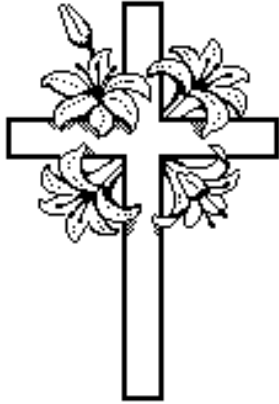


# Happy Easter!

April 2018



**Today may be Friday, but Sunday is coming.**

I write this as the third Nor'easter in two weeks blasts the region and hope that the weather will improve by Easter Sunday. Easter falls on April 1<sup>st</sup> so the joke may be on us. Our finest plans can be undermined by forces beyond our control, be it weather, circumstances or people. **However, I also know that nothing will deflect God's mighty work that we celebrate on the Day of the Resurrection.**

Years ago, I heard a sermon titled, "Today's Friday, but Sunday is coming." This was also the complete text of the sermon delivered in the best Black Gospel tradition. "Today's Friday but

Sunday is coming" repeated over and over with different emphasis and inflections until that central message of the Gospel was lodged in our brains and we were on our feet shouting and clapping along with the preacher. I never forgot it.

Today may be Friday, the Friday of seemingly never ending winter, of discouragement, of stalled progress, of broken dreams, of crushed expectations, of unrelenting opposition, of betrayal, of suffering and death. In Holy Week we may call it Good Friday because God's goodness and power shone through, but at the time it was awful. **We are challenged to remember Good Friday, and all Fridays, in the light of Jesus' glorious Resurrection.**

Sunday is coming. On Easter Sunday God does something never imagined; God's power and love is shown to the whole world. We gather to remember and witness to the fact that even death does not have the final say.

**Please join us as we gather to celebrate God's great victory this Easter.**

With joyful expectation,

The Rev. Tom Barrington

## **EASTER & HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church  
74 S. Common St. Lynn**

### **Maundy Thursday, March 29**

Noon - Healing Service & Holy Eucharist

7:00pm - Commemoration of the Last Supper & Foot Washing

### **Good Friday, March 30**

Noon - Community Good Friday Service, Washington Street Baptist Church

7:00pm - Youth led service with retelling the story of the Crucifixion and Tenebrae

### **Easter Vigil Saturday, March 31**

7:00pm - Lynn Commons with St. Mary's & Sacred Heart R. C. Churches

7:30pm - Great Vigil of Easter

### **Easter Sunday, April 1**

8:00am & **10:30am** Festival Eucharist with Choir in English **\*Note time change!**

10:30 in Kiswahili

## A Word from the Senior Warden

“March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” This year, March is truly a beast! Three Nor’easters and another one on its way in just one month! It is hard to believe that Easter is in less than two weeks. Hope you all have been safe and warm. There are many announcements in the newsletter this month as we see Lent coming to a close and prepare to celebrate Easter.

On March 18, 2018, the Vestry finalized the Search Committee. It has been a long process to form this committee, we would love to have even more people on it, but the guidelines state that it is a committee of 8-12 people. The Committee will be commissioned during the 10am service on April 8, 2018, the same Sunday that Esmerelda comes to visit.

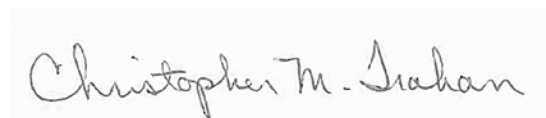
Please come to church and support these twelve people who will be working for all of us in finding an appropriate candidate to nominate to the vestry to be called as the next rector. This process will last through the next 12-18 months. The vestry worked hard to make sure that we have a Search Committee that reflects the many different ways by which people participate in the life at St. Stephen’s.

The Search Committee members are:

- Steve Switzer and Helen Patmon, Co-Chairs
- Paulina Cruz
- Bob Dixon
- Virginia Fuller
- Pam Poppe
- Emily Sherwood
- Bob Tucker
- Conrad Squires
- Joyce Wallace
- Keri Whitcomb
- Sandy Wittrup

On behalf of the vestry, I thank them for their willingness to serve and dedicate their time to take on this work.

Sincerely,



Chris Trahan

## STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

### STAFF CHANGES

We welcome Marty Splaine as our Sexton

We regret to announce that Rachel Pfof, our Parish Program Coordinator will be leaving on March 30th.

**SO LONG ST. STEPHEN'S FROM RACHEL PFOF.** St. Stephen's, it is with sadness that I share that my last day in this wonderful parish will be March 30th. I will be leaving to pursue graduate studies full time so that I can spend more time with my sweet three-month old daughter. I am grateful for the time spent learning with and from you all and wish you nothing but the best as you continue to do God's work in this world. Peace and love, Rachel Pfof

**USHERS NEEDED.** We are looking for a few more individuals who will serve as ushers and greeters at the 10 am service. This has traditionally been coordinated by the Wardens but with the extra duties on the wardens during the Interim period, we need to give them a break. The ministry of ushering is to:

- Welcome all who come to services, especially those who are new to St Stephen's
- Hand out service sheets and help people find a seat if needed
- Organize the collection and offering
- Provide assistance to anyone who needs it during the service
- Pick up and straighten things out after the service.

This ministry is especially suitable to families and children. Please consider helping with this important ministry by signing up on the sheet in the back of the church or speaking to Rev. Tom or the Wardens.

**VESTRY SUMMARY.** Vestry met this month and discussed Search Committee, financial statements, including audit and Rodrigue Fund Scholarship. We will be forming a Scholarship Committee for spring Graduation Sunday. Upcoming event and calendar was reviewed.

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

**PASTORAL CARE & HEALING PRAYER TEAMS GATHER APRIL 5.** The PCT & HPT will meet on Thursday, March 1 for check in and to discuss *The Book of Joy* by Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

## HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

**CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINNING** Confirmation is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students and up. If anyone is interested in Confirmation, please speak to Jamie Shore or Rev. Tom Barrington. There will be a pre-confirmation retreat on Friday and Saturday, April 6-7 at Barbara C. Harris Camp. We need to sign up immediately. Classes will be held on Sundays after the 10am service. The Confirmation Service will be held Saturday, June 16 at 10:30am at the Cathedral in Boston.

**CHURCH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS IN APRIL.** During April, the pre-school- 5<sup>th</sup> grade Church School students will learn about the ascension for two weeks and then about basic tenets of Episcopalian faith. These classes will explore the significance of church, baptism, and the Eucharist using different tactile, artistic, and musical activities. We are incredibly grateful to Charlotte Breckenridge and Sandy Wittrup for teaching First Communion Class during this Lent and Easter season. After Easter Sunday, the middle and high school classrooms will return to their TeenText curriculum after taking a break to work on the Stations of the Cross service for Good Friday. The teens did a great job writing the story of each station and reading the passages. If you want to get more involved with Church School please reach out to Paul Whitcomb or Jamie Shore.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP GATHERS ON APRIL 6.** Jason, Jamie, and Teka invite all young people in grades 6-8 to gather every first Friday of the month from 6:30pm-9pm. Kids can count on dinner, art projects, and LOTS of laughter. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, we will talk about how we can work with OASIS to create the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Pride Event and how to celebrate the learning we have done this year. Middle School Youth also meet every Sunday at 10:00am for Church School with Jamie. All 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join this vibrant and silly group. For more information, talk to Jamie or Jason.

**BCH CAMP ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!** Barbara C. Harris Camp offers (and encourages) online registration at <https://bchcamp.campbrainregistration.com/>. Printed Camp brochures and registration instructions are available in the Galahad Area. Summer Camp costs \$600 per week, per child. The Camp asks each family to pay what you can BUT scholarships are available and no child will be deprived a week at Camp because of inability to pay. Diocesan scholarships look to the family, the church and the Diocese each paying 1/3 of the cost. **This means that the requested minimum family share is \$200. If a family cannot pay \$200, a letter explaining why you can't pay needs to accompany the regular Camp Scholarship Form, which St. Stephen's clergy must sign unless you pay the full \$600.** Camp transforms the lives of young people; St. Stephen's and the BCH leadership remain committed to making Camp accessible to all children. **Sign up NOW because some weeks are almost full.** Bring your Camp questions to Jamie Shore

**"BE YOU" BEGINS TO PLAN THE THIRD ANNUAL LYNN YOUTH PRIDE EVENT** While the BE YOU Youth Group has not been meeting regularly this year, the BE YOU youth are in full swing preparing for the Lynn Youth Pride Event on Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am-3pm. BE YOU is proud to present this event as a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community in our great city of Lynn and beyond. The event will include food, games, community art project, and music. The event is free and welcomes all LGBTQ+ youth as well as allies. If you would like to donate your time, treasure or talent to this event please speak with Jamie Shore or Jason Cruz. While this event is youth lead, we need to full support of adults from the congregation to make this event a safe, fun, and welcoming space for all.

## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**THE FOOD PROJECT: CSA FARM SHARES.** The Lynn Community Support Agriculture (CSA) farm share features weekly pick-up of freshly harvested vegetables. It runs from June thru November. Pick up on Tuesdays 3:30-6:30 PM at 120 Munroe Street, Lynn. For more information and to sign up go to [csa.thefoodproject.org](http://csa.thefoodproject.org). Sustainably-grown produce cared for and harvested by local youth from diverse backgrounds.

**AN EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING** Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The training will focus on the disaster preparedness planning process and will facilitate the development of a ministry that helps congregations anticipate and prepare for local, unexpected disastrous events, as well as how to respond effectively to national disasters. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the ER&D point person for the congregation.

We are look for 2-3 individuals from St. Stephen's to participate in this training. Please contact Rev. Tom if you are interested.

**NORTH SHORE DEANERY.** All Saints of the North Shore (Danvers) is partnering with St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Houston to assist families who were significantly affected by Hurricane Harvey. There may be a future mission trip in the summer of 2019 and a pen-pal relationship among the youth. For more information talk to one of the Deanery Reps or contact Rev. Marya DeCarlen of All Saints of the North Shore at 978-774-1150 or [allstoffice@gmail.com](mailto:allstoffice@gmail.com)

## ECCO NEWS:

For more details on any of these events, please visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/EssexCountyCommunityOrganizationECCO/> or call (781) 592-6167.

**COMMUNITY MEETING APRIL 5, 7PM.** First Church Swampscott, 40 Monument Ave, Swampscott. Join people from across ECCO's diverse community to learn about the role of social movements in social change and prepare for our major public action to protect immigrant families. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/eccoapril18>.

**Legislative Accountability Forum with Raise Up MA.** Wednesday, April 11th, 5:30-7:30pm, location TBD. Join ECCO folks and activists for economic dignity from across the North Shore to urge our elected officials to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour and pass Paid Family Leave.

**Public Action on Immigration.** Thursday, April 19th, Noon, Location TBD. Join ECCO leaders and others to state a major action to protect immigration families. Details to follow! Note that we moved this event from the previous week, because the 19th is during school vacation, and we want children to be able to participate!

**Active Bystander Training.** Monday, April 23rd, 6:30-8:30pm, North Shore UU, 323 Locust St., Danvers. Join ECCO folks and others to learn how you can respond to and safely interrupt acts of hate and discrimination.

**MCAN Leadership Summit.** Sunday, April 29th, 3-6pm, Location TBD. Join leaders from across ECCO and our affiliates across the state to set our statewide agenda for the next two years, and explore how we can be more powerful through our collaboration and solidarity with one another.

# St. Stephen's Events

# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Easter Day</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 10:30 am Festival Eucharist - English	<b>2</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>5</b> 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 7:00 pm ECCO Community Meeting	<b>6</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:00 pm Pre-Confirmation Retreat @ BCH 6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group	<b>7</b> <b>Pre-Confirmation Retreat @ BCH</b> 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>8</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English (ERD collection) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Women's Group	<b>9</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>12</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>13</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Preparedness Training 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>15</b> <b>r</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:15 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>16</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>17</b> 2:00 pm Communion at the Towers 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>19</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	<b>20</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>21</b> 8:30 am 2018 Global Mission Summit 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>22</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	<b>23</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>25</b> <b>St Mark the Evangelist</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>27</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>29</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	<b>30</b> 8:00 pm AA					