



# January Newsletter

A Message from The Rev. Greg Perez

Introduction of John Churchwell, Office Manager

Vestry Leadership Positions

Annual Meeting

St. Stephen's on Facebook

Altar Flowers

Forward Day by Day

KIC (Kids in Community)

Food Pantry

MLK Weekend

Stewardship

Poinsettia Memorials

Save the Date!

Parish Calendar

Eucharistic Minister and Readers Schedule

# A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. GREG PEREZ, PRIEST IN CHARGE



Happy New Year and a Blessed Epiphany

Epiphany, also known as the “Theophany,” is generally celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>. At St. Stephen’s, we chose to celebrate it on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you search for the word, *Epiphany* in the glossary definitions as found in *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians*, (Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY, Don S.

Armentrout and Robert Boak Slocum, editors), you will find the following:

“The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on Jan. 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies," of Jesus' divinity. These showings of his divinity included his birth, the coming of the Magi, his baptism, and the Wedding at Cana where he miraculously changed water into wine. The day was called "The Feast of Lights." Celebration of the Son of God replaced celebration of the sun. Baptisms were done, and a season of preparation was instituted. It was later called Advent.

The solstice was kept on Dec. 25 by the fourth century. Jesus' birth was celebrated on this day in both eastern and western churches. The western church commemorated the coming of the Magi on Jan. 6. The eastern church continued to celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and the Wedding at Cana on Jan. 6. In the east the day was called "Theophany" (manifestation of God).”

So it is that we begin a new year as a season of light – the light of Christ, piercing the hardness of heart and the places in the world where there is no light of hope or joy.

It is this ever-pure and holy light of Christ that pierces through our fatigue, our restlessness, our agitated spirits fighting to make right out of wrong, justice out of injustice and equality out of inequality. The light of Christ leads us in the true direction, the direction that Jesus wants us to go, where there might be the need for change of heart and mind. The way of Jesus might involve small sacrifices to be made along the way, and most definitely, the way of Jesus will always require love of self and others.

Stop and reflect on what we have had to endure. We can only hope for a better year, a year of light and joy. A year where our faith is strengthened to be a witness to that light of the Christ child.

Again, Happy New Year!

## **JOHN CHURCHWELL, NEW OFFICE MANAGER**



Welcome, John Churchwell, as St. Stephen's new Office Manager! John, who is originally from Magazine, Arkansas, comes to St. Stephen's with years of experience in restaurant management, as well as Church/Business Administration. John is also the Music Director at All Saints Episcopal Church of the North Shore in Danvers. John, and his husband Kip, live in Gloucester with their two cats, Barnabas and Paxton, and two Basset Hounds, Sheriff and

Napoleon. Please introduce yourself to John when you have the chance!

## **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

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

## **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 FEBRUARY'S  
NEWSLETTER IS FEBRUARY 1, 2022.**

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

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.

The logo for "Forward Day by Day". The word "FORWARD" is in purple, "DAY" is in purple, "by" is in a smaller, orange script font, and "DAY" is in purple.

Forward Day by Days for (February, March, April) are available in the Galahad area.



# KIC (Kids in Community)

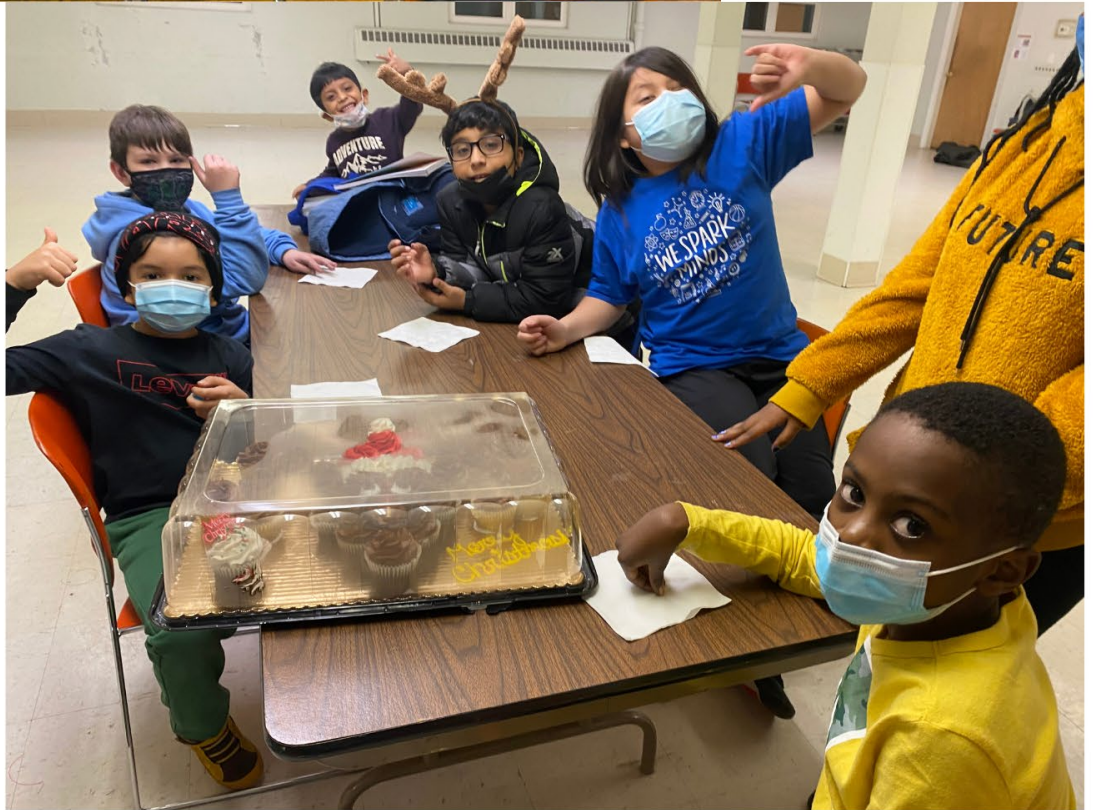
As we enter 2022 and our second half of the school year, we remain cautious of the spread of Covid. We continue to practice safety protocols according to state guidelines and that of the Massachusetts Diocese.

We are asking for any help! Like many child care providers, we are currently experiencing a shortage of staffing. Word of mouth and referrals are our best resources for filling these positions along with new child enrollment. Please reach out to anyone you know that you think might be a good fit as a KIC Mentor or any families that may be interested in signing up!

We provide at least one snack (peanut-free) daily during after-school and will graciously accept any donations.

For more information, call Program Director 781-599-4220 ext 4 or email [smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org](mailto:smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org).







# FOOD PANTRY

Last month we reported that the Food Pantry has received grants of \$5,000 from the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation, and \$6,700 from Beth Israel Senior Citizens Housing, Inc. (BISCHI) specifically for replacement tables, shelving and fridge. Michael Celona from the UU Church of Greater Lynn submitted a grant for our food pantry from the UU Church, and we received that grant check in the amount of \$9,000. In addition to these grants, St. Stephen's Food Pantry was the recipient of a \$1,000 check from the students at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute! What a gift from local teens doing great work! With these generous grants and donations, and with the donations we have received from many of our parishioners, the food pantry can afford the monthly charges for trucking and delivery.

Pre-pandemic the food pantry was giving out about 50 bags of food per week. The new normal is an average of 160 bags of food per week!! Our small space is at capacity, and during the holidays it was well over capacity to serve this many people. This past year we have been receiving about 10,000 pounds of food per month from the Greater Boston Food Bank. We will begin receiving two food deliveries of about 9,000 pounds of food in January for a total of 18,000 pounds of food per month. We will receive food deliveries every second and fourth Friday of the month now.

Our volunteers are a dedicated bunch of people from St. Stephen's, the UU Church, and from the local community, but they need help. Especially during the food delivery times. 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](mailto:pamelapoppe61@gmail.com), or text her at 781 913 5190.

## DONATIONS TO THE FOOD PANTRY



St. Stephen's Food Pantry was the recipient of a \$1,000 check from the students at Lynn Vocational Technical Institute! What a gift from local teens doing great work!



The Greater Lynn Senior Services held a food drive for the food pantry. Their contributions helped feed our weekly food pantry clients.

## **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION**

Along with other ECCO congregations, we invite you to join the Community Minority Cultural Center (CMCC) for a commemoration of the birthday and legacy of the great civil rights leader, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. CMCC will be hosting a virtual celebration on Facebook Live beginning at 11 a.m. on Jan. 17. As Darrell Murkison, CMCC President and ECCO Core Team Member, wrote to supporters, "Once again, the MLK Committee and the entire Board of CMCC are sincerely grateful for your continuous cooperation. Hopefully we will be able to see each other again at our 37th MLK 2023 Celebration."

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

As of Wednesday, January 5, 2022, the parish office has received 49 pledge cards totaling \$108,658. 2021 End of Year Giving Statements will be mailed on January 25, 2022.

# 2021 POINSETTIAS AND GREENS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

Wilma Alleyne  
Judith Lammy  
Ophelia Gaskin

The Rev. Robert H. and Mrs.  
Lois M. Anderson, Jr.  
Albert Allen Gray & Otto

Hal Bowden  
Joe & Ella Messina  
Grey & Ena Bowden  
Tom Nicholson  
Ned Stead

Anna & Thomas Butler  
Alice & James McCaul  
Jacqueline & Ralph Butler  
Claire & Neville Samson  
Evelyn & Edward Klockin  
Beatrice & Adam Schickling  
Robert McCaul  
Marjorie & Henry Aylward  
Florence Laura  
Barbara Ronan

The Rev. & Mrs. Albert J.  
Chafe

The Rev. Robert Derr

Robert & Doris Dixon  
The Morgan Family

Kenneth S. Estes  
Shirley Foster  
Laura Glover

Ralph Eaton  
Paul Foster

Gladys L. & Arnold C.  
Haywood  
Clarence, Julia, Thomas &  
Dorothy Callaway  
George & Christalia Jackson &  
Family

Alice & Alvan P. Hicks  
Nancy & Alvan W. Hicks, Sr.  
Alvan W. Hicks, Jr.

Rachel Crowley  
Anne & Norman Reid  
The Crowley Family  
Gladys & Ray Messenger  
Carole & Ernst Voigt  
Anna & Charles Cloran

Shirley and Burton Hughes  
Keith Hughes  
Beverly Barrows  
Pat Meechin

Patricia M. Jackson  
Hubert & Myrtle Jackson  
Shirley H. Biggs  
Robert C. Jackson  
Hubert Jackson, Jr.  
Nancy M. Jackson

Dorothy Kay-McLaughlin  
Judith Kay  
Paul Bartlett  
Lisa Bartlett

John Elton  
Sofia Dariotis  
Charles Femia  
Lucille Foster  
Irene Sherwood Gilroy  
Yolanda Gonzalez  
Bill & Claire Jackson  
Barbara Keating  
Herbert & Phyllis Kellom  
Jessie LeClerk  
Kathleen Leheuw  
Leslie Lougee  
Thomas & Joan Lules  
Jane Marquis  
Patricia McGovern  
Tony Mambuca  
Charles & Kathleen  
McLaughlin  
John McLaughlin  
Richard McLaughlin  
BP  
Diane Paine-Wheeler  
Jackie Peterson  
Robert E. Ross, Jr.  
Robert E. Ross Sr.  
Ken & Lorraine Shanahan  
Rev. Edward & Esther  
Howland Sherwood  
Edward Sherwood, Jr.  
Beverly Troisi  
John, Mary, & Philip Walsh  
Loretta Walsh  
Harry Walker

Charles C. Koser  
Esther J. Koser  
Jane S. Leigh  
Macon Leigh  
Carl Koser  
Clair Koser  
Katherine Eyer  
Bill Leigh  
Henry Leigh

The Rev. Dr. William Lawson

Janet Lewis  
Sandra Conway  
Carl Anthony Messina, Sr.  
Leo Marino  
Bernice, Annie, Kenneth, and  
Avis Ferguson  
Johanna Mulcahy  
Charles Fowler  
Olive & Serafino Funicella

Marion Lowrie  
Earl Lowrie

Alice McFarlane  
Jane Snow

John & Helen Morris  
John & Mary Morris  
Carl & Albertina Fischer  
Carl A. Fischer  
Matthew Clifton  
Alan Sward  
Marvin Wilkes

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mulcahy  
Mike, Curt and Marlen  
Mulcahy  
Helen Simonian

Alfred & Ann Nottingham  
John & Louise Cantrell  
Bertram & Jeanette  
Nottingham  
Thomas Roberts  
Pamela Marcin  
George Trahan

Our four-legged companions  
Butch and Herminia Perez  
Ovidio "Junior" Flores

William Rodrigue  
Michael and Ted Rodrigue  
Gail Paige Carlson and  
Cliff Carlson  
Kenneth and Carolyn Paige  
Lou and Marie Rodrigue

The Rev. Edgar Romig

The Sheppard Family  
Edith Stead

Susanna Kitts Sherwood  
Fredrika Sherwood  
James Sherwood  
Fredrika Jones Kitts  
Nancy Kitts  
Willard A. Kitts  
David Kitts

Bill Kitts  
Polly Welch Kitts

Raymond and Marlene  
Tinkham  
Elsie Loring  
Gladys Renagha  
Corinne Surette  
Marjorie Reid  
Michael Tinkham

Ruth Tucker  
Barbara Tucker  
Sonia Tucker  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Ruthann Bozarjian

Ruth Milne Twohig  
Jane Twohig Perrin  
Mark W, Twohig  
Jan Lendall

John Wallace  
Darry Wallace  
Kendall Chrysostom  
Khary Chrysostom

Wayne Wolcott

Rose Yakoobian  
Joseph Yakoobian  
Nazareth Ghazarosian  
George Ghazarosian  
Martin Ghazarosian

Victims of Covid-19 Pandemic



## SAVE THE DATE!

January 17, 2022 -Martin Luther King Jr Day

January 27, 2022 – BCT - 6:30pm

February 17, 2022 – BCT – 6:30pm

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

March 2, 2022 – Ash Wednesday

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.



# JANUARY'S CALENDAR/SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>9</b> <b>8:00am</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>11:00am</b> Holy Eucharist	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Office Open  <b>6:30pm</b> NA Group	<b>12</b> Office Open  <b>11:00am</b> Music Ministry Meeting  <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study John 2:1-11	<b>13</b> Office Open	<b>14</b> Office Open  <b>2:30pm</b> Food Pantry	<b>15</b> <b>1:00pm</b> Pietro/Kay Wedding
<b>16</b> <b>8:00am</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>11:00am</b> Holy Eucharist	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Office Open  <b>6:30pm</b> NA Group	<b>19</b> Office Open  <b>11:00am</b> Music Ministry Meeting  <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study Luke 4:14-21	<b>20</b> Office Open	<b>21</b> Office Open  <b>2:30pm</b> Food Pantry	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> <b>8:00am</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>11:00am</b> Holy Eucharist	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Office Open  <b>6:30pm</b> NA Group	<b>26</b> Office Open  <b>11:00am</b> Music Ministry Meeting  <b>6:30pm</b> Bible Study Luke 4:21-30	<b>27</b> Office Open  <b>6:30pm</b> BCT	<b>28</b> Office Open  <b>2:30pm</b> Food Pantry	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>8:00am</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>11:00am</b> Holy Eucharist  <b>12:00pm</b> Virtual Vestry Meeting	<b>31</b>					

# EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND READERS SCHEDULE

**January 9, 2022**

**Readers:** Toby Milner – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Ginny Fuller – Psalm and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Bob Dixon, Dorothy Post (prayers)

**January 16, 2022**

**Readers:** Ruthanne Switzer – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm

Steve Switzer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Pam Alleyne, Emily Sherwood

**January 23, 2022**

**Readers:** Conrad Squires – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Dorothy Post – Psalm and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Nelson Woodfork, Pam Alleyne

**January 30, 2022**

**Readers:** Kent Wittrup – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Psalm

Ginny Fuller – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Dorothy Post

Bob Dixon

**St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church**

**74 South Common Street**

**Lynn, MA 01920**

