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October 2018

FROM THE INTERIM PRIEST

One of the things I never experienced before coming to St. Stephen's is talking to movie location scouts. Four different scouts have rung the bell or called, asking if we might be interested in working with them. Two of them have come by in the last week. Nothing much has come of it so far but it might be a source of income as long as it would not be too disruptive. The decision lies with the Wardens and Vestry. The curious thing is that they have not been interested in the sanctuary and the Tiffany windows but in our basement rooms. Those well used, somewhat gritty spaces that are the locus of much of our ministry.

When visitors come to St. Stephen's I enjoy giving a tour of beautiful sanctuary with the windows and amazing architecture. I love to tell the story of the Mudges. The father who was a textile mill owner whose business partners were southern cotton plantation owners and slave holders. The son, who joined the Union Army and died fighting against those same plantation owners.

It is often hard to explain how St. Stephen's is reaching out and connected to this community. I can list the programs but mere words do no justice to the lives changed. It is hard to explain the gratitude of a young mother, who speaks limited English, for her child being in the KIC Afterschool or the family who gets by because of the food pantry. There are signs and wonders occurring in our basement rooms; the Good News of God in Christ is being actualized there all the time.

The movie location scouts do not really care about all of this but their interest in our basement rooms reminds me of the incredible value of the ministry that goes on in those spaces. So, if they want to give us some money to continue this work, as long as their presence does not interfere with our true mission, I say, why not. Then, maybe, when you are watching the next Mark Wahlberg movie, and you see the scene that is supposed to be a prison library, you can say, "I know about the truly miraculous things that happen there."

Blessings,

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

Tom

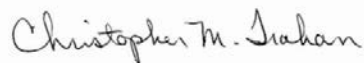
A Word from the Senior Warden

It was wonderful seeing so many of you being present at church as we began the new academic year. On September 9, 2018, we welcomed a visit from the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, our Suffragan Bishop. After leading us in worship and preaching a great sermon encouraging us all to not just “hear”, but to “listen”, Bishop Gayle spent time with parishioners during a reception held in the dining room. She answered questions about our concerns, fears and excitement around the search process for our next rector, as well as answering other questions about her own journey to becoming a bishop and as well as her role as a bishop. Members from the Kiswahili leadership got to spend time with Gayle as well as the Vestry and the Search Committee.

On Homecoming Sunday, September 23, 2018, our guest preacher was The Rev. Norm Faramelli. Rev. Norm’s preaching reminded us of all of the good work that we do at St. Stephen’s and how the lay leadership from the Vestry to the members of the wide ministries we do, help the parish stay together while moving forward to do our work, even in the absence of a parish rector. Parishioners had a chance to reminisce with Norm as we welcomed him to a fabulous dinner, prepared by Chef Neil O’Donnell and his crew of sous chefs. Interestingly enough, Norm was with us eighteen years ago. The parish has changed in so many ways, especially regarding building preservation. When Norm was with us, none of the building projects, including stained glass window restoration projects were even started, less completed. It seemed all too fitting to present him with a framed photograph of the St. Stephen window, depicting Stephen preaching to the crowds.

Also, on September 23, Sunday School began its new program year. It is never too late to register the children in your care. Sunday School is an important way for your children to be taught the Bible lessons all while teaching our youngest ones that they are connected to and a valuable part of our church family. It is through Sunday School that our children really get a chance to feel what church life is like, to make friends in their age groups and to become involved in the variety of youth activities that we offer. It is by offering these tangible programs that we raise the next generation of parish leaders. We have a dedicated crew of parish volunteers, under the leadership of Lucinda McClain and Paul Whitcomb, who are Sunday School teachers and mentors and are ready to welcome your children. St. Stephen’s is blessed to have so many dedicated people ready to serve the parish in many different capacities. The events we hosted in September, as well as planning for the Church School year, the Search process, worship, and all the ministries we do to support our community, require the help of many people giving of their time in generous ways. I am truly grateful and thank God every day for each of you.

Sincerely,



Chris Trahan

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

STAFF CHANGES AS WE DO THE WORK GOD HAS GIVEN US TO DO.

Terri Kay will be leaving as the Interim Parish Administrator. Terri was willing to step into the position last October as Rev. Jane was preparing to leave. She has diligently served with good humor and a steady hand as all kinds of changes have happened around her. We greatly appreciate and give thanks for all that she has done this past year.

Brandi Walker has begun as our new parish administrator. She has experience working at the Lynn Housing Authority among other places. She is also well acquainted with the working of a busy church through her involvement Zion Baptist Church here in Lynn. Terri has graciously agreed to stay on for a couple of weeks to help Brandi get oriented to the work of the office.

Shannon Morrissey has been hired to be the Kids in Community Program Administrator. She will be running both the After School Program and the Summer Camp. She is a Lynn native and comes with a wealth of experience working with younger children and also as a supervisor. She is excited as she steps up to be the Administrator of KIC.

FAREWELL FROM TERRI. It has been a joy, pleasure, and privilege to serve as the Interim Parish Administrator through this period of transition for St. Stephen's. It has been an eye-opening experience being "on the other side of the desk". I witnessed first-hand the love and joy with which so many serve the St. Stephen's community.

Being behind the desk, instead of in the pew, I realized how much work is done by a handful of people and I have a renewed appreciation and sense of gratitude for the work it takes to keep this parish running. It has also challenged me personally, as I step out from behind the desk and back into the pew, how I can I continue the momentum of my work in the office in being a member of the parish and help to share the load.

I encourage each of you, especially in this time of transition, to explore your own role in serving the church in this time of change. As we serve one another here in the church, we are ultimately serving our God as Jesus exhorted us through the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-45). In verse 40 he reminds us: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

I know you will also welcome Brandi with the same St. Stephen's welcome we extend to our community. She is a true treasure and I believe she will be a real blessing here!

VESTRY SUMMARY.

The Vestry and Search Committee met with Bishop Gayle Harris. The financial report, Big Money Raffle review and Graham Suite kitchen update were discussed. The Stewardship Committee has chosen a theme and has set the pledge goal. The new office administrator has been hired.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE We recognize St. Stephen's is a diverse congregation that needs a variety of tools to inform the search for a new rector. To this end, the Search Committee decided to use surveys, interviews, and small groups to inform our work. We have worked tirelessly for the last two months to create a survey that would inform how we compile the Parish Profile. The Parish Profile will be uploaded to the website for you and prospective candidates to

view and get a sense of who St. Stephen's has been, is, and hopes to be. Furthermore, the survey contains questions that will help guide us as we seek to interview you and yours. We hope to begin the interviews as early as next week! Small groups should begin after October 7. We hope to finish the Parish Profile in December. After that the Parish Profile must be brought before the congregation, the vestry, and the diocese for response. Once the Profile is established we can begin to think about calling a new rector. At all times, we want your feedback and comments on this process. We exist to serve you. It is our honor. Please hold us in prayer and vigilance. If you have not received a survey and would like one, please see Helen Patmon or Steve Switzer.

Note: You will need to add an additional stamp on the return envelope if you are mailing your survey back. We have discovered the postage was insufficient, and an additional 21 cents is needed. Otherwise you can bring it into the office. Sorry for the inconvenience. Blessings, St. Stephen's Search Committee.

2018 ST. STEPHEN'S MULTI-PRIZE RAFFLE WORTH \$1000 !!!

FIRST PRIZE:

Two Night Getaway at Salem Waterfront Hotel in Superior Room for Two
\$100 Gift Card for the Antique Table Restaurant, Salem
\$60 Gift Card Jazz Brunch, Hawthorne Hotel, Salem
\$50 Gift Card for the Kokeshi Restaurant, Salem

SECOND PRIZE

Apple iPad w/Wi-Fi 32 GB (latest model)

THIRD PRIZE

ECHO (2nd Generation) Smart Speaker with Alexa

This year we have a fabulous choice of prizes for our multi-prize raffle as you can see above. In total they are worth over \$1000! AND all you have to pay to have a chance at winning is \$2.00. For \$10.00 you will have 6 chances. Be sure to purchase a book for yourself and sell them to your friends and family.

- The first prize is a **FUN TWO NIGHTS** in Salem with meals at three exciting and different restaurants.
- For second prize everyone loves an **iPAD** as you can use them just like a portable computer as well as get text messages, take photos, play games, do puzzles or whatever with the apps you have.
- Third prize is the **Amazon ECHO Smart Speaker with Alexa** so you can turn on music with your command or get a weather report.

All these prizes will give you great pleasure-a weekend to remember or some electronics to bring you into the current world. Please sell as many tickets as you can. They are available in the office or in the Galahad area. The drawing will be Sunday, December 9, 2018
Marilyn Cloran and Sally Gosselin, Co-Chairs of the Fair.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM LAUNCHES “You are the Salt of the earth.” It’s October and speakers come to the lectern every Sunday to tell us why they pledge to St. Stephen’s. Soon, the Vestry’s letter asking each of us to pledge will arrive in the mail. Our response to the Vestry’s call to pledge generously determines the quality and shape of the ministry of St. Stephen’s in 2019. Please respond promptly and prayerfully to this holy invitation.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

OCTOBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET OCTOBER 4. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, October 4 to check-in, organize visits for October, and continuing to discuss The Book of Joy.

BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY EVENINGS, 6:30 – 8:00pm. Come join us as we begin to study the book of Judges in the Old Testament!

TOWERS COMMUNION OCTOBER 23 AT 2:30. All are welcome to check out our elder housing building St. Stephen’s Tower at 25 Pleasant Street as we gather for Communion on Tuesday, October 23 at 2:30pm.

WOMEN’S GROUP OCTOBER 14 AT 11:45. Whether you went on retreat or you’ve never come to a Women’s Group Gathering, join us October 14 at 11:45 for potluck lunch and conversation as we discuss spirit lifters, dream crushers, and life together.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS ON OCTOBER 18 at 6:00. As we gather as Beloved Community, come at 6:00 with some food to share that speaks to who you are, where you come from, or what you need in this moment in time. Our formal conversation/ program will begin at 7:00 as we continue to explore race, racism, and white privilege.

BAPTISMS ON ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 4. If you or someone you know is interested in baptism as we celebrate All Saints’ Day please complete a baptism registration form as soon as possible. Please talk with Rev. Tom or Irene Axelrod for more information.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

CHURCH SCHOOL IS IN FULL SWING! The 2018-2019 Church School year began on September 23, Home Coming Sunday.

KIC AFTER SCHOOL WILL BEGIN IN MID OCTOBER.

OASIS GATHERS HIGH SCHOOL TEENS ON 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAYS 6:30 - 9:00. Gathering with Jason, Mr. Neil, Ms. Helen, and others, teens are motivated to address issues of social justice, build community, spiritual growth and have fun hanging out together.

Middle School youth gather on 3rd Fridays from 6:30 to 9:00 with Jason. We are in need of adult helpers before this group starts this year. Like Oasis High school, Oasis Middle Schoolers are baking, volunteering, creating art, and otherwise building community. In both groups we have the opportunity to work towards retreats at BCH Camp.

Upcoming events by Oasis youth include CPPK (Christmas Present Project for Kids), presence at the Harvest Fair, and the 4th Annual Youth Pride Event in the first week of June. Whether you want to spend regular time with teens, feed teens, drive teens, teach a craft, lead a cooking adventure, or organize a community service project—Connections through experiences are essential to growth. Let us know how you can connect with our youth ministry. Essentials for the roots of anything growing: earth, water, sun and air. Which can you be to support the roots of our youth so they too get stronger?

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING ACOLYTES! The Acolyte Ministry is open to all youth who are in grades 6-12. Acolytes typically serve once a month and must be at church at 9:45am to put on robes and light candles. There will be a mandatory training on Sunday, October 7 from 11:45-1:45 with Rev. Tom. There will be pizza!

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT WEEKEND. Friday-Sunday, Nov. 16-18 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in Greenfield, N.H. Online registration is now open at <https://www.diomassyouth.org/events/2018/2/2/high-school-retreat2018-xrbfh>. The Diocesan youth retreats are led by the Diocesan Youth Council that included four members of St. Stephen's, Michaela Olabisi, Jasmine Ruffen, and adult mentors Teka Lumumba and Rev. Tom Barrington. The weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by a live band and some much-needed time away in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached or on Nov. 12.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

WORK WITH ECCO TO BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE! ECCO Community Meeting at 1st Church of Swampscott, October 18, 6-8pm. Join ECCO as we eat and meet together for dinner and then kick off our work for the year! Please bring your favorite meal or snack to share. Location is TBD.

DEANERY ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 3 AT 6:00-8:30PM AT ALL SAINTS OF THE NORTH SHORE, DANVERS. Program: Featuring a conversation with our Regional Canon The Rev. Martha Hubbard. Everyone is welcome but Diocesan Convention and Deanery Delegates are expected to attend. A light supper will be served.

THE REV. MARTHA HUBBARD IS APPOINTED REGIONAL CANON

Bishop Alan M. Gates has announced the appointment of the Rev. Martha L. Hubbard to serve as a regional canon in the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, Mystic Valley and Concord River deaneries.

Each of the three regional canons will serve a geographic area of the diocese encompassing four deaneries and will have three primary responsibilities: lay leadership support and development in congregations; transition ministry with congregations and clergy involved in search processes for new ordained leadership; and clergy wellness and family support. The Rev. Martha Hubbard, was the rector of St. Paul's Church in Newburyport since 2017. She brings to her new role 25 years of parish leadership experience and a dedication to education and formation as central to congregational development. She has been the dean of the Merrimack Valley Deanery since 2016 and has been active in deanery leadership as a co-convenor of the deanery assembly. She is a founding member of the Lower Merrimack Valley Collaborative of six Episcopal churches seeking congregational vitality and development together. She is also a past president of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors and has been a mentor in the Making Excellent Disciples Program.

Martha will be replacing the Rev. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa as our Diocesan contact during the rector search. Jean Baptiste will be beginning a new position supporting immigrant congregations like our Kenyan congregation.

HELP THE HUNGRY IN LYNN. Fridays from 3:00 to 4:00, the St. Stephen's Food Pantry gives away bags of groceries. Volunteers are needed and appreciated as we begin the new program year.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRAINING, SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 9 A.M.-2:30 P.M. As the gas explosions in Lawrence, Andover and North Andover. and the Hurricane and flooding in North Carolina have reminded us, disasters happen. The question is, are we ready to respond? We are looking for a small team from St. Stephen's to attend the following training.

Episcopal Relief & Development **disaster preparedness training** will be offered on Saturday, Oct. 27, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Lunch will be provided. The training will facilitate the development of a ministry that assists congregations in anticipating and preparing for local, unexpected disastrous events. The session will explore how members of congregations can create and become familiar with various models and approaches, what resources and tools are available, and what supports and structures already exist for use in this important work. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the Episcopal Relief & Development point person for the congregation. Lay participation is encouraged and clergy are welcome. RSVP by e-mail to jay@stpauls-nbpt.org by Oct. 17 (please indicate any food restrictions). FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Jay Jordan (978-465-5351 or jay@stpauls-nbpt.org).

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM) *Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program for lay people who want to know more about the Christian faith and the basis for their beliefs. It also provides a background for lay people to discover and carry out their own ministry to the world. It consists of four, one year classes.* Last year our deanery succeeded in bringing together not one but two EFM groups for the first time in years, one in Ipswich and one in

Danvers. EFM continues this fall with classes that will begin in early October. We may again have TWO groups meeting and space for some 6-9 new students. Send inquiries to the Rev. Brad Clark via email: rectoramc@gmail.com or call him at: 978-471-9225.

St. Stephen's Events

October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:00 pm AA	2 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	3 6:00 pm Deanery Assembly (in Danvers) 6:30 pm Bible Study	4 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharistic & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	5	6 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn 4:00 pm NA (No Matter What Club) Anniversary
7 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:30 am Search Committee Meeting 11:45 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	8 Office Closed 6:30 pm Vestry & Search Committee 8:00 pm AA	9 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	10 6:30 pm Bible Study	11 12:00 pm Eucharistic & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	12 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	13 6:00 pm NA 22nd Annual Group Anniversary
14 Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:45 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 12:00 pm Women's Group	15 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	16 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	17) 6:30 pm Bible Study	18 12:00 pm Eucharistic & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 6:00 pm ECCO Community Meeting (Swampscott) 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	19 Power, Privilege, Progress: Awareness to Action, a White Privilege Symposium 3:00 pm Food Pantry	20
Rev. Tom out - Continuing Educations						
21 Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:45 am Vestry Meeting 11:45 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	22 8:00 pm AA	23 2:30 pm Communion at the Towers 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	24 6:30 pm Bible Study	25 12:00 pm Eucharistic & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	26 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	27 9:00 am Disaster Preparedness
28 Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:45 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	29 8:00 pm AA	30 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	31 6:30 pm Bible Study			