

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 2017

Sunday Worship 10 AM – Communion with Music

Stewardship Keeping Hope Alive with Faith

In the midst of our discernment needs must, and so it is Stewardship time. Letters and pledge cards were mailed last week. Please give prayerful consideration to your pledge for 2018.



We ask that if you do not put it in the offering plate this Sunday, Dec. 3rd, to please mail your pledge card in by Dec 5th, so we have it by Dec 10th. There are a few extras on the Resource Table.

Discernment Discussions

We'll meet again, after service on Sunday Dec. 10th for our next session. Please continue your thinking ...

The Season of Advent

December 3rd is the First Sunday of Advent. There will be a prayer pamphlet for your home Advent Wreath, and Advent Calendars for adults on the Resource Table at the back of church.



Advent House Church

House Church is a simple meal, fellowship and Compline, held on the Mondays in Advent. Hosts provide soup and beverages. Guests contribute salads, breads and desserts. We gather around 6 pm, and are finished by 8 pm. Please contact Bonnie Hallman-Dye at BHallmanDye@gmail.com if you have questions or would like to bring something. 12/4 – The Burrows, 10 Brookdale Ave 14619 12/11 – The Morses, 45 Oakmount Dr. 14617

12/18 - Tom Bohrer & Mitzi Collins, 390 Wellington Ave. 14619

Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas Flower fund in memory or celebration of someone, please pick up an envelope from the Resource Table. The flower fund is depleted.



Christmas Services

On Christmas Eve, Morning Prayer will be held at 10 am

The Christmas Eve Family Service, with the Puppet Gospel, will be at 6 pm.

Christmas Eve Puppet Nativity Play

St. Stephen's Christmas Eve family service at 6:00 pm December 24th will again feature St. Stephen's Puppets in a presentation of the nativity play *Yes, God!* Puppeteers are needed to work with Angels, Shepherds, and Sheep. No prior experience with puppetry is necessary. A rehearsal of the play is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, at 2 pm. *Yes, God!* Is a multi-generational project --- puppeteers of all ages (old enough to hold up a puppet for short periods of time) are invited to attend the rehearsal. Need more information? Want to be involved but can't be at the rehearsal? Please contact Tom Bohrer, production coordinator, by e-mail at tambohrer@gmail.com.



December 3rd 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.

Sunday Supper

We've been collecting personal care items for SSSS Christmas gifts this year. We have lots of soap, but we need **lotion!** (The full list is soap, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and facial tissue.)



Our party will be on December 17th - cookie bakers and carolers can speak to Debbie Burrows or Karen Kirkey.

NOTE: The Christmas Eve meal will be from 12 – 1 pm. There will NOT be a meal on Dec.31st

Greeter Needed

With the retirement of Al & Joan Gardner, we need a greeter for the "Second Sunday" each month. If you would be willing to take on this important (but easy!) Hospitality ministry, please call Elaine in the office, 328-0856. No experience necessary!



Who's Up... in November

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: Elsie Glendenning, Rose, Jim Fallesen, Shelia Morse, Jim Ahearn and family Jason Mills, Joan Gardner, Lynne & Brian 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 Anne McDonough (12/20), Marie Zettek (12/21), Miriam Ibezim (12/23), Dawn Morgan Dec. 24 Barb Fallesen (12/25) **and those celebrating Anniversaries.**

Readings for Sunday, December 3

The 1st Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1: Isaiah 64:1-9 | Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 |
| 2: 1 Corinthians 1:3-0 | G: Mark 13:24-37 |

Readings for Sunday, December 10

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1: Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 |
| 2: 2 Peter 3:8-15a 1:3-0 | G: Mark 1:1-18 |

Readings for Sunday, December 17

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 | Canticle 3 |
| 2: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 | G: John 1:6-8, 19-28 |

Readings for Sunday, December 24

The 4th Sunday of Advent

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 | Canticle 15 |
| 2: Romans 16:25-27 | G: Luke 1:26-38 |

Readings for Sunday, December 30

The First Sunday after Christmas

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 1: Isaiah 61:10-62:3 | Psalm 147 |
| 2: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7 | G: John 1:1-18 |

Drop Off on Dec 3rd or 10th !!!

And... SWEM Christmas Baskets

Churches, organizations, businesses, and just plain folks from all over the southwest side of greater Rochester have been participating in the SWEM Christmas Basket project for years. The basket list is printed below, clip it out to tuck in with your grocery list. "Baskets" (decorate a box or use a laundry basket) **must be dropped off** at the Montgomery Neighborhood Center, 10 Cady St., on two Sundays: December 3rd & 10th, 10 am - 2 pm.

If you are able, consider putting together a basket yourself, or ask a friend to share, or do it as a family. Your generosity will touch many lives this Christmas.

Please provide your basket 'reservation' to SWEM: call Karen at 235-4494 or e-mail SWEM.services1@gmail.com

Clip-N-Shop...

SWEM Christmas Basket Shopping List

Canned Fruit Cocktail or any fruit: 1 lg or 2 sm
Condensed Soup - 2 cans any flavor
Instant Mashed Potatoes (plain, not flavored)
size – 2: 6 oz or 1: 15 oz boxes
Sweet Potatoes / Yams - 1 large or 2 sm cans
Boxed Stuffing
9 Canned Veg: 3 each: peas, corn, or carrots, etc.
Jellied Cranberry 'Sauce'
Gravy - 2
Cake Mix & Frosting OR Brownie Mix OR
Pie Filling & Crust Mix
Jello – any flavor

Optional:

Sm instant coffee / tea bags / hot choc mix
Box of hot roll mix or cornbread
Candies, mints, or other treats, holiday napkins & tableware.

Plus \$10 for a Chicken, Eggs & Margarine
Please send a check made out to SWEM, and **hand it to a person** when you drop off your basket – **do not leave it in the basket!**

Do Not Include any Perishable items! Baskets are un-refrigerated for over 1 week before delivery.

From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of St. Stephens:

Let me (re) introduce myself to you! I officially retired from full- time parish ministry in 2010, having served more than 25+ years as priest and also a pastoral counselor for several of those years. I was ordained in this diocese and have served three parishes, the last, full time, in southern Maryland. I moved back home, after retirement, to be close to family. I live in East Irondequoit with a large ginger cat named Tommy and a small dog named

Charlie. I have 3 grown children and five grandchildren. Since retirement, I have served 3 parishes as interim supply clergy for a year at a time, and done Sunday supply in several parishes, including St. Stephens. My passions, aside from church, are reading, especially murder mysteries, movies and quilting.

I feel very blessed to be your priest at this juncture in your life as a parish. Please feel free to contact me if you have a pastoral concern via: e-mail scord1944@aol.com or telephone (585) 563-6115.

We are entering the Holy Season of Advent, a time of waiting and expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus, the Christ. While all around us screams **Christmas**, our church invites us to wait and prepare ourselves for our Lord's advent. Our advent scriptures, prayers and music prepare us for our Lord's coming by reminding us of God's promises and the world's longing for those promises to be fulfilled. We focus on the past- the birth of the baby Jesus, the future - God's fulfillment of what is promised in Christ, and the present- preparing ourselves for Christ's love and blessing to be born again in us, for the world. In this very busy time of the year, Advent invites us to *slow down and quiet down*, to listen to our longings and hopes and the longing and hopes of the world. In this spirit I share with you this prayer poem written by Ted Loder : **Sandy+**

I Am Silent...and Expectant

How silently,
how silently
the wondrous gift is given.
I would be silent now; Lord,
and expectant...
that I may receive the gift I need,
so I may become the gifts others need.