

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for You*

Dear Friends,

The first time I heard the song, “Sanctuary” I was a first-year student at the Episcopal Divinity School. I was in the EDS chapel for the weekly community Eucharist watching as the presider set the table for communion. This chapel, indeed the entire campus, would be my sanctuary for the next three years. EDS was the first place where I could be my full self—a young woman searching for her part in achieving God’s dream. My sanctuary, my holy place, was in the chapel, the classroom, the dining hall, and the tiny dorm room that only had enough space for my bed and dresser.

We tend to think of sanctuary as a place that has no tension or conflict. It is where we find refuge and comfort from fear and stress. In reality a sanctuary is never this perfect, idyllic place. EDS, a sanctuary for students, staff and faculty was full of tension and conflict: the organist didn’t know how to properly accompany the African American spirituals, the commuter students didn’t feel included in the community, the faculty wanted high salaries, the staff felt under-appreciated, the worship wasn’t “Episcopal” enough, etc... As a community we worked together to address these conflicts but they were never fully resolved. Still the EDS sanctuary was strong enough to hold tension and conflicts while providing a place of refuge and comfort.

At St. Stephen’s we also strive to be a sanctuary or in the words of the prophet Isaiah: “for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7). At the June Vestry meeting members reported the responses they heard to the sermon conversations about sanctuary. A common theme was anxiety, especially about what open sanctuary might mean for the children and youth in our building during the week and on Sunday mornings. The Vestry affirmed that God calls us to be a sanctuary for all and sometimes that requires setting up boundaries. All are indeed welcome except when a person’s behavior threatens the safety our sanctuary.

Like EDS, we have created a strong sanctuary that protects children youth and adults who worship on Sundays, attend KIC programs, pick up food from the Food Pantry and come to learn about God. As we welcome the new Latino ministry our sanctuary will extend to include a new community with its own gifts and needs. It may cause conflicts and tension but this will only bring us closer to Isaiah’s dream of a house of prayer for all peoples.

Peace,



Sarah

PSALM 74:17 You set the limits of the earth; You made Summer and Winter

It may be that I was born in December, the darkest, sometimes the snowiest part of the year, but winter has never been my favorite season. Summer holds that distinction for me. I love the late sunsets, the warm nights and the light in the sky in the early morning, complete with birds calling to each other. I like the idea of summer days at the beach, or at the mountains or in the city. For me, summer is the time when I have the most physical and mental energy.

It seems to me that St. Stephen's is like that too. Many churches are quiet in the summer, changing the service schedule, no meetings or music. Well, that is not the church we know and love here. Soon the building will have 125 children from grades 1-5 every weekday at 8:30 AM, ready for a day of activities, snacks, lunches, field trips and learning experiences that we hope will stay with them throughout their lives. At 2:30, some of the children will head home or to afternoon programs. Some of the youngest ones will stay for the Summer Learning Program, where they will work on increasing their skills in reading, writing, and math. Healing Services on Thursday afternoon will continue, followed by Tea and Talk. The Food Pantry will be open on Friday afternoons, except for the first Friday of the month.

The vestry will have its retreat at Adelynrood Retreat and Conference Center on July 21-22 and the teenagers will be going on a mission trip to Southwestern Virginia in August. Although these events will not take place at St. Stephen's, the church and its mission will be on the minds and in the hearts of all those participating. And of course, the Big Money Raffle party will happen at the Porthole Pub at 5:00PM on July 23. This half page of activities is typical of our church and I have probably missed listing some. Summer is most definitely not a time of rest at our church!

But I hope that each of us does find some quiet time whether it is in church or outside, to enjoy the time we have been given, to renew that faith that is a gift to us from God. If you can, I hope that you will participate in one or more of the activities listed here, and that you will enjoy being with your St. Stephen's family.

Have a great summer!

Peace,

Irene Axelrod

Senior Warden

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

VESTRY SUMMARY: JUNE 25. The Vestry shared responses they heard while facilitating sermon conversation groups on the topic of sanctuary. Members reported concerns about the tension of holding open sanctuary when children are present in the building. The clergy and wardens assured the Vestry that safety is always the top priority. After a report from Kevin Neil and his Discernment Committee the Vestry voted unanimously to approve his application to become a postulant to the priesthood. Kevin will submit his application, with the Vestry's endorsement, to the Diocese in mid August. Michael Brown and Rev. Sarah gave reports about summer youth programs. Work continues on the north side of the Anderson Building that was damaged after a pipe burst from the cold temperatures. All of the asbestos and debris was cleared out and the contractor's team is working around the clock to complete repairs before July 10.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Pledge statements will come out in early July for the second quarter; if you have any questions, email or call the parish office and someone will get back to you. Don't forget to keep your donations current over the summer because our expenses don't go on vacation. Summer work for the Treasurer's office includes tracking and paying the KIC staff, bringing financial audits up-to-date and into compliance with DioMass, continuing Realm date base implementation, and some basic cleaning out of the office. Summer brings many opportunities to support the general health of the budget through the Big Money Raffle - so buy and sell tickets so that we keep our programs running in the black.

STAFF UPDATES. On June 4, we bid Godspeed to our sexton Mark Gendreau as he accepted fulltime employment as a driver for GLSS. For the last several years, Mark has blessed St. Stephen's with his hard work and positive attitude. Always, he has done all that we ask plus a little bit more. We are working to fill the sexton position before KIC Camp starts on July 10. On the KIC front, KIC Director Audrey Gutfreund won't be with us for KIC Camp this summer but former KIC Camp Director James Liberge will join the team for July and August. We are excited to have James back as well as 3 talented and experienced Program Assistants—Asdrubal, Darnesha, and Derek. And, we look forward to Audrey's return for KIC Music in September.

PEOPLE IN THE ORDINATION PROCESS. Currently, St. Stephen's has several people in the Diocese of Massachusetts ordination process. **Patrick LaFortune** graduated from Gordon-Conwell in May and was ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 3. Patrick is serving as our deacon in June and will preach for us on July 9; in the months ahead, he hopes to begin a part-time curate position in the Diocese. **Dan Bell** also was ordained at the Cathedral on June 3. He continues to serve as Protestant Chaplain at Tufts University, which he hopes to combine with a part-time parish position. Dan will be with us as our Deacon and preacher on July 16. **Hazel Johnson** is a Postulant (soon to apply for candidacy) for the priesthood and has finished her first year at BU School of Theology. In the fall, field education will take her to the chaplaincy at Brandeis University and the Agape Community Church in Waltham. She will be with us as our preacher on August 27. **Kevin Neil** worked with our parish Discernment Committee this Spring; on June 25, our Vestry voted to recommend his application for Postulancy to the priesthood. Kevin is spending the summer working in the L'Arche Community in Chicago and will be a Boston-based Life Together Fellow this fall. He will be our preacher on August 13. We also have a couple of people contemplating how God is calling them and considering whether to attend the Diocesan Discernment Day in February. Please keep all those responding to calls to ordained ministry in your prayers.

St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church

Big Money Raffle

Grand Prize: \$5,000

Cash Prizes: \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250

★ ONLY 215 TICKETS SOLD ★

All Proceeds benefit St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church
Dinner, Dancing & Drawing held **SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017, 5:30-9:00pm**
RSVP required; seats limited: [ststephens@ststephenslynn.org/](mailto:ststephens@ststephenslynn.org)
781-599-4220

Door Prizes throughout the Night
Porthole Pub & Restaurant 98 Lynnway, Lynn

BIG MONEY RAFFLE DRAWING JULY 23! Each ticket costs \$100-- but tickets can be sold to individuals or split into as many as 10 shares at \$10 each. Please take a ticket to sell at the office, or to family and friends! Every Sunday, vestry members offer weekly tickets for you to buy a \$10 share. Most years a Sunday ticket has been in the final five winning tickets so get yourself on one of these tickets and increase your chances of winning. There are 215 tickets in the mix, but last year we sold out! Buy your tickets immediately so that you and your family and friends have a chance to win \$5,000! On Sunday, July 23, we will gather at the Porthole Pub for dinner, dancing, and the Big Money Raffle drawing. Winners will receive a grand prize of \$5,000 and other cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250. And of course there will be door prizes! RSVPs are required for the dinner; everyone who has a share on a ticket is welcome at the party but seats are limited and will be filled before the event. Walk-ins cannot be accommodated. You do not need to be present to win the BMR but door prizes go to people in the room. The BMR committee of Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Joyce Wallace, and Pamela Alleyne need your help selling tickets, calling our vendors and VIPS. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office during the week. For more info email Heather at heather@collispuro.net.

NEW LIFE TOGETHER FELLOW COMING IN LATE AUGUST. We are in the midst of interviewing possible Diocesan Interns for this year. I explain to them that St. Stephen's is a mentoring community in which everyone is a teacher and a learner. I also explain that, while we hate to let go of anyone who serves with us, we understand that we are sending them out into the world to do God's work and that we have made a mark that will endure. And so we pray for Emily as she heads home to Virginia and for us as we await our new fellow with eager anticipation.

