

## ST. STEPHEN'S NEWS

**Today Sunday, September 18, 2022**

*The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Proper 20*

### WELCOME!

If you are worshipping at St. Stephen's for the first time today, you are welcome to share in the Holy Communion. Please fill out a "Visitor" card at one of the Greeters tables and/or the guest book on the podium before you leave and get a welcome packet.

### COMMUNION

If you are in need of a gluten free wafer during Communion, please let an usher know before the offertory or let one of the persons serving the host know. If you have a mobility problem, please let an usher know before the service begins and communion will be brought to you.

### LOOKING FORWARD



#### Does God Have a Gender?

Please join us at 9:00 am on Sunday, September 18th in Spurling Hall as Linda Allport, Dean of Bloy House, leads us through a very interactive discussion exploring the biblical, cultural, and traditional aspects of the gender of God, and whether or not it matters.



**SAGES Movie Day**  
**September 22nd at**  
**1:00pm**  
**Laemmle Newhall**  
22500 Lyons Ave,  
Newhall, CA 91321

**SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
24901 ORCHARD VILLAGE ROAD, SANTA CLARITA

## The Welcome Table

*Worship by, for, and with the LGBTQ+ community!  
We begin by gathering at tables for community and conversation and then gather around a different kind of table for worship, including Communion, to which absolutely everyone is invited and welcome and conclude with dessert and discussion.*

*The Welcome Table*

The third Wednesday of each month at 7PM in Spurling Hall

Our next Welcome Table is on Wednesday,  
September 21st!

To sign up to bring food to share for dinner,  
please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/2vevup3n>



**Racism? Bullying?**  
**Discrimination in Schools?**  
Join us **Sunday morning, Sept. 25** at 11:45 in Spurling Hall for the 2022-23 kick-off of St. Stephen's Anti-Racism Coalition's "Sunday Forums". **We will be**

**welcoming Dr. Cherise Moore**, a member of the William S. Hart Union High School District's Board of Trustees and one of the original co-chairs of the Santa Clarita Human Relations Roundtable, who will tell us what the district is doing to combat all three of the above in our Santa Clarita high schools and middle schools. Dr. Moore will share childhood memories of her mother and grandmother who grew up in the South and provided her the inspiration to change the course of people's lives through the power of education. She will also discuss the measures that the Hart District is taking to deal with societal issues that lead to these negative behaviors.

Having worked with educators across the country, Dr. Moore is extremely passionate about providing a high-quality education to EVERY student. Emphasizing a "students first / parents

as partners” philosophy,” her major areas of concentration have always included “...*focusing on student equity and inclusiveness, investing in the physical and mental health of students, and ensuring the district recruits and retains highly skilled educators who will continue to provide excellence in education for all students.*”

Prior to becoming a Hart District Trustee, Dr. Moore held various educational positions both within and outside of the Hart District, including elementary, adult education, and high school teaching positions, adult school director, and district-level administrative positions in both Chandler, AZ, and Burbank, CA.

Becoming the first African American board president for the William S. Hart Union High School District during a global pandemic and a racial reckoning meant that a lot of weight was put on what she did at board meetings.

Dr. Edel Alonso, president of College of the Canyons’ Governing Board, describes Dr. Moore as “...*having an extensive understanding of how educational institutions work, ...how instruction and support services go hand in hand to ensure student success, ... and how open, respectful dialogues result in decisions that move us forward.*”



**JOIN ST. STEPHEN'S AT  
THE WALK TO END  
ALZHEIMER'S OCT 8<sup>th</sup>**

Each year thousands of people participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s here in Santa Clarita, to help raise funds towards creating a world without Alzheimer’s and all other forms of dementia. This disease has affected so many families, including those within our parish. Our church community is supporting the efforts of the Alzheimer’s Association via our very own St. Stephen’s team. The Walk is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, and we invite all to join us. You may learn more about the Walk and can donate and/or join our team via this link:

<http://act.alz.org/goto/ststephens>

## Blessing of the Animals

**Saturday, October 1, 2022 at 10:00am  
Courtyard**

Bring your camp chairs and your pets and come celebrate!

Bring photos of your pets if you can't bring them to the service, as well as your stuffed animals! Please send names to the office of pets that have died in the past year so that they can be remembered during the service.



