



**APRIL
2016**

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“Getting it done”

A former parishioner of mine, who happens to be from the UK, told me that things get done in the church at the pace of treacle. Treacle is a sweet syrup, a bit thicker than maple syrup, more like molasses. So it takes its sweet time moving from bottle to bowel as the primary ingredient in its name's sake dessert treacle tart. I know I'm not always the most patient guy around, so I agree with her observation and can relate to her frustration at times. Things in the church often take a long time to get done. On the one hand, that is a great thing. The results of a long, careful process can yield sweet results. Try a piece of treacle tart if you doubt me. On the other hand, the treacle pace of some things getting done in the church can be maddening. Such a pace unnecessarily occupies our time and energy. It's the classic joke come to life: “How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?” The punch lines vary, but my favorite is: “Three. One to tell the Jr. Warden that the light bulb is out, one to organize a committee to discuss what kind of light bulb to order, and one to observe that the light bulb can't be changed because it was given as a memorial.”

One of my responsibilities as your rector, along with the Vestry, is to decide what needs to move at the deliberative pace of treacle and what can be dispatched in short order. The long range plan (the pace of treacle) of course doesn't change. We are on mission to care for people first, to share the power of God's love and forgiveness in a hurting and broken world. People first means that we focus our efforts on worship, Christian Formation, Fellowship, Stewardship and Outreach. Our physical plant and the impending improvements to it (handicap access bathrooms, the addition of a Porte cochere, a spruced up Parish Hall along with other improvements) will create a welcoming environment for parishioners, newcomers and visitors. With your support, it shouldn't take too long to do, although I'm sure there will be some treacle like moments.

You have just received a survey from the Vestry, paper copies are also available, which will help us with both short term and long term priorities. Please fill it out quickly so that we may move forward with a strengthened ministry. Your input is valuable and needed. Here are two things that are happening faster than the pace of treacle.

Pub Theology begins Wednesday April 13 at 7:00 p.m. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of every month during the academic year. This is a time for fellowship and fun. It can also serve as a forum to talk about matters that touch our souls theologically and otherwise. I am starting it out as a men's group. Our first meeting is at the Shamrock on John Street and the first beer is on me. So I am expecting a good turn out.

This fall, we are introducing a **new Sunday School Program called Godly Play**. It's a Montessori based curriculum that instills strong faith, is “hands on” and fun. Teachers will be trained by a professional from Godly Play ministries and there will be opportunities for volunteers to help make necessary materials or contribute toward their purchase. This program is appropriate for toddlers through 5th grade. This is the best Sunday School curriculum I have come across and I am excited about implementing it here at St. Stephen's. I pray that these changes, both immediate and gradual will enrich our lives together as we grow in faith and numbers and serve the Lord. Happy Easter!

Peace,

Ray Hanna

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church: Living a tradition of service through Christ to God, to each other and to our neighbors since 1853.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Greetings to all as we just enjoyed a wonderful Easter week. It was wonderful to see St Stephen's looking so beautiful and all of God's children from babies to nonagenarians enjoying Easter week. Your Vestry has been busy working on many facets of the Church. The ministry areas of the Church are all full of activity. Please contact the Rector or myself or Ken Gerrard, the Junior Warden if you know of an area that interests you because the more folks that are involved, the more we can accomplish together. Your Vestry members are involved in several areas of ministry but here are a few connections to specific areas: Ken Gerrard – Property and Executive Committee, Adrienne Northington – Christian Formation and Memorials, Mark Ladd- Outreach, Stuart Freemon – Stewardship and Worship, Ann Hine – Christian Formation and Finance, Kim Smith – Youth and Property, Margie Clark – Finance and Memorials, Dave Tayloe – Outreach and Christian Formation, Drew Grice – Worship, Nicole Barnes – Property and Youth & Linda Huard – Fellowship. Please talk with these fine leaders of the Church if you wish to become further involved at St Stephen's.

