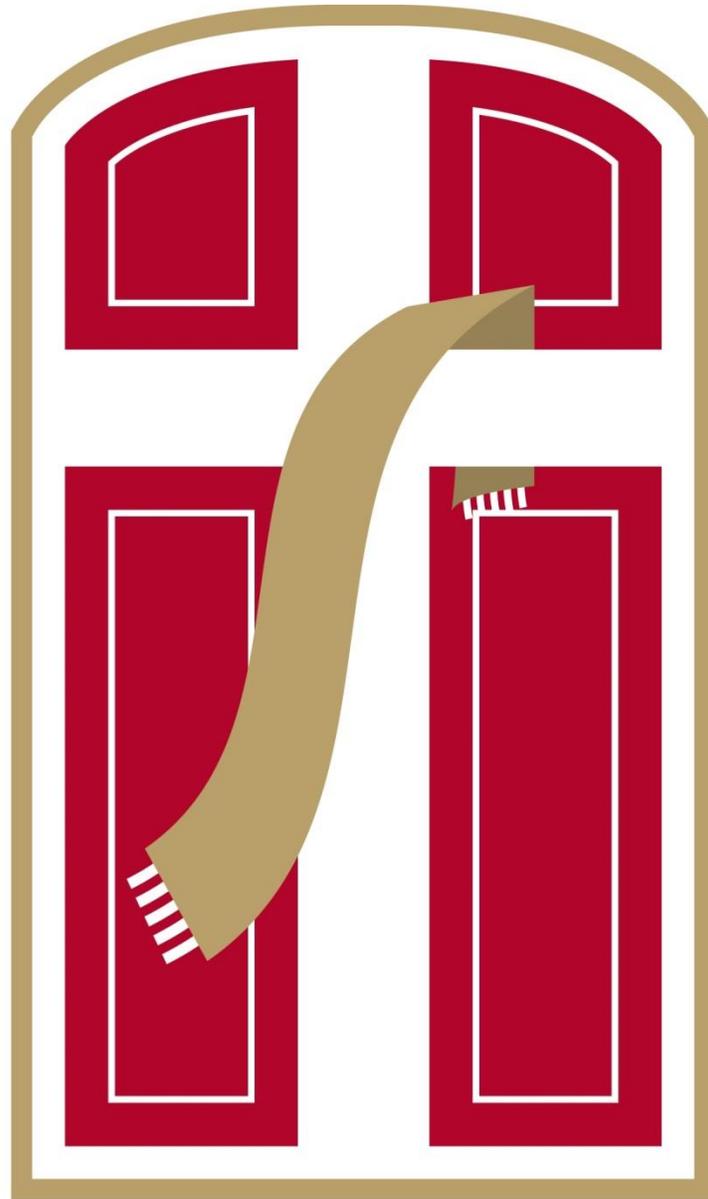


ST. STEPHEN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TO BE FULL OF FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (ACTS 6:5)



**Annual Parish Meeting 2018
For year ending 12~31~2017**

Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

Prayer for Church Convocations and Meetings

II. Approval of Minutes of January 2017 Meeting

III. Elections

A. Reading the Requirements

B. Prayer for discernment

C. Election

1. Vestry (3)
2. Convention Delegates (2)

IV. Lunch

V. Business

- A. Rector Report
- B. Senior Warden Report (Jerry Fillebrown)
- C. Facilities Report (Jr. Warden, Craig Summer)
- D. Financial Report (Jerry Fillebrown)
- E. Announcement of Election
- F. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry
- G. Installation of New Vestry
- H. Prayer For All Ministries

VI. Prayer for the Parish and Dismissal

Prayer for the Parish:

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of thy servants, and grant unto our parish family of St. Stephen's all things necessary for our spiritual welfare: schools to train us in thy faith and fear, ministers to labor in our community of Sherman, a church restored and maintained in the beauty of holiness. Strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy Holy Catholic Church; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth one God, world without end. Amen.

Minutes from Annual Meeting 2017

The Annual Parish Meeting was called to order with prayer by Fr. J. Wesley Evans at 9:50 am Sunday, January 29, 2017.

Elections:

Vestry: A slate of three (3) Vestry nominees was presented to the parish by the Vestry nominating committee: Ed Colvin, Jerry Fillebrown & Bobby Rice were nominated and the floor was opened for additional nominees. No further nominations were made and a motion was put forward by Kenneth Crawford and seconded by Helen Perkins that the slate put forward be elected by acclamation. The motion passed and the slate was approved by acclamation.

Diocesan Delegates: Nominations for Delegates to the 2017 Diocesan Convention were made from the floor.

St. Stephen's parish is currently allotted two delegates.

Nominees: Jerry Fillebrown, Craig Summer, Don Tomlinson.

David Stone moved that the nominations cease. The motion was seconded by Pamela Colvin. Fillebrown & Summer were elected as delegates; Tomlinson was elected as alternate.

Following a short break for lunch the annual reports by the Rector (Rev. J. Wesley Evans), Senior Warden (Donald Tomlinson), Junior Warden (Craig Summer) and Treasurer (Carla Self) were presented.

Individual ministry and organization reports were available in the meeting packet and heads of ministries and organizations were invited to make comments.

A period of time was set aside for testimonials and "Blue Sky" aspirations of those in attendance to be expressed.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Elections

Requirements for Vestry

Minimum Requirements:

1. Confirmed member "in good standing"* of St. Stephen's Parish.
2. Over 18 years of age.
3. A giver of record for at least (1) year prior to the annual meeting.
4. Undergo a basic criminal and sexual offender background check. (Having an event on record is not disqualifying in itself but may require a discussion or removal at the discretion of the Rector.)
5. Complete Diocesan required Safe Church Training on prevention of child abuse and sexual harassment. (To be done after election, failure to complete will result in removal from the Vestry.)

*"Faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God" (Title I, Canon 17, sec 3)

Responsibilities of the Vestry:

1. Maintain the "temporalities" (physical and material aspects) of the Parish. These include all the financial resources as well as keeping the property in good condition.
2. Act as an advisory council to the Rector/Priest-in-Charge.
3. Attended all Vestry meetings (third Tuesday each month).
4. Continue to be faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

General Expectations:

1. Be a person of prayer.
2. Dedicated to living out the Baptismal Covenant in consistent attendance of worship, personal discipleship, holiness of life, and outreach to others.
3. Adhere to and support the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of The Episcopal Church.

Requirements for Delegates

Minimum Requirements:

1. Confirmed member "in good standing"* of St. Stephen's Parish.
2. Over 18 years of age.

*"Faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God" (Title I, Canon 17, sec 3)

Responsibilities:

1. Attend the Diocesan Convention in November, or any other special Diocesan Convention which may arise.
2. Continue to be faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

General Expectations:

1. Be a person of prayer.
2. Dedicated to living out the Baptismal Covenant in consistent attendance of worship, personal discipleship, holiness of life, and outreach to others.
3. Adhere to and support the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of The Episcopal Church.

State of the Parish- 2018

Greetings St. Stephen's family!

As we begin 2018 I want to thank each of you for all the work, effort, and personal sacrifice you have put into our move towards a stronger and healthier Parish. I know the journey so far has not been easy, nor can I guarantee it will be in the future. What I can promise, however, is that as we continue to do God's will in Sherman under the blessing and encouragement of our bishop that God himself is with us on this road.

We've had several successes this past year. We added ten new persons who've joined us for regular worship, and I'm confident we'll continue to see growth in this coming year. We had an amazingly successful Halloween Outreach that saw around two hundred children have a positive experience at a Church. Though this has not yet turned into new members, it did strengthen our connections to the community and resulted in several good conversations about Jesus which we can trust God will continue to be at work in their lives through those interactions. We continue to support Wakefield Elementary, and in addition to the back to school supply drive and Chrismon Tree we added a snack drive for students and teachers during their end of year testing. We've seen an increase in attendance at adult Bible Study as well. God's people grow as they study his Word and continue to remain open to the Holy Spirit. Therefore this is a good sign for the growing health of the Parish as Disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has also blessed us with a new organist, reviving our musical offering for his glory! God is glorified when his people sing praise, and it has been a joy to hear us in worship and adoration to our creator and savior.

Look forward this coming year to strengthen our outreach by community participation in downtown Mardi Gras, Christmas in July, the Arts and Crafts Fair, and the Snowflake Fest. We'll also start working more closely with one or two other community organizations to expand our mission's efforts. Personally I hope to see more co-operation with our brothers and sisters at the other two Episcopal Parishes in Grayson County as well! Entering 2018 there are several ministries which are undergoing revival. Our homebound list has been updated and revised and to address this we're reviving our Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry which has begun to deteriorate. In addition we're starting to train new Acolytes and Servers/LEMs and retrain existing to account for our now combined 9:30 Eucharist. There is also the opportunity to be part of a prayer group which will likely connect with the Diocese's involvement in the Harvest Prayer Network. More information will follow this year, but for now if you're gifted in prayer this ministry may be for you! To support these and other projects in connection with our Parish life there is now a new Project Board in the Parish Hall. On it you will find a list of various things in and outside the Parish needed with what skills and talents needed for that Project. Whatever gifts God has given and whatever calling he may have placed on your life may find fulfillment in one of those, so begin taking a look at it regularly! We have made progress towards revitalization, we have touched people's lives with the Gospel, and we have continued to worship our Lord and God in the beauty of holiness. We need to continue to trust God and his grace as we enter this new year.

For the rest of our plan in 2018 please see the Congregational Development Plan given separately. 2017 Year end data is below.

2017 Year Data:

ASA	46
Functional Membership (Active, >= 16 y.o., Baptized)	61
Percentage ASA of Functional Membership / With 16 or under	75% / 70%
Children under 16: Active / Inactive	1 / 3
New Members and Parishioners	10
Homebound	11
Inactive	10
Adult Membership (Active, Homebound, and Inactive*; >=16 y.o.) *Those Inactive and no contact for full year or those known to attend another church but still have their letter at SSEC are not counted.	82
Baptized (Under 16 / 16 or Over)	1 / 0
Confirmed (Under 16 / 16 or Over)	0 / 0
Matrimony	1
Requiem	3
Alms Given	\$3478.80

Sr. Warden Annual Report - January 28, 2018

Section 13.4 Annually, at a Parish Meeting, the Rector or Minister and the Senior Warden or, in case of his inability to act, the Junior Warden, shall present a full and faithful account of the condition of the Parish. (b) The account of the Senior Warden shall include [1] what money, lands, or other property have been received during the preceding year, from what source, and the value of same, [2] all offerings, the purpose for which each has been made being separately stated, [3] for what object the offerings have been expended, and the amount being stated, [4] what property has been purchased, exchanged, mortgaged, sold or otherwise alienated or encumbered, and for what purpose, [5] what debts have been contracted and what debts previously contracted are owing, [6] and what improvements have been made, with the cost thereof.

Assets received:

Dorsett foundation \$ 1,500.00
Grace Trust Endowment \$ 400,000 plus to be booked in 2018
Suman-Mitchell Trust \$ 8,978.10

Assets transferred:

From reserve funds for operating budget \$ 45,487.35
From reserve funds for HVAC improvements \$ 50,000.00

Offerings received:

Pledges \$ 107,386.48
Plate \$ 39,022.89
Designated Flowers \$ 3685.00

Offerings expended:

Operating Expenses \$256,587.46

Property Encumbered:None

Debts Contracted or Owing:None

Improvements Made:

HVAC system for Nave and Sacristy

A detailed financial report is posted in the Parish hall on a regular basis.

It is apparent that Pledges did not cover the basic operating costs of the Parish.

Fr. Evans and I have received the good news from Bishop Summers that he wants St. Stephen's to be a permanent and growing Church in Sherman. To meet the Bishop's goals, the Vestry will use reserve funds to continue renovation of the Church as well as supplement Revenues to operate and maintain the property in a clean and inviting manner.

The Parish now has an account that will allow direct transfer of securities from a donor's account to the parish Investment account for Income Tax purposes. This will allow you to take full advantage of Federal Income Tax rules pertaining to gifts of securities to a charity.

I want to express the appreciation of the Parish for the service of the retiring Vestey members: Ken Crawford, Sally Fillebrown, and Helen Perkins.

In addition, I thank Fr. Evans for the privilege of Serving as his Sr. Warden for the 2017 term of office.

Respectfully submitted, **Jerry Fillebrown, Senior Warden.**

Financial Report: Year End 2017

The year of 2017 continues as a transition year to work toward complying with the Diocese Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs.

BANK ACCOUNTS balances from the Bank Statements as of 12/31/17

◆ General Fund	\$ 68,229.17
◆ Ministry Fund	\$ 550.76
◆ Temporary Restricted Funds	\$176,661.03
○ Flowers	2,105.28
○ Memorial	7,140.71
○ 2nd Century	112,525.41
○ Altar Guild	2,116.78
○ Organ	9,654.33
○ Missions	1,068.42
○ Choir	1,144.89
○ Columbarium Cost	3,845.19
○ Colum. Donation	20,345.55
○ DOK	1,397.15
○ Brotherhood	479.72
○ Mini Shop	946.98
○ EYC	1,144.00
○ Special Projects	234.03
○ Fellowship	1,439.97
○ YahtzTea	<u>1,072.57</u>
	176,661.03

Annual Budget 2018

01	GENERAL FUND	Income	
4030	General Fund		87,293
4031	Suman-Mitchell-Jones Trust		5,000
4033	Endowment Distribution		<u>35,000</u>
		Income Totals:	127,293

01	GENERAL FUND	Expense	
5045	Diocesan Assessment		20,360
5061-001	Rector Salary		47,400
5064-004	Rector's Health Insurance		19,536
5066-006	Rector's Life Insurance Detail		219
5067-007	Rector's Dental & Vision		1,088
5068-008	Rector's Pension Fund		18,082
5071-001	Supply Clergy Salary		980
5155	Parish Administrator		17,280
5175	Nursery Attendant		2,385

5195	Organist	4,275
5268-008	Staff Pension	691
5305	Payroll Taxes	1,866
5310	Workers Comp Insurance	324
5414	Other Advertising	300
5425	Altar Supplies	1,165
5430	Office Supplies	200
5440	Postage	120
5450	Printing & Publications	115
5490	Professional Services	4,250
5520	Church Phone & Internet	2,053
5555	Website	219
5583	Copier Lease	2,638
5610	Insurance	13,422
5635	Gas, Electric, & Water	13,380
5710	Janitorial/General Supply	600
5730	Pest Control	660
5740	Repairs/Maintenance	3,600
5820	Lawn Service	800
6205	Church School Education	200
6220	Professional Development	600
6320	Special Events & Outreach	250
6330	Rector Hospitality	100
6460	Rector's Cell phone	600
6465	Rectory Utilities	3,400
6470	Rectory Repairs	1,200
6475	Rectory Pest Control	200
6580	Diocesan Events	150
6585	Travel Expense	<u>50</u>

Expense Totals: 184,758

Respectfully Submitted, **Jerry Fillebrown, Senior Warden. Helen Summer, Parish Administrator**

Junior Warden Report - 2017

2017 has been another busy year for those involved in the preservation, upkeep and improvements to our buildings and grounds. So many people have taken on a role of caretaker and curator of our facilities. Each member of the parish must be commended for their support and concern for our parish home.

The continued efforts of Ed Colvin as Sexton provide an invaluable asset to St. Stephen's. Ed & Pam have offered their time, talents and treasure to insure that each member of the parish has clean, well maintained and comfortable surroundings in which to worship and bring friends and newcomers.

Steve Keller has once again donated his time and tractor to keep our Crockett Street lots mowed. This is no small effort as he must drive his machine to our location on city streets. Kudos to Steve for his generous contribution to our parish.

This year saw the long awaited replacement of the antiquated, inefficient and unreliable Heating & Air Conditioning systems for our beautiful main church. The contract for this work was awarded to Markl & Sons who worked tirelessly with us to insure we had the most up to date and cost efficient systems. **Final cost of this project: \$43, 286.81** Payment for this major improvement was covered by our 2nd Century Building Fund with a cash infusion (\$50,000) from the St. Stephens Investment Trust.

Small additional expenses for minor electrical and fencing to protect exterior components were completed in 2018 and will be reported next year.

An unexpected repair project occurred when a water heater leak at the Rectory resulted in significant damage to the property. An insurance claim was made and to date no additional Parish funds have been expended. Repairs are ongoing at the time of this report.

Insurance monies paid to Texas Disaster Restoration to date: \$40,688.67

The following is a partial listing of Building & grounds projects competed this year:

January:

- Changed out all light bulbs in the Library
- Worked on church heaters every week to keep them operating

February:

- Worked on church heaters every week to keep them operating
- Changed out several light in the church

March:

- Worked on church heaters every week to keep them operating
- Changed out light in the church
- Repaired lock on parlor door
- Lock Doc repaired lock on east red door of church (\$50.00)
- Had emergency repair to metal ridge cap of church (\$295.00)
- Changed all AC filters
- Hung curtain in counting /storage room
- Worked on clean-up of garth March 25th

April:

- Worked on Church Heaters/AC weekly to keep in operating condition
- Worked on Garth Clean-Up April 1
- Worked on round 2 of Garth Clean-Up April
- Changed out several lights in the Church
- Replaced broken TV/DVD in Nursery (donated by Ed & Pam Colvin)
- Solicited bids and met with painting contractors to completely refurbish all exterior wooden trim, doors etc.

May:

- Worked on church heaters/AC weekly to keep them operating
- Repaired holes at the Rectory where rats were getting into the attic & walls
- Changed light over the choir seating
- Calked around windows in the church
- Replaced both faucets and supply lines in kitchen
- Replaced AC filters
- Replaced hose on vacuum
- Crockett Street lots mowed
- Collecting bids on exterior painting project... waiting for additional written proposals
- Consulting numerous area HVAC contractors to begin heat & cooling project

June:

- Installed electric line and plug for AC unit in handicap bathroom
- Removed trees from west side of church and trimmed hedges
- Removed rotten board and old exhaust ports from west side of church-replaced with new access door for cleaning out basement
- Condensation line on AC in chapel stopped up-cleaned out and sucked water from carpet
- Removed dried foliage stalks from mass planting daylilies around church and office

July:

- Replaced bar clips in freezer
- Replaced knob on grill
- Replaced altar light
- Lots on Crockett Street mowed
- Met with Flores Air & Heat; Lewis Painting Contractor to discuss bids
- Cleaned & re-organized Storage Room and Fellowship supplies

August:

- Changed all AC filters
- Reinforced the table used to support the pancake griddle
- Overhead Can light in the church came loose—re-installed it
- Parlor Door latch fixed so door will lock
- Met with Public Adjustor & Insurance adjustor to go over additional roof damage

September:

- Install emergency light-accessible bathroom
- Repair all exit lights- education wing
- Repair panic bar –upstairs exit door

October

- Replaced all AC filters
- signage for Crockett Street sign ordered
- Quotation for AC/Heating repairs (Markl \$45,286.81; Triton Electric \$1,400.00)
- Allied Fence contacted for enclosure price
- Roof repairs in arbitration

November:

- Cleaned out basement on two Saturdays (11/4 & 11/11) - two truckloads to Stinky's (over 1200 lbs. of scrap metal) and 6 truckloads of assorted trash to the city dump
- Complete replacement of H/VAC units etc. set to begin 12/4.
- Cleared & began re-organization of Acolyte/Floral supply room. Removed old, outdated, broken and otherwise useless items

December:

- Four new heaters and five new ac units installed in the church, with new vents and duct work
- Fence installed to shield new AC compressors

Respectfully submitted, **Craig Summer**, Jr. Warden, **Ed Colvin**, Sexton

Ministry Updates

Altar Guild - 2017

The Altar Guild exists to assist the clergy and is directly responsible for care of all the altar linens, vestments, brass, silver, and such. They prepare for each service held in the church or chapel, including funerals and weddings, and the ministry of preparing and maintaining everything that relates to the altar.

The Altar Guild is divided into five teams, with each team serving one week a month throughout the year. Team 5 serves when the month has a fifth Sunday. Our Verger, Craig Summer, assists with the candles and set-up for the various services. The members of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church Altar Guild are: Team 1 – Pam Colvin; Team 2 – Connie, Mike Mitchusson and Sally Faulconer; Team 3 – Carla Self and Joe Nedley; Team 4 – Anna Keller and Kelly Lopez; Team 5 – Carla Self and Joe Nedley.

New members are trained by the Altar Guild Directress and their respective team members and serve with experienced members of their team. Each team takes the responsibility of preparing for scheduled services during their week. In addition, a team is responsible for any unscheduled services during their week, such as weddings, baptisms or funerals.

Contributions to the Altar Guild Fund have provided for several new items of altar linens and supplies for our services. Mike and Connie Mitchusson donate the prayer candles for the Candle Stand. Bob Rice donated the table next to the Candle Stand to hold the box for contributions toward the cost of prayer candles. Mike and Connie Mitchusson also donated the linen for the shelf in the rear of the church that holds the wine Carafe and Ciborium for the Eucharist celebrated during the church services. Ronna Bruce has magically repaired several of the priest vestments. Carla Self and Joe Nedley donated new covers to protect the silver used for Eucharist and donated the special soap used to launder the altar linens. Joe Nedley constructed wooden dowels to hold the carafes after they are washed.

Our goals continue for the next year:

- to continue training of new Altar Guild members in the tasks required
- to update the check list of weekly tasks and clarify duties which will ensure all areas are covered.
- to inspect vestments and arrange for repair of worn vestments.
- to encourage parishioners to join our Guild so each Team will have a minimum of two or three members.
- to encourage parishioners to contribute to the Altar Guild Fund to support the purchase of altar linens, altar and priest vestments and Eucharist silver and brass vessels.

The Altar Guild always welcomes new Guild members or subs to assist when Team Members are unable to serve because of individual schedule conflicts. For more information or to become a member of the Guild, please contact Anna Keller at 214-538-6145 or e-mail to annask@mindspring.com or contact the church office.

The Altar Guild works quietly behind the scenes preparing for all services held in the church and chapel, polishing brass/silver and cleaning the linens to have our church ready for all parishioners to worship our Lord with ease and dignity. Their work and dedication is deeply appreciated by members and lay leaders of our congregation.

Respectfully submitted, **Anna Keller, Altar Guild Directress**

Brotherhood of St. Stephen's: 2017

The Brotherhood of Saint Stephen's meets the second Wednesday of each month for both fellowship and programs with the men of the parish. This year, 2017, was a transition of sorts, for our group as we began to reexamine our goals and monthly schedule, both for the remaining months in 2017 and for 2018.

Significant Accomplishments or discussions in 2017:

- Brotherhood attempted to keep our trophy won in 2016 at the annual fish cook-off for Grayson County Hospice. Alas, even though we were at the front of the building at Loy Lake Park, have always been greatly enjoyed by all, we did not repeat as winners this year. However, all was not lost as this benefit brought several of us together, in true Brotherhood fashion, to have a good time, cook some excellent fish, and meet and greet our neighbors.
- The group affirmed again our desire to remain a local men's gathering at Saint Stephen's and not seek Saint Andrew affiliation.
- We attempted to keep the Garth and front areas of the church free of weeds and growth, not always successful, but many weeds and other stuff was removed; we also found lots of old Easter eggs.
- We helped with several projects sponsored by the Church throughout the year, including Halloween, Christmas on the Square, plus posing for group pictures with noted Grayson County actress and Children's Chorus of Greater North Texas Director Heidi Schibmeir.
- Our cook-outs and dinners throughout the year are always well attended. Food at our meetings always appeals, and great food has become a hallmark event for several of our meetings. Ed Colvin's annual prime roast beef dinner has become an annual must on the calendars of the "Law Dogs" from across the street. We always welcome them with open arms to our Brotherhood and to the Church. The love of our God is very apparent in these evenings.
- Several of us visited the Emergency Management Agency in the Grayson County Courthouse for a presentation on all the emergency activities which our local agencies respond to and assist with others in the County. We also toured the Emergency Management Center where decisions are made and directives issued in the event of emergencies.
- Our November 2017, meeting coincided with Veterans Day as a national celebration of the lives of those who gave all in our wars and conflicts. We especially honored our veterans from Grayson County who died or were missing in action. We read a list of names and rang a solemn altar bell tone for each one.
- In 2018, the Brotherhood will continue meeting monthly, but less focused on a presentation each month, and more on building on the fellowship which we have from the past; expectantly, we will encourage new and older members of the Church to increase their participation.

Submitted by Joe Nedley

Choir Report - 2017

St. Stephen's Joyful Noise continues its efforts to provide leadership in congregational singing of familiar Episcopal hymns and service music. The choir is not a performing organization for entertainment but rather a humble group at the front of the church joining the entire parish in the worship of our Lord.

Our forces remain rather small, from a couple members to as many as seven in any given service. At this point we sing the hymns and the service music (but with the hopes of growing in quantity and quality so that we can expand our offerings during the service).

Organist Linda Pease stayed with us through all the services in Holy Week after which she departed to join husband Michael at St. Charles the Martyr Anglican Church in Denison. As we had no one to replace Linda immediately, we were forced to return to our practice of singing a cappella. This has been a very worthwhile exercise as it has forced us all to step up to share our voices in the church services to the Glory of God Almighty. We sang familiar hymns and stopped singing most of the service music.

On December 3, 2017 we combined our two worship services into one, and Cindy Parson joined us on this day as our organist. She is a MOST welcomed addition to our Music Ministry. In the evening we celebrated the First Sunday in Advent with a service of Lessons & Carols. We were blessed to join our forces with volunteers from the North Texas Children's Choir resulting in a very successful and joyous evening celebrating the beginning of the Advent Season. For the Christmas Eve Service, rather than having a "Carol Sing" at the beginning of the service, we incorporated all the additional carols into the service.

St. Stephen's Joyful Noise looks forward to expanding our participation in the service with special music during the Offertory and Communion as well as once again leading the service music. We welcome any parishioner who wishes to sing (or who wishes that the choir sounded better) to join us.

Respectfully submitted, **Sally Fillebrown**

Fellowship Ministry - 2017

The family and friends that make up our parish have gathered at least once a month to celebrate the love and companionship that is the hallmark of a thriving Christian community. It is our desire to open both our doors and hearts to the church and un-church by offering a warm and inviting venue where people can gather and experience fellowship, acceptance and the joy that comes with being a part of the community of Christ. To date we have presented a variety of opportunities for the parish family to reconnect and bring others into the church home we love.

January: The “Christmas Revels 2016” marked the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas with dinner and our take on fine dining. Assorted appetizers & salad, roast pig with onion-apple gravy, herb crusted chicken, marinated carrots, buttery southwestern corn, broccoli with cheese sauce, loaded smashed potatoes, a host of decadent dessert choices and twinkle lights made for a memorable evening.

February: An evening in Italy featured the best Italian treats.

The “Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper” was well attended and waffles, pancakes, sausage and bacon helped us celebrate “Fat Tuesday.” Thanks to those Brotherhood cooks who flipped cakes and wrangled bacon.

March: Each Wednesdays during Lent a special study was offered along with a simple “Meatless Soup and Bread” meal.

April: Following Easter Day service we held an “Easter Brunch”

May: The smell of “Barbeque and Beans” signaled a roundup of St. Stephen’s cowpokes.

June: We sampled hamburgers, potato salad, apple pie and other picnic goodies.

July: “God Bless America Hot Dog Roast” Patriotism, potato salad, wieners celebrated our national birthday.

August: To beat the heat we enjoyed a “Salad Supper” night with some ice cream thrown in for good measure.

September: Bingo, sandwiches and dessert prizes... an evening of spirited fun!

October: In October the annual “Chili Cook-Off” spiced up our fellowship. The nearby firemen acted as judges and everyone enjoyed chili, nachos, guacamole and good times.

November: The “Day of the Dead” was celebrated with Mexican food and a Dias de las Muertos theme

December: To prepare for Advent a Pot-Luck dinner with a presentation by Fr. Evans was offered. This low key affair was a great help in focusing on the season of expectation that is Advent.

A St. Stephen’s Day Brunch following the 9:30 am service on December 31st signaled the end of 2017 Fellowship.

With your participation in the worship and your attendance at these parish events we will continue building the bonds that make us a family in Christ. It is essential that all of those who claim membership in this parish support one another through prayer and fellowship. If you need help with transportation to and from the church for any reason please contact the office and arrangements will be made to insure your inclusion.

Respectfully, **Craig & Helen Summer**, Chief Cooks & Bottle Washers

Lay Server- LEV-Worship Ministry- 2017

The role played by our laity in the worship offered at our altar is an integral part of the inclusive nature of our church. Joining together with clergy to offer ourselves and souls to the praise of our Lord makes the Episcopal Church “hands on” worship. We are not observers, but rather active participants in the worship. We are so grateful for the continued participation of the following members of this parish: Elizabeth Bennett, Ed Colvin, Pam Colvin, Erin Crawford, Ken Crawford, Jerry Fillebrown, Pat Hunt, Anna Keller, Steve Keller, Carla Self, Joe Nedley, David Stone, Don Tomlinson, Greg Welsh.

More volunteers are always welcome... some of these folks are called on to serve each and every week. We are fervently calling for more volunteerism. “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...” Peter 4:10

Please search your hearts and take a more active role in the worship that means so much to us all. If you are currently serving, please volunteer to add another task to your repertoire of good works.

We have positions available for:

- Ushers
- Acolytes
- Readers
- Chalice Ministers
- Prayer Leaders

These positions are a crucial part of our worship and your gifts are needed! In addition to increasing the number of lay volunteers in all positions, it is our goal to implement hands on cross-training for volunteers. This will insure that servers will feel more at home when pitching in as needed in other service roles.

Respectfully, **Craig Summer**, Lay Server Coordinator

H: 903-892-0045 Cell: 903-818-7376 hcsommer123@gmail.com

Order of the Daughters of the King- 2017

We completed the following activities for 2017:

- Sally and Jerry Fillebrown wedding reception
- Hand delivered special blankets to Doll Watson and Deb Belue, Elizabeth Bennett had a good visit with each.
- Studied "Reading The Bible For All Its Worth".
- Organized and manned the Americana portion of the community Halloween carnival. We prepared snacks and donated prizes. We had many volunteers. Additionally, we built and painted several games that can be used for years to come.
- Decorated the Chrismon tree and helped with donations
- Volunteered for every 5th Sunday coffee hour.
- Kelly Lopez continues to send cards to our community and church members
- We have volunteers for meals on wheels, altar guild and the vestry.
- We have welcomed several new members that have completed training, and we have several that are completing the training to become a member.

Our 2018 plan

- Continue cards and prayers
- Blankets to our special people
- Continue with our next study
- Continue with our volunteer work
- Continue 5th Sunday coffee hour
- Complete training with our new members
- Decorate the Chrismon Tree
- Discuss a couple of outreach programs to consider for the upcoming year.

FHS Tamala Van Deren

SOS Annual Report – 2017

S.O.S. is a committee helping attend members who through age or illness express a need or desire for a visit from the church. At the request of our rector, Fr. Wesley Evans, we are happy to serve in this way and carry warm wishes from the entire church. Our few are joined in our endeavors by many members and extend to them our gratitude. The small expenses by SOS are handled independently.

Activities during the year 2017 include:

Visits by telephone and in person, sympathy cards signed by many at coffee hour or other gatherings, small amounts of food carried from some First Wednesday suppers or delicacies from coffee hour. For food, SOS thanks Pam Colvin, Anna Keller & Edward Smith, and Elizabeth Bennett; and for providing many stamps, Lola Keith.

SOS has offered transportation to and from church, and occasionally to the doctor. Persons helping mostly in church driving have been Pat Hunt & Wanda Bush. Drivers for doctor visits needed.

Persons visited by SOS this year:

- Linda Graham - Now moved from Denison to an apartment at Pecan Point, has fallen several times, but enjoys an aunt who, too, has moved to PP.
- Dr. Pam Walker- At Bonham Lake, unable to drive to St. Stephen's due to several serious illnesses which she faces with courage.
- Mrs. Ruth Murphy - An elder & pleasant invalid residing at Whitesboro Rehabilitation Center just south of Hwy. 56 before one enters Whitesboro from Sherman.
- Clyde & Dusta - Clyde an invalid unable for long months to have company, now with very helpful wife, eager for old friends to visit Bells, where their 100-yr-old home is being restored on Hwy 69 near the Hwy 82 exit. Box 462, Bells, TX, 75414, tel. (cell for Dusta the only way to call: 903-815-7680)

Special Project:

St. Stephen's coop w/Texoma Poetry Society to edit and print a small booklet, "Last Poems" by Allan Hust, a tribute. Allan, who died of brain tumor in 2014, was a longtime St. Stephen's member, beloved Spanish teacher in Dallas, Sherman, and across north TX, and a distinguished poet. His inspired poems when facing death are a work that, as commentator Mark Beardsley has declared, are "a marvel to encounter." The talented Helen Summer volunteered to design and lay out the ms. and beautiful cover. Texoma Poetry Society stood the costs for finishing by Office Depot. St. Stephen's small store & office will carry 50 of the prints at \$3 per for the benefit of the church. Texoma Poetry Society is distributing the other half, several being gifts to Home Hospice and other likely organizations.

Submitted by **Frances Neidhardt, SOS Chair**