

# *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*



*Annual Report 2017  
October 22*

## **FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN**

This has been a very busy year, not only for the Vestry but for the entire parish. There are a whole lot of people doing a whole lot of work. Some months back, Vestry member Dean Hartley put together a spreadsheet listing everyone in the parish on the down side and all of the parish activities across the top. At that time, about 50% of the parish was involved in at least one activity. That's really pretty good. Anecdotal evidence suggests that since that time even more people are involved in parish activities. The committees listing can be found at this link. But, there may be more opportunities to get involved than are shown. <http://ststephensor.org/minarchiv/2017Committees.pdf>

A big "Thank You" to our staff: Fr. Lovett, Simon Hogg, Vicki Hancock, Cameron Ellis, and Bill Dickey. They keep the place moving.

It is very lengthy to list everything that has been done this year. Here are some items. The Senior Warden makes no claim that this is a complete listing.

All of our Vestry minutes can be viewed here. Judith Delaney does a great job of capturing the minutes, that when reading the minutes, it's almost like being there. <http://ststephensor.org/minutes.html>

We have been fortunate to be blessed with a sizeable gift from the estate of our long-time parishioners Ray and Alberta Stripling. With the funds from that gift, the Vestry has been able to do many things that would otherwise have been very difficult to do. The project and its champion are listed here. Some have been completed. Some are still ongoing. There are still a few more items on the list -- waiting.

1. Playground – Susan Meredith
2. Labyrinth – Deborah Clary
3. Tree work in preparation for the playground and labyrinth – Courtney Manrod
4. IT Needs – Jim Ball
5. Parish Life (This is still an ongoing project.) Involves a new stove and upgrade of the hood.-- Betsy Ellis
6. Memory levels for the Organ – Simon Hogg
7. New Aumbry – Built and installed by Michael Trank
8. New carpet in the Hospitality Room and offices – Barbara Steele, Roni Boyd, Deborah Clary, Carole Akers.
9. Furniture for the Hospitality Room – Barbara Steele, Deborah Clary, Carole Akers.
10. Haiti medical equipment – Vestry, Cameron Ellis, Tom Clary
11. More audio equipment for the hearing impaired – Roni and Mike Boyd.
12. New LED lights for the Nave – Joe and Thelma McGrory and Chris Tavino
13. Making two bathrooms fully accessible – Betsy Ellis

Your Vestry members have been very busy, and you should be proud of them.

1. Brian Bovee -- Evangelism ["Bread upon the Waters"], Stewardship
2. Tom Beehan – Liturgics, Parish Life
3. Deborah Clary – Stewardship, WOW, Labyrinth
4. Betsy Ellis – Parish Life, Gifts and Memorials
5. Gary Grubb -- Outreach
6. Dean Hartley -- Finance
7. Courtney Manrod -- Christian Education, Grounds
8. Susan Meredith – Personnel, Playground
9. Barbara Steele – Liturgics, Gifts and Memorials
10. Chris Tavino – Junior Warden, Building
11. Lou Volk -- Christian Education, Memorial Garden
12. Dan DiGregorio – Senior Warden, Bylaws and Policies, and Personnel

More goings-on:

Vestry has selected and called an Interim Rector, the Rev. Larry C. Minter, who will arrive on or about December 1, 2017. This step must be taken before the parish can look for a new Rector.

A major effort is underway to build up the children's and youth's Sunday School and EYF experience. Courtney Manrod, Lou Volk, and Deborah Clary with Fr. David Lovett, Craig Brent, Mary Petersen, and Adam Boggs are instrumental in these efforts.

The group doing the Clearfork reading camp has again done a wonderful job.

WOW continues to attract more high school students. Deborah Clary and John Murphy are the go-to people for this ministry. Many people are involved.

Jim Ball continues to administer the very fine church website and to keep us all out of trouble with our IT infrastructure.

Brent Sigmon and Nancy Carow continue to take care of our beautiful Memorial Garden and to be excellent stewards of its funds. Lou Volk is a great Vestry representative for this effort.

Simon Hogg and the choir continue to provide beautiful and meaningful music for our services.

A new effort is underway to take advantage of the increasing emphasis on social media. Fr. David Lovett, Deborah Johnson and Teddy Dantzler are coordinating this.

And then, there are all those happenings that are not so visible – those things that we don't think about unless they're not done. Then, perhaps we should notice. Please take a look at the Committees listing (linked above in the first paragraph) and shown below. The names listed are the "go-to" people. The list does not show ALL of the people involved in each group. Get involved with us. There are many opportunities.

### **Committees, Ministries, and Programs**

1. Christian Education -- Courtney Manrod, Fr. David Lovett, Lou Volk
  - a. Adult Bible Study (Sunday 10 am) Jack Campbell
  - b. Adult Sunday Forum (10 am) Fr. David Lovett
  - c. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Jo Kelley, Sarah Hemenway, Linda Twohig, Peggy DeVan
  - d. Christian Formation (Children) Teachers Dora Marmon, Lou & Peggy Volk, Craig Brent
  - e. Episcopal Youth Fellowship (EYF) Craig Brent, Mary Petersen, Adam Boggs
  - f. Nursery Sharon Thomas
  - g. Parents Night Out Karen Yearwood
2. Evangelism: "Bread Upon the Waters" Judith Delaney, Barbara Neill, Ed Johnson, Brian Bovee
3. Liturgics Fr. David Lovett, Barbara Steele, Tom Beehan
  - a. Eucharistic Visitors (Pastoral Care) Deacon John Wilson, Carol Gardner
  - b. Altar Flowers Lill Hise
  - c. Altar Guild Bonnie Nestor
  - d. Altar Flowers/Ambry Candle sign-up Roni Boyd
  - e. Acolyte Master Diane Sams, Bill & Mary Petersen
  - f. Ushers John Cox
  - g. Chalice Bearer (scheduler) Barbara Steele
  - h. Lectors (scheduler) Barbara Steele
4. Choirs/Music
  - a. 9 am -- Simon Hogg, Nancy Carow
  - b. 11:15 am-- Simon Hogg, Judy DiGregorio
5. Greeters Barbara Neill, Ed Johnson, Judith Delaney, Fiona Yearwood, Julie Longoria, Mary Cooper, Robin Thurston, Paige Marshall, Nancy Anderson, Mary Rhoades

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|---|---|
| 6. Outreach   | Cameron Ellis, Gary Grubb                             |
| a. Dorothy's Box -- Eph Klots, Susan Wells  |   |
| b. Ecumenical Storehouse -- Jim Kring   |   |
| c. Habitat for Humanity -- Wes Delaney  |   |
| d. Holiday Food/Gift Baskets (Easter, Summer, Thanksgiving, Christmas) – Outreach/Cameron Ellis | Mary Jeanne French                                    |
| 7. Building and Grounds   | Chris Tavino (Building),<br>Courtney Manrod (Grounds) |
| 8. Bylaws and Procedures  | Dan DiGregorio  |
| 9. Communications   | Jim Ball  |
| a. Webpage -- Jim Ball  |   |
| b. E-News -- Vicki Hancock  |   |
| c. Evangel -- Vicki Hancock   |   |
| d. Facebook -- Deb Johnson, Teddy Dantzler  |   |
| 10. Finance Committee   | Dean Hartley  |
| a. Counters -- Roger Johnson  |   |
| 11. Gifts and Memorials   | Barbara Steele  |
| a. Vice-Chair -- Merry Keyser   |   |
| b. Secretary -- Betsy Ellis   |   |
| c. Acknowledgments -- Carole Akers  |   |
| 12. Memorial Garden   | Brent Sigmon / Nancy Carow and Lou Volk               |
| 13. Nominating  | Dan DiGregorio  |
| 14. Parish Life   | Betsy Ellis, Tom Beehan                               |
| 15. Kitchen Coordinator   | Kathy Chippendale                                     |
| 16. Personnel   | Dan DiGregorio, Susan Meredith                        |
| 17. Stewardship   | Deborah Clary, Ray Evans, Brian Bovee                 |
| 18. Library   | Mary Fell   |
| 19. Archivists (church history, records, photos, etc.)  | Mike and Roni Boyd                                    |
| 20. Crisis Ministry (food) Monthly Team Rotation):  | Kay Brookshire, Judie Liby, Roni Boyd, Carol Gardner  |
| 21. Daughters of the King   | Susan Meredith, Deborah Clary, Carole Akers           |
| 22. Hospitality Ministry  | Roni Boyd   |
| 23. Artist-of-the-Month (Parish Hall Displays)  | Judy Kidd   |
| 24. Audio CDs (Sermons/Classes)   | Jim Ball  |
| 25. Book Shop   | Judy Kidd   |
| 26. St. Francis Garden Guild  | Buildings & Grounds (Courtney Manrod)                 |
| 27. St Therese's Guild (altar flower distribution)  | Katherine Grubb                                       |
| 28. Bible Study Mothers   | Beth Reed   |
| 29. Bible Study Tuesday   | Mary Rhoades  |
| 30. Centering Prayer  | Fr. David Lovett                                      |
| 31. Cursillo  | Deacon John Wilson                                    |
| 32. Daily Offices   | Charmaine Hensley, Brenda Irwin, Merry Keyser         |
| 33. EFM   | Carole Akers  |
| 34. Haiti Mission   | Cameron Ellis & Tom Clary                             |
| 35. Men's Group   | Fr. David Lovett                                      |
| 36. Movie Night   | Jack Campbell   |
| 37. Piece Makers  | Linda Felton  |
| 38. Tai Chi   | Roger Johnson   |
| 39. Teachers  | Fr. David Lovett                                      |
| 40. Theological Reflections in Practice (TRIP)  | Vicky White, Jamey Kennedy                            |
| 41. WOW   | Deborah Clary, John Murphy                            |

