

Our Stewardship of Attendance last week: (8:30) No Service (11:00) No Service
Wednesday Eucharist Service: (12:30) 48

Our Stewardship of Offerings for 2018 and Debt Retirement:

Total Owed on Principle: \$2,198,000.00
Amount Due for 2018: \$222,775.70
Total Received Building Fund 2018: \$148,223.24

General Offering to date 2018: \$513,704.27
Expenses to date 2018: \$533,936.49

Our weekly offerings are about returning back to God a portion of what he has first given us. We are able to be generous givers when God is at work in our hearts.

St. Stephen's Activities for this week include:

TODAY **8:30AM & 11:00AM: Worship Services; Debt Retirement Lunch**
9:45AM: Sunday School for all ages
12:30PM: Feeding the Hungry (Finlay Park)
Sr. Youth Planning Meeting
2-4PM: Jr. Youth Bowling (JC's Bowling Alley)
4PM: Visitation Meeting (Office Conference Room)
6PM: Council Meeting (Large Classroom Upstairs)

Monday 8:30AM: Prime Time Leaving-Augusta Canal Tour
9AM-12PM: Preschool
12:30PM: AA meeting (Social Hall)
7PM: Scouts (Social Hall)

Tuesday 9AM-12PM: Preschool

Wednesday 9AM-12PM: Preschool
12:00PM: Power Hour Lunch (Social Hall)
12:30PM: Eucharist Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5PM: Cherub and Children's Choir
5:15PM: WNL Dinner
5:30PM: Intermediate Tone Chimes
6PM: Confirmation and Adult Classes; Tone Chimes; Handbells
6:45PM: Wings of Worship
7PM: Adult Choir
7:30PM: AA/AI-Anon meetings (Social Hall/Parlor)

Thursday 9AM-12PM: Preschool
7PM: AA Meeting (Social Hall)

Friday

Saturday 12PM-4PM: Brandt (Social Hall and Parlor)

Sunday **8:30 & 11:00AM: Worship Services**
9:45AM: Sunday School for all age
12:30PM: First Communion Class
5PM: Nurture & Outreach Meeting (Office Conference Room)

The Spirit of St. Stephen's Weekly for September 23 – September 30, 2018

Congregation Council approves causes to be featured monthly. Special offering envelopes are located on the literature table in the narthex. **September Love Offering: Music Program Scholarship Fund** The Music Program Scholarship was founded in 2010 as an incentive to encourage St. Stephen's youth to participate in our various musical ensembles. The scholarship is available to all high school aged members who participate in at least one of the following: Youth Choir, Adult Choir, Intermediate Tone Chimes, Adult Handbells, or Orchestra. Participants are required to be present for at least 75% of all rehearsals and performances, and they are awarded \$50 for each year of participation. The full amount that each student earns will be collected and given to them upon their graduation from high school. Love offering donations in September will go towards continuing these scholarships into the future.

Christian Sympathy is extended to Janice Foy, upon the death of her brother, Michael McDonald. May the peace and comfort of God's Word be with her family assuring them of the knowledge and truth of the Resurrection.

Welcome! We welcome our newest members joining today at the 8:30 service. Lance and Lenna Young. You can greet them after the service in the narthex.

Join us for the Wednesday Eucharist Service held at 12:30PM in the Sanctuary to enhance your weekly worship experience and to share God's Word in a unique, shortened, but spiritual time of worship. **September 26th "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind"**. Don't miss out! St. Stephen's Power Hour: Consisting of free will offering lunch at 12pm (every Wednesday) in the social hall followed by our 12:30pm WE! Worship with Holy Communion!

Principle Payment Reduction Lunches are held once a month September – May. All proceeds go directly to retire the debt. Meals are ready for take-out or eat-in after the 8:30 & 11:00 services. Join your Church Council Members **TODAY** for: BBQ Ribs, Hash and Rice, Green Beans, Rolls, and Dessert.

2019 Offering Envelopes- If you are currently receiving offering envelopes and do not wish to receive them in 2019 because you give on-line or if you would like to receive offering envelopes and haven't in the past, please contact the church office.

MISSION LEXINGTON (formerly LICS) FOOD REQUEST: They are in URGENT need of the following items: Beef stew, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Chili, Pop Tarts, Soups, and Granola Bars. Remember, **even one can of food will feed someone who is hungry**. Our yearly total is **6,888 lbs**. Our summer Pentecost to Reformation food drive continues with 3,057 lbs. collected. Our goal will be to donate 5,000 lbs. during this time. School is out which means many of the children are not getting their snack packs from school. This increases the food requests to Mission Lexington. Please consider bringing extra cans of food in this summer. If you wish to make a cash donation toward purchase of food, please make a check out to St. Stephen's and mark it for **MISSION LEXINGTON FOOD PANTRY PURCHASE** and give it to me personally or put it in my Council Box. I will purchase the food and take it to Mission Lexington. Please keep those cans coming. Donating canned goods is a good way to be the hands, feet, and the face of Christ to someone you will probably never meet. Place your food donations in the Mission Lexington boxes in front of the Men's class or the box in front of Tonya's office. The hungry in Lexington continue to depend on you and they thank you!! Thank you again for your support. Contact: Ron Redd 359-6363 or Rredd7848@gmail.com

Prime Time Plans: Monday, Sept. 24th Augusta Canal Tour You'll never forget the sights, sounds, and stories you'll hear as you cruise along the Augusta Canal in a Petersburg Boat. Well-informed, entertaining guides narrate the open-air trips, highlighting the 19th century textile mills, the Confederate Powder Works and two of Georgia's only remaining 18th Century houses as you float by. Keep watch for the abundant wildlife including heron, otter and even the occasional alligator. We will depart the church at 8:30 AM, enjoy a one-hour tour from 10-11 AM, and have lunch in Augusta. Cost for the trip is \$15 per person. Lunch will be on your own!

Jr. High (6th-8th) Youth Event - Tiffany and Cam Glover will be sponsoring our activity **TODAY** from 2-4pm at JC's Bowling in Lexington. Parents are welcome to stay and hang out or you can drop your kids off and return at 4!

Youth Activity (9th-12th Grade): Feeding the Hungry & Planning Meeting TODAY! Join us at 12:30 at the church and bring something to share with the hungry. We will go to Finlay Park and then have lunch on the way home. Once we get back to the church, we will plan for the year! We will talk about potential mission trips, skiing or tubing activities, and other events you want us to offer! Don't miss out!

SSLC Visitation Ministry One of the most remarkable and enlightening passages in the Gospels concerns Jesus' teaching about ministering to the poor, the sick and the needy: *I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me... as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to Me.* - *Matthew 25:35-36* In response to Jesus' words we are inviting anyone who is interested in being a part of the SSLC Visitation Ministry to meet **TODAY** at 4pm in the office conference room. Members currently serving on this ministry are also asked to attend. We will discuss more about this ministry and formulate a plan for visitation for the coming year. Hope to see YOU there!

First Communion Class will be offered by Pastor Pat and Pastor Jason on **Sunday, Sept. 30th** at 12:30pm. We will eat some pizza together and then delve into the day's curriculum and activities. Please RSVP to the church office by Sept. 27th so that we will know how much pizza to order. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Jason.

Blood Drive: St. Stephen's will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 3rd from 2-7 PM in the gym. Please consider giving the gift of life!

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Sept. 30th- First Communion Class

Monday, Oct. 1st- Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, Oct. 3rd- Blood Drive

Thursday, Oct. 4th- Chat & Chew

Sunday, Oct. 14th- Preschool Scholastic Book Fair Begins

Monday, Oct. 15th- Preschool's Fall Festival

Sunday, Nov. 4th- Bailey Parker & Matt McCall Concert

We would like to welcome our new sexton Eric Abramson! Eric's first day was this past Monday, Sept. 17th and he is already making a difference. As you see him around, make sure to introduce yourself and welcome him to St. Stephen's.