



# THE WITNESS

## St. Stephen's Church Newsletter

**Volume 30, Issue 9**  
**The Rev. Mark Bradford, Pastor**

**September 2019**  
**Church Phone (405) 843-5333**

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In last month's *Witness* article we learned that God in His love, mercy and grace did not leave us to perish in the estate of sin and misery, but entered into a covenant of grace with us to deliver us from our sorry state by means of a Redeemer. Chapter 8 of the Westminster Confession is titled "Of Christ the Mediator." In my mind this title does not do the chapter justice. Chapter 8 discusses much more than merely Christ as mediator; it really takes a much broader look at Christ looking at who He is as fully God and fully man, His offices of prophet, priest and king, and the work that He has done.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 says, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." These passages clearly state that Christ Jesus is the mediator between God and people and that He is the only mediator. It also tells us what Christ has done for us. He gave Himself as a ransom for us. In other words, He bought us, and paid the price we should have paid for our sins, i.e. death. The Westminster Catechism uses the word Redeemer a lot. It is important for us to understand that in the Old Testament it was the redeemer or more specifically the kinsman-redeemer who paid the ransom price to buy someone out of slavery.

Question 21 of the catechism asks, "Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?" The answer is, "The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two

distinct natures, and one person, forever." The themes of this answer are discussed in chapter 8 and are essential elements of the Christian faith. It deals with the two natures of Christ, His divinity and His humanity.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is God. This is a belief which only Christians hold. All other religions deny the deity of Christ and yet it is the clear teaching of scripture. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." In John 8:58 Jesus Himself makes this claim, "Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.'"

Regarding Jesus' humanity, no one will deny that Jesus was a man. How then do we understand that the eternal God became a man, as John 1:14 clearly claims, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." This is often referred to as the incarnation and is an important part of both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. Question 22 of the Westminster Confession asks, "How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?" The answer is, "Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin." It is a story most of us are very familiar with and which we celebrate every year at Christmas.

Chapter 8 covers much more information about Christ and His work than we have time to discuss, but let me briefly point out how Christ fulfills what are known as the offices of prophet, priest and king.

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He acts as a prophet in that He speaks to us on behalf of God. He reveals to us, by His Word and Spirit, God's will for us and the way of salvation. As priest He intercedes for us before God. In the Old Testament part of the function of a priest was to offer sacrifices to God to atone for the sins of the people. Christ did this not by offering the sacrifices of sheep and goats but by offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. All other sacrifices were imperfect, but Christ was the perfect sacrifice. Answer 26 of the Westminster Catechism gives a great summation of how Christ executes the office of King. "Christ executeth the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies."

In the fact that Christ is our mediator we indeed have much to be thankful for. There is only one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, and because of Christ's mediation we have peace with God, our sins have been forgiven, and we have the hope of eternal life.

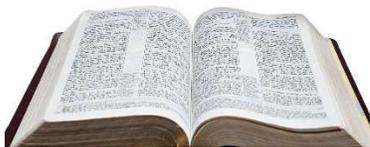
Yours in Christ, *Pastor Mark*

### Worship Schedule

Every Sunday

9:30AM - Adult & Children's Sunday School

11:00AM - Worship



### SEPTEMBER SERMON TOPICS

During the month of September we will be continuing our study of the book of 1 Corinthians.

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|--------------|---|
| September 1  | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20<br><i>Flee Sexual Immorality</i>    |
| September 8  | 1 Corinthians 7:1-16<br><i>Principles for Marriage</i>    |
| September 15 | 1 Corinthians 7:17-24<br><i>Live As You Are Called</i>    |
| September 22 | 1 Corinthians 7:25-40<br><i>The Unmarried and Widowed</i> |
| September 29 | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13<br><i>Food Offered to Idols</i>      |

### August Session Minutes

**Financial Report:** HVAC system operating in sanctuary with only 2 of 4 compressors: Estimate repair by Spencer to repair and replace 2 units: \$9,335; to replace entire units: \$16,475. Motion made and seconded to approve expenditure of \$9,335. Funds to come from Maintenance Reserve Fund. Termites found in NE corner of sanctuary. Presto Pest offered 2 options: 1) to treat just the area for \$600; 2) to treat the church for \$5,400; Motion made and seconded to opt for option 1 and investigate the issue of the whole church treatment plan. Though actually new business, discussion was had to investigate landscaping upgrade to north and east side of church.

**Fellowship:** September 7, Saturday, there will be an ice cream social and pie celebration; need to work on revising Sunday fellowship time refreshment list; comment that new flooring in fellowship hall looks great.

**Nurture:** Handed out a report from Robin Page outlining her youth education activities thus far. It was noted that she is doing a great job which is encouraging to all.

**Outreach:** Committee looking to develop Fall Event based upon success of last year's efforts.

**Worship:** Discussed the success of two visiting ministers during Pastor Mark's absence; Communion for September moved to September 8; noted that service on September 1 will accept Keith and Karin Seidemann to membership.

### SMALL GROUPS

Bible Study & Prayer – Sunday evenings at Pastor Mark & Anne Bradford's – September 8 & 22 at 5:30PM.

Monday Prayer Group – September 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 12:30PM, church library.

Tuesday Bible Study – September 17 at 2:30PM.

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



### 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.

### **Greeters/ Ushers**

**September Greeters:** Rebecca & Randy Stateler

**September Ushers:**

**September 1** – Michael Bassett, Rebecca & Randy Stateler, Nancy Spradling

**September 8** – Ashley McCormick, Wendy Smith, Pat Robison, Nancy Spradling

**September 15** – Christa & Sumish Charlie, Pat Robison, Nancy Spradling

**September 22** – Michael Bassett, Ashley McCormick, Wendy Smith, Nancy Spradling

**September 29** – Youth

### *Fellowship Hour Treats*

**September 1** – Carla & Nelson Pickrell, Jaquelyn Kuhn

**September 8** – Lori Pickrell, Molly McBride

**September 15** – Miss Butch Derrick, Gentry Hiline

**September 22** – Margo Whiting, Laurie Daub

**September 29** – Jean & Kent Larason, Patsy Kuhn



Saturday eve, September 7,  
5PM TO 7PM.

**Come One, Come All!**

*Homemade ice cream:* If you want to bring homemade ice cream please let Kent know. We are going to try to have ONLY homemade ice cream but we will stock backup, just in case.

*Pies:* All pies are welcome, homemade, store-bought and/or bakery.

### *Women's Fellowship*

Greetings to all women of the church! You 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 10!**

Patsy Kuhn, President; Joan Miranda, Vice President; Ava Young, Secretary; Carla Pickrell, Treasurer; Cindy Bowden, Devotions; Nancy Thompson, Church Cares; Elizabeth Garrett, Calling/Emailing.

### **WAY DAY**

Way Day kicks off on Wednesday, September 11. So mark your calendars and get ready for an awesome year.

### **Way Day Dates 2019**

September 11, 18 & 25

October 9, 16 & 23

November 6, 13 & 20

December 4, 11 & 18

### **2020**

January 8, 15 & 22

February 5, 12 & 19

March 4, 11 & 25

April 1, 8 & 15

### **BETA GARAGE SALE**

Friday, September 13 8:00AM-4:00PM

Saturday, September 14 8:00AM – 12:00PM

Location: St. Stephen's gym. If you have items to donate bring them to the church gym by September 11.

### **Fellowship Refreshment List:**

ATTENTION ALL YOU COOKS and/or SUNDAY REFRESHMENT CONSUMERS.

We are revising and updating our Sunday Fellowship provider list and are looking to add some new snack providers. As it goes, you would bring a Sunday morning refreshment (i.e. donuts, pastries, fresh fruit, fruit breads, frozen snacks) - the food you see on Sunday mornings. Such items should be brought to the kitchen by 10:15AM. If you would be interested in participating, please inform either Laurie Daub or Kent Larason.



### **LIBRARY CLASS WELCOMES GUESTS**

All church members and visitors are welcome to visit our class on Sunday mornings. We are just finishing a 12-session DVD series, "The Basics of the Christian Life", with Sinclair Ferguson from Ligonier Ministries, and will soon start "The Life of Jesus" and "The Parables of Jesus." Class begins at 9:45AM.

## FELLOWSHIP HALL

A new floor and some carpentry and staining work have “facelifted” our Fellowship Hall. Women’s Fellowship pledged the initial dollars to start the project, and additional funding was given in memory of Patty Almen and Susan Hermes. Many thanks to our carpenters, Frank Miranda and Nelson Pickrell. Kudos to all involved!

Requests for maintenance:

To prevent pulling finish off, only use blue painter’s tape to put something on the walls or doors. Even better, post it on the bulletin board on the East end. Do not scoot chairs across floor but lift and carry one by one. This may be a little more trouble: our new chairs look great and are very comfortable, but they are also heavier than our old ones.

Enjoy the fresh, clean look!!

## NURTURE NEWS

Summer is over and Fall is upon us; children back to school and all sorts of activities beginning. I am so thankful for the children at St. Stephen’s. Our church has made a commitment to raise these children to believe in the one true God. We could not do that without the help of our dedicated teachers and volunteers who are willing to say yes to helping in this endeavor. So a big THANK YOU to all of you! It demonstrates how truly precious these children are to all of us.

To that end, last March the Session voted to create a new one-year (to be reevaluated in March 2020) position of Children’s Ministry Coordinator dedicated to focusing on the needs of our children, and hired **Robin Page** to fill that role. Robin is addressing many areas (including some in Outreach) too numerous to mention here, but please feel free to ask her about her various activities. You will be hearing from Robin at times through this newsletter; you will also hear from her when she calls to ask for your help! I know you will joyfully say yes if it is possible.

Again thank you to this loving church family for your support.

Joan Miranda

Elder, Nurture



*“FaithWeaver grew my faith when I was a kid in Sunday school. Now I’m having those same life-changing conversations with my daughter. It’s just as relevant for her today as it was for me, and I’m inspired to walk together in our journey through FaithWeaver NOW.” Unknown*

FaithWeaver NOW is a quarterly, age-graded curriculum for infants through adults. The three-year scope & sequence covers the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Each quarter goes through 13 sequential Bible events so families can get a snapshot of the Bible timeline.

We began using this curriculum over the summer with great success. Each of our grade levels are experiencing and learning the exact same Bible lesson at an age-appropriate level. This is to help cultivate Biblical discussions with all family members at home.

Connecting families to God doesn’t stop with Sunday school. We will extend the fun while reinforcing the weekly message. We will provide even more impact with the use of FaithWeaver Friends along with FaithWeaver NOW during our Wednesday evening Way Day program.

**September Key Verse** – God is our help. (adapted from Psalm 46:1)

### **Bible Story/Scripture**

Week 1 – David Becomes King (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37)

Week 2 – David is Merciful to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:1-13)

Week 3 – God Forgives David (2 Samuel 12:1-7; Psalm 51:1-12)

Week 4 – Absalom Rebels and is Defeated (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 17:1-12; 18:1-18)

*Robin Page*

### **Back to School Humor**

What kind of school do you go to if you’re ...

... an ice cream man? Sundae school

... a giant? High school

... a surfer? Boarding school

... King Arthur? Knight school

## **BIG THANKS DUE!**

Carla Pickrell and Joan Miranda deserve a "big thank you" for all the work they did in updating and redecorating our Fellowship Hall. They climbed ladders, washed and painted windows, hauled double doors home to sand and stain, and gave their dust mops a thorough workout. The floors were cleaned and polished professionally, but the finished product was a tribute to their efforts. A "thanks" and a pat on the back would be much appreciated!

## **STAINED GLASS**

St. Stephen's has a wealth of talent and creativity. You see it in many ways. In the sanctuary and entrance doors, you see beautiful stained glass windows designed and constructed by members. Jean and Kent Larason are interested in starting up a new generation of stained glass creators. If you would be interested please let Jean or Kent know and we can develop a plan of action. We have a great workshop and can teach and instruct as we go. It is a great deal of fun. Let us know.

## **MEET OUR ST. STEPHEN'S FAMILY**



**Gentry Hine**

Gentry was born in Centralia, IL. As a small child she lived in Tucson, AZ, Champagne, IL, and Salt Lake City, Utah. At age 14 she moved with her family to Bellevue, WA, a suburb of Seattle. After high school she lived in Ellensburg, WA and received a master's degree in Exercise Science from Central Washington University. In 2007 she briefly relocated to Idaho, and then back to Bellevue. In 2010 she and her husband, Aaron, came to Edmond, OK where they now reside.

Before the move to Oklahoma, Gentry pursued her career as an assistant director of exercise at a retirement center in Washington, where she created programs and worked as an exercise consultant for seniors. She currently works part-time from home as an independent rep. for an athleisure wear company ([www.myzyia.com/zyiafootballwife](http://www.myzyia.com/zyiafootballwife)).

Aaron, a college football scout for the Seattle Seahawks, spends a lot of time traveling, leaving Gentry extra busy with three small children and a home to manage. She says the pride of her life is her role as a wife and mother.

Family, in addition to her "soulmate" Aaron, include her three children: Peyton 11, Grady 7, and Harper 4, her mother Laurie, dad Dwight, and Grandma Audrey (well known to us all). Her brother Bryce lives in Norman with his wife and two daughters. Aaron's family are in Washington state.

Her pet family includes Ruby the cat, and Mavis the English Mastiff (a "gentle giant").

Gentry is a dedicated runner, exercises five times a week, and loves to cook and bake.

A few of her favorite things: massages, family activities, travels with her kids. She enjoyed a special Disneyland trip seeing everything thru the eyes of her young children.

She and Aaron are of course huge Seahawks fans, and plan to attend a home game in December.

They have been a couple since she was only 18. Aaron proposed to her @ 30,000 feet on a flight to Hawaii with his family.

She first came to St. Stephen's with her parents. Says she loves the community here, and appreciates Pastor Mark, especially his personal connection with all members.

Reporter's notes:

Quote: "The word "mother" is a synonym for some of the hardest, most demanding work ever shouldered by any human being." *The Mother Book* by Liz Smith 1978

Gentry greatly values her role as a Christian mother. She is a dedicated wife, daughter, granddaughter and church member. She and her entire family are a delightful force for good to our St. Stephen's Church life.

*Margo Whiting*

## HYMN OF the Month



*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*  
It is #575 in our hymnal.

The music for “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” was composed by Anthony J. Showalter, and the text was written by Elisha (E.A.) Hoffman. The hymn was inspired directly from a scripture verse, Deuteronomy 33:27, which says “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.” This verse was written by Showalter on two letters to two friends who had both lost their wives at the same time. As Showalter reflected upon this verse, he wrote the music and refrain for “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms.” He then approached Hoffman and asked him to write the text for the stanzas. The hymn was first published in 1887 in *The Glad Evangel for Revival, Camp, and Evangelistic Meetings*, for which Showalter was an editor. This hymn is unique in that it can only be sung to one tune, which Showalter composed specifically for this hymn. (Often, hymns can be sung to a number of tunes; for example, “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” can be sung to three different tunes: *CORONATION*, *DIADEM*, and *MILES LANE*.) The hymn is sung in unison text until the refrain at which point the tenor and bass voices repeat “Leaning on Jesus” during the soprano and alto lines’ sustained notes. This hymn, appropriate for any liturgical season, speaks on assurance of knowing that God will protect us and, in knowing that, our fears should be removed. This hymn has been widely used in popular culture, having been included in many television and movie soundtracks including: House of Cards, The Simpsons, Law and Order: SVU, and True Grit (on which 25% of the orchestral score is based).

Anthony J. Showalter was an American gospel music composer, teacher and publisher. He was born in Cherry Grove, Virginia in 1858 and lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee until his death in 1924. Showalter was trained in the Ruebush-Kieffer School of Music and was teaching in shape note-singing schools by age fourteen. In 1884, he formed the Showalter Music Company of Dalton, Georgia.

He was also an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Dalton. Showalter authored several rudimentary books on music theory and a book on harmony and song composition. These were widely used in singing schools across the South.

Elisha Hoffman was the son of an evangelical minister and lived from 1839-1929. He grew up singing sacred hymns and songs both in church and in the home with his parents. He graduated from Union Seminary in Pennsylvania and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1868. As a minister, he was appointed to the circuit in Napoleon, Ohio in 1872. He worked with the Evangelical Association's publishing arm in Cleveland for eleven years. He served in many chapels and churches in Cleveland and in Grafton in the 1880s, among them Bethel Home for Sailors and Seamen, Chestnut Ridge Union Chapel, Grace Congregational Church and Rockport Congregational Church. In his lifetime he composed more than 2,000 hymns. He edited 50 song books including *Pentecostal Hymns No. 1* and *The Evergreen, 1873*. About hymns, Hoffman said:

“a hymn is ‘a lyric poem, reverently and devotionally conceived, which is designed to be sung and which expresses the worshipper's attitude toward God or God's purposes in human life. It should be simple and metrical in form, genuinely emotional, poetic and literary in style, spiritual in quality, and in its ideas so direct and so immediately apparent as to unify a congregation while singing it.’”

For Hymn of the Month requests, contact Kaleb at [Kaleb.B.Benda@gmail.com](mailto:Kaleb.B.Benda@gmail.com) or (405)-410-9331.



### **Salvation Army Request**

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

### **Prescription Drugs Needed**

If you have any prescription drugs to donate, please give them to Laurie. No expired medications will be accepted.

## CHURCH OFFICERS

### Elders

#### 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

#### Class of 2021

Lori Pickrell	503-9585	Treasurer
John Robison	627-3565	Outreach
Joan Miranda	210-1731	Nurture

### Deacons

#### Class of 2019

Jaquelyn Kuhn	424-2123	Transportation
Kym Manning	426-7298	Van

#### Class of 2020

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

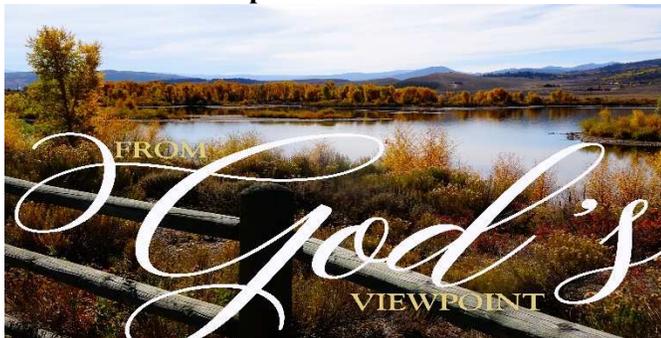
#### Class of 2021

Michael Bassett	942-2074	Church Work Days
Robin Page	514-8240	Missions
Erin Von Tungeln	410-5901	Clerk

### WITNESS DEADLINE

**September 16** 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](mailto:secretary@ststephensokc.org). Thanks! Laurie Daub, St. Stephen's Secretary

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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
11	Timothy Bradford
15	Aaron Hinline
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
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 2*  
National Grandparents Day, *September 8*  
Patriot Day, *September 11*  
Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15 – Oct. 15*  
First day of autumn, *September 23*