## **Get Involved with Us**

From the Book of Common Prayer, page 855

“Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?”

A. The ministers of the church are the lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.”

[My note. Look who is listed first.]

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dan DiGregorio, Sr. Warden*



## **Associate Rector**

In last year’s report, I concluded with these words – Thank you parish, from your Associate Rector. Thank you for being the leaders and the followers in all that is being done at St. Stephen’s. May Jesus Christ be praised! I just have to begin this year’s report with those same words. And yet, those words do not come close to saying all that needs to be said as your Associate Rector.

At the time of the 2016 Annual Meeting we were five months into the post-Rector-retirement period. It has not yet been the interim period because only now do we have an interim Rector whom we are anticipating arriving in December 2017. Needless to say these last twelve months have been dependent on the hard work and devoted service of countless persons here at St. Stephen’s.

The Vestry has been led by Dan DiGregorio as he took over the reins from John Murphy in January. Meeting with Dan each week allows us to keep clear focus on where we have been and where we are going as we seek to serve our savior Christ. Dan’s dedication to meeting agenda, committee involvement, policy and bylaw compliance, and conducting of meetings with attention to detail keeps us all on our toes as the active Vestry you need and expect.

Now to some of the details from this past year. St. Stephen’s continues to amaze me with all the ministries that are performed. The most exciting part is how many individuals are involved in at least one of these ministries.

Walk Over Wednesdays is continuing into the second full school year. We began as the Oak Ridge High School students returned to class after Christmas break in January 2016. This is an outreach effort to the juniors and seniors who have open-campus lunch during the week. They could go to McDonald’s or any other fast food place as long as they are back to class on time. Deborah Clary was the spearhead for this ministry and has now turned over some of the management to John Murphy. Our volunteers are divided into teams that serve one or more weeks during the month. A \$3 donation for the meal is suggested (less than the cost of lunch at the school), but no student will be turned away if they do not have the means to pay. Last year’s report stated that we had as many as 39 students on a Wednesday. This school year we have already had a week with 72 students! Thank you, WOW volunteers and supporters of this effort.

We are currently into year five of our weekly prayer focus on parish families. The names are published in the E-News, and the bulletin each week. Pictures are requested, gathered, and posted near the offices so that we can have faces with the names in print. Then, at each service during the week, we name those families. This seems to be an appreciated ministry, so thank you for faithfully praying for these families as their names appear each week. I am aware of one other church that is now following a similar pattern of ministry because of our example.

Spiritual Formation is an extremely critical portion of parish ministry. We continue to have the best teachers for our children and youth as they make their faith journeys toward adulthood. Jack Campbell has taken the lead in forming a new offering of Bible study during the Christian Ed hour. The Mother’s Bible study continues to play a significant role in the lives of several young mothers each Monday morning. Monday evenings find a regular group who come for Theological Reflection (TRIP). Tuesday mornings we find a

group in the Pollard Room with a Bible study. Tuesday evenings the Centering Prayer group meets faithfully. Wednesday mornings are when the Men's Group conducts their study. Cursillo is another extremely valuable spiritual formation tool. Those who commit to the Cursillo weekend set aside seventy-two hours at Grace Point to study the living of the Christian life in a way that truly honors our Savior. Those who serve on the Cursillo team put in another full day during that weekend, plus many hours of preparation ahead of time. Those who have completed the Cursillo weekend continue their devotion by attending a weekly follow-up meeting either Tuesday afternoon or Thursday evening. Once a month a larger meeting of the other churches in the area is held on a Monday evening. Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four-year program of spiritual formation. We had four graduates complete their course in June. Carole Akers is one of the mentors for that course. She reports that there are twelve in the class for this year.

I can't forget to report on our mission/ministry to Clearfork Valley in Campbell/Claiborne Counties. This summer saw the completion of our second year of Camp Clearfork, a reading camp for the children who attend two local schools in that area. That ministry has grown thanks to the efforts of Dora Marmon, Linda Twohig, and other assistants. Clairfield Elementary School had its first Christmas pageant ever last year. In the spring the children performed a couple of short plays. Dora is currently going each Friday to give the children art and music appreciation classes, something that will enrich their young lives. There are not enough words to express how valuable a ministry this has been and is being for these children who would have no other means of receiving this Christian love.

The Daughters of the King are a tremendous support for this Associate Rector and for the parish as a whole. Their continued prayer and service is going on around the clock to ensure that God's ear is attuned to the myriad of thanksgivings and supplications of each of us.

This year has brought about a dramatic change in the grounds here at St. Stephen's. Deborah Clary led the efforts to create a labyrinth in the Grove that will be a place of worship for this community for many years to come. People are already coming from many other parishes to use this spiritual tool for their own devotion. At least one of our parishioners is using the labyrinth as a near-daily place and time to be with God.

Susan Meredith took charge of renovating a long-needed playground. Twenty-two thousand pounds of recycled rubber mulch is there to protect our children as they play on the new climbing wall, slide on one of the slides, swing on the swings, and ride to the moon and back on the rocket ship. What a joy to see those young ones after church racing to strengthen their young bodies and challenge those growing muscles.

Altar Guild, Parish Life, worship leaders, those dedicated to caring for the building and grounds, our musicians, the hospitality volunteers, Bread Upon the Water, all of these positions are so essential in making this God's church that we call St. Stephen's. Is there any wonder why Rev. Larry Minter, our coming interim Rector, said that this place is "humming?" I am so proud to be able to serve with you as your Associate Rector and see all that you are doing in the name of our savior Jesus Christ.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fr. David Lovett, Associate Rector*

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**LITURGICS**

The Liturgics Committee "Assists the Rector in planning and coordinating worship activities." And, the committee "develops, studies, and evaluates suggestions for **enriching** the worship life of the parish." If you just come and worship each week without paying attention to all those who are working either in the service or behind the scenes, you would be so surprised with everything involved in making sure those two things are accomplished.

This committee is formed of the clergy, the director of music, the Altar Guild chair, the acolyte master(s), representatives of the lectors, representatives of the chalice bearers, and the usher chair. At the most recent meeting any parishioner who had an interest was invited to see what is done by this group of people. We have been fortunate this year to have some new people wanting to be trained for some of these roles. There is room for many more, especially for the services that are held during the week.

