

The Witness

Volume 28, Issue 7

Welcoming Worshipping Working

July 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



Inside this issue:

Anonymous	3
Bible Selections	6
Celebrations	6
I Am Home	9
Media	9
Relational	3
Time, Talent	8
VBC	Back
Vestry	5

Strengthening the Family

By Fr Ian Delinger, Rector

Last year I went to 14 different Anglican/Episcopal parish churches around the world. And while it was an utter privilege to travel around the world, it was a good education for a parish priest to experience how other parishes function, albeit just on Sunday mornings. I shared my experiences with you through The Witness.

Half of those parishes were in capital cities or large cities (London, Cape Town, Delhi, Bangkok, Sydney, Wellington), and half of them were here in California (Santa Maria, Pasadena [online], Los Olivos, Oakland, Healdsburg, Turlock, Montecito, Lompoc). All very different.

A couple of weeks ago, the Sunday readings unfolded for me commentary on a leader (Saul, Israel's first king), a congregation (the Christians in Corinth) and a mission (those who do God's will are Jesus' mother, brothers and sisters). In my sermon, I urged us to think about the qualities we seek or need in our leadership, lay and ordained, who we want to be as a congregation, and what our should mission be. I pointed out that it's been a while since we've given serious thought to these aspects of being the St Stephen's Family.



Each of those parishes I visited last summer have the same questions in front of them; all parishes do. Sometimes when parishioners visit another church when they are traveling, they come back and say, "I saw this at this parish. We should do that!" Should we? Maybe. Maybe not. We won't know until we align it with whom we believe ourselves to be. Much of what a parish does and is based on its surroundings. St John's Waterloo in London has tens of thousands of people pass by every day during the week, but the area was almost ghost-like on a Sunday morning, with about 18 people at their 9am Service. Bangkok isn't a city with a lot of Christians, and Christ Church – full to standing room only – included people of all nations, languages, pigmentation, and no doubt of a wide range of Christian beliefs. St Francis' Turlock is located where the commercial area ends and the residential area begins, but not like in the way St Stephen's is located. It's a part of a Church that is known for

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being inclusive, but in a region that is not only conservatives, but where over half of the Episcopalians chose to dissociate with The Episcopal Church over women's leadership and the ordination of LGBTQ+ persons. These are all factors in the identity of a parish family, how they choose to worship and what they deem as their mission. Why do the people who go to these parishes, and what keeps them there?

I haven't taken any steps toward any significant self-reflection exercise for the parish, so don't worry about that quite yet. But what would be of value is for you to think about what brought you to St Stephen's, and what keeps you here. Over the past 5 years, I have had members of the Vestry share their responses to that question in triads. Each year, the triads were different, so no one shared with the same person they did the year before. This should be a parish-wide activity.

What brought you to St Stephen's, and what keeps you here? Is that something that you can share within your household? With another member of St Stephen's? With a friend or family member outside your home? The aggregate of your responses is what makes us the family that we are, which means we should probably share our reflections with one another, and regularly.

I had to make the decision to attend a church twice as an adult: once in college and once when I got established in San José. Both times, what got me there was my soul needing to be nurtured, which eventually overcame my reticence to cross the threshold into a community that I didn't know anything about. What kept me at Trinity, Kirksville and Trinity, San José was the community that welcomed me and very quickly treated me as one of the family. To be fully honest, when I made the decision to go to church, I told myself that I had to go three Sundays in a row so that my shyness didn't become the reason I didn't go back. It worked both times. It helped that the liturgy was what I was used to, which is a style that helps me connect with God. But overall, it was the community, the parish family, that kept me there. One of the things that attracted me to St Stephen's is that it is downtown-adjacent, and community engagement is important to my ministry.

What brought you to St Stephen's, and what keeps you here? Reflect on that for yourself, then share it with another. It's in the sharing that we strengthen the St Stephen's Family.

Who We Are

St Stephen's has its Mission Statement, but also an Inclusivity Statement, Values Statement and Land Acknowledgement. To remind ourselves who we purport to be, one of these statements will be printed in The Witness in July, August and September. All four statements can be found in our service booklets used in Sunday Worship, and on our website.

Inclusivity Statement: St Stephen's Episcopal Church is a congregation of families and singles, children and seniors, and a diversity of ethnicities, races, sexual orientations, interests, and backgrounds. We are followers of Jesus, guided by His teaching and example to love God and our neighbor. We welcome all people regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, racial background, mental or physical ability, recovery, political belief, economic condition, and all other expressions of what it means to be human. We invite you to worship with us and walk with us no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

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.

For the June 9 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 “What you get vs. what you give” based on Luke 15:11-32 – the Prodigal Son.

Anonymous Gifts

St Stephen's received an anonymous gift of \$1,000 to be used at the discretion of the Rector. There is no way of identifying the donor, so it is a truly anonymous gift. If the donor is a reader of *The Witness*, may she/he/they know that the Rector and Vestry are truly grateful.

Another donor has offered to help St Stephen's meet the budget. The approved 2024 Budget included a \$35,905 deficit. The Vestry's plan is to make that up through a drawdown from the Endowment, while focusing on reducing expenses and increasing the number of pledging units. In all honesty, the budget deficits of the past few years are not an expenses issue. We run a very lean operation. Our biggest expense is staff salaries, and none of them are going to get wealthy on what we pay them. This is really an income issue: Since 2019, we have roughly maintained the same number of pledging units and the same total dollar amount. And we are grateful for those who pledge and all donors of time, talent and treasure. While it's great that those numbers have not decreased, it means that what we bring in no longer covers what we spend due to increased costs. (*The Bishop of the Rio Grande has some interesting things to say about this, but that's for another time.*) In 2023, we spent \$12,000 less than in 2022, which probably cannot be replicated in 2024. Cutting costs is not the solution; increasing revenue is.

So, the second donor. Out of a love for St Stephen's, what we mean to them, and the work that we do, an anonymous donor is challenging us to bridge that budget gap. They have offered to match dollar-for-dollar donations above and beyond current pledges up to \$20,000. This is so recent that the Vestry has not had the opportunity to fully discuss how we will undertake this fundraising campaign. Details should be available after the July 14 Vestry Meeting. If you feel moved to be a part of this fundraiser – whether \$5 or \$5,000 – please see Fr Ian, Jamie Hess (Sr Warden), Gail Taylor (Jr Warden), or Bill Crewe (Treasurer).

I (The Rector) am very grateful for this opportunity. But I also want to emphasize that I am grateful for *all* of the Time, Talent and Treasure that so many of you liberally give to St Stephen's. The article on Stewardship clearly illustrates that we're all in this together, and this is *our* St Stephen's Family. When I was at Trinity Cathedral in San José in my 20s, I was the volunteer youth director, giving 10 to 60hrs a week on top of my paid job. With a job that was only high tech-adjacent, I didn't have a salary that enabled me to give much financially. But Trinity had one of the most active youth groups in the Diocese. So, I've been there, and I know that Time, Talent and Treasure all matter. Thank you.

**Thank you all for
your dedication and
service to our many
ministries at
St. Stephen's**

Hands on Stewardship

Thank you to Adele Butterfield, Bill Crewe, Kay Lewis, Elizabeth Potter and Kathleen Pennington for counting the collection and preparing the deposits during June.

Thank you to Nancy Cook, Liz Frost, Cheryl & Craig McCollum, Kathleen Pennington and Elizabeth Potter for hosting coffee hour in June.

Thank you to Ethan Finn 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 Clark & Kay Lewis for cooking, Liz Frost, Bruno Giberti and Diane Levison for helping serve at 40 Prado in May.

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

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

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

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



Where are 5 members plus the director of St Stephen's choir?
Gambino Vino in Sicily! Cuesta Concord chorus concerts are
over and we are on our way back to Palermo.
We will be back soon!

Donations for People's Kitchen Needed

For many years St. Stephen's has prepared and served meals at 40 Prado every 4th Wednesday of the month. Not surprisingly, costs for ingredients continue to go up.

To donate to help pay the cost of providing these meals, write "People's Kitchen" on the memo line of your check made out to St. Stephen's, or on a note with a cash donation and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1344 Nipomo St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. THANK YOU!

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 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

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)



Scan. Pay. Go.

From the Vestry

The Vestry meets on the 2nd Sunday of the Month to discuss the business affairs of the parish. Here are some highlights of the meeting on June 9, 2024:

The Treasurer informed us that pledges (which many pay their whole pledge at the beginning of the year) are catching up with the Budget. That means pledge income has been declining month-on-month and will level off through the end of the calendar year. The Treasurer did not advise drawing down from the Endowment this month.

The Junior Warden is urging employees and significant volunteers to complete their required training. This includes safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, sexual harassment prevention, and anti-racism. Some employees and significant volunteers must undergo a background check with additional training in the requirements of being a mandated reporter. While it may seem burdensome, the more people who are made aware of the issues that could occur through our programming, the better we are at preventing bad actors and ensuring that our employees and parishioners are safe and worry-free.

Anne Wyatt from SmartShare Housing Solutions engaged the Vestry in a conversation about the opportunities and issues of renting the slab in the parking lot for a tiny home as a pilot project to demonstrate to the City that tiny homes with dry toilets are a viable housing option. She addressed some of the questions that arose from our conversation at the April Vestry meeting. After receiving advice from Diocesan legal counsel and the insurance company, the Vestry will be looking at a few issues before making the decision to work with SmartShare to develop a proposal. Please note that, if the decision is made to draft a proposal, it will be after an all-parish meeting, and it will take months, not days, to move forward, with several “jumping off” points.

The next meeting is July 14, 2024. It will be a conversation about partnering with SmartShare Housing (see above). 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.



What Is Our “Why”? A Leadership Retreat with Bishop Lucinda

On September 7, Bishop Lucinda will join us and lead us in a leadership retreat and help us explore “What is our ‘why’?” The time will be foundational in our own congregational development in our desire to strengthen the St Stephen’s Family and grow numerically. Individual leaders will be invited, but it’s not an exclusive group. If you are interested, please speak to Fr Ian.

Time to Celebrate



Happy Birthday!

Name	Day
Dennis Deovlet	July 01
Mark Olsen	5-Jul
Bruno Giberti	8-Jul
Bob Misson	July 09
Marshall Granger	July 11
Brenda Enney	July 14
Alison Preston	July 20
Ann Roen	July-23

Happy Anniversary!

Name	Day
Raymond & Linda Zeuschner	July 08
George & Pat Brown	July 14

If you would like us to help you celebrate your special day, please reach out to the office to have you and your family members added to the list.

Email: office@StStephensSLO.org,
 Phone: 805-543-7212
 1344 Nipomo St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Bible Selections



7-Jul-24

Pent 7 - Proper 9B

1st Reading	2 Samuel 5.1-5,9-10
Psalm	Psalm 48
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 12.2-10
Gospel	Mark 6.1-13

14-Jul-24

Pent 8 - Proper 10B

1st Reading	2 Samuel 6.1-5,12b-19
Psalm	Psalm 24
2nd Reading	Ephesians 1.3-14
Gospel	Mark 6.14-29

21-Jul-24

Pent 9 - Proper 11B

1st Reading	2 Samuel 7.1-14a
Psalm	Psalm 89.20-37
2nd Reading	Ephesians 2.11-22
Gospel	Mark 6.30-34,53-56

28-Jul-24

Pent 8 - Proper 10B

1st Reading	2 Samuel 11.1-15
Psalm	Psalm 14
2nd Reading	Ephesians 3.14-21
Gospel	John 6.1-21

Be a Vacation Bible Camp Volunteer

Help children have fun and be safe!



There are many ways you can help make St. Stephen's "God's Garden" Vacation Bible Camp a safe, fun faith building experience for the kids who attend.

Volunteers are needed to serve as greeters, help prepare and serve snacks, help set up the space and prepare materials, help with crafts, music, games, activities and more. Be part of the fun all week or just a few hours one day, whatever fits your schedule.

For more information or to volunteer email kapennington@netscape.net



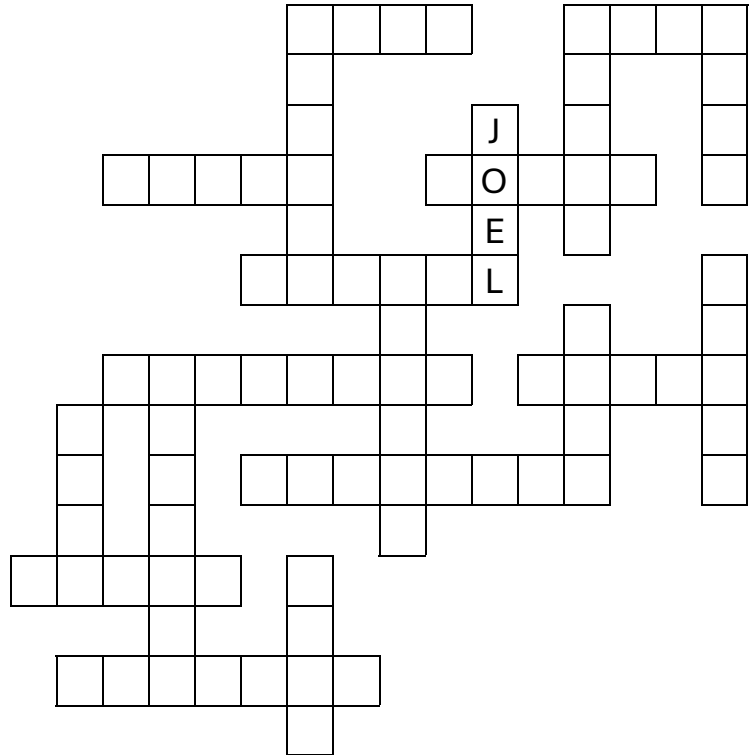
Liz Frost having a great time!

