

FROM THE DEAR PEOPLE OF GOD,



May is a busy month this year. We have several things on the calendar that are well worth noting. You could look at this month as the last big fling before the lazy, hazy, crazy dayz of summer when people will be busy doing many other things and the church schedule becomes lighter.

Early this month (Saturday, May 3rd) is the day we have scheduled to complete the Physical Inventory of St. Stephen's. A team of parishioners will be conducting an inventory of everything from the furnishings of the Sanctuary, Parish Hall and Education Wing to the linens and hangings used in worship. This is all necessary just in case we should ever need to file an insurance claim, as well as a means of filling-in some historic data of the church.

On Saturday, May 10th, the Men Of St. Stephen's (MOSS) will get together for a "spring cleaning" work day on the church and grounds. If you are a male, new to the church, and haven't been part of a MOSS day, I encourage you to turn out for the fellowship and fun, while we accomplish some of the periodic "maintenance" items around the church.

Next is a major feast day of the church year - Pentecost Sunday, May 11th. Pentecost coincides, this year, with Mother's Day and our annual brunch to celebrate the ladies of St. Stephen's. MOSS plays a big role in the celebration by setting up, cooking, serving and cleaning-up after a grand waffle brunch for the ladies. Don't forget your singing voices either men. Serenading the women is a time honored tradition throughout history. I already have the "ditty" prepared and the tune is simple, *O Sole Mio*. Besides, what better way to celebrate the day of Pentecost than with a *spirit* of serving.

The other item of note is that Pentecost Sunday is the last day of the church school year. Our last Sunday school meetings until the Fall will be that morning.

And just in case you hadn't noticed . . . there have been a lot of teens across the Midlands lately wearing tuxedos and gowns. That, of course, signals the time for proms, and the time for graduations. It also signals our annual celebration of all that. As is customary, our service on Sunday, May 18th, will be lakeside at the Branham's. The sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall; be sure to sign-up as attending as well as for foodstuffs. Another time honored custom is that the chicken comes from Stevie D's and this year is no exception. During the service, our three High School grads will receive a Student Bible as recognition of their accomplishment.

The following weekend is Memorial Day weekend. Of course, that signals the start of vacations. I wish everyone a prosperous, fun-filled and blessed summer. Remember, even on vacation, the Lord is always near at hand watching over our going out and our coming in. So, while you're out working on your tan, don't forget to nurture your spirit.

God bless you and keep you,
and hold you always
in the palm of his hand,
Fr. Tommy+



HERE IS TO ALL
THE SAINTS
CELEBRATING IN
MAY

Michael Rowe	05/01	Karen Kuehner	05/18
Robert Arndt III	05/02	Bo Whitmire	05/18
Michael Autry	05/03	Amy Langdale	05/18
Donna Guess	05/07	Jim Gunter	05/19
Nancy Johnson	05/11	Sarah Rankin	05/20
Jenna Upchurch	05/12	Catherine Beale	05/23
Ryan Floyd	05/15		

ST. DAVID'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

A golf tournament, to be hosted at the Golf Club of South Carolina at Crickentree by St. David's, Columbia, May 15 is to benefit homeless ministries. Proceeds will be donated to local organizations serving the homeless. Specifically, proceeds from The Brian Ewing Memorial Golf Tournament will go to His Hands Ministry and Pure Light Ministry. The tournament, is named for Brian Ewing, a St. David's member who loved golf. Ewing was director of the master of international business studies program at the University of South Carolina, following a distinguished leadership career in business. The tournament begins at 1 p.m. with a shotgun start. Four-person team captain's choice scores will be determined using the Peoria scoring system. Prizes will be awarded to the first three place finishers, the longest drive, closest to the pin, most water balls, most tree balls, and best dressed female and male. Up to thirty, four-person teams can be accommodated. Beverages and snacks will be provided on the course and an awards banquet will be held immediately following the tournament at the Crickentree residential club house. Cost for 18 holes plus cart is \$50 per person. Hole sponsorships are \$100. Deadline for entry is May 9. Call St. David's at 803.736.0866 to request a registration form, or download one from www.StDavidsColumbia.org.

MOTHER'S DAY REPORT

Well, as it turns out the historic team of Father Tommy and Don Babb is minus a member again this year. Last year Father Tommy was away. This year Don is away. However . . . do not despair!! We have a willing, able bodied, highly qualified fill-in for Don. Mike Floyd is the better half of the organizing tandem this year. Both he and Father Tommy are anticipating a fourth annual grand event for the ladies of St. Stephen's. So, come one, come all on Sunday, May 11th for the Fourth Annual Mother's Day Brunch.

In case you did not know, that is also Pentecost Sunday, so let the Spirit fill you with joy and appreciation for our ladies. And guys, we know we can't get everybody, but we do need four or five to show up before the service that Sunday to finalize the set-up and start the preparations. You need to see/call/email either Mike Floyd or Father Tommy soon so we know who we can count on to be here.

Sr. Warden:	Doug Bryant	2009
Jr. Warden:	Tom Willingham	2009
Member:	Mike Floyd	2008
Member:	Patti Palmer	2008
Member:	Mike Autry	2010
Member:	Bob Moore	2010
Secretary:	Carter Siegling	2008
Treasurer:	Tom Harwood	2008

YORK PLACE

Please mark your calendars for two very important events coming to York Place.

On May 4, York Place will be celebrating 158 years of ministry to children and their families. Founders' Day is held annually for former residents, friends, community, Episcopalians, children and staff. The day's activities will begin at 10:00 a.m. For more details please visit the Web site, www.yorkplace.org. An alumni event is being planned. Special invitations will be sent with more details. All former residents are urged to contact York Place's Development Office at 803.684.4011, ext. 1009 to make sure we have correct information. We look forward to a day of fellowship with friends of York Place. To make reservations, please call 803.684.4011 ext: 1014, by April 25.

Then, June 6, the 26th Gene Knight "Play for the Child" Golf Tournament will take place. Proceeds from this annual event go directly to benefit the children at York Place. For more details or an entry form, please contact the York Place Development Office 803.684.4011, ext. 1014.

MOSS DAY!

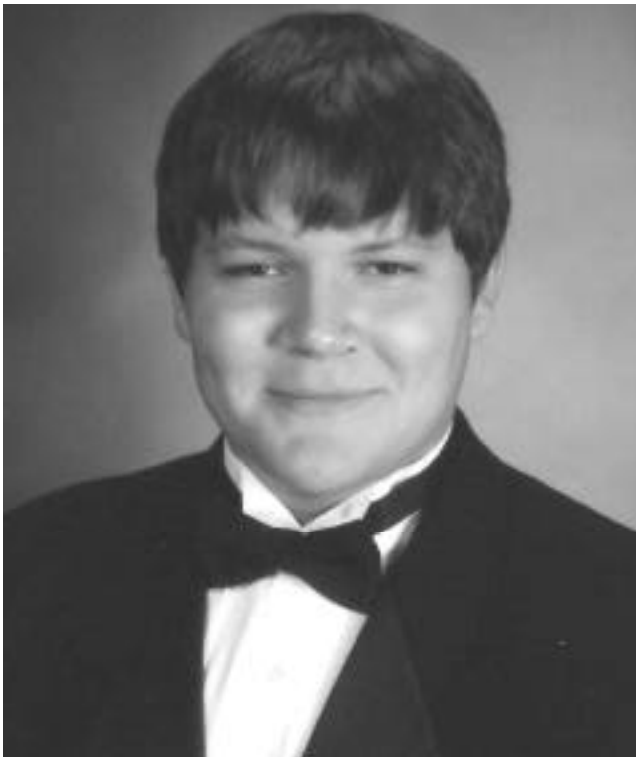
Okay men, with Mother's Day coming up real soon, we need to gather once again to get a few things done around the church and grounds. Saturday, May 10th is a scheduled work day. There are several projects that need attention, so please come out for both the fellowship and the work. A couple water leaks need fixing, grounds clean-up and burned out lights need attention too.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE
Congrats Grads!!

Do you recognize the faces below. These three (four) young people are this year's High School graduates. So, when you see them, be sure to congratulate them for their accomplishment. Graduation ceremonies are scheduled for Sunday evening, May 18th.



Ryan Floyd and her boyfriend Keegan on Prom night.



Gen Palmer VII - graduation picture



Emily Matthews - graduation picture