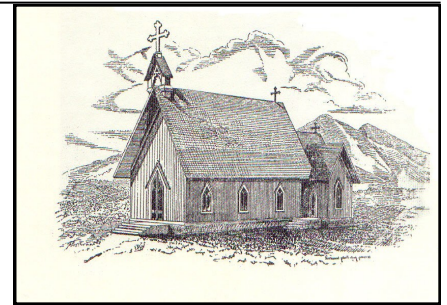




The Voice of St. Stephen's

Location: 2177 First St. Baker City, OR

Mailing address: PO Box 1146 Baker City,



January/February 2026

the Vicar's Moment...

by the Rev. Taylor B. Clark



Bible Study Fridays

@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Inside this issue	
Vicar's Moment	1
St. Brigid's Today	2
Bible Study Notes Youth Activities	3
Parish Life Photos Up-coming Events	4
Parish Life Photos	5
Worship Leader Schedule	6
Celebrations	7
Address Label Monthly Calendar	8

Good morning, and welcome to this Vicar's moment. Here we are again, reflecting on where we have been and where we want to go in Jesus' name.

Over the past month, we have celebrated our participation in the home tour by sharing information about St. Stephen's and our gingerbread and cider with all visitors. Yum! Then, in collaboration with our Presbyterian sisters and brothers, we celebrated our young people's Christmas pageant. They were so talented and capable. It was a spectacular success. The Christmas Eve services at 6:00 and 9:00 were well attended. The first service, with our young folks playing Silent Night, was a huge hit. Our second service, intimate and warm, welcomed some new folks to our church.

The next two months will include our annual meeting on January 25, with the morning prayer service fueled by our own Episcopossums, with an emphasis on Bluegrass Gospel and great potluck food!

Epiphany continues until it ends with our Fat Tuesday pancake supper on February 17th at 5:00 to 7:00 pm, followed by the Ash Wednesday service on February 18th, marking the beginning of Lent, with the dispensing of ashes at noon and again at 6:00 pm.

As we focus over the next two months, let's remember that it is through our compassionate response to others that we are Jesus' hands and feet to a frightened and anxious world. Jesus was clear that it is through the gift of ourselves in his name that we become the light to the poor (the marginalized), to those who are blind (physically and/or cognitively without sight), to those who are hungry (for food and community in Christ), and to those who are strangers (may we make them welcome in His Name). In this way, we live out our discipleship. Join us as we worship the light of the world, Jesus.

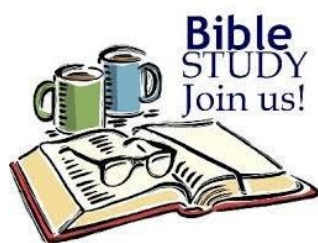
In Christ, Taylor +

Catching up with History and A New Life

St. Brigid's in the Pines Community Church

St. Brigid's in the Pines Community Church, which variously bore the names St. Paul's, St. Mary's, then Sumpter Community Church over its more than 85 years serving Sumpter Valley residents, was renamed and consecrated by Bishop Rusty Kimsey 20 years ago as St. Brigid's after a Celtic Saint dear to Rusty's heart. As a mission Church of St. Stephen's, priests and lay ministers provided services twice a month. When two families who sustained its active presence in the community moved away 8 years ago there was great decline in parish leadership. Over the years the community had built the Parish Hall, and raised money at Sumpter Flea Markets for maintenance, new roof, entrance, and heating. The Church was built by the Community . During COVID the few remaining parishioners were served in their homes and the church remained closed when last parishioner passed away in 2024. Severe damage was caused to the Parish Hall during this COVID interim when a broken water heater pipe flooded to 2-foot depth. Water that froze in the winter was discovered when it melted in Spring. All damage and new walls were repaired through \$29,000 insurance and the empty church needed a new purpose.

The choices were to sell it with proceeds required to go to Diocese, or repurpose it to benefit the Community that built and used it for so many gatherings throughout its history. The Diocese agreed to let St. Stephen's repurpose and manage it just for taking over the insurance payments. The Senior Warden and Treasurer met with the Sumpter Valley Community Volunteer Association (SVCV), comprised of 50 and more members of every volunteer service from Fire to EMT to social events, who were desperate for a free meeting space. They were willing to take over the water, heat and electric bills, and maintain the church. Together with the building contractor, Senior Warden and Treasurer reviewed repairs that had been postponed for several years and the contractor provided an estimate of cost. The Vestry approved the partnership and subsequently provided \$5,000 from the Building Sinking Fund to repair the roof, window casings & foundation corners. In 2025 St. Stephen's wrote and received a grant from the Diocese's Bisbee Foundation for \$2,350 to prep and paint the outside of St. Brigid's. SVCV will provide in-kind labor. We are so happy to continue an Episcopalian presence and ministry for good works outreach in partnership with the Sumpter Valley Community.



Bible Study Notes

Bible Study meets every Friday at 11:00 in the Fire-side Room. We study the Collect and the Lectionary Scripture used in the upcoming Sunday. Prior to the study, Nancy sends out the scripture along with commentary provided by the national Episcopal Church. She also sends links to pertinent videos prepared by the Bible Project that provide insight into the scriptures. These help the participants prepare for the study. Please let Nancy know if you would like to be on the email list for the Bible Study.

The Collects are well thought-out prayers that are used throughout the Anglican Communion. Many of these prayers have been used for centuries. Taylor always provides us with the history of the Collects. After we discuss the collect, we read and discuss the four scripture passages. Taylor and Nancy usually lead the discussion and Taylor brings the coffee.

Even if you can't attend regularly, don't hesitate to drop by. Preparing ahead of time is not necessary and we just discuss the Lectionary scriptures, so you will not be behind.

Check out the Bible Project at bibleproject.com. They are crowd funded and make all their material available for free.

Submitted by Nancy Rorick

St. Stephen's Youth Group Activities

Date: February 1st

Location : Brooklyn Elementary School

Activities: 3:20 Cribbage with follow up instruction with Rob and Betty Palmer



4:00 Winter Olympic games in gym and dinner to follow for youth

4:00 Megan Cox from Ascension Camp and Conference Center will present to parents information how to sign up for summer camp and fill out the scholarship request

*Registration for camp is now open for early registration, so please bring a digital device with you for use in the registering.

Date: February 15th

Ski Party

Location: Anthony Lakes—Lunch will be provided

Time: TBD



Parish Life....

Consecration Sunday



Upcoming Events

Book Give-Away—February 1st

We are planning to have a book giveaway at church on February 1, These are books that have been stored in the church office annex, and there is a wide range of selections. Any leftover books will be donated in this community.

Youth Activities: - See Page 5

Pancake Supper—February 17th

Ash Wednesday Services February 18th at Noon and 6pm

Lenten Soup Suppers— Start Feb. 25th



Save the Date—Birthday Open House for Sandy Pryse March 14th

Parish Life....

Our Youth:



Learning in Sunday School

Serving as Acolytes



The Christmas Pageant & Sharing Music



January 2026—St. Stephen's Worship Schedule

Date Time	January 4 9 a.m.	January 11 9 a.m.	January 18 9 a.m.	January 25 9 a.m.
Sunday	2 Christmas	1 Epiphany	2 Epiphany	3 Epiphany
Service	Holy Eucharist II	Morning Prayer II	Holy Eucharist II	Morning Prayer II
Celebrant Sermon	Rev. Taylor Clark Rev. Taylor Clark	Molly Larsen	Rev. Taylor Clark Rev. Taylor Clark	Molly Larsen
Worship Leader	Molly Larsen	Molly Larsen	Molly Larsen	Molly Larsen
Head Acolyte	Molly Larsen		Molly Larsen	No acolyte
Acolyte				No acolyte
Prayers/People	Nancy Rorick	Marylee Bates	Vicki Kerr	Nancy Rorick
Lector/Greeter	Sue Richard	Nancy Rorick	Courtney Crowell	Vicki Kerr
Music	Lindianne Sappington	Lindianne Sappington	Lindianne Sappington	Episcopossums
Altar Guild	Sue Richard	Patti Pickard	Vicki Kerr	

February 2026—St. Stephen's Worship Schedule

Date Time	February 1 9 a.m.	February 8 9 a.m.	February 15 9 a.m.	February 22 9 a.m.
Sunday	4 Epiphany	5 Epiphany	Last Epiphany	1 Lent
Service	Holy Eucharist II	Morning Prayer II	Holy Eucharist II	Morning Prayer II
Celebrant Sermon	Rev. Taylor Clark Rev. Taylor Clark	Molly Larsen	Rev. Taylor Clark Rev. Taylor Clark	Betty Palmer
Worship Leader	Molly Larsen	Molly Larsen	Molly Larsen	Cammy Warner
Head Acolyte	Molly Larsen		Molly Larsen	
Acolyte	Joel A, Hazel, Ellie & Finley		No Acolytes Today	
Prayers /People	Aletha Bonebrake	Nancy Rorick	Vicki Kerr	Betty Palmer
Lector/Greeter	Marylee Bates	Aletha Bonebrake	Marylee Bates	Rob Palmer
Music	Lindianne Sappington	Lindianne Sappington	Lindianne Sappington	Episcopossums
Altar Guild	Nancy Rorick	Beth Bigelow	Vicki Kerr	Betty Palmer

January Birthdays

Jan. 5 Sean Tomlinson
 Jan. 17 Kemp Larsen
 Jan. 17 Andrew Rorick
 Jan. 30 Joel Bigelow

January Anniversaries

Jan. 1 Jim & Mary Tomlinson

February Birthdays

Feb. 5 Jessica Anderson
 Feb. 5 Joel Anderson
 Feb. 7 Molly Larsen
 Feb. 11 Jim Tomlinson
 Feb. 12 Meridith Wilson
 Feb/ 13 Mark Johnson

Jan. Coffee Hour Hosts

Jan. 4 Church Potluck
 Jan. 11 Palmers
 Jan. 18 Bigelows
 Jan. 25 Annual Meeting Potluck

**Feb. Coffee Hour Hosts**

Feb. 1 Church Potluck
 Feb. 8
 Feb. 15
 Feb. 22

**Prayer Chain Warriors**

If you would like to have your name removed from or added to the prayer list, please contact the church office.

♥ Beth Bigelow	856-3334	♥ Vicki Kerr	910-5946
♥ Rev. Aletha Bonebrake	519-6776	♥ The Rev. T. Clark	519-7454
♥ Sue Richard	519-7227	♥ Nancy Rorick	519-3644
♥ Betty Palmer	523-4043	♥ Carol Harley	360-921-4141

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
 2177 1st Street
 Mailing Address: PO Box 1146
 Baker City, OR 97814

Email: bakerststephens@gmail.com



February 2026

Feb 1	Holy Eucharist II	4 Epiphany
Feb 8	Morning Prayer	5 Epiphany
Feb 15	Holy Eucharist II	Last Epiphany
Feb 22	Morning Prayer	1 Lent

March 2026

Mar 1	Holy Eucharist II	2 Lent
Mar 8	Morning Prayer II	3 Lent
Mar 15	Holy Eucharist II	4 Lent
Mar 22	Morning Prayer II	5 Lent
Mar 26	Holy Eucharist II	Palm Sunday