

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.* ✦

February 2017

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

Community Worship Planning for Lent

Sunday Feb 5th - 11:30am (after worship)

Matthew and Rob would like to invite anyone interested to stay after church to help imagine and shape St Stephen's celebration of Lent this year. No experience required - just bring your favorite Lenten memories, your ideas, and your questions and you requests.

February 5th is 1st Sunday!

The pastor's discretionary fund is used to help those from the neighborhood who come to the church in need, most often a type of assistance not available from the usual agencies or programs. On the first Sunday each month, any loose cash in the offering plate goes into that fund. Please be generous if you are able.



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.



Nominations

- Warden - David Morse
- Vestry – (2 openings) Karen Kirkey, Jesse Partrick, and Stella Wang
- Convention Delegate- Debbie Burrows
- Convention Alternate- Te'vanni Davidson

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. All nominees should be baptized members of the congregation who are at least 18 years old.

Request for Prayerful Discernment for Annual Meeting

As part of this year's annual meeting, I (Matthew) would like to have an open conversation in which we discuss two questions:

1. What do we say we value most at St Stephens?
2. How do we live out - or what

Sunday Supper 'Souper' Bowl

We will again be having our annual "Souper" Bowl. Three boxes will be in the back of the church on Sunday. Your vote is cans of hearty soup. Choices will be Atlanta, New England or the ever popular I don't care. Please vote often!!!

From The Pastor ---

We enter February in the midst of troubled times. Which makes me extra grateful that, through the Spirit's working in the Church, our lectionary texts lead us to the prophet Isaiah, and to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. With all the words and accusations and anxiety-laden Facebook posts and tweets and news reports and alternative facts, I know I've never needed the Word of God more.

As I shared in worship, I'd never noticed before that, prior even to getting into the Beatitudes and other radical teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, St. Matthew supplies some pretty important, easily overlooked details about *how* Jesus gives the sermon. In Chapter 5, verses 1 and 2, we are told:

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples

came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying...

Jesus' manner of teaching is just as important as the content. Confronted with the rising tide of his nascent movement, which has included healing the sick, driving out demons, and preaching repentance, Jesus does not do what we would do. He doesn't try to harness this momentum into a social media hashtag or an outreach event for his synagogue. He doesn't call up the political authorities and ask for a cabinet position. In fact, he doesn't say anything at first. He goes up the mountain - as Moses, so many centuries earlier, had gone up Sinai - and sits down.

We are surrounded by calls to rise up. To take to the streets. To proclaim and to live our resistance to those forces following paths contrary to those laid before us in our faith. And someday soon, we most certainly will be called to make sacrifices, and to act. But notice that Jesus first sits. He meditates and prays. He seeks the will of God.

And then, we are told, his disciples come to him. Not the entire crowd or the masses or the media or young adults or families with young children. Just "disciplines." Those who wish to truly follow Jesus, even into the unknown. And it's only then, once a commitment has been made with their feet, that Jesus begins to unfold the depths of his radical wisdom for their ears and their minds.

I retrace all this here because, as a community, St Stephens has an opportunity, this February, to follow Jesus into the unknown and to sit at his feet. We'll do this at the Lenten Liturgy meeting and at our Annual Meeting. We'll continue to worship as we prepare for the Lenten season. But will we listen, in order to discover the action to which God is calling us?

Will we sit down with the teacher on the mountain, so that we can also rise up with the savior, and take up our crosses to follow him?

I'd like each of us as a community to commit to sitting at Jesus' feet. Spend extra time praying for St. Stephen's, and for one another, and for our neighborhood. Every time you're about to log on to social media or turn on the television, take a moment first to offer up a simple prayer of thanksgiving to God, and to ask the Spirit for guidance. Try reading ahead in the Gospel of Matthew, or re-read the Sermon on the Mount each week (Matthew 5-7). Let us attune our hearts and our senses to the silent, wonderful music of Jesus' voice, so that, together, we might hear it, and sing his song with our own lives.

The time to act is almost at hand. But as my teacher, theologian and Matthew commentator Stanley Hauer was fond of reminding us, God has given us all the time we need to be faithful. Let us take that time now, and not take it for ourselves and our rage and our anxiety, but offer it back to God. I don't know exactly what we'll receive back. But I do know that, a few chapters later, Jesus promises that "all ye heavy laden" will find "rest of their souls." In Christ's rest, we will discover a church more beautiful than we could ever have imagined on ourselves - and find the courage to love with a love greater than our own.

- *Matthew*

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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



Those Celebrating Birthdays:- Steve Burrows (2/1), Cora Vaughn Partrick (2/9), Judy Zettek (2/11) and Bonnie Hallman-Dye (2/12). Juliette Sullivan (2/12), Jesse Partrick (2/16), Matthew Nickoloff (2/21), Bill McDonough (2/28) and **Anniversaries.**

Who's Up... in February

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

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

Annual Meeting	Feb. 12	12 pm
Vestry	Feb. 21	6:30 pm
Ash Wednesday	March 1	

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:

Our Sunday Supper Family: Orin Lee, John, Lynn, Donna, Mary, Michael, Willie, Georgia, Mary, Lenora, George, Patty, and Jeffery; and Jason Mills, 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.

Readings for Sunday, February 5

The 5th Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Isaiah 58:1-9a, [9b-12]	Psalm 112:1-9, [10]
2 nd 1 Corinthians 2:1-12,	G: Matthew 5:13-20

Readings for Sunday, February 12

The 6th Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 119:1-8
2 nd 1 Corinthians 3:1-9	G: Matthew 5:21-37

Readings for Sunday, February 19

The 7th Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18	Psalm 119: 33-40
2 nd 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	G: Matthew 5:38-48

Readings for Sunday, February 26

The Last Sunday after Epiphany

1 st Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2
2 nd 2 Peter 1:16-21	G: Matthew 17:1-9