We give thanks for these who serve:

**Liturgists:** Leah Bailey, Jim Ball, Barbara Bovee, Brian Bovee, Mike Boyd, Roni Boyd, Anne Campbell, Doreen Graf, Kevin Jones, Adolph King, Eph Klots, Mary Ellen Klots, Jack Lee, Alan Liby, Courtney Manrod, John Murphy, Bill Petersen, Allan Reiss, Mary Rhoades, Sandi Robertson, Barbara Steele, Peggy Volk

**Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Anderson, Anne Campbell, Deborah Clary, Cameron Ellis, Doreen Graf, Dean Hartley, Lill Hise, Brenda Irwin, Jamey Kennedy, Carol King, Jack Lee, Cyril Meredith, Jr., Joy Mull, Ruth Prince, Mary Rhoades, Brent Sigmon, Lou Volk, Vicky White

**Ushers:** Doug Aaron, Scott Aaron, Chuck Beach, Craig Brent, Jack and Mary Nell Campbell, Tom Clary, John Cox - Chair, Judith and Wes Delaney, Mary Jeanne French, Elwood Gift, Jerry Hanna, Bob Hightower, David Johnson, Ed Johnson, Cindi Jones, Chris Kirk, Alan Liby, Joe Lisenbee, John Murphy, James Reed, Margaret Terrell, Christy and Robert Thurman, Dan Tuxbury

**Schedule Coordinator:** Roni Boyd, Barbara Steele

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fr. David Lovett*



### **Altar Guild**

The members of St. Stephen's Altar Guild care for the Lord's Table and its appointments. Ours is a "stealth ministry" -- we work behind the scenes to ensure that everything is in order for all church services. We prepare for and clean up after every service, and we have special duties for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other occasions. Some tasks need to be performed weekly, some monthly, and some, like polishing silver and brass, on an occasional basis. Opportunities to serve can be tailored to fit the time available, and we would be pleased to introduce any member of the parish to this quiet but vital ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Nestor, Chair*



### **Eucharistic Visitor**



The Eucharistic Visitor ministry at St. Stephen's consists of persons licensed by the Bishop to carry the Eucharistic elements to parishioners, who for reasons of illness or other reasons, are unable to attend our Sunday liturgy. The Eucharistic Visitor ministry provides a sacramental dimension to St. Stephen's lay pastoral care through the carrying of the consecrated bread and wine directly from the altar each Sunday to our fellow members of the Body of Christ.

This has been an important ministry for the past 26 years, and as St. Stephen's is an "aging" parish, it has become ever more important.

The Eucharistic Visitors use an abbreviated service of Holy Communion to enable those to whom they minister to experience both participation in our worship and connection with the St. Stephen's parish family. Between October 1, 2016, and October 1, 2017, EVs visited homes, facilities, and hospitals, saw over 900 people during their visits, and administered private communions to 909 parishioners, family members, or guests.

In the past year four long-term Eucharistic Visitors have retired: Anne Campbell, Eph Klots, Ed Krieg, and Carol Skyberg. We thank them for their faithful service.

#### **St. Stephen's currently has 15 active Eucharistic Visitors**

Brian Bovee, Mike Boyd, Judith Delaney, Cameron Ellis, Carol Gardner, Gary Grubb, Katherine Grubb, Dean Hartley, Brenda Irwin\*\*, Carol King, Mary Ellen Klots, Courtney Manrod\*\*, Pat Swinney\*\*, Marcia Todkill\*\*, Susan Wells    \*\* Temporarily off rotation

*Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon John Wilson, Chair, Carol Gardner, Assistant*



## **Acolytes**

At the beginning of the year, the acolyte team consisted of 13 servers: four crucifers and nine torchbearers. We ended the year with 14 acolytes; six crucifers and eight torchbearers. One acolyte graduated and two new acolytes joined the team.

Annual training was held in August for all youth acolytes. Brian Robertson was added to the team mid-year. Autumn Ihli joined the team in August during the annual training session. Gavin Madgett, Jacob Berven, and Lilly Cooper transitioned into the role of crucifer.

The youth acolytes serve at one service per Sunday, during the normal seasons. During the Easter season, the acolytes serve several different services during Holy Week as well as at all three Easter Sunday services. During the Christmas season, acolytes serve at several different services on Christmas Eve. Occasionally, youth acolytes are needed during the week for special services.

Acolytes add something very special to each service. It is meaningful to each of the acolytes. Thank you for encouraging our youth acolytes. It is always important to feel appreciated and to be recognized for your efforts!!!

### **Crucifers**

Blair Thurston  
Eli Mauk-Olson  
Fiona Yearwood  
Gavin Madgett  
Jacob Berven  
Lilly Cooper  
Keegan Yearwood  
(*graduated*)

### **Torchbearers**

Alex Green  
Autumn Ihli  
Bethany Marshall  
Brian Robertson  
Britton Petersen  
Cyril Meredith IV  
Vivian Cooper  
Wil Mauk-Olson

*Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Sams, Bill & Mary Petersen, Co-Acolyte Masters*



## **MUSIC MINISTRY**

We are blessed with the wonderful talent and dedication of musicians within the parish that offer music to enrich our services and the life of the church.

The Parish Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from September to May, and sings hymns and offertory anthems for our 11:15 a.m. traditional service. In addition they offered other liturgical services through the year, such as Choral Evensong. This year we offered a new format for Lessons and Carols, during which the choir presented music that encompassed the entire nativity story. Although the choir works hard during the Advent season, they work especially hard during the seasons of Lent and Easter. During Holy Week, the choir offered a sung service of Evening Prayer, in addition to the magnificent sounds of Easter. The choir also participated in a community service at First United Methodist, where they sang various arrangements of psalm texts for Lent. The choir has continued to work on new music from composers old and new. It is an honor for our Parish Choir to accept an invitation to sing Choral Evensong and Sung Choral Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland, in July 2019. We welcomed two new members to our choir; Jon Heischman (Tenor) and Karen LeSieur, and have a plentiful supply of past members that continue to join us for special services. We continue to provide two paid positions in the choir: Johnny Goshen (Tenor) and Cheryl Scapatticci (Soprano).

The music for our 9 a.m. blended service is offered through the ministry of our folk group called New-Song. This group of voluntary and dedicated musicians meets for rehearsal on Wednesday afternoons. We have welcomed new members to our group. Our worship books have been refreshed, and are now in use, with continued expansion of liturgy and music. Nancy Carow continues to provide the support behind the

seasons with reproducing worship materials. This year, NewSong provided substantially more music for our summer services than in previous years. They also provide music for the Blue Christmas service.

The Chorister Choir, although still in existence, does not currently meet. This is primarily due to lack of interest and numbers.

In 2017, the music budget was increased by \$5000. This was to offset expenses deemed necessary for the music program that were being covered by funds in the Music Memorial Fund. Donations to the fund have been in decline in recent years. The new budget gives a true reflection of the music program expenses, while allowing the memorial fund to grow again. The Vestry also approved a memory upgrade for our organ which will be completed in late 2017/early 2018. This expense was covered by the Stripling Memorial fund.

I continue to thank God for the many blessings this parish brings through the gift of music, and for your continued love, support and fellowship.

**New Song:** Bonnie Bautz, Mike Bautz, Brian Bovee, Nancy Carow, Victoria Medaglia, Brent Simon

**Parish Choir:** Jim Anderson, Jaime Burnham, Judy DiGregorio, Gary Grubb, Jon Heischman, Deborah Johnson, Roger Johnson, Kevin Jones, Ed LaRose, Jamie LaRose, Karen LeSieur, Dora Marmon, Victoria Medaglia, Blynn Prince, Ruth Prince, Cathy Whitten, Daryl Yearwood, Karen Yearwood.

**Paid Singers:** Cheryl Scappaticci, Johnny Goshen

*In His service,  
Simon Hogg, Organist/Choirmaster*



### **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

We are blessed to have Courtney Manrod as our new Christian Formation Coordinator. Many thanks to Courtney for volunteering!

The teachers and leaders of our Sunday School program for 2016-2017 were Linda Twohig, Peggy DeVan, Jo Kelley, Mary Rhoades, Dora Marmon, Craig Brent and the EYF leaders were Jenny and Cyril Meredith, III and Craig Brent. Again, we are truly blessed to have such a number of dedicated parish members to provide Christian leadership to our youth.

