



The Servant

of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Education for Ministry beginning soon at St. Stephen's

Education for Ministry (EFM) is a four year (each year is thirty-six 2.5 hour weekly sessions) program of study that transformed my relationship with the church, scripture, and life in general. St. Stephen's has many EFM graduates to consult about their personal experience. After several years with no groups in Salt Lake County, a group is being organized at St. Stephen's. We are planning to begin the week of September 11.

EFM was developed and continues to be administered from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. The Utah Episcopal Diocese is a sponsor of the program. There is a personal financial commitment of \$375 per year. One or two scholarships are available, depending on group size. The maximum group size is 12.

If you are interested or have questions about EFM, please call me at (801)268-6233 or email me at crookstn@msn.com. We are planning to have an introduction gathering the week of August 14.

Love,



Vicar's Viewpoint

August 2017

Into the "dog days" of summer, so they say, but with the outrageous heat temperatures we experienced in July—let us hope that we will have a break! What does August mean in the life of the church? Liturgically we are still in The Season After Pentecost or Ordinary Time. This is the longest church season we have and the color is green. Great color for the summer season with the plants and gardens, right?

I am writing this early due to the fact that I am going on vacation on the 24th of July and won't return until after the 6th of August. So, if my mind cannot release me from the heat of July (especially since our home a/c broke down yesterday and we have to wait for 3 days for someone to check to see if it is salvageable. This is our "new" a/c unit that we only installed a little over 15 years ago! How is this possible????) I know we are not the only ones to go through this, but it certainly returns me to my youth when we had no a/c. We have even lived in the South where the humidity slaps on an extra insult to the body's way of coping with heat—but we tend to forget that when the a/c is working and we are cool and we are refreshed.

This Season after Pentecost is rather like going back into these conditions. Low attendance on Sundays is prevalent with people on vacations or the lure of Sunday get-a-ways to the mountains is too strong. We even refer to the time of September through the Day of Pentecost—the program year when ministries and events take place. We know what will happen in the summer months, and it is best not to take it too seriously, right? The Community needs to know everyone is all right, however. If you are going on a trip, come up for a travel prayer; let someone know when you leave; and when you return. When you are not present on a Sunday, you are missed!

cont. on page 2

Random Thoughts...

This month I was blessed to be able to finally go on my first vacation in several years. I was able to spend three fun days in Southern California. While exploring the area I stopped by a museum I had been eagerly anticipating to check out, it was the California African American Museum. I found myself mesmerized by the exhibits. One, in particular, made me become teary eyed. It focused on the African American experience in California history and on the injustices the community was forced to endure. As I read the accounts and viewed articles and artifacts, I found my attention drawn to a young African American girl reading aloud one of the exhibits about Eula May Love (Eula was a 39-year-old mother of three and recent widow struggling to get by on \$680 a month. Her gas bill of \$69 had been several months past due when a utility worker came to shut it off. Eula became upset and irrational and a minor altercation occurred. The utility worker then filed a complaint with police while Eula walked to the market to get a money order for her bill. Next came the cops. On January 3, 1979 Eula Love was shot eight times in her front yard by two Los Angeles Police Department patrol officers. Gas company employees had sought the patrol officers' help in collecting an overdue bill from the 39-year-old widow, or in shutting off her gas service. The officers emptied their revolvers at Love in what they described as self defense because she was about to throw a knife at them. After a lengthy inquiry into Love's death, the district attorney's Special Investigations Division decided not to file charges against the officers,

cont pg. 3 column 2

cont. from page 1

August 13th is going to be our grand re-entry into the Sanctuary!

Please mark your calendars so you don't miss this. The Sanctuary is absolutely transformed and our worship space is beautiful. When you pick up your worship bulletin, you will be asked to take a hymnal and prayer book with you. This will complete the symbolic move we did when we took the books out of the Sanctuary. A special potluck coffee hour will take place that day to celebrate this amazing gift God has given to St. Stephen's. Please make an effort to join in the celebration.

