



**SAINT STEPHEN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Spring 2021 Program Guide**

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church  
3775 Crosshaven Drive  
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## Welcome!

On behalf of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church, we are delighted that you have found your way to the Spring 2021 Formation Guide. Saint Stephen's is a place where all are truly welcome. There is no membership requirement or litmus test for what you believe. Regardless of where you are on your spiritual journey, we have tailored Christian formation and programming to provide many ways of growing as the Body of Christ. We hope that whether you are looking for a church home, are curious about what we have to offer, or you have been here for years, this guide will help you navigate the life of our community and nurture you in this journey that we are all on together.

If the guide is overwhelming and a phone call or email would be more helpful, please feel free to reach out to our Director of Membership and Ministry, Kathryn Dorlon. She can be reached at (205) 967-8786 or [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org). One of the core values of our staff is to empower others. If there is a ministry in which you are interested, or a way of living into God's call that is not found in this guide, please reach out and let us help you answer God's call.

As the Rector of Saint Stephen's, I love meeting people, learning your stories, and welcoming you to the Episcopal Church. If there is anything I can do to support you in your journey, don't hesitate to ask. I would love to hear from you. I can be reached by email at [john@ssechurch.org](mailto:john@ssechurch.org) or by calling the church office. I can almost always be talked into a cup of coffee, even if it takes place by Zoom. I look forward to getting to know you more.

Faithfully,



The Rev. John B. Burruss  
Rector

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# Staff Directory

## CLERGY

The Rev. John Burruss, Rector

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The Rev. Katherine Harper, Associate Rector

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The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Watts, Associate Rector

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The Rev. Ron DelBene, Priest Associate

## STAFF

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Andy Meginniss, 5 p.m. Service Music Director

Anise Morris, Pianist

Matt Murphree, Facilities Manager

Whitney Page, Director of Music

[whitney@ssechurch.org](mailto:whitney@ssechurch.org)

Catherine Poellnitz, Director of Youth Ministry

[catherinep@ssechurch.org](mailto:catherinep@ssechurch.org)

# Adult Formation Sunday Morning Forums

**Sundays, 9:00–9:50 a.m., on Zoom Webinar and YouTube**

For all adults of the parish, we host speakers and discussions on a range of topics and subjects that will enhance our spiritual life and sense of purpose and community. A link to each week's forum can be found in our weekly e-newsletter, and [past forums are archived on our YouTube channel](#). Speaker biographies and instructions on how to connect with us on Sunday mornings may be found on our formation page, <http://www.ssechurch.org/formation>

## **January 10: Introducing Jesus's Social Network: Support, Conflict, and Compassion**

Jennifer McClure, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University, and Congregational Research Strategist

## **January 17: Digging Deeper into the Structure of Jesus's Social Network**

Jennifer McClure, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University, and Congregational Research Strategist

## **January 24: Jesus's Social Network and the Four Gospels: Exploring Similarities and Differences across the Gospels**

Jennifer McClure, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University, and Congregational Research Strategist

## **January 31: How to be the Church Online and Offline in Digital Culture**

Heidi Campbell, Ph.D., Professor of Communication, Texas A&M University

## **February 7: Holistic Mission in the Regenerating Inner City**

The Ven. Adam Atkinson, Archdeacon of Charing Cross, Diocese of London, Church of England

## **February 14: Learning from London: Church Growth in Unlikely Places**

The Reverend Jason A. Fout, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Theology, Bexley-Seabury Seminary

## **February 21: From Creation to Heavenly Consummation: A Biblical Theology of 'Diversiunity'**

Will Kynes, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Samford University

## **February 28: It Isn't All in the Past: Race, Slavery, and the First (and Next) 150 Years of the University of the South**

Woody Register, Ph.D., Francis S. Houghteling Professor of American History, Sewanee, the University of the South

**March 7: Truth-Telling and Reconciliation: The History of Race and Inequality in our Justice System**

Trey Walk, Justice Fellow, Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery

**March 14: Remembering Emmett Till in and around the Mississippi Delta**

Davis W. Houck, Ph.D. Fannie Lou Hamer Professor of Rhetorical Studies, School of Communication, Florida State University

