



September 2014

And the Word became flesh... and dwelt among us

Most of us think of God becoming incarnate and dwelling among us at Christmas. Yet, I know God was in our midst this summer. I can go back to May, when families gathered for our Community Dinner to prepare and plant our garden. While the garden may be Gospel worthy in its weeds, and its fruitfulness and failure, watching KIC kids and parishioners tend it, harvest from it, and eat its abundance connected us with God's amazing work of creation.

Throughout July, hearing and seeing more than 100 KIC campers plus 21 staff laugh, learn, and play together made Christ-like hospitality alive and real within our walls. Some of the KIC campers were Central American children who had only been in the country for weeks. As issues of children like them detained at the US border received national and local attention, I looked at the rainbow of faces in the KIC community and gave thanks for the radical hospitality of our church. I saw God's kingdom when I watched KIC games on the Common or cooking time or African dance or poetry. KIC's language is smiles and laughter, and all are welcome.

Each week of the summer as we gathered the KIC community, scores of young people from across the Diocese gathered at BCH Camp in New Hampshire. More than 20 St. Stephen's children enjoyed weeks at Camp thanks to the generosity of parish and Diocesan scholarships. One boy, who was not enthusiastic about going to Camp, had to be pried away at the end of his week and declared camp the best experience of his life. He sang songs, told stories, praised the food, and matter of factly declared, "You know, Mom, Jesus was a cool dude." At BCH our kids meet Jesus and learn to love him.

Once camps closed, our teens and young adults were free to go on retreat. A dozen Young Adults spent 3 days exploring what they need to let go or sacrifice and what they need to learn or acquire to reach their dreams. From careening down hills in zorb balls and on tubes to making dream boxes to experiencing deep and silly conversations, YAs "found just what they needed" and "felt free to move forward." Later in August, 11 9th and 10th graders spent 3 days on Martha's Vineyard hosted by Confirmation teacher Danielle Pappas and the MV hostel. As teens pushed beyond the familiar meeting new people, traveling on a ferry, seeing the President's motorcade, swimming in the ocean, and jumping off of bridges, they experienced Christian community and found God. Their last morning, a man staying at the hostel with his wife and young adult daughters pressed cash into my hand telling me to "do something special with the kids." When the group thanked him, he explained that he had grown up in foster care and he knew and wanted them to know that with God's love and guidance they could go anywhere and do anything. In our days away from Lynn in community surrounded by the wonder of God's glorious creation, teens and YAs met God. And when we returned to the church during those first two weeks of August, Climate Bikers slept, talked, painted, and worked for a future in which we all live simpler lives to ensure the future of our world. God surely is dwelling among us.

But, of course, in the midst of youth and life, there is also death. And, in August, we gathered to give thanks for the lives of Bob Pedro and Dorothy Robinson. We celebrated two saints of God who made God's love and justice manifest in our lives, our church, and our community.

As we turn ourselves to September and the "active season" of the church year, may we open our hearts and lives to God living among us here and now forming and transforming us for the good of God's kingdom. Amen. JSG+

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Our *Together Now* Campaign Dollars At Work

A heartfelt “Thank You!” goes out to all of you who pledged financial support through our partnership with the Diocesan Together Now Campaign. We are pretty much at the half-way point of the five year pledge campaign. Here is a snapshot of how your dollars are making a difference in the life our parish and in our diocese.

The Apse Wall Project: The bulk of your campaign dollars, though paid directly to the diocese, come right back to St. Stephen’s. The scaffolding finally came down in December 2013. The project is now complete and the Massachusetts Historical Commission signed off on all the approved exterior restoration. The treasurer’s office has been busy making monthly payments on the construction loan to Eastern Bank with your campaign dollars that we receive.

Green Grants: A portion of your campaign dollars go to support diocesan efforts to help parishes become environmentally friendly by awarding Green Grants that will help us reduce our carbon footprint. In 2013 and again in 2014, St. Stephen’s was awarded Green Grants totaling \$12,500 to help defray the cost of the replacing the energy inefficient, single-paned, steel casement windows in the Anderson (Sunday School) Wing. The project was just completed in mid-August and now there is better ventilation in the summer months and the cold air and snow can stay outside in the winter months. The only windows not replaced were the stained glass windows at the end of each hallway and the two in the chapel.

Life Together Intern Returns: Another portion of your campaign dollars goes to support the Diocesan Life Together Intern Program. During the academic year 2013-2014 and again for 2014-2015, Daniel Bell will be working with us at St. Stephen’s, particularly with our High School youth group, Oasis, with the Young Adult group, with Sunday School and in various other capacities.

Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center: Some of your campaign dollars are supporting the work of “The Camp” strengthening it to serve our diocese. The Camp is now entering its second decade of forming youth from around the diocese. This year, like previous years, many St. Stephen’s youth, have benefitted from at least one week of overnight camp.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul: The cathedral has been closed all summer due to the interior redesign and structural improvements so that our cathedral can continue to be a “House of Prayer for All People” and to better facilitate diocesan programs and worship.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to paying your *Together Now* pledge. If circumstances in life have changed and you need to adjust your pledge, you may leave a message at the parish office for Victoria Harriss Provost.

Sincerely,

Chris Trahan, Senior Warden



Dear Friends,

I have never been good at taking risks. I prefer to take my time pondering over questions, and thinking things through before making any decisions. Part of it is my personality and part of it is my upbringing. As the oldest child I was always the “responsible” one who acted older than her age. But sometime God calls us to take risks, to take a plunge into the deep. Four years ago God called me to risk my comfortable and predictable life to enter the ordination process for the priesthood. While I’m now almost successfully through the process, those first few months definitely felt like I was jumping into a bottomless well.

Jumping in isn’t easy. It requires equal amounts of courage and vulnerability. During a recent trip to Martha’s Vineyard some of St. Stephen’s youth had the opportunity to learn this lesson by jumping off the bridge at State Beach. The bridge isn’t necessarily high but it is famous for being the location of several scenes from the movie “Jaws.” When we arrived at the beach the bridge was already crowded with eager children, teens and adults waiting for a turn. Full of excitement our youth ran to the bridge, while Danielle Pappas and I watched from the rock piling. We had the cameras ready for some great action shots, the youth climbed onto the railing, arms out ready to take the plunge...and then just stood there. For the next fifteen minutes the youth took turns standing on the bridge railing and then getting down only to climb back up again. Danielle and I yelled encouragement to them and waited.

Finally one youth took the plunge and then the rest followed. They came up out of the water overflowing with laughter and joy. Talking with them afterwards they all admitted that the waiting to jump was scarier than the actual jump. The longer they waited the more their fear grew. It was a perfect reminder that sometimes you just have to jump in.

As we begin September with all its exciting programs and activities I pray that God will give us the courage to take the plunge.

Peace,

Sarah

GRACE NOTES



I'm not the one who should be writing this, but it falls to me because I'm responsible for this column. Many people in our church knew Bob Pedro far better than I did.

When we joined St. Stephen's in the early nineties, Bob, a gruff man who could be a little scary at times (unless you knew him) was serving on the Vestry and taking pictures of church individuals and their families for a church address book that filled the walls with the St. Stephen's family. Bob would look at you and growl "Be There!" in his bass rumble, and if you understood him, you would definitely "Be There!" And nowhere else.

Bob was Junior Warden on the Vestry when I joined it. He didn't say a great deal, but what he said was always intelligent and to the point.

And he generally made his case. Later, he served as one of the legendary Friday Fixers.

Bob had been working at the GE. He had a lot of seniority, but I believe he took an early retirement when it was obvious that big layoffs were ahead. This left him with a house and a steady income, which he managed carefully but worried about it toward the end, when it was not possible to get back into his house after the surgeries that shortened both legs.

He was good with a computer, especially in the design area, and he produced a lot of very good flyers and event announcements for the church, among others, under the banner of The Big Boomer Crab Company (Boomer being another of his nicknames).

He may have seemed like a big crab. He was anything but. He was a smart, shrewd man. His faith was strong and he had a kind heart. When he was with friends, which was often, he talked a great deal about his family. He spent endless amounts of time working with St. Stephen's kids, who knew him universally as "Mr. P." It was in this context that my wife Bonnie, another lover of kids, got to know him well.

Bob's last years were not easy. He had diabetes, a wretched disease that chips away at your body and finally comes to your heart. In Bob's case, he had to go through many years of dialysis and then endure multiple amputations, which left him unable to walk. He was never unable to talk, though, which was a real blessing because he lived to talk with and make connections with people; just about everyone he ever came in contact with remembers the contact very well.

