



November 2016

Voice and Vote Matter

Lynn local access cable hosts RUACH, a talk show featuring local clergy discussing issues of faith and life. *Ruach* is a Hebrew word meaning spirit, wind, or breath of God. As we learned in Bible study, *ruach* moved over creation and breathed life into Adam. For the purposes of our TV talk show, RUACH also means **Religious Understanding and Community Harmony**. In September, our conversation focused on civility in public discourse.

At our Diocesan Convention on November 4-5, we will consider resolutions concerning "Calling for civility in political conversations" and "Calling for reconciliation following the divisive rhetoric of the recent Presidential election." On October 22, when the Bishops of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts walked and talked with youth and adults, the conversation revealed both fear of the deep divides in our nation and hope for a world in which all people and the earth are respected.

More than 30 years ago in Seminary, I took "Ethics vs. Etiquette" with the Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon. We know from our reading of the Bible that neither the prophets nor Jesus shied away from speaking truth to power. The prophets spoke God's word of judgment on those who abused the poor, failed to care for those who were sick and needy, neglected worship, and turned from God. Jesus regularly called out the Pharisees for observing religious rules while neglecting to live their faith. In my class, we discussed the Biblical imperatives to "do justice" and to "love one another as Christ loves us." And then we explored the times and places that the church claimed its prophetic voice and the moments when we failed to speak. We reflected on the reality that church behavior often is more shaped by the rules of social etiquette than the call of Biblical ethics.

And so we, like the prophet Esther, are called for "a time like this." For most of us, the current public debate about the leadership of our nation neither reflects our values nor our concerns. While some insist they are so disgusted they won't vote, it seems that our faith suggests a different path. Our faith challenges us to hold on to hope and to trust that "All things work together for good for those who love God." So maybe this election season is the wake up call we all need to engage in public life and to make a difference.

Our pledge campaign invites us to "Let our light shine." It strikes me that our nation needs the light of faith to shine and the voices of people of faith to be heard. We need to model and advocate for systems and structures that give us ways to respect all people and the earth. Teens and young adults feel invisible and ignored; formerly working class white people feel angry and abandoned; immigrants feel targeted and threatened; people of color feel their lives don't matter; elders feel expendable and forgotten.

Voting on November 8 is one way we become vocal and visible. Elected officials listen to those who vote and we need to make our voices heard. The only way to confront organized money in politics is for us to organize people. It's time to let our lights shine and truly to be a commonwealth serving the best interests of all people. **Let's Get Out The Vote!** JSG+

“This is my commandment, that you love another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12, 16-17)

Dear Friends,

On November 13 we will read this passage from the Gospel of John in our *Living Word* Worship. As Rev. Jane and I organized the themes for this monthly service, the proximity of the Sunday to Veteran’s Day made it clear that November’s theme would be Christian service. At our baptism and when we renew our Baptismal Covenant we promise not only to follow the teachings of Jesus but to put those teachings into action as a means of bringing about the kingdom of God.

For some of us, like our Congressman Seth Moulton, this promise led to joining the military forces. Moulton is very open about the fact that his service in the Marines was just as much about his commitment to his country as it was his commitment to his faith. For others, this same promise might lead to employment in a certain sector, volunteer work with a non-profit or organizing to combat social inequalities.

My paternal grandfather, Pop-pop, was a Marine in the Pacific Arena during World War II. Like many men of his generation serving in the military was how you served your country. It wasn’t a choice you made, rather a call that you answered. Answering that call led my grandfather to islands in the Pacific Ocean where he trained for a land invasion of Japan. At the same time, answering that call eventually led my grandfather to a college education through the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the G.I. Bill. Without this Bill my grandfather would have returned to life as a farmer in northern Ohio where his family had lived for generations. Instead he received a bachelor’s and later a master’s degree from Notre Dame University in metallurgy. During his career he secured 7 patents for different steel alloys and received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation.

From his time serving his country in the military and then as a scientist my grandfather knew the importance of education and committed his life to providing educational opportunities for the men and women of rural Tennessee. While he wouldn’t use the language “Christian service,” he was serving Christ, loving his neighbors, by tutoring adults trying to get their GED, funding scholarships at local community colleges and providing special science classes at high schools. For so many he turned dreams into realities, lifting individuals and families out of the cycle of poverty and isolation.

Christian service is built on Jesus’ commandment to love another—to love the other person as much as you love yourself. We are too limiting if we believe that this love can only occur in a church. As Moulton and my grandfather show, we must love one another out in the real world where the need for love is often greater. At St. Stephen’s we offer multiple ways to serve Christ—the Beloved Community Team, ECCO, My Brother’s Table, Stewardship Ministry Team, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care and Healing Team, Church School, etc...

So as we move through the busy month of November and approach Advent, how and where are you serving Jesus Christ? How and where are you loving your neighbors?

Peace,
Sarah

Let Your Light Shine

It's pledge season and again the church is asking that you pledge. Here are some frequently asked questions around pledging.

Q: What is pledging?

A: Pledging is committing to allocate a certain amount of your money to aid in God's work in and through St. Stephen's.

Q: Why should I pledge?

A: We are each blessed with the light of God's love and are called to shine brightly in the world. At St. Stephen's, we rekindle and share our light through worship, pastoral care, Bible Study, fellowship groups, justice work, and other events and opportunities. We need to give back to keep our light shining brightly as a beacon of God's love and grace.

Q: Why do I need to pledge? Can't I just put money in the plate?

A: The vestry uses the amount pledged to form a budget. We plan programs, pay salaries, or maintain the building without knowing how much money will be coming in. What would it be like for you and your own budgeting, if your boss didn't tell you how much you would get in your paycheck each week?

Q: What happens if we do not reach the pledge goal of \$131,000?

A: The vestry would have to make cuts in the proposed budget. Cuts could be made in programs or staff hours.

Q: Why does my pledge matter if I can only give a little bit and it embarrasses me to write down such a small pledge?

A: Every little bit helps get us to our goal. Also, by pledging, you commit yourself to the spiritual practice of giving back to God in gratitude, and you join with others in helping fund God's work in and through St. Stephen's.

Q: What happens if I am unable to fulfill my pledge?

A: As with anything, circumstances can change. If you need to reduce your pledge, you can do so by speaking with the treasurer. Similarly, if life improves, you can increase your pledge.

Q: Why do we have to pledge if we get grants to fund our programs?

A: Grant money is helpful for certain projects, but grants only cover specific program-related expenses, and are not guaranteed; many funders will not fund one program more than 3 or 5 years. Also, funders expect to see that a large percentage of parish members are donors.

Q: Why do I need to pledge when I don't have very much and the church has millions of dollars in its endowment?

A: The endowment fund consists of financial contributions given to St. Stephen's by past and present members of the congregation. The income from the endowment supports our operating budget; many of the funds support specific program areas such as music, education, scholarships, or building maintenance. In many instances, we are prohibited from spending the principle of the endowment. Even where we could spend the principle, we try not to spend it because we need to maintain the principle so that it will continue to generate income to fund the ministry of St. Stephen's for future generations.

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY IS PLEDGE COMMITMENT SUNDAY. On Sunday, November 6, we will sing *This little light of mine* as members stream to the altar to offer our pledge commitment cards to God and St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church. We all are beacons of God's light and each of us needs to *let our light shine*. Please pledge to support God's work in and through St. Stephen's. If you cannot join us on November 6, please mail or bring your pledge card to the office before the 6th so that it can be included in the pledge presentation and blessing. After worship, the Stewardship Ministry Team will host a Gratitude Coffee Hour. **Remember, clocks fall back on November 6th! If you forget, we will have coffee brewing.**

VESTRY SUMMARY: OCTOBER 16. The Vestry signed Pledge request letter for the parish and committed to calling members to encourage them to join us on Pledge Commitment Sunday on November 6. Our new Office Manager Rachel Pfof introduced herself. The Vestry reviewed financials, received and accepted the 2015 audit report, discussed new federal and Diocesan audit guidelines concerning designated moneys, and discussed the deficit in the Building Fund (due to cost over runs with chancel restoration 2) hearing about our loan extension conversations with Eastern Bank. To prepare for the 2017 budget process, the Vestry discussed the relationship between mission goals and the budget, and considered 2017 funding priorities. St. Stephen's received Episcopal Church approval of a Latino Ministries Grant, which must be matched by DioMass. Vestry approved a snowplowing contract with Trahant. The Fair Team asked for Vestry support for the November 19 Harvest Fair.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE. The Treasurer's Office has been busy with budget tracking, money counting, bill paying, figuring out the best way to cover restoration cost over-runs, conducting our 2015 audit, and determining how to comply with new federal and Diocesan audit requirements concerning designated and directed funds. **Pledge statements will be mailed soon; they cover payments through September 30.** Finishing the year in solid financial shape depends on everyone paying their pledge. We do not discount pledges; we count on you being faithful to your commitment. Please call the treasurer's office if you need to adjust your pledge. **Pledge Pay Up Sunday will be December 11.**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR LEADERS. 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 Pauline Leslie, Neil O'Donnell, and Steve Switzer as you reflect on whether God might be calling you to serve.

BUY YOUR MULTI-GIFT RAFFLE TICKETS

Win a Get-Away Weekend, VISA Gift Card, or Super Sound System

BUY YOUR SUPER SPORTS RAFFLE TICKETS

Win 2 Patriots tickets for December 12 or 2 Bruins tickets

Tickets cost: \$2.00 or 6 for \$10 and are available at the Office

Drawing on Sunday, December 4

HARVEST FAIR NEEDS YOU ON NOVEMBER 19! The Harvest Fair offers us an opportunity to raise funds and make friends. Please post the enclosed flier or use it to remind yourself to come to the Fair, which includes a Silent Auction, Same Day Raffles, crafters, new gifts, pretty good stuff, knit items, and food at the Bake Table, Cookie Walk, and Cafe. **We need your help!**

- **Solicit donations and program book ads from businesses (deadline 11/6)**
- **Place an Ad in the Harvest Fair Program Book (deadline 11/6)**
- **Recruit talented Crafters for our Craft Fair (only 14 tables available for \$25 each)**
- **Pre-Order pies & soup using the enclosed sign up form (Deadline 11/13)**
- **Contribute Jewelry for Tiffany's (deadline 11/13)**
- **New Gifts (raffle & auction deadline 11/6; sale deadline 11/13)**
- **Pretty Good Stuff: Gently used home & decorative items (deadline 11/13)**
- **Bake cookies, cakes, pies, fudge, & other goodies (deliver 11/18 or 19)**
- **Volunteer with Set up (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11/16-18)**
- **Work on Fair Day (sign up now to help on November 19!)**
- **Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to Come to the Fair**
- **Post the enclosed Fair Flier to encourage people to come to the Fair**
- **Enjoy our Bargain Bake Sale on November 20 if anything remains after Saturday**
- **Come to the Mini-Fair on December 4 for Shopping Bargains & Same Day Raffles**
- **BUY AND SELL MULTI-GIFT AND SUPER SPORTS RAFFLES (drawing December 4)**

Please say "Yes" when a member of the Fair Leadership Team asks you to help; and see you on November 19th with your family and friends.

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS. On Saturday, September 17 we again gave tours of our Tiffany Windows as part of the Essex Heritage Trails and Sails Weekends. Fifty people viewed our windows hearing the story of how Tiffany Studios made them, and learned the history of the Mudge Family and our church. People came from Lynn and surrounding towns and as far away as California and Michigan. Local people were amazed at what could be found in the "big dark red church" on the Common. Marilyn Cloran organized the event; Rick Cloran lectured on Tiffany glass and our windows; Irene Axelrod and Chris Trahan gave tours of the church and garth; Lucinda McClain and Sally Gosselin organized publicity; and Sally Gosselin offered hospitality to all who visited. It is always a rewarding day to share the beauty of our church with people who are inspired by what can be found in our church in Lynn.

MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER RACHEL PFOST. Rachel is originally from southeastern Massachusetts, and received her Bachelor's degree in History and Literature from Harvard University in 2014. She focused her studies on the history and literature of medieval Europe, primarily that of the early Christian church. She was baptized and confirmed into the Episcopal Church in spring 2014 at Christ Church in Cambridge, having spent many years exploring various faith traditions and ultimately finding a home with the Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard. Rachel also serves as the Godly Play teacher at St. John's in Charlestown, MA, where Tom Mousin is the Rector. Before coming to St. Stephen's, she worked in nonprofit arts administration and retail management. Rachel lives in Waltham with her husband, and she is thrilled to be part of the St. Stephen's community. Please come in and introduce yourself so that she has faces to put with names, addresses, and voices on the phone.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

NOVEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. SEWING GROUP: Sewers of all levels are invited to join Charlotte Breckenridge for sewing and socializing on Sunday, November 6 at noon. **KNIT CLUB:** All levels of knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join the spirited fellowship of the Knit Club on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays at 6:30 as we meet the Patriarchs and Matriarch in the Book of Genesis. **TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH** meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections. **ADULT CHOIR** gathers Saturday mornings at 10:00 to learn new music and prepare Sunday anthems and music for Advent and Christmas.

CELEBRATE ALL SAINTS DAY AT THE MONASTERY IN CAMBRIDGE. Tuesday, November 1 we will celebrate the saints with the monks and enjoy their hospitality for supper following worship. Cars will leave the church at 4:15; please sign up to let us know if you need or can give a ride. Worship begins at 5:30 at 980 Memorial Drive near Harvard Square.

CELEBRATING PAST AND PRESENT SAINTS OF GOD. On All Saints' Sunday (November 6), we celebrate the saints by reading the necrology—the names of the people buried from St. Stephen's since the last All Saints Day. But, through baptism, we also welcome into the household of God new members of the Christian community. **If you or a family member is interested in baptism on November 6th, please complete a baptism registration form and join us for our preparation class on Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30.** Our next baptisms will be on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, Sunday, January 8, 2017 at 10:00am.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS NOVEMBER 3. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, November 3 to check-in, organize visits for November, and pick up copies of our new book, *Snake Oil: The Art of Healing and Truth-Telling* by the Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of Thistle Farms.

PRAYERS FOR VETERANS. On Sunday, November 13th in Living Word Worship, we will give thanks for all those connected with the St. Stephen's family who have served or are serving in the US Armed Forces. Please check the list in the Galahad Area to ensure that the names of those you would have us remember are listed accurately.

LIVING WORD WORSHIP ON SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13. In keeping with our Pledge Campaign theme "Let Your Light Shine" and our Observance of Veterans' Day, our theme for *Living Word* Worship on November 13 will be Christian Service. We will reflect on God's word spoken through Jesus' Farewell Discourse: "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you." Our reflection time will invite us to consider how God calls each of us to serve. During worship, we will remember and give thanks for all those connected with the St. Stephen's family who are serving or have served in our armed forces. Rachel Baldwin will lead us in singing hymns like "Onward Christian Soldier" and "Be Thou my Vision." **If you would like to join the pick-up choir please meet in the Church at 9:15am.** At the conclusion of worship, we will process to the churchyard to dedicate and bless our Peace Pole.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS ON THIRD THURSDAYS. The St. Stephen's Mission Statement calls all of us continually to step over the lines of difference in our community. BCT is committed to creating space to step over the lines of color. **Thursday, November 17 at 7:00, we will meet at St. Stephen's with fellow travelers from St. Andrew's Marblehead.** Last month we had a spirited conversation of President Obama's speech at the dedication of the African-American Museum of History and Culture. This month we will discuss the role race played in the recent elections and how these realities touch our lives and call us to engage God's work of justice. All are welcome.

GRATITUDE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20. After a busy fall we will celebrate all the ways in which we participated in doing God's work and letting our light shine in the world. Our altar will be decorated with fruits of the harvest. If you want to help decorate, join us Friday, November 18 at 4:00. Church School students and others are invited to participate in Gratitude Sunday by bringing in a canned good to be donated to the food pantry. Everyone is encouraged to fill a United Thank Offering Box and add it to our gifts of gratitude.

**COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME
GOD HAS BLESSED EACH OF US WITH ABUNDANCE
TAKE TIME FROM YOUR FOOD AND FOOTBALL TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD
JOIN US AT THE LORD'S TABLE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 7:00
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LIFT OUR VOICES IN SONG AND PRAYER
COME BE FED AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 27. The Church goes dark on November 27 as we begin a new Church Year. December tends to be cold, dark, and busy in the world, and Christians struggle to create space for the waiting and wondering of the season. In an effort to provide spaciousness during Advent, resources for daily prayer will be available in the Galahad Area. Weekly, we will host group contemplative prayer on Tuesday mornings at 9:30, Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, and Healing Service and Tea & Talk with Advent meditations on Thursdays at midday. On Tuesday, December 6, we'll travel to Cambridge for Worship with the Monks, and on Saturday, December 17, we'll offer a Quiet Morning focused on The Incarnation.

RACE MATTERS: PARTICIPATE IN ECCO'S RACE RETREAT NOVEMBER 29- DECEMBER 1. PICO *Live Free* leaders Rev. Ben McBride and Deth Im will guide ECCO's Race Retreat. Join us for a transformative time of radical relationship building on Tuesday, November 29 (6:00-8:00pm), Wednesday, November 30 (10:00am-7:00pm), and Thursday, December 1 (10:00am-3:00pm) at St. Andrew's in Marblehead. While ECCO and PICO are subsidizing the retreat substantially, there is a requested contribution of \$100. We know that giving parts of 3 days is a significant contribution of your time. We ask only that you contribute financially what you can knowing that St. Stephen's, St. Andrew's and ECCO will make it possible for **anyone and everyone** to attend this very important retreat.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

OASIS WELCOMES YOUTH FROM FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ROCKPORT. On November 11 the youth and youth mentors from First Congregational Church, Rockport (where Rev. Sarah's husband is pastor) will join OASIS for an overnight Lock-in from Friday evening to Saturday morning. Our youth will continue conversations begun last year about the difference and similarities between our Lynn and Rockport communities. They will spend time creating art pieces for CPPK and enjoying fellowship over meals and games. If you would like to provide a meal, snacks or drinks please speak with Jason Cruz or Rev. Sarah.

ELF PROJECT: CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S KIDS. Each year the parishioners of Trinity Church, Topsfield generously provide Christmas presents for the children and teens (18 years old and under) of St. Stephen's English and Kiswahili congregations. Due to increased demand, St. Andrew's Marblehead will also be providing gifts. **Elf Forms are available and must be returned no later than Sunday, November 13.** Gifts will be distributed in mid-December. Please see the clergy with any questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT AT BCH. The Diocesan Middle School Retreat is November 18-20 (Friday evening to Sunday at noon). All 6th-8th graders are encouraged to sign up for this weekend of music, worship, and fellowship. It's a great time to catch up with camp friends and meet new friends. The total cost is \$125 with the Diocese, St. Stephen's and family each paying \$42 (1/3 of the cost). Scholarships are available for families who are unable to pay. Please see Rev. Sarah by Sunday, November 13 if your youth would like to attend.

CHURCH SCHOOL CANNED FOOD DRIVE IN NOVEMBER. The Church School will observe a season of gratitude and thanksgiving during November as young people collect non-perishable food donations from family and friends. Until November 20, there will be a box in the Galahad Area for donated food. The Food Pantry currently needs canned soup, canned vegetables (not carrots), juice boxes, and canned chicken or tuna. Food donations will be presented as part of our Gratitude Celebration on the 20th.

TIME TO GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. Calling all actors and actresses from infants to high schoolers to prepare for and participate in the St. Stephen's Christmas Pageant held at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve service. We have parts for all: speakers, readers, singers, watchers, dancers, and sheep! This year we welcome the musical talent of Rachel Baldwin (Living Word music leader) and the artistic talent of Emily Shelton (our Young Adult Intern). Please sign up your children and youth and check off how you will contribute to the success (providing snacks, leading crafts, organizing costumes etc...) of this St. Stephen's tradition. **Rehearsals will be held after the 10:00am worship on Sundays starting November 27.**

KIC MUSIC ROCKS. KIC Music after school program is very busy! Over 30 kids attend every Monday-Thursday afternoon, and we have added two new young adult mentors. KIC musicians will perform for residents at St. Stephen's Towers on November 17th, for the Bishop and North Shore Deanery Assembly on November 29th, and for its Winter Concert on Thursday, December 15th.