CLEAN UP, CLEAR OUT WEEK 8/21-8/24. St. Stephen's is a busy place with children, teens and adults coming for camp, education, pride events, worship, knitting, and much more. During a brief break in the hustle and bustle, we ask parishioners to help clean up and clear out the church. A few items at the top of the list: cleaning refrigerators, clearing out rooms, returning items to their correct homes, and organizing and cleaning the parish office. Volunteers can work as much or as little they are able. There will be a group gratitude lunch on Thursday following the Noon Healing Service. During clean up week there will be no Bible Study or Tea and Talk.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET JULY 6 & AUGUST 3. The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet on first Thursdays at 10:30 for check-in. In August, we will discuss Emmanuel Lartey's [In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling](#) (pages 8-41). Copies of the book will be available at the July meeting.

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING SECOND SUNDAYS & PLANNING AUGUST RETREAT. **Sunday, July 16 at 1:30** all women (and anyone who knows a woman) is invited to a Women's Group Cook Out and Pool Party at the Breckenridge's (10 Aberdeen, Peabody). Grillables will be provided but people are encouraged to bring a side, snack, or dessert. **August 13 at 12:30**, we'll gather for a potluck lunch at St. Stephen's to plan for our **August 21-22 retreat at Adelynrood**. Sign up forms for the retreat will be available by July 16 and must be turned in by August 13.

LOAVES & FISHES OFFERS LEMONADE ON THE LAWN. Sundays in the summer, we enjoy Lemonade on the Lawn after 10:00 worship. Please choose a week you want to host. We supply lemonade mix and put the tables out. We ask you to provide healthy and appealing munchies, set up before the end of worship, and clean up at the end of the morning. Sign up in the Galahad Area or with Carol Rodrigue.

TRAVELING JESUS HEADS OUT FOR THE SUMMER. After a restful Easter season, Traveling Jesus is ready to visit you and your family for a week this summer. Contrary to popular belief, Jesus does NOT go on summer vacation! Please sign up in the Galahad Area.

MUSICAL TREATS FOR SUMMER. This summer, choir members and friends will bless us with their talent. Jimmy Raynes has volunteered to play the organ July 2; Christopher Walter will play the piano a couple of weeks; and Rachel Baldwin will lead music on July 30. In addition, **Sunday, July 16 will be our Gospel Song Sunday.** Please meet at the piano at 9:00am to practice singing songs from the Gospel tradition; no robes, no processions... just a chance to sing with soul. **And please, talk with Bruce if you might provide an offertory or communion music on a Sunday.** Adults and young people are encouraged to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

KNIT GROUP MEETS ALL SUMMER. Beginning as well as experienced knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join the knitting club on Tuesday evenings at 6:30.

BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES EXODUS. We gather at 6:30 every Wednesday evening to learn how the Exodus journey shapes our faith. Come spend the summer with Moses and the Israelites!

TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH CONTINUES THROUGH THE SUMMER. On Thursday afternoons at 1:00 we come together to read and discuss brief reflections written by Congregational minister Donna Schaper.

CONSIDERING A RULE OF LIFE? For those who aren't sure what a Rule of Life is, for those who just plain don't like rules, and for those who participated in our Epiphany Rule of Life group, we are considering offering a summer Rule of Life journey on Thursday evenings beginning July 13. We need a few more people to launch the group! Let the clergy know if you are interested.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER WITH KIC THIS SUMMER! This summer, we're asking St. Stephen's adults to team up and share their energy and passions with KIC campers during the first week of the program, July 10-14. Volunteers are needed each day from 9-12:30, and you can sign up for all or part of a shift. We especially need people to:

- Assist with sign in, greeting, and set up on the first day (arrive by 8:00am)
- Read every day in small groups or one-on-one with children
- Help provide and prepare snacks
- Help clean and organize camp

If you can help us out contact Bonnie Bishop at bishopbw@gmail.com or 781-599-8963.

SUMMER LEARNING READY TO ROLL. Once again there will be no summer school programs offered for our youngest students so Michael Brown and her tireless team are offering St. Stephen's Summer Learning Program for children in grades 1-3. The program runs Monday-Thursday, 2:30-5:30, July 11-August 4. Learning Center Leads and young adult assistants are ready planning for the program and setting up their spaces. Please talk with Micheal Brown if you have time to volunteer an afternoon or two a week.

ST. STEPHEN'S AWARDS \$7,750 IN SCHOLARSHIPS. Thanks to the generosity of current and former members of St. Stephen's, we provided six members of the congregation with scholarships for higher education.

Martha "Pat" and James M. Harriss Scholarship to Kayla McCellon

Michael Jude Provost Scholarship to Asdrubal Gomez

George Burkholder Scholarship to Zachary Zimiroski

William and Dorothy Robinson Scholarship to Nicole Marange

Shawn Robinson Scholarship to Erik Whitcomb

Bill and Jane Manly Scholarship to Camille San Gabrielle

Gene M. Stevens Scholarship to Teka Lumumba

Inglis Thomsen Fund and Dennen-Mower Fund to Shantwan Wilder

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Jared Zimiroski

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Faith Wilson

LYNN'S SECOND YOUTH PRIDE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS! Around 75 teens and adults braved the rain and chilly weather to gather on St. Stephen's lawn to celebrate the LGBTQ youth community in Lynn. BE YOU and OASIS teens created a safe place where "All are welcome" with info tables, yummy treats, make-up tent, music, and so much more. A special thank you to all our supporters, especially: Siobhan Panias, Shanel Anderson, the North Shore Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Youth, the Lynn YMCA, the Poppe family, Helen Patmon, Lucinda McClain, the Diocese of Massachusetts, Neil O'Donnell, Mark Gendreau and Harry Jackson!

TEENS FUNDRAISING FOR SUMMER LEARNING TRIP. This summer OASIS will travel to St. Paul, Virginia for a week-long mission trip with the impoverished communities of Appalachia. The teens will meet and work with families who require assistance with home repairs. The teens need your help with fundraising: buy a treat at the Oasis Bake Sale on July 16, purchase snacks and drinks, donate a gift card...and of course lots of prayers!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETS JULY 9 AND AUGUST 20, NOON-2. The Middle School group will meet with Jason and Rev. Sarah this summer for rest and relaxation. In July we will talk about the importance of taking time to sit in the stillness of God. In August we will take a surprise field trip! For more info talk with Rev. Sarah.

ACOLYTES WORKING HARD IN THE SUMMER. The Church School and Choir may take a break during the summer, but the acolytes keep on working! We are blessed with a strong middle school team and they are still learning the acolyte expectations. So if you notice something amiss please speak with the clergy. The senior acolyte team will gather for dinner and fun with Rev. Sarah in July.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEAM RETREAT JULY 15. It was another great year of formation and fun in our Church School program. On June 11 we thanked all our Church School teachers: Kendra Zimiroski, Keri Whitcomb, Jamie Shore, Maranda Easton, Kevin Neil, Rachel Baldwin, Vicky Harriss-Provost, Paul Whitcomb, Lucinda McClain, Emily Shelton, and Neil O'Donnell. **On Saturday, July 15, 9am-2pm, there will be a Church School Teachers' Retreat at Rev. Sarah's house.** Any adults interested in working with the Church School are welcome to attend!

KIC MUSIC RESUMES IN SEPTEMBER. KIC Music offers a Monday-Thursday after school program. If you're looking for a place where your elementary child can play in a music ensemble, learn piano and drumming, and receive homework help, KIC Music may be for you. We'll also be looking for adult volunteers to help with homework in the early evening. Stay tuned!

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS JULY 20. In June the Beloved Community Team attended a screening of the film, "I Am Not Your Negro" at RAW Artworks. The evening ended with adults and teens sharing their fears and frustrations about the world. At the July meeting the BCT will continue conversations begun at RAW and brainstorm ways to further engage teens.

ECCO BOAT CRUISE FUND RAISER. In addition to supporting ECCO with our time and talent, ECCO needs our financial support. **Sunday, August 20, ECCO is holding a sunset boat cruise fund raiser.** There will be lots of tasty snacks, a DJ and dancing, and a cash bar. The boat leaves out of Gloucester. The rain date is August 27. Please let clergy know if you want a ticket.

PICO WOMEN & POWER CONFERENCE. August 1-2 Pam Alleyne, Teka Lumumba, Helen Patmon, Pam Poppe, and Joyce Wallace will join Rev. Jane and Rev. Sarah at PICO's Women and Power gathering at Simmons College. The PICO Network seeks to understand and address the intersectionality of oppression with a particular commitment to engage issues of women and race. PICO's expectation is that we will bring what we learn back to our congregation, ECCO, and MCAN.

HELP HUNGRY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. Food Pantries in the city are serving more people than ever. We can use your help Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 at St. Stephen's. To volunteer or find out more, talk with Sally Gosselin. We also need people to **join the combined St. Stephen's-St. Andrew's-St. Michael's Table Team serving supper at My Brother's Table from 4:00-7:00 on First Tuesdays-- July 4 or August 1.**