



# The Servant

of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



## Notes from our "Thank you Jesus," Box:

Thank you for the life of Corethia Quails, and our friendship.

Love god with all my heart.

Jesus is best. I love you God.

Thankful for family.

Thank you Jesus for Mary, our Vicar.

Thank you for the Church family.

Thanks God for wonderful nieces.



## Vicar's Viewpoint

November—that time of the year that invokes family dinners and pre-Christmas thoughts! It is a time to carve out time to be with our families as much as well as prepare to carve the turkey on Thanksgiving Day.

This year our traditional WOW Thanksgiving will be extra special. We will be hosting our Family Promise Guests during the week of the 19<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. Please consider attending this year's WOW Wednesday night Thanksgiving Dinner to help make our Guests welcome. If you cannot come, please consider helping with the food that is required: turkeys, cranberry sauce, pies, or whatever our Chef Marjorie has on the sign-up sheet. We want to have plenty of left overs for the Families to delight in on the actual Thanksgiving Day.

The Sign-up Sheet for volunteers will be coming fairly soon. We are going to have assistance from quite a few people who want to be involved—strangers we have yet to meet, but will be warmly welcomed into our St. Stephen's home to help us with the program. Please be thinking of what you might possibly do to help with this week.

In these days when we may feel overwhelmed and overcome with all the disasters that have happened, all the turmoil that seems to continue to pop up all over the world, we can feel helpless and hopeless. This is when we turn to our faith and turn to the words of Jesus to help us do something. Getting involved with Family Promise is a great way to do something positive, something caring, and something that speaks to our faith. These wonderful families who have found themselves in a homeless situation are being given the chance to become hopeful through the actions of the Good People of St. Stephen's and the other churches who open their doors. Let us make this the best Thanksgiving celebration for our Guest Families.

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## Vicar's Viewpoint

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Take a few moments to reflect on what being a Community Member of St. Stephen's. How are you fed on your Faith Journey? How are you participating in the Good News that Jesus asked us all to share? We are all in this together and it just feels so much better when we pull together on projects, or pray together in the chairs, or come to the Altar to share in Holy Communion. We are blessed, my Friends; we truly are.

This is our Stewardship time of the year when we look towards the future and try to do the very best for this Community of ours that not only takes care of each other, but all people we encounter. That is one reason why

we gave our entire Outreach Budget item of \$1000.00 to help the people in the Hurricane-damaged areas.

May November be a wondrous time of reflection. When you receive your Pledge Card on All Saints' Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>, take it home and pray about how you can contribute in 2018 through your treasure, your time, and your talent.

In Christ's Everlasting Love,

Mary+

## NOVEMBER

- N**ovember is here, bringing the end of another church year and we have so much to be thankful for. Nothing has daunted us, not roof leaks, weed and tree issues, revamping a kitchen and stretching to meet unexpected changes during our construction periods.
- O**pportunities for new outreach have presented us with adding a third week for hosting our Family Promise guests, the addition of our two red Blessing Boxes to share with the community. We participated in celebrating our Episcopal Church anniversary of 150 years here in Utah, we marched in the Pride Parade, hosted information booths in the parks and continued to still support our outreach to the food bank, to our chosen local charities and to the hurricane relief efforts.
- V**isible new and returning faces continue supporting the theme of our mission statement of "All Are Welcome". We have a new church group beginning to worship in our building this month, evermore widening our church family.
- E**very end of the year brings assessments of our progress, challenges to our growth and development and the opportunity to enlist the help and support of everyone as we plan for a new year. We review the year, look at new and old requirements, plan how we will meet the new year's demands. We must plan a new budget and offer pledge opportunities to all to be a strengthening part of St. Stephens in the new year. We begin to think about new members for the Bishop's Committee and encourage all to remain or become more active in the needs of the church.
- M**ission churches are not fully self-supporting and support funds and services can negatively change. We face that change this year and will again next year. We have an opportunity to decide if we want to continue to grow and improve our support for our Lord's mission for us here at St. Stephens.
- B**e on the lookout....Our annual pledge cards will soon be in the mail and are a great way to show how you and your family can continue to support St. Stephens. You can pledge your time, your talents and skills and your dollars. I know you will make the best decision for all.
- E**vents for the month are covered on the web page and FaceBook page and if you are not electronically involved, we love seeing you in church, hearing the announcements.
- R**emember, relate, renew, reply as needed. November Blessings.

Sally Nelson

Bishop's Warden



**P**lease consider helping with coffee hour! While I am committed to seeing that it happens as much as possible, it really is

a reflection of St. Stephen's hospitality and not limited to the ministry of only some of us. There are details about helping that are better explained in the context of a personal conversation. However, I have composed a document that is printed next to the sign-up sheet on the small bulletin board that tries to put together an overview in case we can't get to the personal conversation. If you would be willing to review it, please email me at [crookstn@msn.com](mailto:crookstn@msn.com) and I will include it in a reply. Once this document has been vetted, I would like it posted on St. Stephen's web site and / or Facebook page.

Love,

Fran

#### Please take note:

**The next WOW program series** after Thanksgiving will be led by Leah Sanford, and the subject will be Contemplative Prayer. We will deal mainly with a practice known as Lectio Divina, or Holy Reading, which is a form of scriptural prayer. We will also touch briefly on other forms of contemplative prayer, such as Centering Prayer and Zen sitting practice. The program will run for 3 sessions: November 29, December 6, and December 13, and hopefully will serve as an introduction to help participants develop a contemplative prayer practice of their own. Leah has been doing Lectio Divina for many years, and has also spent some time in the practice of sitting meditation. Participants should wear comfortable clothing, and if you already have a meditation practice, and want to bring your usual cushion or bench along, feel free. Class will be held in the chair circle, and will transition directly into the Eucharist afterward.



**Sunday, November 5.**



