



**FEBRUARY, 2019 Newsletter**

From the Interim,

Who here is a missionary? The answer is anyone and everyone who is striving to join God in God's mission of reconciling all creation back into God's self. That means virtually all of us. However, we tend to refer back to an older definition of missionaries as those who travel to faraway places to share the Good News of God in Christ.

I am delighted that St. Stephen's has a missionary who fits both definitions. No it is not a member of our church who is serving in distant lands. Rather, we are the recipient of a dedicated and devoted missionary in the person of the Rev. Zachary Njogu Kinyua. He has left his wife, children and friends in Kenya to help us know and feel the love of God. He is also one who has joined God's mission to help us know more fully God's grace. He does this not only through his music ministry but in his enthusiasm to share God's love in the strange and distant land of Lynn.

Rev. Zack came to St. Stephen's for the second time last spring. He was here on a Tourist VISA with the intention of further developing the Kenyan/Kiswahilli congregation's music program. He has developed into a true leader and pastor. With the help of the Diocese he applied for and has been granted a "Religious Worker" R1 Visa which means that even the U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services regards him as a missionary. He will now will be able to stay for a few years and be compensated for his work. Besides transforming the music program of the Kenyan congregation he has significantly developed their ministries with children, youth and young adults. In the coming weeks and months we will be exploring with him how we can share his gifts with the American congregation as well.

Please keep him in your prayers.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Tom Barrington

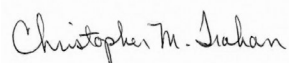
## A WORD FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Vestry and ministry leaders are busy getting ready for the Annual Meeting which is quickly approaching. Each year as I read the Annual Report, I am amazed at how busy life at St. Stephen's is with all the good work we are called to do as Christians. Whether it is feeding the hungry, caring for children, comforting those who mourn, celebrating with those who are joyful, visiting the homebound, working for a just society or helping to do the minutiae in between that keeps our church open, it is clear that what happens on Sunday feeds our souls so that we can carry on the work of the Gospel. All that happens at, in and around St. Stephen's reminds me of the Beatitudes and the verses that follow found in Matthew 5:1-16.

When Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
<sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>4</sup> "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
<sup>5</sup> "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
<sup>6</sup> "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
<sup>8</sup> "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
<sup>9</sup> "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
<sup>10</sup> "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
<sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely<sup>[b]</sup> on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.  
<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.  
<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

So come to the Annual Meeting and elect your Vestry, Deanery and Diocesan leaders and celebrate all the work that the people of St. Stephen's have done over the past year.

Peace,



Chris Trahan

**COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019 AT NOON**

***Why should you come?***

**To enjoy fellowship and food with our church community**

**To hear about the year past and the year to come**

**To review parish finances**

**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!***

**2018 ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 3.** 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 2018. Pick up the Annual Report at the church or download it from our website, and check out the ministry reports, 2018 financials, and 2019 budget.

**STEWARDS OF RESOURCES**

**ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE?** Our Parish, Deanery, and Diocese need leaders and the good news is that the leaders we need are sitting in our pews. Please think, pray, and talk to **Nominating Committee members Pam Alleyne, Dorothy Post, Paul Whitcomb, and Robert Whitney** as you reflect on whether God might be calling you to serve. *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?* Although nominations can be made at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 10, the Nominating Committee hopes to publish in the Annual Report a full slate of candidates for Junior & Senior Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, and Vestry (three 3-year terms) as well as Deanery (5 delegates) and Diocesan Convention (2 delegates & 2 alternates). **The deadline for nominations is Sunday, January 29.**

**FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.** Welcome to 2019! Please remember to pick up your pledge envelopes for the year, finish off your 2018 pledge and pick up your tax statements which will be available by the end of January. Any statements not picked up will be mailed. Please check your statement carefully and reach out to the Wardens through the Parish Office if corrections are needed.

Create a Realm profile – this new (ish) parish software program makes tracking and making donations easier on you and St. Stephen's. Have you ever considered giving regularly through your bank account? Do you know that setting up regular donations saves us time and money and means that your pledge payment will never be delayed? If you are interested in finding out about this option for donating, please contact the office or parish treasurer. Also, if you

create a profile in realm, setting up a user name and password, you can print out statements, check on your pledge progress whenever it is convenient for you! If you want one on one help to set up this profile, we can do it at your convenience. Just let the parish office know!

