

**Dates to Remember:**

- October 3 - 6:00 St. Stephen's Fall Book study in Parish Hall
- October 7 - 5:00 St. Francis Blessing of the Animals at St. Stephen's
- October 9 - 9:00 Bingo at Indywood; 10:00 Inreach meeting
- October 14 - Outreach Project after 11am Worship: Shoe Sorting and Packing for the Honduras Medical Mission. Noon lunch followed by packing of the shoes. All ages welcome!
- October 15 - 4:00 Outreach meeting; 5:00 Vestry meeting
- October 17 - 6:00 St. Stephen's Fall Book study in Parish Hall
- October 24 - 6:00 Men's Steak Night!

**Coming Up:**

- November 7 -6:00 St. Stephen's Fall Book study in Parish Hall
- November 11 - ECW Program "Facing Grief and Loss during the Holidays" 3:00 in St. Stephen's Parish Hall
- December 2 - First Sunday in Advent: Advent Wreath making at 9:30 am.
- December 5 - 4:00 pm ECW Heart and Home Series
- December 10 - ECW Program "12 Days of Christmas" at 1:00 pm in Parish Hall
- December 16 - Christmas Pageant at 5:00 pm at St. Stephen's.
- December 24 - Christmas Eve by Candlelight 5:00 pm at St. Stephen's

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**P.O. Box 1004**  
**Indianola, MS 38751**

*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.*

**Our Sunday Schedule:**

**9:30 Sunday School    10:30 Coffee Hour    11:00 Worship**



**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. Julianna C. Gray, Rector  
 Mrs. Jennifer P. Zepponi, Parish Administrator  
 October 2018

**Vestry**

David Fisher, Senior Warden  
 Walton Gresham, Junior Warden  
 Debbie Allen  
 Susan Allen  
 Frederick Barrier  
 Jimmy Clayton  
 Mary Steele Lawler  
 Richard Noble

**The Joy of Creation**

There is nothing like those first cold fronts of the fall. After the long, hot summer in the Mississippi Delta, we get new energy when October finally arrives.

Many churches celebrate a 'Creation Season' at the start of September. If we were to have an official 'Creation Season' at St. Stephen's, the Feast Day of St. Francis on October 3<sup>rd</sup> would be the perfect start date!

St. Francis experienced the fullness of God in quiet places: in the setting sun, in the songs of birds, in the rushing wind. His witness reminds us to open our eyes and our hearts to the splendor of the world God has made.

St. Francis (1181-1226) renounced worldly comfort in order to more fully connect with the world around him. Francis felt a sense of close companionship with the living creatures of earth and was moved to praise God as he observed the wonders of creation.

Francis' writings tell the story of a person whose spiritual life was as rich as the creation itself! Francis composed 'The Canticle of the Creatures' during the spring of 1225, one year before his death. The Canticle contains three sections: a praise of God for the creatures, a praise for those who forgive, and a praise for final rest of gentle death. Thanks to be God for holy people like Francis who are able to see God's hand at work in all things!

We will honor St. Francis at 5pm on Sunday, September 7th at our Annual Blessing of the Animals and thank God together for the glorious creation. Regardless of whether you have animals, we invite you to join us.

I pray that the cooler weather will energize you to enjoy the beauty of creation! And as you do, I pray you will have a window into the goodness of the God who made it!

- Julianna





## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS

### Adult Formation:

We continue our study on the letters Paul wrote while he was in prison each Sunday in October at 9:30am. We just finished Ephesians, so we now will move to Colossians, Philipians, and Philemon.

### Children's Formation:

All youth are invited to help out with the Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 7th. Please arrive by 4:45pm!

Please join us for a big day on October 14th! The youth will all have Sunday School at 9:45am, and following 11am worship all ages will participate in the service project for the Honduras ministry.

## PRAYER LIST

**Parishioners asking for continual prayers:** Mary Anne Allen, Charlotte Buchanan, Martha Sue Gardner, Ferne Hutcherson, Lowell Jones, Andrea Polasini

**People seeking prayers for urgent needs:** Bobbie Sue Bowen, Mary Ruth Brindley, Steve Castilow, Mark Cummins, Shirley Ferrell, Mary Gee, Katy Houseman, Logan Lambert, Don Levingston, Blann Lutkin, Leila McCarty, Matt McGregor Jr, Gene McRoberts, Harlon Malone, Ellen Miller, Stephanie Mothershed, Joe Oglesby, Malone Phillips, Ron Schlatter, Alinda Sledge.

**Ongoing prayer list:** Leland Acker, Ann Belk, Lana Bell, Donald Durst, Edwinna Edwards, Christian Hargrove, Joyce Mize, Edward Pope, Doug Simmons, Robert Thomas, victims of violence, individuals struggling with mental illness and addictions and their families, Armed Forces and all those that are deployed especially Jason Lee and Beau MacNealy.

**Expectant Parents:** Allison & Cody Britt, Anna & Thomas Gresham.

**Preparing for Holy Matrimony:** Henry Lawler & Sarah Collins



## ST. FRANCIS BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 7th at 5:00 pm

All people and animals are welcome to join us for a gathering of praise for the wonders of creation. For their safety, please bring pets on a leash or in a carrier.

## INREACH NEWS

\*Our next Inreach meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 9 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.

\*Bingo at Indywood will be Tuesday, October 9 at 9:00 am. Helpers are Carolyn Cox, Laurie Noble.

## OUTREACH NEWS

The Honduras shoes for the Rose/Wood Mission sorting will be Sunday, October 14 immediately following the 11:00 worship service. A light lunch will be served, Please come dressed casually on this day and plant to stay and help with the ministry. If you have any questions, please call Susan Allen



The next Outreach meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15 at 4:00 pm.

## MEN'S STEAK NIGHT

The Men of St. Stephen's will have the Annual Steak Night Supper on Wednesday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP by Monday, October 23rd to office@ststephensindianola.org or by contacting Seldon Van Cleve



Louise Gresham and Marcella Simmons welcome newcomers, Victoria and Frazier Abraham to St. Stephen's



Emily Black holds her newborn granddaughter, Lucy Edens Hines, who was born on September 25th, weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Proud parents are Anna and Daniel Hines.



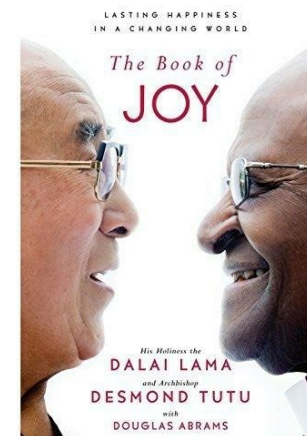
The ECW enjoyed making Anglican Rosaries and learning a new prayer discipline, Laurie Noble and Ellen Clayton led the program, assisted by Laurie Baird.



Anna Gresham Veazey celebrating her first Sunday as an acolyte with her grandfather, Walton Gresham.

## More Upcoming Events!

### Parish-Wide Book Study Continues!



October 3, 17, and November 7  
6:00 - 7:30 pm  
St. Stephen's Parish Hall

### Diocesan Opportunities at Gray Center

\* Liturgical Arts Conference: Oct 31st- Nov 4th at Gray Center

\* Cursillo #135: November 8th- 11th at Gray Center

*Spiritual Renewal Weekend*

\* Episcopal Church Women Annual Conference: November 16-17th at Gray

*Rev. Patrick Sanders presents on Magic and Miracles in the Modern World*