You should already have been, via email, sent a church survey addressing important areas involving life here at St. Stephen's. Linda Huard has worked tirelessly on the survey so please complete the survey and if you have not received a copy we should have hard copies in the office and at the back of the Church. We are going to be implementing a new website in the near future so please if you have expertise in that area or you simply have suggestions, please get up with me or Ray or other members of your Vestry. Certainly for us to have the best communication to all parishioners, we need everyone's current mailing addresses, emails and home and cell phone numbers. Please check with the office to see that your contact information is up to date. As it concerns renovations to our bathrooms, Parish Hall and other areas inside the Church we are working with an Architect and should have a plan soon on the work we wish to do and the fundraising effort that will support these improvements.

Please let me know of any concerns, questions or suggestions. Your Vestry wants to do the best job for you and your St. Stephen's life. I hope you have a beautiful Spring and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Peace. Geoff

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

While the entire Vestry along with Ray are off and running in many directions- yours truly the Jr. Warden; has had a relatively slower month. This is good news- because I have learned when the Jr. Warden is real busy – money flows out like water from a fire hose! We are having a faucet or two replaced and looking into additional lighting for the back parking lot of the parish hall but overall things appear to be running pretty smooth. We did have the "little" wooden chairs upstairs put back in the attic. If anyone is in need of any of them, please contact Jimmy or myself and we will be glad to get them for you. Speaking of upstairs, we are in the process of getting the carpet replaced for the Music room. We will be replacing all of the carpet upstairs once the renovation of the upstairs bathrooms are complete. The Properties committee continues to do their due diligence on the pending interior renovations.

I hope you have time to walk around outside of the parish on your next visit. Bob Cagle, Mrs. Norwood and others have done an excellent job on our grounds. The tulips in the old garth are definitely worth the time to stop and admire. "Take time to tip toe through the tulips"

In closing, I hope each of you and your families had a great Easter Holiday together!

Ken Gerrard

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of our parish finances through February is as follows:

	FEB	YEAR TO DATE (YTD)	BUDGET (YTD)
INCOME	\$56,237.12	\$78,000.74	\$58,289.50
EXPENSES	\$31,864.58	\$60,807.26	\$63,597.45

As of the end of February, we are on track with our budget and in a favorable position overall. As a result of your diligence in keeping your pledges current, we are somewhat ahead of our budgeted income year to date. And our expenses are currently under budget. Please continue to honor your pledges so that our income will continue to cover our expenses.

We are grateful for your financial support of the mission and ministry of our parish. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Marjorie Fickling, Treasurer

ST. STEPHEN'S SURVEY

Attention: your input matters! Coming in April is a new survey to learn your viewpoints on things such as Christian Formation (Sunday School), how you would like to receive information and announcements, the Sunday schedule, social events and more. The survey will be sent electronically and will be available in hard copy. Please make sure that we have your current email address. We want to hear from you!

Linda Edsall-Huard

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Many, many thanks to all of our faithful parishoners who participated in our recent very successful Lenten supper series. As always, we set a varied table with many delicious dishes which were enjoyed week after week by all. Adams Barbecue entrées hopefully provided some variety from what we have offered in the recent past. I am very interested in hearing your comments on the five selections we chose. Your generosity in offering to assist with set up and clean up each week is sincerely appreciated and contributed greatly to the smooth flow of the evening without excessive time or work for anyone. I will be putting together a Fellowship Committee in the near future from the names given on the parish survey many of you completed several months ago so that we can continue to plan and provide meaningful parish fellowship events that share the preparation and execution without undue stress on anyone. It is always good to be together in fellowship so let us continue to give of our time and talent generously.