**SEARCH COMMITTEE.** Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and patience. We held a three hour meeting to analyze the data provided by the congregation as well as the research we had done on our own. We have decided to utilize a writing team to write up the profile. A team reflects the core idea expressed by the congregation that we are at our best when we are a diverse group of people striving to serve God. This approach does take a little more time since we must listen carefully and openly to each others' thoughts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit as we try to understand how the word and body of Christ exists at St. Stephen's. We will write the profile and then send it to the Vestry and congregation for final review. Once we have all of that input we will write a final copy and send to the diocese for review. With the diocese on board we can then proceed to posting the profile and accepting names. Again thanks for your patience and prayers. We are asking that you continue praying for us and let us know if you have thoughts and concerns about the work you have entrusted us to do. Your Search Committee

## **NURTURING THE CONGREGATION**

**HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET FEBRUARY 7 at 10:30AM.** HPT and PCT meet Thursday, February 7 to organize visits, check in. If you are interested in joining this ministries please speak with Rev. Tom, [tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org](mailto:tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org).

**THE WAY OF LOVE TRAINING WITH JERUSELEM GREER March 14-16, AT BARBARA HARRIS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER IN GREENFIELD, NH.** Follow up on our Advent "Way of Love" Bible Study. The Episcopal Province of New England is pleased to welcome Jerusalem Geer, a member of "The Way of Love" creation and leadership team, to New England. She has created a program for parish leaders, particularly those responsible for faith formation, to engage the practices and learn ways to bring them to our communities. We hope by now that you have heard about Bishop Curry's effort to embrace the "The Way of Love". The Episcopal Church has developed a lot of great resources to explain and incorporate these practices. Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, Rest into our lives. A group from the Bible study will be attending.

**COMMUNION AT THE TOWERS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2:30PM.** 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.

**MARDI GRAS/SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM.** We would like to revive this St. Stephen's tradition, but a little simpler than in the past. It will include activities and games for the kids and dinner. We will also be burning last year's

palms to make the Ash Wednesday ashes. If you are able to help plan this event please contact Rev. Tom, [tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org](mailto:tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org).

**SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> FROM 1:00PM -4:00PM AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION.** St. Stephen's will be hosting more information will be available soon.

**NORTH SHORE DEANERY.** Join All Saints in Danvers for a Book Study as we approach Lent!! Wednesday mornings January 16 – February 20 at 10:30am, ending with Noonday Prayer. If you are looking to be enlightened during this season of Epiphany, like the Wise ones who visited the infant Jesus, please join us as we study together how to dig into our faith as it relates to the stewardship of this fragile earth our island home. During six Wednesdays in Epiphany we will be reading together the book **Climate Church, Climate World** by Jim Antal with a foreword by Bill McKibben. This book has the power to awaken our higher calling: to lead others in preserving the web of life. What are our moral and ethical responsibilities? We will be reading 9 chapters in 6 weeks. Please call our office to confirm your interest in attending 978-774-1150.

## **FAIR MULTI-PRIZE RAFFLE WINNERS**

**The drawing for the multi-prize raffle was on Sunday, December 9.  
The winners of the raffle were as follows:**

**First prize – David McCoy**

**Two nights at Salem Waterfront Hotel with  
\$60. certificate for Sunday brunch**

**for two at Hotel Hawthorne, Salem**

**\$100. Gift card to Antique Table Restaurant, Salem**

**\$50. Gift Card to Kokeshi's Resaurant, Salem**

**Second prize – Timothy Donahue, iPad**

**Third prize – Toby Milner, Amazon Echo with Alexa**

**WE DID VERY WELL ON THIS RAFFLE TAKING IN OVER \$1500. A BIG  
THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR CONTRIBUTORS AND SELLERS.**

**MARILYN CLORAN AND SALLY GOSSELIN  
CO-CHAIRS**

## **HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH LED WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 10:30 AM.**

We have been invited to the Kenyan Congregation's 10:30 AM children's and youth led worship service. This is a service that they have been holding every week. It is completely led by the children and youth themselves. They especially want to share this with all of the children and youth of St. Stephen's. Parents are welcome to join in.

