

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for July 12 – July 19, 2020

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. **July Helping Hands** In the Spring of 2015 it came to the church staff's attention that St. Stephen's had no funds available specifically for helping members of our own congregation who might fall into financial hardship of any kind. It was this conversation that led to the establishment of the Helping Hands Fund. Moneys donated to this fund will be dispensed at the discretion of a group of staff, council, and financial leadership representatives, appointed by the Congregational Council, who will assess each special circumstance and evaluate the best use of the funds to assist in the most helpful way possible

Christian Sympathy is extended to Johnnie Peechatka upon the death of her husband, Larry Peechatka. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her and her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Join us for the Wednesday Eucharist Service held at 12:30PM in the gym to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word in a unique, shortened, but spiritual time of worship. **Wednesday, July 15th** "Love Is Not Arrogant or Rude"

Graduating Seniors: On August 2nd, we will be recognizing our high school and college seniors that are graduating this year. If you have a graduate in your family, please email Shannon their information (where they are graduating from and their future plans).

A 5 Session Class for adults will be offered in the gym on Wednesday evenings in July at 6PM. Pastor Pat will be teaching the class titled **Who is this Man? The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus**. This study helps us see how Jesus has impacted the world like no other person in history and why it makes a difference in our everyday life.

July 15: The Power of Forgiveness

July 22: Why It's A Small World After All

July 29: Three Days That Changed the World

We had a fantastic turn-out for our July 6th Blood Drive! We collected **45** units! Thank you to the following St. Stephen's folks who helped save lives: Marty Nantz, Jim Nantz, Kerri Brittingham, Bob Pittman, Jim Ingram, Sharon Mackintosh, Roy Welch, C-Anne Able, Brant Taylor, Alon Cox, Jan Riddle, Yanti Pepper, Jason Antley, Kelly Hawsey, Marie Juhl, Myra Strock, Gail Felton, Linda Wack, and Shannon Burnett. A big thank you as well to Abby Burnett who was recruited to take temperatures!

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) 29 (11:00) 42
Wednesday Eucharist (12:30) 33

Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2020 and Debt Retirement:

Total Owed on Principal: \$1,792,000.00

Amount Paid on Principal for 2020: \$240,000.00

Total Received Building Fund 2020: \$108,450.00

General Offering Totals for 2020: \$423,213.06

Expenses to date 2020 \$419,086.58

Building Loan Update: On June 17, 2020 our new building loan was renewed at a lower interest rate of 3.5% for 10 years, at which point the \$1,792,000.00 will be paid off. Our next principal payment of \$152,771.05 is due June 17, 2021. Thank you to Dr. Mary Keisler for all her hard work and dedication to paying off this debt.

Our weekly offerings are about returning back to God a portion of what he has first given us. We are able to be generous givers when God is at work in our hearts.

St. Stephen's Activities for this week include:

TODAY **10AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online)**

Monday 12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)

Tuesday

Wednesday **12:30PM: Wednesday Worship Service (Gym and Online)**

FBS (Family Bible School) – Online

6PM: Adult Class: Who is this Man? (Gym)

Jr. & Sr. Youth FBS Check-in

7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 7PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)

Friday

Saturday

Sunday **10AM: Worship Services (Gym and Online)**

6PM: Council Meeting (Zoom)

Mission Lexington Our Pentecost to Reformation Food Drive is underway with 1,057 lbs. donated. The goal is to collect 5,000 lbs. during this time. Our food donations for this year total **2,539.5 lbs.** Please place your food donations in the food barrel next to the elevator in the admin wing. All food items and pet food are being accepted. The following items are the most needed: Canned Fruit, Beef Stew, Canned Chicken, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Corn, Chili, Pork & beans, Canned Soups, Rice, Dog & Cat Food. **Remember even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry.** Thank you again for your support. Point of contact: Ron Redd Cell 803-360-0241 Rredd7848@gmail.com.