COMMUNITY DINNER NOVEMBER 21. The next family dinner will be Tuesday, November 21, at 6:15 in the dining room. Dinners are big and friendly, and a great chance to meet the children and families who spend most afternoons in our church basement. KIC families will be cooking for the next few dinners, and KIC kids will make dessert that day. Take a break from cooking and join us!

BE YOU LGBTQ YOUTH GROUP NEEDS ALL ADULTS TO VOTE! Every Tuesday the Be You teens meet to check in with Youth Leaders about their experiences of trying to find a supportive LGBTQ community in Lynn. Statistics state that around 45% of homeless identify as LGBTQ and have been kicked out of their homes because of their sexuality. We recognize that this is true in Lynn where teens don't feel safe coming out to family members for fear of physical and emotional abuse, or even worse. Despite this, our teens continue to want to engage the hard questions around why some lives matter more than others. On Election Day the teens will claim that their lives do matter by encouraging adults to vote as they hand out vote buttons in front of the church.

YOUNG ADULTS GATHER FOR DINNER & CONVERSATION ON ELECTION DAY. On Tuesday, November 8 YAs and others will gather for prayer, food, and conversation. We'll gather at 6:30 for a simple supper. At 7:45 we'll join the community in the Chapel for prayers for ourselves, our city, and our nation. Following the close of the polls, we'll tune in to early results and returns, and discuss what's next for us and our nation.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS 2016 HAS ARRIVED! For over a decade now, OASIS Community Youth Group has organized a Christmas toy drive for underserved children in Lynn. During a time of year when society is so focused on receiving, it's an awesome opportunity for St. Stephen's teens to experience the value of giving back. To raise money for the program the BE YOU and OASIS youth groups will create handmade art to sell with 100% of the proceeds going to CPPK. They will also serve at the Harvest Fair Café on November 19 with 50% of collected tips going to the program.

Important Dates:

- **Saturday, 11/26 4-8pm:** Spaghetti Supper at the Wittrups
- **Fridays, 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16 4-6pm:** CPPK Sign up Days: Teens gather sign up forms downstairs after Food Pantry
- **Tuesday, 12/13, 2:30-6:30pm: Operation 138: Teens sell art at DioMass**
- **Saturday, 12/17, 9am-2pm:** Shopping day at Walmart!
- **Sunday, 12/18 12-2:** Teens organize gift bags for distribution
- **Thursday, 12/22, 4-6pm:** Teens distribute gifts
- Please consider buying OASIS art pieces or donating what you can (cash or gifts for children) to help us provide Christmas presents for children in Lynn!

WITTRUP'S SPAGHETTI SUPPER SUPPORTS CCPK. Saturday, November 26 take a break from turkey, football, and shopping; come to the Wittrup's Spaghetti Supper, which raises funds for CPPK. Seatings are at 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm, and cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy good food for a good cause.

CHAPEL OPEN FOR PRAYER ON ELECTION DAY. Our Chapel will be open for prayer all day on Tuesday, November 8 beginning at 7:00am. We'll offer brief prayers at the top of every hour. At 7:45pm, we'll gather for a short time of prayer and reflection. At 8:15, folks can head home to follow election results or stay for conversation with some of our young adults.

GET OUT THE VOTE WITH ECCO. On October 30 we collected voter commitment cards and sent teams into the neighborhood to educate and engage voters, and to get voters to commit to voting. Sunday, November 6, 1:30-7:00pm ECCO is heading to Manchester, New Hampshire to support Granite State Organizing Project's Get Out the Vote work. On Tuesday, November 8 VOTE, and volunteer time to help get voters to the polls. Sign up with ECCO!

ECCO CONTINUES SOCIAL & RACIAL JUSTICE WORK. November 9 at 7:00, ECCO leaders (which means all of us) are invited to St. Stephen's to answer the questions: What now? What next? Knowing our commitments to improving community policing, criminal justice reform, immigration reform, and addressing income inequality, we will discuss next steps in the wake of the elections. Don't forget to register for ECCO's Race Retreat November 29- December 1.


HELP THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY. Please support the Church School Canned Food Drive. Also, we can use your help **Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 at the Pantry.** In addition, we need people to join the Table Team **servicing lunch at My Brother's Table from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday, November 20.** If you can't help us serve, feel encouraged to make cookies, brownies, or cupcakes we can share.

CALLING ALL TURKEYS (FROZEN ONES THAT IS)! Our Food Pantry will give out Thanksgiving turkeys again this year. If you can donate a frozen turkey, we would be greatly appreciative. Due to freezer storage issues, please bring turkeys to the church on Sunday, November 20th or Monday morning the 21st. If you can help with turkey distribution or with turkey pick up from the Food Bank, speak with Neil O'Donnell or Harry Jackson.

UNITED THANK OFFERING IN-GATHERING NOVEMBER 20. The UTO supports relief and development work around the world. Please bring in your UTO box or just add your offering to our collection on Sunday, November 20 so that we can join Anglicans around the world in supporting this amazing work. In years past, St. Stephen's received a UTO grant to support the creation of the E-Team Machinists' Training Program.

PEACE POLE DEDICATION NOVEMBER 13. At 11:30 on Sunday, November 13 at the conclusion of worship, we will process to the Churchyard to bless our new peace pole. The peace pole says "Let Peace Prevail" in 12 languages of our community and congregation. While not every language is included, the pole invites people to pray, work, and hope for a time when all people and nations live in peace. A challenge grant of \$500 has been given from the Bill Rodrigue Fund. If you would like to donate to the peace pole, make checks payable to St. Stephen's and write peace pole in the memo. Gifts of all sizes help us meet the match.

BISHOP GATES VISITS NOVEMBER 29 AT 6:00 FOR DEANERY ASSEMBLY. It's time to show St. Stephen's hospitality as Bishop Gates and the North Shore Deanery Assembly meet at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:00pm. Dinner is at 6:00 with KIC Music providing a short concert at 6:30. The Deanery meeting will follow. All are welcome and help is needed! And don't forget to pray for the Diocese as Diocesan Convention meets November 4-5.

November 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints' Day 3:30-5:30pm Be You 4:15pm Tuesday w/ the Monks 6:30pm Baptism Prep 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	2 6:30pm Bible Study	3 10:30am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Teams Meeting Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	4 1-8pm Diocesan Convention, Mansfield	5 8:30am-3:30pm Diocesan Convention, Mansfield
6 All Saints' Sunday Pledge Commitment Sunday 10am Baptism Noon Sewing Group	7 7pm Stewardship Ministry Team 8pm AA	8 Election Tuesday Chapel open all day: Prayer on the hour 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6pm YA Dinner 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA 7:45-8:15pm Prayer Service in Chapel	9 Noon Fair Team 6:30pm St. Stephen's Towers Board 6:30pm Bible Study	10 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7pm Next Steps Meeting	11 Office Closed for Veteran's Day 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS Overnight with First Church, Rockport	12 10am Choir Rehearsal
13 8am and 10am <i>Living Word</i> Worship: Christian Service Elf Forms Due	14 8pm AA	15 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	16 9:30am-5pm Fair Set up 6:30pm Bible Study	17 9:30am-5pm Fair Set Up Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 7pm Beloved Community Team	18 9:30am-3pm Fair set Up 3-4pm Food Pantry 4pm Harvest Altar Decorating Middle School Retreat at BCH	19 HARVEST FAIR <u>9am – 3pm</u> Middle School Retreat at BCH
20 Gratitude Sunday 12:15pm Vestry Meeting Middle Schoolers Return from BCH Retreat	21 8pm AA	22 2pm Thanksgiving Communion, St. Stephen's Towers 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	23 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at St. Stephen's	24  Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	25	26 10am Choir Rehearsal 4-8pm CPPK Spaghetti Dinner @ the Wittrups
27 First Sunday of Advent Post 10am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 1-4pm My Brother's Table	28 8pm AA	29 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6-8:00pm ECCO Race Retreat, St. Andrew's, Marblehead 6:30pm Knitters' Club 6:30pm N.S Deanery Assembly with Bishop Alan 7pm NA	30 9:00am-8:00pm ECCO Race Retreat, St. Andrew's, Marblehead 6:30 Bible Study		Office Hours 8:45am-2:45pm	8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili

