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May Newsletter

May we be a Pentecost People and Church

As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost on May 15, our readings begin: “When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” Some were amazed, others confused, and still others thought the disciples were drunk. I suspect the disciples themselves wondered what was going on as their words literally transcended the bounds of language, religion, class, and culture.

It has always struck me as slightly incongruous that we celebrate the birthday of the institution of the church on this feast when we recognize the Spirit breaking every expectation wide open. Pentecost had nothing to do with magnificent buildings, articles of faith, orders for worship, or ordinations of bishops, priests and deacons. There were no denominations; there weren't really even Christians. Within the temple community, there were the people of the Way... the Jesus Way.

On Pentecost, we celebrate the birth of a Spirit-filled movement that transformed lives, communities, and the world. The question for us today is whether the church—in general and specifically our St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lynn, Massachusetts—is a Pentecost place. While we in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion may love our Book of Common Prayer and ancient hymnody, while we may feel very attached to our lovely liturgies and stunning buildings, does the wind of the Holy Spirit still blow in and among us? Does the fire of the Holy Spirit still set our hearts aglow?

As we celebrate Pentecost on May 15 with our combined English and Kiswahili congregations, we will welcome new members into the body of Christ through baptism, and offer the peace in dozens of languages hoping that the Spirit will stir us up and fill us with elements of awe, confusion, and inspiration. How does God want and need us to open our ears and hearts to new voices? How might the Spirit light a fire within us so that we shine brightly in our community as a beacon of hope? How is the wind of the Spirit blowing open our doors to let in fresh air, new people, and renewed possibilities?

Pentecost is about God's people—the scared, the unprepared, the sinful, the weak, the busy, the distracted—being transformed by the Holy Spirit and building a church. The Spirit moved and motivated the faithful in Jerusalem to tell the world of the ways in which the love of Jesus transformed their lives. They invited everyone to join them on the Jesus Way.

As we celebrate Pentecost and the birthday of the Church, marveling at the transformation of the world made possible by their faith, may we let the Spirit challenge and change us. Surely, our world needs the good news of the love, compassion, and justice of Jesus every bit as much as the Roman Empire did. The question is whether we are as willing as they were to let go of what's comfortable and familiar, and let the Spirit set us on fire and blow us where it will.

Jane⁺

Dear Friends,

Since Christmas our Diocesan life has focused on the creation of a new Diocesan Mission Strategy. Our canons or laws require that we create a Mission Strategy every 3-4 years. We added our input through listening sessions, online surveys, or telephone in January, February and March. In early April the report that compiled all of this information was released to provide an overview of the gifts and needs of the churches in eastern Massachusetts. There will be two more rounds of feedback on this report with the actual Mission Strategy being presented at Diocesan Convention in this November.

As I've tried to map this out in my brain I was shocked to hear the word "diocese" in my daily listening of The History of Rome podcast. The word "diocese" comes from the Greek word "diokein" which is literally translated as "to control, govern, administer and manage a house" (www.dictionary.com). The first use of "diokein" or diocese was used to describe the management of a household and was then later used to describe the management of a large geographical area. In the Roman Empire the area controlled by the empire was too vast and needed to be divided in to smaller areas called diocese. Each diocese was controlled by a governor who ensured that food was harvested, taxes were collected, the soldiers were trained etc... The size of the Roman Empire meant that the Emperor and Senate relied heavily on governors to manage their diocese

As Christianity spread and bishops were given more authority, the diocese was put under the jurisdiction of a bishop. As bishops replaced governors or became advisors to governors, the line between the government and religion became less and less clear. Bishops and the Church became responsible for the management of these areas just as governors had been before them.

Some 2,000 years later we arrive at the present as members of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. Our diocese includes all the Episcopal churches, chaplaincies and other institutions within the geographical area east of Worcester. Our diocese was born in 1784 and quickly became one of the largest dioceses in the United States with an intentional focus on ministry to the mill towns and cities.