**March 21: Race, Reconciliation, and Public Memory in the Context of Community**

Patrick Weems, Executive Director, and Benjamin Saulsberry, Museum Director, Emmett Till Interpretive Center, Sumner, Mississippi

**March 28: Seeing Palm Sunday through the Lens of a Holy Land Pilgrimage**

The Reverend John Burruss, Rector, Saint Stephen's

**April 4: Easter Sunday, no Sunday Forum**

**April 11: Resurrection Stories in Art and Scripture**

The Reverend Rebecca Watts, Ph.D., Associate Rector for Formation, Saint Stephen's

**April 18: The Miracle of Trees: An Environmental Mission in Guatemala**

Anne Hallum, Ph.D., Alliance for International Reforestation (AIR) Guatemala

**April 25: Stories of Resurrection through the Eyes of Caregivers**

The Reverend Katherine Harper, Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Liturgy, Saint Stephen's, and Michael Goddard, Chaplain, Brookwood Baptist Health

**May 2: Restoring Trust: One Mother and Son's Story**

Barbara Brewster and Drew Callner

**May 9: Navigating an International Journey of Faith**

The Reverend Stephen McPeck, Priest-in-Charge, Christ the King Anglican/Episcopal Church, Frankfurt Am Main, Germany, in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

**May 16: Being Church in a Global Pandemic: Lessons Learned**

The Reverend John Burruss, The Reverend Katherine Harper, and The Reverend Dr. Rebecca Watts

# Adult Formation

## Sunday Small Groups

### **Inquirers' Class: A Class on the Episcopal Way of Faith**

Sunday mornings: 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. on Zoom, January 10 – February 14

The Rev. John Burruss will lead an “Introduction to the Faith” to those interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church. If you need a refresher or you are new to the church, this class will give you the tools to understand and navigate the Episcopal Church. All who participate will have the opportunity to be confirmed, received, or to affirm their faith at the next bishop’s visit or at another confirmation service close by.

[You may register here.](#)

### **Sunday Bible Study: Paul’s Letters**

Sunday mornings: 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. on Zoom, February 21-May 16

During the Lent and Easter seasons, we will explore some of the letters written by the Apostle Paul to the churches scattered throughout the Mediterranean region. Specifically, we will be studying his letters to the Philippians and Ephesians, both of which were written while he was in prison. The only book required is an NRSV translation of the Bible (or you can access this online). This Bible study will be led by Becky Watts, associate rector for formation ([becky@ssechurch.org](mailto:becky@ssechurch.org)).

[You may register here.](#) The Zoom link and discussion schedule will be sent to you upon registration.

### **Sunday Afternoon Discussion Group**

Sundays: 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Zoom, January 10-May 16

Designed as a space to reflect together on spirituality, culture, and the arts, this group meets in the time leading up to our 5 p.m. Celtic contemplative service. Discussions will be facilitated by Becky Watts, associate rector for formation ([becky@ssechurch.org](mailto:becky@ssechurch.org)).

January 10-February 14: *Celtic Christian Spirituality* anthology (edited by Mary Earle)

February 21-March 28: Lenten Poetry Reflection: *The Word in the Wilderness* (edited by Malcolm Guite)

April 11-April 25: Art and Scripture: Images of Resurrection (Visual Commentary on Scripture)

May 2-May 16: Spirituality of Food (facilitated by Gisela Kreglinger)

[You may register here.](#) The Zoom link and discussion schedule will be sent to you upon registration.

# Adult Formation Weekday Small Groups

## Tuesdays

### **Men's Bible Study**

Tuesdays: 7:00-8:00 a.m. / Zoom – All Year

We gather every Tuesday morning to discuss the Scripture lessons for the upcoming Sunday. We discuss a book chosen by the group during the summer months. The class is facilitated by a volunteer from the group each week. All men are encouraged to join us for fellowship, fun, and helping each other on our spiritual journey. Please contact Larry Kiker or Kathryn Dorlon for a Zoom Link.

### **Lunch with the Rector**

Tuesdays: 12:10-1:00 p.m. / Zoom – All Year

The class will be an essay reading class led by the Reverend John Burruss.

