



From the Interim Priest

A Blessed Epiphany to all,

The Season of Epiphany, begins on January 6th and continues until Ash Wednesday, which is very early this year, February 14th. It is the season when we reflect on the light of Christ in our lives and in our world. Here at St Stephen's it marks the beginning of the formal search for your new Rector. The search committee has been formed with Helen Patmon and Steve Switzer agreeing to be Co-chairs. We will be hearing more in the coming weeks as the committees begins to meet and plan out the process. Please keep them in your prayers.

Meanwhile, I would like to invite us to reflect on how God is leading us in this process. The Biblical story that I find useful during a time of transition is the story of the people of Judah being in exile in Babylon. The year 587 B.C.E. marked the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. The people of Judah were taken into Babylon. It was a time of great loss, but also marks the beginning of something new. The Jewish leaders refused to be assimilated and disappear into history. Rather, they figured out how to remain the people of God without being gathered around the Temple. They had to remember their stories, thus most of the Hebrew Scripture was written down and collated into the Torah at that time. The community shifted its focus from offering sacrifices at the Temple to the study and living out the Law as given to Moses. The center of the community shifted from the Temple to the Synagogue. Being Jewish at this time became a matter of the study of the Law, personal practice, and community worship.

The change during the Exile did not happen quickly. There was not a clear set of choices. Rather, it came out of a lot of prayer, reflection, and trying new things. Not everything they tried worked but they remained focused on what it meant to be God's chosen people. By the time they were able to return to Jerusalem, they were a very different people. The Temple was eventually rebuilt, but a huge change had taken place so that Jews were able to thrive, not just in Judah but, throughout the world.

Thanks be to God that our trials at St. Stephen's are not as dire as the Exile, but we can learn from their experience. We are in a time to explore and try new things and ideas. We do not need to recreate as fast as possible what St. Stephen's had with Rev. Jane. We can hold on to the best that she gave us but also try out some new ways of being Church. This is a time to explore and be creative. I know that God's light is shining on us as we discover what is possible.

Peace,

The Rev. Tom Barrington

## Those Who Hope in the Lord Will Renew Their Strength

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that 2018 is almost here. What a year 2017 has been, whether we look at our personal lives, developments in our world and in our country and certainly in our church. It has been a year of many changes and we don't know what lies ahead.

However, we do know that our faith in the Lord helps us to renew our strength and to keep going. We all face challenges every day, sometimes these are physical, other times they are mental or spiritual. Our church family is often a great help in these times. I can say that many people have offered their support and help to me during the past year and that has been a great blessing and much needed as well as much appreciated.

We know that we have a great deal of work ahead of us. We welcome Tom Barrington as our Interim Priest, and thank him for all the work he has done already during this transition time. Quite a few people have applied to be members of the St. Stephen's search team, they will be notified shortly of their selection. This will be both an exciting and a challenging time for all parishioners as we discern where we have been, where we are now, and where we would like to be in the future.

We carry with us our faith which gives us the strength to do the work that must be done for St. Stephen's to continue to be a beacon in the city of Lynn and beyond.

Blessings to you all in this new year,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene Axelrod". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Blessings to you all in this new year,".

Irene Axelrod

## STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

**VESTRY SUMMARY: DECEMBER 17.** The Vestry discussed the new rector search process with Ed Rewolinski, the diocesan search consultant. The process is moving forward with teams being formed. Vestry reviewed year-to-date financials and discussed the 2018 budget and stewardship. Grants were discussed and the challenge of tracking all grant activities. The vestry nominating committee was formed - three vestry members will be leaving this year. The Building Committee reported with an update on the repair to the existing lawn sign, and installation of an electronic sign in the spring - the Graham Suite kitchen was also discussed with the hope of finding funding to move forward.

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM PLANS PLEDGE FOLLOW UP.** As we reach toward our pledge goal of \$120,000, the Stewardship Ministry Team and Vestry thank all who have pledged for 2017. Pledge envelopes and thank you Episcopal Church calendars are available in the Galahad Area; please call the office if you would like your envelopes mailed to you. Even as we move toward our pledge goal, the Vestry conversation about income made clear we actually need to surpass our goal if we hope to fund the ministry envisioned when leaders discussed the expense side of the 2017 budget. Please help by letting your light shine by supporting God's work in and through St. Stephen's.

