

2017  
The One Hundred  
Seventy-Fourth  
Annual Report



St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church



Annual Meeting  
February 11, 2018





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## THE 2017 VESTRY

Irene Axelrod, Senior Warden  
Jesse T. Potter, Junior Warden  
Heather Collis Puro, Treasurer  
Pamela Poppe, Clerk

### Terms expiring in 2017

Shanel Anderson  
Kevin Neil  
Kendra Zimiroski

### Terms expiring in 2018

Teka Hazel Lumumba-Nkrumah  
Robin Washington  
Robert Whitney

### Terms Expiring in 2019

Dorothy Post  
Paul Whitcomb  
Sandra Wittrup

### Clergy:

The Reverend Tom Barrington, Interim Priest (November through December 2017)  
The Reverend Joseph Ngotho, Kiswahili Pastor (January through December 2017)

The Reverend Jane Soyster Gould, Rector (January through November 2017)  
The Reverend Sarah van Gulden, Assistant to the Rector (January through October 2017)

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**AGENDA OF THE 174th ANNUAL MEETING**  
**ST. STEPHEN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**FEBRUARY 11, 2018**

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order  | Irene Axelrod               |
| 2. Opening Prayer   | The Rev. Tom Barrington     |
| 3. Greetings  | The Rev. Joseph Ngotho      |
| 4. Minutes of the 2016 (February 12, 2017) Annual Meeting | Pam Poppe                   |
| 5. Senior and Junior Warden Comments                      | Irene Axelrod, Tim Potter   |
| 6. Report of the Nominating Committee/Elections           | Nominating Committee        |
| 7. Sunday School  | Paul Whitcomb               |
| 8. Financial Reports                                      | Heather Collis Puro         |
| 2017 Financial Reports                                    |                             |
| 2018 Budget   |                             |
| 9. Transition Process-Search Committee                    | Helen Patmon, Steve Switzer |
| 10. Clergy acknowledgments and Closing Remarks            | The Rev. Tom Barrington     |
| 10. Closing Prayer  | The Rev. Joseph Ngotho      |
| 11. Adjournment   | Irene Axelrod               |

## ROLL CALL AT ST. STEPHEN'S

During the past year the following were baptized into new life in Christ here at St. Stephen's:

Rachel Baldwin  
Nathaniel Edward Calef  
Chanel Isabelle Clifford  
Tianna Elizabeth Fortes  
Alemeriah Smith  
Elianna Marie Teñas

During the past year the following completed their journey of faith and were buried from St. Stephen's:

Dorothy Adams  
Audrey V. Bowlby  
Thelma Breedy  
Alville Collymore  
Albert William (Bill) Covill  
Deanna Mae Davis  
Stephanie Carol Dent  
Glenn Donovan  
Lynda J. Elwell  
Kenneth Estes  
Edith Hahn  
Keith E. Hughes  
Dawn James  
John T. Kane  
Camille Marie Laezza  
Patricia Marron  
Charles Douglas Stead, Sr.  
Johanna L. Suffreti  
Rose Hovnanian Tarpinian  
Debra Young

During the past year the following were united in holy matrimony:

Nicholas William Gould & Laura Ashley Liberge  
David John Solimine, Jr. & Magnolia Aleja Contreras

**MINUTES OF THE 173ND ANNUAL MEETING**  
**St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**February 12, 2017**

**Call to Order: 11:29 am**

Senior Warden Virginia Fuller

59 members in attendance, exceeding the number for a quorum.

Meeting was held in the church directly after the 10:00 am service.

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting:** Carolyn Hoy, Clerk

Minutes presented from the February 6, 2016 Annual Meeting. Motion made to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy, approved as is.

**Senior Warden's Comments:** Virginia Fuller

**Report of the Nominating Committee/Elections**

Nominating Committee members Carolyn Hoy, Pauline Leslie, Neil O'Donnell and Steve Switzer.

Steve Switzer presented the candidates.

Each candidate spoke about the reasons they feel called to leadership in the positions they are seeking. One nomination from the floor, Robin Washington

**Vestry Officers**

Senior Warden	Irene Axelrod
Junior Warden	Jesse T. Potter
Treasurer	Heather Collis Puro
Clerk	Pamela Poppe

**Vestry**

Dorothy Post	3 year term
Paul Wittcomb	3 year term
Sandra Whittrup	3 year term
Teka Hazel Lumumba-Nkrumah	2 year term
Kevin Neil	1 year term

**Nomination from the floor:**

Robin Washington	2 year term
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**Delegates to Diocesan Convention and North Shore Deanery**

Pam Alleyne	Delegate
James Poppe	Delegate
Conrad Squires	Delegate
Joyce Wallace	Alternate

**Nominated from the floor:**

Helen Patmon	Delegate to Deanery
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Ballots collected

**Stories of St. Stephen's 2016**

**Stewards of Physical, Financial and Human Resources**

Communication: Carolyn Hoy explained a little about the new online data base called Realm.

51 Tutorial in the Graham Suite after the meeting.

52 **Nurturing the Congregation**

53 Robert Whitney talked about the Thursday Healing Service and Tea and Talk after and how  
54 important it is to him.

55

56 **Hospitality to Children, Youth and Young Adults**

57 Lucinda McClain (teacher), Kerry Whitcomb (teacher) and Brian LaFortune (student) talked about  
58 Church School. Miss Lu discussed the new structure of Church School that was worked on last  
59 summer. New covenant was created with the children's input. Are we ready to lead them?

60

61 **Deepening Community Engagement**

62 Irene Axelrod talked about the partnership with St. Stephen's and St. Andrews, Marblehead. The two  
63 parishes have met and combined as Beloved Community. St. Andrews contributes to the food pantry,  
64 donated gifts at Christmas for young parishioners, volunteered at KIC, attended women's groups and  
65 retreat. Both parishes attended Women's March in Boston.

66

67 **Election Result:**

68 3-year term: Dorothy Post, Paul Whitcomb and Sandra Witttrup

69 2-year term: Teka Hazel Lumumba-Nkrumah and Robin Washington

70 1-year term: Kevin Neil

71 Convention Delegates: Pamela Alleyne and James Poppe

72 Convention Alternates: Conrad Squires and Joyce Wallace

73 North Shore Deanery Delegates: Pamela Alleyne, Helen Patmon, James Poppe, Conrad Squires and  
74 Joyce Wallace

75

76 **Financial Reports**

77 Treasurer Heather Collis Puro talked about the reports including the budget process, which are included in  
78 the Annual Report. She also talked about the challenges of the construction project which went 30% over  
79 budget. \$515,000 10-year loan with Eastern Bank. Together Now contributions cover some of the loan.

80 Realm and online giving very important information to the office and the treasurer.

81 Investments down a little, a lot of our Building and Preservation Fund has been spent.

82 Questions from the floor answered.

83 Ginny gave thanks to Heather for all her hard work and to Harry Jackson for all his hard work during the  
84 restoration project.

85

86 **New Initiatives for 2017**

87 Jane talked about the expanding Latino Ministries in the Diocese

88 \$100,000 matching grant received. More info to come.

89

90 **Clergy Acknowledgements and Closing Remarks**

91 The Rev. Jane S. Gould thanked the staff and wardens for all they do. She thanked those leaving the  
92 Vestry: Neil O'Donnell, Pauline Leslie, Steve Switzer, Carolyn Hoy, Clerk and  
93 Virginia Fuller, Sr. Warden.

94

95 **Closing Prayer:** Rev. Joseph Ngotho

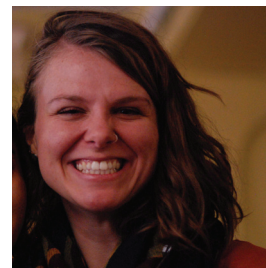
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97 **Adjournment:** 1:25 pm





## Wardens & Staff





## REPORTS OF THE WARDENS

### SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

How do I find words to describe the year that has just passed? It's a challenge, just as the year itself has been. From frozen pipes, announcements of departures, changes in program staffing, farewell celebrations, meeting and greeting our Interim Priest, 2017 has been a year to remember.

Many of these items will be covered in depth in other sections of this report. I do remember that I said at last year's Annual Meeting that I would need the help and support of everyone in the room to do the job of Senior Warden. Little did I know at the time just what those words would mean! It has been a year of challenges but also of new opportunities for learning and for spiritual growth. We all have had these things in our minds and in our hearts as we think about the future.

At the Homecoming Lunch in October two questions were asked. Written responses were collected and the answers given will guide the future of our parish in times ahead. Discussion of these and other questions will continue throughout the new year and beyond.

Question 1: What 2-3 priorities, programs, characteristics or commitments are essential to St. Stephen's being St. Stephens'?

Question 2: What is your vision for St. Stephen's in 5 years?

The answers given were varied as would be expected, the highest number of responses listed the continuation of youth programs, looking toward the future of our parish.

We have lots of work ahead of us. Letters have just gone out to those folks who filled out applications to serve on the various teams needed to put together a parish profile, search for a new Rector and aid in more transitions. I hope that everyone will participate in this process, it is critical to the life of our parish.

Everyone is needed to keep the work of St. Stephen's going. Please pray and think about how you can help. If you have ever thought about any of the many ministries that take place in our church or begin here and are carried out outside the walls of St. Stephen's, now is the time to come forward and volunteer your time and talent! Thank you for everything you do and all that you are.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Axelrod, Senior Warden

## **JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT**

### **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING COMMITTEE**

A great deal of work took place in our Parish during 2017. Our Stain Glass windows, fixtures & sills were repaired and are back in place. A formal dedication will be announced in the near future. Everyone Please take an opportunity to get a good close look at our Historic beauties.

Repairs on the damage done by the 2016/2017 pipe burst and flooding was completed. We also had the repainting of the Cheetah Room.

The windows on the North side of the Annex Building, from the second floor to the basement, were sealed to prevent water seepage. Two donations were made to first restore our current lawn sign and to purchase a new electronic sign. The damage from the last two winters, to the roof above the Altar, is currently being repaired. Insurance and a donation made this possible.

The Building Maintenance & Repair Committee identified the next priority project. Stopping the flooding in our basement and changing the slope/grad from the building to make water run away from the building.

We are currently experiencing another frozen/busted pipe issue. There are areas of the building that will be off limits until repair is completed. The contractor evaluations and work estimates have been completed. The insurance company is reviewing for 'Scope of Work' approval.

This will be my last report. I am not running for office. I will run for Vestry to continue to support St. Stephen's leadership during this time of change and transitions. My hope is that other, no matter the age or any differences, step up to support all of the St. Stephen's Mission Goals we as people of God have set forth.

Please join and volunteer to ensure the Future of this Parish.

Respectfully Submitted, J. Timothy Potter, Jr. Warden

**INTERIM PRIEST REPORT**

Many Blessings

I want to thank everyone at St. Stephen's for the warm and open welcome. This has been the first blessing you have bestowed on me. It is never easy when the Rector of a parish leaves. This is especially true when the parish has had a dynamic hands-on priest for 17 years. St. Stephen's has been blessed by having The Rev. Jane Gould as your Rector. The future is open to untold future blessings but now we must enter into a time of transitions, even as blessings continue. I would like to list a few that I have witness in my short time here.

The blessing of saying goodbye – Goodbyes are hard yet indispensable to welcoming the new. St. Stephen's said goodbye to Rev. Jane as well as any I have seen. It was a celebration with joy, tears, anticipation and regrets. All of that gave permission for Jane to begin something new and St. Stephen's to start a new chapter.

The blessing of adapting to a new set of idiosyncrasies – Everyone has ways they like to do things. You have blessed me by accommodating my idiosyncrasies. I know that I will pick up some of the things that are done here. They will become my new habits will inevitably strike any future church I serve as a little odd. Thank you for letting me be.

The blessing of an interim – By many standards it seems foolish to take over a year to call a new Rector. Many cry out to just pick someone and let us get back to work. Our Church, however, has a process that aspires to let the congregation figure out who they are and to discern what kind of clergy leader they want. My job is to be fully here and facilitate this process with the knowledge that I will not be the one who will enter the land of milk and honey with you.

The blessing of trying out new things – We are in a period that we can try some new things. Of those some will be wonderful and some will flop; all that is fine as long as we learn and grow in the process.

The blessing of taking on leadership – A Rector is definitely the leader of a congregation but when the Rector leaves, the authority of running the congregation goes to the Warden's. The Interim Priest is not in charge. This means that there is room for lay leadership not just in the programs and finances of the parish but in spiritual formation of all the members. We can all discover more deeply how Christ equips the whole body of Christ into ministry.

The blessing of letting go – This means that we do not have to do the same things we have always done. Sometimes letting go is easy, sometimes it is harder, but in letting go we can better discover new possibilities.

The blessing of responding to the way things are today- related to letting go, we can also better adapt to the newness of this day and age.

The blessing of continuing to dream about what is important – This should be foremost, dreaming of what, in Christ's name, is most important in our individual and corporate lives.

The blessing of imagining a new way of being with your future Rector – I already know that my leaving St. Stephen's is going to be hard. It will be worth it as the people of St. Stephen's imagine and live into a new way of being church with your new Rector.

The blessing of being patient as the transition process unfolds – All things in God's time. This requires us to rest with patience as well as to act with confidence. As we journey through this time of transition, may we all remember the blessings that we have and will encounter.

Faithfully yours, The Rev. E. Tom Barrington, Jr.

## URBAN RESIDENT/ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR REPORT

In mid-January I learned that the Diocese was extending my position at St. Stephen's beyond the usual 3 years. There was no time line given but I felt blessed that I was given more time to serve as your priest. Then in the spring Bishop Alan asked me to begin the interview process with St. John's Church, Saugus to serve as their Priest-in-Charge. In the beginning of August after much prayer and discernment I accepted this position with a start date in early October.

The leave-taking process between a priest and congregation is an extended period of time to say good-bye while reflecting on their joint ministry. It is not a to-do list with simple steps that can be checked off and forgotten. Rather it is an ongoing cycle of mourning, celebrating and preparing for a new ministry with varying levels of comfort and discomfort. This allows both sides to engage in healthy goodbyes which opens the possibility for honesty and finally a sense of closure.

I was not ready to begin the process because I did not feel prepared to serve as a sole priest of a parish. While I felt confident in my abilities as a preacher and teacher I still lacked confidence in my abilities as an administrator. As an Assistant to the Rector this is not unusual as most of the administrative duties fall on the Rector and the Wardens. This was one of my growing edges which I assumed I would develop as I served in my next parish.

In July, through a combination of different events I had a crash course on the arts administration. Several staff members departed which required the hiring of new staff members, a discrepancy in pay roll needed to be addressed and the repairs to water damaged areas of the building had to be managed around the KIC schedule. Through necessity I learned specific communication skills for interviewing, setting expectations with contractors, and supervising parish and KIC staff. It was not a preferred method of learning but it did push me to claim my priestly authority in new ways. In addition, I could begin the leave-taking process knowing that St. Stephen's had taught me all the tools I needed to begin my next adventure.

During my final sermon, I offered my thanks to St. Stephen's for "disturbing" my assumptions about parish ministry. As with many things in life it's necessary to learn by reading and studying, however the real learning occurs when all the theories and ideas are put into action within a supportive community. I always knew that I would love serving as a parish priest and working at St. Stephen's affirmed my call as a priest and my love for that call.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah van Gulden

## **KISWAHILI PASTOR REPORT**

As we come to close out another calendar year together and look ahead for more ministry together in 2018 my mind goes to all of us who make St. Stephen community. We gather every Sunday to worship and to give thanks to God. We are all blessed by the same God even though we congregate at different places and in different times. Our God remains the same God though the prayer book states clearly how good and wonderful for people to worship together. This is our hope that this will happen one day. God will give us a solution that will solve our cultural and language barriers and be able to sing and worship together. My calling to the ministry was to serve all people of God not limited to one group of people.

This year we concentrated most to the improvement of music especially during the worship. We formed a choir with the help from Rev. Captain Zach who did a tremendous job of training Kiswahili choir and also teaching our kids how to play instruments like keyboard and guitar. Captain Zach went back to Kenya but we are expecting him back as early as January. My dream and prayer is to form one big choir for St. Stephen. This to me will be a huge step towards our unity.

The Sunday school was very much improved by Captain Zack who prepared the kids for music competition and for the confirmation that was held in the month of July. The people will continue to give more towards the ministry and we hope to accomplish more come 2018. I look forward to working together and to make St. Stephen's Church a place of joyful worship for all.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Joseph Ngotho (Kiswahili Congregation)

## **LIFE TOGETHER FELLOW (DIOCESAN INTERN) REPORT**

My first several months as an intern at St. Stephen's have been incredibly different than I imagined them to be. Reverend Jane's transition caught me by surprise. As all of you, I was incredibly uncertain and nervous. However, the love and support that I have felt from this entire community has been the biggest blessing during this transition. I am learning so much about ministry and I am so grateful to all of you.

In my estimation, Life Together and St. Stephen's relationship continues to be fruitful. One of my fears about working at St. Stephen's was that I had already been worshipping here for two years. However, that foundation has allowed me to get more done because it did not take any time to get my bearings. I already knew I loved my community at St. Stephen's! Ultimately, it is good that I was not new to St. Stephen's during this transition because that would have been a huge challenge.

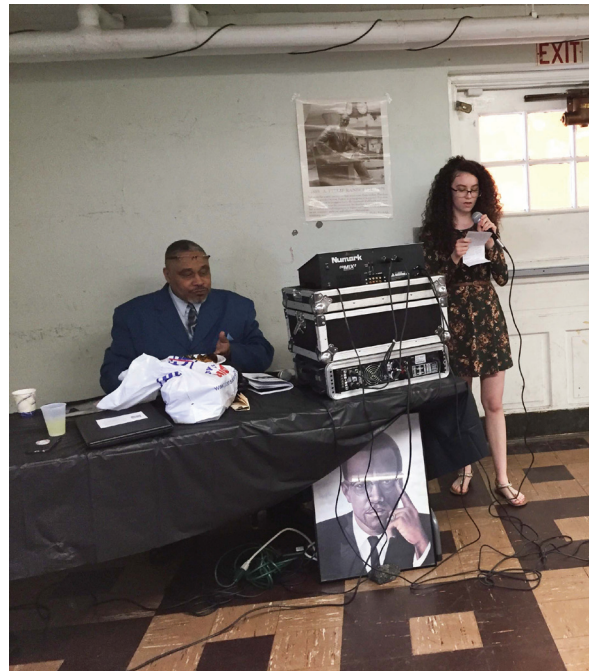
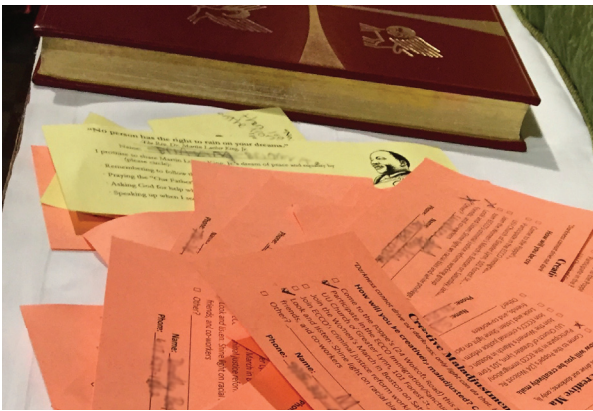
Spending time with people at Bible Study, at Kids in Community, and on Sunday mornings has been the highlight of my post graduate period. I know that I will stay connected to this parish no matter where my next step in life takes me. I am honored to continue working at St. Stephen's through June.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore





# Stewards of our Resources





**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM REPORT**

In 2017 the Stewardship Ministry Team (SMT) presented the final offering from the 2016 workshop series called, “Courageous Conversations: Preparing for Difficult Decisions” looking at issues that we need to consider as we get older. This last part of the program was given by Chris Dowley and focused on financial planning. Parishioners had the opportunity to ask questions and learn about some of the tools to financially plan for their future. This series that the SMT offered reminds us that although organizing the pledge drive each year is important, stewardship encompasses much more.

For the pledge drive this year the Stewardship Ministry Team chose the theme “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” from I Peter 4:10. It seemed fitting that in this year of transition we remember and hold up the necessity of using our gifts in the service of others. To illustrate some of ways we serve, we posted photos of people in a number of ministry groups representing all those who share their gifts in those ministries.

During the Sundays in October leading up to the All Saints Day march to the altar with our pledge cards, stewardship speakers Helen Patmon, Jay Poppe, Carol Rodrigue, Tina Lloyd, and Neil O’Donnell told stories of receiving God’s love and their response to pass it on especially in terms of time and treasure. In addition, Ann and Nelson Woodfork and Kendra Zimiroski shared their stories of their awareness of the needs of the community the gifts they have received on the inserts with the pledge letters. What a wonderful richness in each of those different stories, and we thank them for sharing them.

Our pledge drive goal for 2018 is \$120,000. As of January 28, 2018 we have \$133,529 pledged from 93 households, including 16 new and 34 increased pledges. Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge! As you can see, we have surpassed our goal for which we thank all that have pledged.

If you have not yet filled out a pledge card, your pledge will make a difference. Every pledge helps us to be good stewards of our gifts and as we serve here at St. Stephen’s and beyond.

If you have any questions about pledging, please feel free to ask any of the Stewardship Ministry Team members: Irene Axelrod, Lucinda McClain, Dorothy Post, and Susan Rosevear.

Respectfully submitted, Dorothy Post

**PARISH COMMUNICATION REPORT**

Over the last few years we have made a lot of progress on our website and technology. We are now using the cloud-based data system called Realm for our parish records, leadership and giving. This includes baptism, confirmation and marriage records. Parishioners are encouraged to login to access and update personal information including pledge, contact and other personal information. Online giving is now available and many have been taking advantage of this convenient technology.

We have collected many new emails this year but our goal is to have one for everyone and to send the monthly newsletter electronically. If you are not currently on the email or paper mailing list, contact the church office at 781-599-4220 or email [StStephens@StStephensLynn.org](mailto:StStephens@StStephensLynn.org).

Pam Poppe volunteered to post to the church Facebook page 18 months ago, posting an average of one post every five days, adding many photos and videos to the page. Previously Rev. Sarah and Dan Bell were posting infrequently. The church page has 107 followers, and a robust number of people liking and sharing the information posted. Jason Cruz also posts occasionally with OASIS and Raw Arts information.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy and Pam Poppe, Communication Committee

## **RAISING UP AND FORMING ORDAINED LEADERS REPORT**

In November I interviewed at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul to determine whether I should be invited into the postulancy for Holy Orders, and in late December I was officially invited by Bishop Alan. I feel immense gratitude to the St. Stephen's community, particularly to Dorothy Post, Tina Lloyd, Jay Poppe, Lucinda McClain, Susan Rosevear, and Phillip Mullings, who sat on my discernment committee. In the fall I plan to attend seminary; all applications have been submitted, and I am now waiting to hear back.

Respectfully submitted, Kevin Neil, Postulant for Holy Orders

## **BUILDING RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

In February 2017, a snow storm dumped several inches of heavy wet snow on Lynn. The weight of the snow sliding off of the upper roof over the Nave, crashing down on the recently restored slate roof over the Sacristy, caused nearly \$30,000 worth of damage. The parish's property insurance was notified and a claim was filed. The church's architectural firm and the contractor who did the restoration work back in 2015-2016, were contacted. Through a planning process and a busy work season for both the architect and contractor, it was finally decided in September that repairing the slates "as is" will not fix the situation, but will mostly likely happen each time there is a large snowfall. In order to prevent future slate breakage, the copper roofing was extended an additional two feet, and all damaged and loosened slates were removed and new slate hung. This work was completed in January 2018.

During the spring of 2017, several damaged and eroded brownstone window jambs that hold the Sanctuary windows in place were repaired in order to facilitate the return of those windows. In September, we welcomed the return of ten restored Tiffany windows. The eight Sanctuary windows were restored from a gift given by members of the Simpson/Johnson family and the two Children's Altar windows were restored from a gift given by Marilyn and Rick Cloran.

The Building Restoration Committee members are: Irene Axelrod, Marilyn Cloran, Virginia Fuller, Harry Jackson and Christopher Trahan.

## **RESTORATION DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

In 2017, we started speaking with other churches that had completed a restoration; which gave us some insight on their experience, both positive and negative.

As we closed out 2017, the committee was in transition. My decision to step down as Chair of the Restoration Resource Development Committee and Rev. Jane's move to California had caused us to pause and restart the process.

Irene Axelrod, our current Senior Warden will work with the appropriate people to create a new committee. I have faith in Irene and the people of St. Stephen's to fulfill our goal of formulating a long-range plan that will take the church into the next century.

Part of our objective in this committee is to set up the next generation successfully with the tools and wisdom to fulfill our ultimate goal: restoring this beloved place to its original glory! AMEN.

I thank you for your continued love and commitment to this place we call St. Stephen's.

In God's love and with great gratitude, respectfully submitted, Victoria Harriss Provost

## **PARISH HISTORIAN/ARCHIVES REPORT**

2017 has been a very busy year in the life of our parish. Items continue to be contributed for the archives. These will be sorted and placed in acid free folders and boxes to preserve them. It is hoped that work can be done to separate business related items from historical items. No funds were spent on the archives in 2017.

2019 will mark the 175th anniversary of our parish and we look forward to celebrating our rich history.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Trahan and Irene Axelrod

## **TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN REPORT**

2017 was the year we received our last official check from the Diocese for our participation in the Together Now Campaign. We need to note that there are some pledges that remain unfulfilled. It is critical that we fulfill these pledges. Every pledge makes a difference.

We will be reaching out to folks in the upcoming months to check in and have a conversation on where they are in their pledge commitment. Please feel free to contact me as well and use this opportunity to tell me of any life changes-new job, death in the family, inheritance, sickness, etc. that may have shifted your pledge support.

I thank you for your continued love and commitment to this place we call St. Stephen's.

In God's love and with great gratitude, respectfully submitted, Victoria Harriss Provost

## **ST. STEPHEN'S WINS "TRAILS AND SAILS" PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AGAIN**

Our Tiffany Windows tour once again took one of the five People's Choice awards given by Essex Heritage Foundation's "Weekends on Water" this year. There were 150 events during the two Essex Heritage "Trails and Sails" weekends the end of September, all free of charge. St. Stephen's was open on Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 am to 3:30 pm and over 75 people came to view the windows, hear a lecture on Tiffany glass and tour the church. The tour started with Rick Cloran giving a presentation on the details of the windows using enlarged photographs of some of the sections. He also discussed the different types of processes used to give the different effects. Irene Axelrod and our historian Chris Trahan continued with a discussion of the Mudge family and their graves in the Garth along with our history and then went into the church where the windows shown in all their glory on a beautiful sunny day. Sally Gosselin greeted people at registration assisted by Lucinda McClain. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase our treasures. People marveled that there was such a place in Lynn.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Cloran, Coordinator of Trails and Sails Event

## **SOUL CELEBRATION REPORT**

I am grateful to serve by sharing our historic Black heritage journey, through storytelling, decimation of program information, music and breaking bread together. Let us keep the feast.

Our preacher and keynote speaker was the Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews. Rev. Mathews is an ordained Baptist minister and a leading pastor in the Multi-faith movement for justice. He has 30 years of ministry leadership experience as a senior pastor, grassroots leader, psalmist, and community organizer working as the Director of Clergy Organizer for PICO National Network. Since 2014, Rev. Mathew's leadership has centered on the Theology of Resistance, a prophetic, multi-faith discourse that is intended to ignite conversations and spark faith leaders to fight injustice and dehumanization.

Our main course for the feast this year included fried chicken, collard green, cornbread, black-eyed peas mac and cheese. Deserts were a treat. We had coconut cake and sweet potato pie. Our Entertainment this year consisted of gospel, spiritual and jazz music. Among the performers for the day, Herman “Chubby” Boothe, Zumix’s Angelina Bolticelli, the KIC music percussion ensembles as well as vocals from Maiyah Fleuriel helped us rejoice and celebrate.

St. Stephen’s raised \$1,425 for our ministries in community engagement to continue our work for justice. We thank all who contributed in food, money and service to stand together as ONE.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Potter, Soul Celebration Coordinator

### **BIG MONEY RAFFLE REPORT**

The Big Money Raffle was held on Sunday, July 23, 2017 at the Porthole Restaurant in Lynn. The event committee was Sally Gosselin, Carolyn Hoy, Pam Alleyne, Heather Collis Puro, Joyce Wallace, Sandy Wittrup with major ticket sale support by Rector Jane Gould, Irene Axelrod, and Chris Trahan.

We were able to reach our goal of selling 215 \$100 tickets for the event. We raised \$15,225, way over our goal, as some of the prize money was donated by the winners. Expenses totaled \$3,856.

Tickets sales kicked off in May with homemade cupcakes being offered to parishioners for every ticket that they took to sell. This ensured that many tickets walked out the door that day. The committee is grateful to the members of the parish who sold tickets, made phone calls, and volunteered at the party in order to make this event festive. Thank you to all who canvassed friends, family members and vendors in order to sell every last ticket.

Steve Switzer hosted the party for another year, entertaining us as Emcee throughout the evening. DJ Tim Potter helped keep people coming to the dance floor. Raffle prizes were awarded in amounts of \$5,000, \$1,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250. The winners were: Paulina & Jason Cruz, Michael Rubin, Timothy Puro, Ernest “Terry” May, and Representative Daniel Cahill, respectively.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Collis Puro and Carolyn Hoy

### **HARVEST FAIR REPORT**

The Annual Parish Fair was held on a beautiful autumn day, Saturday, November 18, 2017, from 9am-3pm. After prayers by our interim Rector, The Rev. Tom Barrington, the doors of the Fair opened. The returning Fair team of Marilyn Cloran, Sally Gosselin, Kristina Lloyd, Lucinda McClain, Josephine Russo, Ruthanne and Steve Switzer, Kendra Zimiroski and the St. Stephen’s working crew welcomed in the waiting crowd.

Fair planning began in June 2017 with solicitation letters mailed to previous Community Donors and Businesses. Many thanks to Terri Kay and Rachel Pfof, the Parish Office Team, the spread sheets of in-coming donations were documented and updated regularly.

As a result of the early start, we received fantastic donations of gift cards and unique gift items, including a fire pit from Home Depot of Salem for the same day raffles. The Silent Auction table displayed a distinctive hand-made enamel necklace from Digs jewelry of Lynn.

Other tables with fine new gifts, gently-used giftware, knitted goods, jewelry, and books kept shoppers engaged. Another good place to linger was at the Cookie Walk, Baked Goods tables, loaded with chocolate bark, tempting assortment of cookies, fudge, mini loaves of coconut and sweet potato bread, cakes, pies and cupcakes.

NEW to the table was pure raw local honey prepared by Jay Poppe. More buzz surrounded the St. Stephen’s Table that featured the Multi-Raffle tickets that included five \$100 Visa gift cards, an overnight stay for two,



with breakfast, at the Salem Waterfront Hotel, Patriots and Bruins sports tickets, and four popular \$25 gift cards- package of TJMaxx, Home Goods, Marshalls/ Stop&Shop/ Amazon/ Panera Bread. Also at the table were note cards by Marilyn Cloran of our exquisite Tiffany Windows, and a Tiffany Windows Tour invite.

NEW to this table were jars of candles made by Pam Poppe from re-melted Altar candle stubs.

With a steady flow of people the entire day, Steve's aromatic Café kept Nancy McNulty, Ginny Fuller, and the Wait Staff busy with hungry shoppers, family and friends waiting to be seated for breakfast or lunch.

The Children's Fair returned with fun and excitement in the Community Room from 9:30am-2:30pm. Their team was Sandy Wittrup, Charlotte Breckenridge, Robin Washington, and Carolyn Hoy. The youngsters decorated cookies, made Christmas ornaments, and took pictures with their crafts in the "photo shop."

The Mini Fair was held three weeks later on Sunday, December 10, 2017 in the Graham Suite with more raffles and gift items for sale. With the drawing of the Multi and Sports tickets mentioned above, the 2017 Annual Parish Fair ended.

THANKS to everyone in the Parish who supported the Fair by soliciting, donating time, talent, and treasure, setting-up and breaking down. The Harvest Fair is a vital FUNDRAISING event and a COMMUNITY event for the Parish. Special thanks to Lucinda McClain and Kristina Lloyd for successfully soliciting in person near and far beyond the call of duty a wide range of gift cards, gift items, and ads. Contributions from Community Donors and Parishioners, efforts and hard work by all contributed to the success of the Fair.

The Fair raised \$ 6,435.47 combined with proceeds from the Program Ad Book.

The 2017 Fair Team's hope is that more Parishioners will become involved in our Parish Fair. THANK YOU, Thank you EVERYONE.

Respectfully Submitted, Sally Gosselin

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Proposed Budget for 2018

### **Highlights:**

As we fully embrace the realities of this time of transition, the Vestry has set up the budget to broadly anticipate the needs of the parish for the upcoming year. We have been able to budget 2% cost of living raises for our long-term staff, Jason Cruz and Bruce Beecroft. Also, the Vestry has approved additional funding in the Office Manager and Medical Insurance line items to be used for additional staffing needs in the office or in other areas where the Wardens see fit.

Although we are all prepared for robust discussions of the priorities for our next Rector's administration during the Search Committee process, the budget has carefully balanced income and expenses in order to continue the programming that St. Stephen's provides for the parishioners and our community in Lynn. Work for Finance Committee in the upcoming year will continue to focus on long-range planning around restoration, paying off the restoration loan from Eastern Bank, and the financial stability of the Parish. We will continue to work with a Diocesan Consultant in order to prepare a financial report that will be shared first with the Diocese and then Rector candidates during the Search process.

Grant funding continues to support many of our programs, and with the new financial reporting structure, it is easier to see the many streams of income that come into our parish and how this money is spent. Grants are considered restricted funds and must be tracked separately from the operating budget. This new format for the financial reports is the culmination of a year-long project of the Treasurer's office. Now complete, this reorganization will make reporting simpler and allows St. Stephen's to meet new audit guidelines required by the Diocese.