- January, *Vesper Flights* by Helen Macdonald
- February, *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson (conversation led by Katherine Harper)
- March, *Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times* by the Most Rev. Michael Curry
- April, *The Rebirthing of God: Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings* by John Philip Newell
- May, *Why We Swim* by Bonnie Tsui

Each book will be broken into segments to read at the first class of the month. Any edition or copy will work. If the cost of a book is a burden, scholarships are available. Please email the Reverend John Burruss at [john@ssechurch.org](mailto:john@ssechurch.org) for more information.

## Wednesdays

### **Women's Bible Studies**

Wednesdays: 9:30-10:30 a.m. / Zoom – Begins January 6

Wednesday morning Bible study will begin the Book of Ruth on Jan. 6. Since it is such a short book, we will follow with I and II Samuel. Samuel begins a history of the people of Israel with the judges. Everyone is welcome to join us on Zoom. Please contact Virginia Hillhouse or Kathryn Dorlon for a Zoom link.

Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m. / Zoom – Begins January 13

A great time to be in community as we seek the heart of God together. This is a book study. No previous experience with the Bible or Scripture is necessary. Contact Jessica Garrison for more information. Please contact Kathryn Dorlon for a Zoom link.

## **Wednesdays, continued**

### **Evening Book Discussion Group**

Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom

This is a continuation of the fall book discussion group facilitated by Becky Watts, associate rector for formation ([becky@ssechurch.org](mailto:becky@ssechurch.org)). We will read the following five books over the course of the spring. You are welcome to join us for all the books, or you can commit to just one book at a time, depending on what works best for your schedule and your life. You can click on each book title below to find a registration link. Upon registration, you will receive the Zoom link and a weekly schedule.

- January 6-27, [Vivek Murthy, \*Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World\*](#)
- February 3-17, [Angela Duckworth, \*Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance\*](#)
- February 24-March 17, [+Michael Curry, \*Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times\*](#)
- March 31-April 14, [Emmanuel Acho, \*Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man\*](#)
- April 21-May 5, [Anne Lamott, \*Dusk Night Dawn: On Revival and Courage\*](#)

### **Young Adult Bible Study**

Wednesdays: 6:15-7:05 p.m. / Room 228 & Zoom\* – January 13- May 12

The Young Adults of Saint Stephen's are a group of 22- to 35-year-olds who gather weekly for fellowship and Bible study. The group will discuss scripture from the Daily Lectionary and from the upcoming Sunday. This is an open-ended discussion—the devout and skeptics alike are welcome to join. Please email the Reverend John Burruss at [john@ssechurch.org](mailto:john@ssechurch.org) for more information.

\*Hybrid offering

## **Thursdays**

### **Education for Ministry**

Thursdays: 6:30-9:00 p.m. / Zoom, September to May

EfM is a coursework and group seminar in which participants study, worship, pray together, and learn to think theologically about our everyday lives. The foundation for bringing Christ to the world lies in a church empowered by an active, theologically articulate laity. Subjects studied are the Old and New Testaments, church history, and theology. Themes lead the weekly discussion and outline suggestions for theological reflections. The program began in 1975 and is used internationally. More than 60 graduates of the program are members at Saint Stephen's. The cost of each year's commitment is \$375, and all books are included in this fee. Some scholarships are available. If you would like to know more about the seminar, contact Scott Reed.

## Thursdays, continued

### **Boomers**

Third Thursday of the month, 6:00-7:00 p.m./Zoom—January through May

Boomers is a group of adults, age 55 and older, who get together monthly for fellowship and fun. We have social hours, occasional guest speakers, day trips, movie days, and much more! For now, we will continue to meet via Zoom. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org) or Van Chaplin.

- January 21, Michael Yancey, LED Light Conversion
- February 25, Conley Knott, The Art of Saint Stephen's
- March 18, Becky Watts, From Campus Life to Church Life
- April 22, Al Dominguez, Swim to the Light: A Story of Fleeing Cuba
- May 20, To Be Announced

## Fridays

### **Bible Study with the Reverend Katherine Harper**

Fridays: 10:30-11:45 a.m. / Zoom – All Year

Grab a cup of coffee, bring a Bible, and find a cozy seat as we gather on Zoom to feast on God's Word. No outside preparation is necessary. For the beginning of 2021, we will be reading through the Book of Hebrews. For questions, contact Katherine Harper at [katherine@ssechurch.org](mailto:katherine@ssechurch.org) or see the [website](#) for more information.

