

# The Witness

Volume 28, Issue 5

Welcoming Worshipping Working

May 2024

## Special points of interest:

### Sunday

8:00 AM Service  
10:00 AM Service with coffee hour following the service

### Monday

8:30AM Prayers & Pastries at The Bridge Café—1074 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo

### Wednesday

12:15 PM Service



Hello  
May!

## Inside this issue:

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## Our Eucharistic Brunch

By The Rev Ian M Delinger, Rector

Our Gospel for the 2nd Sunday of Easter in all 3 lectionary years is the one of Doubting Thomas. The full list of readings for Year B are Acts 4:32-35/ 1 John 1:1-2:2 / Psalm 133 / John 20:19-31. The story of Doubting Thomas is a favorite of mine because it reassures me that I am still accepted by Jesus even if I have doubts. Even though I don't have a Doubting Thomas moment, that doesn't mean I don't fail to live up to my Baptismal Covenant! And the Doubting Thomas story reminds me that wherever I am on my spiritual journey, Jesus welcomes me.



Table discussion at Eucharistic Brunch

At the Eucharistic Brunch on April 7, Holy Communion was celebrated in the context of a meal. The bread was broken at the beginning of the meal, as Jesus did at the Last Supper, a long Jewish tradition; the wine was taken at the end of the meal, as it is described in the Gospels and in our Eucharistic Prayers. In between, we had brunch and conversation. Our first conversation was directly related to the Gospel reading of the day:

*With whom do you identify in today's Gospel? Jesus when He appears? Jesus when He gives the Spirit? Jesus when He forgives? Jesus when He meets Thomas? A disciple in fear? One who receives the Spirit? One who receives forgiveness? One who retains sins? Thomas before he met Jesus? Thomas when he met Jesus? One who through believing may have life in His name?*

After that robust conversation, it was time to move the conversation further:

*Now that you have shared some of your story through the first conversation question, how can you share your story with other people in your life?*

(Continued on next page)

*(Continued from front page)*

We each are on a spiritual journey, and our journeys intersect here at St. Stephen's. In relation to today's Gospel, that means when you have doubts about faith, Jesus does not reject you. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Jesus welcomes you. It also means that you, too, can share your spiritual journey with others.

Whether you were part of the Eucharistic Brunch conversations or were elsewhere that day, reflect and pray on these questions and where your answers might direct the next steps on your spiritual journey. As we move through the Season of Easter, we will hear stories about how Jesus' Resurrection empowered the Disciples to do what Jesus was training them to do in the first place: To proclaim the Good News to others. While you reflect and pray on these conversations we have had today, think about how you can be a Disciple, and how you can show others the signs of Jesus so that they may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. *(ref John 30,31).*

## SLO Food Bank Hunger Awareness Day – June 7

Hunger Awareness Day is a countywide event to inform our community about the devastating effects of hunger in SLO County and to raise funds to support the SLO Food Bank's hunger relief efforts.

St. Stephen's has been a sponsor of this event for several years. It's time to build up funds for our \$2,500 sponsorship! To contribute to our sponsorship, send a check made out to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church with "Hunger Awareness Day" in the memo. *(If you send the check to the Food Bank, it won't get credited toward our sponsorship.)* You can also contribute by other means. Just check with the office. Donations of all sizes are welcome! If we raise more than the \$2,500 for this sponsorship, we will save that for sponsorship of the Turkey Trot in November.

Become a Hunger Hero today and join us in the important mission to alleviate hunger for our neighbors in need. Transforming into a Hunger Hero is simple and has a tremendous impact!

Sponsorship Time

## HUNGER AWARENESS DAY



Contribute what you can so we can help combat food insecurity in SLO County

**Hunger Awareness Day: Friday, June 7, 2024**

Write checks to: St Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Write in Note: SLO Food Bank

# Fellowship Hour

On the last Monday of the month, we'll have an hour-long "event" starting at 5:30pm. Any person from the congregation can volunteer to take a month and host whatever event they want to host. Learn how to knit; game night; look-how-cute-my-grandkids-are night ... whatever. The host will decide how hospitality will be offered: They can provide snacks or a meal, or ask people to bring stuff, or have nothing. It will be up to them. If people want to mingle more after the event is finished, they can do so. If you want to host, get in touch with Fr Ian. **Volunteers needed for June 24, July 29 and onward**



Thanks to The Hollisters who hosted a Fellowship Hour on St. Stephen's History and a potluck of recipes from the 1980 St. Stephen's Cookbook.

