



THE WITNESS

St. Stephen's Church Newsletter

Volume 29, Issue 9
The Rev. Mark Bradford, Pastor

September 2018
Church Phone (405) 843-5333

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This will be our final *Witness* article on the Sacraments. Largely, it is a review of the sermon I preached on the Lord's Supper on August 5. Whenever I think that maybe I should not repeat a lesson I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 3:1 "To write the same things to you is no trouble to me, and is safe for you."

The Lord's Supper was instituted at the time of the Passover shortly before the death of Jesus. There are four passages in the New Testament where the institution of the Lord's Supper is recorded: Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. It is rather surprising that it is not mentioned in the gospel of John. Commenting on the institution of the Lord's Supper Lois Berkhof says, "The broken bread and the wine symbolizes the Lord's broken body and shed blood; the physical eating and drinking of these point to a spiritual appropriation of the fruits of the sacrifice of Christ; and the whole sacrament is a constant reminder of His redemptive death."

Like the sacrament of baptism, the Lord's Supper is first of all a sign. The sign includes not only the visible elements of bread and wine, but also their eating and drinking. It is a symbolic representation of Christ's death. "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (I Corinthians 11:26) It is also an act of profession on the part of those who partake of it. As we partake of the Lord's Supper we profess

faith in Christ as our Savior, and our allegiance to Him as our King.

The question of the nature of the presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper is one in which after centuries of debate there is still considerable difference of opinion. There are basically four major views.

The Roman Catholic Church holds that Christ is present in the Lord's Supper in a physical sense based on Jesus' statement, "This is my body." This is often referred to as transubstantiation which is defined as "the conversion of the substance of the Eucharistic elements into the body and blood of Christ at consecration, only the appearances of bread and wine still remaining." This takes the words "this is my body" very literally, something which in the context of which Jesus is speaking probably should not be done. A little-known fact that is surprising to many people is that the doctrine of transubstantiation was not an official doctrine of the Catholic Church until A.D. 1215 when it was proclaimed by Pope Innocent III.

The Lutheran view holds that while the bread and wine remain what they are, the whole person of Christ, body and blood, is present in, under, and along with the elements. This is referred to as consubstantiation which "holds that during the sacrament, the substance of the body and blood of Christ are present alongside the substance of the bread and wine, which remain present." The problem that many have seen with this view is that it ascribes to Jesus' words "this is my body" the

unnatural meaning “this accompanies my body.” It also is burdened with the notion that not just Christ, but the body of Christ is omnipresent.

The Zwinglian view denied the bodily presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper while admitting that He is spiritually present in the faith of believers. For Zwingli the Lord’s Supper was primarily a memorial of the death of Christ, “Do this...in remembrance of me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25) It was also seen as an act of profession on the part of believers. It is my guess that this is the dominant view of most Protestants.

Calvin took an intermediate position. Instead of the physical (Catholic) or local (Lutheran) bodily presence of Christ, he taught the spiritual presence of Christ in the Lord’s Supper. In distinction from Zwingli he stressed the deeper significance of the sacrament. He saw in it a seal and pledge of what God does for believers. “The virtues and effects of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross are present and actually conveyed to believers by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Berkhof)

There is one final question to be answered. For whom was the Lord’s Supper instituted? We would say that the Lord’s Supper was not instituted for all indiscriminately, but only for believers who understand its spiritual significance. Unbelievers are excluded from the Lord’s Supper. Paul also stresses that as believers we need to examine ourselves before partaking of the Lord’s Supper. In 1 Corinthians 11:28-29 Paul says, “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” It is a bit uncertain what the phrase “discerning the body” means but it seems to suggest that believers need to recognize the spiritual reality of what is happening as they meet together to observe the Lord’s Supper.

Each month as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper let us meditate on its meaning and what Christ has done for us through His death on the cross and through His resurrection.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mark

August - No Session Report

Worship Schedule - Every Sunday
9:30AM - Adult & Children’s Sunday School
11:00AM – Worship

SEPTEMBER SERMON TOPICS

In terms of the liturgical church calendar, not much happens between Pentecost Sunday and the season of Advent. We are in a long season of the year which is often referred to as Ordinary Time. As an example, Sunday September 2 this year is the twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time. I prefer to go with the alternate rendering which sees Sunday September 2 as the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost because I like to think of this as the season of Pentecost. This is a good reminder to us of the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church.

During the month of September we will be continuing our study of the book of Philippians, “The Epistle of Joy.”

September 2 Philippians 1:19-30

To Live is Christ

September 9 Philippians 2:1-11

Christ’s Example of Humility

September 16 Philippians 2:12-18

Light in the World

September 23 Philippians 2:19-30

Timothy and Epaphroditus

September 30 Philippians 3:1-11

Righteousness Through Faith in Christ



Prayer Requests

If you have missed prayers or would like to be added to the Women’s Fellowship prayer chain please call Doris Cornell 605-6172 or Treva Gullett 735-9908.

