

St. Stephen's Herald

✦ *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church serves Christ as an inclusive, progressive community where peace, social justice and faith converge in our worship and urban ministries.* ✦

January 2017

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

Annual Parish Meeting

This year our parish meeting will occur on **Sunday, February 12th**. It begins with our worship together and continues downstairs in the parish hall where we will gather for refreshments, reports (financial and otherwise), election results, and fellowship.



Accepting Nominations

Bonnie Hallman-Dye and Dave Morse will be accepting nominations for open positions on the vestry:

- 1 vestry warden (2 year term)
- 2 vestry members (3 year terms)
- 1 delegate to Diocesan Convention (3 year term)
- 1 alternate to Diocesan Convention (1 year term)



If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please see Bonnie or Dave. If you intend to nominate someone, please do them the courtesy of speaking to them first to be sure they wish to run. Committed lay leaders are crucial to fulfilling our mission!

All nominees should be baptized members of the congregation who are at least 18 years old.

Ministry Reports

Due Monday January 30th

If the Annual Meeting is on the calendar, you know what that means... Ministry Reports! Please e-mail them to the office if at all possible, so Elaine does not have to retype them!



Robert Burn's Supper

Saturday January 21st 5:00 – 9:30 pm

Gathering and Appetizers at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00, followed by further festivities, including Scottish dancing, reading of Burn's poetry, and a wee bit of traditional libations!

Reply by 1/16/2016 to David Morse at DLMORSE@rochester.rr.com or 328-8422 for a head count and coordination of dishes, and **especially** if inviting friends new to the event. Please bring:



- Your best kilt (or something tartan!)
- Dish to pass: Veggie, salad, or dessert (Please email that to Dave, per above!)
- Punch and soda supplied; BYO...
- Canned goods for St. Stephens Sunday Supper program
- Cost: \$10.00 per person (children free)

Sunday Supper - January

Thank you to everyone that helped with The Christmas Party, and with Christmas Day Sunday Supper!

Personal care items such as soap, toothpaste and lotion are always needed, along with juice boxes for the kids.



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change that bookmark! Log in just like always – your personal shopping cart, wish lists, and registries are all there – plus your Amazon Prime!

Those Celebrating Birthdays: Shawniqua Ramsahai (1/7), Angela Ibezim (1/18), Kathryn Corbett-Horrocks and **Anniversaries:** Rob & Sarah Klingenberger (1/4), Jim & Elsie Glendenning (1/31).

Box Tops for Education: Sponsoring School 16



Many Thanks to all who have faithfully clipped box tops and can / jar labels! In the past, School #16 has used the money for school supplies (such as crayons for all of the primary grades) and for the end of the year picnic. Keep those labels coming! It's doesn't seem like much, but that do add up and help the school provide materials and events beyond their very restricted budget. Put labels & box tops in a zipper baggie or envelope, & deposit in the box in the back of church. Questions? Call or e-mail Linda Dronsfield at 383-0296 or kelseed@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

Vestry	Jan 17	6:30 pm
Burns Dinner	Jan 21	5 pm
Ministry Reports Due	Jan 30	2 pm
Annual Meeting	Feb. 12	12 pm

REGULARLY SCHEDULED PARISH ACTIVITIES

Holy Eucharist: Sundays @ SS	10:00 AM
Mindful Meditation: Tuesdays @ SS	7:00 PM
Weekday Eucharist: Tues. & Thurs. @ TS	12:05 PM
The Sewing Work Shop: Saturdays @ SS	10 AM-2 PM
St. Stephen's Sunday Supper @ SS	1:00-2 PM
3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th Sunday	

Prayers for Our Parish Neighborhood and Community

Please keep these people in your daily prayers:

Joan Gardner Lynne & Brian McNulty, Kathy Robinson, Doris Schrader, Dennis Price, Maelee Bowman, The Sullivan family, Tom Bohrer, Kathy Clarke, Karen Witkowitz, Vivian Darling, Debbie Bonomo, Rachael Bisson, Karen Prave, Elizabeth Robinson, Michelle Flowers; Amber Worthington, David Burrows, Beverly Kluge, Virginia Rockwell, Joe and Jessie & family, Mary Cleary, Jesse Alston, and Kristen Kinsella.

Those serving in our armed forces: Joseph Scheidt, Jason Brown, & Jeff Fallesen.

Who's Up... in January

The Ministry Schedule is on the website, or refer to the copy that was in the mail.

Readings for Sunday, January 1

The Holy Name & St. Stephen's Feast

1 st Numbers 6:22-27	Psalm 8
2 nd Galatians 4:4-7	G: Luke 2:15-21

Readings for Sunday, January 8

The 1st Sunday after Epiphany & The Baptism of Our Lord

1 st Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29
2 nd Acts 10:34-43	G: Matthew 3:13-17

Readings for Sunday, January 15

The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-12
2 nd 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	G: John 1:29-42

Readings for Sunday, January 22

The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 5-13
2 nd 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	G: Matthew 4:12-23

Readings for Sunday, January 29

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15
2 nd 1 Corinthians 1:18-31	G: Matthew 5:1-12

Greetings on this, the Feast of Epiphany!

As we remember the arrival of the Magi from the East bearing their traditional three gifts, I first want to thank you for the gift you've given me in calling me to serve as your new Priest-in-Charge. On behalf of myself, my wife Leah, and our children, Abigail (7), Matthias (5) and Mariel (4 weeks today!), we're honored and excited to serve as Jesus' disciples in your

company and of all the saints in St. Stephens' 120 year history.

I'm also reminded of a quote from one of my favorite poets and writers, Kentucky farmer and activist Wendell Berry, who, reflecting on God's purpose in creating the world, wrote:

God made the world because He wanted it made. He thinks the world is good, and He loves it. It is His world; He has never relinquished title to it. And He has never revoked the conditions, bearing on His gift to us of the use of it, that oblige us to take excellent care of it.

We are blessed to live in such a beautiful world that God Himself has declared "good." As St. John the Evangelist famously wrote, "God so loved the world that God gave His only Son." It is my belief that God has placed us in this world, together, to experience the depths and fullness of abundant life in God's love through the sharing of and caring for God's good gifts.

The Magi brought gifts in response to God's giving of Jesus. And ever since, God has continued to give gifts to the world through God's people - even through us, here gathered at St. Stephens! Over the next few months, I am looking forward to discovering and delighting in the many ways God is seeking to bring life to the world through each of you, and as a community. I hope that through hearing your stories over coffee, meals, fellowship, study, singing, worship and sharing life together, we'll all unwrap new dimensions of God's work in our midst, even as we continue to receive the gift of new epiphanies about God's gift Jesus in this season of Epiphany.

Many of you know that I am passionate about music (something Martin Luther once called the greatest gift of God to humanity!). Being able to play and share music makes life worth living for me. And yet, being able to enjoy music is really hard work. Responding to such a gift

means hours of practice, deep listening, gathering with others to create in community, and yes, even taking the songs in our heart and sharing them with others. As Berry writes above, we are called to "take excellent care" of the gifts that we are, so that through us God's song might be heard in the world that God loves.

Not just receiving gifts, but *being* gifts - this is an amazing and a very challenging calling! Being the church together, especially in challenging times like these, is not easy. It will require us all to work hard together to make sure that the song we sing is not only beautiful, but also, a blending of the diversity of voices and gifts that God has given St. Stephens to give to the world. Making this music may challenge us, stretch us, and surprise us. But I also believe that it will inspire us, and delight us, and fill us with new hope and joy. Because it will be the song we were always meant to sing together. And the world will hear, and want to join in.

So let us be generous with our gifts this season! As we hear in on Sundays how God is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, so too, as we get to know one another, may we discover new dimensions of God's Spirit at work in the revelation of each others' joys, dreams and struggles. And let us, together, receive God's good gift of the calling to be God's disciples, that in the midst of a world filled with the cacophony of hatred and hurting, we might sing words of healing and hope with all our hearts. Together.

Grace, peace, and once more, thanks. For the gifts you've already given to me. And the gifts you are to God's beloved world.

- Matthew