Martie Saylor, Chairman

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS MINISTRY

We are here for you if you are unable to attend church due to an illness or infirmity? In accordance with the Church Canons, Lay Eucharistic Visitors are "authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration." St. Stephen's Eucharistic Visitors are Glenda and Ed Futch, Karen and Steve Mzyk, Geoff and Lee Hulse, Mike and Martie Saylor, Mark Ladd, Paul Rutter and Jan and Bob Cagle. The Bishop has specifically licensed these volunteers for this ministry. If you are unable to attend the Eucharist on a Sunday and would like to receive the Consecrated Elements from a Eucharistic Visitor after church, please contact the church office or call me.

Bob Cagle, Eucharistic Visitor Coordinator (919) 920-9169 or bcagle75@gmail.com

EYC EVENTS FOR APRIL

It is hard to believe that we only have a month left in our EYC year together! Before we say good-bye for the Summer, we still have some great events to look forward to in April.

April EYC Schedule

Sunday, April 3 - NO Sunday School or EYC. Enjoy your last weekend of Spring Break!

Friday - Sunday, April 8-10 - New Beginnings #51 Those attending New Beginnings need to meet at St. Stephen's at 4:00 pm on Friday to carpool to Trinity Center. We have 7 confirmed participants: Sarah Stockton, Catherine and Anne Stuart Freemon, Jillian Faust, Louise Gurley, Lucy Bland and Cady Stanley. I can take three in my car but will need another driver who can carry four more to and from Trinity Center. We will return on Sunday by 4:00 pm.

Sunday, April 17 - Sunday School at 10:00 am, EYC at 5:15 & 6:30 pm

Sunday, April 24 - Sunday School at 10:00 am, EYC at 5:15 & 6:30 pm

Friday - Sunday, April 29 - May 1 - Acolyte Festival in Nags Head. If you plan to attend the Acolyte Festival the cost is \$45 per person. We will need at least two or more chaperones/drivers if we want to attend this event. Please see the link below for more details.

<http://www.saintandrewsobx.com/ministries/acolyte-festival-2016.html>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Surf's Up! Registration for VBS 2016 has started. Snappy the Crab will show our children to Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love! All children ages 3 (potty trained) through rising 5th graders are invited to attend.

Registration is available online at <http://2016.cokesburyvbs.com/ststephensgoldsboro2016>. If you need a print copy or assistance, please contact Emilie Foy at 919-274-1675. Registration will close Friday, June 3rd to allow time for order and delivery of supplies and t-shirts. It will be held Monday July 11th through Thursday, 8:30 am – 11:30 am. We have a special day planned for Thursday and will close with a lunch for children, parents and volunteers.



We are asking all parents to volunteer during the week. The nursery will be available. If you are not available during the week, there are other ways you can volunteer your time such as setup, decorating and cleanup. We need lots of volunteers to make this a successful week for our children. You can register to volunteer online or you can contact Emilie.

Emilie Foy

ST. HILDA'S GUILD

The April meeting for St. Hilda's Guild which consists of cleaning and planting the Garth with geraniums is unscheduled at this time as we continue to enjoy the breathtaking beauty of the very generous tulip plantings. If you have not had an opportunity to stop by the Garth, please take a moment to do so and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. The April cleaning and replanting will be scheduled as soon as the tulips have completed their show. Thanks be to God!

*Martie Saylor & Judy Carpenter
Guild Co chairs*

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

A canticle is song of praise taken from biblical texts other than the Psalms. As part of our Eucharistic liturgy each week we sing several canticles, usually three: a song of praise following the first hymn, most of the time "Glory to God in the highest," "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord," the *Sanctus* that precedes the Eucharistic Prayer and a fraction anthem such as "Lamb of God." During the 50 days of Easter you will see that we are using "Christ our Passover" as the song of praise at the beginning of the service instead of "Glory to God." The text for this canticle comes from First Corinthians and from Romans and is especially appropriate for the Easter season. The setting for the music is Anglican chant. As you hear it sung by the choir each week, you will become more familiar with it and should be able to join in singing. The melody of the tune is easy to pick up, and the rhythm follows that of natural speech patterns.

Anglican chant is a way to sing unmetrical texts by matching the natural speech-rhythm of the words to the notes of a simple harmonized melody. When singing a text in Anglican chant, the natural rhythm of the words as they would be spoken by a careful speaker governs how the music is fitted to the words. Chanting is simply reading to different pitches. The earliest known examples date from the late 16th century, written by Thomas Tallis and his contemporaries, so it seems likely that Anglican chant was developed by them to provide musical settings for the English-language version of the psalter translated by Myles Coverdale, as published in the then new *Book of Common Prayer*.

Marshall Foster

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

Remember to come early and enjoy a breakfast on Sunday, April 3rd.. This past month we had a large group who came to 8:00 service and stayed for breakfast. We look forward to seeing you.

Allan Petersen

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Come to the Boys & Girls club on Wednesday, April 6th to help serve a meal to the children after school. We are there from 3:00 -4:00 and have a great time with the children. No cooking, no dishes to wash. All we need is you smiling face and enthusiasm. Sign up on the bulletin board.

Allan Petersen

DILLARD COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!

A visit to the school reveals countdown posters reminding students of their upcoming End of Grade Testing....now less than 40 days away! The year has seemingly flown by. Once the exact days of testing in May and the number of proctors needed are determined, we will again be asking for volunteers to assist in that testing procedure. Stay tuned.

The new art teacher has asked for bottle caps...plastic caps from water, soft drink, sport drink, milk, juice bottles; etc. for an end-of-year project. Please save these caps for Mr. Hickman during April; putting them in the container marked DILLARD ART by the dishwasher in the church kitchen OR in a ziplock bag in the Dillard tub outside the office.

Your gifts of sanitizing wipes last month enabled the staff to do "Spring Cleaning" prior to their Easter/Spring Break. These "little things" really do help the teachers and staff know that we're behind them, trying to make their school life a little better.

This month our offering is for the WISH Health Center at the school. The nurses have asked for lotion, toothpaste and deodorant for their students. If you could provide one or two of these hygiene items for distribution to needy students it would be greatly appreciated. Small hotel size lotions are perfect for this project, so if you've traveled recently and have saved those free items, there are young people that would love this luxury! Larger ones are accepted as well. Our recent toothbrush collection encouraged dental hygiene so toothpaste is also needed. Warm weather plus adolescence yields the need for deodorant! Thank you in advance from the WISH nurses for continuing to support their efforts in student health and hygiene.

Jan Cagle / 919-778-0346 / bcagle2@suddenlink.net

DILLARD W.O.W.

The weekly meetings with "our" 5th grade girls continue to go well. This partnership with St. Andrews and St. Francis is instilling confidence amongst the young ladies and friendships amongst the girls as well as the adults. We've talked a lot about positivity and respecting/embracing differences, celebrated National Cereal Day (with cereal of course!) and Pi Day with a math lesson AND pie! The girls shared positive messages about each other last week... something we don't feel they hear enough of. The next few weeks we're discussing etiquette and restaurant protocol/behavior, leading up to a surprise lunch outing to highlight our time together this year. Thanks to a vestry contribution from St. Francis and our St Hilda's Guild, the girls will have their lunches paid for and also get a tee shirt to commemorate our group. We look forward to following these young ladies as 6th graders next year.

COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN

The Community Soup Kitchen will be having their Annual Meeting on Monday, April 4th at 5:15 pm at the Soup Kitchen. This is an outreach project started here at St Stephens.. The Board of Directors has asked that we encourage those groups and individuals who have been a part of the Soup Kitchen join us and see and hear what we are doing. We have served over 955,000 meals. The community is supporting this worthwhile project and it is making an impact on this community.

The meeting will last for a little more than an hour. The current Board members from St Stephens include: Chris Garrison, Kay Cooke, Elizabeth Woodard, Allan Pedersen and Mike Saylor. See you there.