St. Stephen's continued to provide books and Bibles to our youth. Three-year-olds receive a book of Psalms with excellent illustrations for parents to read to them. First-graders receive a Bible story book. Many of the children will be able to read some of the stories themselves. Third-graders receive their first real Bible with maps and other Bible study helps. Ninth-graders receive beautiful leather-bound Bibles that can be used throughout their lives. Graduates receive a special gift as they move forward as adults.

Many thanks to our parish for supporting our Christian Education programs.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Lou Volk, Vestry Representative*



The teachers and leaders of our program of Christian formation for 2016 – 2017 have given a true gift to our families as they have provided quality education for all ages, birth through high school. Brent Sigmon brought his long tenure of nursery coordinator to a close during this year. We are so thankful for his many years of dedicated service there. Linda Twohig completed another year as the lead teacher for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd I (3-5 years). Jo Kelley was the lead teacher for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd II (1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grades). These two have given years of leadership to our children and the children have a good firm base on which to build a strong Christian life. Mary Rhoades welcomed Dora Marmon into the Older Children class (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders). Mary was wrapping up her long tenure in this department. Craig Brent began as the lead teacher for the Younger Youth (6<sup>th</sup> –8<sup>th</sup> grades). Before many weeks Craig added the Older Youth (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) and led all our youth for the year. That was a monumental task, and we are so thankful for his dedication to this ministry. We also have volunteers who are available weekly to help as assistants and are available for emergencies, substitutions, etc. We need to give them much thanks and praise.

For the 2017 – 2018 year, Courtney Manrod has taken the position of Christian Formation Coordinator. She is coming into this position with a strong spiritual focus and determination to provide the best possible curriculum, leaders, and support for each of our students. We welcome Courtney as she brings her personal faith into this essential position for this parish.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fr. David Lovett*



## **Education For Ministry**

Education for Ministry graduated four class members, Deborah and Tom Clary and Gary and Katherine Grubb, from St. Stephen's in June 2017. We were very happy for them but they left a large gap in our class and a hole in our hearts.

After several months of recruiting, Education for Ministry has a full class this fall welcoming members from St. Stephen's, St. John's, St. Elizabeth's and Church of the Good Samaritan. We meet every Tuesday evening at the Diocesan House at the Episcopal School of Knoxville from September through May. Co-Mentors are Kathy Lasater from St. John's and Carole Akers from St. Stephen's.

EFM is a four-year course from The University of the South, Sewanee, TN. Members participate in a course of study, prayer and reflection which helps them have a better understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom as they learn connections between their faith and their lives. Lay persons discover and learn to exercise their varied gifts for ministry in the places where they live and work.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Akers*



## **Adult Forum**

Our fall programming in 2016 covered a very engaging study with Adam Hamilton, Seeing Gray in a World of Black and White: Thoughts on Religion, Morality, and Politics. Hamilton opened our eyes to some of the challenging topics that we don't often allow ourselves to delve into. During Advent we experienced a Celtic Advent, experiencing "The Creative Breath," "Darkness and Light," and "Obedience." Each of these studies involved 15 or more participants leading us with poetry, scripture, and meaningful symbols.

Brene Brown opened the eyes of our adults as we studied her TED talks on vulnerability, shame, trust, and the critics in our lives. This was followed by the Rev. Carol Westpfahl leading us in the study of one of Brown's books on imperfection.

Our Lenten study was a very necessary and meaningful study on "The Spirituality of the Twelve Steps." The Rev. Ward Ewing and the Rev. Howard Bowlin led us in this study. They each brought much knowledge and experience.

Although we are just getting into the new Forum year, there is a lot of energy and excitement around the line-up for the fall. We are studying the moral issues that the Church is facing in 2017. This has already brought about a new group of individuals who will be leading us into being more fully informed and being more active in our world to attempt to have positive Christian influence on issues such as immigration and healthcare and racial divides.

The Adult Forum is open to all. Please consider joining us as we study how to enrich our faith.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fr. David Lovett*



## **Adult Bible Class**

Last fall it was perceived that there was a need for a Sunday morning adult Bible class at St. Stephen's – one that would be a small class for both singles and couples and would focus on a study of the Bible. Fr. Lovett approved the class, and it began with a roster of about 10 members. The Books of Mark and Timothy were covered with the use of guidebooks by Rev. Timothy Keller.

The class has just begun its second year – this time with the study of the Book of Acts and again with a class size of about 10. The small size encourages class participation and makes getting to know each other easier. Those interested are invited to join us.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Campbell, Leader*



## **Episcopal Youth Fellowship (EYF)**

St. Stephen's EYF is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. We have a dedicated group of six to ten members that meet most Sundays during the school year either right after church or at 5:00 pm. EYF begins with a shared meal followed by a planned activity, such as swimming, bowling, or watching a movie. Sometimes we simply play games (football, Frisbee, ping pong, etc.) at the church. Periodically, EYF will do grounds maintenance on the church campus. EYF has traditionally grilled pancakes and served at the Fat Tuesday Supper and help lead the Feast of Light Service. Last year's youth leaders were Cyril & Jenny Meredith and Craig Brent. This year's youth leaders are Adam Boggs, Mary Petersen, and Craig Brent.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Craig Brent, Leader*



## **Men's Group**

St. Stephen's is blessed to have a group of men who are dedicated to the study of the Bible, committed to serving the parish in a multitude of ways, and determined to have close fellowship to keep their daily life strong and devoted to Christ. As Associate Rector I know that I could not perform the ministry that I attempt at this parish without the tremendous support these men give to me every day.

Can you believe this was the fourth year the Men's Group has provided healthy (mostly) breakfasts for the parish during the summer months. Some are better as cooks. Some are natural servers. Others clean. It is a well-oiled machine.

Each Wednesday morning these dozen or so men gather to spend just a few minutes in prayer, study, and sharing. We begin our time with a prayer for those particular families who are on our parish prayer list. Their pictures are placed around the circle so that we see the faces as we pray for the individuals. We talk about the families and how they serve at St. Stephen's and in the world. After our opening prayer we have a short study time of an assigned scripture passage. The leadership of each week rotates between the men so we all get to learn from our peers. After the study, we then close with prayer for those men who sit in the group (whether they happen to be there on that particular day or not) each week. This seems to truly set the tone for a week of encouragement and support.

The topic of our study for last year was a verse-by-verse study of the Acts of the Apostles. Since Acts ended with Paul in prison in Rome and the Church having begun to have strongholds throughout the middle east, we decided to begin studying the letters Paul wrote to some of these churches during his time in prison. Ephesians is the current letter. The guide we are using is written by N. T. Wright, a gifted Anglican theologian.

The number of men has remained around the dozen mark. We have had a couple to move on and a couple new ones to take their places. The doors are open to any who may want to come and see if this is a place where you might learn and grow. Come from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday and see.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Fr. David Lovett*

† † †  
**FINANCE**

As a Church, we are financially sound in 2017, and our annual audit affirms that our financial statements fairly present our financial data.

**History:** In 2015, we had to eliminate some planned expenditures to balance the budget. At the beginning of 2016, we realized that we had to make an extra effort to increase funding. The parish responded with increased pledges, putting us nearly back to the 2014 level. However, we were still forced to reduce our parish pledge to the Diocese.

When Fr. Kallio announced his retirement, we experienced a major change in our expenditure requirements. With only one priest, we had lower salary expenditures, but increased responsibilities for Fr. Lovett. Accordingly, the Vestry increased his salary to full-time status from three quarter-time. The Vestry was also able to restore our pledge to the Diocese. At the same time, the parish received a significant gift from a previous parishioner. This gift enabled us to repay the loan taken several years ago from the Clergy Residence fund and to replenish the Capital Revolving Fund, which is used to provide a source of emergency funds with which to pay extraordinary facilities and equipment expenses.

We ended 2016 with receipts virtually identical to those projected in the budget and with expenses 8% below budget!

**Current:** As of the end of August 2017, we are tracking ahead of our planned receipts for the year and total expenditures are slightly below budget. This is happening despite the modest salary increases we made! If receipts and expenditures continue as anticipated through the end of the year, we will end with a good surplus.

