

Dates to Remember :

October 1	10:00 Inreach meeting
October 2	8:30 Morning Prayer
October 6	5:00 St. Francis Blessing of the Animals
October 7-10	Rev. Gray at Annual Clergy Conference
October 8	9:00 Bingo at Indywood
October 16	8:30 Morning Prayer
October 21	3:30 Outreach meeting, 5:00 Vestry meeting
October 23	8:30 Morning Prayer
October 28	1:30 ECW Program. Home of Marcella Simmons
October 30	8:30 Morning Prayer
November 3	Celebration of the Feast of All Saints Day, 11:00am, All Parish Photo Following!
November 6	8:30 Morning Prayer

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.
Sunday School-9:30, Coffee Hour-10:30, Worship-11:00



All things bright and beautiful
 and lips that we might tell.
 All things wise and wonderful,
 The Lord God made them all.

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, 2019

Vestry

David Fisher, Senior Warden
 Raymond Woo, Junior Warden
 Debbie Allen
 Susan Allen
 Stan Berry
 Jimmy Clayton
 Lynn Eastland
 Richard Noble

He gave us eyes to see them,
 All creatures, great and small.
 How great is God almighty,
 Who has made all things well!

All Things Bright and Beautiful

It is nearly time to celebrate Saint Francis! Francis was a person who noticed the bright and beautiful things of the world.

St. Francis is the patron saint of animals and the environment. His life and witness reminds us to open our eyes and ears and take in the wonders of life. This is a day we need now as much as ever!

Consider modern life. We spend our days in air conditioning, where we are both comfortable *and* unable to feel the breeze. We rarely walk, but take our cars everywhere we go. Cars efficiently move us from place to place *and* prevent us from noticing the ground under our feet, hearing the songs of the birds, and seeing the subtle changes of trees and flowers.

Francis, on the other hand, strived to notice everything. He spent his life counting blessings and giving thanks. His experience of creation brought him closer to the Creator, and our experience with creation can do the same thing.

Does the picture above look familiar to you? Each year, these gorgeous spider lilies pop up in the very same place, just behind this wrought iron cross. They pop up when it is *blazing hot* each September, and when they do, I think to myself, 'Isn't God amazing?! God remembered the spider lilies!' These simple flowers speak to me about the constant presence of our God who is renewing the face of the earth.

When has creation spoken to you of the greatness of God? How might God be using his creation to try to teach you today of his power and mercy and love?

Together we will gather at 5pm on Sunday, October 6th. We will worship outside. We will take in the world around us, hope for some cool breezes, and enjoy seeing the gorgeous animals that you bring.

May our God of all creation bless and keep you,
 Julianna+



CHRISTIAN FORMATION- YOUTH

Parents, mark your calendars for the following Sunday mornings. On these dates, Christian formation will be held at 9:30am:

October 13th
October 27th
Nov 3rd
Nov 24th

Also note:

We could use helpers for the St. Francis Blessing of the Animals on Oct 6th. Let Rev. Gray know if your child can help.

St. Francis Blessing of the Animals

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
205 EAST GRESHAM STREET
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH AT 5:00 PM
PLEASE BRING ALL ANIMALS ON A LEASH OR IN A CARRIER FOR THEIR PROTECTION



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLANNING

The St. Stephen's and First Presbyterian's Christmas Program discussions have begun. The date will be December 8 at 5:00 pm. If you have a child or grandchild that would like to participate, please let the church office know their name and size. If you have an older child that wants to participate but not wear a costume, please just send us their name.

OUTREACH NEWS

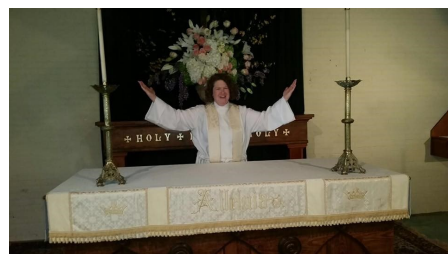
MEETING UPDATES: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 21 at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

RUMMAGE SALE

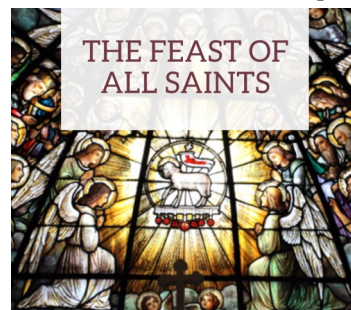
The Women of St. Stephen's are getting ready for a rummage sale in late spring or early summer of 2020. A room in the Early building has been designated for collection of donated items. Clean and not broken items may include: tools, kitchen ware, home accessories, fashion accessories (no shoes or clothes), linens, holiday décor, garden tools and art, small furniture, small appliances that work, luggage/bags, toys and games (clean and complete). Any questions? Contact Laurie Noble

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN EVENT

Monday, October 28th -The ECW will gather at the home of Marcella Simmons. The Rev. Carrie Duncan, Delta Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, will be the guest speaker.



Sunday, November 3



In celebration of All Saints' Day, St. Stephen's will have a dedication of the renovations to the front of the church. We would also like a parish wide picture to mark the

celebration. If you have a loved one you would like remembered on this day, please send their names to the church office by Tuesday, October 29th.

Be on the lookout for the Men's Steak Supper coming in October. More info will be coming soon!



September Highlights



The Fall Kick-off this year featured our rector and her husband, Peter, sharing spiritual and historical insights related to their sabbatical learning this summer.



OUTREACH SUNDAY

On the last Sunday of September, our church family worked together in a variety of ways to provide concrete blessings to our neighbors after worship.

Here is a picture of some of our parishioners writing notes of blessing and encouragement that were placed in bags of food prepared for the hungry right here in Indianola.

It's been our practice in recent years to organize and prepare shoes that will be sent along with the Indianola Honduras medical mission. Once again, we found that many hands do make light work. As we are learning in our James study, applying works to our faith is a way our faith remains alive!