## **Online Daily Reflections and Daily Office Prayer Services**

**Daily Reflections:** Mondays through Saturdays, Saint Stephen's clergy write original theological reflections in response to the scripture readings appointed for each day. These reflections, ranging from 500-750 words in length, are posted on the church website at <https://www.ssechurch.org/daily-reflections> and may be subscribed to as a daily email (sign-up through this same link). Besides the reflection itself, links to the scriptures, questions for self-reflection, and a daily challenge are included.

**Morning Prayer:** Each day at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Saturday, we gather together on Facebook to read scriptures and pray following the Rite II service for Morning Prayer found in our *Book of Common Prayer*. Led by Saint Stephen's clergy, this prayer service includes space for community members to greet one another and share prayer requests in the comments.

**Noonday Prayer:** Each day at 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, we gather together on Facebook to read scripture, listen to the Daily Reflection, and pray following the Order of Service for Noonday found in our *Book of Common Prayer*. Led by Saint Stephen's clergy, this prayer service includes space for community members to greet one another and share prayer requests in the comments.

## Wednesday Night Live: Drive-Thru Edition

### Come Say Hello

Drive through the porte cochere and say hello to your Saint Stephen's clergy and staff on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. We are happy for the chance to connect with you in person—wearing our masks, of course, while you stay safe in the comfort of your car. We are always so happy to see your faces and hear your voices in person, so we hope that this will provide a safe way for us to make an in-person connection with many of you.

### Wednesday Night Take-Home Activity Schedule for Spring 2021

Date	Pillar	Activity
January 6	Formation	Epiphany-at-Home kit
January 13	Creation Care	New Year's Resolutions for Creation Care
January 20	Pastoral Care	Do's and Don'ts of Grieving
January 27	Outreach	Collection for Community Kitchens
February 3	Formation	Camp McDowell Day
February 10	Creation Care	Lenten Practices: Reducing Your Carbon Footprint
February 17	Ash Wednesday	Lent Madness brackets
February 24	Pastoral Care	Postcards for our Military
March 3	Outreach	Collection for a community ministry (TBD)
March 10	Formation	International Women's Day – Women of the Church
March 17	Creation Care	Saint Patrick's Day
March 24	Spring Break	No Wednesday Night Live this week
March 31	Holy Week	TBD
April 7	Pastoral Care	Spreading the Easter Joy
April 14	Outreach	Collection for a community ministry (TBD)
April 21	Formation	Earth Day
April 28	Creation Care	Arbor Day
May 5	Pastoral Care	TBD
May 12	Outreach	Collection for Laundry Love/GraceWorks collaboration

### As We Continue to Learn and Grow

A big part of Wednesday Night Live is the chance to keep learning and growing together in our faith. As we continue with our drive-thru version of Wednesday Night Live in Spring 2021, each week we are offering a take-home (or drop-off) activity that helps us to keep engaging with the four ministry pillars of Saint Stephens: creation care, formation, outreach, and pastoral care.

Every four weeks, we will rotate through each of these four pillars with take-home activities meant to reinforce these priorities in the life of our church. The tentative schedule for this spring's Wednesday Night Live take-home activities is included above. If you have any questions about these activities, contact Becky Watts, associate rector for formation at [becky@ssechurch.org](mailto:becky@ssechurch.org)

# Youth Ministries

*We are so excited about Spring 2021, even though it will be different than any other springs we have had so far! Below are the weekly and monthly activities, big events, as well as hopes for this coming semester. Since we don't know exactly how the spring will end up, we will communicate more detailed information in weekly emails and through social media. If you have any questions about the youth schedule, please email Catherine "CPO" Poellnitz ([catherinep@ssechurch.org](mailto:catherinep@ssechurch.org)), Director of Youth Ministries.*

## **Misfit Mornings**

Sunday Morning Zoom offering! This will be from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Sunday mornings.