The May Fellowship Hour will be on June 6! (The last Monday in May is the Memorial Day holiday.) Molly Tedeschi (10am) will be bringing the Cal Poly Swing (Dance) Club! There will be a lesson before food, then food and then some music and social dancing. You bring the food (potluck); Molly will bring the Swing. Mark your calendars for June 6 at 5:30pm.

## Being More Relational

By Fr Ian

For Vestry meetings in 2024, the Vestry will reflect on how we can be more relational in our leadership of the parish. Each month we will reflect on a message from Jesus on how Jesus is calling us to be more relational. At the Vestry Retreat on March 2, I shared a summary of what being more relational in our work means. You can find that summary here: <https://tinyurl.com/TransVRelate>  
We wove that into the rest of the Retreat.

For the April 14 Vestry Meeting, we reflected on ways in which Jesus demonstrates or calls on us to be more relational as we share our Gifts of the Spirit in leadership and the idea of "Self-Interest vs. Mutual Interest" in Matthew 5:43-48 – Love for Enemies.

## Hands on Stewardship



**Thank you to** Bill Crewe, Lynn Hollister, Kay Lewis, Elizabeth Potter and Kathleen Pennington for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during April.

**Thank you to** Cheryl & Craig McCollum and Rosey & Skip Parks for hosting coffee hour in April.

**Thank you to** Lynn Hollister, Kathleen Pennington, and Gail Taylor for teaching Sunday School in April.

**Thank you to** Everyone who worked to make the Eucharistic Brunch on April 7th a successful event.

**Thank you to** Ethan Stan and Spud Schroeder for taking the trash cans

to the street for pick up each week.

**Thank you to** Gail Taylor, Nancy Deovlet, and Cheryl McCollum who fold, tape and label The Witness every month.

**Thank you to** Stephanie Olsen for taking The Witness to the USPS Bulk Mail office every month.

**Thank you to** Diane Levison, Clark & Kay Lewis, Craig & Cheryl McCollum for cooking monthly for 40 Prado.

**Thank you to** Elizabeth Potter for helping with the celebration cards.

**Thank you to** Clark Lewis & Craig McCollum for picking up the no cook bags to distribute to those in need.

**Thank you to** the Clark Lewis, Craig McCollum, Beau Parks for live streaming the Sunday Services.

**Thank you** for reading The Witness & watching the services at home.

### *Flower for May:*

*Hawthorn  
symbolizes  
Hope, life, love and  
new beginnings.*



## Donations

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](https://paypal.me/ststephensslo)

### 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](mailto:office@ststephensslo.org)

Contribution of articles is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to [witness@ststephensslo.org](mailto:witness@ststephensslo.org)  
The deadline for emailed submission of articles is the third Friday of the month. Email any questions to [witness@ststephensslo.org](mailto:witness@ststephensslo.org) © Copyright 2024 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

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Are we missing your special celebration? Please let us know so that we can celebrate with you.

Call, email, snail mail the information to Stephanie in the office at 805-543-7212 or [office@ststephenslo.org](mailto:office@ststephenslo.org)



### Happy Anniversary!

First Name	Last Name	Day
Craig & Cheryl	McCollum	May 08

### Happy Birthday!

First Name	Last Name	Day
Lynn	Hollister	May 14
Dick	Riggins	May 16
The Rev Ian	Delinger	May 19
Bill	Grenek	May 19
Roseann	Parks	May 29

## From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on April 14, 2024, the first of alternating meetings that will focus on conversations about big topics rather than on action items:

- \* The Vestry has approved the transfer of \$50,000 of unused funds from the “Re-Fresh St. Stephen’s Campaign” to the Endowment for forthcoming Building & Grounds requirements, aligning with the Campaign’s strategy. Around \$14,000 still resides in the Operating account, earmarked for potential Buildings & Grounds projects in the immediate future. The Vestry expresses profound gratitude to all who generously contributed to this highly effective fundraising endeavor, enhancing our campus environment.
- \* The Vestry’s first conversation focused on what questions need to be addressed in order to consider an exploration of a pilot project with SmartShare Housing for renting the slab to house a tiny home.
- \* The Vestry’s second conversation looked at what is needed in order to support the next steps of the Stewardship Team and Mission Team.

The next meeting is May 12, 2024. If you have an issue that you think should be addressed by the Vestry, please submit your request no less than 2 weeks before the next Vestry Meeting to the Rector or Wardens. All Vestry Meetings are open to members of the parish. Requests to speak can be made, approved on an individual basis. Executive Sessions are closed to Vestry members only, including the Clerk, Treasurer and Rector.





**With featured speaker, the Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn,  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande!**

This year, we've made it even easier for you to attend by introducing more flexible options. Whether you can only make it for Friday evening's Banquet and Awards, Saturday's Keynote and Program, or both days, we have an option that will suit your needs. Join us for a weekend of inspiration, learning, and fellowship.

The Diocese of El Camino Real will host Spring Renewal 2024 at Sherwood Hall at 940 N Main St, Salinas, CA.

**Friday evening 5:00 to 8:00 pm:**

Gathering and Social Hour  
Banquet and Honors  
Compline

**Saturday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm:**

Morning Prayer  
Session I with Bishop Hunn  
Session II with Bishop Hunn  
Lunch  
Session III with Bishop Hunn  
Conversation with Bishops  
Wrap-up and Eucharist

**About our Speaker:**

The Rt. Rev. Michael Hunn is the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande. With over twenty years of experience in ordained ministry, Bishop Hunn brings fresh perspectives to traditional subjects. He is a renowned lecturer, keynote speaker, and preacher, who shares his insights on public speaking, nonviolent communication, canon law, stewardship, and nonviolent approaches to conversations about race.

He hosts the "Simply Christian Life" Podcast aimed at those who are spiritually curious. Bishop Hunn enjoys spending time with his family, playing baseball, gardening, writing fiction, and riding bicycles.



**Register before May 6th at [bit.ly/SpringRenewal2024](https://bit.ly/SpringRenewal2024)**





**ALZHEIMER'S<sup>®</sup>  
ASSOCIATION**  
CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST CHAPTER

## *Healthy Aging Club*

An Active Social Club for those living in the early stages of dementia

### **Get out, get active, and get connected!**

Keep your brain and body active with different activities. Meet others who are living in the Early Stages and want to remain cognitively and socially active.

**2nd & 4th Thursdays  
10 - 11:30am**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Ramsden Room**

1344 Nipomo Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RSVP to Laura Deloye  
ladeloye@alz.org | 805.342.0956





# Education for Ministry

## 2024-2025

Are you curious about EFM? Are you looking for an in-depth study of the Bible? Church history? Theology? Then I may have a program for you, EFM. EFM is a four-year program of study that you commit to year to year. The first year is a study of the Old Testament. The second year is the New Testament. Year three is church history and year four is theology.

Our group meets entirely by Zoom 1 day per week for a couple of hours. Our classes run basically during the school year from September to May. We'd love to have you join us!

I am co-leading this group with Karen LaBlanc from St. Jude's Church. She and I were both part of the preaching training class. If you are interested PLEASE contact Laura Learned either by email at llearned57@gmail.com, text or phone at 805-610-0482. I look forward to hearing from you and you being part of this fantastic study.

*Laura Learned  
EFM Co-mentor*

## Bible Selections for May



**5-May-24**  
**Easter 6B**

**12-May-24**  
**The Ascension**

<b>1st Reading</b>	Acts 10:44-28	Acts 1:15-17,21-26
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 98	Psalm 1
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 John 5:1-6	1 John 5:9-13
<b>Gospel</b>	John 15:9-17	John 17:6-19

**19-May-24**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**26-May-24**  
**Trinity Sunday**

**2-Jun-24**  
**Pent 2 - Proper 4B**

<b>1st Reading</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Isaiah 6:1-8	1 Samuel 3:1-10
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 104:25-35,27	Canticle 13	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17
<b>2nd Reading</b>	Acts 2:1-21	Romans 8:12-17	2 Corinthians 4:5-12
<b>Gospel</b>	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	John 3:1-17	Mark 2:23-3:6



# Books of the Bible Scramble

Unscramble the letters to reveal a book of the Bible; then unscramble the highlighted letters to find another name for the Bible.

A J S E M  
 — — — —

T R U H  
 — — —

S N K I G  
 — — —  —

D S U J G E  
 — —  — — —

E J U D  
 — —  —

U O J H A S  
 —  — — — —

R H S W E B E  
 — — — —  —

U X E D O S  
 — —  — — —

Hidden Name:

— — — —

— — — —

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4

BOOK NAME: GOD'S WORD

- EXODUS
  - HEBREWS
  - JOSHUA
  - JUDE
  - JUDGES
  - KINGS
  - RUTH
  - JAMES
- Answers:**

This puzzle is from Bible Puzzles, Quizzes & Brain Twisters.  
 Published by Product Concept Mfg., Inc

# What is Baptism?

## A Q&A on

### May 20, 2024 at 6pm

Do you know someone with a child or an adult who is curious about Christianity? Fr Ian will be hosting a Q&A session on "What is Baptism". It will include a brief description of the first Sacrament and then a free-for-all Q&A. It will be in the Sanctuary and open to any and all. Feel free to bring the children; leave the pets to guard your house. This promises to be very informational and less than an hour. For more information, just come on May 20.

**WHAT IS BAPTISM? OR CHRISTENING?**

**q&a**  
**may 20**  
**@6pm**

ST STEPHEN'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1344 NIPOMO ST. SLO



**Reminder:**

The office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in honor of Memorial Day

We will reopen on Tuesday, May 28th and look forward to hearing from you.

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*  
Romans 8:14

## Flowers & Candles

Each Sunday of the year the Altar Guild supplies flowers (or greenery) and candle oil for the Sunday services.

If you would like to dedicate flowers or candles in thanksgiving, in celebration or in memory of your loved ones let us know.

Sign up is in Ramsden Hall, drop a note in the offering plate with your donation or reach out to the office

## Coffee Hour

Can you smell the coffee wafting through the parish hall?

Gather in the parish hall. Volunteers, ask a friend to help prepare coffee and tea for our gatherings. The sign-up sheet needs to be filled. Thank you to all who volunteer!!!!

# Time, Talent & Treasure: Staff at St. Stephen's

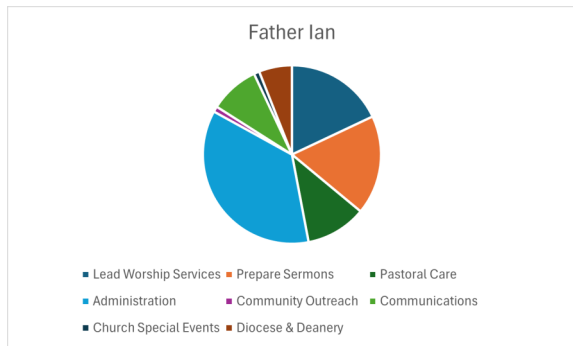
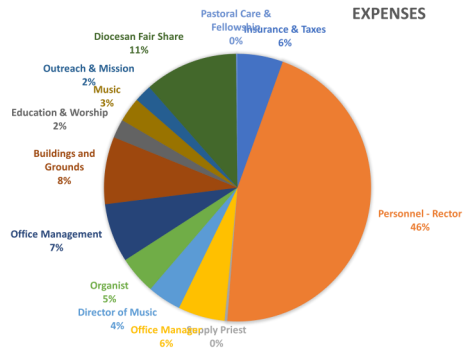
This month, the Stewardship Committee focuses on the Staff part of our Time, Treasure, Talent at St. Stephen's. As the pie chart illustrates, the majority of St. Stephen's treasure goes to our staff.

That may seem like a lot when only seeing Fr. Ian for an hour on Sunday, Stephanie at the office when we call or email with a problem, or Cassie, Marti, and Ryan when they are on duty at Sunday services.

However, looking at their division of time by percentages, it is obvious the majority of their efforts are behind the scenes, accomplishing all the tasks required in this 21st century world so that we parishioners may partake of an hour of spiritual refreshment and inspiration and to further the work of the church in the community.

Office volunteers give freely of their time and talent to help Stephanie insure smooth flow of attention to parishioners, visitors, and groups who use our facilities.

May this inspire us all to give within our means of time, treasure, and talent to help sustain St. Stephen's.

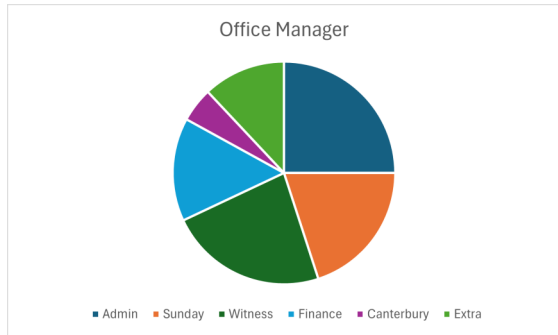
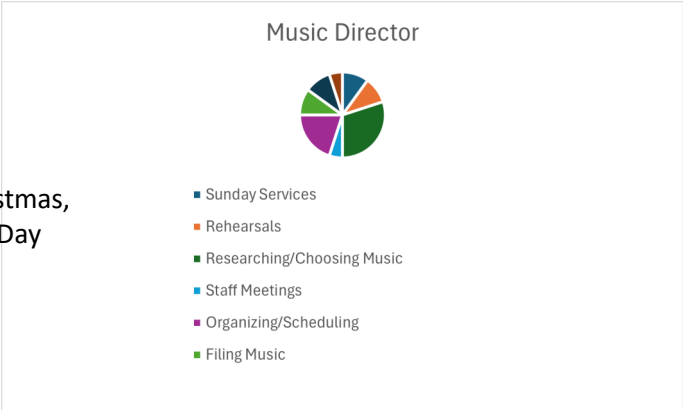


**Father Ian:**

- 18% lead worship services
- 18% prepare sermons
- 11% pastoral care
- 36% administration
- 1% community outreach
- 9% communications
- 1% church special events
- 6% diocese & deanery

**Cassie:**

- 10% Sunday Services
- 10% Weekly Rehearsals
- 30% Research & Selection of Music
- 5% Staff Meetings
- 20% Organizing & Calendaring Rehearsals
- 10% Filing
- 10% Communication
- 5% Extra work for Christmas, Easter & St. Stephen's Day



**Stephanie:**

- 25% Admin
- 20% Sunday
- 23% Witness
- 15% Finance
- 5% Canterbury
- 12% Extra

Time & Talent volunteers for the Office:  
 Nancy Deovlet, Cheryl & Craig McCollum, Elizabeth Potter, Gail Taylor, Rosey Parks, Shannon Larrabee, Lynn Hollister, Bill Crewe, Kathleen Pennington, Kay & Clark Lewis, Beau Parks



# St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

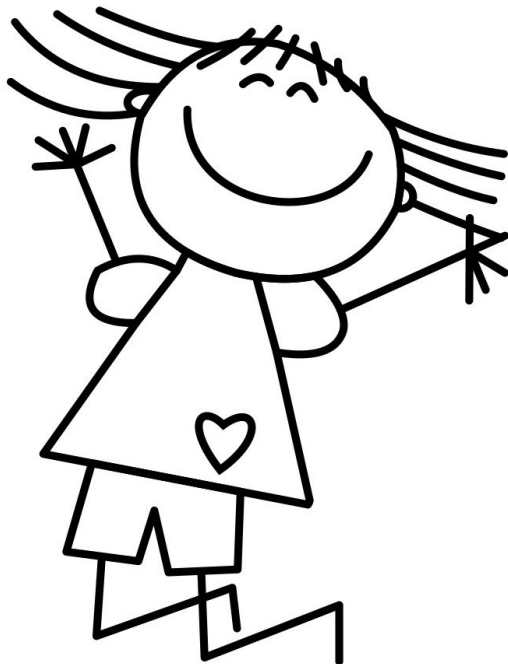
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office@ststephensslo.org  
www.ststephensslo.org  
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9am-1pm

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## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

When: July 29-August 2, 1-5pm

Who: Campers, kids ages 5-11

Volunteers, people age 14+

What: Bible Stories, Singing, Cooking, Dancing,  
Crafts, Games, Friends

Cost: \$50

### Help us choose the theme!

Christmas in July? God's Garden? Super Heroes of the Bible?

Let us know which you (or your kids) like best.  
Email [kapennington@netscape.net](mailto:kapennington@netscape.net) with your theme choice, to volunteer to help, or with any questions.