



Summer 2021 NEWSLETTER
A Message from Reverend Greg

Summer is here! For Doug and me, it will be our first Summer in New England and now that most restrictions are being slowly lifted, we are looking forward to exploring more of the Commonwealth.

In my experience, the Summer months have always been a slow time in the life of a congregation. Individuals and families leave for vacation, schedules change and overall, life slows down. Since allowing in-person worship, I have enjoyed meeting people for the first time since arriving in September of 2020. Gradually, life is returning to normal and we are now open to full capacity but are requesting individuals to wear a mask while in the building, as we do not know who is or is not vaccinated.

On July 19, 2021 I celebrate 35 years of ordained ministry and I have been fortunate to have experienced so many blessings during these years. It is only because of God's grace that I am engaged in this sacred work. I cannot even count the number of baptisms, weddings, or funerals in which I have officiated. I can, however, remember that very hot and humid day that I was ordained in Austin, Texas. I can also remember the words my mother whispered to me the day I left for seminary: *"Remember, this is what you always wanted to do."* She was so right!

On the back of my ordination card, I had the prayer of Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO, printed:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

(Thomas Merton, Thoughts in Solitude)

How true these words have been for me! I hope that my desire to please the Lord in all that I do as a priest, will always be strong and clear and I pray that these words will be a blessing for you as well.

I end with a sad note. On May 18, 2021, we lost one of our two four-legged children. Sweet Pea left us and returned to my dad and mom (her original “parents”) on ‘The Other Side.’ Just recently (July 14), we had to bid farewell to the last of our four-legged children. Charlie missed his adopted sister too much and decided it was time to join her. The Lutheran theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer shares a remarkable story of a young boy and Herr Wolf and it is included in his book, *The Grace of Dogs*, by Andrew Root:

One day, a ten-year-old boy came to see Bonhoeffer. Breaking down and crying, the boy explained that his beloved German shepherd, Mr. Wolf, had just died. The boy sobbed as he told the story, but soon his tears stopped and he asked Bonhoeffer, with deep intensity, “Tell me now, Herr Bonhoeffer, will I see Mr. Wolf again? He is surely in heaven?”

Bonhoeffer explained in a letter to a friend that he was dumbfounded. He didn’t know what to say. Never before had one of his astute professors or gifted fellow students made such an inquiry, a question that Bonhoeffer could see meant so much to this grieving boy.

Bonhoeffer sat with the boy, feeling small next to his important question. Clearly Mr. Wolf had meant so much to the boy. The overly confident protégé, who had always been told he had a brilliant answer for every theological question, now sat humbled by the boy’s love for his dead dog.

Finally, turning to the boy, Bonhoeffer said, “Well, we know you loved Mr. Wolf, and we know that God loves you. And we know that God loves all the animals. So, yes, yes, I think you will indeed see Mr. Wolf in heaven, for I believe that God loses nothing that God loves.”

And I say AMEN to that! Enjoy your Summer!

Rev. Greg

JOIN US IN CHURCH FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10:00 AM

No need to register ahead of time, or sign in, but please wear your mask!

AND, STARTING AUGUST 1ST, the 8:00 AM Service Returns!

We will gather in the church, and the service will take place in the Choir (Chancel).

To Watch the 10AM Service From Home: Tune in to the **live service weekly at 10:00 am** right here on our website, on the [St. Stephen's YouTube Channel](#), or via the YouTube App on your phone, tablet, or Smart TV.

[Subscribe to the St. Stephen's YouTube Channel](#) to easily find this broadcast on your YouTube App on any device. After setting your reminder, simply open the YouTube App on your Smart TV, tablet, or phone and log in with the same Google/YouTube account to see the scheduled broadcast.

To Watch With Others: [You can join the Zoom Meeting using this link](#) and using the passcode previously provided to all congregants. You'll be able to see other congregants in the Zoom meeting while watching. Additionally, join a few minutes before 10:00 am or stay after the service ends to chat live with other congregants. If you need help with the password, or with using Zoom or YouTube, please email ststephens@ststephenslynn.org or call the office.





2021 Scholarship Recipients

Jared Zimiroski, Northeastern University - *William Rodrigue Scholarship*

Kayla McCellon, Bucknell University - *Babette Dickens Scholarship*

Elizabeth Trahan, Gordon College - *Shawn Robinson Scholarship*

Kiara Wilson Suffolk University - *Martha "Pat" and James M. Harriss Scholarship*

Kati Whitcomb, University of New England - *Michael Jude Provost Scholarship*

Gzanè Williams, U Mass Boston - *William & Dorothy Robinson Scholarship*

Christopher Pozo, U Mass Lowell - *George Burkholder Scholarship*

CONGRATULATIONS TO KEVIN GORDON NEIL – ORDAINED AS DEACON ON JUNE 5, 2021!
Once again, St. Stephen’s has raised one of its own to serve as clergy in the Church!



Kevin came to us during his college days as a Sunday School teacher, along with several other students from Gordon College. Upon graduation he served as a diocesan discernment program intern and entered the ordination process. St. Stephen’s was his sponsoring parish. During his seminary years at Boston University, he continued to work at the diocesan program MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always) a ministry of and with the homeless community in downtown Boston.



In-person attendance at the ordination was limited due to COVID restrictions, but the ordination was live-streamed and was glorious, as you can see from the photos.

Kevin has been called to the St John’s the Evangelist mission church in San Francisco saintjohnsf.org where he will become their vicar. He says many things there reminds him of St. Stephen’s. He has asked us keep him in our prayers as he transitions over to CA and a new job.

KIDS IN COMMUNITY SUMMER PROGRAM OPEN JULY 12 – AUGUST 6



After much planning and preparation, Kids in Community opened its summer program on July 12. 39 children in grades 1 through 6 enrolled and 13 local teens and young adults are serving as Group Leaders and Teen Mentors. The Summer Program will run for four weeks, until August 6, and we hope to be in the church yards as much as possible. We are truly excited to be resuming in-person activities with the children!

One important aspect of KIC is academic support. This year, we need literacy volunteers more than ever. If you are a fully vaccinated adult who would like to spend your morning reading to and with children, one-on-one or in small groups, **WE NEED YOU!** The first week of camp, starting July 12, is officially St. Stephen's week (our friends at St. Andrew's will cover the last week), but we could use your help at any time. You can come once, twice, or much more often. We welcome any time you can give to the children! Contact either Bonnie Bishop (781-771-4979 bishopbw@gmail.com) or Shannon Morrissey (781-599-4220 Ext #4 or smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org) if you want to help.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

COVID19 has been a rough time, for us all, and it created special challenges for the Food Pantry. We went from 85 people a week to 240 at the height of the pandemic, but as of last month, it seems that we are leveling off to about 150 per week. (Thank God). Rapidly expanding to serve so many more people, we had some very challenging times with the weather, space, no food, too much food, no bags, too many bags, few volunteers and our ongoing problem of no regular driver to pick up the food. With the support of a few dedicated volunteers, especially from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn, we ran a Food Pantry.

To get ready for the re-opening of KIC and NA Meetings, and with the help of two grants and several generous donations, we bought a large upright commercial refrigerator and matching freezer, allowing us to consolidate all the necessary freezers and refrigerators in one room. In addition, we re-organized the storage of all of the dry foods and canned goods to other parts of the church, allowing regular church activities to restart, while continuing to serve more people through the Food Pantry than in the past.



We want to thank those who have given monetary support, food, bags, or just simply prayers for us, those who came week after week to pack bags, and distribute food to our clients despite the weather and the Pandemic.

We made it this far only by Faith. Thank you!, Thank you!, Thank you!.

By the grace of God we are running a Food Pantry.

Pam Alleyne and Joyce Wallace

P.S. We especially need help for one hour, once a month, when we get our food delivery from the Greater Boston Food Bank. In that one hour, we unload 9,000 pounds of food - 20 to 40 pound boxes - off of pallets and into our storage areas. Katherine from the UU Church in Swampscott has been helping with this for months now, as well as Phillip from St. Stephen's, but we need at least 2 or 3 more able-bodied volunteers to help with this one task. **The food is delivered on the second Friday of each month at 11:15 am. We need help from 11:30 to 12:30 on these dates:**

August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10

Please contact Pam Poppe at pamelapoppe61@gmail.com or 781 913 5190, if you can take one or more of these days, or if you have a child or grandchild who can help us on any of these days. We need consistent reliable helpers if we want to continue this important ministry.

IMPORTANT NEWS – PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

**Child Tax Credit:
DIRECT PAYMENTS TO FAMILIES
START THIS MONTH!**

AUTOMATIC MONTHLY PAYMENTS FOR NEARLY ALL WORKING FAMILIES

- \$3,000 per child 6-17 years old (\$250 per month)
- \$3,600 per child under 6 (\$300 per month)
- All working families will get the full credit if they make up to \$150,000 for a couple or \$112,500 for a family with a single parent

- If you've filed tax returns for 2019 or 2020, or if you signed up to receive a stimulus check from the IRS, you will get this automatically. You do not need to sign up or take any action.
- If you didn't make enough to file taxes in 2020 or 2019, you can still get benefits. Go to childtaxcredit.gov for more info.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group is an opportunity for fellowship for women from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's. We meet on the second Sunday of the month, from 12:30 to 2 PM. To get the Zoom invitation to join the meeting, please contact St. Stephen's office.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM

Join the Beloved Community Team in reading "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown in preparation for a September workshop conducted by the Mission Institute facilitators, Katie Ernst, Co-Director and our own Hazel Monae. The workshop is September 1, 6-8 p.m. on Zoom. ALL ARE WELCOME to this workshop. Please contact Helen Patmon at mustangblueinc@comcast.net or Pamela Poppe at pamelapoppe61@gmail.com for further information.

The Beloved Community Team is a multiracial group of men and women from St. Stephen's and from St. Andrew's in Marblehead learning from each other and supporting each other to personally unlearn racism and to work to change racist policies and structures. We meet once a month, on the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7-9 PM.

ST. STEPHEN'S HISTORY

Lt. Col. Charles Redington Mudge, in whose memory this church was given by his father, Enoch Redington Mudge, was a Civil War hero who died at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. His body is interred in our garth.

Charles Redington Mudge was born in New York City, the son of Enoch Redington Mudge and Caroline A. (Patton) Mudge of Boston and Swampscott. He went to Mr. Thomas G. Bradford's private school in Boston and entered Harvard College in 1856. He was very popular with his classmates and was active in extracurricular activities. He was an excellent boxer, a good oarsman, an active and prominent member of the Glee club and served as Vice-President of the Hasty Pudding Club for one term. When he graduated in 1860, he planned to enter the manufacturing business owned by his father. The outbreak of the Civil War changed his occupation and his destiny. Along with many of his classmates and other young men, he sought a commission in the Second Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. He was commissioned as a First Lieutenant on May 25, 1861. The regiment left Massachusetts on July 8, 1861, the same day Mudge was commissioned as Captain. The Second Massachusetts Volunteers were noted for their discipline and drills as well as for the character of their officers. When the unit fought at Chancellorsville, Mudge had been promoted to Major, and took command when Lt. Col. Cogswell was wounded. After the battle had ended, he wrote to his father: "I trust the first news you will hear will be of my safety, so that you will suffer no anxiety. I have not even a bullet through my clothes... Our men behaved better than ever. Cogswell was wounded early, and I then took command, gaining and holding ground for fifteen minutes without a cartridge, until ordered to retire, which I did very slowly, halting and facing frequently. We took in four hundred and thirty men and twenty-two officers, and lost, as near as I can get it at present, twenty-two men killed, ninety-eight wounded, sixteen missing; one officer killed, four wounded, several grazed. I think the killed is larger, as none of the wounded could have lived long." His last promotion, to Lieutenant Colonel, was granted on June 6, 1863. On July 3rd at seven o'clock in the morning, orders came to advance against a formidable position held by a vastly larger enemy force. "Are



you sure that is the order?" Lt. Col. Mudge asked the messenger. "Yes sir!" came the reply. With his famous words, "It is murder but it is the order," the brave young leader gave the command, "Forward, double-quick." Advancing as quickly as the swampy ground would permit, Lt. Col. Mudge cheered on the men, who were devoted to him. But in the middle of the field, waving his sword to encourage the regiment behind him, this gallant young man of St. Stephen's Parish fell to the ground mortally wounded.

NOTICES

No Vestry Meeting in the Month of July

A reminder: The Vestry will have a virtual meeting with the consultant, The Rev. Bill Kondrath on Tuesday July 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Rev. Greg will send the Zoom link to members.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A CALL FROM THE CHURCH?

If you know someone who's feeling the loss of community and connection with St. Stephen's, please contact the office to let Rev. Greg or Brandi Walker know.

GET THE NEWSLETTER FASTER, AND SAVE POSTAGE AND PAPER...

Email or call Brandi to update your email address and ask for newsletter to be emailed to you each month! Brandi can be reached at (781) 599-4220 Ext. 5 or ststephens@ststephenslynn.org

ST. STEPHEN'S PHONE SYSTEM HAS BEEN UPDATED!

When calling the main number, you will hear an introductory message, followed by a directory so that you can leave private messages for Rev. Greg Perez (#2), Parish Administrator Brandi Walker (#5), the Treasurer (#3), KIC Program Director, Shannon Morrissey (#4) and General Mailbox (#1).

(Keep this handy – save time by dialing the extension number during the opening message!)

New Layout Title

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10:00 am KIC Building Inspection	2	3
4 Independence Day Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:Proper 9 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English	5 Independence Day observed KIC Summer Training Sabbath Rest (PIC)	6 KIC Summer Training Maria cleaning Newsletter deadline 11:00 am staff meeting	7 KIC Summer Training 11:00 am Bruce Music Meeting	8 KIC Summer Training 12:00 pm A-1 Exterminators 3:00 pm KIC Family Orientation 7:00 pm Beloved Community Team	9 KIC Summer Training 10:00 am Rick Richardson- N/A 2:00 pm Food Pantry	10
11 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost:Proper 10 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English	12 Sabbath Rest (PIC) 10:30 am N/A Meeting	13 KIC Drum Instruction 9:30 am Ramey-Haven Pick-up 11:00 am staff meeting	14 KIC Bullying Presentation 11:00 am Bruce Music Meeting	15 KIC Drum Instruction	16 Food Pantry 2:00 pm	17
18 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:Proper 11 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:30 am Liturgy Team Meeting	19 Sabbath Rest (PIC)	20 KIC Drum instruction 11:00 am staff meeting 6:00 pm N/A	21 KIC Theatre Visit 10:00 am Brian realm training 11:00 am Bruce Music Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Study	22 Saint Mary Magdalene KIC Drum Instruction 10:00 am St. Stephen's Church & TuttleCo Check-in	23 KIC Science Visit 11:00 am Cheryl Maye Mowbray 2:00 pm Food Pantry	24
25 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:Proper 12 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:30 am Warden's Meeting w/ PIC	26 Saint James Sabbath Rest (PIC)	27 KIC Drum Instruction KIC Library Visit 11:00 am staff meeting 6:00 pm N/A 7:00 pm Vestry and Rev. Kondrath, Consultant	28 Bruce Music Meeting 4:00 pm KIC Board Meeting Virtual 6:30 pm Bible Study	29 KIC Puppet Show	30 KIC YMCA Visit 2:00 pm Food Pantry	31