WOW will resume on Wednesday, August 16th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.; a program at 7:00 p.m.; and a Eucharist at 8:00 p.m. We look forward to partaking in this special day in the lives of St. Stephen's.

So, stay cool this August. Give thanks to God for the wonderful restoration of the Sanctuary. Give thanks for this wonderful community of St. Stephen's.

"Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this Community of St. Stephen's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord." *Amen. (BCP, p. 817 with adaptation)*

In Christ's Amazing Love,

Mary+

July HOT, HOT, HOT HOT

22 days of 90+ degrees!
25 days of lows above 70 degrees! "And we survived"

HOT on the job of beginning repairs to the sanctuary and transforming the parish hall and gathering space for new functions. "And it's working well"

HOT celebrations recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Episcopal Church in Utah; the 4th o July barbecue; and a new week with visitors from Family Promise. "And we had fun together"

HOT new group recognized as members and supporters of the Youth group from the Colorado Diocese spent a week adding a new look to our landscape with their hours of weeding and trimming. They built and installed our new Red Blessing Box and Mini Library at curbside and whenever we saw them they were hard at work, smiling, laughing and sharing God's love "And we were blessed.



Please remember to bring something to share on August 13. The last potluck coffee hour seemed to work

well with just salads and desserts. I plan to bring cheese. Bread might go well and a breakfast casserole is enjoyed by many. I will continue to post a sign-up sheet on the smaller bulletin board to provide the means for anyone to designate a coffee hour as a personal celebration or to list the Sundays that we will have a special pot-luck coffee hour. I believe coffee hour could be less challenging for me if members of the congregation would adopt an aspect of it as their personal ministry. In other words, there are elements of coffee hour that are routine and happen every Sunday and could be of little personal time or money. For instance, making sure we have the basic supplies like coffee, paper plates, napkins, alternative hot and cold drinks and so on. In particular, we also want to have all kinds of sweeteners and it seems quite appropriate to have someone who likes a specific type of creamer to make sure it is available. It helps with our budgeting to have the receipts of all purchases for coffee hour submitted for reimbursement whether you accept the check or sign it back over to the church. It also would help to decide to be part of the team for set up or clean up. St. Stephen's could recognize whatever contribution you make or let you keep it quiet according to your preference. These types of contributions can also be occasional, but are always appreciated.

Love,
Fran

HOT ...off the press.... We passed our annual accounting audit, and have submitted our 2018 Grant Request to the diocese. "And soooooo, **WELCOME TO AUGUST!**"

Rev. Mary returns on the 3rd.

St. James invites us to an ECW meeting 7-9 pm on Thursday Aug. 3.

Saturday, Aug. 5th is our monthly work day beginning at 10:00.

We will be preparing for the move back to the sanctuary on the 13th. And.

don't forget to ask Jeff about the campout.

We need your help and ideas for new activities, projects and fundraisers to help us continue as a welcoming, growing and loving place to worship.

Sally Nelson
Bishop's Warden

cont from pg. 2 column 1

the district attorney's Special Investigations Division decided not to file charges against the officers, sparking widespread public outrage). "Why did they have to kill her, daddy?" she asked.

Then my heart broke for her father as he struggled to find the words to explain something so inexplicable. He ultimately said something like, "Sometimes people make mistakes." I wish I could've echoed the words found in Revelation 21:4 which read: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." It's so difficult making sense of tragedy. Some things just don't make any sense. But the one constant, the one truth, is that God loves us and grieves right along with us when tragedy does strike.

Remember in John 11:35 we learn that "Jesus wept." He weeps for us even today when we're lost, lonely, terrified, and depressed. We are never alone. Not really. I pray, and I hope you'll join me, that that little girl can be a part of the next generation that lives in a world free from racism and other prejudices and discrimination. A place where love reigns supreme. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." -1 Corinthians 13:4-7. May we always live to protect, trust, hope, and persevere with each other. May we love freely and unabashedly. Always.

Drew Condor