The diocese also made a commitment to social justice issues around race, gender, and now sexuality. In 1970 the diocese elected and consecrated The Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess as the first African American diocesan bishop in the United States. Less than 20 years later The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris was elected and consecrated as the first African American woman bishop in the international Anglican Communion. Currently our diocese is fighting for equal rights for the LGBTQ community.

As members of St. Stephen's we are also members of our diocese that continues to witness to the transformative power of Jesus' Good News. Let us all continue to pray for our diocese as we listen to how God is providing us our diocesan mission.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah".

LEADERSHIP REFLECTION

End-of-Life Planning: Facing our Fear, Acting in Love

A few weeks ago, something was weighing on me heavily. It followed me around like a dark storm cloud for several days. I felt so burdened by a topic that had barely crossed my mind before: how and when to discuss end-of-life concerns with my mom. She's a healthy woman, so why was I worried about this? Well, for the past eight months, I have been working as a hospital chaplain at Mass. General. It has become my daily bread to accompany patients and their loved ones through "the valley of the shadow of death." For some, the valley opens up into a spacious future of more light and life. But for many others, death comes. This year, end-of-life issues have become real for me like they never have before.

Given everything I see and do at MGH, one would think having a conversation about end-of-life matters with my mom would come easily to me. But it did not. Why? For one, we live in a death-denying culture. Aging is seen as a malady to be fixed or covered up, and dying is often something we can't bring ourselves to acknowledge until it's too late. Discussing death feels morbid to some, even many faced with life-threatening conditions. And, too many doctors are not prepared (or brave enough) to tell families that their loved one is dying. Instead, they line up the full artillery of modern medicine in a "heroic" attempt to save someone's life. After all, preserving life is their pledge. Yet still, despite incredible medical advances in prolonging and improving our lives, no one can "cure" mortality.

But really, my reason for reticence was much more basic. After talking with my chaplain colleagues, I got in touch with the most profound (and obvious) reason: I love my mom. The thought of losing her feels soul-crushing to me. It's so hard to think of life without her. Mercifully, a conversation we had about my chaplaincy work led my mom to share some thoughts about end of life, and she was far more comfortable talking about it than I! While we didn't get to the hard conversations, I now know it's ok for us to wade in these waters. I faced my fears and feel assured that our love and, above all, God's love, will see us through.

When I refer to "end-of-life" planning, subjects vary widely and can get very complicated. At St. Stephen's, the complexity is compounded by varieties of cultural understandings and expectations around dying and death. It used to be the norm for families to take care of elders at home until they died. However, family involvement can no longer be presumed due to work schedules, living situations, family conflict, or simply geographical distance. We all need to work with family and friends to plan for our end of life. So that we may plan well, the Stewardship Ministry Team is offering a series of workshops in May and June on end-of-life planning. We'll kick off at Sunday, May 22nd's "Lunch and Learn" on our theology of death as well as our hopes, fears, and concerns about aging and death. We'll then continue on Tuesday evenings (6:30-8pm) for the next six weeks (May 24- June 28).

We are Easter people who know there is no Resurrection without death. We are dust, and to dust we shall return. Yet, as our Prayer Book affirms, "even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia." The truth of new life in Christ only becomes real for us as we accept our mortality. As my mom shared with me the night we spoke, my grandmother said to her before she died, "We plan for births and weddings; why don't we plan for death?"

These topics can be scary to broach. So may the love we have for our families and friends, the love we share as the Body of Christ, and, above all, the love God has for us, give us the courage and faith we need to pass through the valley of shadows and into the light of life.

