



# ST. STEPHEN'S

## *Servant*

October 2018

**The Head of the Church:  
Our Lord Jesus Christ**

*Bishop:*

The Rt. Rev. James Russell  
Kendrick

*Rector:*

The Rev. Jo P. Popham

*Senior Warden:*

Jackson Hines

*Junior Warden:*

Mike Watson

*Treasurer:*

Susan Miller

*Parish Administrator:*

Sharon Stearns

*Organist:*

Jason Beasley

*Sexton:*

Willie Merrill, Jr.

*Preschool Director:*

Stephanie Walker

*Vestry Members:*

Mike Watson  
Ashley Feeley  
Emmie Jernigan  
Jackson Hines  
Martha Dismukes  
Russell Smith  
Salem Saloom  
Vivian Layton  
Joe Thomas

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*a bon mot from Jo+...*

Throughout the month of October in our Sunday lectionary readings we will hear much about the character of Job. I would like to draw a parallel of Job's circumstances to that of St. Francis's life, the saint we commemorate on October 4<sup>th</sup> in the church calendar. There is a confluence of the Old Testament readings throughout the month and the observance of the story of Job and St. Francis day and our annual stewardship campaign.

Job was wealthy – enormously wealthy. Francis of Assisi came from great wealth. Many in Brewton believe St. Stephen's to be a wealthy parish. However, I do want to dispel the notion that the theology of wealth is the only factor that ties these three together. Indeed there are more commendable characteristics within this month's Old Testament readings and the life of a revered Saint and the true nature of this parish. Job was a foreigner drawn to God, not by his ethnicity, but by faith. Is that not how we come to God? By choice? God described him as blameless and upright and consistently perfect in integrity.

Job was in a right relationship with God; he was reverent and obedient. Job chose to be good. He was constantly offering sacrifices to God for others who were wasteful and who had made poor choices. Job's faith was tested to determine whether his faith in God was out of love or to seek God's rewards for his goodness.

Francis was born the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. His early years were frivolous, but an experience of sickness and another of military service were instrumental in leading him to reflect on the purpose of life. One day, in a church, he heard Christ saying to him, "Francis, repair my falling house." He took the words literally, and sold a bale of silk from his father's warehouse to pay for repairs to the church. His father was outraged, and there was a public confrontation – his father disinherited – disowned – him, and he in turn renounced his father's wealth. One account says that he not only handed his father his purse, but also took off his expensive clothes, laid them at his father's feet, and walked away naked. He declared himself "wedded to Lady Poverty." He denounced all material possessions, and devoted himself to serving the poor.

In October we will hear in our Old Testament readings that God agreed to the test of Job, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job's body. In the first test he lost all his wealth and his children: his livestock carried off; his servants killed by the sword; and a wind from the desert collapsed his eldest son's home with all the children at the table – all killed. What was Job's response to the loss of his wealth and his family? Just as Francis removed all of his clothes, Job tore his clothes, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshipped God. He did not sin, nor did he blame God. His friends condemned him for his silence. Job was forced into poverty, but Francis's chose the life of poverty. Both devoted themselves to the service of God. Whereas Job was relieved of his wealth by the evil one, Francis chose to live in poverty. Job was stricken with a disease that we might think was very close to leprosy. Francis chose to care for lepers. Job's faith and Francis's faith were both like that of a small child – trusting and guileless. They trusted God the way that our Preschoolers and our young loved ones trust us in our homes and here at the church. Job suffered the loss of property, the death of most of his family, and health, yet he would not deny God or God's dominion. Francis and his companions had no money, and no property, yet they took Jesus's command to preach the Gospel to all nations literally – they went out to preach the love of God in Christ Jesus. They did this by action using words only if necessary. Likewise, St. Stephen's is known for our work in the world, listening to others' laments about their suffering, and feeding others.