When asked what was the greatest of God’s commandments, our Lord answered that it was loving God and loving others. So, the two are connected. When we truly love God, we connect to others. When we love others, we connect to God. Our loving others is loving God. Engaging our Christian faith means reaching out to others and ministering to them. It’s showing them the love of God through us. Being involved in a ministry, loving others and giving of our gifts, is how we love our God, it’s how we engage our faith.

Michael Branda and the Stewardship Committee



### Food Collection

Thank you very much to everyone who has made donations to our monthly food collection! **Your**

**generosity has helped so many people in our community.** We routinely collect donations on the first Saturday of each month unless it falls on a holiday – **our next collection is Saturday morning, Oct.1<sup>st</sup> from 9-11:00.**

Especially thank you for reading this article each month to make note of the changes and bringing in contributions listed under “Urgently Needed” or “Always Needed Items”. **Watch this column for next month’s “needed” details.**

The non-profit organizations we regularly support often have varying needs depending on their mission and the clients they serve.

**Family Promise** serves homeless families in the Santa Clarita Valley area and often have a need for diapers or pull-ups. They provide transitional family housing for 30 - 90 days depending on the circumstances, so they also have a need for detergents and cleaning supplies. Find more at <https://www.familypromisescv.org/family-promise-of-scv/>.

**Bridge To Home** (BTH) provides shelter primarily for individuals vulnerable to homelessness. Their needs routinely include large boxes of healthy cereal and protein bars. They also ask for underwear, socks, and tee shirts, especially in cooler months. BTH serves over 1000 people a year and has space for 60 individuals. They’re open 365/24/7. Find more details at <https://btohome.org/>.

Most of our donations go to the **Santa Clarita Valley Food Pantry** who distributes food on a short-term, need-basis. They aid a wide variety of clientele including disabled individuals, the recently unemployed, elderly, college students, and more. Find their information at <https://www.scvfoodpantry.org/>.

We also take donations to the Church of Hope (ELCA), BaNC at College of the Canyons, and the Child and Family Center.

If you have questions or you’d like to volunteer to help with collections, please contact Mary Jo Higginbotham at [maryjohigg@gmail.com](mailto:maryjohigg@gmail.com).

Are you looking for a way to help out our homeless families in Santa Clarita? Here are some opportunities:

**Volunteer at the upcoming Golf Tournament**  
Contact Rachel

Rieckhoff, [rachel@familypromisescv.org](mailto:rachel@familypromisescv.org)

**Volunteer throughout the year!**

<https://www.familypromisescv.org/volunteer/>



## Did You Know??

Beginning in the 2022/2023 school year members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church are eligible for a

10% discount on their monthly preschool tuition. There are still openings for the 202e/2023 school year! For more information or to schedule a tour, please call Melanie at (661) 259-8527 or email her at [director@st-stephens.org](mailto:director@st-stephens.org).

## Volunteers Needed!



*At Fostering Youth Independence, we believe that education is the key to overcoming a shaky foundation and unlocking doors to a successful future. Our mission is to equip foster youth to complete post-secondary education and become successful, independent adults.*

## Be part of a caring community for foster youth

We are currently seeking **FYI Allies** to work directly with SCV foster youth, ages 16-25, to make sure they obtain the resources they need and cheer them on as they work to complete a post-secondary education.



*Attend our Ally Training Session on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church. Email [dallen@fyifosteryouth.org](mailto:dallen@fyifosteryouth.org) to register.*



**FOSTERING YOUTH INDEPENDENCE**

[www.fyifosteryouth.org](http://www.fyifosteryouth.org)

661-360-1500

## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

We should never wait for an annual event to celebrate someone's ethnic background. However, this monthly celebration gives all Americans a special opportunity to honor the respective cultures, ancestral backgrounds, and achievements of Hispanic Americans.

**The 2022 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Theme is "Unidos: Inclusivity for a Stronger Nation."** The theme encourages us to ensure that all voices are represented and welcomed to help build stronger communities and a stronger nation.

The Hispanic Heritage observance began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson. It was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover the 30-day period.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census data, the Hispanic population hit 62.1 million - making Hispanics the largest minority group in the country. **Newborns are driving much of the Hispanic population growth, as immigration declined between 2010 and 2019.** This is a reversal of historical trends.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for the United States Military to honor both fallen and active-duty Hispanic Americans who served in the armed forces. **Sixty-one people of Hispanic heritage have been awarded the Medal of Honor.**

**There are 20 Hispanic countries and one territory:** Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



### GIVING TO ST. STEPHEN'S

If you are able to continue supporting the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, you can pay your pledge or make a new or recurring donation online here [st-stephens.org/giving](https://st-stephens.org/giving). As you may have heard, you can now also text your donation by texting the word GIVE to 661.228.8909 and following the prompts. Click here for an easy [How To Use Text Giving guide](#). We are deeply grateful for your commitment and support.

### Contact Us

**Rev. Christopher Montella - Rector:**  
[christopher@st-stephens.org](mailto:christopher@st-stephens.org)

**Church Office:** [office@st-stephens.org](mailto:office@st-stephens.org)

**Melanie Long – Director of Children's Education & Formation:** [director@st-stephens.org](mailto:director@st-stephens.org)

**Vestry:** [vestry@st-stephens.org](mailto:vestry@st-stephens.org)

**Youth Coordinator:**  
[stephanie@st-stephens.org](mailto:stephanie@st-stephens.org)



If you wish to have your birthday or anniversary prayed for during the service, if you would like a white rose to signify a death in your family or a red rose to signify a birth in your family, please email Tracy at [office@st-stephens.org](mailto:office@st-stephens.org) no later than **5PM on Thursdays** with all of the relevant details.

## St. Stephen's Prayer List

**On-Going Needs:** Joanne, Mary Lou

Current Needs: Susan, Byron, Wilson, Bree, Silvio, Liam and parents, Jake, April, Lucia, Victoria, Tina, Barbara, Kim, Sister Miriam, Joy, Chrissy, Anthony, Pat, Uriel, Lucia, Pam, Denny, Greg, Alex, Karen, Ruth, Bill, Kathy, Linda, Mary, David, Natalie, Ann Marie, Amy, Christine, Chuck, Don, **Bill**

**Rest in Peace:** Manuel Encinas, Raymond Steptoe, Aubrey, Verna Alexander, Refugio Joe Marquez, Queen Elizabeth II, **Barry Alton Gero, Charles Stearns Kendall**

**If you would like to have prayers for yourself or someone else, please email Peggy Stabile at [pstabile@pegasus2.net](mailto:pstabile@pegasus2.net) or call the church office at 661.259.7307. Please be aware that your prayer request content will be shared with the members of the prayer chain. If you wish for Peggy to hold your prayer request in confidence, please clarify that in your submission. Prayer requests remain active for 4 weeks and must be renewed thru Peggy or the office to be on the list again.**

St. Stephen's Week	September 18, 2022 to September 25, 2022
<b>TODAY'S SERVICES 7:45am &amp; 10:00am</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 9/18</b>	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
9:00-9:45am	Forum: Does God Have a Gender? / Spurling Hall
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) - VPOD Sheri Flay
10:00am	Sunday School / Lounge
<b>MONDAY 9/19</b>	
4:30-6:30pm	Den Mtg. 57 / Spurling Hall & CY
6:45-9:30pm	Troop 2019 / Spurling Hall & CY
7:30pm	AA / Lounge
<b>TUESDAY 9/20</b>	
5:15-8:00pm	Den Mtg. 57 / Spurling Hall & CY
6:00pm	Finance Committee meeting via Zoom
<b>WED. 9/21</b>	
7:00am	Holy Eucharist
9:30am	Circle of Gratitude via Zoom <a href="#">Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting</a>
6:00pm	EfM / Room 8
6:00pm	AA / Lounge
7:00pm	The Welcome Table / Spurling Hall
7:45pm	SAA / Lounge
<b>THURS. 9/22</b>	
1:00pm	SAGES Movie Day / Laemmle Theatre
6:30-9:00pm	Troop 2222 / Courtyard
7:30pm	Parish Choir Rehearsal / Church
<b>FRIDAY 9/23</b>	
9:00am	AA / Lounge
6:30pm	Pack 57 meeting / Spurling Hall
7:30pm	AA / Lounge
<b>SAT. 9/24</b>	
<b>NEXT SUNDAY 9/25</b>	
7:45am	Holy Eucharist
10:00am	Holy Eucharist (also streamed via Facebook Live) - VPOD Bob Gregor
10:00am	Sunday School / Spurling Hall
11:45am	ARC Forum with Dr. Cherise Moore - Spurling Hall