We will meet all together on this Zoom for now, 7<sup>th</sup> through 12th grades. If we have a need to split this into two groups, senior high and junior high, then we will make the adjustment! This time is meant for fellowship and feeding us with God's Word while another week begins. Here is an example of how a Misfit Morning would go: opening prayer, check-in and introductions, read a bible verse or passage of the week, discuss about where youth saw God this week, a faith-based activity, announcements, and a closing prayer.

## **Small Groups**

We are striving to have at least one option for all youth to see each other in person; ideally, this will happen twice a month. These small groups (15 or fewer per group as per our current guidelines) are split up by grade (each grade, 7th through 12th, will have their own small group). [Sign up for these groups through this link.](#)

Dates for each group will be sent out via email. For in-person small groups, youth will complete the Home Health Questionnaire before attending. In addition, we will all wear masks the whole time, stay safely socially distant, be outdoors, and have sign-ups for each meeting so that we all know who will be there!

When we need to be completely virtual, we will have our Wednesday night formation videos, Sunday Misfit Morning zoom, junior high and senior high virtual group meetings, and Sunday night virtual compline. Especially now, we want to continue feeding our community with fellowship, formation, and wonderful games!

## **Wednesday Night Formation Videos**

These will be released every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. through our social media platforms. These offerings will be for youth and families to do on their own time. In this time of quarantine and partial isolation, we want to make sure that every week there is some sort of formation for all families and youth, no matter where they are or when they need it. The formation will be a short video, activity, or individual programming. There will also be a chance to pick up dinner from the church on Wednesday nights through a sign up!

## Special Monthly Events for All Youth

Each month, as we are safely allowed, we will incorporate a special event for all grades to be together, with numbers still being limited. These events might be just for the youth, or intergenerational events open to all in the church. Drive-in movie nights, outdoor concerts, and local outings are examples of some of the things we are working on! There will be sign-ups for these in upcoming weekly emails.

## Diocesan Events: Happening, Awakenings, and More!

Saint Stephen's Youth love to support our Diocese and all the offerings given throughout the year. There are spiritual weekend retreats where youth can go through the weekend once and experience God's love in a big way, and they can also serve as youth leaders on staff during these events. Happening is for 10th-12th grade youth, and Awakenings is for 7th-8th grade youth with high schoolers who can serve as staff. Our Diocese also has several events throughout the year for middle school and high school aged youth. To learn more about the upcoming events for this year with the Diocese of Alabama, visit their website [www.dioala.org](http://www.dioala.org) and find the Youth Ministries page.

## Spring 2021 Youth Big Events!

The Youth Ministry at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church accepts, serves, and encourages youth of all different perspectives, helping them to do Christ's work in the world by becoming their true selves. While we are in an uneasy time, we still look forward to important spring events that are for the youth or welcome youth to help. Watch out for important dates through weekly emails, like helping out during Holy Week, or helping with our spring Youth Sunday on May 2, 2021. **Again, these are not all our events, just the ones that are set for this spring. You can find all sign-ups and youth links here:** <https://linktr.ee/saintstephensyouth>. Everyone is welcome at Saint Stephen's, so encourage your youth to bring friends to any and all events. Remember, this is the newest moment in your life, so go out there and share some love!

## **Children's Ministries**

*Children will have a variety of formational opportunities this spring. Families will receive a weekly email with details about these offerings. For more information please contact Jennifer Jones, [jennifer@ssechurch.org](mailto:jennifer@ssechurch.org)*

### **Sunday Morning Formation**

#### **Children's Bulletin**

A link to a weekly bulletin will be provided for parents to download and print at home. The bulletin will follow the Sunday lectionary and provide activities to help children engage with the readings.

#### **Bible Buzz for Children Ages 4 through 4th Grade**

9:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings on Zoom

Children will begin the new year exploring scripture based on the lectionary through art, music, reflection, and activities that connects to the scripture. Children will spend part of the time in Bible Buzz singing with Whitney Page, the Children's Choir Director.

#### **Club 56 for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

11:15 a.m. on Sunday Mornings on Zoom

Fifth and sixth graders will revisit the Bible's greatest stories, investigate major biblical themes and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. This class uses a Bible-centered curriculum developed especially for this age group to get to know God and each other better. Every fifth and sixth grader will receive a Bible to keep as their own and to use at home for Club 56 Zoom meetings.

### **Weekly Family Formation Opportunities**

*These flexible opportunities are designed for families to use on their own time when it is most convenient.*

#### **Godly Play Family Videos**

Godly Play is based on Montessori principles and uses both wonder and play to enhance a child's spiritual experience. This method is typically used in our Sunday morning formation classes. During this time while we are away from our classrooms, storytelling videos will be shared for families to watch and wonder about them together.

#### **Nursery Age Children**

Families of nursery age children will be sent a monthly Bible story to read together. Age-appropriate activities and prayer ideas will also be provided.

#### **Faithful Families**

The weekly children's ministry newsletter will provide ideas for families to connect faith to everyday life and add faith moments into their daily routines. Families will be able to learn new spiritual practices together.

## Music Ministries

### **Adult Choir**

The Adult Choir of Saint Stephen's is a dedicated group of volunteers who lead our music on Sunday mornings. The Adult Choir rehearses via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. Our members have wide and varied backgrounds in music, and many have sung in our choir for more than 20 years. Come and join us with your joyful voice! Please contact Whitney Page at [whitney@ssechurch.org](mailto:whitney@ssechurch.org) for more information.

### **Children's Music Ministry**

Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord! Children in preschool through 4th grade are invited to join us on Sunday mornings during Bible Buzz! We will be working on video offerings to be shared during the livestream Sunday worship service. New members are welcome to join at any time. Please contact Whitney Page [whitney@ssechurch.org](mailto:whitney@ssechurch.org) for more information.

# Formation through Care of Creation

## Saint Stephen's Apiary

Saint Stephen's is home to five beehives and a wonderful group of people eager to learn about beekeeping and its impact on our environment. Opportunities are available to feed and care for the bees. Click [here](#) to learn more or contact Scott Cochran.

## Holy Hikes

From March through November (excluding July) Saint Stephen's offers a short 2- to 3-mile Holy Hike to help people engage with the sacredness of all of God's creation. These hikes are intergenerational and sometimes include communion. Here is a [story](#) about Holy Hikes. Please see our [Facebook Page](#) with current information or contact Allen Howell. All hikes are scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m.

- March 6: Dunnivant Valley Greenway
- April 3: Vestavia Boulder Canyon (by the Vestavia library)
- May 1: Cahaba Lily Park
- June 5: Tannehill Ironworks State Park

## Preschool Garden

Saint Stephen's works with the Preschool to create a curriculum and garden to educate young children on sources of food and the life cycle of God's creation. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please contact Mary Marcoux.

## Removing Invasive Species Project

Please see the wonderful [article](#) in *Birmingham Now* highlighting the work of the Grounds Committee in removing invasive species from our campus. For more information, contact Chris Boles.

## Subscribing to Snow's Bend Farm

Saint Stephen's has become a drop site for purchasing Community-Supported Agriculture (CSAs) from Snow's Bend Farm as a way of helping the congregation build a better relationship with their food. The subscription runs from April through November. You can sign up on the Snow's Bend Farm [website](#), and you can learn more [here](#).

## Grounds Committee

Our grounds committee has workdays throughout the year to battle invasive species, clear our beautiful pathways in the gardens, plant flowers, and keep our grounds looking their best. While much of the work is keeping Saint Stephen's beautiful, we have recently focused on clearing invasive species in order to teach the congregation about our connection to creation. For more information, contact Steve Smith.

# Formation through Pastoral Care

## Card Guild

The Card Guild's purpose is to let people who are on our prayer list know that they are in our thoughts and prayers in their time of need, sickness, bereavement, or hospitalization by sending them a handmade card with a personalized message or prayer enclosed. There are two roles in this ministry: the artists and the senders. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

### The Artist

The artist's time varies with the individual creating the card jackets. Some paint or use photography; others use a multimedia approach. Each artist can be creative and spend time on their own schedule for this ministry.

### The Sender

The sender's time involves creating an appropriate message or prayer for the need, checking accuracy of the name, address, etc., and mailing the card. There may be up to ten cards sent each week.

## Flower Apostles

Flower Apostles relay Christian care and concern through the gift of flowers. There are two roles in this ministry: arrangers and deliverers. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

### The Arranger Team

Weekly, a small group of volunteers removes the flowers from Sunday's altar arrangement and rearranges them into 3 or 4 individual bouquets. These are taken to parishioners on Saint Stephen's prayer list. Vases and supplies are provided. This is a great ministry for anyone with a love of flower arranging.

