



THE WITNESS

St. Stephen's Church Newsletter

Volume 31, Issue 10
The Rev. Mark Bradford, Pastor

October 2020
Church Phone (405) 843-5333

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Chapter XXI of the Westminster Confession of Faith is entitled "Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath Day." It begins "The light of nature shows that there is a God, who has lordship and sovereignty over all, is good, and does good unto all, and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart, and with all the soul, and with all the might." With this in mind the Confession discusses the acceptable way of worshiping God which has been revealed to us by God.

Worship is to be given to the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and to Him alone. This means we are not to worship angels, saints, or any other creature. While tempting Jesus in the wilderness one of Satan's three temptations was the temptation to worship something or someone other than God, in this case Satan himself. Jesus's response was, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve'" (Matthew 4:10). Jesus's quotation was from Deuteronomy 6:13. In Revelation 19:10 the apostle John is tempted to worship an angel, and is forbidden to do so. "Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.'"

The Confession discusses what should be included in worship. Prayer (with thanksgiving), singing, the reading of scripture, sound preaching, and the proper administration and receiving of the

sacraments. That these have been part of Christian worship since the beginning of the Church is evident from Scripture. Following the Day of Pentecost we are told in Acts 2:42 that, "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper) and the prayers." In Ephesians 5:19 Paul tells the church in Ephesus to address one another in "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." Paul tells Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

The Confession makes the point that worship is not made more acceptable or less acceptable by the place in which it is performed. God is to be worshipped everywhere; yes, in church buildings, but also in homes and in secret. What is important is not the place of worship but the way in which we worship. We are to worship in spirit and in truth. After explaining to the woman at the well that where one worships is not what is important, Jesus goes on to say, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him" (John 4:23).

The Confession does not say a lot about the Sabbath Day except that it is to be a day of rest in which we are to rest from our normal affairs of life and devote ourselves to public and private worship. The Confession does not focus on what we should not do on the Sabbath, but on what should be done. Through the years different groups within the

church have had differing ideas as to what should be permitted and not permitted on the Sabbath (Sunday for Christians) and how legalistic we should be about it. The important thing is that we take a day of rest and that we devote ourselves to the worship of God.

Question and Answer 60 of the Shorter Catechism reads, “How is the Sabbath to be sanctified? The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercise of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.” Though we might not agree with “holy resting all the day,” or “spending the whole time” in worship, most of us would probably do well to spend more time in public and private worship on the Sabbath than we do. Let us make the worship of God a priority in our lives.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mark*

Worship Schedule

Sunday
9:45 Adult Sunday School
11:00AM – Worship
11:00AM – Streaming online Worship

OCTOBER SERMON TOPICS

We will be continuing our look at the book of James during the month of October. On the third Sunday of October Ed Bedrosian will be preaching for me. Anne and I will be in California for one of my nieces’ wedding.

October 4 James 3:1-12
Taming the Tongue
October 11 James 3:13-18
Wisdom From Above
October 18 Ed Bedrosian Preaching
October 25 James 4:1-12
Warning Against Worldliness

OUR SERVICE ONLINE

We will continue to live stream our services at our usual time, 11:00AM. You will be able to watch the service on Facebook at [facebook.com/StStephensOKC](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensOKC)

September Session Minutes

FINANCIAL REPORT: Lori Pickrell provided a financial report that included updates on the church’s current financial position. She explained that the church’s financial needs are currently covered, but cautioned that the church is now operating on a bare bones budget.

WORSHIP: John Robison reported that two new microphones have been purchased for the sanctuary and should greatly improve the quality of the audio that is being sent out as a part of the church’s on-line broadcast.

OLD BUSINESS: The church’s pictorial directory is looking very good and will soon go to print.

SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study & Prayer – Sunday evenings at Pastor Mark & Anne Bradford’s – October 11 & 25 at 5:30PM.

Tuesday Bible Study – October 20 at 2:30PM

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

Fellowship Hour Treats

October 4 – Lori Pickrell
October 11 – Wendy Smith
October 18 – Laurie Daub
October 25 – Miss Butch Derrick

BETA GARAGE SALE

The BETA group will be having its annual garage sale on October 23-24. Times are 8:00AM-5:00PM both days. If you care to bring items to donate to the sale, bring them the week of **October 19**.

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.





JOHN HERMES

John was born in Queens, NY City, lived in NJ and spent his school years in Arlington, a suburb of Chicago from where he graduated high school.

After graduation he attended Ripon College in Wisconsin, receiving a B.S. in economics.

From 1968-1972 John served in the US Army as a captain. He spent time in Vietnam and Germany. After his discharge he came to Oklahoma and, with encouragement from a lawyer uncle in the Tulsa area, pursued his law degree from OU Law School. He began working for the McAfee & Taft law firm, where he went on to serve as a trial lawyer and, for a time, as the firm's managing director. He continues part-time work in their offices today.

John currently lives in NW Oklahoma City with his new wife Cynthia (married 1 ½ years). Joan Miranda was their "match maker." Cynthia is the organist for St. John's Church here in OKC. They share their home with "Mitzie," a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel.

John was previously married for 46 years to Susan (now deceased) who was known and loved here at St. Stephen's. The couple were charter members. They have two sons. Nick and his wife Barbara live in OKC. Nick is a talented artist and illustrator well known by St. Stephen's members. Peter and his wife Angel live in Los Angeles with their two children Byron and Davis. Peter works in the film industry.

John has a brother, Frank, in Dallas, and a sister, Margaret, in Tulsa. He is looking forward to

reuniting with many family members at a wedding for his niece in St. Louis coming up soon.

John and Cynthia stay connected with her family currently through "Zoom." She has children in France, Washington D.C., and Fort Worth, TX and numerous other family members throughout the country.

John's favorite sport is golf. He loves "hitting the greens," and likes watching golf on T.V. to get "tips" to improve his game. He follows OU football, and was on the wrestling team in high school and at Ripon College.

He loves socializing and being with friends. He enjoys dinners on the patio at Hefner Grill with Cynthia, watching the sunset on Lake Hefner. He also likes reading mysteries.

John has been at St. Stephen's since the very beginning. He has served as elder several times. He believes "bringing in new leadership" is important to the success of the church. He says our church has "challenges" but he believes in the future of St. Stephen's. He especially enjoys our history scrapbook in the church hallway, and loves the family unity he sees here. He values all his fellow parishioners.

Reporter's notes:

John Hermes is a true Christian gentleman, a proud family man, veteran, accomplished defender of the law, and a friend to all in our St. Stephen's family. He told me he prefers to listen to others, and not talk about himself. During the interview I found him to be soft-spoken and engaged in listening to me. These are rare qualities to be treasured and admired. *"Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can crush strong opposition."* Proverbs 25:15

By Margo Whiting

"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar."

Helen Keller

* * *

"Faith consists in believing what reason cannot."

Voltaire

* * *

"Nothing [is] more truly artistic than to love people."

Vincent van Gogh

HYMN OF the Month



Have Faith in God
It is #536 in our hymnal

“Have Faith In God” is a hymn of assurance and hope. It is meant to inspire faith and trust in God, who above all “rules and reigns upon His throne.” The hymn was written in 1934 during a time of severe economic stress in the United States. During this time, the composer, B.B. McKinney, felt strongly in the need to have faith in God. From January 21-February 4, 1934, McKinney was assisting in a revival meeting at First Baptist Church in Muskogee, Oklahoma. The evangelist during this meeting was Dr. C.C. Morris, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ada, Oklahoma. During one of the sermons, McKinney began writing this hymn. Both words and music were finished that evening after he returned to his room at the Servers Hotel. The manuscript was sent to Robert H. Coleman, who filed the copyright and published it in his book *Glad Tidings* (Dallas, 1935). In the Baptist Hymnal 1956, (and every subsequent publication in hymnals) the tune to “Have Faith in God” bore the name MUSKOGEE after the town in Oklahoma where it was composed.

Baptist hymn-writer B. B. McKinney was born in 1886. He attended Mount Lebanon Academy (Louisiana); Louisiana College (Pineville, Louisiana); the Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; the Siegel-Myers Correspondence School of Music in Chicago, Illinois (where he was awarded a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1922) ; and the Bush Conservatory of Music in Chicago. In 1942, Oklahoma Baptist University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Music degree. McKinney served as music editor at the Robert H. Coleman company in Dallas, Texas (1918–35). In 1919, after several months in the army, he returned to Fort Worth, where Isham E. Reynolds asked him to join the faculty of the School of Sacred Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He taught at the seminary until 1932, then pastored at the Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth (1931–35). In 1935,

he became music editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee. He passed away in 1952.

McKinney wrote words and/or music for more than 500 hymns.

For Hymn of the Month requests, contact Kaleb at kalebbenda@gmail.com or (405)-410-9331.

Oklahoma Chamber Symphony *Couch Concerts*

In lieu of in-person concerts, the Oklahoma Chamber Symphony is launching a series of Couch Concerts. These concerts, designed for at-home viewing, will feature a small string ensemble performing a string repertoire. The performances will be 30 minutes or less and feature an introduction by the conductor or special guests, providing insight into the composer and piece. Performances will be broadcast every other Saturday and will be available on Facebook and YouTube. Go to okchambersymphony.com for more information.



United in Marriage

Kaleb Benda & Ashley McCormick

Dear Family and Friends,

For the health of our loved ones and due to social distancing guidelines we have made the difficult decision to downsize our wedding. We would still like you to be a part of our special day. Please join us online on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 4:00PM to livestream our ceremony. We look forward to celebrating with you in person when it is safe.

To access our livestream and registry, please visit www.zola.com/wedding/kalebandashley2020



CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders

Class of 2020

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

Class of 2021

Lori Pickrell	503-9585	Treasurer
John Robison	627-3565	Outreach

Class of 2022

Robert Buswell	426-7429	Clerk/Stewardship & Memorials Fellowship
Wendy Smith	850-6564	

Deacons

Class of 2020

Christa Charlie	834-7031	Flowers
Nancy Spradling	206-5828	Ushers/Greeters

Class of 2021

Michael Bassett	942-2074	Church Work Days
Erin Von Tungeln	410-5901	Clerk

Class of 2022

Robin Page	514-8240	Missions
Keith Seidemann	474-5454	Transportation

WITNESS DEADLINE

October 19 is the deadline to submit articles for the November 2020 *Witness*. You may bring items to the church office or e-mail them to: secretary@ststephensokc.org.

Thanks! Laurie Daub, St. Stephen's Secretary

**St. Stephen's Church 2424 NW 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73112 405-843-5333**

secretary@ststephensokc.org

www.ststephensokc.org

[facebook.com/StStephensOKC](https://www.facebook.com/StStephensOKC)



OCTOBER Birthdays

1	Patty H. Robison
8	Hope Hudson
8	Devin Page
8	Seth Wilson
9	Arden Gatlin
9	Joy Jones
12	Brianna Jones
17	William Larason
18	Doris Cornell
22	Molly McBride
22	Shelley Dutcher
23	Lucy McBride
23	Brayden Murphy
23	Audrey Daub
26	Holly Welte
28	Jimalee Murphy
30	Linda Merriweather

OCTOBER Anniversaries

5	Curt & Susan Almen
7	Frank & Joan Miranda

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

Special Dates

Pastor Appreciation Month
World Communion Sunday, *October 4*
Reformation Sunday, *October 25*
Reformation Day, *October 31*

