

### Mark your Calendars!

Thursday, May 3 - 12:00 pm National Day of Prayer at Sunflower County Courthouse.

Tuesday, May 8

\*9:00 Bingo at Indywood.

\*10:00 Inreach meeting

Sunday, May 13-Senior Recognition Sunday and Mother's Day

Thursday, May 17 - 12:00 Mission Mississippi meeting at First United Methodist Church.

Sunday, May 20

\*No Coffee Hour

\*11:00 Worship service

\*Spring Picnic and Pool Party after Worship Service

Monday, May 21

\*4:00 Outreach meeting

\*5:00 Vestry meeting

Sunday, May 27 \* Summer hours begin

\*10:00 Morning Prayer , No Coffee Hour

### Prayer List

#### Parishioners asking for continual prayers:

Martha Sue Gardner, Peggy Pickett, Andrea Polasini, Ferne Hutcherson, Lanny Prichard, Lowell Jones, Mary Anne Allen.

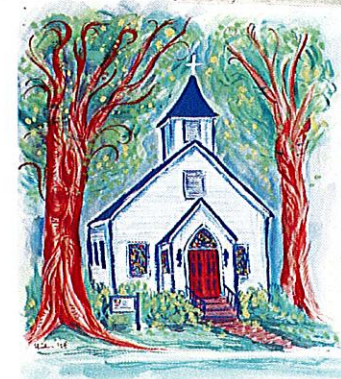
#### People seeking prayers for urgent needs:

Edwinna Edwards, Leland Acker, Deedee Thach, Nancy Stephan, Edward Pope, Katy Houseman, Mary Gee, Artez Jernigan, Robert Thomas, Frank Ryan Goss Jr, Stephanie Moth-ershed, Ann Belk, Joyce Mize, Genevieve Westfall, Jason Lee.

#### Ongoing Prayer List:

Michael Abraham, Lana Bell, Brock Loposer, Donald Durst, Shirley Ferrell, Raymond Marqueze, Susette Matthews, Individuals struggling with mental illness and addictions and their families.

**Expectant Parents:** Mary Chandler & Tyler Neal; Currie & Paul Dennington., Anna & Daniel Hines.



### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

205 East Gresham Street

P.O. Box 1004

Indianola, MS 38751

(662) 887-4365

Office@ststephensindianola.org

The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, Bishop of Mississippi

The Rev. Giulianna C. Gray, Rector

Mrs. Jennifer P. Zepponi, Parish Administrator

May 2018

### Vestry

David Fisher, Senior Warden

Walton Gresham, Junior Warden

Debbie Allen

Susan Allen

Frederick Barrier

Jimmy Clayton

Mary Steele Lawler

Richard Noble

### Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

As it always does, May will bring transition for many of us this year. Graduations and other inevitable changes await us! While we may be aware that the time is ripe for some things to end in order for other new beginnings may start, changes and chances of life can make us a bit weary...

It was to the weary crowds that Jesus spoke words of comfort captured so beautifully in John's Gospel:

"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me."

If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, however, this means that we are the sheep. Sheep are funny creatures!

Sheep absent-mindedly wander away from safety and find themselves stuck in dangerous, precarious situations. They leave pastures of plenty only to find they are hungry, thirsty, and in need of help to find their way home.

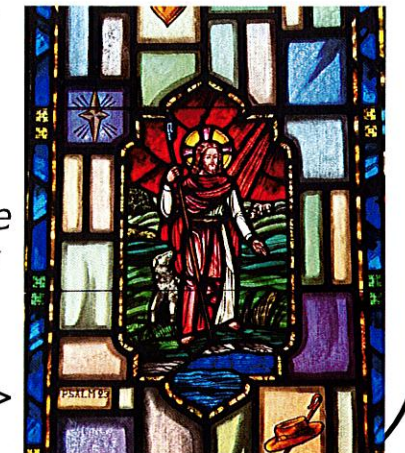
If we're honest, the analogy works pretty well! What grace that we have been given a Good Shepherd who knows us... and *still* loves us. What a grace that our Good Shepherd persistently searches for us and longs to lead us to the green pastures of abundant life we cannot find on our own.

Friends, when the changes of life start to make us weary, may we have the wisdom to walk very closely to the one who known us and calls us by name.

Giulianna+

*Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd of your sheep. Grant us your guidance and protection so we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*(quick quiz, St. Stephen's: where is this image? ---->*



**St. Stephen's Mission is to be a growing Christian family, led by the Holy Spirit, and united as we love God and love our neighbors.**

**Spring Sunday Worship 11am on May 6th, 13th, and 20th**

**\*\*On May 27th (Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend), Our Summer Worship Schedule Begins at 10am**

### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 1004

Indianola, MS 38751



## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

On May 6th and May 13th, we will hold our last two Sundays of Christian Formation for all ages until the fall. Please join us!

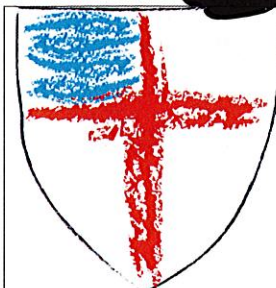
Have ideas for how we can remain connected and continue spiritually growing through the summer? Our rector welcomes your ideas! Please send her an email, stop her after church or give her a call!



### Spring Picnic and Pool Party

Please mark your calendars to join in the fun of St. Stephen's Annual Spring Picnic Pool Party Celebration on May 20

immediately following the 11:00 am Worship Service. It will be held at the home of Beth & David Fisher [REDACTED]



### Time to Register for Camp!

Camp Bratton Green's Mission is to foster and nurture the spiritual growth of children through a Christian Camp

Experience.

Camp is offered for children and young people who are finishing 1st through 9th grades. Opportunities to help with Special Session Camp is offered for teenagers and adults of all ages.

If you are looking for enriching, safe, fun experiences for your children or grandchildren this year that are sure nurture their faith and to expand their horizons, consider Camp Bratton Green!

You will find the summer camp schedule on our bulletin board in the parish hall and at [www.graycenter.org](http://www.graycenter.org)

For more information or to inquire about scholarship assistance for camp, speak to the Rev. Julianna Gray.

## Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Event

Saturday, May 5

St. James Episcopal Church in Jackson, Ms

Registration from 9 - 10 am

Program begins at 10:00 am

Please contact Laurie Noble for registration form and more details.



## INREACH NEWS

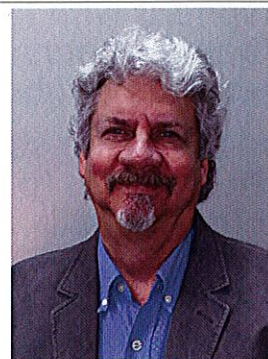
Our next Inreach meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. Please submit prayer list updates to the office before that meeting. We all are encouraged to keep those on the list in our daily prayers.

Also on Tuesday, May 8 at 9am, Bingo will be held at Indywood. Helpers are always welcome to assist.

## OUTREACH NEWS

We are gathering cans of corn for the Indianola Food Pantry for month of May. You may leave them in the Parish Hall for pick up.

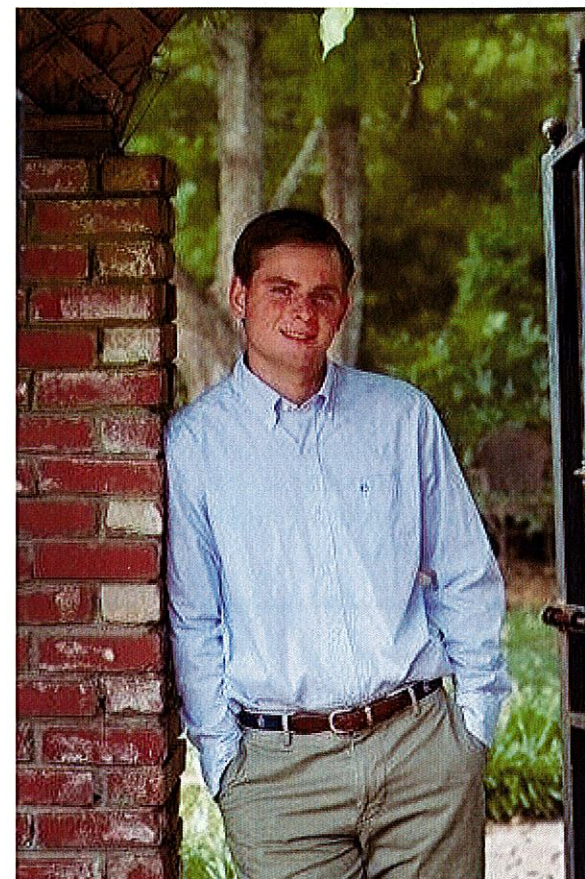
The next Outreach meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 at 4:00 pm.



### Meet Morris Alexander, PhD.

The Vestry voted to welcome Dr. Alexander to make use of our St. Stephen's facilities one day per month when he comes to the Delta to do testing for families applying for disability. Dr. Alexander comes from Tupelo and will be primarily using the parish hall when he is here. He will be present on Tuesday, May 1st, and again on Wed, May 30th. If you see Dr. Alexander or his partner around St. Stephen's, be sure to give them a warm Delta welcome.

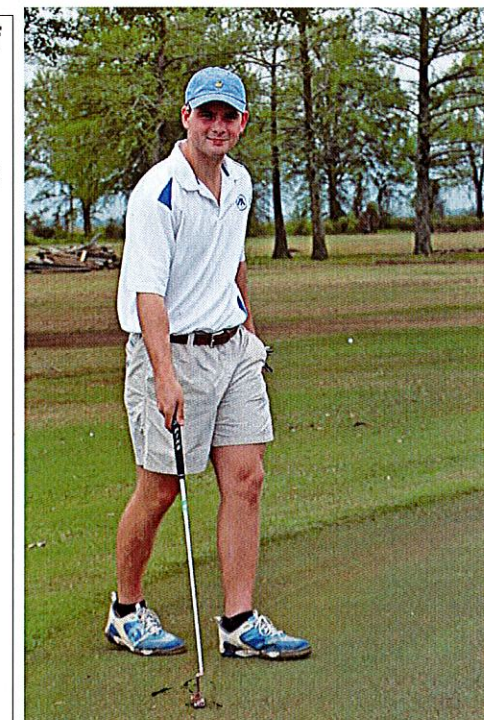
## Celebrating Together



### We are so proud of you!

Congratulations to William Barrier on his high school graduation on May 17th. William plans to attend Ole Miss in the fall.

On Sunday, May 13th, our parish family will recognize William for the wonderful contribution he has made to the life of our community.



### Dr. Bonnie Thurston's Visit to the Delta

Several St. Stephen's Parishioners took advantage of the wonderful opportunity to hear the author of the book we are reading in adult formation speak at Nativity in April!



Mission Mississippi for Sunflower County was held here at St. Stephen's this Spring. Many parishioners helped to provide a wonderful luncheon. Mission Mississippi strives to foster better relationships in the body of Christ through prayer and fellowship. Join us this month on Thursday, May 17th at noon at First United Methodist Church

