



NOVEMBER
2015

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From the Interim Rector

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

As St. Stephen's prepares for its annual stewardship campaign this month, I decided this might be a good time to share some ways other people have defined it. Here are some ways others have completed the statement "Stewardship is ..."

- A biblical concept. It refers to the belief that each of us has been blessed by God with talents and abilities, resources and opportunities that we must nurture and use liberally for the betterment of our world.
- The return of our first fruits, not leftovers – our substance, not our surplus.
- About giving over, giving up, and giving back to God. All that we are and all that we have is God's gift to us. All that we become is our gift back to God.
- Much more than a duty – it is a thankful response to God's graciousness to us.
- A journey in faith... an adventure ... an expedition into the kingdom where we find our lives through losing them for the sake of the Gospel.
- Giving back to God a portion of what God has given us.
- Thanksgiving.
- Caring enough to share our time, talent and treasures.
- All that I do, with all that I have, all of the time, after I say "I believe."

I suspect you may have different reactions to some of these. That's why I'm offering a number of definitions, because we respond in lots of ways for lots of reasons. What I hope you will do is to spend a little time with this list. Think about how you might define stewardship, how you might consider this part of your relationship with God. Because that's a good and faithful foundation before you grab a pen and a pledge card. Which of these definitions makes the most sense to you? And what are you called to do in response?

It's easier, obviously, to just scribble something on a card. Some people take the amount they pledged last year, add a little to it, and feel just fine. Some people pledge the same amount year after year—often it's a round number, \$20 a week, or \$50 a month that may have represented a real stretch when they first pledged it, perhaps 10 or 20 years ago, but they may not have really thought about it since then.

And some people approach their annual gift to the church from a place of serious prayer and consideration. They look at how God has blessed them, what they are able to do with those gifts, how they use them (have you ever tried to compare what you give to the church to, for example, what you spend on Starbucks or gym memberships, or meals eaten out, or cable + Netflix + movie tickets or other streaming services for a year?), and then try to come up with a number they think reflects how their relationship with God fits into their finances. Some will determine that number even before

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

the stewardship materials are received and then pray about it, revise it, pray some more, revise it again, and not fill in the pledge card until the last day.

My hope as we move into our stewardship campaign is that each of us will take the time to consider how amazingly generous God has been—and continues to be—to us. And then consider seriously how you can offer part of the gifts you have been given—money, time, and talents—back to God through the ministry and mission of our parish.

Blessings,
Jill+

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS

Bishop Skirving confirmed nine of our wonderful youth when he visited St. Stephen's on October 4:

Lucy Bland
Will Fickling
Cam Gerrard
Louise Gurley
Kathryn Hamilton
Kate Harris
Caroline Smith
Cady Stanley
Ben Stuber

And welcome to the Body of Christ at St. Stephen's to Mary Bliss Joyner Livengood, daughter of Adam and Jamie and little sister of Adam and Clem, who was baptized by the bishop.

GIVE THANKS

Join us Thanksgiving morning at 10 a.m. for our Thanksgiving service. It's a lovely way to begin a day that was initially set aside as a time to give thanks. Come and thank God for God's many blessings as we gather around God's table.



FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

It's hard to believe November is here and 2015 is almost over. Our annual Parish Meeting is right around the corner, on December 6th at the 11:00 service. Please mark this date and plan to attend. We will highlight the accomplishments of 2015, review our budget and financial position, and elect 4 parishioners to serve on the Vestry for the following three years.

Our 2016 Stewardship Campaign has officially begun and Ken Gerrard, along with Tom Howell, Kay Cooke, Kevin Woodard, Geoff Hulse, Marjorie Fickling and I will lead this year's campaign. Please consider your gifts of time, talent and treasure for the coming year. There are several ministry opportunities at St. Stephen's, many of which are in need of parish support such as Hospitality, Ushers, Youth Program support, St. Hilda's Guild, and ECW. We will be in touch.

As stated above, Vestry elections are right around the corner. The nominating committee has presented four candidates to fill the expiring four terms. They are: Nicole Barnes, Drew Grice, Linda Edsall-Huard, and Dave Tayloe. Nominations can be received from the parish until the end of this month. The requirements for Vestry service as well as the Vestry Norms are available from the church office. Again, the parish election is December 6th.

Gail and I hope everyone enjoyed the Twixt 'n' Tween on October 11th. It was a lot of fun for us and not too much work. Thanks to everyone that helped and contributed. We had a great turn out and the weather was fantastic. Let's continue this type of fellowship and plan Twixt 'n' Tweens both spring and fall in the future. Who wants to host Spring 2016?

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 919-705-3674 or dejackson@jacksonandsons.com.

David Jackson

FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Greetings! Your Vestry has been working on the improvements to our classrooms and upstairs hallways. At our last Vestry meeting, we approved new lighting for the classrooms and portions of the hallway. Thanks to the Decorating Committee's hard work, the Vestry approved that committee's recommendation for new window blinds. Also our new fire alarms should be in place soon. Upcoming estimates for further painting and carpet at the church should be approved before the end of the year. Jimmy has been trying to get the bugs out of our sound system. If his work doesn't succeed, it is the Vestry's wish that we follow through with the company from which we procured the system to get it working properly. Charles Norwood donated a beautifully built picnic table and benches for our playground. Thanks Charles! Lastly, thanks to all that bought raffle tickets for the big screen TV. We raised right at a thousand dollars. Henry Smith, our technical guru, will find us the best bargain. Denise Tayloe won the \$100 gift card at Twixt 'n' Tween and in true Tayloe fashion, she told me that the card would be used to get supplies for Dillard Middle School. Thanks Denise! As always feel free to contact me with any concerns at St Stephen's! Peace and serenity.

Geoff Hulse

ADVENT WREATH-MAKING

The first Sunday of Advent is the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend (November 29). And there's an opportunity for all ages to make an Advent wreath to use at home during the four weeks leading up to Christmas—we'll gather in the Parish Hall between the services. Donations of greenery (evergreens, boxwood, holly) are welcome. Please sign up outside the office so we can have enough wreath bases and candles.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A summary of the parish finances through September is as follows:

	September	YEAR TO DATE (YTD)	BUDGET YTD
INCOME	\$42,208.40	\$292,539.95	\$285,487.53
EXPENSES	\$32,297.97	\$262,110.10	\$285,487.53

As of the end of September, 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

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

"*Qui cantat, bis orat.* Who sings once, prays twice." So says St. Augustine, who is suggesting that there can be thoughts expressed by the music in which a prayer is offered, separate from those expressed by the words of the prayer itself. Music can express that which mere words cannot. Augustine also wrote "*cantare amantis est...* Singing belongs to one who loves."

When we sing we offer our prayer and praise to God, giving back a portion of what has been given us in the ultimate love song, Jesus Christ. And when we sing in worship, we are not singing privately to ourselves or even just to God. We are singing with and to each other, joining our voices with the saints in heaven and on earth of all times and all places. Music is a way of allowing a large number of worshipers to form an effective communion, by expressing their faith and their offering in public, together. So if you sometimes find it difficult to pray, come to church...and sing.

Marshall Foster



Many thanks to Charles Norwood for the picnic table. It is located in the playground area.

EYC EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday! Come learn about the History of Halloween! Jr. EYC will meet from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. and Sr. EYC will meet from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Sunday nights. Both Jr. and Sr. EYC will share a meal together from 6:00 – 6:30 in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, November 8 – EYC game night! Jr. EYC will meet from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. and Sr. EYC will meet from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Sunday nights. Both Jr. and Sr. EYC will share a meal together from 6:00 – 6:30 in the Parish Hall.

Friday - Sunday, November 13-15 – FALL CONFERENCE!! Regular EYC will not meet on Sunday. All youth attending Fall Conference will meet at St. Stephen's at 4:00 pm on Friday, November 13 and travel to Trinity Center. We will return to St. Stephen's by 4:00 pm on Sunday, November 15.

Sunday, November 22 – NO EYC! Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 29 – NO EYC! Happy Thanksgiving!

In addition to EYC on Sunday nights, St. Stephen's also offers a 6th – 12th grade Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. Sunday School and EYC are on the same schedule. Come join us for both!

Terah Archie

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday School is going well this fall for our children's classes. We have had good attendance and great learning activities!

We are still in need of teachers for the next rotation during the months of November and December AND for the Spring Semester. Please consider giving your time and talents for a two month rotation!_Contact Ann Hine or Adrienne Northington to receive more information about teaching and how you can help.

Adrienne Northington

AIRMEN'S COOKIE DRIVE

The Officers Wives Organization will again be having their annual Christmas Cookie drive for the single Airmen at Seymour Johnson AFB. St Stephen's has supported this worthwhile project for the past four years. Please prepare some of your favorite Christmas Cookies and have them in the kitchen no later than Sunday December 6th. They will be packaging them on Monday December 7th and they will deliver them to the Airmen starting on December 8th.

As in the past they include the Airmen who are deployed "Down Range." All you have to do is bake them, bring them to St Stephen's and I will deliver them to the packaging party.

Allan D. Pedersen

DILLARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

DILLARD DELIVERY

I delivered 4 large bags plus 2 boxes of items to the WISH Center at the school last week. Your gifts of toothpaste, toothbrushes, toothbrush covers (special thanks for the 2 huge bags of covers from a dental friend), shampoo, conditioner and deodorant thrilled the nurses at the center! Our contributions are given to the students and are a great help in encouraging good hygiene. Thank you for your generosity.

OPERATION UNDERCOVER UPDATE

Our friends at St. Andrew's had a fun evening as secret agents collecting undergarments for Dillard students. Word is that the Reverend Mary Reece was unrecognizable in her undercover costume! St. Stephen's members also did a great job donating our blue tub full of items to share. Our offerings to this project have been delivered to St. Andrew's and will be added to their contributions to be taken to the social worker at Dillard for distribution. We look forward to more collaborative outreach efforts with St. Andrew's in the future.

NEW DILLARD PROJECT...WANT TO JOIN?

Last month a group of 12 fifth grade girls gathered with the aim to develop leadership skills, encourage academic progress, strengthen decision-making strategies and promote life skills. This mentoring group meets each Monday during the school day (11:40-12:20 pm) with these lofty goals in mind. As part of the Dillard Middle School Partnership Project, Deacon Rebecca Bean is facilitating this group of 5th graders who were selected by their teachers to participate. The hope is to develop an ongoing relationship with the girls by offering friendship and guidance while also passing on skills and advice along with fun activities. Two women from St. Andrew's have joined Rebecca and me in the first meetings and we'd love to have others to join in. Ideally, 3 or 4 women would commit to one or two weeks per month but the key is consistency. We want to develop a regular, real relationship with these girls and potentially follow them throughout their 4 years at Dillard. We are still getting to know the girls and developing our "curriculum" with input from the girls themselves, but if you think this might be something you'd be interested in, let Rebecca or me know. This invitation is being extended to St. Francis women as well. The girls voted to name their group WOW – Wonderful Outstanding Women....very bold for a group of 10-11 year olds! They really are a great bunch.

NOVEMBER OFFERING

The weather is changing so it's snuffle time in the schools! Please help restock the tissue supply for Dillard teachers. Bring your offerings of tissue this month. The WISH Center staff has asked for comfort items of small (hotel sizes are great) moisturizing lotions and chapstick/lip balm for the students. Your help is always appreciated.

Jan Cagle/bcagle2@suddenlink.net/919-922-1904

ACOLYTES

NOVEMBER 1 Crucifer: Jeff Bland
Torch Bearers: Sarah Stockton
Cady Stanley
Flag Bearers: Berkley Woodard
Cam Gerrard

NOVEMBER 8 Crucifer: Catherine Freemon
Torch Bearers: Anne Stuart Freemon
Will Fickling
Flag Bearers: Jackson Harris
Noah MacDonald

NOVEMBER 15 Crucifer: Kate Harris
Torch Bearers: Louise Gurley
Kathryn Hamilton
Flag Bearers: David Gurley
Thomas Gurley

NOVEMBER 22 Crucifer: Langley Barnes
Torch Bearers: Caroline Smith
Lucy Bland
Flag Bearers: Ben Stuber
Trey Barnes

NOVEMBER 29 Crucifer: Claiborne Smith
Torch Bearers: Drew Grice
John Grice
Flag Bearers: Zachary Lulay
Sarah Boyd

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman– Shari Watkins.....919-778-8064
Frances Brame.....919-734-7194
Kay Cook.....919-731-2839
Marguerite Pennington.....919-778-9257
Susie Perrine.....919-735-3974
Marjorie Fickling.....19-735-1330

USHERS: Stuart Freemon & Mike Saylor

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

NOVEMBER 1.....Bob & Jan Cagle
NOVEMBER 7.....Martie & Mike Saylor
NOVEMBER 15.....Mark Ladd
NOVEMBER 22.....Glenda & Ed Futch
NOVEMBER 29.....Lee & Geoff Hulse

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

NOVEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. Allan Pedersen
11:00 a.m. Will Bland
Mark Ladd

NOVEMBER 8

8:00 a.m. Sally Pope
11:00 a.m. Martie Daylors
Geoff Hulse

NOVEMBER 15

8:00 a.m. Michael Headen
11:00 a.m. Jim Northington
Linda Edsall-Huard

NOVEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. Tom Howell
11:00 a.m. Aimée Barnes
Claiborne Smith

NOVEMBER 29

8:00 a.m. Doris Thompson
11:00 a.m. Margie Clark
Bob Cagle

Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD)

NOVEMBER 1 - Ann Hine
NOVEMBER 8 - Stuart Freemon
NOVEMBER 15 - Margie Clark
NOVEMBER 22 - Stuart Freemon
NOVEMBER 29 - Stuart Freemon

NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1—ALL SAINTS DAY 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation EYC meets	2	3 7 am Men's Bible Study	4 Noon HE 3 p.m. Boys & Girls Club 5:15 Cherub choir 5:45 Junior & Schola Nova 7 Adult choir	5 NO Noon Bible Study	6	7
8 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation EYC meets	9	10 7 am Men's Bible Study	11 Noon HE 5:15 Cherub choir 5:45 Junior & Schola Nova 7 Adult choir	12 Noon Bible Study	13	14
15 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation EYC meets	16 6 pm Vestry Meeting	17 7 am Men's Bible Study	18 Noon HE 5:15 Cherub choir 5:45 Junior & Schola Nova 7 Adult choir	19 Noon Bible Study	20	21
22 Stewardship Ingathering 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Christian Formation 11 Junior & Schola Nova sing NO EYC	23	24 7 am Men's Bible Study	25 Noon HE No choir rehearsals	26 Thanksgiving Day 10 am Holy Eucharist	27	28
29 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT Make Advent wreaths between services 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist NO EYC	30					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jeff Bland.....	11/01	Joe Sauls.....	11/17
Mary Mills Borden.....	11/01	Jamie Stanley.....	11/17
Al Martin.....	11/01	Becky Thompson.....	11/22
Cam Gerrard.....	11/03	Deen Martin.....	11/23
Emmy Mitchell.....	11/09	Marjorie Fickling.....	11/26
Libba Sutton.....	11/10	Charles Norwood.....	11/28
Sue McDonald.....	11/12	Sophia Morrison.....	11/30
Isabella Morrison.....	11/12		