Dan Bell for the Stewardship Ministry Team

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR RESOURCES

APRIL 17 VESTRY SUMMARY. The Vestry reviewed finances, learned about the SMT's Tuesday evening series on End of Life Issues during May and June, discussed the need for Vestry presence and hospitality as ushers, reviewed pending and possible grants, considered how various possible memorial gifts might be directed, received a KIC Camp update (St. Stephen's Week will be July 11-15), and signed up to help with Soul Celebration and committed to an ad. The Vestry discussed and approved the 2016 Parochial Report. The Vestry received and voted acceptance of the 2014 audit completed by Richard Kershaw in September 2015. April 26 the St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's Marblehead vestries will meet with Bishop Gates for an evening on "Spiritual Leadership."

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE. The first pledge statements from 2016 have been sent through the mail. Please contact Heather at heather@collispuro.net if there are any questions or changes. The Treasurer's office has been working with the finance committee to update our investments, and has been working to ensure that the endowment is growing enough to meet the Parish's needs. We are still receiving payments from Together Now, which funds the loan payment of the first state of restoration work on the Chancel, so please make sure your payments are up to date with the Diocese. On the budget side, less snow and lower fuel bills have meant that we have not spent as much money on oil and plowing as anticipated. But, we have to remember that we get winter again in November! The Vestry just heard the details of the Parochial Report, which is filed annually with the national Episcopal Church. This information given in this document determines the amount of our Diocesan Assessment, which usually compromises about 8% or \$40,000 of our total expenses for a year. Fund raising season is upon us, with the Soul Celebration in May, and the Big Money Raffle Bash coming up in the summer. These events help fill important gaps in our budget, please make sure to support these events by attending or buying and selling ads or raffle tickets.

CELEBRATE MAY DAY AT THE SOUL CELEBRATION. Please keep the enclosed Soul Celebration flier to remind yourself or, better yet, pass it on or post it to encourage others to attend. Althea Smith will be our preacher at 8:00 and 10:00. Kiame Mahaniah, MD, Medical Director of the Lynn Community Health Center will speak at the Soul Food Dinner at Noon. Do read Dr. Mahaniah's editorial on "Race and Health Disparities" and you will know why you need to come. KIC Music and Zumix Educational Center will provide music throughout the day. May 1st is Soul Sunday; you don't want to miss the fun, food, or call to action.

CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH—PENTECOST, MAY 15. On Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and Christ's commissioning his followers empowered by the Spirit to spread the good news. We celebrate with **COMBINED WORSHIP IN KISWAHILI & ENGLISH**; **BAPTISMS**—Baptism Preparation Class held Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30pm; **BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH**—take a gift idea flame or dove from the post in the Galahad Area; **PEACE IN A MULTITUDE OF LANGUAGES**—let Rev. Jane or Rev. Sarah know if you can say "Peace be with you" in a language other than English; and **WEAR RED!**

NORTH SHORE DEANERY MEETS MAY 24. On May 19 at 6:00 our Deanery Assembly will gather at All Saints Church in Danvers for a Potluck Supper, electing of Deanery leadership, and voting Deanery grants. Deanery representatives are expected; all others are welcome!

CLOISTER, SACRISTY AND CUPOLA RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE. They're here! The five new copper quatrefoils were installed mid-April! As part of this restoration project, the remaining three sides of the cupola needed restoration in order to stop the remaining water infiltration. (The fourth side was that Apse Wall project that is still being paid for by our pledges to the TogetherNow campaign. So please, stay current with your pledge so we can continue to pay on our construction loan.) The five original copper quatrefoils were significantly deteriorated, had pits and holes in them and showed evident signs of being beyond repair. The contractors gingerly removed them, used them as a template to manufacture exact replicas. The only difference is that the new ones are solid throughout; the openings in the center of each are completely sealed off so that wind driven rain cannot enter the cupola. The centers of each quatrefoil are painted black so that it appears the same as it did before when they were open. There is a new slate roof over the cupola and the slate sides are currently being installed. If you have not seen it yet, one of the original copper quatrefoils sits in the Galahad area mounted on a frame, so that all can see one up close.

In addition to this work, repointing of the exterior masonry wall over the grand piano, the chimney and repointing of the capstones and brick courses on the south transept (from the sacristy to the top of the Annunciation Window) are all underway. Scaffolding on the upper roof will be coming down soon and a new slate roof over the sacristy (to replace the asphalt roof) will then start to be laid. The slate roof serves two purposes. First, it is too flat so an asphalt roof assists in the formation of ice damming. Second, because of our Preservation Restriction with Massachusetts Historic Commission, when we work on an area, we have to restore that area with original or equivalent materials.

Though all of this work is exciting, it does come with some anxiety...the dollar signs! Funding for this project is coming from several sources: a grant of \$100,000 from the Diocese of Massachusetts through its closed parish funds, Vestry allotment of \$100,000 from the Earl and Yvonne Wing Bequest, a \$50,000 matching-grant from the Massachusetts Historic Commission, and your on-going contributions to the Building Restoration Fund.

Further, possibly for the first time since the custom began, our annual Memorial Day Garth Service needs to be rearranged. Due to scaffolding, piles of bricks, construction equipment and protective gravestone coverings, the garth is a construction zone. Memorial Day Weekend, we will honor all those who died in active military duty. On Sunday, July 3, we will gather in the Garth (construction and weather permitting) to honor Lt. Col. Charles Reddington Mudge on the 163rd anniversary of his death during the Battle of Gettysburg.

Thank you all for your continued support, Christopher Trahan

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? On April 24 evolving teams of adults and children planted all sorts of flower and vegetable seeds to take home and to leave for our Community Garden. Neil O'Donnell has taken on the responsibility of being our lead gardener for our Community Garden this year. We will be working with the Food Project to get seedlings and prepare the raised beds in the church yard. KIC Music will help with planting in late May or early June when we are no longer hearing weather reports including the words snow and frost. And KIC campers will help with summer garden watering, weeding, and harvesting. Please talk with Neil if you want to be part of our summer Green Team.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH- MAY 8 8:45-9:45

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE MOTHERS!

At St. Stephen's we know,

It takes a village—and a whole lot of mothers—to raise a child

BRING YOUR MOM, YOUR NANA, OR SOMEONE WHO MOTHERS YOU

There's no charge but please sign up so that we have enough food!

Teens and friends just want a chance to show their gratitude!

REGISTER FOR BAPTISM NOW! On May 15 at 10:00am as we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, we will welcome new members into the household of God. If you are interested in baptism on May 15, talk with the clergy, complete a registration form, and join us for Baptism Preparation on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30.

BIBLE STUDY CONCLUDES THE 50-DAY BIBLE CHALLENGE. On May 18, Bible Study wraps up its Eastertide romp through the Gospel of Luke. We are still deciding where we next want to focus our prayer and study. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:30.

TEND TO YOUR SPIRIT AT THE SSJE MONASTERY. On Tuesday, May 3 at 4:15 cars will leave St. Stephen's to join the SSJE monks for worship and supper. All are welcome to come with the group or meet us at 980 Memorial Drive in Cambridge. Please sign up.

HEALING PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET MAY 5 AT 10:30. The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet on May 5 to check in, organize May visits, discuss the SMT's workshops on End of Life Planning, and reflect on chapters 11&12 of Timothy Farabaugh's Lay Pastoral Care Giving.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM CREATING SPACE FOR DIALOGUE! The St. Stephen's- St. Andrew's Beloved Community Team will meet May 12 and 19 at 6:30 at St. Stephen's. Together they hope to sponsor "Cross Cultural Conversations" that will be held in each church on a June Sunday morning. **On May 15 please join the Beloved Community Team for an afternoon of conversation, worship, and fellowship at St. James, Cambridge.** Inspired by our joint program in October, they to deepen their relationships with us as we all explore what it means to be a multi-racial, multi-cultural faith community. All are welcome at all BCT events!

WORKSHOPS ON PLANNING FOR THE END OF LIFE. Join us for our May 22 Lunch & Learn: Adults will talk about our theology of death, and our hopes, fears, and expectations about aging and death; children and youth will explore what death means for everything from bugs and plants to family members, friends, and pets. **Join us on Tuesday evenings (6:30-8) for six weekly workshops on aspects of end of life planning.** On May 24 Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS) will be with us to describe what programs and services they provide and how people can access them. On May 31 Mary Crowe, Education Coordinator at Care Dimensions, will address Medical Planning discussing such issues as hospice, palliative care, care directives, healthcare proxies, etc. In June, we will continue with workshops on legal planning, residential/ living planning, financial planning, and funeral planning. Family and friends are most welcome!

LIVING WORD WORSHIP ON MAY 22. On May 15, as we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we will baptize new members of the body of Christ. On May 22 when we celebrate First Communion, Living Word Worship will focus our attention on SACRAMENTS! Are there seven? Are there two? What are they? Why do they matter? Come sing, pray, and learn as we explore God's Living Word.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE MAY 29. May 29 we'll remember those service men and women who died while serving in the armed forces. Please check the list posted in the Galahad Area to make sure it includes all those who died while serving in the military. On July 3, we hope to offer prayers in the Garth in thanksgiving for the life of Lt. Col. Charles Reddington Mudge who died at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. On Sunday, November 13, we will remember and give thanks for all veterans.

KIC NEEDS ST. STEPHEN'S VOLUNTEERS JULY 11-15. KIC depends on adult volunteers to prepare meals and snacks, to read with children, and to help organize supplies. This summer, we're asking a team from St. Stephen's to commit to filling volunteer slots at KIC for just one week (those who wish to volunteer longer may of course do so). Folks will be free to sign up for the whole week, or just one or two days. St. Stephen's week will be July 11-15. If you can't do the week of the 11th or mornings don't work for you, we can find other opportunities with KIC or with our St. Stephen's Summer Learning, which meets Mondays through Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 after KIC. In June, we will hold volunteer orientation and training sessions so you know what your options are, what you need to do, when you need to come, and all other questions.

SUMMER ADULT CONFIRMATION RETREAT. In early August, we will offer a pre-Confirmation retreat for adults interested in being Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church. Anyone who is curious about learning more should be in touch with the clergy as soon as possible. Commitment will be required by early June.

WOMEN'S RETREAT BEING PLANNED. Energy is stirring for a summer or fall Women's Retreat. If you want to help plan, or have ideas, or simply might want to attend, talk with the clergy! A planning lunch will be held on May 29 at noon.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT OF CHURCH SCHOOL! As we continue to celebrate the joy of Easter, it's a great time to re-engage or engage church school. We provide church school at 10:00am for infants through grade 12. Each class offers its own unique format for our children and youth to learn the Good News of the risen Christ. **On June 5 at 10:00am, our graduating seniors will preach as we celebrate our Church School staff and students, honor our seniors, and award scholarships for Higher Education.**

FIRST COMMUNION ON MAY 22TH. While St. Stephen's welcomes all at the Lord's Table, First Communion celebrates the inclusion of children in the sacrament and provides them with Communion instruction. First Communion preparation is underway with Charlotte Breckenridge exploring this sacrament with our 1st-3rd graders; older children are welcome to attend if they have not yet made their First Communion. Classes will meet on Sundays at 10am from May 1-15. On May 14 from 10:00 to noon the 1st Communion Class will attend their Sacramental Retreat for a chance to take a hands on tour of the sanctuary and bake communion bread.

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS FRIDAY, MAY 6, 6:30-8. After weekly session during Lent the Confirmation Class will now meet on the first Fridays of every month. Although the class has already begun there is still space for new students (grades 8-12) provided they complete a make-up assignment. This month we will look at the importance of our church history and how it informs our theology as Episcopalians and Anglicans. Confirmation is September 24 at Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich!

COME HEAR KIC MUSIC KIDS PERFORM. The KIC Music After School participants have been working hard all year as they become percussionists and pianists, and they are excited to show off their hard work. You can hear them on Sunday, May 1 at the Soul Food Dinner at noon. And, if once is not enough, their end of year concert will be Wednesday, June 8, at 5:30 pm in Lawrence Hall. The kids would love support from the St. Stephen's community. They'll be performing a mix of traditional West African, Latin, and North American music, plus music inspired by videos. We hope to see you!

WORK AT KIC THIS SUMMMER. Applications for KIC mentors are due by May 2nd. Applicants must currently be in 9th grade or above. Successful mentors are usually responsible, caring, energetic youth who are interested in working with children. Applications are still available in the office and Galahad areas. Both new and returning prospective mentors should fill out an application and complete an interview. While KIC likes to hire from the St. Stephen's family, KIC hiring is competitive so teens are encouraged to provide thoughtful responses and to return application forms on time! Questions? Contact Audrey Gutfreund, KIC Director, at 617-435-3325.

KIC CAMP IS COMING. Registration forms for KIC Summer day camp will be available in the office and Galahad area starting Sunday, May 1. Any child who has completed 1st-5th grade is eligible for camp, and spots are available on a first come, first served basis. KIC will run this year from July 11 – August 5, Monday-Friday, from 8:30-2:00. Campers can look forward to days filled with art, music, games, field trips, and more!

ST. STEHEN'S SUMMER LEARNING IS RETURNING. Again there will be no summer school for elementary-age children in Lynn. St. Stephen's is stepping up with Summer Learning, which will meet Monday through Thursday afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30 following KIC Camp (July 11- August 4). Applications will be available in May for 1st and 2nd graders who would benefit from focused attention on basic reading, writing, and number skills. Adult volunteers are essential to this program. For more information, please speak with Micheal Brown.

BCH IS FILLING FAST AND REGISTRATION CLOSES ON JUNE 1! This year registration is available only online. **For families who may need assistance accessing the online registration Carly McClain will be in the Galahad Area on Sunday, May 8 after the 10:00am service.** A week of Camp costs \$600 per child; the Camp asks each family to pay what you can BUT scholarships are available. 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 the \$200 there's a section on the online registration to explain why this cost is not affordable. And, of course, 9th and 10th graders should be thinking about signing up for the Diocesan Youth Leadership Academy, which launches in July for 2016-2017. Camp transforms the lives of young people and the BCH leadership remains committed to making Camp accessible to all children. If you have questions, speak with Rev. Jane or Rev. Sarah.

OASIS UPDATE. OASIS continues to gather on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month (May 13 & 27). On May 13 teens will be making cool stuff and cementing plans for our summer trip to visit to follow the Underground Railroad. Youth interested in this trip must sign a commitment form along with their parents to ensure we have correct numbers. On May 27, the youth group from Rockport will be joining us for an over-night lock-in as we share our wonderful St. Stephen's hospitality.

BE YOU GETTING READY FOR LYNN YOUTH PRIDE EVENT ON JUNE 4. If you think teenagers are lazy, watch out for these 6 teens who are planning Lynn's first ever Youth Pride Event on Saturday, June 4 from 11:00 to 3:00! The group has been working on gathering sponsors, creating an agenda for the day, and reaching out to spoken word artists. The event will offer all LGBTQ youth and allies an opportunity to celebrate their identities in a world that often discriminates against them. They are grateful for St. Stephen's providing space and support for this event—they now call St. Stephen's "our church." If you can provide financial support and/or your presence on June 4 please talk to Jason Cruz or Rev. Sarah.

ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 29. Thanks to the generosity of past and present parishioners, each year St. Stephen's awards about \$3,000 in scholarships for higher education. 2016 applications are now available from the church and on-line. Students may receive St. Stephen's scholarships up to four times but must apply each year. Recipients are expected to be present on Church School Celebration Sunday on June 5 when scholarship awards will be made.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

LOTS OF WAYS TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY. Project Bread's Walk for Hunger is Sunday, May 1—write a check to support the Walk. Saturday, May 7, 7-11am, is the last Community Food Pantry at St. Mary's and volunteers are needed. The Mail Carriers' Food Drive is Saturday, May 14—put out non-perishables for your mail carrier and let Harry Jackson or Neil O'Donnell know if you can help pick up food at Lynn Ladder on Saturday or sort food during the week. On Sunday, May 22, we serve lunch at 1pm at My Brother's Table. Even if you can't help us serve, please contribute desserts we can share with the guests. And finally, don't forget our Friday Food Pantry! We need people to provide hospitality and support our literacy program as well as to pack and distribute bags of groceries. For information, talk with Sally Gosselin.

DONKEYS FOR GHANA. Lenten offerings are still rolling in; Esmeralda says you are not too late to contribute to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) so that we can provide a donkey, plow, and cart for a woman farmer in Ghana. The cost for a donkey, cart, and plow is \$450 but it will transform a life allowing a woman to support herself and her family. Please give generously!

ECCO'S ON THE MOVE. ECCO sent nine people including Rev. Jane and Teka Lumumba-Nkrumah to a PICO leadership training in Baltimore in early April. Back at home, ECCO leaders met with Chief Coppinger to plan for a police and community training on implicit bias. **May 1 ECCO is sponsoring a May Day March for Immigrant and Worker Rights.** The march will leave from St. Joseph's at 1:00pm. During the summer, ECCO will be drafting a platform and holding candidate forums for the Essex County Sheriff's election as we register people to vote.

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Soul Celebration "Race & Health Disparities" 8 & 10am Worship Guest Preacher: Althea Smith Noon Soul Food Dinner Keynote: Kiame Mahaniah, MD 1pm ECCO May Day March	2 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA Clergy Conference	3 3:30-5:30pm Be You 4:15pm Tuesday with the Monks 6:30pm Knitters' Club Clergy Conference	4 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study Clergy Conference	5 Ascension Day 10:30am Pastoral Care & Healing Prayer Teams Mtg. Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	6 6:30-8pm Confirmation Class	7 10am Choir Rehearsal
8 8:45-9:45am Mother's Day Brunch	9 2-6pm KIC Music 7pm Stewardship Ministry Team 8pm AA	10 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 6:30pm Young Adults 6:30pm Baptism Preparation 7pm NA	11 2-6pm KIC Music 6pm Community Family Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study	12 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 6pm St. Stephen's Tower Board 6:30pm St. Stephen's Beloved Community Team	13 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS	14 10am Choir Rehearsal 10-noon First Communion Retreat
15 Pentecost 12:30pm Vestry Meeting 4:30pm Racial Reconciliation Conversation w/ St. James, Cambridge	16 2-6pm KIC Music 7pm Stewardship Ministry Team 8pm AA	17 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	18 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study	19 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 6:30pm St. Stephen's Beloved Community Team	20 3-4pm Food Pantry	21
22 10am Celebration of First Communion Living Word Worship Noon Lunch & Learn: End of Life Planning 1-4pm My Brother's Table	23 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	24 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6pm Deanery Assembly, All Saints, Danvers 6:30pm Knitters' Club 6:30pm End of Life 7pm NA	25 2-6pm KIC Music 2:30pm Communion at St. Stephen's Tower 6:30pm Bible Study	26 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	27 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS	28 10am Choir Rehearsal
29 Mudge Memorial Day Observance Noon Women's Lunch	30 Memorial Day Office Closed 8pm AA	31 2:30 Memorial Service, St. Stephen's Tower 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 6:30pm End of Life 7pm NA			OFFICE HOURS Monday - Friday 8:45am - 2:45pm	SUNDAY SERVICES 8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili