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March 2018

### From the Interim Priest – Lamentations and Hope:

On Good Friday we read Psalm 22. Jesus recited its opening lines on the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” The Psalm pours out despair, frustration and loss. The psalmist lashes out in anger at God, “Oh my God, I cry in the daytimes, but you do not answer”; at himself, “I am a worm and not man”; and at those who threaten him, “Packs of Dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me.”

Even so, the Psalm ends with,

My soul shall live for God;  
my descendants shall serve God;  
they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that God has done.

The challenge for us in this season of Lent is to acknowledge the pain as well as experience the renewed hope in God our Savior. I am finding it easy to embrace disillusionment and despair. Listening to stories of immigrants who have come to this country for a better life, who have worked incredibly hard, who pay taxes and contribute to our society, who have done everything to resolve their immigration status only to run into a bottomless pit dug by our nation that does not want to acknowledge their existence. I am outraged hearing about one mass shooting after another, knowing that absolutely nothing will be done to end this carnage. Officiating at unending funerals for those who have died of overdoses, knowing that this epidemic exists because certain drug makers made huge profits by mass marketing what they said were non-addictive pain killers. And the list goes on, renewed racism, economic disparities, and continued mass incarceration. How are we to find hope, much less renewed trust in God?

Jesus showed us on the cross that no matter how powerful the world thinks it is, it is powerless against perfect love. Jesus died, yet even death could not hold down perfect love, and he rose victorious. The forces against us are real and can be damaging. You may say that nobody but Jesus has perfect love. This is true, yet, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been made into the Body of Christ. Together we have the power of Jesus’ perfect love. Together we can stand against the worst, help alleviate the suffering of the many and confidently “make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has done.”

May you have a blessed and holy Lent.

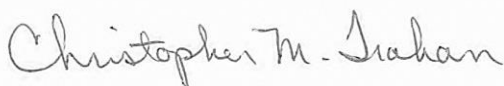
The Rev. Tom Barrington

## A Word from the Senior Warden

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their participation in this year's Annual Meeting and contributing to the abundance of food for our potluck luncheon. It is clear that 2018 promises to be a year full with projects and work. The Vestry will have its plate full this year as we finalize membership on the Search Committee and support the work of that committee to help find the next rector, prioritize building projects and repairs after yet another frozen pipe incident, work to make sure our Kids In Community after school program remains financially viable as Together Now grant money to the North Shore Mission Hub comes to a close, and to develop a plan to pay off the remainder of the construction loan that was taken out to pay for the building restoration work.

This is an exciting time for us all as we recommit ourselves to the work of St. Stephen's and to the community in which it serves, as we prepare to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher M. Trahan". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Chris Trahan

## STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

### ST. STEPHEN'S CLEAN UP DAY

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, the day before Palm Sunday**

There will be crews working mornings, mid-day and afternoon

Deep cleaning of the church

Raking and fixing up of the grounds

Sorting out clutter

Repairs and maintenance

**ANNUAL MEETING.** The Parish heard reports from the wardens regarding the on going work of developing a Search Committee, the work that was completed to the Sunday School (Anderson) wing after the 1st pipe burst, and a report regarding the need for more people to get involved in the Sunday School program. The treasurer presented end of year financials and the 2018 budget to those present. Financial picture looks promising. The new vestry is listed below.

**VESTRY SUMMARY FEBRUARY.** The 2018 vestry met for the first time on February 18. New Senior Warden Chris Trahan welcomed all and talked about excitement and challenges ahead and each Vestry member discussed their hopes for the future. Building repairs and update, communications, fundraising, church school, and Search Committee discussed.

### New Vestry:

Name	Email	Phone
Chris Trahan, Sr. Warden	<a href="mailto:nahartc@hotmail.com">nahartc@hotmail.com</a>	781-233-2913
Harry Jackson, Jr. Warden		781-598-2072
Heather Collis-Puro	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ststephenslynn.org">treasurer@ststephenslynn.org</a>	781-775-3942
Carolyn Hoy	<a href="mailto:Camallie219@gmail.com">Camallie219@gmail.com</a>	781-738-3395
Pam Alleyne	<a href="mailto:Palleyne01@gmail.com">Palleyne01@gmail.com</a>	781-581-9005
Charlotte Brown-Breckenridge	<a href="mailto:Charley10@msn.com">Charley10@msn.com</a>	978-531-6886
Teka Lumumba	<a href="mailto:tlumumba@yahoo.com">tlumumba@yahoo.com</a>	781-484-8933
Dorothy Post	<a href="mailto:dorfp@aol.com">dorfp@aol.com</a>	617-527-1862
Tim Potter	<a href="mailto:Timothypotter1@yahoo.com">Timothypotter1@yahoo.com</a>	781-592-0859
Robin Washington	<a href="mailto:rewshngtn@yahoo.com">rewshngtn@yahoo.com</a>	978-401-1928
Paul Whitcomb	<a href="mailto:Paulwhitcomb10@gmail.com">Paulwhitcomb10@gmail.com</a>	781-593-3887
Robert Whitney		781-581-3072
Sandy Wittrup	<a href="mailto:s.wittrup@verizon.net">s.wittrup@verizon.net</a>	781-5999-1943

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

### LENTEN PROGRAMS

**Mondays: Daniel Fast 6:00pm to 8:30pm** (led by Samantha) in the Graham Suite. Supper and mutual support will be provided as we explore fasting, deepening our faith. Please contact her for more info. (978) 530-7633

**Wednesday Lenten Program: Soup, Psalms, Lamentations & Hope 6:00 – Soup & Bread; 6:30 – Study.** (led by Rev. Tom) In these days of conflicts, racial tensions, mass shooting and deportations it is easy to lose hope. For our Lenten study we will explore how our spiritual forbearers responded to such trying times and worse. We will look how the Psalms and the Book of Lamentations do not flinch as they express how bad things can be yet still strive to trust in God’s love and mercy. We will also be hearing modern voices and music of lamentations and hope. We will begin our gathering with a simple supper of soup and bread. Sign up sheet to bring soup or bread is located in the Galahad area.

**Thursdays – Noon Healing Service**

**1pm Tea & Talk:** *It’s Not Too Late: A Field Guide to Hope* by Bob Sitze.

**Fridays – Stations of the Cross** (led by Amy Inez) at 1:00pm

**GUEST PREACHER, AMY HUNTER, SUNDAY, MARCH 11.** Writer, poet, and Christian formation leader. She will also be leading the women’s group with a program titled “Spirituality in a Time of Transition.”

**WOMEN’S GROUP, MARCH 11 12:00.** All women are invited to share in an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. This month’s meeting will be led by Amy Hunter with the topic “Spirituality in a Time of Transition.”

**BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 7 TO 9PM.** The BCT team continues to meet monthly to discuss issues of racism and whiteness, providing a safe space for these difficult conversations. On February 19 BCT sponsored a youth group viewing of the Black Panther movie, followed by a lively and productive conversation over pizza and soda.

## **EASTER SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday, March 25, 8:00am & 10:00am**

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

Noon - Healing Service & Holy Eucharist

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

**Good Friday, March 30, 7:00pm**

Youth led service with retelling the story of the Crucifixion and Tenebrae

**Easter Vigil Saturday, March 31**

7:00pm on Lynn Commons with St. Mary’s

7:30pm Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

8:00am & 10:30am Festival Eucharist with Choir in English

10:30 in Kiswahili

**DOES SNOW OR SICKNESS HAVE YOU HOMEBOUND?** We know that winter can be long and lonely. Please call ((781)-599-4220) or email ([ststephens@ststephenslynn.org](mailto:ststephens@ststephenslynn.org)) the Parish Office if you would welcome a visit from the Clergy or our Pastoral Care Team. We do hold monthly communion services at St. Stephen’s Towers. The service will be on March, at 2:00pm. All are welcome.

**PASTORAL CARE & HEALING PRAYER TEAMS GATHER MARCH 1.** 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**

**REGISTER FOR CAMP!** BCH offers week-long camp for youth in grades 4-12 from late June through July. The typical day of a camp includes worship, activities, Bible study, games and plenty of fun. BCH and St. Stephen's works hard to ensure that all youth can attend camp, no matter the financial situations of their families. Please speak with Jamie Shore for more information.

**CHURCH SCHOOL EXPLORES LENT.** During the month of March the Church School students will learn about the liturgical season of Lent and create tactile projects to learn about the Easter story. The younger church school classes will create Resurrection Eggs and Easter Gardens. The Middle School and High School groups are combined to create a "Justice Stations of the Cross" Service for Good Friday. Families are encouraged to continue the conversations kids are having at Church School at home. In the Galahad Area there will be Church School Lent Resource Packets which include word games, readings, prayers and pages to color. If you would like to include working with youth as part of your Lenten discipline please speak with Jamie Shore.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND.** The Middle School group will meet at St. Stephen's on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30pm-9pm. During this month's meeting, we will continue to build on the relationships we have formed, talk our identities and cultures, and end with an art project. Dinner is provided! Any current 6th-8th grader is welcome to join. Call or email Jamie Shore with any questions.

**OASIS MEETS FRIDAYS, MARCH 9 AND 23 6:30-9.** The OASIS Community Youth Group is open to all high school students who are looking for a safe space to hang out, share a meal and have conversation about what matters to them. We celebrated Black History Month in February by viewing and discussing the movie Black Panther with the Beloved Community Team and attending the talk with Activist and Educator Zena Link. We will celebrate Women's History Month in March and begin to plan the Third Annual Youth Pride Event, which will be the first Saturday in July! If you want to help with this Pride Event, please reach out. For more information please speak with Jason Cruz.

**TRAVELING JESUS WILL BE ON THE MOVE.** The St. Stephen's Traveling Jesus will be going out and visiting people this Lent. He is really loved spending time with parishioners and seeing his photos on Facebook last year and he is pretty excited to leave Jamie's office.

## DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

**KEEP OUR PANTRY SHELVES FULL.** In recent weeks the lines have been long at our Pantry. All contributions are welcome. Also, we can always use volunteers on Friday afternoons to hand out food, share a book, give away clothes, or just show hospitality.

**Suggested donations:**

Assorted Individual Fruit Cups

Jelly or Jam (12 oz jars)

Single-Serving Cereals, including oatmeal

Canned spaghetti or ravioli (15 oz)

Assorted soups, dry or canned (15 oz)

Small canned meats

Peanut butter (16 oz jars)

Individual servings, stews & chilis

**ECCO FOCUSING WORK ON RACIAL JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION.** ECCO's monthly Community Meeting is **March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at Sacred Heart Parish** in Lynn. For March, ECCO is continuing to work on county-wide criminal justice reform, immigration deportation defenses, and diversity and implicit bias training for Lynn Police. St. Stephens's parishioners have historically stepped up for ECCO and we continue to do so. If you would like more information or want to get involved with ECCO as a Lenten practice, talk with the clergy and watch the bulletin for dates and times of upcoming planning meetings and Actions.

**NORTH SHORE DEANERY LENTEN ASSEMBLY, TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 3-8:30.** Hosted by St. Peter's in Beverly. 4 Ocean St. with onsite parking. On the agenda: welcome all 2018 delegates, small group discussions on how our Deanery can embrace brave change and a presentation on our Diocesan's relationship with our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Jerusalem.

**The 2018 North Shore Deanery Delegates are:**

Pamela Alleyne

Virginia Fuller

Helen Patmon

Jay Poppe

Joyce Wallace

**RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF IMMIGRANTS.** Every day we hear about another hard working family who is trying to follow the rules but are being detained and deported. The Dreamers are hanging in limbo. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has become a feared police force whose practices have become draconian and procedures opaque.

The good news is that those who support immigrants are not without resources. **Essex County Community Organization** ECCO is actively organizing to stand with our immigrant brothers and sisters along with Episcopal City Mission (ECM). There are many ways one can help, from going to ICE hearings, to supporting families of those who have been detained, to writing letters and making phone calls to legislators to support more humane immigration laws.

Here are some ways you can help:

ECCO Community Meeting, March 1 at Sacred Heart in Lynn

ECCO legislation lobbying to pass the Safe Communities Act. <https://www.miracoalition.org/safe-communities>

ECM – Establishment of a Bail Fund – contact Rev. Tom Barrington



# EASTER DECORATIONS

## IN MEMORY OR THANKSGIVING FOR THOSE YOU LOVE

It is time once again to remember your loved ones with Easter decorations. Please use this form to list the name(s) to be printed in our Easter Celebration of Life. Please print clearly! We request a donation of \$25 to support our Easter flowers and candles. Your names must be submitted no later than March 18, 2018.

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In memory of:

In thanksgiving for:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The flowers and candles donated by members of the parish decorate the altar gloriously for our Easter services. After services, we deliver lilies to our homebound members. We need volunteers with a little time and a lot of Easter joy to deliver them during the week of Sunday, April 1. Flower delivery isn't hard and won't take long but it will make a difference in another person's life.

All you have to do is take a flower and an addressed card, and then deliver the lily to your fellow parishioner. Receiving the lilies and an Easter Alleluia from you will make their day! Please call the church office at 781-599-4220 if you can help.

*Please return this sheet to the parish office with your donation.*

# St. Stephen's Events

# March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</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>2</b> 6:30 pm Middle School Youth Group	<b>3</b> 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn 9:00 am Building Bridges through Brave Conversations 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>4</b> <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Daniel Fast 8:00 pm AA	<b>6</b> 4:00 pm "Tuesday with the Monks" 6:00 pm North Shore Deanery Lenten Assembly 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Lenten Program	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>9</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>11</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English (guest preacher) 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili 12:00 pm Women's Group	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Daniel Fast 8:00 pm AA	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Lenten Program	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	<b>16</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline!</b> 1:00 pm Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>18</b> <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</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>19</b> <b>Easter Lily Forms Due</b> 6:30 pm Daniel Fast 8:00 pm AA	<b>20</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>21</b> 6:30 pm Lenten Program	<b>22</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>23</b> 1:00 pm Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>24</b> <b>St. Stephen's Clean-up Day</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>25</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist - no music 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - Kiswahili	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm Daniel Fast 8:00 pm AA	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Lenten Program	<b>29</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>30</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 1:00 pm Stations of the Cross 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>31</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal