

The Voice of St. Stephen

Volume 11 Issue 10

October 2017

DISASTER STRIKES AGAIN! **A CALL TO PRAYER AND ACTION**

Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas as a Category 4 storm on Friday, August 25th. The eye of the storm swept ashore with 130-mile-per-hour winds between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor, just northeast of Corpus Christi. But as the center of the storm moved to the northeast toward Victoria and other inland cities like Houston, the danger was just starting.

Later, the storm made a second landfall on the Northeastern Shore of Copano Bay. By then, the hurricane was downgraded to a Category 3 storm, with 125-mile-per-hour winds, but the damage was unimaginable.

Before recovery was even fully underway, Hurricane Irma slammed Florida with devastating wind, rains, and flooding. Even our beloved diocesan Bishop, Bill Ilgenfritz, and his wife were forced out of their home because of impending flooding. They were able to return to their mostly undamaged home a few days later, but hundreds of their neighbors suffered moderate to severe damage to their homes. Many of them have nowhere else to go and are being sheltered in their village community center.

In the midst of all of this, people responded as they always do in our country – with the love of God. They demonstrated God's love, compassion, and hope to those who are hurting and afraid, not only with prayer, but with donations of money and supplies and even the sweat of their brows. Most of us are unable to be on-site to help, but people in the Louisville area have reached out as we all knew they would. We can be especially proud of the way the Saint Stephen family went beyond what they could afford, and gave sacrificially to help those in need.

Yes, there have been and will continue to be disasters, but the love of God is never more evident than in times such as this. The God we serve is mighty, and our prayers can have a powerful impact in the hearts and lives of those who are suffering right now. Keep praying and keep loving!

St Stephen Anglican Church
Anglican Church in North America

PASTOR'S CORNER

A FEW WORDS FROM FATHER JIM

Can we think with our hearts? Can we have critical minds and at the same time have intense feelings of love, compassion, sympathy, and care for other people? Jesus was able to do this as he entered the city of Jerusalem. He fully knew that he would suffer and die on the cross like a


common criminal, yet he would submit to suffering and death because of his intense love for people. His love for the world knew no bounds.

The gospels show this heroic love of Jesus even in betrayal, crucifixion, and death. He healed the man with a severed ear, comforted the women of Jerusalem, forgave his executioners, and promised paradise to the repentant thief. For the sake of other people's lives, he was willing to give his own. His ministry on earth was all about self-giving.

The Passion of Jesus Christ is God's love story to us. He sent his own Son to become one with us and to suffer and die for our salvation., and Jesus gave himself completely without hesitation. His ultimate act of service was his crucifixion and death. He took the pain of every lashing and fall on the ground. He endured every step and mockery. He embraced the whole world with unfailing love while he was nailed and dying on the cross.

He wanted his disciples to have the same love for his people. When his disciples argued during the last supper about who among them should be regarded as the greatest, he reminded them that the greatest among them would be the one who would serve. Even now, we argue about which of us is right and which is wrong rather than just loving. We argue the things of the world and the things of politics rather than embracing each other.

As baptized Christians, we are called to share in that ministry of Christ. Our challenge is to be faithful to our calling and to be humble in our human encounters as we share in this ministry. It's a ministry of mercy and forgiveness and service and reconciliation. May we be mindful of the meaning of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection. May we all grow in his love and service to our fellow men and women! Love unconditionally!



*We are called to be like
Christ in our actions
to reconcile the world
to God*

Love unconditionally!

COMMUNITY INTEREST

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTARY PUBLIC SERVICE AVAILABLE AT SSAC



Father Jim Curry is now a fully commissioned Notary Public for the state of Kentucky at large. If you need those services, just make an appointment with him. There will be no charge for members or friends of the church.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT CLEAR PATH CREATIONS

On Sunday, October 29, at 7:00 PM, at First Baptist Church in Middletown, Brian and Rhonda Shoemaker will be performing with others in a Special Concert to benefit Clear Path Creations. Please put this on your calendars and plan to attend. We will have carpool options available.

Clear Path Creations (CPC) is a programming initiative to educate and inspire the public toward a greater awareness of statewide religious practices and spirituality, and offer a general apologetic for its legitimacy toward the well-being of persons and communities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. CPC is a non-sectarian and non-partisan fellowship of Kentuckians led by Dr. Brian Shoemaker coming together to produce educational and inspiring television broadcasts, specifically for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The programs produced by CPC will positively motivate a network of viewers toward personal and community well-being.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



Saint James wrote, “Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.” In addition to the healing grace that flows from God, spiritual and psychological healing comes from openly revealing our sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the church from 10:30 AM until Noon on Saturday, October 14, as well as at any time by appointment.

PAGE SIX: VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

THE BOUNDLESS LOVE OF GOD

A STARK CONTRAST TO THE WAY OF THE WORLD

In his letter to Titus, Saint Paul says, “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

We tend to take for granted God's magnificent love for us. We see his love as a right, rather than a gift. God doesn't have to love us, but he does anyway. He didn't have to send Jesus to the cross, but he did anyway. He didn't have to create this wonderful world for us to live in, but he did anyway. His love for us is so great that it is impossible for us to comprehend it. The love of God is immeasurable, incalculable, and immutable.

The result of this love is that God finds us wherever we are in life and walks with us. Even in the depths of despair or sin, he finds us. We don't have to be someone special. We don't need to be somewhere special. We don't need to do any rituals, or make any speeches, or change ourselves to meet His approval. He is already there with us. He takes us as we are and loves us anyway. He loves us despite our faults, our sins, and our imperfection. He takes us as we are and he loves us unconditionally.

That doesn't mean that we shouldn't change for the better. Part of his love for us is to encourage us and to enable us to change and become more like him. Part of our love for him is that we want to become better people and to become more like Him. He wants to groom us to be his heirs, and so we need to learn how to be more like him, not just as a duty or an obligation, but as a desire from our hearts. On our own, we can never be acceptable or worthy. But because of the cross, we are now being sanctified and justified and made holy and righteous, becoming children of God!

Let's not take that love for granted. Let's see it for the wonder it is, and bask in it. His love is there for us, whenever and wherever we are. We don't deserve it. We can't demand it. It's always there, freely given. Walk in the full knowledge that our creator loves us no matter what!



LECTIONARY / READER / ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

10/01/17 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 21)

First Reading	Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32	Jessica Cook
Psalms	Acolyte:	Mark Styles
Second Reading	Philippians 2:1-13	Jessica Cook
Gospel Reading	Matthew 21:28-32	

10/08/17 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22)

First Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7	Jon Vergin
Psalms	Acolyte:	Chris Fawbush
Second Reading	Philippians 3:14-21	Jon Vergin
Gospel Reading	Matthew 21:33-43	

10/15/17 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 23)

First Reading	Isaiah 25:1-9	Michael Flatico
Psalms	Acolyte:	Mark Styles
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-13	Michael Flatico
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22:1-14	

10/22/17 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24)

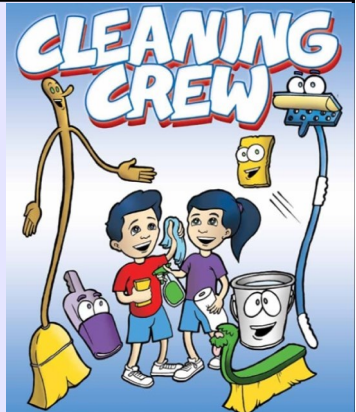
First Reading	Isaiah 45:1-7	Mark Styles
Psalms	Acolyte:	Chris Fawbush
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Mark Styles
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22:15-20	

10/29/17 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 25)

First Reading	Exodus 22:21-27	Vicki Lockett
Psalms	Acolyte:	Mark Styles
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Vicki Lockett
Gospel Reading	Matthew 22:34-46	

Church Cleaning Schedule

10/02 - 10/07	D Renfrow / D Flatico
10/09 - 10/14	V O'Banion / B Brown
10/16 - 10/21	K Stillwell / S Lyons
10/23 - 10/28	J Curry / J Cook
10/30 - 11/04	Rachelle Lo / Family



St Stephen Anglican Church

Church Location:	8005 Vaughn Mill Rd. Louisville, KY 40228
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 91485 Louisville, KY 40291
Church Office:	502-231-1326
Church E-Mail:	ststephen@ststephenlouisville.org
Rector:	Father Jim Curry
Cell Phone:	502-930-7018
E-Mail:	fatherjim@ststephenlouisville.org
Associate Rector:	Father Rickey Brown
Cell Phone:	502-827-8291
E-Mail:	rickey@bardstowncable.net
Pastoral Associate:	Deacon Clay Cook
Cell Phone:	502-269-8410
E-Mail:	clay.cook125@gmail.com
Office Manager:	Kim Stillwell
Altar Guild Ministry:	Brenda Brown
Outreach Ministry:	Joyce Curry
Fellowship Ministry:	Jessica Cook
Facilities Manager:	John Lyons
Worship & Holy Eucharist	10:30 AM
Wednesday Study Sessions	7:00 PM

Our hope is that Saint Stephen Anglican Church is not just a place that you attend once a week, but a place where you can connect with people and be involved in life changing ministry. Faith should touch every part of our lives. Come on in. We've been expecting you.

