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A MESSAGE FROM

THE REV. GREG PEREZ, PRIEST IN CHARGE



Recently, two powerful voices were silenced. Two beautiful lights extinguished. The first, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, died on December 26, 2021. In his book, *The Book of Joy: Lasting happiness in a changing world*, author Douglas Abrams interviews both Archbishop Tutu and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. One particular statement by the archbishop struck me: “We depend on the other in order for us to be fully who we are. I didn’t know that I was going to

come so soon to the concept that we have at home, the concept of Ubuntu. It says: A person is a person through other persons.” (Abrams, pg. 60)

Archbishop Tutu led up to this statement by first describing solitary confinement as “horrendous punishment.” We quickly learned this when the world went into lockdown in March of 2020, soon to be two years ago. When people were finally allowed into the church for in-person worship, I could see the joy on people’s faces. The only thing absent was the ability to embrace one another.

On January 22, 2022, the second voice to be silenced was that of Zen Master, Thich Nhat Hanh. The Zen Master was born in Vietnam in 1926 and was a Buddhist monk, peace activist, prolific author, poet, teacher and founder of the Plum Village. He is known as the “father of mindfulness,” and he influenced notable individuals in the West, in particular, Cistercian monk, Thomas Merton and Martin Luther King, Jr.

In reality, their voices live on through those who have been guided by their words and teachings. It is those who listened to them and put their words into practice that will carry their teachings and souls forward.

We will end the Season of Light (Epiphany) on March 1, 2022 and will begin the Season of Lent. However, the Season of Light really never ends, does it? You and I are that light that we carry into the world through our love, our words and our very presence. We

carry that light to others because in the spirit of Ubuntu, we come to the realization that in fact we need each other, and that realization is love.

Archbishop Tutu ended his teaching on Ubuntu by saying, “This God is community, fellowship. Being created by this God, we are created in order to flourish. And we flourish in community.” (Abrams, pg. 62) May we all flourish together, excluding no one and welcoming all.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday through Friday – 8:30am – 4:00pm

ASH WEDNESDAY



On March 2, 2022, we begin the Season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. For those who are able, we will gather at 7 pm that evening to have a simple Eucharist with the imposition of ashes. Our Bishops issued the following pastoral guidance regarding Ash Wednesday:

While devoutly cherished, **the imposition of ashes is an optional portion of the Ash Wednesday liturgy**, which includes in its richness the exposition of the Gospel; the powerful Lenten exhortation; and the penitential outpouring of Psalm 51 and the Litany.

• **“Ashes to Go” should be forgone again this year.** The protocols for safety and precautions which we maintain in our houses of worship cannot be presumed or regulated in public places, especially outdoor locations. Therefore, despite the popularity this practice has achieved as a form of evangelism and pastoral outreach, its practice should be deferred again this year.

- If desired, **ashes may be made available to people in their homes**, in the manner suggested by prior guidelines for the distribution of previously consecrated communion elements. A small quantity of ashes, having been blessed and placed in a small envelope, plastic bag, or disposable covered cup, may be distributed to the homes of the people by clergy, lay visitors, or pastoral caregivers, or obtained during specified hours at the church. Worshipers are to self-impose the ashes during a subsequent online Ash Wednesday liturgy. At pastoral visits where ashes are imposed, a Q-tip or cotton ball is to be used for the imposition of ashes, using a new swab or cotton ball for each person.
- Clergy should be **masked and the ashes covered** during the prayer offered over the ashes.
- **At in-person services where ashes will be offered**, one of three methods should be followed:
 - Ashes may be distributed to worshipers in a small container for self-imposition, as described above;
 - Ashes may be imposed by the clergy with a single-use Q-tip or cotton ball (using a new swab or cotton ball for each person);
 - Ashes may be imposed by the clergy directly but only if the thumb is cleansed each time with a disinfectant wipe or similar cleansing agent *before each imposition*.
- The bishops continue to emphasize that **all churches are to observe the protocols set forth in our communication of [Jan. 12](#)**. Requirements include mandatory mask-wearing at all church events, physical distancing between households, and full vaccination of all persons who are engaged in ministry with the most vulnerable, including children age 12 and under, homebound or immune-compromised persons, and those in hospitals and care facilities.
- If ashes are to be distributed for self-imposition (as above), **extreme care is to be exercised in the preparation and packaging**: wash hands thoroughly before preparation; wear a mask at all times during preparation; if gloves are worn for preparation, use only disposable gloves and wash and/or sanitize hands before donning gloves; thoroughly clean any vessels used in preparation, before and after use.

THE VESTRY

Are you called to leadership? Lay leadership in the Episcopal Church is a tradition that extends back to when Anglican parishes reorganized into the Episcopal Church after the American Revolution. Lay leaders play important roles in lives of our parish, deanery, diocese, and the wider Episcopal Church.

Here at St. Stephen's, our Nominating Committee is seeking individuals who are interested in serving in leadership positions in various capacities. Elections will take place at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at Noon.

The Vestry

This board is the legal entity of the parish. Thirteen parishioners and The Reverend Gregory Perez form the Vestry. It oversees parish finances and develops budgets as well as supports the clergy in conducting our common ministry together. The Vestry meets monthly and conducts the work of the parish between Annual Meetings. All vestry persons must be members of the parish aged 16 years or older, maintain regular public worship and support the parish financially. Long standing Vestry tradition and policy is that all vestry members support the parish financially through their pledge and that no vestry members from the same household or family serve concurrently. The Vestry is comprised of four officers who conduct the work of vestry between monthly meetings. As required by state law, all officers of the vestry must be 18 years or older.

Senior Warden and Junior Warden

The Senior and Junior Wardens manage and care for the parish's property, sign legal documents and contracts, and most importantly, support the clergy in identifying and conducting our common ministries for the parish. Wardens ensure that public worship takes place in the absence of the parish priest. In addition to the previously mentioned requirements, candidates for Warden must be a Confirmed or Received communicant of the Episcopal Church. Terms are 1 year in length, for a maximum of three successive terms. After completing three successive terms, the Junior Warden is eligible to be a candidate for the Senior Warden position.

Clerk

The clerk maintains parish membership rolls, records all proceedings of Vestry and Annual Meetings, and certifies documents when required. Terms are 1 year in length, for a maximum of six successive terms.

Treasurer

The treasurer maintains the financial records for the parish and arranges for their regular review at Vestry meetings. In compliance with Diocesan regulations, the treasurer arranges for the audit all financial records and accounts annually. Terms are 1 year in length for a maximum of six successive terms.

Vestry Members

There are nine seats on the Vestry, all serving one three-year term. Three seats (or more in case of a vacancy) are up for election at each annual meeting. Vestry members support the work of the parish in its ministry and are active participants in the life of the parish.

The Deanery Assembly

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts is divided into twelve regions or deaneries. St. Stephen's is a member parish of the North Shore Deanery, which extends from Lynn to Ipswich and eastward to Cape Ann. Delegates from the parishes within the deanery gather quarterly for fellowship, trainings/workshops on Diocesan initiatives and ministries, vote on the distribution of grant monies to parishes as allocated to the deanery through our diocese. Delegates also elect two (one lay and one clergy) representatives to serve on Diocesan Council. In addition to the dissemination of essential information and resources, delegates from deanery parishes gather for fellowship, building closer relationships with our sister parishes across the North Shore and Cape Ann. St. Stephen's has six lay votes at the Deanery assembly. Four members serve as Deanery Delegates at-large, and two members serve both at the Deanery level but also represent St. Stephen's at Diocesan Convention. Terms are 1 year in length; no term limits.

Diocesan Convention

All parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts get two lay votes at Diocesan Convention and may vote on motions, amendments, and elections for diocesan positions and for deputies to General Convention (the triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church). When an election for a bishop is called, parish delegates get to cast their votes. There are seats for two delegates and up to two alternates (substitutes). The parish pays for convention expenses for voting delegates. Convention delegates must also be willing to be voting members at the Deanery assembly. Terms are 1 year in length; no term limits.

If you are interested in expanding the ways in which you can serve your St. Stephen's community, please consider these positions. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Nominating Committee—Pamela Alleyne, Rev. Greg Perez, Chris Trahan, and Nelson Woodfork.

ANNUAL MEETING

St. Stephen's Annual Meeting will be held on February 27, 2022, at 12:00pm. All Ministry Areas need to have their reports for the Annual Report submitted to the office by February 15, 2022.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER IS MARCH 1, 2022.



Have you “liked” the facebook page for St. Stephen’s? Be sure to check out our facebook page for weekly updates and messages.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to purchase Altar Flowers in memory or in honor of someone? Please contact John Churchwell at the Parish Office to secure the Sunday you want to donate flowers.

RACIAL JUSTICE MINSITRY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Alan Gates and Bishop Gayle Harris have appointed **Tim Potter** to the Racial Justice Commission of the Diocese. Congratulations, Tim. We know you will do an outstanding job representing St. Stephen's.

KIC (Kids in Community)

The Advisory Board met to discuss the sustainability of KIC. Unfortunately, the program will be closing on Feb. 3, 2022. The Board had to make this difficult decision based on the following reasons: Due to COVID, it has become impossible to keep KIC financially stable; In addition, COVID has had a negative impact on KIC's ability to hire and maintain staff; and lastly, COVID has kept the enrollment low, making its viability challenging. This has been a difficult decision but a necessary one. The Board is deeply appreciative to Shannon Morrissey, Brandon Mayes and other staff members who have worked hard to provide excellent services to the students and parents.

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry continues to give out an average of 170 bags of food each week. Whether it is freezing cold or sub-zero temperatures with the wind chill, folks in need will be lined up waiting to receive a bag of food. We have been able to bring registration inside with the help of volunteers, guiding clients in through the dining room and out through the kitchen. With grant funding we ordered and received 17 lightweight folding tables making things much easier for volunteers to set up and break down.

Paul Bowen the director of outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Lynnfield has offered himself and other members of his church to help us with the food deliveries and other needs. We hope to expand our volunteer base to include the UU Church and St. Paul's and our dedicated parishioners at St. Stephen's. If you are able-bodied and able to carry boxes up to 40 pounds, please consider volunteering on the mornings of food delivery.

There are many other places where people can volunteer to help. For more information on volunteering on a Thursday or Friday, please contact Pam Poppe, who organizes our volunteers, at pamelapoppe61@gmail.com, or text her at 781 913 5190.

Sincerely,
Pam Alleyne, Pam Poppe, Joyce Wallace



For the month of March 2022, St. Stephen's Food Pantry has been selected to receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker (pictured below) sold at the store located at 35 Washington Street, Lynn MA.



BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM

The Beloved Community Team continues to meet monthly to do the anti-racism work we have been called to do. Our meeting days have changed from the second Thursday of the month to the third Thursday of the month as many of our members are also members of ECCO, and there was a conflict.

Our BCT members from St. Andrew's in Marblehead are leading an event that will happen in May with Debby Irving, a well known racial justice educator and the author of "Waking Up White." We will post more details when we have them and hope you will come to this important event and invite your family and friends to come as well.

Racial Justice is something that white folks need to acknowledge and educate themselves on. We need to acknowledge the history of racism, inequity, slavery and systemic injustice and so much more. Until we white folks educate ourselves and truly understand the history and what is still going on, and perhaps become actively involved in making change . . . things will continue. Let us all be agents of much needed change.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group took January off, and will not meet in February. We are hoping to resume - in person - in March of this year. We have received grant funding from the Deanery and hope to make a difference in the community with the help of these funds. Please come to the meetings if you are available, all are welcome. We are also looking for new leadership as Charlotte and Joyce have been leading this group for years now. Anyone is welcome to facilitate a meeting as well.

Here is a list of the upcoming Women's Group meetings in 2022, Sundays, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm: March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11. Apr 10, and November 13 will be hosted by and at St. Andrew's in Marblehead.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR RAFFLE

The Calendar Raffle has been a great success. Winners started to be pulled on February 1 and names will be posted on the website after each winner is notified on their day. One prize, the \$100 gift card to the Hawthorne Hotel was upgraded to a one night stay with breakfast included.

