



The Servant

of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

OCTOBER notes:

We've had such a busy and involved summer and early fall, certainly blessed in so many ways as Mary indicated. Seems hard to believe we are preparing for the last quarter of another year and will soon be celebrating Halloween.

October always seems like the “**gathering month**”, a time to pick up, clean up and prepare for the coming of the winter season and all it's activities.

October 1st, we hope to be starting that process at St. Stephen's as we are invited to come to church in our “work clothes”. We'll be preparing to spend time after church and coffee hour with a fall clean up of our grounds. Bring your favorite tools, your ladder, your work gloves and check in with Glen Hollander to pick a spot to start. We had such a great time this summer doing this and it gives us another chance to give of our time and talents in maintaining our “welcoming” image to members and visitors.

Hope I'll see you there helping to begin our “gathering time”.

Sally Nelson, Bishop's Warden



Vicar's Viewpoint

October has arrived with beautiful weather! I am writing this on a rather soggy and cold morning in September, but I have hope! Fall is my favorite season of the year, so I am just basking in the autumn glow that has arrived!

Another month and many things are going to happen!

October 1st: Wear your grubby clothes to church day for a work party to trim some of our bushes and plants before winter. I see that the weather is going to cooperate with us, so plan to come and have fun. We will have drinks and snacks to keep us energized at our coffee hour.

If you cannot physically work, you can hand out drinks and food
October 7th: The Blessing of the Animals in honor of St. Francis and all creatures great and small! We will hold it in the Gathering Space due to the activities that are being held in the building. Please have your dogs leashed and our cats and smaller animals in carriers so that no harm can come to them. If you have a larger animal—elephant, giraffe, horse, llama, or goat—then come to the Gathering Space via the courtyard. You will be welcomed and blessed!!

October 8th: Bishop's Committee will meet earlier this month during the coffee hour before I head up to Midway for the Diocesan Clergy Conference. I will return on Tuesday afternoon and will be in the office on Wednesday during the day and WOW in the evening.

October 12th-16th: I am going to the DC area to attend and participate in the National Family Promise Conference. I am a Board Member and I was asked to attend. Sally Nelson will be your point of contact if anything comes up; and Pablo+ will help out with any pastoral emergencies while I am gone.

October 22nd: The Rev. Jenny Tucker will be supplying for me on this Sunday since she cannot be at St. Stephen's for the 5th Sunday. Please come and make her feel at home.

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150 Year Celebrations

We have been talking about the 150 year celebrations all year, the time is finally here.

The celebration for our region will be held at St. James Episcopal Church in Midvale on November 18.

Please consider attending and follow this link to rsvp:

<https://diocese.wufoo.com/forms/r14shg0417jcdvd/>

Daniela Lee

October 22nd: The Rev. Jenny Tucker will be supplying for me on this Sunday since she cannot be at St. Stephen's for the 5th Sunday. Please come and make her feel at home.

October 29th: I will be at St. Stephen's for this Sunday. We will have "trunk or treat" in the back parking lot for the children (of all ages) in honor of Halloween. Please feel free to wear costumes to church (no matter your age)!

May this be a month that brightens all our faces.

In Christ's Love,

Mary+

2018 STEWARDSHIP FOR ST. STEPHEN'S

October 1st will be the kick off for our Stewardship Campaign this year. The Ingathering will be Sunday, December 3rd. How appropriate since this is the First Sunday of Advent that marks the beginning of the Church Year for us. We will be in Year B and Daily Office Year Two.

St. Stephen's is a very generous community and has risen to the occasion time after time when an emergency arises. In 2017, we turned our thoughts to the Utah Food Bank with our Souper Bowl of Caring (the Diocese matched our funds) and our Lenten offering: \$1761.61; we helped out with the needs in Haiti; we gave money on Good Friday for the Mission in Jerusalem; we gave our Outreach Fund of \$1000.00 to ERD to help out with the terrible hurricane disasters that have hit people in Texas, Florida, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other places. We all understand that when emergencies arise we have a responsibility to help.

We have received so many blessings with our building and grounds this year. The Church insurance not only restored the Sanctuary after the ceiling collapse, but allowed us to make beautiful changes. We had enough funds to repair the leaking roofs that caused the problem; repair a pipe breach by the kitchen entrance; and with the Diocesan help, we could repair two more flat roofs that were in danger of causing more problems for us. Through a very generous United Thank Offering Grant, we obtained two new beautiful gas ranges by the Grace of God and by generous people who helped us with the price. These same generous people gave us a free matching microwave as well. We were able to get a new kitchen floor and through the generosity of one of our members, serious trimming of trees were done. Through the youthful generosity and spirit of the Colorado Youth Ministry, we had yard work done and the creation of two red boxes out front: one for a free library and one for food.

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Take time for yourself!

Come join me on October 14, 2017 at a retreat "The Lord's Day" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 8575 South 700 East in Sandy, UT sponsored by Utah Via De Cristo. It will start at 8:45 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast and end at 4 p.m.

We are asked to bring something non-perishable for the food bank and a free will offering will be collected. Breakouts include: Gathering in Praise, Seeking the Lord, Loving the Lord, lunch provided, Knowing the Lord, Living the Lord and Worshiping the Lord.

Please contact Deanna Anderson if you would like to attend with her.

Lunch orders need to be placed by October 11th.

Deanna can be reached at 801-244-8097 or e-mail dlanderson2001@yahoo.com

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From the Jesus Box

Thank you Jesus for:

The new floor
The fixed roof
the rain

Your Holy Spirit in our worship
fresh peaches
Grandchildren
The red boxes
Our community outreach projects

What are you thankful for...please leave a note in the Jesus Box.

Now, it is that time of the year when we need to look ahead to the joys and challenges of having a building this size. We are Christ's heart, hands and bodies in this community of ours. If we want to help with the utilities, upkeep, and repair of our beautiful building, pledges need to be made so the Bishop's Committee can make a budget for 2018. I know this is not glamorous and it is rather "meat and potatoes" stuff, but we have a responsibility to keep God's House functioning in the very best way we can.

If you are a regular pledger, search your means and see if you can maintain that or maybe increase it. If you have never pledged at St. Stephen's, this is your chance to become a full member by making your thanksgiving to God count in ways that can keep St. Stephen's in good shape. If you can only give a little—that still counts!! If you give cash, please put it in an envelope so that you get credit for your pledge. No amount is too little or too large to give to God in this place. We also count on gifts of talent and time. There are ministries to join and participate in, and there will be work parties to help out with the maintenance. Be creative! See what you can offer.

Money is not an easy topic for people to discuss. I get that. In the weeks ahead you will hear stories from our Bishop's Committee members sharing their thoughts on what it is to be a part of St. Stephen's. If any of you are so moved, you may share your thoughts as well. We are a community and it takes all of us to make St. Stephen's welcoming, functional and in good shape.

Pray about how you can support this 2018 Stewardship Campaign. Figure out a way that you can join in with all the others who call this community their spiritual home.

With God's unconditional love and care for us, we will do the right thing in our hearts, our treasures, our talents, and our time.

Gratefully, your Vicar,

Mary+

