

Mark your Calendars!

- December 1 First Sunday of Advent: 9:30 Advent Wreath Making
- December 8 5:00 Children's Christmas Program ay First Presbyterian Church
- December 10 9:00 Indywood Bingo, 10:00 Inreach meeting, 5:30 Foster Children's Christmas Party
- December 11 3:30 ECW Heart and Home Series (See inside newsletter for more details)
- December 13 Deadline to drop off Adopt-a- Child Christmas Gifts at Department of Human Services
- December 16 5:00 Vestry meeting
6:15 Parish Wide Christmas Caroling
- December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent, final Sunday School until Christmas
- December 24 5pm Christmas Eve Worship followed by Reception
- December 29 First Sunday after Christmas: 11am, Christmas Lessons and Carols
- January 5 4:30 pm. Epiphany Bonfire. Location will at the home of Cay and Lars Ely
- January 12 11am Holy Eucharist and Baptisms of Banks and Woods Abraham
- January 19 12:00 noon Annual Meeting with luncheon
1pm-1:30pm January Vestry Meeting with New Vestry for 2020
- January 26 Sunday School resumes at 9:30am!

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



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

December 2019/January 2020

Vestry

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

Advent Focus



"Attentiveness is the root of all prayer", Mary Oliver once said.

During the season of Advent, we focus. We need to. We know that if we cannot find some way to find a focus for our lives, we will live as people who are constantly unsatisfied.

Advent tells us to hush. Advent tells us to be quiet. Advent tells us to pay attention, open our eyes, and wait.

This is all very countercultural. The culture guides us to *do* more, and *buy* more, and keep busy.

Because Advent keeping *is* countercultural, we need both company and help if we are going to practice Advent with any success at all. But it is so worth it.

When we find ways to practice Advent as a spirit-filled season of its own, we discover peace even in the midst of busyness. We get in touch with our own need for a savior. And we catch a fresh glimpse of the joy of Christmas unfolding as gradually the dawn.

December 1st, we will give each other company and start this journey together. Some of us will get to work, making wreaths for our home. Some will have brought along evergreen branches we can share. Others of us may want to simply gather to discover some new devotional resources we will have at church, or for worship to hear the different prayers we use which will mark this new season.

I believe that the best Advent disciplines are ones that are simple. Perhaps an ideal practice for you to adopt would include planned times for breaks from technology, periods of silent prayer, time spent by the Christmas tree in a dim room or a fire in the fireplace.

In our home, a goal I have is to try to keep the Advent wreath busier than my smart phone. We place our wreath at the very center of our dining room table. I like to have my time of daily devotion in sight of the wreath, and we gather around it when we pray before we share meals together.

There is nothing magical about our advent wreath, of course. It is simple. But what it does is help us focus. And when we focus, we can pay attention; and when we pay attention, we can pray.

Advent is here. It is a perfect time to consider where you want your focus to be over the next few months. I look forward to walking this joyful journey again with you this year.

-Giulianna+

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 Worship Each Week at 11:00am

December Special Events

Dec 1: Advent Wreath Making
December 1 at 9:30 am. Bring greens, make a wreath, and learn ways to use it in prayer.



Dec 8: Children's Christmas Program
December 8 at 5:00 pm at First Presbyterian

Dec 10: Christmas Party for Foster Children
December 10 at 5:30 pm
We provide hospitality for children in our community. The Outreach committee will gather at 4:45pm.

Dec 11: Heart and Home Christmas
December 11 at 3:30 pm. Home of Mary Chandler Neal



Again this year, the Episcopal and Presbyterian women help us prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas. Speakers will be

Draughon and Elyette Poindexter.
Dec 16: Christmas Caroling
December 16 at 6:15 pm. We will meet in the parish hall and carpool to several locations where we will share the joy of Christmas song with those who are unable to get out of their homes during the season. Let Giulianna know if you have ideas of folks we need to be sure to visit!

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship
Christmas Eve at 5pm, we celebrate with Holy Eucharist with special music, followed by Wine and Cheese Reception



Dec 29: Christmas Lessons and Carols
At 11am on the Sunday after Christmas, our form of worship be this beloved liturgy.