So far we have raised over \$5000. Dollars. Our biggest seller, Tina Lloyd sold 120 tickets worth \$1200. She will be rewarded with dinner by Rev. Greg. Tina always does a fantastic job selling our raffle tickets. People certainly were encouraged by our array of wonderful prizes. Thank you to all who donated money and prizes, and a special thank you to Lucinda McClain who brought in the two hotel stays as well as several other great gift cards.

Winner's names will be posted on a bulletin board at church as they are chosen and the full list will be in the next newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!

February 17, 2022 – BCT – 6:30pm

February 27, 2022 – Annual Meeting – 12:00pm

March 2, 2022 – Ash Wednesday – 7:00pm

March 6, 2022 – The First Sunday in Lent

PARISH CALENDAR

Please notify the Parish Office of any meetings or functions so that all events can be put on our digital calendar for the website.

FEBRUARY'S CALENDAR/SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	7	8 Office Open 6:30pm NA Group	9 Office Open 11:00am Music Ministry Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study John 2:1-11	10 Office Open	11 Office Open 2:30pm Food Pantry	12
13 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	14	15 Office Open 6:30pm NA Group	16 Office Open 11:00am Music Ministry Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study Luke 4:14-21	17 Office Open	18 Office Open 2:30pm Food Pantry	19
20 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	21	22 Office Open 6:30pm NA Group	23 Office Open 11:00am Music Ministry Meeting 6:30pm Bible Study Luke 4:21-30	24 Office Open 6:30pm BCT	25 Office Open 2:30pm Food Pantry	26
27 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist 12:00pm Annual Meeting	28					

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND READERS SCHEDULE

February 6, 2022

Readers: Ginny Fuller – 1st Reading

Ruthanne Switzer – Psalm and 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Dorothy Post, Bob Dixon

February 13, 2022

Readers: Conrad Squires – 1st Reading and Psalm

Kent Wittrup – 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Pam Alleyne, Dorothy Post

February 20, 2022

Readers: Dorothy Post – 1st Reading

Ginny Fuller – Psalm and 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Nelson Woodfork, Bob Dixon

February 27, 2022

Readers: Steve Switzer – 1st Reading and Psalm

Ruthanne Switzer – 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Bob Dixon, Pam Alleyne (Prayers)

ST. STEPHEN'S ON YOUTUBE



For those reading this on your smart phone or computer, click on the links below to see The Rev. Greg Perez's weekly videos from January!

[The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ](#)

[The Second Sunday After the Epiphany – Jesus turns water into wine](#)

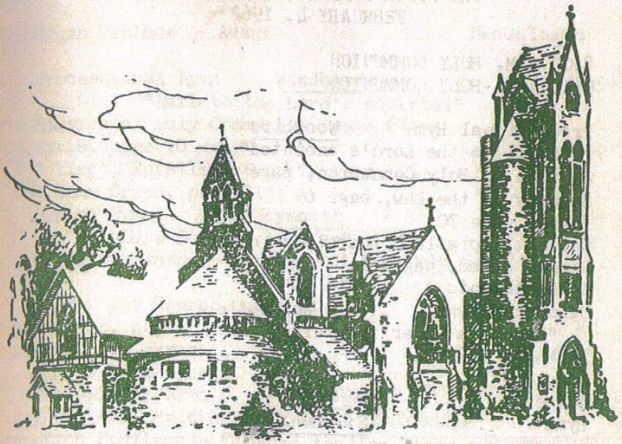
[Ministry is messy!](#)

[Lectionary for the Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany](#)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The bulletin from February 4, 1962

ST. STEPHEN'S MEMORIAL CHURCH
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS



The Rev. Edgar D. Romig, Rector, LY 8-2167
The Rev. Stanley P. Hardy, Assistant Minister, LY 8-5880
The Rev. William H. Freeman, Assistant Minister, LY 2-1095
Clifford W. Webber, Organist and Choirmaster, LY 2-5147

Parish House Office Hours: 9 to 5 except on Mondays. LY 9-4220

Holy Baptism is normally administered on the last Sunday of the month. Read this bulletin for details.

The Bishop administers Confirmation on Wednesday in Holy Week. Classes are held the eight Sunday afternoons preceding. Everyone is welcome.

The ministers are happy to celebrate the Holy Communion for sick and shut-in members in home or hospital upon request.

For information concerning marriages see one of the ministers.

Funerals are normally held in the church, in accordance with the clear direction of the Prayer Book. See one of the ministers for further information.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

8:00 Holy Communion
9:15 Family Service and Church School
11:00 Morning Service

ST. STEPHEN'S MEMORIAL CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 4, 1962

8:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION
9:15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

Processional Hymn	Woodbird	545*
"Hail to the Lord's anointed"		
Service of Holy Communion, page 67*		
Summary of the Law, page 6*		
Kyrie, page 70		702
Collect, Epistle & Gospel, page 115		
Nicene Creed, page 71		
Announcements		
Offertory Hymn	Weymouth.	401
"Behold a Sower from afar"		
Birthday Blessing		
Doxology		139
Address		
Hymn	St. Dunstan	563
"He who would valiant be"		
Prayer for Church, page 74		
The Communion, page 82		
Prayer of Thanksgiving, page 83		
Recessional Hymn	Stuttgart	280
"God, my King, thy might confessing"		
Benediction		

* * *

Visitors and new-comers are asked to sign the Guest Book and make themselves known to one of the ministers.

* * *

*The numbers in the left-hand column refer to pages in the Prayer Book, and in the right-hand column to hymns and chants in the Hymnal.

11:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

Organ Prelude - Adagio	Mendelssohn	
Processional Hymn	Woodbird	545*
"Hail to the Lord's anointed"		
Service of Holy Communion, page 67*		
Kyrie, page 70		702
Collect, Epistle & Gospel, page 115		
Nicene Creed, page 71		
Sermon Hymn	Weymouth	401
"Behold a Sower from afar"		
Offertory Anthem - Grieve Not Thy Holy Spirit		
	of God	Stainer
Prayer for Church, page 74		
Sanctus, page 77		704
Communion Hymns		196, 201
Gloria in excelsis, page 84		707
Recessional Hymn	Stuttgart	280
"God, my King, thy might confessing"		
Organ Postlude - Fugue	Mendelssohn	

* * * *

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Alice E. and David Downes, Hazel Coates, Clara W. Coates, William J. Coates, Walter Horne, Baby Beth Collette and Mary J. Keay

* * *

The flowers on the Memorial Altar are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of William N. Sparkes

Today: Y.P.F. Bowling, 2:00 P.M.
Tues. 8:00 P.M. M.P.A. Whist Party.
Wed. 3:30 P.M. Boys' choir rehearsal.
 Fleur-de-Lis Meeting postponed.
Thurs. 7:00 A.M. Holy Communion.
 10:00 A.M. Holy Communion with meditation.
 11:00 A.M. M.P.A. Sewing.
 8:00 P.M. Adult choir rehearsal.
Fri. 3:30 P.M. Boys' choir rehearsal.
Fri. Junior High Record Hop sponsored by Fleur-de-Lis Maids.
Sat. 9:00 A.M. Rally. Little Sisters and Maids of Fleur-de-Lis go to St. Paul's Cathedral, Boston. Bring box lunch.

Coming Events

Feb. 21 - Cabinet meeting at the Rectory.
 Feb. 22 - Washington Birthday Communion at Church of the Holy Name, Swampscott. See A.P. Hicks for tickets.
 Feb. 24, Y.P.F. Bean supper.
 Feb. 27, M.P.A. Rummage Sale.
 Feb. 28, 7:30 P.M. Fleur-de-Lis Devotional Pilgrimage of Church. Girls and Women of Parish invited.
 Mar. 5, Men's Club Council meeting.
 March 6, Women's Division Whist Party.
 March 6, Pancake Supper sponsored by Y.P.F.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Classes begin Sun., Feb. 25, at 4:30 P.M. Each session will conclude with a brief service at 6:00. The following are eligible: (a) all adults, whether or not they have been confirmed, and (b) all young people in the Seventh Grade or above who are members in good standing of St. Stephen's Church School. The three ministers will share in the teaching. Please speak to one of us if you have any questions about the classes. E.D.R.

Sun., Feb. 11, 11:00 A.M. Induction of new Officers and Vestrymen.

St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church

74 South Common Street

Lynn, MA 01920

