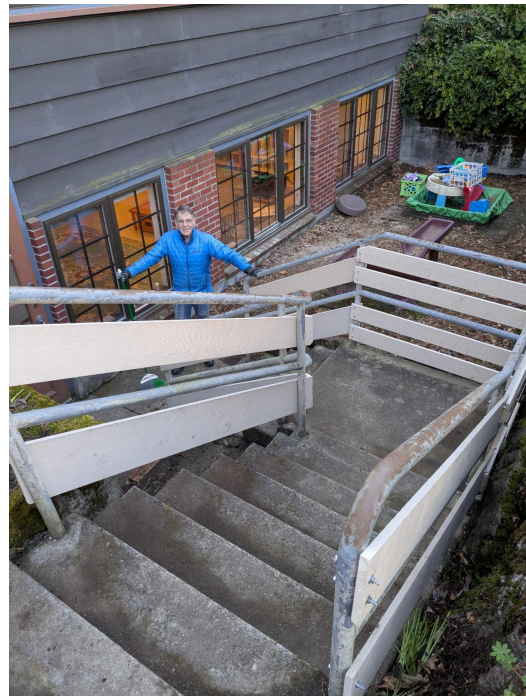


February 13, 2026

Greetings on the eve of the Feast of St. Valentine

This weekend (and always) we pray: *"Loving God, fill our hearts with kindness, courage, and joy; help us to love all your creation with compassion, gratitude, and generosity. Amen."*

There was much activity at St. Stephen's this week to meet emergency egress requirements for the preschool and prepare the classrooms for students. **Many thanks to Tom Kintzi, Jack Irby, and Dennis Roarke**, who engineered and installed child-friendly railings for the stairs to the "grotto" play space. It was a multi-day project with great results. See the "before and after" **pictures below** and view a **celebratory video here** of the installation of the last screw. Come take a look on Sunday!



Sunday Hymns Preview

Click on the title to listen

#135 Songs of thankfulness

#129 Christ upon the mountain peak

#423 Immortal, invisible

This Sunday: St. Stephen's Cross Awarded to Parishioners

During the 10:00 am Eucharist

Last year, Rev. Jennifer began a new tradition - awarding a **St. Stephen's Cross to long-time volunteers who have faithfully served Christ** through their contributions to our parish. The St. Stephen's Cross mirrors the Celtic cross at the center of the nave altar platform; last year it was awarded to Dave Baylor, John Plimpton, and Nancy Weeds. This Sunday, we will



recognize several of the many faithful leaders in our parish and give thanks for their wisdom and dedication. **Come and be a part of this special occasion!**

This Sunday: Forum with ROOTS Young Adult Shelter and Teen Feed

February 15, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall

Please join us this Sunday after church to learn about the ways **ROOTS Young Adult Shelter** and **Teen Feed** support teens and young adults experiencing homelessness.



Ash Wednesday and Holy Week: February 18, March 29-April 5

Ash Wednesday, February 18
6:30 pm in the Nave

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Palm Sunday, March 29
10:00 am in the Nave

Holy Eucharist, Procession of Palms, and Sunday of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 2
6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Community Agape Dinner, Holy Eucharist, Foot washing

Good Friday, April 3
7:00 pm in the Nave

The Passion, Solemn Collects, and Contemplation of the Cross



Lenten Sunday Forums:
11:30 am in the Parish Hall

The Meaning of Lent (aka Do I have to feel bad during Lent?)
February 22

Taking Stock and Preparing for End of Life
March 1

Forgiveness and Reconciliation
March 8

Lenten Practice: Planning Your Funeral
March 15



Easter Sunday: April 5

10:00 am in the Nave

Festive Eucharist with special Choral Music



Renewal of Ministry with the Welcoming of a New Rector

Wednesday, February 25, 6:30 pm, in the Nave

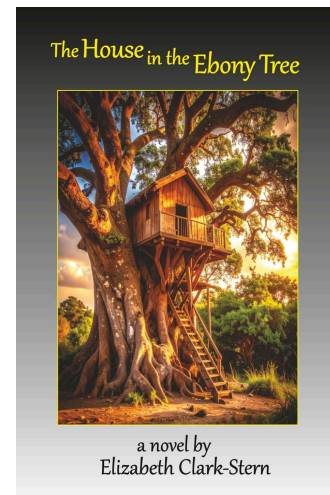
Mark your calendars for Wednesday, February 25 -- **a very special evening of celebration and blessing!** Bishop Phil LaBelle will be present at St. Stephen's as we renew the mutual ministry of all the people in our community and institute Rev. Jennifer as the next rector of the parish. The bishop will also **bless our new preschool, Laurelhurst Early Learning, and give thanks for the leadership and generosity of Cloud 9.**

Book Group Discussion: The House in the Ebony Tree

by Elizabeth Clark-Stern

February 16, 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall

On Monday, February 16 (President's Day) at 3:00 pm in the Parish Hall, **the St. Stephen's book group** will have a discussion of **The House in the Ebony Tree** by our very own **Elizabeth Clark-Stern**, who sings in the choir; she will be in attendance. This was published just last year. **Please come even if you haven't read the book for what is sure to be a lively and informative discussion.** Questions? Contact Monty McGovern at montymcgovern@gmail.com or (206) 526-5987.



Cookie Donations for Teen Feed and Roots Shelter

Girl Scout Troop 40196 has collected donated cookies for Teen Feed in the past. **If you would like to pre-order cookies for donation to Teen Feed and Roots Shelter, please:**

1. Visit this **Troop Digital Cookie Site**.
2. Select the cookies you would like to purchase.
3. Select "Have a Girl Scout Troop 40196 deliver the cookies".
4. Select Checkout.
5. Fill out Information as normal but please enter "SSEC Donation" in the c/o line.

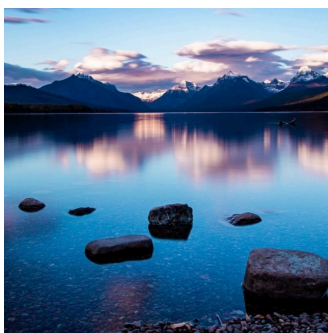
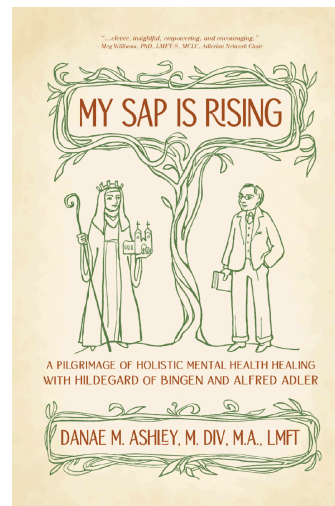
Feel free to reach out to **Beth Cogan here** with any questions or to request cookies if you prefer not to use the cookie website. Thank you for supporting Girl Scouts and helping

provide our guests with some sweet treats for their clients.

Book Launch: My Sap is Rising by the Rev. Danae Ashley and Hildegard of Bingen Compline Prayer Service

Friday, March 27 7:00 pm-9:45 pm in the Parish Hall and the Chapel

You are invited to celebrate the Rev. Danae Ashley's debut book, *My Sap is Rising!* **There will be a presentation by the author with selected readings from the book, a panel discussion with the author, Kester Limner (illustrator), and the Rev. Dr. Angela Yarber of Tehom Center Publishing, and a book signing.** We will close our celebration with a beautiful Compline Prayer Service featuring selections of Hildegard of Bingen's music and writings. It is going to be a remarkable evening—full of *viriditas*! Learn more at www.danaeashley.com.



Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action

Tuesdays: 10:00 am in the Parish Hall, 7:00 pm on Zoom

Join your community for a new weekly group led by Elizabeth Clark-Stern designed to **deepen our connection** to each other and to God, and **create a confidential space** for sharing our challenges, joys, and ideas about our calling. Inspired by the program innovated by Richard Rohr, this group will offer the weekly practices of Still Waters, including some gentle Thai Chi and a 10 minute Centering Prayer. **The group will meet each**

Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall or 7:00 pm on Zoom. **Contact Elizabeth Clark Stern here** to receive the Zoom link.

Coming Up at St. Stephen's

Sundays 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Coffee Hour (Nave and Parish Hall)

Sundays 3:00 pm Youth Group Food Program (Narthex)

Tuesdays 10:00 am Still Waters: Community, Contemplation, and Action (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study (Parish Hall)

February 15 11:30 am Forum on Young Adult and Teen Needs (Parish Hall)

February 16 3:00 pm Book Group: The House in the Ebony Tree by Elizabeth Clark-Stern (Parish Hall)

February 18 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service (Nave)

February 22 11:30 am Forum: The Meaning of Lent (Parish Hall)

February 25 6:30 pm Renewal of Ministry with Welcoming of a New Rector (Nave)

March 1 11:30 am Forum: Taking Stock and Preparing for End of Life (Parish Hall)

March 8 11:30 am Forum: Forgiveness and Reconciliation (Parish Hall)

March 15 11:30 am Forum: Lenten Practice: Plan Your Funeral (Parish Hall)

March 27 7:00 pm My Sap is Rising Book Launch and Hildegard of Bingen Compline Prayer Service (Parish Hall & Nave)

March 29 10:00 am Palm Sunday (Nave)

March 30 1:00 pm Celebration of Life of Mary Fran Hopkins (Nave)

The Rev. Jennifer King Daugherty, Rector
(206) 331-2364
RevJennifer@ststephens-seattle.org

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