

The Witness

Volume 26, Issue 1

Welcoming Worshipping Working

January 2022

Sunday

8:00 AM Service

10:00 AM Service

Tuesday

5:00 PM Centering Prayer
via Zoom

Wednesday

12:15 PM Service



Inside this issue:

Kids Toy Drive	2
Celebrations	2
Brotherhood	3
Puzzle	4
Choir Loft	5
Giving Campaign	7

New Year's Wish

By The Rev. Ian M. Delinger, Rector

The wishing well outside the Copper Café at the Madonna Inn has angels around it. For some reason, I found this quite odd (*not unlike many aspects of our famous landmark*). *Throw in some coins and make a wish, and the angels will make it come true? Pray to the angels for your wish as you toss in a coin for luck? The angels are like sirens, drawing you in to make your wish? The angels are only with the girl, so please toss in a coin and observe their cuteness?* It's a curious mixture of superstition and religion, but I reckon the average person carries at least one belief that is a curious mix of superstition and religion.

If I had one New Year's Wish, it would be for the pandemic to be "over". Of course, the angels would ask, "*What do you mean by 'over'?*" For me, that would be the time when we are assured by public health officials, national and local, that it is as safe as possible to assemble in church without masks and distancing, and to receive the Sacrament freely and from the Common Cup. The pandemic (at this point) is not a huge impact on my personal life. I have adapted well, and happily stay home most of the time, avoid crowds when I am out, even change plans when the environment doesn't feel comfortable. I do miss entertaining in my home, though. It is with the welcoming, worshipping, and working life of St. Stephen's that the pandemic is most frustrating for me.



The Wishing Well at The Madonna Inn.

But within my one wish comes immense gratitude! All of you who have joined in-person worship have adapted flawlessly and without complaint. The Music Team dedicated themselves to making our worship more glorious throughout the whole of 2021, keeping their and your safety in mind. The office and volunteers have kept our day-to-day operations going. The Wardens have helped me maneuver this pandemic. The Vestry has maintained its commitment to the functioning of the organization. The pledgers and benefactors have kept us paid and the lights on. There are too many individual names to list, and that would run the risk of mistakenly omitting someone. You know who you are, and if you don't think you are included, you probably are!

Simply put, angels are messengers, God's messengers. Scripturally, angels are "*spirits in the divine service, sent to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation*" (Hebrews 1:14) YOU are all angels! The [human] angels of St. Stephen's may not be able to make my one wish come true, but you have made many other needs and desires come to fruition and made the pandemic much more bearable. You have indeed served for the sake of all of us who are to inherit salvation. No throwing coins required! THANK YOU! And Happy New Year.

Thank you for supporting our 12th Annual For Kids From Kids Toy Drive!



Brenda and Eli Enney wrapping gifts
for children at 40 Prado



Gail Taylor wrapping gifts for
children at 40 Prado

Thanks to your generosity the acolytes and children of St. Stephen's were able to provide over 60 toys, games, puzzles and gift cards to children served by CAPSLO/40 Prado and the Salvation Army again this year, and also children served by Family Support Services of Transitions-Mental Health Association. With in-person Sunday services again, parishioners were able to bring items for the Toy Drive to church and acolytes, older children and parents were able to meet to sort which toys would fit best with the wish lists for the three groups being donated to and the ages of the children served. Transitions-Mental Health Association and the Salvation Army wanted unwrapped gifts, but CAPSLO/40 Prado preferred theirs wrapped, so we gathered (masked and distanced) for a wrapping party after church on the third Sunday of Advent. It was good to be able to work together again, and we couldn't have done it without all those who donated gifts and funds. Thank you!



Some of the toys donated this year



Owen and Lucy Moseley pose with the
toys before they're packed up to go to
40 Prado, Salvation Army and
Transitions-Mental Health Association

CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

Anniversaries

1-Jan Marshall Granger & MaryLud Baldwin
29-Jan Hugh & Carolyn Platt

Birthdays

3-Jan Shannon Larrabee
4-Jan Carol Misson
7-Jan Elisabeth Abrahams
Linda Zeuschner
12-Jan Craig McCollum
20-Jan John Shakley
21-Jan Fred Astaire, Jr
22-Jan Mary McCorkle
25-Jan Liz Frost
27-Jan Pat Brown

Are we missing your birthday or
anniversary?
You all are welcome to email
office@ststephensslo.org and we will
be happy to add you.



Brotherhood of St. Andrew Welcomes You

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is meeting again for breakfast, Bible study, prayer and fellowship. We meet in Ramsden Hall at 8 AM on the Second Wednesday of the month, Our next meeting will be 8 AM on Wednesday, January 12. We are also reaching out to our brethren at St. Barnabas to explore some ventures together, perhaps a regular meeting. Watch for developments!

As you know, our group is named after the First Apostle, St. Andrew, who then called his brother to come and follow Jesus. Our chapter is open to all the men of the parish, and our mission is to foster the growth of Christ's kingdom, especially among men and youth, through study, prayer and service. We are fortunate to have among our members Eric Fisher who is the governor for the Western States Province of the national organization. Eric is trying to get each chapter to commit to one of the 7 areas of emphasis selected by the national board, and our group is especially interested in fostering youth activities.



In addition, we have traditionally scheduled a retreat for the men of St. Stephen's (and often include invitations to men from other parishes in our deanery) in the late winter or spring. For 2022, we have reserved the weekend of April 22-24 at the St. Francis retreat center in San Juan Bautista. Bob Levison and Bud Zeuschner visited there just before the COVID crash, and recommend it highly. Canon Brian Nordwick plans to be there as our retreat facilitator, so consider joining us for that event as well. Previous attendees have all mentioned the deeper insights and spiritual growth that can happen in a weekend away. We are carefully monitoring the pandemic developments and the effect it has on gatherings, so again, think about keeping this weekend open if you'd like to join in the retreat, but it must just be a tentative date at this point.

In the meantime, please let me know if you'd like to be on our regular Brotherhood email list, happy to add you. Contact me, Bud Zeuschner, at my email: rfzjr@aol.com. Blessings to you all!

-Bud Zeuschner



General Information

The Witness is a monthly newsletter published by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, San Luis Obispo, CA to provide information about the parish to the congregation. Subscriptions are free to anyone. Send request along with your name and mailing address to the church office. Donations to help offset distribution costs are appreciated.

Make checks payable to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church's e-mail address is: office@ststephensslo.org

Contribution of articles is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to witness@ststephensslo.org

The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to witness@ststephensslo.org © Copyright 2022 by St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. All rights reserved.

POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

Gifts

Altar Flowers & Candles: are given in thanksgiving for the those that are celebrating a birthday or anniversary in January.

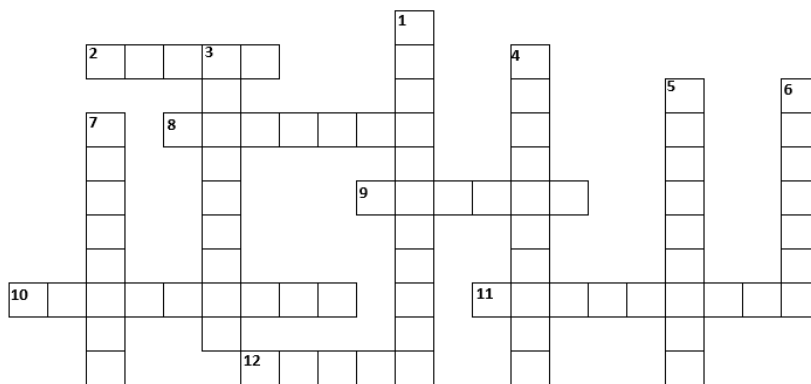
Altar Flowers: are given to the Glory of God in memory of those who have died as a result of COVID-19.



Find these words in the box below:

CALENDAR	CONFETTI
FIREWORKS	MIDNIGHT
CELEBRATE	HAPPY
FIRST	NOISEMAKER
CLOCK	NEW YEARS DAY
JANUARY	PARADES

C	R	T	S	R	I	F	F	K	R	V	H	Y	U	N
D	A	Y	Z	V	J	T	J	E	C	A	L	M	W	O
X	D	H	Z	T	M	A	S	Y	P	O	Y	E	L	I
U	N	L	E	W	Y	O	N	P	R	W	L	N	P	S
Z	E	H	P	T	L	P	Y	U	O	D	R	C	T	E
F	L	Y	Y	U	A	A	L	M	A	A	F	D	Z	M
W	A	W	T	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F	T	A
X	C	I	V	D	W	O	B	H	K	S	Y	H	P	K
J	O	N	Z	E	J	L	K	E	G	X	G	B	A	E
N	C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I	L	I	L	W	R	R
G	U	E	D	E	Y	X	H	Y	N	E	K	O	A	P
I	I	U	F	X	O	J	T	D	O	A	C	R	D	Y
N	G	J	T	S	B	B	I	W	E	J	J	A	E	Q
C	K	B	D	B	E	M	X	H	N	F	V	E	S	W
G	Z	W	X	E	M	U	H	P	T	V	V	Y	G	E



ACROSS

2. A mechanical or electrical device for measuring time.
8. First month of the year.
9. All the descendants of a common ancestor.
10. The point in time at which something starts.
11. Low explosive pyrotechnic device used for entertainment purposes.
12. A social gathering of invited guests.

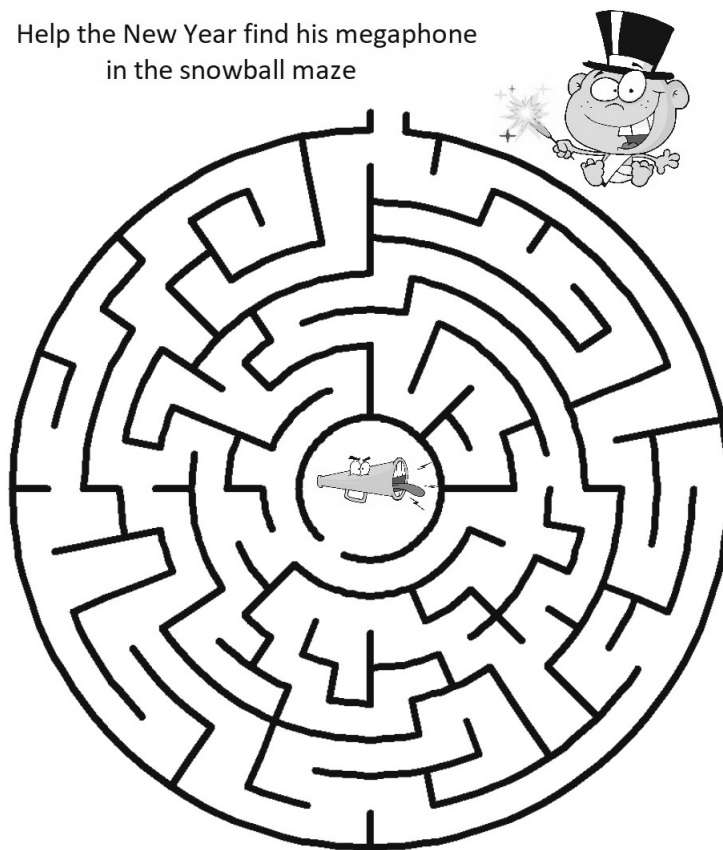
DOWN

1. January 1st.
3. A white sparkling wine associated with celebration.
4. A firm decision to do or not to do something.
5. Counting numerals in reverse order to zero.
6. A person one knows and with whom one has a bond of mutual affection.
7. Twelve o'clock at night.

Answer:

1. NEWYEARSDAY 2. CLOCK 3. CHAMPAGNE 4. RESOLUTION
5. COUNTDOWN 6. FRIENDS 7. MIDNIGHT 8. JANUARY
9. FAMILY 10. BEGINNING 11. FIREWORKS 12. PARTY

Help the New Year find his megaphone
in the snowball maze





From the Choir Loft

January, 2022

Happy New Year! With our Christmas services completed, I am excited to investigate this new year of singing and playing possibilities! I sometimes feel like I am on a music game show like a cooking game show that gives you a basket of limited ingredients from which you are to create something spectacular. It's a good thing that this is one of my favorite kind of challenges! I am also grateful that there are more ingredients in the basket than I have had to work with since March of 20. (The year that shall not be named).

The choir loft in January will have up to four singers each Sunday! As health safety permits, I am gradually reintroducing two choral scholars and two choir singers to our Sunday services. I believe we will all enjoy hearing the harmony that we built upon through Advent to Christmas. One big change you will notice is with our Bass Choral Scholar. Our friend, Grady, is moving on to other employment opportunities in the new year. We wish him the very best in all his endeavors and are very grateful for his singing- especially these past two years. We will get to welcome back our first Bass Choral Scholar, Ryan Hartzell. Ryan has moved back into town and is eager to sing with St. Stephen's again. I am thrilled to get to work with Ryan once again. Welcome back!

The Chancel Choir will prepare an anthem for the last Sunday in Epiphany this month. We were able to safely and successfully rehearse and record in Ramsden Hall for Christmas Eve and will continue to do so through June. The rehearsals were enhanced greatly by the ivory baby grand piano which is currently in Ramsden Hall. As a part of the Opera San Luis Obispo piano placement program, St. Stephen's is one of the places where a piano can be "stored" while it is waiting to be purchased. This is a great benefit to us in that we get a high-quality instrument for the choir to rehearse to. As a "Thank You" to St. Stephen's, we will receive a portion from the sale of the piano. This money will contribute to the guest musician fund. A win-win for all!

The YouTube link for Advent and Christmas music now has the hymns we will sing in January. I have renamed the playlist "St. Stephen's Music from the Choir Loft." Please enjoy listening to the variety of churches, organs, and choirs I compiled for your enjoyment. <https://tinyurl.com/SSECChoirLoftJan2022>

Here's to our new year TOGETHER!

—Cassandra Tarantino, Director of Music





Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Coffee Hour Host Sign up for January is below.

We are looking for hosts for February & March.

Please reach out to Liz Frost at either
lizwfrost@msn.com or by phone at
805-805-594-0604.

A sign up sheet is available in the kitchen in
Ramsden Hall as well.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Jan 2	No Coffee Hour Today
Jan 9	Craig & Cheryl McCollum
Jan 16	Skip & Rosey Parks
Jan 23	Lee & Lynn Hollister
Jan 30	Frances, Gail & Claire

Due to the weather and the status of COVID-19 in our community, Coffee Hour maybe moved to Zoom. Please check the Saturday emails for any updates.

Centering Prayer

Where: on your computer or telephone

When: Tuesdays at 5PM

How: Join Zoom Meeting

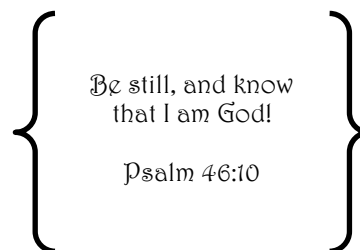
<https://zoom.us/j/3271528720?pwd=QVh5YytWVGVGekVychFvNkFOMzNRZz09>

Meeting ID: 327 152 8720 Password: 0908

Dial by your location:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose),

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)



Annual Meeting: January 23, 2021 at 11:15

In-Person in Ramsden Hall and Via Zoom.

The Annual Meeting of St Stephen's Episcopal Church will take place during Coffee Hour at 11:15am on January 23, 2021.

We need as many eligible voters and other members of the congregation as possible to attend. The paperwork for the meeting will be sent out in advance, hopefully by January 16. You will have time to review all of the reports and the proposed 2022 Budget and prepare any questions or clarifications you can bring up during the meeting. The Candidates for Vestry and Delegates to Convention will also be included in the paperwork.



Hands-On Stewardship:

Thank you to all who are watching our Facebook Livestreams & YouTube Videos.

Thank you to all who have been hosting Coffee Hour.

Thank you to Lynn Hollister, Kay Lewis, Kathleen Pennington and Carolyn Platt for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during December.

Thank you to the teams cooking up a storm in our kitchen for 40 Prado.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue.

Thank you to all who helped with assembly of The Witness.

Thank you to Lynn Hollister and Kathleen Pennington for making cookies for the Victorian Christmas Walking Tour

Thank you to all who read The Witness every month.

Thank you to our parishioners for your patience during 2021. Wishing you all a happy and prosperous 2022.

Update on the Annual Giving Campaign 2022

Dear St. Stephen's parishioners,

We are once again blessed by the generous pledges of our members. We now have 52 pledging households and a total pledge commitment for 2022 of about \$175,000. Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to the financial security of our church!

We did fall short of our aspiration to reach a total pledge amount of \$200,000 and a total of 60 pledging households. For those of you reading this who have not yet pledged, we implore you to add your pledge to those of your fellow St. Stephen's members. It is not too late! We have had pledges large and small, and no pledge is too small. Please search your hearts during this Christmas season and take that step to send in a pledge card. Pledge cards continue to be available in the back of the church, or we will be happy to send a new package out if you call the church office.

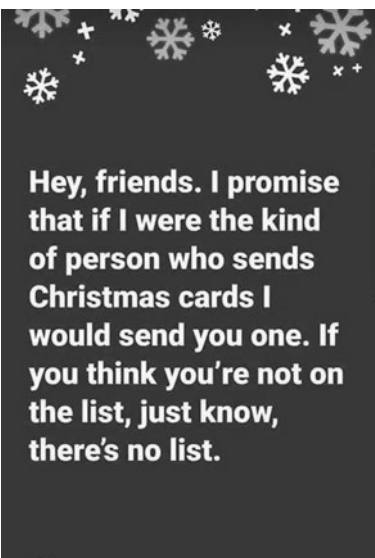


I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Annual Giving Campaign committee members Cheryl McCollum and Rosey Parks who made this campaign a pleasure to implement. The more I volunteer for St. Stephen's, the more I discover the grace and talent of my fellow church members.

Have a very merry Christmas,

*Kathryn Marshall,
Annual Giving Campaign, 2022*

Thank You for the Cards



In December, a meme went around social media:

This has been my practice for about 20 years now. As you know, I don't send Christmas Cards. Thank you all for your cards. They truly brightened up my home as the primary form of Christmas décor. In lieu of Christmas cards for the parish, I donated to Episcopal Relief and Development in the name of St. Stephen's. This year, I donated toward the year-end matching gift campaign that supported women, children, and climate change, using an integrated approach by using local knowledge for better outcomes. At Episcopal Relief and Development:

We facilitate healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster, and disease. Our work addresses three life-changing priorities [women, children, and climate change] to create authentic, lasting results.

Thank you again for your cards and gifts. May 2022, bring you joy and peace and every blessing that God has in store for you.

- Fr. Ian

St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

1344 Nipomo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3935

805-543-7212
office@ststephensslo.org
www.ststephensslo.org
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9am-1pm

If you would like to make a donation to
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

You can scan this QR Code
with your phone and be
taken directly to our PayPal
site or go to
paypal.me/ststephensslo



Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

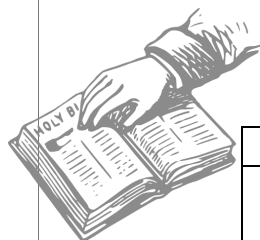
Permit No. 57

Address Service Requested

Volunteers are always needed and always welcome here at St. Stephen's.

I am currently updating my volunteer lists and I need your assistance. If you would like to be part of the following groups please let me know either by emailing the office at office@ststephensslo.org, calling or leaving a note in the office.

- * A/V Technician
- * Altar Guild
- * Birthday & Anniversary Card Writing
- * Collection Counting
- * Computer Assistance (Help maintain system)
- * Office Volunteer (filing, scanning, etc)
- * Bulletin/Witness Folding
- * Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- * Coffee Hour Hosts
- * People's Kitchen
- * Special Event Set up/Clean up
- * Social Media Assistance



Bible Selections for January

	2-Jan-22	9-Jan-22	16-Jan-22	23-Jan-22	30-Jan-22
	2nd Sunday after Christmas	The Epiphany	2nd Epiphany	3rd Epiphany	4th Epiphany
1st READING	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 60:1-6	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Jeremiah 1:4-10
PSALM	Psalms 84:1-8	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalms 36:5-10	Psalms 19	Psalms 71:1-6
2nd READING	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Ephesians 3:1-12	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	1 Corinthians 13:1-13
GOSPEL	Luke 2:41-52	Matthew 2:1-12	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21	Luke 4:21-30