Fellowship Hour

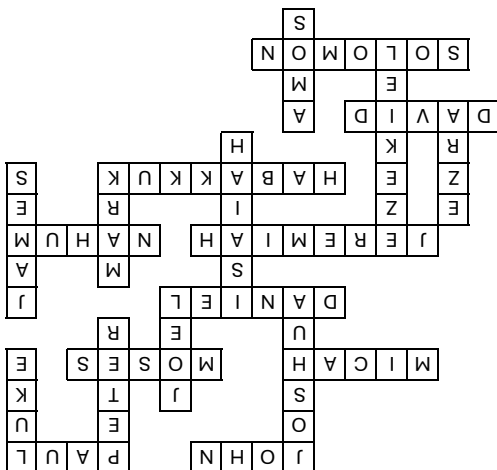
Thanks to **Cal Poly Swing (Dance) Club** who hosted the May Fellowship Hour and taught us how to swing! (Liz Frost was great!) And to all who brought food. And thanks to the **Altar Guild** for the June Fellowship Hour, showing us all their secrets! Currently **Volunteers needed for July and October**. Fellowship is the last Monday of the month at 5.30pm. You can host whatever you want, as long as it brings us together for fellowship.

Bible Scribes

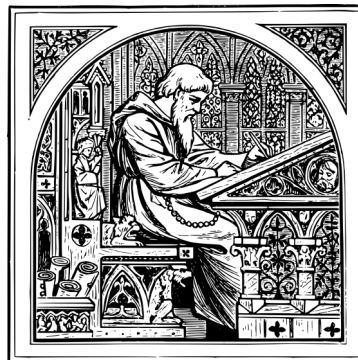
Fit the names of Bible authors in the grid below, crossing off the names as you fit them in. The first name has been added to get you started.



- | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 4 Letters | 5 Letters | 6 Letters | 7 Letters |
| AMOS | DAVID | DANIEL | EZEKIEL |
| EZRA | JAMES | ISAIAH | SOLOMON |
| JÖEL | MICAH | JOSHUA | |
| JOHN | MOSES | | |
| LUKE | NAHUM | | |
| MARK | PETER | 8 Letters | |
| PAUL | | HABAKKUK | |
| | | JEREMIAH | |



Answers:



From: Bible Puzzles, Quizzes & Brain Twisters

Time, Treasure, and Talent: Sunday Services

“Church” to many of us, is the one hour we spend for Sunday morning worship service.

The **Time and Talent** given for just that one hour is astounding.

Here is a list of groups and their members that dedicate themselves to creating a spiritual space for that hour:

Altar Guild: Sophia Agbo, Brenda Enney, Nancy Deovlet, Diane Levison, Mary McCorkle, Stephanie Olsen, Carolyn Platt, Jennifer Sayre

Flower Arrangements: Jayne Bernasconi

Ushers: Jamie Hess, Lynn and Lee Hollister, Shannon Larrabee, Bob and Mary McCorkle, Cheryl McCollum, Jim Murphy, Charleen VonGortler, Bud and Linda Zeuschner

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Sophia Agbo, Elizabeth Frost, Bruno Gilberti, Gina Hafemeister, Diane Levison, Mary McCorkle, Skip Parks, Jennifer Sayre, Martha Schuman

Lectors: Kathryn Bumpass, Bill Grenek, Gina Hafemeister, Jamie Hess, Shannon Larrabee, Diane Levison, Jim Murphy, Jennifer Sayre, Gail Taylor, Bud and Linda Zeuschner

Choir: Nancy Cook, Lia Lilly, Dalna Mills, Rosey Parks (Volunteer Choral Scholar), Kathleen Pennington, Frances Robertson, Spud Schroeder, Ethan Stan, Gail Taylor, Jeff Wainwright, Claire Yee

AV techs for online service and inhouse amplification: Ed Garner, Clark Lewis, Craig McCollum, Stephanie Olsen, Skip Parks, Beau Parks, Kathleen Pennington

Organization of Sunday Volunteers: This rests on one person- Kay Lewis, who inquires of each person's availability, and then miraculously assembles the information into a monthly schedule.

