



74 South Common St., Lynn, MA 01902
T: (781)599-4220 ♦ F: (781)586-0156 ♦ www.StStephensLynn.org

FEBRUARY 2018

NEWSLETTER TRANSITION

Beginning in February, we will begin sending the newsletter out electronically. This will save both time (printing, folding, and stuffing envelopes) and money (postage, paper, and envelopes).

Please ensure the office has your best email address! We will continue to mail newsletters upon request. Please notify the office by mail or phone.

Phone: 781-599-4220.

Email: ststephens@ststephenslynn.org

From the Interim Priest:

I was hoping that with the New Year things at St. Stephen's might settle down a little. Alas, between snow storms, frozen pipes, boilers not working, special services, and preparing for the Annual Meeting. Then, I realized Lent is almost upon us. I find it very easy to get caught up in all of the activity and only after the fact realize that I am starting to burn the candle at both ends. I write this not to complain or to get sympathy but to share with empathy what so many of us face in our day to day lives. Our society, work, school, family, church, extra activities can suck up every waking hour and some of our sleep as well. As we approach Lent, it is an opportunity to let go of some of the distractions so that we may focus on what is really important.

Lent begins on February 14th. Yes, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day. The last time this happened was in 1945. It hardly seems fair, the one day that helps us focus on relationships and romance the Church is saying you must repent and put ashes on your head. None the less, we will be challenged to observe a holy Lent. I encourage each one of us to find something that will make our lives a little simpler, to make ourselves a little more open to God' grace and direction.

For some this will included giving thing up, a special food or activity. Others will take on something such as a designated time to pray or some kind of increased social justice activity. Whatever it might be, I pray that we as a community may be able to slow down a bit and pay attention to each other. It is unreasonably hard to observe a holy Lent in isolation. Let us share our Lenten disciplines and hold each other in our prayers as we all seek to simplify our lives and trust more deeply in God's forgiveness and love.

Peace,

The Rev. Tom Barrington

"A Time for Every Purpose"


Dear St. Stephen's Family,

This is a difficult piece to write but it must be done. I need to let you know that I won't be running for the Senior Warden position at the Annual Meeting due to digestive health issues that have recently increased in intensity.

What a year it has been! I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you better than ever before. With all the transitions that have happened, you have been both supportive and strong. I know that will continue to be true in the future. We are a dedicated and determined group of faithful people.

I will continue to be involved in the life of St. Stephen's in the ways that health and time permit. Thank you to Tom Barrington, to the Executive Team, and to the vestry. Thank you to the parish of St. Stephen's for all that you do and all that you are.

Love and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene N. Axelrod". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Irene Axelrod

**COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018 AT NOON**

Why should you come?

To enjoy food and fellowship with our church community

To hear about the year past and the year to come

To review parish finances

To set up on-line pledge payment

To elect leaders for the Parish, Deanery and Diocese

To fulfill your responsibility as a member

Please let us know what you plan to contribute to our Potluck Feast!

2017 ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 4. Our Annual Report tells the story of an amazing year in the life of St. Stephen's. Many thanks to all who did the ministry and all who pulled together the reports included in our summary of 2016. Pick up the Annual Report at the church or download it from our website, and check out the ministry reports, 2016 financials, and 2017 budget. If you would like a hard copy of the Annual Report, please send a check for \$5.00 black & white/ \$10.00 color and your name and address, and we would be happy to mail one to you.

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE? Nominating Committee members **Kendra Zimeroski, Kevin Neil, Shanel Anderson, and Irene Axelrod** are working hard to provide us with a full slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting at noon on February 11. *Do you care enough about the life and ministry of St. Stephen's to offer yourself in leadership?* In the Episcopal Church, the Vestry makes decisions about priorities and budgets; we need those decisions made by a diverse and committed community of leaders. *Might you be called to serve?* We will elect to one-year-terms Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Clerk. We also will elect 3 Vestry members (three 3-year terms) as well as Diocesan Convention & Deanery representatives (5 delegates, 1-year term).

VESTRY SUMMARY JANUARY 17, 2017. The vestry discussed and passed the 2018 budget. Long discussion on fundraisers. Discussed upcoming vestry election. Irene & Tim announced they will not be running again as wardens. Rev. Tom reported about building a closer relationship with the Kiswahili congregation. Rev. Tom reported that St. Andrew's church in Marblehead is exploring the possibility of sharing an associate position with St. Stephen's. This is part of the St. Andrew's planning of a capital campaign. The vestry agreed to explore this possibility. Tim Potter reported on the building repairs due to the burst pipes.

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE. For the last year, the Treasurer has been working to reorganize the financial reports in order to meet audit guidelines and make reporting easier. This work is finishing up in January and the new reporting structure will premiere at next month's Annual Meeting. Stay tuned!

We are excited to **start our first full year of using Realm in 2018**, a software that helps us electronically receive and track giving at church. Using Realm allows us to easily create reports and access information about parishioners, including giving history. If you haven't set up a profile in Realm, make it your new year's resolution! Make your life simpler by setting up online giving! You can access Realm through the church website or contact the Office and we will send you an invite via email. Carolyn Hoy and Heather are also available to walk you through setting up an online profile – ask them!

2017 Tax Statements were sent out electronically if we have your email address. Sending statements this way, saves paper and our new software program, called Realm, has a clearer format than Quick books. If you require a printed copy of your statement, let Heather know by calling the office or leaving a note in the Treasurer's mail box. Better yet – send us your email and you can get it electronically! You can reach Heather at treasurer@ststephenslynn.org. Pledge Campaign As always -even though 2017 is over, we still welcome payment of 2017 pledges. And, even though the 2018 budget is complete, we still welcome 2018 pledges.

PALMS NEEDED TO MAKE ASHES. At funerals we say “dust to dust, ashes to ashes.” We take our Palm Sunday palms and burn them into the ashes that will mark our foreheads on Ash Wednesday; the mark of our mortality connects us directly to our Lord's Passion. Remember to bring your palms on February 11!

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

LENTEN PROGRAM: SOUP & BIBLE STUDY.

Beginning Wednesday, February 21,

Psalms, Lamentations, and Hope.

6:00pm Soup and Bread

6:30-8:00 Study

Please sign up if you can provide soup or bread!

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET FEBRUARY 1 at 10:30AM. HPT and PCT meet Thursday, February 1 to organize visits, check in, and discuss our current reading.

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETS FOR LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 4 AT 12:30. All women are invited to share in an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. This month's meeting will be led by Helen Patmon and Joyce Wallace with the theme of African American Heritage month. Please see Emily Shelton or the clergy for more information.

TUESDAY AT THE MONASTERY FEBRUARY 6 4:15-8:00PM. Join the SSJE Brothers for worship and supper at the Monastery on the first Tuesday of the month. Cars leave St. Stephen's at 4:15 and return about 8:00. Sign up is requested.

ABSALOM JONES DAY WORSHIP CELEBRATION SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 4:00 PM.

Sponsored by the Union of Black Episcopalians Guest Preacher The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts. St. Cyprian's Church 1073 Tremont St., Roxbury, MA

COMMUNION AT THE TOWERS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2PM. All are welcome at our Community Communion at St. Stephen's Tower Apartments (25 Pleasant Street). It's a great way to see an important outreach ministry of the church and meet some of the elders who live in the building.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES, FEBRUARY 14TH

7:30 AM IMPOSITION OF ASHES IN THE CHAPEL

NOON IMPOSITIONS OF ASHES AND HOLY EUCHARIST IN THE CHURCH

7:00 PM IMPOSITIONS OF ASHES AND HOLY EUCHARIST IN THE CHURCH

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION FEBRUARY 25 3:00-6:00pm. St. Stephen's will be hosting Zena Link, an activist and educator, who will be speaking and leading small group discussion. Anyone interested in attending please contact Helen Patmon or Pamela Poppe.

NORTH SHORE DEANERY WINTER ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 6, 6:00-8:30PM. St. Peter's Beverly (4 Ocean Street, Beverly). We will welcome new delegates and address the questions: What do we want to do, be as a Deanery? How can we assist our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East?

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP MEETS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 6:30-9:30. Join Jason Cruz, Jamie Shore, and Teka Lumumba for dinner, music and activities. We will continue our conversations about identity and where we come from. The group is open to all youth in grades 6-8. Come and bring a friend! Also, check out the art that the teens made in the hall way with sharpies and watercolors. This project helped the teens articulate how they want to be seen.

HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT AT BCH CAMP FEBRUARY 2-4. Join young people (grades 9-12) and adults from across the diocese for a weekend of games, song, discovery, and inspiration. Organized and led by the Diocesan Youth Council, the retreat is designed to give high school students a chance to take a break from all of the business of their lives and get in touch with themselves, their peers, and God. The cost of the retreat is \$140, which means that the Diocese hopes for a minimum family contribution of \$40 but they and we are committed

to every teen who wants to attend being able to attend. So, don't let the money get in the way. The retreat fills up quickly so please talk to Jamie Shore ASAP!

OASIS: FRIDAYS, FEBRUARY 9 & 23 6:30-9. In February, OASIS will continue conversations that began in the fall. We will also explore ways in which OASIS can lead and grow the Lynn Youth Pride Event. See Jason or Jamie Shore with questions.

PLANNING FOR LYNN YOUTH PRIDE BEGINS. OASIS members and YA group members are beginning to come together to plan for the 3rd Lynn Youth Pride Event which will be held on June Saturday, June 2nd. We want to ensure that this year's event reaches out to more youth and more community organizations as we offer a safe space for the LGBTQ community. If you donated money or time last year and/or if you would like to donate this year please see Jason or Jamie Shore. June is only 5 months away!

CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS PREPARE FOR LENTEN ACTIVITIES. Once Lent begins, the Middle School and High School Sunday school classes will take a break from their usual curriculum, Teen Text. Instead, the teens will work together to develop the liturgy for services during Holy Week, which will come about through conversation, art, and activities. Please have your Middle School and High School youth make a special effort to attend Church School each week and on time during this period. As a reminder, ALL youth attending church school should be in their classrooms by 9:45am.

TRAVELING JESUS ON THE MOVE DURING LENT. The St. Stephen's Traveling Jesus will start to visit with parish families for a week of exciting adventures. Traveling Jesus will be ready for weekly visits until Palm Sunday so that he can be with the congregation during Holy Week. If you would like to spend a week with Jesus in your home please sign up in the Galahad Area or speak with Jamie Shore

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

KEEP OUR PANTRY SHELVES FULL. In recent weeks the lines have been long at our Pantry. All contributions are welcome but canned tuna and chicken, beef stew, and spaghetti sauce with meat are always good choices. Also, we can always use volunteers on Friday afternoons to hand out food, share a book, give away clothes, or just show hospitality.

ECCO IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 1 7PM. Community meeting at Zion Baptist Church, 4 Adams St. Lynn. All are welcome. ECCO gathered more than 100 people at our Beloved Community meeting on January 8 and almost 150 at our Immigration training on January 19. People want to work together to make a difference and St. Stephen's is at the center of the action. Whether your concern is policing and violence in Lynn, policies and procedures at the Essex County House of Correction in Middleton, or criminal justice reform, your time and talent are needed. If you want to be part of creating "sanctuary churches" or organizing to establish Lynn as a "sanctuary city", lots of people are needed. If you are wondering how to get involved, talk with the clergy or the ECCO organizers or go to the ECCO website (ECCOaction).



GOD WILLING AND THE PEOPLE CONSENTING

The Right Reverend Alan M. Gates

Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts

will ordain

Daniel Peter Bell

to the Sacred Order of Priests

Saturday, 24 February 2018

Half past ten o'clock in the morning

Grace Episcopal Church

160 High Street

Medford, Massachusetts 02155

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED

Clergy: Red Stoles

Reception to Follow



St. Stephen's Events

February 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	2 3:00 pm Food Pantry	3 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
4 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Women's Group	5 8:00 pm AA	6 4:00 pm Tuesday with the Monks 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	7 6:30 pm Bible Study	8 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	9 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	10 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
11 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Annual Meeting	12 8:00 pm AA	13 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	14 Ash Wednesday 7:30 am Imposition of Ashes 12:00 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Imposition of Ashes & Holy Eucharist	15 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	16 3:00 pm Food Pantry	17 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
18 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Vestry Meeting	19 8:00 pm AA	20 2:00 pm Communion at the Towers 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	21 6:30 pm Lenten Program	22 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	23 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	24 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Dan Bell's Ordination
25 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	26 8:00 pm AA	27 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	28 6:30 pm Lenten Program			