**Future:** Looking ahead to 2018 and beyond, we see a need for careful planning and increased giving. We are hiring an Interim Rector and eventually will hire our permanent Rector. In 2018, we certainly will have increased expenses for the mundane support services, such as insurance and security monitoring, over which we have no control. We will have requests from our various programs for increases in their budgets. This year's surplus, together with an increase in giving, should allow us to maintain our functions without any cuts. We are required to have and will have a balanced budget.

The Finance Committee and the Vestry will provide the planning; however, the prayers of the parish will provide the most important support possible.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dean S. Hartley, III, Committee Chair*



### **Counters**

This group is a part of the Finance Committee. We strive to accurately and in a timely manner gather and apply and deposit the weekly giving to the church and its ministries to the proper accounts. We have two people assigned each week. We sort the checks and cash. One person inputs the amounts in our ACS contributions software. The other compiles the cash items for input. We can always use another helper or two. The time involved each week is around 45 minutes after the last service. The counters can also arrange with each other to come later in the afternoon.

We want to thank our IT staff, Jim Ball and Shafik Iskander, for keeping us running each week!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Johnson, Chair*



## **Stewardship**

The 2017 Stewardship Program began with weekly E-News Stewardship Thoughts during the month of May. Preliminary planning and meetings began in August with the Stewardship Chairman and the Vestry Stewardship members.

Our theme for 2017 is based around our new beautiful labyrinth and the faith journey we are on together.

The Stewardship pledge cards were mailed to the congregation on September 25. The official kickoff day was Sunday, October 1, with all pledge cards due back by Sunday, October 22, and to be blessed on Sunday, October 29.

A Thanks-for-Giving potluck luncheon celebrating the conclusion of the Stewardship Program will be held on October 29, following the 11:15 service.

**No gift is too small.** Some may be able to give a lot. All can give a bit.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Clary, Vestry Stewardship*



## **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

St. Stephen's Memorial Garden is a self-supporting operation, funded by user fees. Gifts and memorials provide supplemental funds for beautification and improvements. The Garden has been in operation since mid-1988 and contains the remains of 201 parishioners and friends. We accept ashes for burial or scattering. The Garden is financially solid and has adequate developed capacity for more than 20 years. Additional backplates obtained this year will extend our space for nameplates to nearly 20 years as well. Several generous gifts over the past several years provide us the opportunity to add an additional bench and meditation space in the scattering area. Final design and implementation will be done with volunteer labor, as are the general maintenance and upkeep tasks. Our greatest need is for additional hands to share this labor of love.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Sigmon, Chair*



## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

### **Buildings**

The budgets for building and grounds services (GF630), repairs and maintenance (GF635), were restructured for 2017 to more accurately capture services vs. repairs and get them into the proper account. With this realignment, each budget changed significantly, but the total of the two remained about the same. Services increased, repairs decreased.

Last year it was reported that exterior painting was required and would become a priority for 2017. This particular task involves high elevations, needs to be done by professionals, and is very costly. Regrettably, this has not occurred, partially due to a lack of time to coordinate, but mostly due to budgetary issues. It is hoped that this issue will be addressed in 2018.

An effort has begun to provide a control system for the heating and cooling system that will provide some set-back control ability and be capable for future integration of additional controls such as programmable thermostats. This will be installed sometime in October.

LED lighting has been installed at the Altar on a trial basis. The decision has been made to complete the transition to LED lighting for the entire NAVE. This will reduce energy costs to some degree, but the main purpose of this project was to address a long time concern about the adequacy of the lighting in the Nave.

At the time of the writing of this report, it is expected that the new range and exhaust hood (Stripling gift) will have been completed during the last week of September, first week of October. Kitchen volunteers and many other parishioners will look in the kitchen and notice these items. What will not be noticed are the hidden items that often crop up during a renovation project. These items include a fire suppression system, new gas line, gas supply shutdown interlock, and a connection to the fire alarm system.

On a final note it should be noted that there are a significant number of small maintenance and repair tasks that are presently not being done. In past years (decades), these types of projects may have been performed by parishioners. It's likely that these projects are not being done because there are an ever decreasing number of parishioners who are able to perform these tasks. This issue will be brought to the attention of the finance committee as that committee develops the budget for 2018. The solutions include: procure these services, badger a significant number of parishioners to volunteer to do some of this work, a combination of these, or do nothing. The situation is not dire, but the reality is that the church is slowly falling into disrepair.



### **Grounds**

In July, East Tennessee Tree Services removed five trees and trimmed limbs in the Grove and adjacent parking lot areas, reducing hazards associated with falling limbs and brightening up the spaces. Grounds around the grove received much care to create a clean, cohesive space in which to host the labyrinth and restored playground. General grounds upkeep continued through the year with maximum effort in the spring and fall.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Tavino and Courtney Manrod, Co- Chairs*



### **Playground**

After months of research and planning the new playground was completed in September. We installed top-rated playground equipment. There is a climber, slide and swings for the younger children and a rock climber, slide, swings and monkey bars for the older children. Also, by special request there is a rocket spring rider.

We also chose toxic free, recycled rubber mulch. The mulch should last forever and never needs to be replaced. We hope our church families will enjoy the playground for many years to come.

*Playground Committee: Susan Meredith  
Jenny Meredith, Gary Grubb*



### **Labyrinth**

In mid-July The Labyrinth Company in Kensington, CT, installed a Chelsea a la Chartres style labyrinth in the grove. This is an integral part of renewal of the grove area, playground area and the landscaping which opens and welcomes the parish and community-at-large to St. Stephen's.

The labyrinth is constructed of travertine pavers, a natural limestone, and stone dust filler in the pathways.

The funding for this project came from the Ray and Alberta Stripling Fund.

Brochures about labyrinths are located in the church pamphlet information racks on the first floor near the elevator.

A sign, to be located near the labyrinth entrance, is currently being constructed and will house prayer cards for individuals to use when walking or praying the labyrinth.

See you at the labyrinth on your faith journey.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Clary, Vestry*

† † †  
**OUTREACH**

St. Stephen's has a rich tradition as an outreach parish. We have lived into that tradition this year by being Christ's arms and legs, extending His care for each other and to people across the street, in Appalachian regions, and internationally. We continue to reach out to those persons victimized by poverty, injustices, and even weather.

We continued to reach out this year to people in the Clearfork Valley in Campbell and Claiborne Counties. Last fall, Dora Marmon led a small faithful group to help the older kids at Clairfield Elementary put together a Christmas choral program. They then resumed lessons of music and dance for a spring performance. Led by John Murphy, we returned in the summer with the *Clearfork Reading Camp*. The 27 or so involved parishioners from St. Stephen's were blessed to have interaction with 23 children from ages 6 to 15, as well as the adult community members. These children attend either White Oak Elementary School in Campbell County or Clairfield Elementary School in Claiborne County. We have used approximately \$3100 so far this year. Again this fall term, Dora is returning each week to offer music and art appreciation classes at Clairfield Elementary School and again plans on doing a Christmas program with the kids.

The high school lunch program, WOW, now in operation over a year, serves lunch each Wednesday to as many as 72 high school students per week. This project is very well organized with four teams of volunteers, each one responsible for preparing lunch one week per month on a rotating basis. The students often express thanks, and many are "regulars" enabling parishioners involved to develop some rapport.

Food Baskets are prepared at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and in July, with a focus on families with school-age children. One goal is to give families a little something extra to help when the children are out of school. Nineteen baskets were prepared at Thanksgiving and Christmas, with Christmas gifts given to about 44 children. Hope House always receives three baskets for three facilities. Easter and summer baskets went to 21 families, for a total of 24 baskets. Plans are to step up to 30 baskets, 25 families, for this coming holiday season.

#### Haiti

- Perhaps the highlight of our ministries to Haiti this past year was the eyeglasses clinic we conducted in May. A St. Stephen's team of six carried about 1300 pairs of prescription-lens eyeglasses to Petit Harpon. Out of those, we provided approximately 200 pairs of prescription glasses and readers. Sunglasses and caps were also distributed. This effort was very popular with the population and enabled us to interact directly with a much larger number of residents.
- Operation of the "walk-in" clinic continues each week. Dr. Sillyn, and nurse Margerite are seeing an average of 40 patients each week. A refrigerator was added during this last trip for storage of insulin. Planning is underway to improve capabilities further with hospital beds and better examination and diagnostic equipment.
- Our nursing student, Ginose, now in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year, reports that she finished last year second in her class. Costs for the coming year are covered and paid, thanks to generous parishioner support. Ginose has also requested and received some help with some medical and dental care.
- When Hurricane Matthew went through Haiti, St. Stephen's provided an additional \$2000 for rebuild materials. These materials were provided directly to homeowners who were chosen by a community committee headed by our doctor, Wilkine Sillyn.
- Fr. Jean-Jacques Deravil, a priest in Haiti who visited here with us several years past, has been a long-time reliable and caring contact in Haiti. Recently his assigned parish building was severely damaged by soil erosion. Structural repairs had been slowed for lack of funds. Thanks to certain parishioner donations and the Outreach Committee, we were able to present Fr. Deravil with \$2000, which he immediately, and in our presence, turned over to his Vestry for the building fund. Recent photographs he has sent show a huge jump in repair progress.

We also endeavor to serve some of our closer neighbors through a number of partnering ministries, each of which focuses on differing needs and injustices. These include:

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ADFAC                                   | Ecumenical Storehouse       |
| Agape House                             | Family Resource Center      |
| Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority              | Free Medical Clinic of O.R. |
| Blossom Center for Childhood Excellence | Healthy Start               |
| Briceville Public Library               | Holiday Bureau              |
| Contact                                 | Scarboro Community          |
| Church Women United (esp Blankets)      | Torch                       |
|   | Ulster Project              |

St. Stephen’s “Open Door” ministry is funded by the clergy’s discretionary accounts. Assistance is provided to walk-in persons based on apparent need, police records, ADFAC recommendations, and availability of funds. Of the \$10,077.20 in assistance that was provided in this time frame:

- \$6,603.95 went to help with utilities.
- \$1,500 was distributed in food cards.
- \$240.75 was used for emergency housing.
- \$1,132.50 was provided for automobile parts, bus fares, clothing, rent, and miscellaneous.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cameron Ellis, Chair*



### **Ecumenical Storehouse**

The Ecumenical Storehouse was established in 1984 and is operated by volunteers on a rotating basis by 13 churches. The Storehouse accepts, stores, and distributes almost every type of household goods - essentially everything a person would need to set up a small living quarters, except food and clothes. Most of the clients served by the Ecumenical Storehouse live in Anderson County, but clients also come from Roane, Campbell, Morgan, and Scott Counties. Many of the clients are from among the vast number of Appalachian poor in the area; others have lost everything in a fire or storm. Still others find themselves in abusive situations and need emergency assistance to establish a new home. All are in need, and they have nowhere else to turn except for the service the Storehouse provides.

We especially THANK the 20 volunteers from our church and several other churches for their tireless help. Our biggest project for the month was picking up a donation from Quality Inn in Oak Ridge consisting of 160+ king and full sets of mattresses and foundations. It took two days to complete this project using our truck. We especially appreciate the help of the Men’s Group at St. Stephen’s for the several trips they made. During the month of August, we had 121 client visits requesting needed items for their families. We served a total of 81 families which consisted of 146 adults and 119 children.

The Ecumenical Storehouse has become a monumental outreach project for our area church sponsors and volunteers to keep usable furniture and household items out of local landfills and giving those individuals in need from our community the necessary items they so desperately need for basic living during their difficult times. The time volunteers spend at the storehouse can be hard, trying, and difficult at times but in the end is so rewarding to help those individuals and families in need. Again, Thank You to our volunteers, churches, and donors for making the Ecumenical Storehouse a success in Oak Ridge as it serves our local and area communities. St. Stephen’s is scheduled to serve the Ecumenical Storehouse again during the month of May in 2018.

*Respectfully submitted,  
James B. Kring,  
St. Stephen’s Director*



## **Walk Over Wednesday (WOW)**

WOW was started in January 2016. The purpose of WOW is to reach out to our nearest "neighbor" - Oak Ridge High School- by providing a home cooked Wednesday lunch. ORHS juniors and seniors may leave the school campus at lunchtime. Those who can afford pay \$3.

The program has grown from an average of 20 students served per week to over 50 students served per week during the current school year.

As with most outreach programs perhaps the greatest benefit is to Saint Stephen's. Over 25 parishioners participate (4-6/week) in set up, food purchase, food prep, serving, and cleanup. The fellowship is amazing!

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Murphy*



## **Movie Night**

Movie Night started five years ago as a fun summertime activity at St. Stephen's. A different movie was shown each week to a group of about 15 adults - replete with fresh hot popcorn and cold drink. A variety of movies was shown: new releases, oldies, classics, religious, comedies. The movies and the fellowship were well received and provided cool entertainment on some hot summer evenings.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Campbell, Leader*



## **PARISH LIFE**

Our main goal this year was to maintain the level of activities. We are a team of six members. This small group has done the planning this year with the help of parishioners who graciously provided additional support as needs have arisen for each event. We continue to work in partnership with the Kitchen Ministry. Kathy Chippendale continues to lead the Kitchen Ministry.

Since the last Parish Meeting, the Parish Life Team sponsored the following activities:

- ✓ BBQ dinner for 65<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in conjunction with the Parish Meeting
- ✓ Reception for the Bishop
- ✓ Reception after the Advent Lessons and Carols
- ✓ Six Lenten Vegetarian Suppers
- ✓ Reception after Lenten Evensong
- ✓ Easter Breakfast Celebration/Easter Egg Hunt
- ✓ Reception after the Celtic service
- ✓ Pentecost Celebration
- ✓ Bishop's visit in conjunction with the Father's Day brunch
- ✓ Provided and served a BBQ dinner for the community at the start of the Clearfork reading camp
- ✓ September Kick-off and Reuss's sendoff Pot Luck
- ✓ Turkey and ham for the Thanksgiving Dinner at St Stephen's

With funds unspent in the 2016 Parish Life budget in the December 2016 time frame, a stainless steel drainboard with sink and new faucet suitable for washing large items was purchased. They will be installed in the area of the current sink next to the dish sanitizer. Installation is planned before the end of 2017. With the Stripling gift, plans are in place to replace the 20+ year old electric stove with a new gas stove. It will be the same size as the old one. Since a change is being made in the kitchen, we have to comply with current fire codes. In order to bring the hood over the stove up to the current fire codes, it was replaced during the Oak Ridge City School's fall break at the beginning of October. The next step is to order the new stove to replace the one that is there.

Because of the heavier use of the kitchen (i.e., WOW, Men's summer breakfast) the current nursery worker was offered the opportunity to clean the kitchen twice a month. She agreed and is doing a good job of keeping the kitchen clean.

We thank the parish family for their generous donations of time, talent and treasure in support of our activities. Thanks be to God for guiding and directing us as we provide these opportunities for fellowship together. We continue to ask for prayers for new team members and for ideas of activities that will support and enrich the life of the Parish.

TEAM MEMBERS – Barbara Bovee, Kathy Chippendale, Betsy Ellis, Jeanne Kring, Jenny Meredith, and Susan Meredith

VESTRY LIAISON – Susan Meredith

*Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Ellis, Team Leader*



## **Kitchen**

The annual kitchen budget is always closely in check. Budgeted amount is \$2500 per year, which allows for all operational supplies such as paper products, consumable staples, cleaning supplies and any equipment needs. Per usual, July, August and September were our highest expenditure months. In September, I purchased the paper and cleaning products for the upcoming year. We are now paying a cleaner to come in every two weeks and make sure the kitchen remains clean and tidy. Hospitality expenses average about \$30 per month.

During the year, the committee investigated the purchase of a new stove. The new gas range, with increased cooking space, is scheduled to be installed sometime in October, along with the appropriate fire suppression system. The plumbing in the sinks remains difficult. The biggest need we have is coffee hosts. Some of the coffee hosts remain willing to help with Sunday morning coffee, but there are a few spaces with no host. If you feel called to be a host, please look at the schedule on the refrigerator.

The WOW Team really enjoys their fellowship and the students are supporting the ministry. We are always grateful when everyone cooperates and cleans up the community space. Daughters of the King has held several large funeral receptions and has beautifully maintained the kitchen.

Our largest hurdle in the kitchen is keeping communication open. Supplies are checked periodically and the use of a dry erase board for refills is helpful. But, folks who use the kitchen need to familiarize themselves with where supplies are kept and where clean dishes, utensils and cookware are stored. If ever there are any questions or concerns, please call me (865) 567-8250.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Chippendale*



## **EVANGELISM**

### **Bread Upon The Waters**

***“Welcome to Christ’s Table – Food for the Journey”***

Vision Statement



Evangelism Ministry Team

Nancy Anderson, Brian Bovee, Mary Nell Campbell, Mary Cooper, Judith Delaney, Ed Johnson, Julie Longoria, Paige Marshall, Barbara Neill, Mary Rhoades, Robin Thurston

### **Mission**

The Bread Upon the Waters ministry program is now in its 13th year. There are currently eleven parishioners participating in the program as Greeters and Friendly Faces. The object of this ministry is to show the Face of God to newcomers and guests as we welcome them on Sunday mornings and then pay a brief visit to their home usually that afternoon. At that time a loaf of bread and a packet of information are

given. For the next four to six weeks we stay in touch with the newcomer to help them find a home within the parish. From October 2016 through September of this year we have been privileged to have thirty-four either single person or family units attend a worship service at St. Stephen's and receive bread and the packet of information. Fourteen of these units have made St. Stephen's their church home.

St Stephen's is growing in grace as we reach out to those seeking the Peace and Love of Jesus Christ in their lives. The "Bread" ministry and those who have dedicated their time and energy to its success, are committed to the teaching of our Lord when He Commissioned us to:

***GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS Matt 28:19***

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Judith Delaney, Ed Johnson, Barbara Neill, Team Leaders*



### **GIFTS & MEMORIALS**

The Gifts and Memorials Committee has had a busy year. With the bequest of the Stripling Estate of \$270,075, the Vestry first voted to repay the Clergy Residence and Capital Revolving Funds. Then we examined the G&M Wish List and accepted suggestions from parishioners as to how to use this money to its best advantage for St. Stephen's. Some of our projects have included: the labyrinth, new playground, new carpet for the offices and new furniture for the hospitality room, and new IT needs. We gave money to the Haiti medical clinic. We are currently in the process of buying a new stove and ventilation system for the kitchen, getting new lighting for the nave, purchasing new audio equipment for hearing-impaired in the nave, replacing the carpet in the chapel, landscaping the areas around the labyrinth and playground, and purchasing a new control for the organ in the nave. After these projects are complete, we plan to stop spending the rest of the Stripling money and re-evaluate our options for the remainder.

The Huber family also gave \$5000 as a memorial to honor Dick and Elaine Huber which is being used for EFM scholarships.

Committee members are: Vestry Representative and Chair, Barbara Steele; Betsy Ellis, Secretary, Carole Akers, Acknowledgements Secretary; Merry Keyser, Records; Tom Clary, Dan DiGregorio and Margaret Terrell.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Steele, Chairman*

### **GIFTS AND MEMORIALS**

**October 2016 – September 2017 (Information Current as of 09/30/17)**

#### **Memorials:**

Below is presented a list of memorials given in the past year:

#### **In Memory of:**

Esther Nuhrah  
Martin Skinner  
John Johnson  
Will Livingston  
David Stafford  
Mary Anne Peagler  
Maggie Hubbard  
Vern Slusher

#### **For:**

Undesignated  
Undesignated  
Undesignated  
Undesignated  
Memorial Garden  
Memorial Garden  
Haiti projects  
Undesignated

**The total value of these memorial gifts is \$ 1,265**

#### **Gifts:**

Below is a list of gifts given to St. Stephen's in the past year:

**Given by:**  
Shafik & Horia Iskander  
Huber family  
George Holt bequest  
Patricia Victorin bequest  
Rob & Barbara Steele  
Jim & Jeanne Kring  
Tom & Deborah Clary

**For:**  
Designated projects  
EFM Scholarships  
EFM Scholarships  
Undesignated  
Altar Guild  
Designated projects  
Designated projects

Many Additional Gifts were given directly to the Outreach Program for Haiti projects, Summer Reading Camp and other initiatives.

**The total value of these gifts is \$ 6,840**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Merry Keyser, Vice-Chair of Planned Giving*



## **COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Computers & Internet Technology Support**

This has been an unusually active year for the computer group. A special grant from the Vestry, through Gifts & Memorials, allowed us to provide some much-needed upgrades. New equipment included a replacement of our failed check scanner, a new computer and monitor for the Parish Office, a new large monitor for the Treasurer's office, and a new laptop for general use and to use for presentations or conferencing with the large TV. In late summer, a rather violent power outage required replacing a critical network switch located in the mail room. Prior to the start of our fall schedule, the addition of a new switch in the server room and installation of a wireless access point in the Youth Room has provided wireless internet access for both youth rooms. The wireless access point for the Pollard Room also required replacement this year. One continuing activity is creating and maintaining email accounts for all of our staff and alias accounts for staff, Vestry, etc. These accounts reside on the same servers that host our web site.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ball*



### **Website**

Our website continues to provide a wide variety of information of interest to the parish. A section on "Events this Week" is updated every Thursday evening to list all of the events scheduled at the church for the coming week. At the same time links on the home page are updated to provide access to the E-News for the upcoming week and to a copy of the Sunday service bulletin. These links are also made available to the parish by email distribution from the Parish Office. Other updates are made during the week for any sudden changes that occur. The website posts minutes of Vestry meetings as soon as they are approved. Also added to the website are all of our Bylaws and Procedures, proposed Bylaw changes, and Vestry goals. Audio copies of the sermon are usually available by Sunday mid-afternoon. Toward the end of each month, the Evangel for the coming month is posted with a link on the home page. The page on "Those Who Serve" lists all of the services for each month and all of the participants at those services. The presence of our website on the World Wide Web also provides an invitation to those outside our parish to learn more about us and about our programs as well as how to contact us, where to find us, and when our services are held.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Ball, Webmaster*



## **The Evangel**

The Evangel is currently published monthly. A hard copy is mailed to approximately 35 families and sent electronically to 284 people (28 more than last year) and posted on the church's website. Hard copies are placed around the church building for those who would like to take one home. We realize many people are not comfortable with email. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please let the church office know and we will be happy to include you in the USPS mailing.

It is important to thank Horia Iskander who organizes the mailings and makes sure it gets to the post office. Thank you to all who have helped Horia get the Evangel out.

Anyone wishing to get Parish news in the Evangel should email [secretary@ststephensor.org](mailto:secretary@ststephensor.org). All articles are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for the upcoming month.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Hancock, Parish Secretary*



## **E-News**

Every Friday, a one-page bulletin of news and reminders about upcoming events of particular interest to our parish is sent out. The E-News is intended for the upcoming week events and maybe the next week's events. A link to this communication and also the upcoming Sunday bulletin is emailed to 284 of our present and past parishioners, and visitors. If you have email and are not presently on this list, you can send an email to [secretary@ststephensor.org](mailto:secretary@ststephensor.org) to get on the email list. It's an easy way to keep up-to-date on parish news.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Hancock, Parish Secretary*



## **Facebook Page**

Deborah Johnson and Teddy Dantzler, under the direction of Fr. Lovett, continue to be Administrators of the St. Stephen's Facebook page. We are expanding into Twitter and Instagram. This year we amended our policy statement to allow for streaming of certain services and events. Our policy follows:

"The FACEBOOK policy of the St. Stephen's Social Media group is to not identify (tag) individuals part of St. Stephen's event pictures without the consent of the individuals involved; an exception will be made if the information has already appeared in newspapers or public media. Our aim is to promote parish activities and educate and inspire readers about the worldwide Anglican community. Most of all we hope to share Christ's message of love and compassion through social media, occasionally with a wee bit of humor."

We also "boosted" notices about Christmas and Easter services to reach a larger area audience, and have worked with Fr. Lovett to prepare a list of special services this coming year.

We are open to input from Parishioners and our page is always evolving.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Teddy Dantzler and Deborah Johnson,  
Facebook Coordinators*

† † †  
**SERVICE MINISTRIES**

**Daughters Of The King**

The Daughters of the King is a lay order of women of the church who pledge themselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. We pray daily for the parish and are an integral part of St. Stephen's spiritual life. St. Agnes Chapter additionally provides receptions following funeral services for bereaved families upon their request.

Members maintain a confidential prayer list and during times of crisis a prayer chain is activated. Requests to be placed on the prayer list may be made by calling or emailing the church or filling out a pew card. For a month's time the request will be included in the intercessory prayers of the Daughters.

This year the Chapter has 30 active members. Additionally the Chapter provides small wooden crosses and special prayers for the newly baptized and/or confirmed. Monthly business meetings and corporate worship are held September through June, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Members also gathered for several fellowships during the year that included corporate worship, special short programs, movies with a religious theme, and lunch.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Carole Akers/Deborah Clary, Co-Presidents*



**Book Shop**

The BookShop is still in the Parish Hall and hopes you will visit. We are ending the sale of cards with a close-out event. Bibles, prayer books etc are available at discount prices, plus books by popular religious authors. Check out our \$2 shelf of goodies from the past, and the children's books and Bibles at 50% off. Sales have declined in recent years with the advent of Amazon and Kindle, but whatever profits we have go to Outreach or other parish programs

*Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Kidd, Manager, Roni Boyd, Assistant*



**Hospitality Ministry**

During the weekday office hours, the hospitality desk is staffed by volunteers who answer the phone, meet and greet guests and parishioners, help the clergy and staff with various clerical tasks, make the coffee, AND keep the cookie basket full.

Currently there are fourteen people serving three or four hour shifts Monday through Friday. Those presently serving are: Margaret Baldauf, Roni Boyd, Mary Nell Campbell, Betty Davis, Peggy DeVan, Lola Estes, Brenda Irwin, Horia Iskander, Goldie Kennedy, Judie Liby, Mary Lou Murphy, Mary Rhoades, Donna Riffe and Barbara Steele.

This past year the appearance of the hospitality area has been improved with new carpet, some new furniture and newly painted walls.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Roni Boyd, Chair*



## **St. Therese's Guild**

St. Therese's flower ministry is a group of four women: Peggy DeVan, Doreen Graf, Fay Martin and Katherine Grubb, who lovingly take the altar flowers from the Sunday service and make small bouquets. These bouquets are taken to shut ins, those who can't come to church for health reasons or just because there is someone who is deserving of a nice posy to brighten their day. Some of the flowers are used throughout the church; for example, Vicki's desk, the Hospitality area, the Pollard Room and by the Chapel entrance. Placing flowers in these spots adds a burst of color to these areas. The recipients of the bouquets are so thankful they're being thought of and prayed for by our congregation. It gives our hearts great joy to make and take flowers to our treasures in nursing homes or in the hospital, as well. It's a special ministry I'm proud to chair. These flowers are arranged and delivered with love from all four of St. Therese's flower ministry group.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Grubb.*



## **Library**

Parishioners have continued to donate books to our library this past year. I have worked at sorting and evaluating the backlog of donated materials to determine which ones are appropriate for our collection. I have processed and added thirty-five new books to the library collection. These were all donated materials.

I have not used the library bulletin board as effectively this year, as in past years, to highlight some of the different books and authors in our library collection. I hope to remedy this in the upcoming year.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Fell, Librarian*



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Annual Parish Meeting  
October 23, 2016

Senior Warden John Murphy called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Fr. Lovett led the parish in the invocation. The opening hymn was *Holy, Holy, Holy*.

Mr. Murphy reviewed the process of electing Vestry members. Anyone sixteen years of age who is a communicant in good standing of St. Stephen's is eligible to vote. To be elected on the first ballot requires a majority of the votes cast. He introduced the candidates running for the six open positions during the distribution of the ballots. The candidates were Tom Beehan, Betsy Ellis, Ray Evans, Doreen Graf, Roger Johnson, Courtney Manrod, Susan Meredith, Barbara Steele, and Lou Volk.

Dan DiGregorio, chair of the Nominating Committee, led the next part of the meeting in Mr. Murphy's absence. He thanked the outgoing Vestry members, John Murphy, Jim Anderson, Doug Aaron and Ed Krieg, for their many contributions and the members of the Nominating Committee, Merry Keyser, Jim Kring, Alan Liby, and Peggy Volk, for their work in encouraging nine people to stand for election. He also thanked all the candidates for being willing to serve on Vestry.

Mr. DiGregorio thanked the members of the By-Laws Committee who worked on several by-law changes. The committee members were Jim Ball, Rob Steele, Merry Keyser, Joe McGrory, Ed Krieg, John Murphy and Mr. DiGregorio. He explained that the changes have been approved by the Vestry and by Chancellor Sarah Sheppard at the Diocesan Office. Al Skyberg moved that all four by-law changes be approved together. Dean Hartley seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. DiGregorio thanked Jim Ball for keeping the website current. The by-laws, policies, goals, and Vestry meeting minutes have been added to the website content. The committee chairs have reviewed and revised where necessary all policies so they reflect what is actually being done. The last policy review was 2003 and the last by-law review took place in 2011. The Vestry goals were developed from a Vestry self-assessment exercise.

Mr. DiGregorio passed the “virtual gavel” to Chris Tavino. Mr. Tavino recognized the church staff and Vestry members. He introduced Cameron Ellis for the financial overview.

Mr. Ellis reported St. Stephen’s is financially sound. Assets total just slightly less than \$800,000.00. This number reflects the bequest from the Stripling estate. Approximately \$430,000.00 is in restricted funds. \$245,000.00 of that is in permanently restricted accounts from which only the interest may be used. The day-to-day operations are good with adequate cash flow. He said in order to maintain the current level of staffing pledging will need to increase.

Dean Hartley thanked Mr. Ellis for his work as St. Stephen’s treasurer.

Judy Kidd encouraged everyone to attend the *Celebrate 65* dinner on November 19, 2016. St. Stephen’s first Sunday service in the current location was Whitsunday, 1951.

She then introduced Mary Lou Sewell Murphy who shared her delightful memories of growing up at St. Stephen’s.

Mr. Murphy returned to the meeting and announced six people were elected to the Vestry on the first ballot. They are: elected to three-year terms—Betsy Ellis, Courtney Manrod, Susan Meredith, and Barbara Steele; elected to a two-year term—Lou Volk; and elected to a one-year term—Tom Beehan. He thanked all the candidates for their willingness to serve.

Mr. Murphy asked Fr. Lovett to stand. The audience honored Fr. Lovett with a standing ovation.

Mr. Murphy thanked the vestry members for their service. He reviewed the process for calling an interim rector and shared the steps that have been taken in respect to two candidates for the position. He reported the Vestry under Dean Hartley’s and Brian Bovee’s leadership is working on a mission statement for St. Stephen’s. He thanked the parish for their active participation as that made his job as Senior Warden easy.

Fr. Lovett stated there are many things for which to be thankful that are outlined in his written report. He mentioned several additional activities that have occurred since the report was prepared. He thanked the Daughters of the King for the reception and the crisis committee for providing the Skinner family with enough food for several meals, and the previous day, for holding a reception for the family of Esther Nuhrah. He told about the youth group cleaning the grounds and acknowledged the committee that prepared the written annual report booklet. He recognized the musicians for their preparation for the service that included *The Holy City*—music that was used in the first service held in the building. He thanked Parish Life for the meal.

In closing his remarks Fr. Lovett stated he could not manage to do the work he does without Vicki Hancock’s help. He closed by thanking St. Stephen’s for allowing him to serve.

Fay Martin moved to approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting. Adolph King seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The closing hymn was *The Church’s One Foundation*.

Fr. Lovett offered the closing prayer and blessing for the meal.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Delaney, Secretary