*Continued from front page...*

Do we hear God instructing us to take to heart Francis's message to be simple and humble and pure so that we can hold to our faith? And do we hear God speaking to us in the long-suffering person of Job? While we may not like what God is saying, in the testing of Job and the humility of Francis – who were both pure of heart – they can instruct our hearts. Are we being called to show our faith in extraordinary ways here at St. Stephen's? What would that look like? We may not have the conviction of Francis or the patience of Job. We may not have the strength to endure testing as Job did or to take on Lady Poverty as Francis for our beliefs. Are we really called to do that? Or are we called to show extravagant gratitude for all we have been given by God? I believe we are so called. Can we use what we have, our possessions, our time, and our talents to exhibit our faith and our trust in God? I believe we are so called.

Do we hear those callings?

## **What's Happening Next!**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 am in the parish hall. Join these faithful early-risers once a month for great company and the best two dollar breakfast in town!

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:** Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm. We are inviting you to bring your pets to the church and allow us to thank God for them and to ask His blessing upon them. Please make plans now to join us!

**HARVEST FELLOWSHIP MEAL:** Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup> after the 10 o'clock service. Please join us after church in the parish hall for fellowship and a delicious meal.

**VESTRY MEETING:** Will be on Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm in the parish hall.

**AED:** Our AED is now mounted on the wall across from our church office. If you would like to help endow the AED, please, donate to the church with "Heartbeat Project" in the memo line of your check.

**A NOTE FROM JO+:** If you would like to be part of worship and our extended worship by serving as a Eucharistic minister or visitor, please, see Jo.

**NOON HOLY EUCHARIST HEALING SERVICE:** Join us on Wednesdays for our Noon Healing Holy Eucharist and Intercessory Prayer.

**PRAYER LIST:** Please help us keep the prayer list up to date by calling or sending an e-mail to the church office to let us know if a name needs to be added or removed. (867-4545 or [st.stephens4545@gmail.com](mailto:st.stephens4545@gmail.com)) If you add someone to the list, if possible, please let us know their mailing address so the prayer group will have it when they mail out cards.



10/01 Nona Maddox	10/10 Katie Peavy	10/20 Liz Knowles
10/04 Martha Dismukes	10/12 Wesley Maddox	10/22 Patrick Saloom
10/04 Emily Sasser	10/13 Kate Najor	10/25 James Feeley
10/04 Kathryn Cope	10/16 Rachel Stinson	10/30 Colby Morris
10/05 Kelly Klenk	10/16 Robert Knowles	10/31 Michael Feeley
10/07 Collin McMillan	10/18 Abbott Thomas	10/31 Paul Owens



10/11 Burgin & Susan Kent  
10/18 Travis & Peyton Bethea  
10/20 Randal & Wendi Huff

**Save the Date!**  
**Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Harvest Fellowship Meal**  
**after the 10 o'clock service**

**A Note from the Preschool Director, Stephanie Walker:**  
Church Supper was a big hit with the preschool families. Over half of our students signed up to come with guests. A few were sick, but we still had 100 friends for supper. When you add church members to that mix we had quite a crowd. The food was delicious and the entertainment was great!



Visit our website at [www.ststephensbrewton.com](http://www.ststephensbrewton.com) where the calendar, the most recent Servant newsletter, recent sermons, and upcoming events can easily be found.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<u>MEN'S BREAKFAST</u> 7:00 am <u>Ben. Fund.</u> 8:30 am <u>BAC MTG.</u> 5:15 pm <u>AA and AL-ANON</u> 8pm	<u>Food Pantry:</u> 9-11 am <b>Healing Eucharist</b> 12 pm	<u>AA</u> 8 pm		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10:00 am H.E. with The Rev. Jo Popham  Blessing of the Animals 6:00 pm		<u>AA and AL-ANON</u> 8pm	<u>Food Pantry:</u> 9-11 am <b>Healing Eucharist</b> 12 pm	<u>AA</u> 8 pm		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:00 am H.E. with The Rev. Jo Popham <b>FELLOWSHIP MEAL</b> 		<b>Vestry Meeting</b> 5:00 pm  <u>AA and AL-ANON</u> 8pm	<u>Food Pantry:</u> 9-11 am <b>Healing Eucharist</b> 12 pm	<u>AA</u> 8 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:00 am H.E. with The Rev. Jo Popham		<u>AA and AL-ANON</u> 8pm	<u>Food Pantry:</u> 9-11 am <b>Healing Eucharist</b> 12 pm	<u>AA</u> 8 pm		
28	29	30	31			
10:00 am H.E. with The Rev. Jo Popham		<u>AA and AL-ANON</u> 8pm	<u>Food Pantry:</u> 9-11 am <b>Healing Eucharist</b> 12 pm			