Allan Petersen

ACOLYTES

APRIL 3	Crucifer:	Jeff Bland
	Torch Bearers	Louise Gurley Caroline Smith
	Flag Bearers:	Zachary Lulay Thomas Gurley
APRIL 10	Crucifer:	Langley Barnes
	Torch Bearers:	Trey Barnes Noah MacDonald
	Flag Bearers:	Camille Stuber Kate Harris
APRIL 17	Crucifer:	Hayes Gerrard
	Torch Bearers:	David Gurley Cam Gerrard
	Flag Bearers:	Berkley Woodard Jackson Harris
APRIL 24	Crucifer:	Cady Stanley
	Torch Bearers:	Kathryn Hamilton Sarah Stockton
	Flag Bearers:	Lexi Jeffreys Graysen Jeffreys

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman— Lynda Sasser.....	919-580-7523
Lee Hulse.....	919-736-2323
Ellen Bland.....	919-920-6327
Meg Teasley.....	919-734-6409
Ann Mebane Hine.....	919-736-8990
Margie Clark.....	919-735-1114

USHERS - Adam Livengood & Burt Edmundson

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

APRIL 3	Lee & Geoff Hulse
APRIL 10	Karen & Steve Mzyk
APRIL 17	Glenda & Ed Futch
APRIL 24	Jan & Bob Cagle

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

APRIL 3		
8:00 a.m.		Michael Headen
11:00 a.m.		Claiborne Smith Will Bland
APRIL 10		
8:00 a.m.		Allan Pedersen
11:00 a.m.		Aimee Barnes Chris Garrison
APRIL 17		
8:00 a.m.		Sally Pope
11:00 a.m.		Jim Northington Linda Edsall-Huard
APRIL 24		
8:00 a.m.		Tom Howell
11:00 a.m.		Doris Thompson Ray Harris

GREETERS

APRIL 3 -	Stuart Freemon
APRIL 10 -	Nicole Barnes
APRIL 17 -	Kim Smith
APRIL 24 -	Drew Grice

APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 9 am Breakfast 10 am Christian Formation 10:15 am Adult choir practice	4	5 7 am Men's Bible Study	6 3 pm Boys & Girls Club 5:30 pm Holy Communion 7 pm Adult choir	7 Noon Bible Study	8 New Beginnings, Trinity Center - through Sunday, April 10	9 New Beginnings, Trinity Center - through Sunday, April 10
10 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation 10:15 am Adult choir practice	11	12 7 am Men's Bible Study 6 pm St. Hilda's cleaning and planting the garth	13 5:30 pm Holy Communion 7 pm Adult choir 7 pm Pub Theology - Flying Shamrock	14 Noon Bible Study	15	16
17 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation 10:15 am Adult choir practice 5:15-7:30 pm EYC	18 6 pm Vestry Meeting	19 7 am Men's Bible Study	20 5:30 pm Holy Communion 7 pm Adult choir	21 Noon Bible Study	22	23
24 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation 10:15 am Adult choir practice 5:15-7:30 pm EYC	25	26 7 am Men's Bible Study	27 5:30 pm Holy Communion 7 pm Adult choir 7 pm Pub Theology - Flying Shamrock	28 Noon Bible Study	29 7th Annual Acolyte Festival Nags Head	30 7th Annual Acolyte Festival Nags Head

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Glenda Futch.....	4/02	John Sauls, Jr.....	4/16
Cady Stanley.....	4/02	Harvey Reinhardt.....	4/21
David Gurley, IV.....	4/04	Peter Roethling.....	4/21
Kate Harris.....	4/06	John Grice.....	4/23
Langley Barnes.....	4/07	Ducky Harrell.....	4/23
Ian Ladd.....	4/07	Battle Hine.....	4/25
Jim Smith.....	4/07	Katherine Roethling.....	4/26
Nancy Headen.....	4/12	Jane Craig.....	4/29