## **Financial Statements**

Despite a drastic change in diocesan grant income for the near future, parish giving was strong this year. We exceeded goals for pledge, special offering and plate income. Online giving was available in 2017, and we hope the parishioners will take advantage of creating online profiles in Realm. By having a profile, parishioners are able to monitor their giving progress without waiting for a paper statement. Expenses came in over budget due to unplanned expenses around the former Rector's departure. These included expenses for farewell celebrations and the additional staffing costs for our interim Rector starting in November.

## **Endowment & Designated Funds Report**

St. Stephen's investments are managed by Eastern Bank, the DeBurlo Group and the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). Our unit value increased despite predictions that the market would suffer after the election in 2016. The value changed from \$166.92 in 2016 to

\$185.69 at year's end. The market continues to be unpredictable, and the Diocese suggests that we move more of our endowment out of stocks. This advice will be taken up by the Finance Committee in early 2018. Eastern Bank continues to hold most of our endowment as collateral for our loan.

There is a new format for the reporting of the Designated Funds which makes creating the end of the year reports, and tracking income that is specified for certain projects much simpler for the Treasurer's Office. Most of the designated funds remained stable for 2017, except for the Building Fund which has a negative balance. This is due to unforeseen overages during the 2016 Restoration project, and will be addressed in early 2018 by the Finance Committee and Vestry. Our designated funds continue to financially support the mission work of the parish.

I am grateful for the support of the Finance Committee and all the volunteers who give so freely of their time to the Treasurer's Office. Our learning curve this year has been steep, and I anticipate more hills for the near future. Many hands make light work.

Respectfully Submitted, Heather Collis Puro, Parish Treasurer

**St Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Overview**  
 January through December 2018

Jan - Dec 18

<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
4000 · Regular Support	
4010 · Plate Offerings Income	8,000.00
4020 · Pledge Income	129,000.00
4025 · Pledges Previous Year	1,000.00
4030 · Special Offerings Income	8,500.00
4050 · Flowers & Candles	4,000.00
<b>Total 4000 · Regular Support</b>	<b>150,500.00</b>
4100 · Withdrawals from Funds	
4110 · Endowment Withdrawals	72,000.00
4120 · Together Now Fund	64,240.20
<b>Total 4100 · Withdrawals from Funds</b>	<b>136,240.20</b>
4300 · Space use	
4310 · Funeral/Wedding Fees Income	1,500.00
4320 · Community Gifts Income	9,000.00
<b>Total 4300 · Space use</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>
4400 · Fundraisers	
4410 · Parish Fair Income	7,000.00
4420 · Soul Food Dinner Income	1,500.00
4430 · Special Events Income	250.00
4440 · Program Book Income	12,000.00
4450 · Big Money Raffle Income	14,000.00
<b>Total 4400 · Fundraisers</b>	<b>34,750.00</b>
4500 · Parish Organizations, Other	
4510 · Tower Gifts Income	50,000.00
4520 · Dividends, Interest, etc.	15,700.00
4590 · Income - Other	3,000.00
<b>Total 4500 · Parish Organizations, Other</b>	<b>68,700.00</b>
4600 · Bequests Used for Operations	33,000.00
4700 · Diocesan Grants for Operations	5,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>438,690.20</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>438,690.20</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
6100 · Compensation Expenses	
6115 · Interim Rector	96,186.00
6122 · Kiswahili Pastor	15,000.00
6140 · Salary-Office Manager	15,600.00
6145 · Bookkeeper	3,000.00
6160 · Salary-Sexton	14,000.00
6165 · Salary-Organist	10,914.00
6171 · Salary-Director of Operations	10,400.00
6180 · Medical Insurance	10,085.28
6185 · Travel Allowance	3,000.00
6190 · FICA	4,000.00
6195 · Pension	19,455.00
6196 · Sabbatical Funding	1,000.00
<b>Total 6100 · Compensation Expenses</b>	<b>202,640.28</b>

Jan - Dec 18

<b>6200 · Worship Expense</b>	
6210 · Music Ministry	2,500.00
6220 · Altar and Worship Supplies	5,000.00
6230 · Supply Clergy	1,500.00
6250 · Acolyte Ministries	800.00
<b>Total 6200 · Worship Expense</b>	<b>9,800.00</b>
<b>6300 · Education Expenses</b>	
6310 · Christian Formation Young People	2,000.00
6320 · Cont.Clergy Education	1,500.00
6340 · Christian Formation - Adult	1,500.00
6350 · College Scholarships	1,500.00
6380 · Hospitality Expense	500.00
6390 · Seminarian / Intern	4,500.00
<b>Total 6300 · Education Expenses</b>	<b>11,500.00</b>
<b>6400 · Communications Expense</b>	
6410 · Printing Expense	2,000.00
6420 · Postage Expense	1,500.00
6430 · Publicity Expense	500.00
<b>Total 6400 · Communications Expense</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
<b>6500 · Administration Expenses</b>	
6510 · Office Supplies	1,000.00
6520 · Paper Expense	1,000.00
6530 · Machine Lease/Serv.Contract	4,800.00
6540 · Archival Expenses	250.00
6550 · Service Charges	150.00
6560 · Investment Broker	500.00
6570 · Payroll Expenses	1,000.00
6583 · IT Equipment	500.00
6585 · Tech Support	750.00
6586 · Software Subscription	1,500.00
<b>Total 6500 · Administration Expenses</b>	<b>11,450.00</b>
<b>6600 · Utilities Expenses</b>	
6610 · Fuel Expense	20,000.00
6620 · Gas Expense	600.00
6630 · Electricity Expense	9,000.00
6640 · Water Expense	1,000.00
6650 · Telephone Expense	3,000.00
<b>Total 6600 · Utilities Expenses</b>	<b>33,600.00</b>
<b>6700 · Plant Expenses</b>	
6720 · Building Supplies Expense	1,000.00
6730 · Repairs/Maintenance Expense	10,000.00
6734 · Snowplowing	10,000.00
<b>Total 6700 · Plant Expenses</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>
<b>6800 · Major Unrelated Expenses</b>	
6810 · Diocesan Assessment	37,462.24
6820 · Insurance Expense	28,000.00
6830 · Loan Payments (P+I)	64,240.20
6840 · Capital Expenses	1,000.00
<b>Total 6800 · Major Unrelated Expenses</b>	<b>130,702.44</b>

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Jan - Dec 18

7000 · Fundraising Expenses (Non-Op)	
7010 · Stewardship Expense	0.00
7020 · Special Events Expenses	150.00
7025 · Big Money Raffle Expenses	3,900.00
7030 · Parish Fair Expenses	400.00
7045 · Soul Food Dinner Expenses	250.00
<b>Total 7000 · Fundraising Expenses (Non-Op)</b>	<b>4,700.00</b>
7200 · Other Non-Operating Expenses	
7210 · Summer Camp Scholarships	2,000.00
7220 · Food Pantry	1,500.00
7230 · Rector's Discretionary Fund	1,500.00
7260 · Sabbatical Fund	1,000.00
7270 · ECCO Dues	1,000.00
7290 · Endowment Fund Transfer	2,000.00
<b>Total 7200 · Other Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>438,392.72</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>297.48</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>	
8000 · Receipts for Funds	
8040 · Congregational Dev Grant	10,000.00
8050 · ECM Grant	8,000.00
8070 · Food Pantry Fund	1,500.00
8120 · Peabody-Youth Programs Grant	20,000.00
8180 · Summer Learning Program	10,000.00
8190 · KIC	65,000.00
<b>Total 8000 · Receipts for Funds</b>	<b>114,500.00</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>114,500.00</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>	
9000 · Disbursements from Funds	
9040 · Congregational Dev Grant	10,000.00
9050 · ECM Grant	8,000.00
9070 · Food Pantry Fund	1,500.00
9180 · Summer Learning Program	10,000.00
9190 · KIC Program Expenses	65,000.00
9200 · Peabody-Youth Program	
9205 · Youth Mentor	10,000.00
9207 · Peabody Youth Program Intern	4,500.00
9210 · Peabody-Youth Program Misc	5,500.00
<b>Total 9200 · Peabody-Youth Program</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>
<b>Total 9000 · Disbursements from Funds</b>	<b>114,500.00</b>
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>114,500.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>297.48</b>



**St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**Endowment Funds Report 2017**

			Market Value	Market Value
<u>UBS/Eastern Bank Fund List</u>			<u>12/31/2016</u>	<u>12/31/2017</u>
Alice & Alvan Hicks	188.03	191.53	\$31,385.97	\$35,564.25
Armour	6.16	6.16	\$1,028.23	\$1,143.82
Berry	12.8	12.8	\$2,136.58	\$2,376.77
Carnegie-Nichols	47.05	47.05	\$7,853.59	\$8,736.48
Dennen-Mower	33.91	33.91	\$5,660.26	\$6,296.58
Derr	112.22	112.22	\$18,731.76	\$20,837.57
Funeral & Weddings	67.56	67.56	\$11,277.12	\$12,544.88
Graham-Haywood	3.05	3.05	\$509.11	\$566.34
Harmon	162.82	162.82	\$27,177.91	\$30,233.23
Hazen- Haddock	100	100	\$16,692.00	\$18,568.50
Inglis-Thomson	49.48	49.48	\$8,259.20	\$9,187.69
M.B. Little	10	10	\$1,669.20	\$1,856.85
M.B. Harmon	480.47	480.47	\$80,200.05	\$89,216.07
McCarthy	229.35	229.35	\$38,283.10	\$42,586.85
Munger	100	100	\$16,692.00	\$18,568.50
Nichols Family	60	60	\$10,015.20	\$11,141.10
Parsons	21.14	21.14	\$3,528.69	\$3,925.38
Perrin-Jenkins	23.61	23.61	\$3,940.98	\$4,384.02
Ruggles	40	40	\$6,676.80	\$7,427.40
Stewart	33.79	33.79	\$5,640.23	\$6,274.30
Thanksgiving & Memorials	2189.154	2189.154	\$365,413.59	\$406,493.06
Vera Lowe	250	250	\$41,730.00	\$46,421.25
Wagner	145	145	\$24,203.40	\$26,924.33
Webber	73.25	73.25	\$12,226.89	\$13,601.43
Wilmer Kneele	378.46	378.46	\$63,172.54	\$70,274.35
Zilpha Foote	49.56	49.56	\$8,272.56	\$9,202.55
	4866.864	4870.364	\$812,377	\$904,354
<u>Diocesan Investment Trust Fund List</u>			Market Value	Market Value
			<u>12/31/16</u>	<u>12/31/17</u>
Sarah L. Northrup Income Fund			\$118,021.58	\$127,821.68
Sarah L. Northrup Stock Fund			\$239,911.08	\$260,955.34
E & O Johnson Income Fund			\$10,835.13	\$11,734.86
E & O Johnson Stock Fund			\$22,025.34	\$23,957.34
St. Stephen's Church Income Fund			\$2,232.02	\$2,227.37
St. Stephen's Church Stock Fund			\$4,310.03	\$5,012.79
			\$397,335	\$431,709
<u>Grand Total Endowment Funds:</u>			\$1,209,712	\$1,336,063





## Nurturing the Congregation





## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

### EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT

The Eucharistic Ministers team serves at both the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on Sunday and at other special occasions. Our responsibilities include preparing the altar for the Eucharist, administering the Chalice, leading the procession, Processing the Gospel Book and supporting the Clergy. We also take the host to shut-ins. On occasion we also direct the acolytes in the performance of their responsibilities. The team has consisted of Pam Alleyne, Bob Dixon, Bruce Duggan, Lucinda McClain, Phillip Mullings, Kevin Neil, Dorothy Post, Debbie Potter, Jamie Shore, Emily Sherwood, Althea Smith and Nelson Woodfork. Many thanks to all who serve.