OCTOBER SCHEDULE	October 7 <sup>th</sup>	October 14 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	October 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Chalice Bearers</b>	George Painter Steve Layton	Mike Watson Thad Moore	Salem Saloom Dianne Saloom	Ray Robertson Steve Layton
<b>Readers</b>	Michael Feeley Sandy English Perri McMillan	George Painter Betty Jean Low Dianne Saloom	Ray Robertson Dennis Joyner Vivian Layton	Salem Saloom Mike Watson John Jernigan
<b>Crucifer Acolyte</b>	Brooks Feeley Cam Knapp	Turner Smith McGowin Bethea	Lyon Jernigan Cam Knapp	Blake Jernigan Turner Smith
<b>Ushers</b>	Gary Miller Dennis Joyner	Joe Thomas Brad Byrne	Jackson Hines Michael Feeley	Cameron Knapp Broox Garrett
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Heidi Knapp Liz Knowles	Debbie Thomas Dianne Saloom	Sandra Robertson Vivian Layton	Gisela Jordan Mary McClelland
<b>Flower Ministry: Preparer(P) Delivery (D)</b>	Perri McMillan (P) Ed & Perri McMillan(D)	Dianne Saloom (P) Joe & Debbie Thomas (D)	Vivian Layton (P) Vivian Layton (D)	Gisela Jordan (P) Gisela Jordan (D)



## OUTREACH UPDATE



**The St. Stephen's "Food Pantry Ministry":** Our Food Pantry distributes food on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 am. *Last month, we served 142 families, including 4 new families, which provided food for 295 people.* Items needed for the food pantry are mac & cheese, canned chicken, soup, spaghetti sauce & noodles and other canned goods. Also, we need plastic grocery bags. Please bring any of these items by the church or to church with you on Sunday to place in the little red wagon. ***A special thanks to the Woodmen Life Brewton Chapter 30 for their generous donation to our food pantry.***

**"Flowers for Friends" (Flower Ministry):** Each Sunday, a group of volunteers takes the flowers from our altar, rearranges them into small arrangements, and delivers them to those who are sick, lonely, injured, or in a nursing home or assisted living facility. This is such a wonderful way to bless others in God's name. You can sign up to either help arrange or deliver, or both! You will be put on a scheduled rotation which is included in the *Servant* each month. If you are not a part of this team, consider signing up! It is such a beautiful ministry of love.

**Toiletries for Inmates:** When you travel, please bring back any unopened hotel containers of soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, toothpaste, shower gel, and deodorant from hotel stays during your travels. There is a large need for these items at the local jail. Please, put them in the basket @ the back of the church or in the church office.

**Ronald McDonald House:** In the Narthex (and other locations around the church), there are boxes for tab tops from beverage cans. These go to help with the ministry of the Ronald McDonald House. Please, collect those little tab tops at your homes and leave them in the boxes. *A special thanks to all that have turned in tab tops.*

## DIOCESAN EVENTS

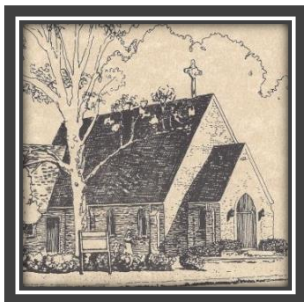
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# ST. STEPHEN'S

*at the corner of Escambia and Peavy – where the sacred and the secular meet*

"To know Christ ourselves and to make him known in the world."

October 2018

### ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE  
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