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Newsletter - September, 2019

1844 – 2019

175th Anniversary

Cherishing - Celebrating - Strengthening

All are Welcome

175th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

Saturday, September 21st

Trails and Sails Event: History tour of the Tiffany Windows from 10 am until 2 pm. Please bring your friends to see our beautiful and historic church and help us celebrate.

Reception & Buffet Dinner at 5:30 PM in the downstairs dining room for making new and renewing friendships. (Dinner Tickets \$45) Please contact the Office at 781-599-4220 or ststephens@ststephenslynn.org for tickets

Sunday, September 22nd

Festival Eucharist, with Bishop Alan Gates Celebrant and Preacher.
A reception in the downstairs dining room to follow.

There will be a **175th Anniversary Commemorative Book**: 8"x10" in size. In the past parishioners and friends have placed "ads"/ messages in the 150th anniversary book. This tradition will be continued for 175th commemorative book. The forms are located in the Galahad Area or thru the Office.

175TH ANNIVERSARY MEMENTO

We have created an exceptional memento for our 175th anniversary. It is a picture of our Ascension Window surrounded by gold. (24 ct gold-plated)

It is 3" wide and comes in a red box with a clear cover. **Cost is \$20. \$5 fee will be charged if if memento needs to be mailed.**

It is engraved with
Front
St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church
Est. 1844
Back
"The Ascension" 1881
Designed by
Augustus Saint- Gaudens
For Louis Comfort Tiffany



From the Interim Priest:

400 years ago, in late August 1619, the first enslaved Africans were brought to English speaking North America. They had been captured at sea from a Portuguese slave ship. They were brought to what was called Point Comfort, Virginia, near Jamestown.

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has challenged the whole Episcopal Church to use this disturbing anniversary to reflect on the lasting stain of how the colonies and then the United States used enslaved Africans to build the economic base of this country. We are being called to also use this time to reflect on the institutional and systemic practices, policies and laws that have been designed to deny the humanity of people of color.

As a white man, I know that I have benefited from the privilege bestowed on me because I am white and male. It is with shame that I acknowledge of my own complicity, blithely accepting the benefits of white supremacy. I share this with you as a way to hold myself accountable to continually strive to challenge my own racism.

I am proud to be a part of a Church that has a group that is actively engaged in the work of dismantling white privilege. The Beloved Community Team meets on the second Thursday of every month to learn about and challenge ourselves and each other to do this work. We are currently reading Robin DiAngelo's book, *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*.

With some cutting humor she lists a set of impossible conditions that result in white people never hearing any feedback about our racism.

She contrasts this with the statement, "Racism is the norm rather than an aberration. Feedback is key to [white people's] ability to recognize and repair our inevitable and often unaware collusion." She offers two guidelines as an alternative to white fragility.

1. How, where, and when you give me feedback is irrelevant—it is the feedback I want and need. Understanding that it is hard to give, I will take it any way I can get it. From my position of social, cultural, and institutional white power and privilege, I am perfectly safe and I can handle it. If I cannot handle it, *it's on me* to build up my racial stamina.
2. Thank you. (*White Fragility*, page 125)

These have become my rules. I ask you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, that when you notice my racism coming out please tell me. It is the very least I can do to remember these 400 years and work towards dismantling white privilege.

Peace,
Tom

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

HARVEST FAIR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD! We have a lot of celebrating to do for the 175th before the Fair happens on Nov. 23. It is not too early to start thinking of things we can do to make our Fair even more successful than last year. We are always looking for new items for our “Gift Boutique”. If you are cleaning out a closet or drawer you might find a gift you never used that would be suitable. People are always looking for handmade items to purchase as unique gifts. Some items can be used on the Silent Auction table.

We will probably follow the format of last year’s Fair. After our many jewelry sales we still have some excellent buys but can now take more jewelry to add to the collection. We have thoughts for our raffle and that will soon be announced.

On the day of the Fair itself, we are always in need of helpers. We have a wonderful time working together on this important money-making project. Please let us know if you would like to help. We will probably have a meeting in the summer to go over everything.

Thanks for keeping the Fair in mind. Marilyn Cloran and Sally Gosselin, Fair Co-chairs

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE. On Sunday, September 8th, our Adult Choir returns to lead singing in worship at 10:00am. The Choir gathers every Saturday morning at 10:00am to rehearse. Rehearsals resume on Saturday, September 7. We need to enlarge the group. It is possible to join the choir every Sunday or for particular Sundays or seasons. 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!

WHEN SCHEDULEING MEETINGS! As the Fall approaches, if your Ministry is having a meeting at the Church please contact the office at 781.599.4220 or e-mail ststephens@ststephenslynn.org to make sure a room has been reserved for your meeting. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

TOWERS COMMUNION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 2:30. If you have never visited St. Stephen’s Tower, our apartment building for low and moderate income elders, our monthly communion services are a great excuse. Come worship with us on September 17 at 2:00 and someone is sure to offer to give you a tour. All are welcome!

SEPTEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.

- **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays at 6:30 as we continue reading the book of Luke.
- **HEALING SERVICE** continues on Thursday at noon. You are welcome to join us for a brown bag lunch as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS SEPTEMBER 5. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, September 5 for check-in and discussion on the Walk in Love Episcopal Beliefs & Practices discussion of the chapter Three The Covenant They Have Made Baptismal Practices. Please be prepared to discuss the questions on page 40.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

KIDS IN COMMUNITY AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC & ART PROGRAM (KIC-MAP) CHILD REGISTRATION! Will be beginning next week. We are a low-cost after school enrichment program for children in grades 1 – 6 for approximately forty children. In addition to group music classes, we offer an after school education curriculum, homework help, and teamwork building through games and other activities. KIC/MAP operation hours are Monday – Thursday from 2pm-6pm. Any families interested in registering their child for the school year are to contact the Program Director, Shannon Morrissey, as soon as possible! *Please email her at: smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org*

KIDS IN COMMUNITY AFTER-SCHOOL MUSIC & ART PROGRAM (KIC-MAP) IS NOW HIRING! We are looking to hire a few energetic mentors for the upcoming school year. Much of a mentor's role consists of supervising children during activities such as preparing homework, playing outdoors, reading, or learning arts, music and crafts. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and meet all hours of operation (Monday- Thursday from 2-6pm). *All inquiries are to report to the Program Director via email: smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org*

KIC SUMMER CAMP SERVES COMMUNITY WITH STYLE. On August 2nd, Kids in Community celebrated the end of its 14th summer at St. Stephen's. Over 100 kids attended (120 registered) KIC camp each day, where they got to play games, read with volunteers, and learn art, science, bucket drumming.

KIC hired a fantastic staff of 17 teens as mentors and three amazing Assistant Directors. Providing quality employment for 20 teens and young adults is an important part of KIC's mission. Teen mentors and campers were supported by a robust group of adult volunteers. Volunteers offered hospitality to families on the first day, read with children, and managed breakfast, lunch, and snack time throughout camp. St. Stephen's volunteers joined us for Week One (and beyond), while teams from the UU Church of Greater Lynn, St. Michael's Marblehead, and St. Andrew's Marblehead each came for a week. As the new Program Director, I continue to be impressed by the strength of both the program and the staff. You, the St. Stephens family should feel incredibly proud of the amount of care and love that goes into this program every year. It truly is a blessing and an amazing outreach to our wonderful Lynn community. It is always great when we are able to open our doors to the outside world and show Christ's love and compassion to our neighbors.

KIC Director Shannon Morrissey.

SUMMER LEARNING AT ST. STEPHEN'S MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES.

Summer Learning kicked off with a strong group of dedicated teachers, fantastic volunteers, energetic youth assistants and a solid roster of mostly returning children. Despite consistent sweltering summer afternoons, average attendance throughout the four weeks stayed steady at 30. At Washington School, the children listened to and discussed stories read out loud followed by activities exploring plot, setting and characters. Meanwhile, reading fluency, strategies, comprehension, alphabet recognition and letter sounds were the focus in the reading center. Across the hall in the writing center, budding writers and illustrators tackled techniques of good writing as they worked through the writing process. In the math center children played numerous math games to strengthen foundational skills such as number recognition, counting and representing, adding and subtracting. The program ended with a well-deserved celebration of favorites: fun activities, yummy foods. In closing, the national center on after-school and summer enrichment writes, "Summer Learning is a key solution to closing academic and opportunity gaps that plague many communities across the country." Thank you St. Stephen's for your continued championship for children and families. Summer learning makes a difference in children's lives. *Summer Learning Director, Micheal Brown*

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH SENIOR AND JUNIOR USHER ANNUAL DAY. Members of St. Stephen's are invited to join or brothers and sisters at Zion Baptist Church, 4 Adams Street Extension in Lynn, at the Senior and Junior Usher Annual Day on Sunday, September 15th at 3:00 PM

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH! On behalf of our Zion Baptist Church Family, we wish to invite you to our Fall revival, where we will seek to harness fresh energy for meaningful ministry. Our revival theme is "*Embracing our Sacred Transformation.*" **Starting Wednesday, September 18th** (preacher Rev. Paula Alexander, Pastor Bethlehem Baptist Community), **Thursday, September 19th** (preacher Rev. Atu White, Pastor Mt. Zion Baptist Church) and **Friday, September 20th** (preacher Bishop John Borders, Morning Star Baptist Church) beginning at 7:00pm.

BEWARE OF E-MAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE SCAMS

From the Diocese of Massachusetts FYI Newsletter

(Rev Tom has been phished and wants everyone to be aware.)

Online impersonation scams that involve requests for gift cards or personal information continue to target churches and clergy, and they require continued awareness and vigilance. A common tactic in these scams (also known as "phishing") is to send e-mails or text messages that appear to be from a known and trusted organization or leader (in church contexts, the e-mails and text messages usually appear to be from the rector, cathedral dean or a bishop). The scam e-mails and text messages typically say that urgent help is needed and request that the

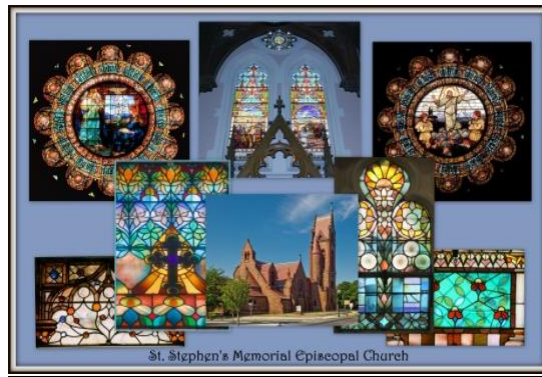
recipient buy and electronically send gift cards, often from a specific company, such as Amazon, iTunes or Google Play. One recent version of the scam doesn't mention gift cards in the initial message, but asks for a quick reply because a favor is needed. These scam requests appear at first glance to come from a legitimate e-mail or messaging account of a known person. They usually convey a sense of urgency. They often incorporate familiar logos and signatures.

What to do:

- Inform your congregation about these phishing scams and reinforce the message that clergy and church leaders will never ask for emergency aid or donations in this way.
- Be skeptical of unexpected e-mail or text message requests to send or spend money.
- Read with caution any e-mail or text message that asks for gift cards. Look for tell-tale typos and grammatical mistakes, and double-check sender e-mail addresses and phone numbers for authenticity.
- If you believe a request may be authentic, call the requester to confirm, making sure to use a known phone number—not a phone number provided in the suspect message.
- Find more information about phishing scams, including how to report them at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams>

Trails and Sails Tiffany Window Tours

Once again we are hosting an event on the Essex Heritage Trails and Sails Weekends. This year is on the Saturday of our **175th Anniversary weekend**. The church will be open with Rick Cloran giving a talk using his photographs about Tiffany glass and our windows. Irene Axelrod and Chris Trahan will give tours of the church telling its history. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the **175 years** that we have been a parish. Follow this up with dinner here in the evening. The tours are free but a ticket is needed for the dinner - \$45.



2019 Essex Heritage Trails and Sails Weekends **View the Tiffany Stained Glass Windows in** **St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church** **74 So. Common St., Lynn** **Sat., Sept. 21 10 am to 2 pm**

Come, see and learn about the 41 Tiffany stained glass windows in this beautiful church built in 1880. They are perhaps the oldest ecclesiastical Tiffany windows in the world. The church was built in memory of Lt. Colonel Charles Redington Mudge who died at Gettysburg at the age of 23 on July 3, 1863 and his sister Fannie Olive. Their graves along with those of their parents are in the garth in the center of the church. Their father Enoch Redington Mudge of Boston and Swampscott built the church.

POEM FOR THE MONTH

LOVE

*Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning.
If I lacked any thing.
A guest, I answered, worthy to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?
Truth Lord, but I have marred them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:
So I did sit and eat.*

By: George Herbert

If anyone would like to offer a Poem for the Month for future newsletter please send it to ststephens@ststephenslynn.org or speak to Rev. Tom.

St. Stephen's Events

September, 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost Amelia Peabody Foundation Grant Brandi (vacation) 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	2 Labor Day Brandi (vacation) 8:00 pm AA	3 Brandi (vacation) 7:00 pm NA	4 Brandi (vacation) 6:30 pm Bible Study	5 Brandi (vacation) 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	6 Brandi (vacation) 4:00 PM Womens Retreat at Adelynrood	7 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 3:00 pm ECCO-Immigrant Womens Retreat at Adelynrood
8 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:45 Seach committee	9 9:30 am Food Pantry Inspection 8:00 pm AA	10 1:00 PM Memorial Service for Pearl Courson at St. Stephen' sTower 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm NA	11 Rev. Tom VAC 6:30 pm Bible Study	12 Rev. Tom VAC 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	13 Rev. Tom VAC 3:00 pm Food Pantry	14 Holy Cross Day Rev. Tom VAC 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
15 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost Rev. Tom VAC 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:30 am Vestry Meeting	16 8:00 pm AA	17 2:30 pm Communion at the Towers 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	18 6:30 pm Bible Study	19 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	20 1:30 pm Food Pantry	21 175th Anniversary 10:00 am Trails and Sails 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 PM 175th Catered
22 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost 175 Anniversary Day Bishop Gates 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English(Home Coming)	23 8:00 pm AA	24 7:00 pm NA	25 6:30 pm Bible Study	26 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	27 3:00 pm Food Pantry	28 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
29 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	30 St Michael and All Angels (transferred) 8:00 pm AA					