



Newsletter September 2017

Meeting God in Liminal Space

Ever since July, when the Vestry met with Canon to the Ordinary Bill Parnell and the clergy and wardens mailed the letter announcing that I would be leaving St. Stephen's and moving to California, we have been living in liminal time. The word liminal comes from the Latin word *limen*, meaning threshold-- any point or place of entering or beginning. A liminal space is the time between 'what was' and 'what is to be.' It is a place of transition, waiting, and not knowing.

Theologian Richard Rohr contends: "We have to allow ourselves to be drawn out of 'business as usual' and remain patiently on the 'threshold' where we are betwixt and between the familiar and the completely unknown. There alone is our old world left behind, while we are not yet sure of the new existence. That's a good space where genuine newness can begin... It's the realm where God can best get at us because our false certitudes are finally out of the way. This is the sacred space where the old world is able to fall apart, and a bigger world is revealed. If we don't encounter liminal space in our lives, we start idealizing normalcy. The threshold is God's waiting room. Here we are taught openness and patience... Some native peoples call liminal space 'crazy time.' I believe that the unique and necessary function of religion is to lead us into this crazy, liminal time."

For John and me and for all of you, we are entering a period of change. The temptation in the midst of change is to hold tight to what we know, romanticize what has been, run away from the situation, get angry at everything and everyone, or grab for control and power. Regrettably, none of these responses open us to the possibilities and transformation that God imagines for us. God invites us to live into the uncertainty; our challenge is to trust that with God and each other, we can journey to a new place of community and commitment as we continue to live into God's mission.

When Abraham left his home in response to God's promise of abundant life, he had no idea how God would give him heirs or "make him a people." When the Israelites fled Egypt, they didn't know what the promised land would be. When Mary said "Yes" to God, she had no idea what it would mean to bear the holy one of God. When the disciples said "Yes" to following Jesus, they did not understand the transformed world he came to announce. God calls us into the unknown saying, "follow me." While we don't know what will be, we can rest assured that God is in the midst of us and that God wants and needs us to live creatively and expectantly into this change.

We are in liminal space; may we open ourselves to meeting and journeying with God. And, as we walk this walk, may we pray: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, and ever. Amen. (BCP 280).

Rev Jane

* Lord, who
for ever

I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him (Ephesians 1:16-17)

Dear Friends,

In the mid 1990's the German chemical company, BASF, rolled out an ad campaign with a new slogan: "we don't make a lot of the products you buy, we make a lot of the products you buy better." The American television commercials showed a mom putting lotion on a baby, a fashion model strutting down the walkway and two boys playing on the living room carpet. The narrator admits BASF didn't make any of those products BUT the company does make the lotion smoother, the fabric brighter and the carpet stronger.

I was reminded of this slogan several years ago at a funeral. During the homily the minister described the same commercial and compared the deceased, Luke, to BASF. Luke didn't make the ice cream he shared with his children, he didn't make the playground where they spent afternoons, he didn't make the board games, etc....but Luke made them all better, all more enjoyable. BASF improved products with chemicals; Luke did it with a deep-seated love for his family and friends.

St. Stephen's plays a similar role for the Urban Residents who arrive as newly ordained clergy for continued training and formation. In the Episcopal Church, bishops are authorized to perform ordinations and so Bishop Tom ordained me to the transitional diaconate and later Bishop Alan, with lots of clergy colleagues, ordained me to the priesthood. They made me a deacon and a priest.

Over the last three years you, the people of St. Stephen's, have made me a BETTER priest through your patience, advice, trust, laughter and tears. You received me with all my talents and faults while pushing and prodding me to be better than I was on my ordination days. I could list 100 ways in which you have been my own personal BASF company but here are my top 5:

- The history of a church is a blessing and challenge. It offers a powerful sense of identity that is transmitted through the generations. And the church must constantly ask who has been left out and how do we include them now and moving forward.
- Flexibility is the key to success in parish ministry. This has been a difficult lesson to learn especially when it comes to Sunday mornings before and after worship.
- Every failure offers a new opportunity for success. Creating and leading programs is not a linear process with success following success. Failing at some points is a given.
- The collar is more than an accessory. It is a visual symbol of my priestly identity and responsibility.
- My ministry tool belt is fully equipped. I've experienced such a wide variety of ups and downs that I have all that I need to succeed in my next parish.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Rev. Sarah

I was watching a television show with my granddaughter Lily, one of those superhero shows with capes and costumes, characters flying over tall buildings and not much conversation. Suddenly one of the characters said "I don't deal well with change!" Now those words hit home! How many of us, especially at the present time, can say the same words about the events in our lives and in the life of our church?

It will be very important to communicate with each other in the times ahead. Whatever you are feeling or thinking, share it with one of your fellow parishioners. You may find that the other person has been thinking or feeling the same things that you have. Or the other person may be able to present a new thought or idea that may be helpful to each person. But we are not alone.

Take a few minutes to explore the time line that is hanging on the wall in the hallway beginning outside the Cheater Room. This gives us a picture of the length of time Rectors have served our church as well as some historical events that coordinate with Rectors' times of service. Some of us have begun to put our own information there: the date when we first became members of the church, births of children and grandchildren, our own baptism or marriage ceremonies held here. I encourage everyone to think of one or more dates with personal significance and to add them to the timeline. Here is one way to look at change over the years.

Change is hard, we all know that. We have all had many changes in our own lives. We also know that change is inevitable, it comes whether we like it or not and many times we feel helpless, because there's little or nothing we can do about it. We know that Reverend Sarah is leaving on September 24. We also know that Reverend Jane is leaving sometime in the coming months. We know that changes are coming for the people in our programming staff.

None of these changes are easy. Whatever your feelings are about the changes ahead, they are shared by the lay leadership of our church. We are working to make the transitions as smooth as possible and we are available for conversations and questions about them. If we can't answer your questions, we will work on finding an answer and will get back to you with the information we have. Your wardens and vestry are here to help you in any way we can. Please let us know if you need to talk, we are here to listen.

We will help each other as the people of St. Stephen's always have. We will be present for each other. We will listen to each other. We will pray for each other and for those who are leaving, that they may find happiness and fulfillment in the transitions of their lives. We will ask God to help us each day to deal with each challenge in front of us. We will meet those challenges together, strengthened by our faith in God and in each other.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene N. Axelrod".

Irene Axelrod

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE REV. SARAH! JOIN US SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 10:00

As Rev. Sarah preaches and leads worship
As we eat, tell stories, give hugs, and bless her on her way
In October, Sarah will become Priest-in-Charge at St. John's Saugus

STAFFING CHANGES COMING IN SEPTEMBER. As Rev. Sarah completes her Urban Assistant time with us and heads to Saugus, DioMass will re-direct the newly ordained training program grant to Good Shepherd, Reading, to support our own Rev. Patrick Lafortune. We will continue to work with DioMass to find alternative support for additional clergy leadership at St. Stephen's since we know we play an important role training clergy for the Diocese, and we are clear that we need at least two clergy to support the ministry of our parish.

In mid-August, KIC Director Audrey Gutfreund decided to resign from her staff position leading KIC. While she hopes to continue to offer piano lessons through KIC After School, she wants to let go of the responsibility of running KIC-- our year 'round children's outreach ministry. Her decision combined with the upcoming transition in clergy leadership resulted in an imaginative redesign of staffing. Current Office Administrator Rachel Pfof will become our new Director of Operations; she will work 10 hours a week supporting and developing administrative capacity and infrastructure for the parish and 20 hours a week organizing and fundraising for Kids in Community. Former KIC Summer Camp Assistant Director Sheyla Veras will be our Program Director for KIC After School and KIC Summer Camp. We currently are accepting applications for an 18 hour a week Parish Administrator position. We hope to fill the new church office position before the end of September.



WELCOME LIFE TOGETHER FELLOW JAMIE SHORE. Hi there! My name is Jamie Shore and I am from Salem, New Hampshire and recently graduated from Gordon College with degrees in Political Science and Sociology. I am so glad to work at the church that I have called home for the past two years! At Gordon College I was involved in student government leadership as well as grassroots community organizing on my campus for the humanity of LGBTQ students, just sexual assault policy, and mental health programming. I hope to use the skills I learned from those experiences to participate in God's call of compassion, inclusion, and justice next year in Life Together, at St. Stephen's, and throughout the rest of my life. For fun, I love rock climbing, playing bridge with my family, looking for sea glass on the beach, and cooking breakfast food.