January Special Events

Jan 5: Epiphany Bonfire
On Sunday, January 5th at 4:30pm, we will gather at the Ely Home The Epiphany Bonfire is an old St. Stephen's tradition we are bringing back this year!



Plan to join us for this fun evening, and notify us in the church office if you would like to include your Christmas tree or dry holiday greenery in the bonfire.

Jan 12: The Baptism of our Lord
Sunday, January 12th will be a special day. At our 11am celebration of Holy Eucharist, on the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, we will baptize our precious youngest members, Woods and Banks Abraham!

January 19: Annual Meeting
On Sunday, January 19th, our 11am worship will be followed by our Annual Meeting and luncheon. Fear not: you have a rector

ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON
and vestry who like to keep these meetings efficient! We will review highlights of 2019, discuss our plans for 2020, and elect new vestry leadership. We also will extend our gratitude for the faithful service of

Susan Allen, Richard Noble, and David Fisher who will have completed their terms.

The vestry of St. Stephen's consists of 6 members serving 3 year terms each, a Senior Warden, and Junior Warden. If you would like to learn more about the work of the vestry, you're encouraged to reach out and ask the current members about their service!

January 26: Sunday School Resumes
Christian formation for adults will be held from Advent until Christmas. We then will take a break through most of January until we resume at 9:30am, Sunday January 26.

So many way to give to those in need this December

Title	Date & Time	Location	Bring	Purpose
Warm Clothing Donation	Anytime Before Wednesday, December 4th	Parish Hall	Gently used coats or fleeces	Provide warm clothing for our neighbors in need.
Foster Children Christmas Party	Tuesday, December 10th 5:30 pm	Parish Hall	-volunteers to bring two dozen cookies or cupcakes - hosts the day of the event to provide hospitality to our guests	Provide a safe, warm environment where local children in foster care can celebrate the holiday together. Contact Pam Woo for more information .
Adopt a Child for Christmas	Gift Drop off by Friday, December 13th. (Contact Lynn Baker to obtain the name of a child)	Deliver gifts to Dept of Human Services	You will purchase and wrap gifts for your selected child/children. Bring gifts fully wrapped and in one big bag with child's name on the outside bag to the Dept. of Human Services	Provide Christmas gifts for children who otherwise would not have them. Note *\$100 will be given from our church's Outreach budget to help offset the cost for you
Parish Wide Christmas Caroling	Monday, December 16th 6:15 pm - 7pm	Meet at Parish Hall	Just bring yourself We will carpool to various locations	Help spread Christmas love and cheer to our friends by singing beautiful Christmas songs.



The Saints of St. Stephen's

We had a joyous All Saints' Day celebration this year! We remembered those who have shined light for us in previous generations and honored them with new memorial dedications. This photo gives a glimpse of our St. Stephen's church family and was our first parish photo in many years. Some were missing, so we decided we want to try another in 2020.

New Member Class

Bishop Seage will have his bi-annual visit at St. Stephen's on March 1st. It's time for a new member class!

Speak with Giulianna if you are new to the Episcopal Church, would like to learn more, or simply have a refresher on our branch of the Christian faith.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>1 The First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Sunday School(Advent Wreath Making) 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 HE Rite II	2	3	4 Deadline to donate warm clothing in Parish Hall.	5	6 Deadline for Adopt-a-child for Christmas gifts to be dropped off	7
<i>8 The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 HE Rite II 5:00 Children's Christmas Program at First Presbyterian Church	9 Happy Birthday-Donna Jones	10 9:00 Bingo at Indywood. Helpers are: Carolyn Cox, Mary Chandler Neal 10:00 Inreach Meeting 5:30 Foster Children Christmas Party in Parish Hall.	11 3:30 ECW "Heart and Home" Series at home of Mary Chandler Neal	12	13	14
<i>15 The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 HE Rite II	16 5:00 Vestry meeting 6:15 Parish Wide Christmas Caroling	17	18	19	20	21
<i>22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 HE Rite II	23 Church office closed December 24-January 1st Happy Birthday-June Kilby and Frazier Abraham	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II Happy Anniversary- Donna & Lowell Jones	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> Happy Birthday- Charlotte Buchanan	26 Happy Birthday-Brad Eastland Happy Anniversary- Laurie & Richard Noble	27	28 Happy Birthday-Judy Randall
<i>29 The First Sunday after Christmas Day</i> (No Sunday School or Coffee Hour) 11:00 Christmas Lessons and Carols	30 Happy Birthday-Johnson Berry	31 Happy Birthday-Mary Steele Lawler	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4 Happy Birthday-Edna Kirk Robertson & Sara Beth Clark