Bonnie told me just now that in restaurants Bob liked to ask the wait staff, "What's your favorite thing to eat here?" And if those who understood him equivocated, or said, for example, "It depends on what you're looking for," he would say, in mock anger, "No, no, I want to know what's *your* favorite thing?"

Or so it seemed. Bonnie summed him up beautifully just now. This is what she said: "He was a big man with a big heart."

When we first came to St. Stephen's, I would pick out people who reminded me of the disciples. For me, Bob was always Peter.

I'm grateful to have known him.

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

A WORD FROM DIOCESAN INTERN DAN BELL. September marks my first full month back at St. Stephen's after a busy summer away. I spent the majority of my time this summer at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in New Hampshire, where I had the wonderful opportunity to serve as the camp's Faith Formation Director. For five weeks in July and August, I was in charge of running a faith formation program centered on the theme of community. We gathered as a camp every day to worship, read scripture and do fun activities based on each day's Bible passage. Of course, I got to have lots of fun apart from my official job duties as well, doing things like archery, canoeing, swimming, and belting out "Let It Go" from the movie Frozen during a talent show!

Right after camp wrapped up, I headed back to Boston to begin working full-time for Life Together as an Emmaus Fellow (second-year intern). I was part of an amazing staff team that planned and led an eight-day Orientation program for the first-year Micah Fellows. Our time together was transformative and we built a strong foundation for this upcoming year.

I'm excited to be back at St. Stephen's and I'm looking forward to an awesome year of learning and service as Diocesan Intern as I work with the Church School, teen ministries, and the Young Adults Group as well as learning more about liturgy, pastoral care, and parish finances. It will be filled undoubtedly with new joys and challenges, and I'm grateful to have another opportunity to minister with all of you in Christ's Name.

ST.STEPHEN'S VISIBLE IN BISHOP ALAN'S SEPTEMBER 13 CONSECRATION. As the Diocese gathers to witness the consecration of Alan Gates as our Bishop, Zach Zimiroski will present Bp. Alan on behalf of the youth of the Diocese; Kyliah Almeida will carry the St. Stephen's banner recognizing our parish as one in which Alan served (seminarian under the Rev. Bill Lawson in the 1980s); and Chris Trahan, as a member of Diocesan Council, and the clergy will be part of the procession. Tickets will be mailed to the office by September. Please let us know if you can help with rides because we hope to spare the expense of renting a van.

VESTRY SUMMARY. In July the Vestry gathered July 25-26 at the Rector's for community building and strategic planning. At the Friday evening meeting the Vestry reviewed financials; approved Dan Bell's application for Postulancy for the priesthood, and learned that the parish Discernment Committee will continue to work with Hazel Johnson. During the Saturday Planning Retreat, Mission Imperative groups presented "Year 1 Priorities" and the Vestry discussed how new leaders might be raised up as we seek to live into our 2014 Mission Plan. Full implementation plans will be presented September 21. On August 17 the Vestry approved upgrading our computer equipment and software to facilitate operation and increase data security. In addition, the Vestry approved Sarah van Gulden's application for ordination to the Priesthood; we anticipate Sarah's ordination on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston. KIC Director Audrey Gutfreund and KIC mentor Kyliah Almeida talked about KIC 2014 and showed a KIC slide show; Audrey and Chris Trahan then presented our emerging plan for KIC expansion to a full year program through Diocesan Mission Hub participation. A KIC Advisory Committee will be gathered over the next couple of months as a Mission Hub implementation Plan is drafted. The Vestry received thank you notes from scholarship recipients, and Climate Bikers who stayed in our buildings in August.

TREASURER'S REPORT. September is always a hard month financially because many members let pledge payments slip during the summer, quarterly grants do not arrive until the end of the month, and summer and start-up expenses run high. We can all help by catching up on our pledges now. We all know that catching up in December is hard; please fulfill your pledges now because we count on receiving every dollar pledged.

BIG MONEY RAFFLE SUCCESS. Thanks to all who supported the 7th Annual Big Money Raffle! A great time was had by all at the Big Money Bash at The Porthole Restaurant as we celebrated selling all 200 tickets. Dancing, door prizes, great food, and socializing as well as prize money?! Who could ask for anything more? Thanks to all

the volunteers who made it all possible. The hard work of Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Irene Axelrod and Sally Gosselin resulted in ticket sales happening all over the North Shore and beyond, and brought over 120 guests to the Porthole party. After distributing the prize money of \$7, 500 and other costs, we will have raised almost \$8, 000 for St. Stephen's. Nice work! Prize winners: \$250 Debbie Perez and Friends; \$500 Fred and Gordon Cronin; \$750 Cuffe-McGinn Funeral Home; \$1,000 Marcia Puro; and \$5,000 was split by our own Margie Messina and her brother-in-law Brian Conway. Special thanks to Tim Potter for providing the perfect music, Dan Collis Puro for a most amazing number board, and Steve Switzer for dynamic hosting of this most festive event. Hope to see you next year!

IF IT'S SEPTEMBER, THE FAIR IS COMING SOON! Even as we prepare to host Diocesan Convention on November 8, the Annual Harvest Fair still will come to St. Stephen's on Saturday, October 25. Following the lead of the Big Money Raffle, the Fair is being guided by a Leadership Team of Irene Axelrod, Marilyn Cloran, Sally Gosselin, Lucinda McClain, Neil O'Donnell, and Josephine Russo. Their plan is to involve every member of the congregation in the Fair in some way. **In September, they need your help soliciting donations and recruiting crafters.** Already crafter registration forms, and solicitation letters and forms for donations and ads in the program book are available in the Galahad Area and by email from the office (ststephens@ststephenslynn.org). Starting September 7, tags will be available in the Galahad Area with suggestions of places to solicit; some tags will be for follow up with previous donors by phone or visit, and others will be for new possibilities. And, of course, best of all is parishioners asking business owners you know as well as friends and family because the personal touch always is most effective. In addition, everyone is encouraged to bring in donations of New Gifts and new items that could be used for raffles, auctions, and baskets. **The Fair Leadership Team requests that all donations and ads for the Harvest Fair Program Book be received by October.** Balancing the St. Stephen's budget requires all of us giving our time, talent, and treasure.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

FINAL SUMMER COOKOUT SEPTEMBER 7. Do you have friends who might be looking for a faith community? Invite them to join you for worship or just for our Family Cook-out on Sunday, September 7 at 11:30. There will be activities and school supplies for children as well as information about the programs of the parish for all ages. We'll provide grillables, and count on people bringing salads, desserts, and chips to augment the feast. Please join us as we renew relationships and make new friends at the beginning of the program year!

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING ON SEPTEMBER 28

Join us as we look back and look forward in celebrating

THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Special Guest: The Rev. Matthew Stewart, Urban Assistant 2005-2008

Rev. Matt serves as Rector of Holy Spirit, Fall River & Dean of the South Coast Deanery

Baptisms at 10:00am

Homecoming Lunch and Fair Kick-Off at Noon

Lunch is free but advance reservation is required

BAPTISMS ON HOMECOMING—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28. As we celebrate the Feast of Stephen and the life of our parish, we welcome new members into the church through Baptism. If you or anyone you know would like to be baptized, please complete a baptism registration form no later than Sunday, September 21 and join us for the Baptism Preparation Class on Monday, September 22 at 6:30. For more information, please speak with the clergy.

TUESDAYS AT THE MONASTERY. Call the Office to sign up for our trip to the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Tuesday, September 2. We will join the Brothers for worship and supper. We will leave St. Stephen's at 4:15 and return about 8:00. Drivers are needed.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS SEPTEMBER 4. The Pastoral Care Team will gather at 10:00am on Thursday, September 4 to check-in and organize visits for September. At 10:30 the Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet together to discuss the final section of Barbara Brown Taylor's Gospel Medicine.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE. On Sunday, September 7, our choir returns to lead singing in worship at 10:00. The Choir gathers every Saturday morning at 10:00 to rehearse. Rehearsals resume on Saturday, September 6. New members are always welcome and previous training is not required. St. Augustine said that those who sing "pray twice." Deepen your prayer through song and gladden our worship by joining the St. Stephen's Choir!

SEPTEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. KNIT CLUB: All levels of knitters, crocheters, and sewers are encouraged to join the spirited fellowship of the Knit Club on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30 as we move on to Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. **TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH** continues on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections.

FROM THE KISWAHILI DESK. The Kiswahili congregation started off this summer with a very competitive Anglican music festival in Lawrence, MA. Out of six Kenyan Anglican churches in New England, we managed to hold the number one position in Tradition Dance category and number 3 in the self-composition song category. The area we need to improve most is the Sunday School's scripture memory verse category. We crowned the summer with a very colorful cookout that was held at Forest River Park in Salem. Next year we would like to extend our invitation to the whole St. Stephen family and we expect to have more fun. The summer is over and there is a lot ahead; but we know God is still with us in the journey. Blessings, Rev Joseph

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

KIC CONCLUDES FABULOUS SUMMER. Each July, St. Stephen's offers Kids in Community (KIC), a free day camp for Lynn elementary school aged children. This summer's four-week session was one of the best attended yet: KIC registered 120 children and provided summer jobs for 20 teens and young adults, including 5 St. Stephen's youth. The program also engaged 12 adult volunteers, who taught workshops, read to children, or served lunch and breakfast to campers. Kids in Community was made possible this year through financial support from the Sears Family Fund, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Marblehead, Amelia Peabody Foundation, Old Neighborhood, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, First Jobs, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn.

KIC had a wide variety of activities, and most kids found at least one thing they really loved. Children participated in workshops on art, drama, poetry, zumba, and healthy eating with adult specialists. Teen mentors led sports or games outside, as well as taught campers about their own skills and hobbies—among other things, kids this year danced, sang, made puppets, jewelry & sculpture, baked brownies, cared for the vegetable garden (and ate the vegetables!), and wrote their own raps. Finally, the whole camp took one field trip each week, to the Museum of Science, the Boston Children's Museum, the New England Aquarium, and the Peabody Essex Museum.

As fun as the activities are, though, they are not the most important part of KIC. Instead, most campers, staff, and families describe their personal growth and the relationships they formed over the course of KIC. One teen mentor described "the power of being a role model" for kids because "they observe more than I thought they would," and that this had encouraged him to act as the "best person he knew how to be." Another mentor, Michelle, mentioned how great it made her feel when a parent picked her campers up at the end of the day and said that her child "talks about [Michelle] all the time!" and thanked her for the program. Perhaps the best summary came from a camper named Isaac, a second grader. This was Isaac's first summer at KIC, and he started out very unhappy because he thought he was going to sleep-away camp. By the last day, he had come around, as he announced, "I love Miguel (his mentor), I love KIC, and I'm coming back next year, and the year after that, and the year after that!"

HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN OUR MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE? Whenever we baptize, we promise to do everything in our power to support these people in their life in Christ. Our mission imperatives challenge us to show Christ-like hospitality to children, youth, and young adults. Living into these commitments requires that adults teach in our church school, serve as mentors with our middle school and high school young programs, prepare meals for our teen groups, help train acolytes and maintain their robes, drive young people to Diocesan events, volunteer with Kids' Choir, serve on the KIC Advisory Board, and faithfully bring children and youth to our formation ministries. Members of the congregation cannot keep our promises for young people who never show up. And, the church cannot serve those who come faithfully if we don't have enough adults volunteering. This summer Rev. Sarah invited us all to pray about where and how God might be calling us to engage in the life of St. Stephen's and especially in our ministry with young people. Several members have stepped up and are ready to serve but we need more helping hands and hearts as programs kick off in September. Talk to Rev. Sarah today about how and where you might serve.

BACKPACK BLESSING TO LAUNCH THE SCHOOL YEAR. We invite all children to bring their school backpacks to Church on Sunday, September 7 so that we can bless them and their backpacks as they begin a new year. We also (thanks to all of you!) will have extra school supplies that young people can add to their backpacks at the cookout following worship. And, fear not, even if young people forget their backpacks on the 7th, we want all students to come forward for our prayers of blessing at the beginning of the school year.

CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 21 AT 10:00; REGISTER NOW! September is here, which means it's time to go back to Church School! Registration will be held after church on Sunday, September 7th and Sunday, September 14th. Classes for Nursery through Grade 12 will begin September 21. During worship on the 21st, we will commission our teachers so that we all have a chance to recognize and thank them for their commitment. Please contact Rev. Sarah or Dan Bell with any questions or to get a registration form.

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES. Acolyte teams serve every Sunday at our 10:00am worship. Right now we're looking for more young people (6th-12th graders) to acolyte every 3-4 weeks. Worship is more fun when you sit up front and have lots of tasks to keep you busy! **There will be training for new acolytes on Sunday, September 14th from 12pm-2pm, and training for all (new and returning) acolytes on Sunday, October 5th from 12pm-2pm.** Games, pizza, and drinks will be included!! Contact Rev. Sarah with any questions and please make sure she has correct contact information for new and returning acolytes.

KIDS' CHOIR RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21. As Church School begins and we commission Church School teachers, our Kids' Choir will offer anthems during worship on the 21st. All 2nd-8th graders are encouraged to join the Choir. **Rehearsal will be Saturday, September 20, 1:00-3:00.** Volunteers are needed to assist Kids' Choir Director Juliana Davis. Registration forms are available at the church; and there will be a **meeting with parents September 21 at 11:30.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE. St. Stephen's youth in grades 6-8 will have our first fall event on Friday, September 19 from 6:30-8:30pm. In addition to monthly Friday evenings, we hope to involve Middle Schoolers in community service projects. Please let Rev. Sarah or Jason Cruz know if you are interested.

OASIS KICKS OFF ANOTHER YEAR WITH AN OUTDOOR MOVIE EVENT SEPTEMBER 12.

St. Stephen's high school youth group will host an Outdoor Movie Night for its first event on Friday, September 12 from 6:30pm-9pm. Teenagers are encouraged to bring friends for popcorn and a free movie! For information, talk with Jason Cruz or Rev. Sarah.

DIOCESAN EVENT FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH. Saturday, September 27 from 3:00 to 7:00pm all youth are encouraged to join teens from across the Diocese at All Saints Church in Danvers for a Regional Youth Event. We know the DYC will lead an awesome event and friends from Camp will be present so sign up today! We will need drivers to help get Team St. Stephen's to Danvers.

YOUNG ADULTS GATHER FOR DINNER & CONVERSATION ON SEPTEMBER 9. YA provides 18-25 year olds with monthly dinners that feed body and soul, opportunities for community service and advocacy projects, and a space to chill between classes or after work. **Our first YA Dinner will be Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30, and YAs are encouraged to come and bring friends with them.** For more information, contact Jason Cruz or Rev. Sarah.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP COMES TO ST. STEPHEN'S SEPTEMBER 28 AT 6:00. Sunday, September 28 at 6:00, the clergy along with Juliana Davis and her Berklee Band will offer a contemporary worship experience with lots of inspired singing, time for scripture reflection, and opportunity for Christian fellowship. All ages are welcome at these times of prayer and praise but they emerge out of the spiritual hunger of some of our BCH formed young adults. While we anticipate the need to experiment with the format of our new Sunday evening service, we hope that many people will give it a try.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR BACKPACK DRIVE. By Friday, September 5, bring paper, note books, pens, pencils, tissues, folders, backpacks & other school supplies for our Backpack Event at our Cookout on Sunday, September 7 at 11:30. Help us help kids start the year right.

HELP THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY. Please add tuna, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken, and boxed milk to your shopping list to donate to our Food Pantry because our shelves have gotten bare this summer. Also, we can use your help **Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 at the Pantry.** To help, talk with Sally Gosselin. Also, we need people to join the Table Team **servicing lunch at MBT from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday, September 28.** If you can't help us serve, feel encouraged to make cookies, brownies, or cupcakes we can share.

ECCO ENGAGES ELECTIONS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. **Our St. Stephen's ECCO Team will meet on Thursday, September 11 at 6:30.** In August, we hosted a training and community action to educate voters about Question 4-- which will provide one million Massachusetts with the opportunity to earn sick time for hours worked, to register voters, and to encourage participation in the September 9 Primary Election and the November 4 General Election. Lynn has 6,000 potential voters who are not registered; and over 1/3 of Lynn's registered voters only vote in Presidential Election years. We can change "politics as usual" if we **do the unusual and vote.** Come to the September 11 ECCO meeting. You can make a difference!

CONVERSATION GROUP FRIDAY AFTERNOONS. "Conversation: talking together" Join us Fridays at 2:00pm as life-long English speakers and those newer to the language chat thus becoming more familiar with each other's experience and culture. Contact: Joanne Droppers.

TRAILS AND SAILS COMES TO ST. STEPHEN'S. St. Stephen's Tiffany Windows are a Trails and Sails Event on Saturday, September 20. From 10am to 3:30pm visitors can tour our 41 Tiffany windows (and the rest of our historic Ware and van Brunt building) as part of Essex Heritage Trails and Sails Weekends. Encourage your friends to come and see the oldest ecclesiastical Tiffany windows in the world. Our hosts will be Chris Trahan, Irene Axelrod, Marilyn Cloran, Sally Gosselin, Ginny Fuller and Jeff McAvoy. For more information about Trails & Sails weekends in September, visit the Essex Heritage website.



Scenes of Summer 2014