Respectfully submitted, Nelson Woodfork

### ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The dedicated people who are the Altar Guild are: Christopher Trahan, Robert Dixon, Pamela Alleyne, Emily Sherwood, Neil O'Donnell, Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Marilyn Cloran, Joyce Wallace and Virginia Fuller.

Joanne Droppers and Amy Inez prepare and clear away the Thursday Healing Eucharist.

The Duty of the Altar Guild is to prepare all things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist or any of the other sacraments and offices of the church. All of these services can be found in the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Occasional Services. The preparations are done in a manner so that any service may be conducted in order and beauty.

For the past few years on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the altar was beautifully decorated with fresh fruits and vegetables. The wonderful produce found their way to parishioners' homes to help celebrate their family Thanksgiving. Designed and gathered by Pamela Alleyne, Carolyn Hoy, Lucinda McClain and Joyce Wallace.

Please speak to anyone of the members if you would like to give your time and talent one Sunday a month to care for the worship space.

Respectfully Submitted, Virginia Fuller

### ACOLYTES REPORT

The acolyte team is made up of eleven middle school and high school students who light candles, lead processions, distribute collection plates, and prepare the altar for Holy Communion.

There are three teams of acolytes, each lead by an acolyte captain or co-captains, and these teams rotate continually. The teenagers are expected to contact Jamie Shore if they are not able to serve that week and they must find a replacement. The schedule is updated every two months and can be picked up in the Galahad area.

In the fall of 2017, the acolytes attended a mandatory training taught by Nelson Woodfork. They went over the acolyte manual and acted out their responsibilities during services. The teens were able to ask questions about the process and symbolism of what they do each week, which helps them take ownership and enjoy their responsibility. After training, Althea Smith had a conversation with the acolytes about reverence over pizza, soda, and other snacks.

Teenagers have incredibly busy lives and we should be grateful that they serve our community in this way.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore and Kati Whitcomb

## **MUSIC MINISTRY/ CHOIR REPORT**

I am happy to have two new choir members, Caroline Edwards and Sharon McLeod. Choir is a commitment but it can also be a one to two Sunday commitment. We will still try to keep one Sunday more gospel-oriented and another Sunday more traditional, thus we still remain an Episcopal Church.

The organ is getting much needed maintenance. It is an older instrument. It is one of three custom organs made in the United States. When everything is working, it makes an amazing sound.

It has been a pleasure to work with Rev. Tom Barrington. I am looking forward to working with him in the future. I may be approaching some of you to talk about our choir and music. Please speak to me at any time.

God bless, Bruce Beecroft

## **HEALING PRAYER TEAM REPORT**

Each Sunday during Communion at the 10:00 AM service, members of the Healing Prayer Team continue to offer hands-on healing prayers to those who come to the side altar. The team works in pairs, praying for each other and our ministry before we begin to pray for others. We offer our humble prayers to those with deep and heart-felt concerns, and also share in their joys, praise and thanksgivings. It always proves to be a moving experience in a sacred place.

The Healing Prayer Team includes Ginny Fuller, Amy Inez, Lucinda McClain, Helen Patmon, Dorothy Post and Althea Smith, and meets on a monthly basis for training on what our vital ministry means to us and those we serve, and also to discuss topics related to the healing prayer ministry. This year we read and discussed Becca Steven's book: *Snake Oil* and Emmanuel Y. Lartey's book: *In Living Color*. Currently we are reading *The Book of Joy* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

A few of us attended the Blue Christmas Service on December 19, 2017, where people of various ages dealing with pain, grief, fear or struggles with the expectations of the holidays were able to experience much needed comfort and support in a loving and caring environment.

Our members are encouraged to participate in the Thursday Noon Healing Service, and the monthly worship and supper with the Monks at the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, and to attend the Healing Service and Blessing of the Oils during Holy Week.

In this upcoming new year, the vision and hope of the Healing Prayer Team continues to be that we will be available to the gathered community on Sunday mornings for prayers of healing, and continue to allow God to use us as His vessels for His healing mercies.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Inez

## **BAPTISM MINISTRY REPORT**

I've had the honor to be Baptism Catechist for quite a few years now. It is always interesting to meet with parents of young children who are candidates for Baptism, as a grandmother of nine and a great grandmother of one, I'm familiar with a lot of different age groups. The discussions of the meaning of Baptism, what it is and what it does, has changed from the idea of getting rid of sin, to the idea that we are all members of God's family and that Baptism makes this official in a public way and welcomes the new member or members into the community.

The transitions in 2017 mean that the celebrant of Baptism will be a new person, but Baptism will continue to be celebrated at St. Stephen's marking the candidates as Christ's own forever!

Respectfully submitted, Irene Axelrod

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFIRMATION REPORT

In order to prepare for the sacrament of confirmation, I spent an entire Saturday in July with Reverend Sarah talking about the history of the episcopal church, Anglican belief, and my own spiritual journey. As far as I understand it, there is usually a Pre-Confirmation retreat. However, since I was the only one from the Parish getting confirmed, this was a great way for me to grasp the theology of confirmation. I also read the book "Jesus Was An Episcopalian" by Reverend Chris Yaw, and wrote up a reflection about it for Reverend Jane. I was confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Beverly Farms by Bishop Allen with four other people on September 16th, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted, Jamie Shore

## ADULT FORMATION REPORT

Christian Formation is the lifelong journey of growing in faith. Through prayer, worship, study, fellowship, and mission we can experience spiritual growth in our lives as followers of Jesus Christ.

Here are some of the ways adults at St. Stephen's have participated in Christian Formation in 2017:

- Wednesday Bible Study read through Genesis and Exodus as well as exploring the topics of sin & evil, forgiveness & redemption, and sabbath.
- Thursday Tea and Talk included the study of Walter Brueggemann's meditations in *A Way Other Than Our Own*, reflections written by Congregational minister Donna Schaper, David Whyte's book *Consolations: The Solace, Nourishment and Underlying Meaning of Everyday Words*.
- The Beloved Community Team's monthly meetings and special programs focused on anti-racism work and recognizing and teaching about the ongoing witness of black and people of color to the life and vibrancy of our Church, nation and the world.
- The Women's Group encourages its members to delve deeper in their faith and understanding. Their monthly programs have included African American Heritage, taking care of the body, mind, and spirit, reflections on the Way of the Cross, and exploring the Sufism. The Women's Group also participated in a retreat at Adelynrood.
- The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams have included book study in support of their ministries. They have read together Becca Stevens *Snake Oil: The Art of Healing and Truth-Telling*, Emmanuel Lartey's *In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling* and *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.
- Participating in community organizing through ECCO
- Worshiping at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist Monastery in Cambridge as well as attending SSJE workshops.
- Lenten retreat with St. Andrew's Church, Marblehead
- Participating in Diocesan workshops and learning days
- A Lenten Blog written by parishioners
- Sermon conversations on MLK's concept of creative maladjustment and on sanctuary

Special thanks to the Clergy, Life Together Fellows, Interns and Parishioners who planned, led and participated in the above and many other adult formation activities.

## **BLUE CHRISTMAS REPORT**

*“Comfort, O Comfort my People, says our God”*

The growing awareness of the Blue Christmas started deeply moving conversations around the holidays. Christmas is not a time of celebration and joyfulness for many experiencing the loss of loved ones, employment, illness, lonely or for those unable to meet the cultural Christmas expectations for their families; it is a time of deep sadness. It is the time when Christmas is painful. The Blue Christmas Service was started at St. Stephen’s to offer a quiet Sacred Space to honor those hurting at Christmas. It is a Service of comfort and healing where the joyous Christmas carols are replaced with prayers and readings, telling stories of God’s steadfast love for His people.

On Tuesday, December 19th, our Interim Rector, The Reverend Tom Barrington, gathered us at the Ascension Altar for the Service. The setting of two large bowls, filled with sand from Lynn beach, randomly placed seashells, created a space of peace and calm, and the feeling of intimacy with each other as Bruce played soft music on the piano.

Following singing verses of the hymn, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, prayers, and Scripture Readings, candles were lit ~ signifying God’s presence and light in the midst of seeming darkness ~ and placed in the bowls of sand with a labyrinth-like design drawn on each. After a brief reflection, Rev. Barrington invited all to light individual candles, naming silently or aloud before God, prayers of remembrance, for our own pain or for loved ones struggling during the holidays.

The Service ended with the Eucharist and a poignant message of God’s love. Until Rev. Barrington, mentioned that the beautiful ivory and pale blue Cup from which we would drink, was broken and held together with glue, it looked perfect on the Table; not a crack showed. It was, a reminder that our broken pieces are held together by the glue of God’s Amazing Grace, and in His love, we are made beautiful, perfect and whole.

Faithfully Submitted, Lucinda McClain

## **BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM REPORT**

In this our third year, we poignantly and robustly sought to dismantle racism within ourselves and the communities in which we serve. Meeting once a month, we seek to make change one person at a time in hopes, that like the mustard seed, we shall reap a great bounty. We recognize that this difficult and challenging topic can only be embraced, if we put God at the forefront and seek to grow with the spirit.

In October, we transitioned from clergy to lay lead, as Helen Patmon took the helm for St. Stephen’s and Pam Poppe became our communications person. We continue to be supported by members of St. Andrew’s congregation in Marblehead. We have grown from a small group to a medium size group, as we have added new members from both St. Andrew’s and St. Stephen’s. They have become trusted and valued partners in this important work of the church.

After the presidential election, the explicit role race played in the election focused our conversations on how race was affecting our lives, the world, and those we love so dear. During this time a pick-up truck drove onto our parking lot on a Friday evening as teens were leaving from a friendly gathering. They shouted racial slurs as they sped past the teens and youth workers. This reemergence of unabashed racism mobilized several in our group, who had worked in the 1960’s, into action. They sought to establish a safe place for our teens within our community. In June, we collaborated with RAW Arts in Lynn and hosted an intergenerational viewing and intense discussion of “I Am Not Your Negro,” a film about the life and work of James Baldwin. We hope to create more opportunities for intergenerational dialogue in the coming year.

For inspiration and discussion, we viewed President Obama’s address at the dedication of the African American History museum in Washington D.C. Furthermore, we recognize that at times the best way to focus



the group is to present an article for critical reading and then to dig deep into the article to see where it hits us in our own lives. This year we lasered in on whiteness. We recognize that racism is ultimately a white person's issue, but one where those who are not white must remain vigilant. To this end we discussed the works of Peggy McIntosh and Robin DiAngelo's article, "*White Fragility*." We know that art can be a potent tool in facilitating and making issues of race incarnate. So we use role playing, improvisation, and other theatrical techniques to bring intellectual concepts to life.

In August, seven BCT members participated in the PICO Women in Power conference at Simmon's College in Boston. We left refreshed and assured that women would step up to leadership roles in the race and privilege work at St. Stephen's.

Again, recognizing the power and gifts that art can bring, the group has begun to use music as a tool to help our members to understand a culture, that is different than their own. Through this project, "Singing the Spirit," the music and poetry based in the African American aesthetic has been used. These great works have served as inspiration and as teaching tools as we strive to listen, grow, and the spread the good work God has allowed us to create.

The members of the BCT recognize that racism is a task with which we must struggle on a daily basis. We, also, can testify that conversations surrounding bias, oppression, and privilege can fan the fires of change in our community, our institutions, our churches, our families, and ourselves. We boldly denounce these forces, that quench the spirit, and welcome the hope and peace that only God can give.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Patmon and Pamela Poppe for the Beloved Community Team

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING BREAKFAST REPORT**

A group of 12 St. Stephen's parishioners attended the Community Minority Cultural Center's MLK breakfast on Sunday January 15, 8:00 am to 11:00 am at the Porthole Pub Restaurant. It was a packed crowd with a great lineup of inspirational speakers.

### **PASTORAL CARE TEAM REPORT**

The Pastoral Care Team has continued to be active again throughout this year taking communions, visiting homebound members of our parish family and delivering flowers. Team members go out in pairs to offer fellowship from the church and offering communion to those who wish to receive the sacraments. It is truly an honor and privilege to be God's vessels, for some parishioners our visits are their only connection with St. Stephen's.

Our visits have been in homes, nursing homes and hospitals. We have the joy of hearing their stories about their days at St. Stephen's and how much their church means to them. Another part of our ministry is to deliver flowers from the main altar to shut-ins and to the congregation. They are usually delivered in a tastefully decorated coffee can with the St. Stephen's logo. Photos of the church on note cards provided by Marilyn Cloran are also available to take to those we visit.

The Pastoral Care Team meets monthly for check-ins, training and discussion of various books. This year we read and discussed Becca Steven's book: *Snake Oil*, and Emmanuel Y. Lartey's book: *In Living Color*. Currently we are reading *The Book of Joy* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Our members this year have included: Irene Axelrod, Bob Dixon, Amy Inez, Lucinda McClain, Dorothy Post, Debbie Potter and Josephine Russo.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Inez

## **HOMECOMING REPORT**

In the midst of transitions in 2017, The Reverend Canon William Clay Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary celebrated with the people of St. Stephen's on Homecoming Sunday, October 1st. Any of us at the 10:00 service will remember Rev. Bill walking down the middle aisle holding the tiny candidate for Baptism in his arms.

At the dinner that afternoon we were given a blue form with two questions to discuss. These will come up again in 2018 as we begin to participate in the search process for a new Rector. What 2-3 priorities, programs, characteristics, or commitments are essential to St. Stephen's being St. Stephen's? And what is your vision for St. Stephen's in five years? Answers to these questions will be very important to the future of our parish.

Respectfully submitted, Irene Axelrod

## **KNIT CLUB REPORT**

With a new year ahead of us we are looking forward to new experiences in knitting and teaching new techniques of design for children and adult wear. Our team is still strong in getting projects done that help support the Harvest Fair and other St. Stephens programs. Last year we raised about \$300.00 and more for other events.

Come and join us as we are looking for new ideas for the fair. We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm at St. Stephen's. It feels so good when we can knit hats, scarfs, blankets and mittens to give and sell. Our hearts and prayers go into all our items. These are essential for wearing in the cold winter months.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Potter, Knit Club Coordinator

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS REPORT**

For the second year during the six early Friday afternoons of Lent, a regular group gathered in the church to take part in the Stations of the Cross. Stations of the Cross is an offering of prayer focused on places in the city of Jerusalem traditionally associated with our Lord's passion and death. Those who attended took part in the reading of the 14 stations, each were followed by a brief prayer. At each station around the church there was a pictorial representation of the event being commemorated.

On the last Friday, the Friday before Good Friday, our special guest was "Traveling Jesus."

These powerful meditations proved to be a great way of taking some short time out of our busy schedules to reflect on the meaning of Lent.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Inez





## Hospitality to Children, Youth, & Young Adults





**CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT**

The St. Stephen's Church School program offers weekly Christian education classes for pre-k-12 with a nursery room for infants. Classrooms are divided by grades and provide age appropriate scripture based lessons. In 2017, there were 29 registered students with a Sunday average attendance of 10-12 students. Attendance is down from last year. The Kiswahili congregation offers a separate Church School program with an average attendance of 15 students.

With the departure of Reverend Sarah, a new model for teachers was created with five roles: Church School Co-Superintendents, Weekly Teachers, Monthly Teachers, Substitute Teachers and Church School Companions. This model was created in order to cater to the different skill sets of people who care about Church School, but there is room to be creative and think about what can be more fun, educational, and informative for the kids. Each role is a part of a very intricate puzzle and it requires as many hands as we can get. We are still looking for one more Monthly Teacher for pre-k-1 and many more substitute teachers.

Paul Whitcomb and Lucinda McClain are Church School Co-Superintendents. Paul's role is to check-in with teachers each Sunday morning, direct students to Church School classrooms, give teachers 5-minute warning at beginning of Prayers of the People so students are ready to enter at the Peace, and support teachers and students to live by Church School Covenant. Miss Lucinda's role is to create a welcoming environment for families on Sunday mornings and connect with parents to remind them of the importance of Church School.

Keri Whitcomb and Neil O'Donnell have continued on as Weekly Teachers for 2-5 and high school respectively. We are so thankful to them for their continual dedication to the youth of St. Stephens week after week.

The Monthly Teachers for pre-k-1 and middle school are mostly, though not all, new to teaching Church School and they have done great jumping in feet first! Currently, Nnkesia Brock, Carol Rodrigue, Pauline Leslie, Terri Kay, Rebekah Rodrigues, and Nick Blondell make up this group. We can always use more volunteers.

Joyce Wallace, Ginny Fuller, and Pam Alleyne are serving as Church School Companions this year. Their job is to encourage families to see Church School as a resource for their children and youth and to mentor teachers and assist Church School Co-Superintendents.

All classes are continuing with previous curriculum, Weaving God's Promises and TeenText. In the pre-k-1 and 2-5 classes, we have implemented a new structure to help kids and monthly teachers feel more consistency and support. When kids enter class they are expected to start immediately on the Gathering Activity (usually a coloring page, word search, or maze) found in their individual binders. Once all kids are there, the teacher goes over the Church School covenant (more information below), reads the bible story for the week.

During the first two Sundays, the Church School students and teachers met to create a Church School Covenant. The Covenant was a way to remind students, teachers, parents and other adults that the success of the Church School depends on the entire congregation. The Covenant asks that students:

- Show respect to God, classmates, and teachers
- Keep food, cell phones, games and toys with parents/families
- Always leave the classroom with an adult
- Have fun

Moving forward in 2018, we will focus on Church School attendance and finding more ways to tweak Church School's curriculum to be even more engaging, fun, and relevant for the kids.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore

## **SUMMER LEARNING REPORT**

Summer Learning is a free academic program that helps children in the community master, maintain and strengthen basic skills in math, reading and writing. Since its inception three summers ago, registered applicants consistently surpassed the programs' target number of 40. This summer, 59 students enrolled in the program with a steady average of 35 in attendance daily.

Summer Learning met M-Th from 2:30-5:30 each day. Students started their afternoon by rotating through 4 learning centers. These centers included guided reading, library (read aloud), writing and math. Each center boasted a fantastic 2-10 adult to student ratio, which adds a closer and more attentive feel to student support.

Some major successes this year included collaboration with the Lynn Public Schools Department to secure students DIBELS scores, increased funding, hiring 3 certified local teachers and volunteer participation in the program. Additionally, Reverend Gould's tireless effort in searching for and securing funding is always considered an enormous success because it adds to quality programming all around. The program operated with a budget that covered the cost for materials, snacks, a program director, 3 licensed lead teachers, and 4 young adult interns. Interns earned 5 weeks of pay—one week of summer training and 4 weeks of programming.

As the director of Summer Learning and a Lynn Public School teacher, the benefits of academic program during the summer months speak to decades of research on learning loss during this critical period each year. Moreover, I witnessed first-hand, at the beginning of each school year the experiences of children's summer lives. Summer learning at St. Stephens is necessary and needed whether or not the Lynn Public Schools Department decides to reinstate summer school.

I am proud to be a member of this church who champions the cause for community education and other great programs. As we look towards year four, collecting and analyzing data to inform next summers's programming, I thank everyone who has participated since the program started. Summer Learning exists because you all made it happen. Let's keep moving forward.

Blessings, Micheal Brown, Program Director

## **KIC AFTER SCHOOL REPORT**

The KIC after school music program continued to thrive during the 2016—2017 school year. After the departure of Audrey Gufreund as director, Rachel Pfof became Director of Operations and Sheyla Varas the Program Director. (Audrey continues to give children keyboard lessons.) Enrollment reached capacity at 40 children. The program runs Mondays through Thursdays and offers drumming and piano instruction, homework support, movement and board games, and lessons in nutrition, creative writing and yoga for 1st to 5th graders. Volunteers stepped up to help out in these activities. KIC continues to provide a safe, fun, supportive and enriching place for children. We also hosted monthly Community Dinners which were well attended by parents who got to enjoy the children's musical offerings, fellowship and food.

Late in the year, however, the program hit two road bumps. First, in December we learned that the program was not licensed by the state. We are now working with the EEC to complete the licensing process. Then, when pipes burst in early January, asbestos in the glue under the linoleum tiles in the dining room was discovered. Due to strict state regulations, the program is suspended until all asbestos is removed from the building, a process which is underway at this moment in time. Hopefully, KIC will be able to reopen soon.

Since November, a group (convened by Rev. Gould before her departure) has been meeting to provide oversight and will evolve into an official board once KIC has incorporated as a non-profit, which is also in process. KIC's Hub funding will run out by September and we need to raise significant funds, as a non-profit, to keep the program going. Like the church as a whole, KIC is in transition, with all the challenges and opportunities that brings.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Bishop

## **KIC (KIDS IN COMMUNITY) CAMP REPORT—NO MORE WALLS**

2017 was the twelfth summer of KIC camp at St. Stephen's. Over 90 children attended on average most days. We again hired 18 teen mentors and 3 young adult program assistants. KIC was funded this year through a variety of different sources.

During the program this summer, campers took weekly field trips to the Brookline Puppet Showplace, USS Constitution Museum, Institute of Contemporary Art, Salem Willows, and New England Aquarium. Kids enjoyed daily specialist classes in yoga, art, bucket drumming, and Science, as well as outdoor play and reading time every morning. The camp theme this summer was "No More Walls." We explored how we all could be a greater good in the community and especially with the kids.

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers this year. St Stephen's had a great crew who helped out the first week of camp, followed by a multitude of support in the following weeks by nearby parishes. Also a big thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers of St. Stephen's who take time on a daily basis at KIC to help in the kitchen and activities throughout the summer.

Respectfully submitted, James Liberge, KIC Director

## **BCH CAMP REPORT**

### **Summer Camp**

The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center has a long history of providing St. Stephen's children and youth the opportunity to meet God in new and exciting ways. As an ecumenical camp children and youth of any denomination are welcomed into worship, Bible study and small group devotions based on the traditions and theology of the Episcopal Church in the United States.

Once again this past spring BCH Camp Director, Alessia Doss, visited St. Stephen's to meet with new and returning camp families. This year families gathered after church in the chapel to learn how to take advantage of the online registration. Alessia and previous campers shared their experiences about how 1-2 weeks at camp offered rest and rejuvenation after the school year.