**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 Kevin Neil, Pam Poppe, Robin Washington, and Kendra Zimiroski** as you reflect on whether God might be calling you to serve. Although nominations can be made at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 11, 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 and one 1-year term) as well as Deanery (5 delegates) and Diocesan Convention (2 delegates & 2 alternates). **The deadline for nominations is Sunday, January 28.**

**ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCH FEBRUARY 11, 2017 AT NOON.** Mark your calendars now for the Annual Meeting and Potluck on Sunday, February 11 at noon. Episcopal governance requires the participation of our members in our Annual Meeting. The Episcopal Church defines members as communicants who contribute financially to the parish. We hope to have Annual Reports available by Sunday, February 4. Of course, timely completion of the Annual Report depends on **all ministry team leaders submitting Annual Reports by Friday, January 5.**

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

**ST. STEPHEN'S WINS "TRAILS AND SAILS" PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AGAIN.** Our Tiffany Windows tour was once again 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 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 and take the

tour. 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. ~Marilyn Cloran

**CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS ON JANUARY 7, 2018.** Two weeks after Christmas and one week after New Year's Day, we will celebrate Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. At St. Stephen's our celebration will include: baptisms of infant, toddlers, and young adults; the renewal of Baptismal Vows for all of us; and a celebratory coffee hour.

**TUESDAY JANUARY 9 AT THE MONASTERY.** On Tuesday, January 9, we will join the SSJE Brothers for worship and supper at the Monastery. Sign up is required but everyone is encouraged to join us. Cars leave St. Stephen's at 4:15 and return about 8:00.

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES JANUARY 3.** During Epiphany, we will be reading the delightful Book of Tobit. It is found in the Apocrypha. We meet every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 to read the Bible and discuss what it means for us as people of faith. Join us and bring your questions!

**HEALING PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE TEAM MEET JANUARY 4.** The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet at 10:30 on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. We are reading from The Book of Joy by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu.

**SPECIAL SERVICE FOR MLK WEEKEND SUNDAY, JANUARY 14.** The St. Stephen's Beloved Community Team is planning worship on Sunday, January 14. In place of the sermon we will be offering the opportunity for conversations around race, class, and privilege and how we as a community and individuals can respond.

**WOMEN'S GROUP GATHERS JANUARY 18 AT 12:30.** All women are welcome and lunch is Potluck. Every month it's a feast of food, faith, fellowship, and fun.

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

**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AND FUN CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!** At our 4:00 Christmas Eve service our sanctuary was graced with sheep, angels, and the Holy Family at the St. Stephen's Christmas Pageant. Thank you to all the helping hands who provided snacks kept track of children, co-led rehearsals, and corralled lost sheep. A HUGE thank you to Jamie Shore and to Josh Black who was the Christmas Pageant Director this year.

**KIC MUSIC MAKING A JOYFUL NEWS.** The KIC Afterschool children put on a well-attended concert on December 19, followed by a family dinner where the parents saw all of the holiday crafts their children have made over the past several weeks. Many kids played Christmas songs on the piano and the young children performed poems. In January, we'll prepare for more public performances, and welcome new adult volunteers to help with homework or to teach new skills to the kids..

**COME MEET THE KIC COMMUNITY.** The KIC Afterschool crew would love to see you at a Family & Community Dinner. The next one will be Tuesday, January 16, at 6:15 pm in the Dining Room. As always, parish members of all ages are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship, and the events are designed for families with young children. Take a night off of cooking and join us!

**CPPK TOY DRIVE WRAPS UP ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR.** Thanks to the efforts of the OASIS youth group, Middle School youth group, and our dedicated adult leaders at St. Stephen's, we had another awesome year for CPPK (Christmas Presents Project for Kids)! This year we gave out gifts to nearly two hundred underserved children in the Lynn community. For around fifteen years now, CPPK has been providing opportunities for St. Stephen's youth to learn the importance of sharing their time and talents in service of families in our community who could use some help during the holidays. This year money was raised through sales of the popular "Justice Buttons" and "Reverend Jane is my homegirl" shirts. A huge "thank you" to Jason Cruz, Bonnie Bishop, Kendra Zimiroski, Pam Poppe, Helen Patmon, Lucinda McClain, Neil O'Donnell, Holly Delos. Jean Sigourney, Robin Washington parents and families, and everyone who donated and bought art to make CPPK 2017 a success! Also, a "shout out" to Joe Brown for bringing holiday cheer on distribution day by dressing as Santa!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETS JANUARY 12 FOR A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION.** The Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8) normally gathers ever 1st Friday of the month from 6:30pm-9:30 for food, games and art activities. However, this month, they will join OASIS for a New Year's Party on the second Friday of the month. There will be an UNO tournament and time to plan future activities/projects. Dinner will be provided and youth are invited to bring their favorite snack. Please speak to Jamie Shore if you have any questions.

**OASIS MEETS FRIDAYS, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AND 26<sup>TH</sup>, 6:30-9:00PM.** The OASIS Community Youth Group welcomes all teens in grades 9-12 for bi-monthly gatherings with dinner, conversations, and activities. On the 12 th, they will join with the Middle Schoolers for a New Year's Party. They will also meet on January 26 th to continue the conversation from the fall about identity, and the #MeToo campaign.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH 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 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 Jamie Shore before January 14 to sign up! The retreat costs \$140; we ask for a family contribution of at least \$40 but we will

work to make sure that every youth can attend. Please speak with Jamie Shore for more information.

**WINTER CAMP AT BCH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 TO SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24.** Youth in grades 4-11 are invited to join some of their favorite summer camp counselors and mentors for 5 nights and 6 days of fun at BCH Winter Camp! The week will bring a mix of cozying up indoors and embarking on outdoor adventures in the snow. Campers will engage in daily worship and faith formation activities focused on renewal of mind, body and spirit. The fee for Winter Camp is \$600 with the expectation that the family, St. Stephen's and BCH will each pay 1/3 or \$200. If you can't pay the family portion please speak with the clergy.

**BARBARA C HARRIS CAMP IS HIRING.** The Barbra C Harris Camp is currently hiring staff for the 2018 Summer Camp Season! They have various positions open from Junior Counselors (16-17 years old) to Counselors (18+), Lifeguards, Program Heads and Leadership Staff. Staff need to be available from June 23rd through August 4th. All positions are paid and include room, board and onsite health care. Staff should be excited about living and working with children in a fun faith community, role modeling healthy, positive behavior. Please talk to Reverend Tom if you are interested in more information or want to apply.

### **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**HONOR DR. KING DURING MLK WEEKEND.** Our parish MLK worship will be Sunday, January 14 at 8:00 and 10:00. The St. Stephen's Beloved Community and clergy are planning the liturgy and special music. Monday at 8:00am there will be an MLK breakfast in the city. Please speak with the Rector if you would like to attend the breakfast at the Porthole Pub.

*2017 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF*

The Rev. & Mrs. Robert Anderson, Jr.	Henry J. & Jane B. Livermore Ernest J. & Ester G. Livermore	Cynthia Cooper Kamara Laurie Sauchuk Elizabeth M. Sherman	Alice & Alvan P. Hicks Alvan W. Hicks, Jr. Nancy J. Hicks
Hal Bowden	Perley & Marguerite G.	Robert R. Pedro Euphemia Cooper Weeks	Rachel Crowley Anne & Norman Reid
Anna & Thomas Butler	McIntire Donald B. & Taimie Livermore	The Rev. Robert Derr	The Crowley Family Gladys & Ray Messenger
Alice & James McCaul	Wilbur J. & Marge Livermore	Robert & Doris Dixon	Carole & Ernst Voigt
Jacqueline & Ralph Butler	Dorothy M. Livermore	Henry & Mary Morgan	Anna & Charles Cloran
Claire & Neville Samson	Stella Fox	Emma Morgan Butler	Burton Hughes Shirley Hughes Keith Hughes
Evelyn & Edward Klokcin	The Rev. & Mrs. Albert J. Chafe	Albert Morgan Violet Morgan Donarchie	Patricia M. Jackson Hubert & Myrtle Jackson
Beatrice & Adam Schickling	Eliot A. Coutts, Sr. Robert & Catherine W. Bell	Marion G. Eastwood Arthur F. Eastwood, Jr.	Shirley H. Biggs Robert C. Jackson Hubert Jackson, Jr.
Marjorie & Henry Aylward	William & Grace S. Thomson	Evelyn M. Williams Mabel A. Saulnier Dorothy G. Bernard	Dorothy Kay- McLaughlin Judith Kay Paul Bartlett
Gloria & Robert McCaul	William & Jane B. Thomson	Kenneth S. Estes	John Elton Sofia Dariotis Charles Femia Lucille Foster
Florence Laura Deanna Lomerson	Grace Thomson Bischof	Shirley E. Foster Laura Glover Paul Foster Ralph Eaton	Irene Sherwood Gilroy Yolanda Gonzalez Claire Jackson
Barbara Ronan	Jane Thomson Inglis	Francis N. Haley Grace S. Haley	Bill Jackson Barbara Keating Phyllis Kellom Herbert Kellom
James D. & Margaret J. Byrne	Lt. Robert E. Inglis, Sr USAC	Gladys L. Haywood Arnold C. Haywood Clarence, Julia, Thomas &	Jessie LeClerk Kathleen Lehev Leslie Lougee Joan Lules
Charles & Margaret B. McFarlane	Robert E. Inglis Jr. Lt. Col & Mrs. Robert T. Bell		
Harold T. & Jane Snow	USMC John Wesley Bell		
John E & Beatrice Byrne	USMC William T. Bell		
Beatrice Byrne Faus	USAC Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bell		
John & Matilda C. McFarlane	Joseph Emmanuel Dennis		
Janet McLean Cynthia A. McFarlane	Dr. Armah Cooper Armelia DiPietrantonio		
John S. McLean James F. & Marie Byrne			
Diane E. Byrne Alice E. Byrne			

**2017 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF**

Jane Marquis	Ella & Joseph	The Rev. Edgar	
Patricia McGovern	Messina	Romig	
Charles McLaughlin	Johanna & Maurice		<b><i>In Thanksgiving</i></b>
John McLaughlin	Mulcahy		<b><i>for</i></b>
Kathleen	Daniel Mulcahy	The Sheppard	
McLaughlin	Kenneth Lewis, Sr.	Family	The Life of St.
Richard McLaughlin		Edith Stead	Stephen's Parish
Diane Paine-	John & Helen		Both Past and
Wheeler	Morris	Mac Squires	Present
Jessica Prieto	John & Mary Morris	Andy Squires	
Robert E. Ross, Jr.	Carl & Albertina		
Robert E. Ross Sr.	Fischer	Stanley Elwin	
Ken Shannahan	Carl A. Fischer	Thomas	
Lorraine Shannahan	Matthew Clifton	Jane L. Thomas	
Rev. Edward	Alan Sward		
Sherwood		Arthur & Mildred	
Edward Sherwood,	Alfred & Ann	Thorne	
Jr.	Nottingham		
Esther Howland	John & Louise	Marlene Tinkham	
Sherwood	Cantrell	Gladys Renaghan	
John Walsh	Bertram & Jeanette	Margery Reid	
Mary Walsh	Nottingham	Corinne Surette	
Phillip Walsh	Thomas Roberts	Patricia Mitchell	
BP	Pamela Marcin	Elsie Loring	
		Midge Day	
George & Margaret	Donald F. & Muriel		
Layhe	Pelletier	Barbara Tucker	
George & Elizabeth	Nancy C. Marshall	Ruth Tucker	
Layhe	Donald R. Pelletier	Sonia Tucker	
Willis & Frances	Ronald L. Pelletier		
Tracy		Ruth Milne Twohig	
George & Terry	Donald L. Phillips	Jane Twohig Perrin	
Mansell	Marjorie L. Phillips		
	Wayne R. Phillips	John Wallace	
The Rev. Dr.	Jeanette Scrimshire	Darren Wallace	
William Lawson		Kendall	
	Bill Rodrigue	Chrysostom	
Carl Anthony	Carolyn & Ken	Khary Chrysostom	
Messina, Sr.	Paige		
Charles Fowler	Louis & Marie	Rose Yakoobian	
Avis & Kenneth	Rodrigue	Joseph Yakoobian	
Ferguson	Michael & Ted	Nazareth	
Sandra Ferguson	Rodrigue	Ghazarosian	
Conway	Gail Paige Carlson	George	
Daniel & Sarah	& Debra Paige	Ghazarosian	
Ferguson		Martin	
Anna Ferguson		Ghazarosian	
Bernice Ferguson			





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



**January 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAYS</b> <b>8 &amp; 10am Worship in English</b> <b>10am Worship in Kiswahili</b>	<b>Office Hours</b> <b>Monday – Wed</b> <b>9:00am – 12:00pm</b> <b>Th 9:00am – 1:00pm</b> <b>F 9:00am – 2:00pm</b>	<b>KIC Music</b> <b>Monday – Thursday</b> <b>2:00pm – 6:00pm</b>				
<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>4</b> 10:30am Pastoral Care & Healing Prayer Teams Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Epiphany</b> 9-10:30am Sewing Club 10am Choir Rehearsal
<b>7 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 10am Holy Baptism	<b>8</b> 8pm AA	<b>9</b> 4:15pm Tuesday with the Monks 2pm Communion at the Towers 6pm Finance Committee 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	<b>10</b> 6pm KIC Family Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>11</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>12</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm Middle School Youth Group & OASIS	<b>13</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal
<b>14</b> 10am MLK Observance 12:30 Women's Group	<b>15</b> <b>The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 8pm AA	<b>16</b> 6:30pm Knitters' Club 6:15pm KIC Community Dinner 7pm Stewardship Ministry Team 7pm NA	<b>17</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>18</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-9pm Beloved Community Team	<b>19</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal
<b>21</b> 12:15pm Vestry Meeting	<b>22</b> 8pm AA	<b>23</b> 7pm NA	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>25</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>26</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS	<b>27</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8pm AA	<b>30</b> 7pm NA	<b>31</b> 6:30pm Bible Study			