

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.* ✦

December 4 & 11, 2016

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

December 4th is the First Sunday

On the first Sunday each month, any loose cash in the offering plate goes into the priest's discretionary account to help those from the neighborhood who come to the church for help. Please be generous if you are able.



Our pledge drive goals are \$65,000 from 35 families. That means we are praying that the last \$5,000 can be raised from 15 families who have not yet pledged. If you have not yet pledged, please fill out a pledge card and send it to the office or put it in the plate this coming Sunday. May God's love be shared among us in this season of joy and celebration!
-Charlie Zettek

Transition Time News

Friends,

At our Vestry meeting on November 14, we unanimously voted to pursue a one year covenant supply minister agreement with the Rev. Matt Nickoloff. After discussing this with Matt, he enthusiastically expressed his willingness to take that position. Matthew is currently the missionary priest at the South Wedge Lutheran-Episcopal Mission.

Matthew, the vestry, and the Diocese are working on a one year agreement for 2017. After a year we will all see how the match is working out and decide whether to renew or not.

Matthew will remain in his position at the South Wedge Mission during this time as well as serving St. Stephen's. All the details are being worked out. We hope that this will be done by the end of December and Matthew will begin January 1.

May your Advent be blessed as we await the coming of Christ.

Your Sister in Christ,
Kate Corbett

Stewardship Update

Thanks to everyone who has submitted a pledge card for the 2017 Stewardship campaign! The response to date has been wonderful! We have received pledges from 20 families, for a total of \$59,900. Almost every family has been able to increase their pledge from last year.



St. Nicholas Sunday

December 4th! Come celebrate the day with us in church. There's a good chance that there may be some surprises too!



December 18th

Sunday Supper Christmas Party

We can use extra help for serving (both on the 18th & the 25th) and singing Christmas carols!!

We are giving out small bags of extra food for adults and could use donations of the following:

Body / Hand Lotion

Bar Soap

Soup - hearty

Canned Meats: Chicken, Tuna

Canned fruit

Additional single serve items for the children's bags: small meals, juice boxes (100% juice), healthy snacks such as granola bars, applesauce, crackers



We are giving out fleece blankets to the kids and need about 10 more. Also, new winter hats and gloves would be very welcome!

Christmas Flower Memorials



There are envelopes in the back of the church for Christmas Flower donations in memory of, or in thanksgiving for someone in your life.

Deadline: Monday Dec. 19.

Christmas Services



Christmas Eve Family Service

6 pm at St. Stephens

Christmas Day

10 am at Two Saints

Stayin' Alive: Mission Dei

A Day of Learning and Bible Study

Saturday December 10th 10 AM – 2:15 PM

(includes lunch)

South Wedge Mission

125 Caroline Street, Rochester NY 14620

<http://southwedgmission.org/>

At our November Meeting several Vestry members spoke about the need to discern and tell our stories, both our individual stories and our community story as St. Stephen's Church. We have been invited to join the Lutheran Conference's Mission Dei, hosted by the South Wedge Mission.

From the Lutheran Conference Announcement:

What's it all about? It is about the challenging work of thinking deeply and developing practical skills for leading churches into a healthier and more sustainable future while taking seriously the purpose of the church to share the Gospel of Christ to our neighborhoods and the world.

In the season of Advent we prepare to celebrate the first coming, and anticipate the returning, of God's son, Jesus, who came into the world with the purpose of reconciliation. God is constantly stirring up new opportunities for reconciliation – we call it mission, or God's work – in the community. This work belongs to God and God invites us to participate in it:

Who Should Consider GFL's Mission Dei?

Congregations that are serious about mission; who wish to revisit the basics of Jesus' Great Commission; who want to grow deeper in their relationship with God and each other; who are declining in attendance and yet dedicated to "being renewed as the body of Christ"; who are willing to change, as necessary, to follow Jesus' call; who are in transition and are looking for a stronger sense of their identity and mission.

If you want more information or are interested in attending, please contact Bonnie Hallman-Dye by email at bhallmandye@gmail.com or phone 975-9227.

South Wedge Mission also invites us to

Beer and Carols

at the Butapub,

315 Gregory Street

(the old German House)

Sunday, December 11th

Doors open at 6 PM

Singing starts at 7 PM



ADVENT

Advent House Church will be

held on the Mondays in Advent,

Nov 28, Dec. 5, 12, & 19 at 6

pm. House Church is a simple

meal, fellowship and Compline.

Hosts provide soup and

beverages. Guests contribute salads, breads and

desserts. We gather around 6 pm, and are finished

by 8 pm.



Please contact BHallmanDye@gmail.com if you would like to be a host.

Dec. 5 - Kate Corbett, 855 Arnett Boulevard

Dec. 12 - Sew Green, 438 W. Main Street

Dec. 19 - Tom Bohrer & Mitzi Collins, 390 Wellington Avenue

Advent Calendars for our children were given out

during the Sharing Across Generations time last

Sunday. If your child missed getting one last week,

check with Linda Dronsfield. Using an Advent

calendar is one way to mark time as we move

through this season of reflection and preparation for

the renewing of Christ in our lives that we celebrate

on Christmas Day.

Holiday Office Hours

The Office will close at Noon on

Dec 23rd, and will more or less be

closed for the week between the

holidays.



Thank You!

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank to all who helped with

donations and whole baskets!

Together, we made Thanksgiving

for 28 families, over 100 people!

Holiday Shopping --

St. Stephens wins when you shop Amazon!



On your first visit, choose us as your charity: just type in "St Stephen's Episcopal Church, Rochester NY"! 5% of eligible purchases* goes to St. Stephens! But for it to work, you must get to Amazon from the Smile.Amazon.com page, so change that bookmark! Log in just like always – your personal shopping cart, wish lists, and registries are all there – plus your Amazon Prime!

Supply Clergy for December

(Confirmed, but subject to change.)

Please Welcome...

Dec 4 The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff

Dec 11 The Rev. Dan Linnenberg

Dec 18 The Rev. Sandy Cordingley

Dec 24 The Rev. Keith Patterson

If you have a pastoral concern, please contact our deacon, the Rev. Lynne McNulty at 585-328-4494 or lmcnult2@rochester.rr.com. The wardens, Bonnie Hallman-Dye (585-975-9227) and David Morse (585-328-8422), should be contacted with any parish concerns.

Who's Up... in December

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

Altar Flowers in December

Dec. 4 OPEN

Dec. 11 OPEN

Dec. 18 The Thurston & Bonomo Families,
given by Debbie Bonomo

Dec. 25 OPEN

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!

St. Nicholas Sunday	Dec 4	1 pm
House Church: Kate Corbett	Dec 5	6 pm
855 Arnett Boulevard		
House Church: Sew Green	Dec 12	6 pm
438 W. Main Street		
SS Christmas Party	Dec 18	1 pm

House Church: Tom Bohrer & Mitzie Collins, 390 Wellington Avenue	Dec 19	6 pm
Christmas Eve Family Service	Dec 24	6 pm
Christmas Day @ TS	Dec 25	10 am

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:

Ann Cavallo, 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, Francis Kirkey, Michelle Flowers; Amber Worthington, David Burrows, Beverly Kluge, Virginia Rockwell, Joe and Jessie & family, Mary Cleary, Jesse Alston, Kristen Kinsella, and Lynne McNulty.

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

Those Celebrating Birthdays: Anne McDonough (12/20), Marie Zetek (12/21), Miriam Ibezim (12/23), Dawn Morgan (12/24), Barb Fallesen (12/25) and **Anniversaries.**

Readings for Sunday, December 4

2nd Sunday of Advent

1 st Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19
2 nd Romans 15:4-13	G: Matthew 3:1-12

Readings for Sunday, December 11

3rd Sunday of Advent

1 st Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalms 146:4-9
2 nd James 5:7-10	G: Matthew 11:2-11

Readings for Sunday, December 18

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16	Psalms 80:1-7, 16-18
Romans 1:1-7	G: Matthew 1:18-25

Readings for Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve

1 st Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 98
2 nd Hebrews 1:1-12	G: The St. Stephen's Puppets