Alessia and the rest of the camp staff generously offer partial scholarships, \$100 per camper (total cost is \$600 per camper per week), for members of the English and Kiswahili congregations. The camp understands that every child and youth has the right to attend camp despite the financial status of his/her family. This year, through the generosity of St. Stephen's, the camp, and the Diocese, 18 children and youth enjoyed 1 or 2 weeks of camp.

### **Family Camp**

This year two St. Stephen's families went to Family Camp. Family Camp at BCH welcomes families of all types and sizes for a weekend camp before the beginning of summer camp. Families spend the weekend sleeping in the cabins, playing camp games, eating together at the dining, and enjoying the fun camp atmosphere. It is a unique opportunity for families to relax away from the stresses of work, school, etc... as well as learn more about summer camp. The cost for camp is divide among the family, the Diocese and St. Stephen's.

### **DioMass Youth Retreats**

During the fall and winter months our Middle School and High School youth participate in annual weekend retreats hosted by the Diocesan Youth Leadership Academy. These weekends are perfect opportunities for our youth to build relationships with each other as well as interact with other youth from other Episcopal churches. It is also a great way for youth who haven't attended summer camp to get a taste of the BCH experience.

In February 2017, Rev. Sarah, Jason Cruz (Youth Minister), Neil O'Donell and Kevin Neil brought nine OASIS teens to the annual high school retreat. Although many of our youth do not as a Christian (which is normal for teenagers) they greatly benefit from a weekend playing, singing, dancing etc...with other teens from across eastern Massachusetts. A high light for many was when one of teens offered to play his guitar at the closing Eucharist. To watch him step up in that leadership role was a perfect reminder of the important role BCH plays in the lives of our young people.

BCH camps and retreats are a vital part of our family and youth ministries at St. Stephen's. It allows our parishioners to experience new ways of worship and community which they then bring back to our church community.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah van Gulden

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

After being on a hiatus in 2016, the Middle School Group did many things in 2017 including attending the Middle School Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp, meeting once a month on Friday nights, collecting signatures for ECCO, and cooking on Sunday afternoons. As the number of Middle School youth serving as acolytes grows, the Middle School group grows more cohesive. We are continuing to learn to trust each other and ourselves in a period of difficult transition for our youth.

For many, Reverend Jane and Reverend Sarah are the only priests that they have trusted, so it has been important for there to be a consistent and concerted effort to keep this group connected to the church. To this end, the Middle Schoolers joined Oasis Community Youth Group to have a conversation about loss and change in the beginning of the fall. This resulted in the pictures of the Middle Schoolers that now hang in the hallway. It was a change for them to be creative and depict themselves the way that they see themselves. Their vision is an integral part of what makes St. Stephen's what it is.

In November, four Middle Schoolers and two adult mentors participated in the annual Middle School Retreat lead by the youth leaders from the Diocesan Youth Office at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. Over the course of the weekend the youth spent time in worship, bible study, activities and games. Together they served as powerful representatives of our worshipping community.

Middle School Group takes place every first Friday of the month. Together, we eat, talk, and make art. This will certainly continue though the spring.

Additionally, the Middle Schoolers helped to collect signatures with ECCO to raise the minimum wage and get paid family medical leave on during the Homecoming Celebration and Reverend Jane's Farewell event. This was a really beautiful example of the enthusiasm and heart that our young people continually contribute to our community. Despite the departure of Reverend Jane and Reverend Sarah, the Middle School Group has been blessed with adults stepping up to volunteer and a small but consistent group of kids.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore

### **OASIS COMMUNITY YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

The OASIS Community Youth Group welcomes all high school students for bimonthly meetings on Friday evenings. The group includes teenagers from the St. Stephen's worshipping community and the wider Lynn community. However, within the group there is no distinction as the teens are unified in their desire for shared meals, conversations and outreach programs. Youth Minister Jason Cruz, Neil O'Donnell, Helen Patmon and myself serve as the leadership team with other adult mentors who help with specific programs. This year, we talked about the power of music, #metoo, racism, and much more.



Like the Middle School Group, OASIS teens certainly felt the departure of Reverend Sarah and Reverend Jane. The first several OASIS meetings of the year focused on change and what change means in our lives. We had a farewell party for Reverend Sarah with a lot of pizza and games.

The OASIS calendar follows a similar flow from year to year. The big winter event is the High School Retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in New Hampshire. This weekend retreat offers our teens time to rest and relax away from the stresses of family, school, work etc...

Over the summer, youth attended a retreat on Martha's Vineyard. A trip farther away was planned, but due to Jason's health, this was not going to be possible. The teens had a great time spending time together and having fun.

In the fall, we began the annual outreach program Christmas Presents Project for Kids. This is a multi-step program that requires time and energy from youth and adults. The OASIS youth take the lead on creating art pieces to sell as the main fundraiser. With the money from these sales the youth provided Christmas presents for almost 200 children and youth in Lynn. Many adults assisted as well with sign-ups, gift sorting and distribution.

OASIS continues to give teenagers a safe space to be in an increasingly unsafe world. No matter how they hear of St. Stephen's or when they are in the building they do share in our church's mission statement to "seek transformation of our lives and our community."

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore

## **BE YOU: GLBTQ YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

BE YOU is open to all high school students who identify as LGBTQ and those who identify as allies. The group offers a supportive community outside of the school system where some youth do not feel safe in expressing their gender and/or sexuality. Although the school may have Gay/Straight Alliances or other LGBTQ groups they may lack strong adult leadership which leaves the youth feeling invisible and unsupported.

In January the group started planning for the 2nd annual Pride Event for Saturday, June 3. Two committed teens took on the bulk of planning the event and recruiting volunteers. With the assistance of Rev. Sarah and Jason Cruz teens learned fundraising skills through writing letters, creating items to sell at church and hosting a fundraiser night at Flatbread Company in Salem.

The day of June 3 started cool and cloudy but it didn't dampen our spirits. Teens from BE YOU and OASIS gathered in the early morning to set up tables for vendors and community partners like the YMCA and NAGLY. Rainbow theme decorations were hung to brighten up the sanctuary to welcome teens that may not feel accepted by the Church. During the day teens sold t-shirts, lead art making, participated in a lip sync battle and ate lots of snacks. Also throughout the day several teens shared spoken word pieces that expressed their desire for a better world.

Although numbers were smaller than last year there was still a joyous sense that this was a community where all teens belonged. No one had to pretend to be someone other than who they really were and that honesty was both healing and transformative. This was created by the teens and the many adult volunteers who followed their time and energy toward the event.

Initially BE YOU started as a safe group for LGBTQ teens who needed a place to sit and talk with caring adults. It was intentionally kept separate from the OASIS Community Youth Group in recognition of the fact that LGBTQ teens have different needs from their fellow peers. However, over the past year the two groups have naturally merged and so BE YOU teens are now fully engaged in OASIS.

With this new reality and the leaving of the Assistant Rector it was decided to discontinue the BE YOU Youth Group as of September 2017. As with any parish ministry the group will resume meeting again if the need should arise.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah van Gulden

## **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY REPORT**

At the end of October, the Young Adult group met at Reverend Jane's house for a night of food, reminiscing, tears, and laughter. Many generations of students attended, all with stories to tell. The impact St. Stephen's has had on youth was clear through the conversations taking place that night. While monthly dinners have not continued this year due to our capacity, young adults will join with OASIS to help plan for Lynn Youth Pride 2018.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Shore

## **DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

St Stephen's has been actively involved in Diocesan Youth Council. The work of DYC is to plan and lead the Middle School, High School and Pre-confirmation retreats. They also attend Diocesan Convention and assist the Diocesan Office of Youth Ministries in other one day programs. There are approximately 40 Youth Members from all over the Diocese. They commit of about one weekend a month from September to May. In the Winter and Spring of 2017 we had Abraham Masunzu and Joan Shauri serve as Youth Members of DYC. In addition Beth Graham Jastrzembski and Teka Lumumba served as Adult Mentors. For the 2017-18 school year Michaela Olabisi is serving as a Youth Member with Beth and Tika continuing as Adult Mentors. The Rev. Bill Graham, Beth' father, has also become an Adult Mentor. The Rev. Tom Barrington has been an Adult Mentor for five years and has continued to serve in addition to his duties at St. Stephen's as Interim Priest. The youth of St. Stephen's have participated in the DYC events with our youth attending most of the retreats. We want to thank Jamie Shore, Life Together Fellow, for her work coordinating our youth participants in the retreats.

Respectfully submitted, Michaela Olabisi

## **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT**

Thanks to the generosity of current and former members of St. Stephen's, we provided six members of the congregation with scholarships for higher education.

Martha "Pat" and James M. Harriss Scholarship to Kayla McCellon

Michael Jude Provost Scholarship to Asdrubal Gomez

George Burkholder Scholarship to Zachary Zimiroski

William and Dorothy Robinson Scholarship to Nicole Marange

Shawn Robinson Scholarship to Erik Whitcomb

Bill and Jane Manly Scholarship to Camille San Gabrielle

Gene M. Stevens Scholarship to Teka Lumumba

Inglis Thomsen Fund and Dennen-Mower Fund to Shantwan Wilder

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Jared Zimiroski

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Faith Wilson



# Deepening Community Engagement





## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **FOOD PANTRY REPORT**

The past year has seen expanded need and services for the emergency food pantry at St. Stephen's. Many thanks to all who support and volunteer each week to provide for any who experience food insecurity at many levels. A special thanks to Harry for his tireless commitment to the pantry and the other needs of St. Stephen's. He has decided to take a sabbatical from his duties but we hope he returns refreshed and renewed.

The coming year will see some changes to the pantry operation as we update our physical environment and procedures; to make more efficient our services to all our clients.

One major change being considered is how we distribute food and services to meet the growing demand. Over the next few months, a team of volunteers will visit other local pantries to learn how they more effectively serve the community. We will keep you updated in the monthly newsletter on our progress.

Change is never an easy thing, but if the goal is to improve the mission, then with God's help, we will find the way.

Our generous donors included Church of the Holy Name, Swampscott, St. Andrew's, Marblehead, Trinity Episcopal, Topsfield, My Brother's Table, Swampscott Brownie Troop, New Rise PreSchool at Holy Name, Northeastern.

Our faithful pantry team for 2017 was Anthi Dimitrakopoulos, Mariam Kooros, Karen O'Donnell, Don Christiansen, Sally Gosselin, and co-Directors Harry Jackson and Neil O'Donnell.

A Very Special THANK YOU to Harry Jackson for many, many years of service to the Food Pantry, even dating way back to driving with Hal Bowden to pick up food and working beside Rev. Bill Lawson in the formative years of implementing MBT. Harry will, of course, continue to respond quickly and efficiently with his expertise to the many vital services which keep our church safe and functional and active.

The Clothes Closet expands its inventory of warm winter clothing-coats, sweaters, hats, shoes, and more for our patrons in urgent need during this cold season. Please consider donating a few hours to our food, book, and/or clothing ministries.

Prayerfully Yours, Neil & the Pantry Team

### **FOOD PANTRY BOOK MINISTRY REPORT**

Children and adults attending the weekly food pantry browse the many books displayed in a back corner of the room and are encouraged to take with them any that appeal. Adults select for their own interest, for their children, and for other relatives. Children find picture books, readers, and young adult fiction. Patrons of the weekly Twelve Step groups also find interest here. Jan Plourde and Rachel Schwartz, from the REAL (reading educational assistance learning) Program keep us well supplied with books and often assist with distribution on Friday afternoons. Charlene Leigh-Koser and Joanne Droppers are the weekly staff and would welcome new volunteers.

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Droppers

### **CPPK (CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS) REPORT**

The Christmas Presents Project for Kids (CPPK) had another successful year, thanks to a wide web of generous and helpful people, from both our parish and the larger community. We gathered names, created a



shopping list, shopped, bagged, and gave away gifts for 183 children. Many people, from both St. Stephen's and the community, kindly gave their time, talents, and treasure to make this a wonderful year. A special shout out goes to The Real Project for abundant book donations, which made it possible for every child to choose a book or two from the Book Table, and to the teens from Raw Art who shopped with style and savvy.

Respectfully submitted, Bonnie Bishop

### **SPAGHETTI SUPPER REPORT**

2017 marked our 13th annual spaghetti-supper fundraiser, held in our home, to support CPPK. As always, we enjoyed wonderful food and community in a festive atmosphere, together raising a total amount of \$620.00. Thanks to all participated in purchasing tickets for donations, and all who joined us and all who, cook, and serve to help make this event a success!

Respectfully submitted, Sandy & Kent Wittrup

### **LYNN HUNGER NETWORK REPORT**

Lynn Hunger Network continues to grow in numbers and commitment fighting hunger in Lynn. This community coalition of organizations includes Greater Boston Food Bank, Catholic Charities, Lynn Community Health Center, Food Project, Greater Lynn Senior Services, Red Cross, North Shore Community College, St. Stephen's, Washington St. Baptist, and My Brother's Table, the meeting center. The monthly Mobile Market food distribution line at St. Mary's in 2016-2017 which served thousands of clients and hundreds of thousands pounds of food moved in 2017 to a monthly distribution of food at Catholic Charities North/N. Common. The food line, now supported by the American Red Cross, will be there monthly until the highly-anticipated Sacred Heart renovated facility is finally ready to open, hopefully by mid-2018.

Harry Jackson has volunteered at the Mobile Market EVERY month for the past two years from 7AM-10AM.

Respectfully and (Hungrily) Submitted, Sal Gosselin

### **12 STEP MINISTRIES REPORT**

With the ongoing crisis of addictions and the chaos that ensues, the AA meeting on Monday night from 8pm – 9pm and the NA meeting on Tuesday night from 7pm – 8:30pm allows hope to those struggling with learning to live clean and sober. If anybody wants to know more, please reach out.

Prayerfully submitted, Neil O'Donnell

### **ST. STEPHEN'S TOWER REPORT**

The St Stephen's housing is managed by Beacon Properties. Linda Hooley services as Property Manager handling all the daily issues that arise. The Towers continues to be an exceptional elderly housing property.

The Housing Corporation since its inception has given a monetary contribution to St Stephen's. This year the

Towers Board voted a one-time additional contribution of fifty Thousand dollars. This donation is restricted and therefore can only be used for the expenses of the search and transition to a new Rector.

Respectfully submitted, Virginia Fuller

## **NORTH SHORE MISSION HUB REPORT**

The North Shore Mission Hub is a collaborate effort among four Episcopal Parishes on the North Shore and the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The Hub's purpose is to grow and deepen our relationships along the North Shore through the expansion of existing parish outreach programs or the creation of new programs. The North Shore Mission Hub is funded through the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts' *Together Now* capital campaign. Approved in 2013 by Diocesan Council, the North Shore Mission Hub was originally allocated \$1,068,861 for program work to be done through 2018. Due to budget cuts resulting from unfulfilled campaign pledges, the North Shore Mission Hub should expect to see \$750,000 through the end of 2018. The North Shore Mission Hub is comprised of a Board of Directors and a Hub Director which answers to the Mission Hub Implementation Committee of Diocesan Council. Each program site parish has two members on the board as well as two at-large members from the community. Representing St. Stephen's Memorial Church on the board in 2017 were Joyce Wallace and Christopher Trahan, with Christopher Trahan serving as one of the board's co-chairs.

During 2017, The North Shore Mission Hub supported the work of the following programs:

- St. John's Church, Gloucester: Funds a social worker position at the Grace Center, a day center for adults, many of whom struggle with addiction, homelessness and/or mental health issues. The Hub also funds work with children at St. John's through the Cape Ann Choir School program. 2017 Hub support totaled \$31,554.
- St. Peter's Church, Beverly: Funds the Mom2Mom program which works to help young mothers prepare nutritious meals on a budget while offering a space for parental support. 2017 Hub support totaled \$5,300.
- Grace Church, Salem: Funds a part time clergy staff member as well as materials and activities for their Bowditch School program. Parishioners have adopted a whole grade at the Bowditch School (a level 4 school) and have been following that grade up each year providing academic and enrichment support for the students. 2017 Hub support totaled \$26,875.
- St. Stephen's Memorial Church, Lynn: Funds the KIC After School Program which is a free after school program for elementary age students, teaching music and providing homework help for the participants. The Hub supports the salary of the KIC staff as well as costs for materials and supplies. 2017 Hub support totaled \$74,799.

As the *Together Now* grant is coming to a close in 2018, the St. Stephen's Vestry and KIC Advisory Board will need to discern the future financial sustainability of the KIC After School Program. It is evident that this seed money from the diocese enabled an important ministry to happen at St. Stephen's.

Respectfully Submitted, Christopher Trahan, North Shore Mission Hub Co-Chairperson

## **ECCO REPORT**

ECCO had a busy year in 2017. We accomplished a lot and had wonderful victories. We hope to accomplish many more in 2018.

## **ECCO 2017 Wall of Victory**

ECCO Leaders identified the following as successes at our Annual Dinner on Dec 3, 2017

### **Beloved Community**

- Supported Sean Ellis at court
- March to Governor Baker's house \*(5)
- Win on Criminal Justice Legislation \*(6)
- Successful meetings with Lynn police \*(2)
- Seeing Racial Bias
- Wise and loving response to the tragic shooting of Lenny Clement
- Community policing coming back to Lynn
- Displaying Black Lives Matter sign at church
- Implicit Bias Training w/Lynn police
- Sanders and Warren rally on Bail reform

### **Immigrant Rights**

- Salem Sanctuary Ordinance \*(9)
- Ipswich Sanctuary Law passed
- Educating People at Brooksby Village about Immigration
- Supporting refugee families from the Congo

### **Economic Dignity**

- Collecting well beyond our signature goal for \$15hr wage and paid medical leave \*(7) \
- ECCO inspired me to start a new company where everyone receives a living wage.
- ECCO Trained St. Stephens and middle/high school students. They went out and collected signatures.
- Millionaires tax will be on the ballot in 2018
- E-Team Graduated a class of 2017 and started a 2018 class

### **Outreach**

- Visit with Cherish to learn about ECCO and Issues
- More congregations joined ECCO

### **Fundraising**

- Successful Boat Cruise Fundraiser

### **Miscellaneous**

- Unifying families
- Support for a better community
- Bilingual education supported

\*Number of people who gave response

## **MCAN/ PICO REPORT**

PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) is ECCO's national affiliate; it provides access and influence in running national campaigns and offers training for leaders. In 2017, Rev. Jane served on the PICO Board of Directors and Strategic Planning/Succession Committee. PICO brought the people and voices of St. Stephen's, Lynn, and ECCO to the nation through its work on immigration (La RED), race, criminal justice reform (Live Free), and economic justice. In August, Pam Alleyne, Teka Lumumba, Helen Patmon, Pam Poppe, Joyce Wallace, and Rev'ds. Jane and Sarah attended PICO's "Women and Power" training with Dr. Stacy Blake Beard, Deloitte Ellen Gabriel Professor of Women and Leadership, and Sr. Faculty Affiliate, Center for Gender in Organizations, Simmons School of Management. PICO supports St. Stephen's Beloved Community Team's and ECCO's work unmasking and overcoming the systemic effects of intersectional oppression. In 2018, PICO will support ECCO/MCAN's Economic Dignity work in our ballot initiatives for a \$15 minimum wage and paid family leave. In addition, PICO will challenge all affiliates to transform democracy by engaging and educating "infrequent voters" so that those who are poor, black, brown, or young claim and control our national political agenda.

Respectfully submitted, the Rev. Jane Soyster Gould

## **GLOBAL OUTREACH OFFERINGS REPORT**

Esmeralda arrived at St. Stephen's on a Sunday of terrible weather. Nonetheless, the parish was able to give the following to Global Outreach efforts:

- United Thank Offering \$57.28
- Episcopal Church Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society \$59.00 (Good Friday offering for the church in Jerusalem)
- Episcopal Relief and Development \$366.30 for those affected by Louisiana floods

We hope in 2018 everyone will take a UTO mite box and fill it with offerings to our sisters and brothers less fortunate around the world.

Respectfully submitted, Ruthanne Switzer

## **WOMEN'S GROUP REPORT**

Year two, the Women's Group is growing. Our sisters from St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Marblehead have joined us in fellowship. We are now a Group of 15-20 Women from every diverse ages, social, economic and ethnic backgrounds. These incredible women: wives, retirees, millennials, artists, business women, entrepreneurs, educators, health care professionals, homemakers, volunteers, bring a wealth of knowledge to the Group. \*The Group met the second Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm. Two women take turns hosting the meetings with specific topics for conversations, meditation or relaxed conversations around a shared pot-luck luncheon. Most importantly, we shared stories of growing in our faith, a love of Christ and the Episcopal Church. Though the meetings were hosted by two persons, everyone participates in the set-up of the room and the cleaning after.



Last year we were blessed to have sisters visiting from other countries: Jamaica, Nigeria and one sister whose family recently relocated back to the states from Switzerland. Unfortunately, we lost one of our sister's, Dawn James, to illness but we have gained her daughter Lotoya.

We again attended Adelynrood Retreat Center in Byfield, Massachusetts for some, well deserved, reconnecting to ourselves and each other. In the Group gatherings, we focused on Maya Angelou's poem "And still I Rise" before breaking into small groups discussions; for personal contemplation, we took long walks along the beautiful trails and gardens. It was a time of restoration for the soul, and peacefulness of mind. Meals, prepared using fresh vegetables grown in the garden, provided good food for the body.

"The Righteous Woman, and The queen bee. The Righteous Woman has a basic belief that Woman should have each other's back no matter what. The queen bee subscribes to the notion that women simply can't get along."

The Women's Group is generational and welcomes any woman who would like to be a part of the Circle.

Respectfully Submitted, Charlotte Brown-Breckenridge

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee is responsible for seeking qualified individuals to represent St. Stephen's Church on the Vestry, North Shore Deanery Assembly, and Diocesan Convention. Nomination Forms were due on January 21, 2018, however, nominations can be made from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

### **The Nominating Committee Presents:**

#### **Vestry Officers**

Senior Warden (1 seat, 1-year term)  
Christopher Trahan

Junior Warden (1 seat, 1-year term)  
Harry Jackson  
Pamela Poppe

Clerk (1 seat, 1-year term)  
Carolyn Hoy

Treasurer (1 seat, 1-year term)  
Heather Collis Puro (incumbent)

Vestry (3 seats, 3-year term)

Pamela Alleyne  
Charlotte Brown-Breckenridge  
J. Thomothy Potter

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Virginia Fuller  
Jay Poppe  
Pamela Alleyne (alternate)  
Joyce Wallace (alternate)

Delegates to North Shore Deanery (5 voting delegates, 1 year term each; we will elect 2 at-large delegates since our two Diocesan Convention and alternate delegates are expected to represent us at a Deanery level.)

Pamela Alleyne  
Virginia Fuller  
Helen Patmon  
Jay Poppe  
Joyce Wallace