December 2019/ January 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Ministry Schedule December 2019

MINISTRY	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 24 5:00 pm	December 29 Christmas Lessons and Carols
ACOLYTES	Joseph Gray	Whit Van Cleve	Mae Veazey	Hayes Barrier	Arthur Crews Joseph Gray Whit Van Cleve Anna Gresham Veazey	Fran Veazey
WORSHIP LEADERS	Richard Noble	Seldon Van Cleve	David Allen	Frederick Barrier	Woods Eastland, Tom Gresham	Walton Gresham
LECTORS	Laurie Noble	Michelle Van Cleve	Susan Allen	Rebecca Barrier	Rod Veazey	Linda Tankersley
USHERS	Jimmy Clayton Joe Lee	Walton Gresham Rod Veazey	Ernie Baker Tyler Neal	Ernie Baker David Fisher	Walton Gresham Richard Noble	Stan Berry Raymond Woo
COFFEE HOUR	Laurie Noble Peggy Pickett	Elizabeth Veazey	Marcella Simmons	Pam Woo	Evening Reception Hostesses: Victoria Abraham, Cay Ely, Joanne Lear	No Coffee Hour
ALTAR FLOWERS	Advent	Advent	Advent	Advent	Barron/Green	Church

ALTAR GUILD FOR

December 2019

SET UP CLEAN UP

**Beth Fisher, Louise Gresham,
Laurie Noble**

LINENS

Laurie Noble

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church January 2020

December 2019/ January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1 Happy New Year!</i>	2	3	4 Happy Birthday-Edna Kirk Robertson & Sara Beth Clark
5 <i>Second Sunday after Christmas Day</i> 11:00 HE Rite II 4:30 Epiphany Bonfire at Ely Home (928 Highway 448 Shaw)	6 The Feast of the Epiphany	7 Happy Birthday-Woods Eastland	8 Happy Birthday-Laurie Fisher	9	10 Happy Birthday-Tom Gresham	11
12 <i>The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord</i> 11:00 HE Rite II Baptism of Woods and Banks Abraham Happy Birthday-Marilyn Trahan	13	14 9:00 Bingo at Indywood. Helpers are: Carolyn Cox and Mary Chandler Neal Happy Birthday-Marcella & Bubba Simmons	15	16	17 Happy Birthday-Arthur Crews, Joyce Van Cleve, & Pam Woo	18
19 Second Sunday after the Epiphany 11:00 HE Rite II 12:00 Annual Meeting and Luncheon 1:00 Vestry meeting Happy Birthday-Lynn Eastland	20	21 Happy Birthday-Art Clark	22	23	24	25 Happy Birthday-Susan Lee
26 <i>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> 9:30 Sunday School resumes 10:30 Coffee Hour 11:00 HE Rite II	27	28 Happy Birthday-Beth Fisher	29	30	31	<i>February 1st</i>

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church January 2020 Ministry Schedule

MINISTRY	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26	February 2
ACOLYTES	Whit Van Cleve	Arthur Crews	Kaddie Clark	Mae Veazey	Joseph Gray
Worship Leader	Seldon Van Cleve	Richard Noble	David Allen	Frederick Barrier	Seldon Van Cleve
LECTORS	Stan Berry	Donna Jones	Susan Lee	Mary Chandler Neal	Carolyn Cox
USHERS	Tom Gresham Walton Gresham	David Allen David Fisher	Jimmy Clayton Joe Lee	Frazier Abraham Tyler Neal	Stan Berry Raymond Woo
Coffee Hour	No Coffee Hour		Annual Meeting Luncheon Hostesses: Rebecca Barrett and Mary Steele Lawler		
ALTAR FLOWERS	Altar Guild	Lynn Baker	Laurie Noble	Laurie Noble	Joanne Lear

**ALTAR GUILD FOR
January 2020**

SET UP CLEAN UP

Lynn Baker, Rebecca Barrett

LINENS

Rebecca Barrett