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study & Prayer – Sunday evenings at Pastor Mark & Anne Bradford’s – September 9 & 23 at 5:30PM.

Monday Prayer Group – September 10, 17 & 24 at 12:30PM, church library.

Tuesday Bible Study – September 18 at 2:30PM.

Men’s Prayer Group – Saturday mornings at 7:30AM.

Ushers/Greeters

September Greeters: Dwight & Laurie Daub

September Ushers:

September 2 – Michael Bassett, Randy & Rebecca Stateler, Nancy Spradling

September 9 – Sumish & Christa Charlie, Pat Robison, Nancy Spradling

September 16 – Michael Bassett, Pat Robison, Wendy Smith, Nancy Spradling

September 23 – Sandy Gifford, Kym Manning, Wendy Smith, Nancy Spradling

September 30 – Youth

Fellowship Hour Treats

September 2 – Margo Whiting, Laurie Daub

September 9 – POTLUCK

September 16 – Lori Pickrell, Sarah Welte

September 23 – Doris Cornell, Miss Butch Derrick

September 30 – Treva & Jim Gullett, Marilyn Hanson

WAY DAY

Way Day kicks off on Wednesday, September 5. We are in need of **volunteers** to help teach and to be table parents. There is a signup sheet in the hallway or you can contact Dana Wilson.

Way Day Dates 2018-2019

September	5, 12 & 19
October	3, 10, 17 & 24
November	7, 14 & 28
December	5 & 12
January	9, 16 & 23
February	6, 13 & 20
March	6, 13 & 27
April	3, 10 & 17

Fellowship Dinner

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 9. Fellowship will provide fried chicken and biscuits. Please check bulletin board for last name breakdown on what to bring.

SEQUENCE PLAYERS

Sequence will meet September 25. Any questions, please call Doris Cornell at 605-6172.



Hymn of the Month



Beginning next month, a series called “Hymn of the Month” will be appearing here in *The Witness*. This series will feature a hymn that is either a familiar hymn that will be sung sometime in the upcoming month, or an unfamiliar one

that will be sung every Sunday of the month so we may add it to our repertoire. The information here will include history and background of the song, as well as other interesting or pertinent information. The aim of this series is to educate ourselves so that we may better understand the hymnody of our church, to learn more hymns, and ultimately to grow closer to the Lord through music. I am excited to delve into this spiritual journey with you all as we discover the hymns that celebrate our Lord. I hope that by gaining a more intimate knowledge of the hymns and songs we sing, we will come to appreciate the music of our Lord so we may glorify Him on a greater level of understanding and reverence. If you have any suggestions for hymns that should be featured, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I’m looking forward to sharing this music and all the fascinating information behind it all with everyone.

Kaleb Benda

LIBRARY CLASS TO STUDY SAMSON



The Library Class has started a new series, "The Life of Samson." Dr. W. Robert Godfrey of Ligonier Ministries uses both a study guide and a 10-part DVD set to teach the series. According to Dr. Godfrey, Samson, the last judge in the book of Judges, has a lot to teach us about Christian living today. Visitors are welcome.

Something New

Our sanctuary has a nice, newly added touch. If you haven't noticed them yet there are two new hand-made doilies under the altar flowers, lovingly made by Valerie Pulley. Thank you, Valerie.

Women's Fellowship

It's time! All women of the church are invited, encouraged, and welcome to join Women's Fellowship. We meet the second Tuesday of each month (September-May) at 11:00AM to enjoy fellowship and snacks, devotions and bible study, and a short business meeting. We hope you will come enjoy the fellowship and the blessings it brings. See you September 11! *Patsy Kuhn*



Chris Howard is going to be participating in a walk-a-thon for The Meadows on October 13. The Meadows is the place where Chris works. They do shredding of documents and data destruction. He is looking for pledges; if you can help, find Chris and support him.

Note of Thanks

Dear St. Stephen's family,
I'd like to say how grateful I am that I have you in my life. Thank you. *Love, Jenni O'Neil*

FELLOWSHIP TREATS

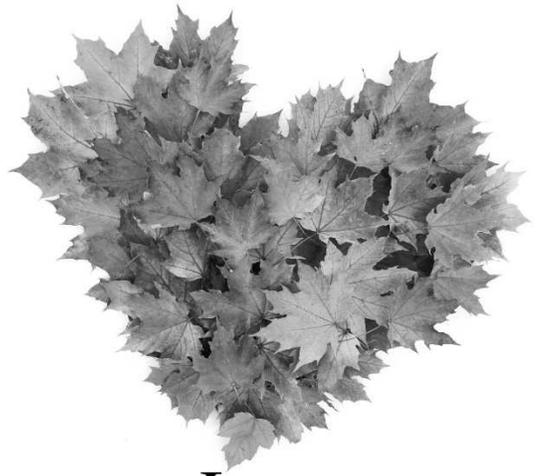
We need help! If you love our fellowship time and would like to take turns bringing snacks we are in need of more people to help provide them. It usually works out to once every two months, but with all those months with five Sundays, it may be an extra time or two. Please contact Laurie Daub if you can help.

Transportation Needs!

I just want to touch base with the congregation and update my list of those needing a ride to/from church and a list of members who are willing to assist with giving rides to/from church. I can be contacted at 405-426-7298, and will return messages the same day if I miss a call. *Thanks, Kym Manning*

Salvation Army Request

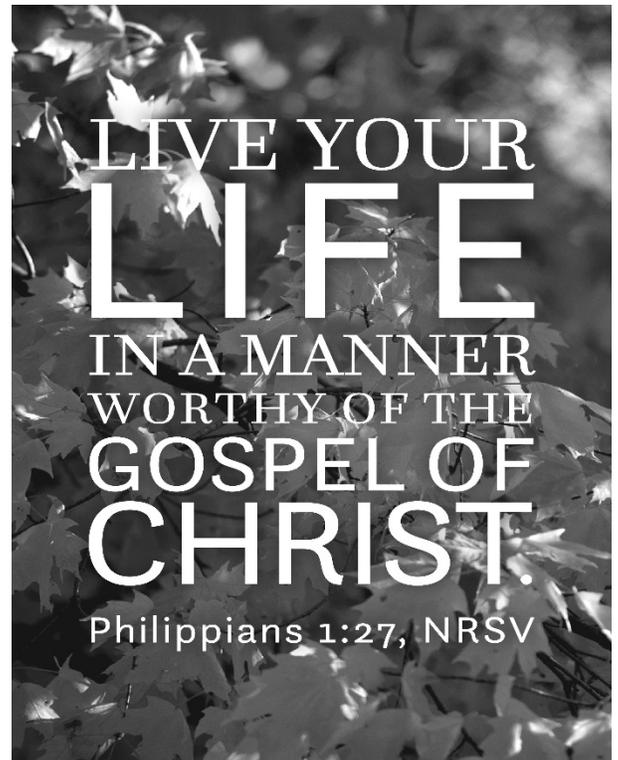
Reminder that we are collecting small soaps like the ones you get at hotels or motels. Please bring them to the church office.



Love

the Lord your God
with all your HEART
and with all your SOUL
and with all your MIND
and with all your STRENGTH.

Mark 12:30, ESV



Prescription Drugs Needed

If you have any **unexpired** prescription drugs to donate, please give them to Laurie.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders

Class of 2018

Robert Buswell	426-7429	Treasurer
Jon Powell	470-0230	Outreach
Dana Wilson	706-3191	Nurture

Class of 2019

Dwight Daub	618-7497	Clerk/Stewardship & Memorials
Kent Larason	808-3971	Fellowship

Class of 2020

John Hermes	202-9621	President of Corporation/ Nominating
Mark McBride	410-2003	Worship

Deacons

Class of 2018

Lori Pickrell	503-9585	Clerk
Pat Robison	879-2762	Missions

Class of 2019

Jaquelyn Kuhn	424-2123	Church Work Days
Kym Manning	426-7298	Van/Transportation

Class of 2020

Christa Charlie	834-7031	Flowers
Nancy Spradling	206-5828	Ushers/Greeters
Randy Stateler	620-253-6431	Maintenance

WITNESS DEADLINE

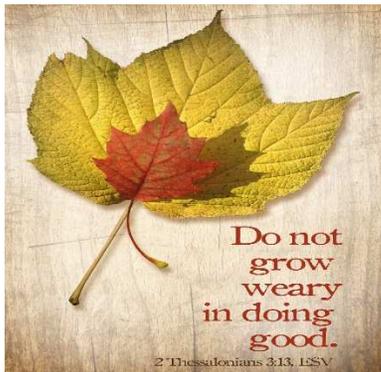
September 24 is the deadline to submit articles for the October *Witness*. You may bring items to the church office or e-mail them to: secretary@ststephensokc.org. Thanks! Laurie Daub, St. Stephen's Secretary

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secretary@ststephensokc.org

www.ststephensokc.org

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1	Ava Young
2	Chris Robison
2	Angela Jones
4	Abigail Jones
6	Patsy Kuhn
7	Will Robison
8	Sandy Gifford
8	Karson Kosanke
11	Timothy Bradford
15	Aaron Hine
16	Robin Page
19	Gary Catron
19	Richard Urdahl
20	Corey Dutcher
20	Olivia Wilson
22	Brett Murphy
24	Joe Young
28	Miranda Almen



1	Dan & Dana Wilson
5	Gary & Mary Catron
7	Don & Pamela Lee
12	Jon & Dorothy Powell
13	John & Patricia Robison
19	Richard & Donna Urdahl
30	James & Treva Gullett
30	Mark & Molly McBride

***If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office.*

Special Dates

Labor Day, *September 3* - Offices Closed

National Grandparents Day, *September 9*

Patriot Day, *September 11*

First day of Autumn, *September 23*