WELCOME NEW SEXTON WILL ECHEVARRIA. Thanks to the recruiting of Nicio our previous sexton, we are blessed to have Will Echevarria on staff. Will started the second week of our summer programs and has been keeping us clean and well groomed ever since. Many thanks to Harry, Neil and the other volunteers who stepped up during the transition.

VESTRY SUMMARY. June: review of summer programs: KIC Summer Camp, Summer Learning Academic Enrichment, and Youth Mission Trip to SW Virginia all fully enrolled and preparing for summer. Personnel: KIC leadership—Audrey Gutfreund on sick leave; James Liberge directing KIC Camp with program assistants Asdrubal, Darnesha, & Derek. Sexton search underway; reviewing Mark Gendreau's request for back pay. Property: continuing renovations of areas damaged by March flood; Church Insurance paying. Working on front sign replacement funded by Diocesan Grant. Latino Ministry: Tim Potter attending 10 day introduction to Latino ministry in Austin, TX; hoping to identify appropriate leadership for ministry before the end of July. Voted to support Kevin Neil's application for postulancy. Discussed what it means for St. Stephen's to be a "Sanctuary." July: Vestry planning retreat at Adelynrood. Met with Canon to the Ordinary Bill Parnell to begin the work of transition in clergy leadership. Voted to compensate former sexton Mark Gendreau \$1,201.20, for hours he worked but failed to record on his time sheets. Updates on summer programs & BMR.

BIG MONEY RAFFLE SUCCESS. The Big Money Raffle Drawing Party on July 23 was a great success as well as lots of fun. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to the BMR Team Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Pam Alleyne, Irene Axelrod, Chris Trahan, Joyce Wallace, and Sandy Wittrup. They, in turn, would like to thank everyone who bought and sold tickets, all the donors of door prizes, Dan Collis Puro for his work on the computer system that kept everyone updated on the progress of the drawing, Tim Potter for keeping the music going, and the Port Hole Pub for the great food and use of the function room. Special thanks goes to our MC, Steve Switzer, for keeping the crowd entertained, even when we didn't have a winning ticket. He kept us laughing anyway! Winners: \$5,000 Paulina & Jason Cruz; \$1,000 Michael Rubin; \$750 Tim Puro; \$500 Ernest "Terry" May; \$250 State Rep. Dan Cahill.

IF IT'S SEPTEMBER, THE FAIR IS COMING! Our Annual Harvest Fair will come to St. Stephen's on Saturday, November 18. The Fair Leadership Team seeks new members to help them involve, inspire, and coordinate. Please come to a brief Fair Organizing Meeting in the Library on Sunday, September 17 at 11:45. We hope every member of the congregation will contribute to the Fair in some way☺ In September and October, we need your help soliciting donations—ads for the program book, gift cards, and material objects. Solicitation letters and forms for donations and ads in the program book are available in the Galahad Area and by email from the office (ststephens@ststephenslynn.org). By September 24, cards will be available with suggestions of new places to solicit or for phone or face-to-face follow up with previous donors. And, please ask business owners you know as well as friends and family because the personal touch always is most effective. In addition, everyone is encouraged to bring in donations of New Gifts and new items that could be used for raffles, auctions, and baskets. We also need your help planning our new Children's Fair; let the clergy know if you will be part of the team. Balancing the St. Stephen's budget depends on successful fundraisers. Please help our Fair succeed in fun and fund raising.

BUILDING WORK CONTINUES. Following the flood caused by frozen heating pipes in March, the Dining Room and upstairs classrooms in the Anderson Building have been repaired and look great. We hope that the Graham Suite including the kitchen will be fully renovated by the time the program year is underway. Church Insurance coverage and a few private donations have supported this renovation work.

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING ON OCTOBER 1

Join us as we Celebrate our Participation in the Jesus Movement

THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Guest Preacher at 8:00 & 10:00: The Rev. Canon Bill Parnell

Baptisms at 10:00am

Homecoming Lunch at Noon

Lunch is free but advance reservation is required

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

BAPTISMS ON HOMECOMING—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1. As we celebrate the Feast of Stephen and the life of our parish, we welcome new members into the church through Baptism. If you or anyone you know would like to be baptized, please complete a baptism registration form no later than Sunday, September 24 and join us for the Baptism Preparation Class on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30. For more information, please speak with the clergy.

SEPTEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. **KNIT CLUB:** All levels of knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join the spirited fellowship of the Knit Club in the Galahad Area on Tuesday evenings at 6:30—Contact, Debbie Potter. **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays at 6:30 as we continue reading about Moses and the Israelites in the book of Exodus. **TEA & TALK ABOUT FAITH** continues on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections.

COME TO THE MONASTERY SEPTEMBER 5. Tuesday, September 5 at 4:15 cars will leave St. Stephen's to head to the SSJE Monastery in Cambridge for worship and supper. Please sign up if you would like to join this monthly spiritual pilgrimage.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS SEPTEMBER 7. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, September 7 for check-in and discussion of chapters 2-3 (pages 42-59) of [In Living Color](#).

SEPTEMBER 10 LUNCH & LEARN: FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR OUR LATER YEARS. A year ago, the Stewardship Ministry Team offered a series of programs focused on all aspects of planning for our later years. Due to illness, our speaker needed to reschedule. On Sunday, September 10 at noon the SMT invites everyone to "Introduction to Financial Planning with Chris Dowley." Chris is a financial advisor with Fieldstone Financial in Marblehead.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE. On Sunday, September 10, 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 9. This fall, we will continue monthly "Gospel Sundays", which we began with great success in August. New members are always welcome 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!

CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN'S BEVERLY FARMS ON SEPTEMBER 16. Adults who want to join the Episcopal Church officially are encouraged to prepare for Confirmation/ Reception when Bishop Gates visits the North Shore on September 16 at 10:30. Please speak with Rev. Jane by September 3 if you would like to be part of the September 16 celebration.

TOWERS COMMUNION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT 2:00. 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 19 at 2:00 and someone is sure to offer to give you a tour. All are welcome!

TRAILS & SAILS COMES TO ST. STEPHEN'S SEPTEMBER 16. St. Stephen's Tiffany Windows once again star in Essex Heritage Trails and Sails. The weekends of September 15-17 & 22-24 many interesting places in Essex County will be open to the public free of charge. Saturday September 16 (10am to 3:30pm), our church will be open for people to see and hear about our Tiffany windows. The Garth burial place of Civil War hero, Lt. Col. Charles Redington Mudge in whose memory our church was built, will also be open for viewing. Visitors may wander or take a tour of the church and hear our history as they view our beautiful church. Please check the Essex Heritage website for information on all the events (www.essexheritage.org). A limited number of printed catalogues are available. T&S weekends are wonderful ways to see treasures of Essex County and especially Lynn. There is a tour of Lynn historic sites, which starts at St. Stephens at 1pm on the 16th. Marilyn and Rick Cloran, Irene Axelrod, Chris Trahan, and Sally Gosselin are working on this event; talk with Marilyn (781-592-6586) if you want to get involved or have questions. is coordinating it.

CARING FOR CREATION WORKSHOP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1-5pm. In 2015 the General Convention added a baptismal promise that we care for creation. So we are blessed to welcome Mary Klug from the Pachamama Alliance for "What's your legacy? Mother Earth wants to know." The program includes a video, group discussion, and a planning session to move toward a more sustainable future. Talk to Rev. Sarah if you are interested in attending.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN OUR MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE? In September we kick off the program year with the beginning of Church School, OASIS, Middle School Youth Group. Children and youth come to St. Stephen's for these programs in search of a caring and supportive community. Creating and sustaining this type of community requires active participation from adults, especially on Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. This year the Church School programs is offering 4 ways for adults to volunteer both in and out of the classroom:

- Church School Companion: share excitement and mentor teachers
- Substitute teacher: on-call for certain dates and teach students with own gifts
- Monthly teacher: teach monthly class through food; Bible Study; or community service
- Weekly teacher: teach 3-4 times per month/use curriculum provided

The OASIS and Middle School youth groups are looking for adults who can provide meals, activities, and/or presence 1-2 Fridays a month. Please speak with Rev. Sarah to discern how YOU will serve our children and youth this year.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 10 & 17
CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17 AT 9:45am
Team-led Classes for Nursery thru Grade 12 using Bible-Based Thematic Curriculum
Come engage Scripture through conversation, drama, music, art, and cooking

TEENS END THE SUMMER WITH RELAXING RETREAT ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD. Although we had to cancel the Appalachia mission trip we were still able to bring 9 teens and 1 young adult to the island of Martha's Vineyard for a weekend retreat. On the island we visited a sustainable farm (including an impromptu ukelele concert), worshipped with St. Andrew's Church in Edgartown and reflected on how we deal with transitions. As we talked about transitions we all admitted to experiencing fear and anxiety at the thought of change but that creating a routine helps. In the Galahad Area you'll notice on the bulletin board the large drawing of a tree covered with leaves. The bottom leaves represent those things we are ready to say goodbye to (summer freedom, sleeping late) and the trees on the top represent what we are saying hello to (new school, new jobs, new schedules). The leaves in the middle represent people, activities, places that keep us grounded because they are not affected by the transition. If you are feeling overwhelmed by transitions, feel free to add a leaf or 2!

OASIS MEETS 2ND AND 4TH FRIDAYS 6:30-9. OASIS is back from fun and will begin the new year on Friday, September 8. We'll gather for dinner and conversations about the summer and plan for an overnight on September 22-23. The overnight will be held at St. Stephen's and is open to all high school students interested in playing games, connecting with new friends, creating ways to respond to the serious issues in our world, and saying good bye to Rev. Sarah. For more information, speak with Rev. Sarah, or Jason Cruz.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 6:30-9. Middle schoolers will gather for dinner and art-making with Jason Cruz and Jamie Shore, our new Life Together intern. Youth group is an essential aspect of Christian Formation as youth explore how they are connecting with God and the world. In order for the Middle School group to work parents and guardians need to commit to bring their youth every month. For more information, please speak with the clergy or Jamie.

KIC CONTINUES IN SEPTEMBER WITH 4 DAYS OF AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT. KIC After School begins on Monday, September 11. This after school program focuses on learning music (drumming & key board) and academic enrichment, while also having fun and working together in a group. All kids are in a percussion ensemble and may sign up for weekly keyboard lessons. KIC After School is open to children in grades 1-5 with priority given to siblings and younger children. It runs from 2:00 to 6:00 pm on Monday-Thursday afternoons whenever school is in session. Registration is limited; forms are available in the office and Galahad area. For more information, talk with Rachel Pfof or Sheyla Veras.

KIC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! If you are an adult interested in assisting with KIC After School, we can use your help! We need people to donate snacks or a gallon of milk a week; helpers for to serve snacks; one-on-one guides for academic enrichment or homework time; and people to offer one-on-one piano lessons. Contact Rachel Pfof if you're interested in volunteering.

ST. ANDREW'S INVITES ST. STEPHEN'S CHILDREN TO JOIN CHOIR SCHOOL. The Choir School at St Andrews is a RSCM (Royal School of Church Music in America program). We meet Monday afternoons from 4-4:45 at St. Andrew's Marblehead. We have fun singing and learning about the traditions of the Episcopal Church. Once a month the junior choir joins the adult choir in church to offer an anthem in worship. Last year all of the choristers passed their white level and earned their white ribbon and medal. Please contact Mary Jodice (maryjodice1@gmail.com) at St. Andrew's if you are interested.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

HELP THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY. Volunteer at the Pantry on Fridays: 3-4pm (closed September 1). Help the St. Mary's-Community Pantry on Saturday, September 2: 7-11am.

SERVE AT MY BROTHERS TABLE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 4:00-7:00PM. Rev. Sarah will be part of our Table Team as we settle in to our new St. Andrew's/ St. Michael's/ St. Stephen's Team on first Tuesdays. Teens and adults are encouraged to let Rev. Sarah know if you can help on September 5.

JOIN ECCO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. Many people tell me how frustrated, angry, scared, and sad the divisions among people in our nation and world make you. ECCO has a busy fall of organizing planned, which will allow us to turn despair into creative action. Collect signatures to increase the minimum wage and provide paid family medical leave-- training September 7 at 7:00 at Sacred Heart (571 Boston Street) Lynn. Also, ECCO will gather teams every Tuesday (5:00-8:00pm) and every Sunday (3:00-7:00pm) to collect signatures at high traffic locations such as the new Lynn Market Basket! September 12 is Primary Day in Lynn, which means we all need to vote and we need signature gatherers at every polling place from 7:00am when the polls open until 8:00pm when the polls close. If you have a story to tell about not making it on the minimum wage, come to the September 19 Rally (11:30am) and Legislative Hearing (1:00pm) at the State House. September 28th, ECCO will hold a Strategic Planning Meeting at 7:00pm at St. Stephen's. And join us as we continue to work for racial justice at local, state, and national levels.

MCAN RACE RETREAT SEPTEMBER 14-15. Please talk with Rev. Jane if you would like to attend "Undoing Racism" sponsored by MCAN and offered by the New Orleans- based People's Center for Survival and Beyond. Rev. Jane has worked with the People's Institute twice and strongly encourages anyone who can attend to take advantage of this opportunity.

ST. STEPHEN'S-ST. ANDREW'S BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAMS GATHER SEPTEMBER 21. Thursday the 21st at 7:00, everyone is invited to join the St. Stephen's-St. Andrew's as we continue to explore the realities of racism and white privilege. This summer has confronted us with abundant images of racial tension, injustice, and violence. It also has provided abundant opportunities for conversation and reflection. Please join us as we discuss how we might deepen and extend our conversations about race and building interracial community.

ST. STEPHEN'S ENRICHES KIDS' LIVES THIS SUMMER

KIC SUMMER CAMP SERVES COMMUNITY WITH STYLE. On August 4th, Kids In Community celebrated the end of its 13th summer at St. Stephen's. Over 90 kids attended (124 registered) KIC camp each day, where they got to play games, read with volunteers, and learn art, science, bucket drumming, and yoga. Our field trips were especially exciting this year, as campers visited places such as: the U.S.S. Constitution Museum, the New England Aquarium, Salem Willows, the Brookline Puppet Showplace Theatre, and the Institute of Contemporary Art. On the last day of KIC, kids performed in a talent show. 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. Returning to lead KIC after several summers away, I was 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 Interim Director James Liberge

SUMMER LEARNING AT ST. STEPHEN'S MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN CHILDREN'S LIVES. Summer Learning year three started with an enthusiastic group of staff and a robust roster of children. Over 50 children enrolled and attendance stayed over 40 each day. In the library, we had a steady and dedicated volunteer team who worked really hard to keep the children engaged and excited as they read stories out loud and helped them complete their summer reading. Reading Theatre came alive daily as children practiced reading their lines fluently and enthusiastically in preparation for their performances. In the writing center, budding writers and illustrators eagerly shared their work one at a time from the Author's Chair, while in the math center they played numerous math games to strengthen foundational skills. We ended with a well-deserved celebration of favorites for the children...fun games and yummy food. Summer Learning Director Micheal Brown

ST. STEPHEN'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH ENJOY BCH SUMMER CAMP. This past summer St. Stephen's sent 18 children and youth to attend a week of summer camp at BCH. Camp alums still talk about how a week of worship, games, activities, and new friends deepened their faith in God and the church. Here are some quotations for this summer's campers:

"My favorite part was the fellowship around the camp fire"—Bryan LaFortune

"We have been going to the BCH camp for the past 3 years. We love meeting new people and making friends and we have so much fun trying new things and doing the activities. We have learned so much."—Zoe and Simone Wilson

"My love of Camp grew a lot this summer. I enjoyed the bonds I made with friends through community service. I also enjoyed the different activities we did and singing Camp songs."—Michaela Olabisi