That's over 40 people that strive to make the Sunday morning one hour worship moment a meaningful time for each person attending. And several of them serve in multiple ways, collectively giving of their time in excess of 85 person-hours per week.

The **Treasure**

Items we don't really think about needing to be purchased, but are vital to our Sunday worship are, for example, the wine and wafers for communion, altar linens, paper for the booklets and bulletins and pew information material, heating and lighting, and the internet for our at home congregants. Generous donations by parishioners fund the oil for the candles and flowers for the vases for special occasions and remembrances.

The Treasure part that goes into the services specifically for salaries would of course first be Fr Ian Delinger, our dedicated Priest, Preacher, and Celebrant;

Cassie Tarantino, Choir Director; Marti Lindholm, Organist; Ryan Hartzell, Organist; the paid Choral Scholars: Joseph Lily, Talia Ortega, and for several past years, George Gorrindo.

Unseen but appreciated Stephanie Olsen, Church Secretary who types up the booklets, inserts, and Prayers of the People every week.

The Stewardship Committee encourages you to ponder your personal support in Time, Treasure, and Talent and consider ways to contribute further to maintaining even this one hour of weekly “church.”

- Jennifer Sayre for the Stewardship Committee

I Am Home



Remember those household items you collected for 40 Prado on St Stephen's Day 2022 and 2023?

Well, they are being put to good use! This is from the recent newsletter from Friends of 40 Prado.

The Housing Navigation Program has been a great success! As of March 31, the program had 93 households assigned to a Navigator and actively working on a housing plan. Since the beginning of the program, 73 households have achieved housing.

Deborah was first encountered over a year ago by CAPSLO's SLO City Outreach Team on the Bob Jones Trail. The team coordinated with 40 Prado Homeless Services Center to get Deborah a bed and a case manager. From there, Deborah was referred to the Coordinated Entry Program and eventually was able to secure housing in Paso Robles with the help of Transitions Mental Health Association. Deborah is now living happily with her dog in subsidized housing.

Media Spotlight

By Fr Ian

People regularly ask when my radio show, Playing With Food, broadcasts. I produce a monthly segment on foods of the Central Coast for KCBX public radio 90.1FM. I'm approaching my 100th episode! The segment is broadcast on KCBX on the last Monday of the month during the 1 o'clock hour as part of "Issues & Ideas". Sometimes repeats are broadcast on other Mondays. After broadcast, the episodes are accessible here: www.kcbx.org/podcast/playing-with-food

The reason I flew around the world (other than it was probably my only bucket list thing) was to explore Christian-specific foods. Four of the countries I visited were to explore these foods and to document their history, preparation and sharing. The end result is five videos. It took awhile to finish them because I am not a filmmaker – though I learned all the skills to do this when the pandemic hit! The first three were finished before I finished my sabbatical. The last two, which required translating from Geek into English, were not finished until May!! (Editing video is a very different activity than editing audio, and not something I could dip into for a short time in between other activities.) If you watch the videos, the introduction to each one gives the background of why I wanted to do this. Then, each video takes a journey from the history for the food as it is prepared by a master and making it, and finally the sharing of the food as it is intended. You can find all five videos at <https://tinyurl.com/FrIan-TasteOfFaith>

I'M FR IAN AND I'M
PLAYING WITH FOOD

St. Stephen's

Episcopal Church

Welcoming Worshiping Working

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HAPPY
4th OF
July

REMINDER

The office will be closed for
the July 4th holiday.



**God's Garden
Vacation Bible Camp**

July 29-August 2, 1-5pm

Calling all kids ages 5 to 11! Enjoy a week in God's Garden with fun faith building activities including animals, cooking, crafts, dancing, flowers, games, gardens, lizards, songs, stories and outdoor adventures. \$50 for the first child, \$25 for additional children in the same family. Price includes T-shirt and snacks. Scholarships are available.

Register at **My805Tix.com**
Search for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church as the organization.

Questions? email kapennington@netscape.net

