

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 2018

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

New Service Format

Beginning this month, we have returned to using the red Book of Common Prayer in the pews for our service. The Vestry, in conference with Sandy, have decided to make this change for budgetary reasons. It will also reduce our footprint, ecologically speaking. The Order of Service, with page numbers, is now included in these Announcements. There are two large print editions of the Book of Common Prayer available – please ask the Greeter.

Staffing Changes

As a result of our budget constraints and to limit our deficit as much as possible, the Vestry reluctantly approved the following cuts to staff hours:

- Choir Director Rob Klingenberger – The choir will rehearse Sunday mornings at 9 AM. There will be no Wednesday choir rehearsals.
- Parish Secretary Elaine Francesco – Elaine's hours have been reduced from 12 to 9 per week. She will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. Obviously, there are tasks with which Elaine will need assistance. When these arise, please consider whether you will be able to help out.
- Sexton Felix Vargas – Felix's hours have been reduced from 15 to 12.5 per week. We have asked Felix to let us know what jobs will be left undone as a result of his reduced hours. Again, we would appreciate any assistance you are able to offer.

Please contact one of the Wardens or a Vestry member if you have any questions about these changes.

Pledge Envelopes

Year End Statements

Pledge Envelopes for 2018 can be found on the Resource Table at the rear of the church.

Year End Statements are in progress and should be available for pick up on Sunday 1/21.

Choir Rehearsals for 2018 have moved to 9 am Sundays.

Annual Meeting & Elections

Our 2018 Annual Meeting will be during and after service on Sunday, February 11th.

Elections will be held for the following positions:

Warden – 1 position; 2 year term; Bonnie Hallman-Dye has served 3 terms and is not eligible to run

Vestry Member – 2 positions; 3 year term; Debbie Bonomo is running again; 1 vacancy

Convention Delegate – 1 position; 3 year term; Chris Farnum is eligible to run

Convention Alternate – 1 position; 1 year term; Te'vanni Davidson is eligible to run

Please prayerfully consider whether you might be called to serve in one of these open leadership positions. Please call Bonnie at 975.9227 with questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

Annual Report

Anyone who has a report to be included in the Annual Report, please e-mail it to Elaine by **10 am on Tuesday Feb 6th**. Thank you.

Discernment

Our discernment discussion continued on 1/7/2018. Notes from the 12/10/17 meeting were distributed. Notes from the 1/7/18 meeting will be mailed to parishioners. There will not be a meeting 1/14/18. Highlights from the 1/7/18 meeting are:

- Very preliminary work continues on possible REACH project; architect has made copies of building plans
- Is part of our mission to be a driver for urban ministry? We should contact Ruth Ferguson, Rochester District Dean, to see "How can we work together? Can we share resources?" – ideas and connections
- How do we thrive? Do we need to prune so that we can grow?
- "Nobody can kill us until we say we're done."

Ministry Opportunity Form

For the next several weeks the 2018 Ministry Opportunity form will be included in the service bulletin. If you have ever wondered how you can get on the list to be a reader, greeter, hospitality host, or any other parish ministry job, this is your answer.

This is also the answer if you wonder how to stop doing a parish ministry job for which you are currently signed up. Fill out the form!

Please place your completed form in the offering plate (it is, after all, an offering of your time and talent) or give it to Dave Morse or Bonnie Hallman-Dye, our Wardens. The new signups will be used for the February ministry calendar.

Our Annual Robert Burn's Supper Saturday January 27th

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!

RSVP by **1/17/2018** to David Morse at dlmorse@gmail.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 Sunday Supper
- Cost: \$10.00 per person (children free)

Sunday Supper Souper Bowl!

It is time again for Sunday Supper's annual "**Souper**" bowl. There will be three boxes in the back of the church for you to vote for who you want to win the Super Bowl: one for the NFC, one for the AFC and one for "I don't care".

This year in addition to soup we are asking you to vote with toothpaste and lotion also. Vote early and often!

We gave out full size personal care items for Christmas and they were very much appreciated. Thanks for all who donated.

Sunday Supper Hat Drive

NEW Women's warm are needed for the Hat-Mitten-Sock distribution planned for Sunday Supper on Jan 21st. We have plenty of everything else – Thank You!

Who's Up... in January

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

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:
Terry Carney, Barb & Jim Fallesen, Elsie Glendenning, Rose, Shelia Morse, Jason Mills, Joan Gardner, Lynne McNulty, Kathy Robinson,

Doris Schrader, Dennis Price, Maelee Bowman, The Sullivan family, Tom Bohrer, Kathy Clarke, Karen Witkowicz, Debbie Bonomo, Rachael Bisson, Karen Prave, Elizabeth Robinson, Michelle Flowers; Amber Worthington, 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.

Those Celebrating Birthdays: Angela Ibezim (1/18) **and those celebrating Anniversaries:** Rob & Sarah Klingenberger (1/4) and Jim & Elsie Glendenning (1/31).

From the Pastor...

*When the star in the sky is gone
When the Kings and Princes are home
When the shepherds are back with their flocks
The work of Christmas begins-
To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To teach the nations
To bring Christ to all
To make music in the heart-*

Dear Friends:

Christmas Eve was wonderful at Saint Stephen's this year. Our church was beautiful with candlelight and flowers, music, drama and all of us: singing, praying, hearing and seeing, once again, God's great love story - the incarnation- God became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Special thanks to Tom Bohrer and his wonderfully joyful nativity drama and cast of

puppeteers; and to our musicians, augmented by singers from Two Saints, our sister church.

As Christmas draws to a close and we get ready to welcome a new year, we may look forward with relief to life lived at a more normal pace- no more shopping in crowded stores, gift wrapping, decorating, baking, special pageant and choir rehearsals, parties and fancy dinners etc.

This beautiful poem by Howard Thurman reminds us that the real work of Christmas: *proclaiming, by word and example, the Good News of God in Christ and seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves,* never comes to an end.

We just began a new season in our church year: Epiphany- the season of revelation. During the Season of Epiphany, we will hear biblical stories of God's great love and power revealed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

By baptism, we are part of Christ's ministry. **We** are his ministers, entrusted with God's Good News. How is God's great love and power being revealed in my/your life and ministry, and in the life and ministry of Saint Stephens?

Welcome to a new year! God has blessed you/us to be a blessing!

+Sandy