**OASIS GROUP MEETS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30-9:30.** Join Jason Cruz, for dinner, music and activities. We will continue our conversations about identity and where we come from. We will also explore ways in which OASIS can lead and grow the Lynn Youth Pride Event. The group is open to all youth in grades 7-12. Come and bring a friend!

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT AT BCH CAMP FEBRUARY 8-10.** 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 teens on the Diocesan Youth Council, the retreat is designed to give high school students a chance for rest and relaxation away from the stresses of family, school and work. The retreat fills up quickly so please see Rev. Tom to sign up! The retreat costs \$140; we ask for a family contribution of at least \$40 but scholarships are available but spaces fill up fast! Register @ [bchcenter.org](http://bchcenter.org) the **deadline is February 6th.**

**WINTER QUILTING RETREAT!** Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. A weekend filled with fun, laughter, new friends, great food and lots of creativity! Quilters of all abilities are welcome. This retreat is intended to give you the free time needed to begin, work on, or finish a project, without any formal instructions. For fun-filled faith or faithful fun, are invited to register now for time at BCH in February. You can register online at [bchcenter.org](http://bchcenter.org).

## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**KEEP OUR PANTRY SHELVES FULL.** In recent weeks, with the Government shut down 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 ANNUAL MEETING.** Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-8pm at the First Church in Swampscott Congregational, 40 Monument Ave., Swampscott. Join us as we celebrate our work together in 2018 and elect the 2019 ECCO Board! Please bring a potluck dish to share.

**NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPWARD BOUND.** We are a federally-funded college-prep program that serves low-income and first-generation high school students in Lynn. Our program is completely free for families and we provide after-school tutoring, workshops, college field trips, supplemental math and English instruction, etc. all to help our

students prepare for and successfully enroll in post-secondary education. We also offer a 6-week summer program where students live on a college campus and experience what it is like to be a college student (all completely free as well). I am reaching out to local churches and organizations in the area as we are looking to enroll additional new students into our program. We are currently admitting students in grades 9, 10, and 11 that are low-income or first generation and attend Lynn Public High Schools. If you happen to know any students that would benefit from our services, we would love for you to share our information. Here is our website as well: [www.northshore.edu/upward/](http://www.northshore.edu/upward/)

**LYNN POLICE-COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> 8:30am-10:30am!** We are seeking 15 individuals who are willing to be trained to participate in conversations with the Lynn Police Department (LPD). ECCO has been approached by the LPD to recruit individuals from Lynn to participate in their in-services training that will include one-on-one conversations. We are looking for individuals who lives, work or worship in Lynn. We are especially seeking people of color. There will be a training on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm-7:30pm at St. Stephen's Church. If you are interested please contact to Rev. Tom Barrington, [tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org](mailto:tbarrington@ststepheslynn.org) or sign up in the Galahad Area.

**ECCO NEWS - SUPPORTING A CONGREGATION PROVIDING SANCTUARY.** There is a North Shore congregation that is preparing to provide physical sanctuary to those facing deportation. ECCO is working to build a network of individuals and congregations that will provide spiritual, emotional and possibly material support of the Sanctuary Congregation and the individual they are protecting. Please contact Aviva at ECCO, 415-419-6250, if you are interested in learning more.

## **A PASTOR LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS**

*Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris have issued the following pastoral letter to the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, regarding the General Convention's three-year suspension of the statute of limitations on clergy disciplinary cases involving sexual misconduct against adults.*

*#METOO In The Episcopal Church*

January 17, 2019

Dear People of the Diocese of Massachusetts,

Since October 2017, when #MeToo began to spread virally in conversations on social media about sexual abuse and harassment, primarily in the workplace, shocking stories of misconduct have come to light involving business leaders, celebrities, politicians and many others. Sadly, the church has not been immune from instances of sexual abuse and harassment. As a result of this heightened awareness and flood of painful stories, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings issued a [call in January 2018](#) to The Episcopal Church to “examine its history and come to a fuller understanding of how it has handled or mishandled cases of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse through the years.” They invited voices from across the church to help determine how to proceed in both “atoning for the church’s past and

shaping a more just future.”

Thankfully, many of those voices have been heard over the past year. Stories were collected and anonymously related in a “Liturgy of Listening” at the 79th General Convention last July in Austin, Texas. They also inspired a number of resolutions which came before General Convention, among them resolution DO34 which called for a three-year suspension of the statute of limitations on clergy disciplinary cases involving sexual misconduct against adults. There is no time limit on reporting clergy sexual misconduct against children and youth under age 21. The adoption of this resolution, which lifts the statute of limitations from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021, provides an opportunity for those injured or affected by sexual misconduct by Episcopal clergy to relate their stories, as well as a vehicle for the church to respond with disciplinary processes for the clergy responsible for these acts and with concrete actions toward the healing of individuals, congregations and, in some cases, entire dioceses affected by abusive actions.

In our own diocese, we recognize that clergy are not the only ones who have committed acts of abuse or harassment in the church. Some who are lay staff, volunteers or other parishioners have acted inappropriately. For several months, a new #MeToo Task Force of our diocese has been in conversation and has been considering how to respond in situations where a lay person has engaged in sexual misconduct within the church. While there is no canonical disciplinary process for lay persons as there is for clergy, our desire is that our churches be safe places for everyone, environments where all can thrive in faith in God and service to their neighbors. The #MeToo Task Force is considering ways to encourage the sharing of stories, protocols for response, and events to atone for these harmful actions and to engender in our congregations a deeper awareness of our baptismal call to “respect the dignity of every human being.”

As your bishops, we invite you to take several actions as you may be moved to do so:

First, we hope every member of our diocese will remember all who are victims of sexual abuse, harassment, exploitation, or human trafficking in your prayers both publicly and privately. For too long, these stories have existed in the shadows. As painful as it may be, it is time to bring them to light, to examine the failings of the church, to pursue appropriate discipline and repentance for those who have committed acts of misconduct, and to seek healing for victims and others affected by these actions.

Second, we invite those who have been affected by acts of sexual abuse, harassment or misconduct by clergy, whether in this diocese or elsewhere, to relate their stories to one of our diocesan intake officers for clergy disciplinary matters, Starr Anderson ([starrkanderson@gmail.com](mailto:starrkanderson@gmail.com)) and the Rev. Thea Keith-Lucas ([revthea@gmail.com](mailto:revthea@gmail.com)). Those coming forward with a complaint can be assured that their identity will be held in confidence until and unless they agree that it may be revealed to others. The Episcopal Church’s clergy disciplinary process can be found in detail at [www.titleiv.org](http://www.titleiv.org).

Finally, stay alert for reports from the #MeToo Task Force as it prepares a protocol for receiving stories of misconduct by lay persons and develops resources to assist our congregations in further developing a climate that nurtures and respects the dignity of each person.

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates  
Bishop Diocesan  
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris  
Bishop Suffragan



## POEM FOR THE MONTH

### Tripping Over Joy

What is the difference  
Between your experience of Existence  
And that of a saint?

The saint knows  
That the spiritual path  
Is a sublime chess game with God

And that the Beloved  
Has just made such a Fantastic Move

That the saint is now continually  
Tripping over Joy  
And bursting out in Laughter  
And saying, "I Surrender!"

Whereas, my dear,  
I am afraid you still think

You have a thousand serious moves.

*Khawāja Shams-ud-Dīn Muḥammad Ḥāfeẓ-e Shīrāzī is a Persian poet from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. He is also known by his pen name, Hafez.*

If anyone would like to offer a Poem for the Month for future newsletter please send it to [ststephens@ststephenslynn.org](mailto:ststephens@ststephenslynn.org) or speak to Rev. Tom.

# St. Stephen's Events

# February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 am SEIU Class 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>3</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	<b>4</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm NA	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>7</b> 10:30am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	<b>8</b> BCH Camp Retreat  3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>9</b> BCH Camp Retreat  9:00 am SEIU Class 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>10</b> BCH Camp Retreat 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Annual Meeting	<b>11</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm NA	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	<b>15</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>16</b> 9:00 am SEIU Class 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>17</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>18 Presidents' Day</b> <b>Office is Closed</b> 6:30pm Search Committee Meeting-Graham Suite 8:00 pm AA	<b>19</b> 2:00 pm Communion at the Towers 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>21</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	<b>22</b> Winter Quilting Retreat BCH Center  3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>23</b> Winter Quilting Retreat BCH Center  9:00 am SEIU Class 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>24</b> Winter Quilting Retreat BCH Center 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 1:00pm African American Heritage Celebration	<b>25 St. Matthias, Apostle</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm NA	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>28</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers		