of teachers for all children's classes.  
Classes meet on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m., September - May.



## Episcopal Youth Fellowship (EYF)

Youth leaders are needed. EYF meets on Sunday afternoons, September - May.

## Children's Music Program

If your children would be interested in participating in the music program, please call Simon.  
An adult helper is needed during this time.



## Parish Choir

Adult choir begins Wednesday, September 6, 6:30 p.m., September - May. Consider joining!



## August Celebrations



### Birthdays

5 Phillip Pack,  
6 Camille Mauk-Olson,  
Jacob LaRose  
8 Betty Johnson  
11 Anna Berven  
15 Matthew Cox  
22 Abigail Needham  
26 Matthew Ferry  
29 Brennick Aaron  
31 Britton Petersen

### Anniversaries

2 Kevin & Cindi Jones  
3 Michael & Donna Trank  
11 Bob & Marilyn Davis  
19 Jim & Penny Neal  
20 Ron & Merry Keyser,  
Wes & Carolyn Singer  
23 Eric & Miranda Miller  
27 John & Mary Lou Murphy  
29 Elwood & Rosalyn Gift  
31 Richard & Barbara Neill

## Adult Bible Class

How familiar are you with the Book of Acts (of the Apostles) ?  
Take a quiz ?

1. The terms "disciple" and "apostle" are interchangeable. *false*
2. The first half of Acts focuses on Paul and the second half Peter. *false*
3. Early Christians were still afraid of Paul after his conversion. *true*
4. Acts is believed to be authored by the same author as the gospel of Luke. *true*
5. While it is a goal of many to make it to Rome no one reaches the city in Acts. *false*
6. Peter is crucified upside down on the cross at the end of Acts. *false*
7. Acts is a chronological outline of the Apostles' activities from the birth of Christ to His ascension. *false*
8. Pentecost marks the birthday of the church. *true*
9. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. *true*
10. The apostle who replaced Judas was named Matthew. *false*

These topics and others from the Book of Acts will be covered this fall in the Adult Bible class at 10 am each Sunday. You are cordially invited to join us. The class is informal, friendly and follows a study guide. For more information or to sign up, contact Jack Campbell at 482-7568 or rjackcam@comcast.net.

## Haiti Skit

### WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

Join us on **Sunday, August 27, at the 10 o'clock** service for an entertaining skit about Haiti and our involvement there entitled **WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN**. Of course, there may be some sinners marching, too. Several parishioners and youth will participate. Simon Hogg and his merry band will provide the music. Father David will act as narrator. And unexpected guests may appear.

Save the date!

Judy DiGregorio, Tom Clary, Cameron Ellis

## Thanksgiving Luncheon

HEY !! Only 22 more weeks 'til St. Stephens Thanksgiving luncheon !  
Well ?



## Haiti - Medical Clinic St. John the Evangelist

Current needs/improvements for the clinic are: Replace water pump; Replace interior partitions walls with non-wood material; Obstetrical examination table; Two patient beds; Two metal kitchen-type sink cabinets; Metal supply cabinets; Microscope; EKG machine; IV stand; Ultra-Sound for Obstetric.

Please call Cameron Ellis to make a donation or with questions - (483-8497).



## *News From The Associate Rector, Rev. G. David Lovett...*

### **Labyrinth**

What excitement to see the labyrinth transform the Grove into an even more worshipful space. It took the crew only three days from beginning to completion. July 30 we will have one service at 10 a.m. outdoors. It will be conducted at the labyrinth and this new worship space will be blessed and dedicated to our Lord. Please plan to attend the blessing. Don't wait for your first walk of this sacred space. Please come in the cool of the morning or evening and experience it for yourself. There will be a community event later in the fall to welcome all who will to come and worship. [http://wellfedspirit.org/labyrinth\\_pages/guides.html](http://wellfedspirit.org/labyrinth_pages/guides.html)

### **Clearfork Valley**

By the time you read this column we will have completed our second summer of reading camp. This summer was quite a bit different than last. Recognizing the limited exposure these children have to the arts we intentionally structured our days to focus on art, music, and drama. There was a very good reception by the children to all that was offered. Please take the opportunity to give thanks to those who were able to go to Clearfork and to those who did work behind the scenes here at home.

### **Christian Education/Formation**

Earlier we sent to all parents of any children or youth a survey inquiring about your ability and/or willingness to have your child involved in the spiritual development we offer through our Christian education and youth fellowship programs. It was really sad and disheartening to receive only two completed surveys for all the families and children we have at St. Stephen's. What that has done is to energize our vestry and Christian education leaders to begin a study to determine what we can and will offer to this parish and this community for the nurturance and development of the spiritual needs of our children and youth. St. Stephen's cannot afford to allow our children to neglect such a critical part of their personal life and development. Our starting point is to consider numerous avenues to ensure we are offering what is needed for the spiritual formation of our children. This includes staffing and curriculum. It may involve seeking partnerships with other churches in the area such as Grace Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Oak Valley Baptist . . . If you are a parent please hear our commitment to your child or youth. Then consider your commitment to have your family regularly present to reap the rewards of such formative offerings.

### **WOW!**

One of our more successful outreach programs in some time has been the Walk Over Wednesday lunch that we offer to the Juniors and Seniors of the high school. With the new year-round school calendar we will be starting again serving lunches on August 2. We provide a delicious and desirable lunch for \$ 3 to the students who would have to pay more than that if they ate in their own cafeteria. We also offer the lunch to any of those students who don't have the means to pay. To make this happen it takes volunteers to prepare the food, serve and clean up from the meal. The old saying of many hands make light work is true for WOW. If you have time to volunteer one day out of the month for this ministry, contact the church office and we will get you on the calendar. You don't have to be a chef, just be willing to follow some directions and join in the fellowship. Our volunteers enjoy the time together as much as the kids enjoy the meals.

### ***Bittersweet Farewell***

*It is a bittersweet message to say that we plan to move to Venice, Fl. where we have been spending more time in recent years. It is now getting more difficult to go back and forth. We have been blessed and privileged to serve as Priest Associates at St. Stephen's for twelve years. Sharing our lives with yours has been a wonderful and special blessing in our retirement.*

*We expect to move in early Fall. However, we hope and expect to come back to Oak Ridge often for visits and vacations. In the meantime, we are grateful for the love and friendship extended to us in the city where Pat grew up and always loved.*

*You will remain in our prayers as individuals and for St. Stephen's for God's grace and love as you minister in the years to come. Love, Bob and Pat Reuss*

## August is St. Stephen's month to host the Ecumenical Storehouse

St. Stephen's will be in charge of the Ecumenical Storehouse for the month of August. Our first day of operation will be Wednesday Aug. 2. We would like to have more volunteers this year to make it easier for all of us. The volunteers assist our clients in locating items they have requested throughout the storehouse. The items are recorded on our form to keep track of the items they hope to locate. Any items not found will require another visit for them. We will have other volunteers to help the clients load their vehicles. Our regular hours start at 8:45 and end at noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You may arrive anytime your schedule allows. We pick up items on Saturdays from 9:00 - 12:00 and need volunteers with trucks or vans. A table will be set up in the Parish Hall during JULY & AUGUST with information sheets. Please take a copy. Contact Jim Kring if you have any comments or questions at [jkring@comcast.net](mailto:jkring@comcast.net) or 851-9994.

## Education for Ministry (EFM)

EFM meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Diocesan House at the Episcopal School of Knoxville. Kathy Lasater from St. John's in Knoxville and Carole Akers are Co-Mentors. Through study, prayer and reflection, EFM helps participants move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom as they better learn the connections between their faith and their lives. EFM helps lay persons discover and exercise their varied gifts for ministry in the places where they live and work. Come join fellow parishioners for the 2017/2018 year. Sign-up is NOW and scholarships are available. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Please sign-up soon so we can guarantee a class of seven to twelve people. For more information on EFM, please contact Carole Akers, [cakers46@hotmail.com](mailto:cakers46@hotmail.com) or 220-9115

## The Bookshop

The Bookshop has a number of specials for you this summer, including all of John Wilson's books for \$5 each. There is also a collection of cards from a 100 year old press from Franciscan monks in California. We have two shelves containing \$2 books. Stop by the Bookshop and check out these deals!

## Upcoming Schedule

**8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

Sunday services continue through September 3.



**7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**  
services begin September 10.

**Church Office Closed**  
Monday, September 4.