### The Delivery Team

Volunteers pick up arrangements at the church and deliver to a parishioner's home on Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning. This is an ideal opportunity for those who pick up or drop off children at the preschool. Pick-up and delivery time usually take 10-30 minutes, depending on location of the parishioner's home.

## Little Lambs

The Little Lambs ministry shares Christ's love to the parish's growing families. Following the birth of a child, families receive meals, flowers, and gifts, as well as information about the church nursery and the process for baptism. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## **Healing Intercessors**

During this time that the primary Saint Stephen's worship service is online, the healing intercessor ministry makes Christ known through praying for people in a targeted way, with names from the prayer list. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## **Eucharistic Visitors**

Saint Stephen's clergy train Eucharistic Visitors who take consecrated bread and wine to one household following Sunday worship services, and then to their own family (if applicable). Please remember them in your prayers. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## **Feed My Sheep**

Wednesday evenings, or other dates, as needed – All year

A group of willing people help pick up and deliver a hot meal to our parish families during a hospital stay, illness, or the birth of a baby. Meals can be picked up from Saint Stephen's during Wednesday night dinner pickup, or arranged through another venue, as needed. Saint Stephen's reimburses the cost of meals. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## **Simply Prayer**

Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9:30 am / Remote – All year

Our ministry is to pray for those on the Saint Stephen's prayer list. All are welcome. We offer a collective prayer and say each name on the prayer list. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## **Prayer Shawls and Beads**

This ministry uses donated and purchased yarn to make prayer shawls of various colors, sizes, and textures. Labels indicate they are from our parish ministry, and we sew a small metal cross beside it. Volunteers take yarn home and bring the prayer shawl when it is complete. Our pastoral care team lets us know who and when these are needed. They have a beautiful card attached, signifying the blessing. We will teach you how to knit and/or crochet; and provide you with yarn and needles.

Prayer beads are made by many groups within the parish. We keep a supply of these in the office. They are given to recipients in small silk bags with a prayer attached. No prior experience is required. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

# Formation through Worship Ministry

## Ushers

When worship services are meeting in-person, ushers greet and check the sign-in roster of those who registered online to attend worship. Ushers also advise attendees to keep a mask on and sit physically distant from those outside their household. They may be invited to serve at other services, such as funerals. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## Online Greeters

During the Sunday morning 10:15 a.m. service, greeters welcome others to our online service by commenting on the live Facebook and YouTube feeds. A guide is provided to assist volunteers, as they also post helpful links and information during the service. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a servant ministry that is both solemn and joyous. The Altar Guild is responsible for fixtures on and around the altar during worship, including linens around the altar, changing the liturgical color of hangings, and setting up bread and wine for Holy Eucharist. They work in teams, generally one Sunday a month, and people of all ages are welcome. To learn more, speak with Sharon Yeager. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## Flower Guild

The Flower Guild chooses and arranges flowers for Sunday worship and other events at the church. Arrangements are set up behind the altar, and in the Parish Hall as well, when in-person worship is happening. If you have a love of flowers or have worked with floral arrangements before, speak with Ann Carpenter to learn more. To volunteer, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## Sound and Video Team

The sound and video ministry is a vital component of our Sunday morning team, as worship is now broadcast via livestream to reach parishioners in their homes. A sound booth at the back of the church has computers to control video cameras and insert pre-recorded material into worship. Volunteers also test and turn microphones on and off, depending on who is speaking, adjust volumes, and make sure that the sound in the Nave enhances the worship experience. No prior experience is needed and onsite training is provided. For more information, contact Steve Thompson. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).

## Lectors

Lectors play a large role in Sunday worship as ministers of the Word. They read Holy Scripture from the Old Testament, psalm, and New Testament selections. Currently, readers record appointed scripture prior to the 10:15 a.m. Sunday service. Lectors may also be asked to serve at other services, such as funerals. To volunteer for this ministry, contact Kathryn Dorlon at [kathryn@ssechurch.org](mailto:kathryn@ssechurch.org).