

## Light Shines in the Darkness

On Christmas morning, we will proclaim, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” These words from the poetic prologue to the Gospel of John remind us that nothing and no one can overshadow the light of Christ. The evangelist goes on to say that John the Baptist “himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:8-9)

Day by day for most of December, our days get shorter. Darkness surrounds us. For some, limited sunlight brings depression with it. For others, the holidays serve as reminders that our lives are not abundant in the ways we want. For many, preparations for Christmas bring to heart and mind those we have loved and lost. And for lots this year, the deep divisions in our nation and fear about the future cast long shadows over these days.

Recently ECCO’s parent organization PICO hosted a network-wide conference call. Pastor Trina from Stockton, California began with a faith reflection on hope. She reminded us that hope does not deny painful realities, and that grief and hope can coexist. But, she also called us to action. She commented, “Friends don’t let friends lose hope.” She insisted that, as Christians, we believe that light defeats darkness, love defeats hate, and life defeats death. PICO Executive Director Scott Reed quoted from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s final sermon: “only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.” Scott then challenged us, as Dr. King challenged the people of Memphis, to be stars in the darkness.

These dark, December days invite us be bright lights in the darkness. This year’s pledge campaign encourages each of us to let our light shine, and to pledge to St. Stephen’s so that our church can both keep our lights on and be a beacon of Christ’s light in our community.

We all know that the frenzy of the Christmas season can be filled with over-indulgence—too much food and drink, too many parties, too much to do, too much spending. But Advent strikes a different note; Advent asks us to wait and contemplate. Week-by-week as we light Advent candles and wait for the lighting of the Christ candle, Advent challenges us to consider how we are the light of Christ.

Ask yourself, how do I bring light into the lives of those I love, my family and friends? How do I bring light to those who are suffering or struggling? How do I bring light to those who are living in fear? How do I bring light to those who are discouraged and despairing? How do I bring light to my own life when it is not all I want it to be?

Take advantage of the worship, prayer, study, and service opportunities of Advent as you reflect on how God wants and needs you to bring light to the world. And as you join us on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, offer Christ the gift of your light.

Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Reed", with a small cross symbol above the end of the signature.

*“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”*

Dear Friends,

Our Episcopal and Anglican Traditions rely on a variety of visual symbols to mark the seasons of the calendar: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. The most obvious is the change of colors on the altar: purple for Advent/Lent, white for Epiphany/Easter, green for Ordinary Time and red for Feast days like Pentecost. We also change the flowers—in Advent we have orchids and green plants for Lent. Lastly we change how we worship together—in Advent the Eucharist is sung by the priest and in Lent we move down from the larger altar to a smaller altar at the top of the stairs.

Each of these changes are not done to annoy or confuse people. Rather these changes help us to recognize that we have begun a new worship season. Unlike the earthly seasons, that we can't ignore, worship seasons are quite easy to ignore. Advent, Lent and Ordinary Time aren't mentioned on the news or in the weather forecast. They are not part of the everyday conversations with family and friends at work or school. Unless you participate in regular worship and/or were raised in the church you might move through the seasons totally oblivious. Which is why it's vital that we have visual changes in our worship to remind us that a season has ended and new one has begun.

Advent, which begins the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, is the season with the hardest transition. It seems that no matter how much we plan and prepare for Advent, we are surprised when it arrives. But that doesn't mean we need to be in a constant rush to make up for lost time or just throw our hands up in the air in frustration. It means that we need to stop, to take a breath, and a notice where we find God. When we stop, even if at first it's only for a moment, we can fully appreciate that Advent is different.

During the four weeks of Advent we actively prepare for the birth of Jesus by preparing for his arrival in our hearts. Yes, there are outer preparations but these are empty if they do not come out of inner preparations. On the first Christmas morning, Jesus was born in the flesh to his parents Mary and Joseph. Through the grace of the resurrection Jesus is reborn each year in our hearts and in our souls. We become the stable and the manger that will hold the tiny infant.

So how do we make ourselves ready to receive the baby Jesus? First, we ask for help preparing for this change and admit that we can't complete all the preparations on our own. We find people who will encourage us to move our attention away from the world and back to God. We attend Contemplative Prayer services on Tuesday mornings, Bible Study on Wednesdays, Healing Eucharist and Tea and Talk on Thursdays and worship on Sunday. We use Advent Calendars that offer simple activities or prayers for each day of the Christmas countdown. We sit in silence as we light the candles of the Advent Wreath on our kitchen table. Through all of these actions we clear up the unnecessary stuff in our lives so that there's room for the birth of the Messiah.

A change in worship season requires both external and internal changes. How will you make space for Jesus during this Advent?

Peace,



Sarah

**A Word from the Warden**  
**December 2016**

The last several months have been confusing and difficult for me and I am sure for many others. Everywhere I turned, TV or radio, the election campaign was there. Insults, horrid name calling, offensive remarks made about individuals seemed to be the norm. The insulting words used against people with little care about what that meant about or to, any group or individual. It became very difficult to have the TV on or the radio and sometimes talking with people. Newspapers were not much better. The same rhetoric was in print along with shootings, robberies, unfunded schools and more.

The TV and radio now silent and newspapers not open - what to do? Pick up things around the house, clean here and there -nope! There stood the bookcase stuffed with books. Soon books were in two piles, one to stay and the other to give away. As I picked up one book the title *Finding God in the world* by Avery Brooke caught me. Being in an angry sad state of mind I had not thought of anything except what was going on during these long months of the election and now the aftermath.

Finding God - right in front of me –

St. Stephens's leadership –Vestry—men and women caring about the people in the parish and in the surrounding area giving their time and talent making major decisions from mission goals to budget for the parish.

Teams of people who work very hard together to design create and carry out projects that bring activities for people and money into the budget.

Those dedicated caring people who visit and care for home bound parishioners and those who assist during all services and behind the scene.

Music that fills the church during the services musicians and singers fill the space.  
And all sitting in the church filling St Stephens with your love.

Youth, trips, activities, leadership giving us new ideas and things to think about.  
Staff keeping things organized, plus the best volunteers who keep everything going smoothly.  
Clergy who encourage all to know God.

The result of this campaign seems to be changing each day bringing questions and concerns for many people. I am going to keep looking for God in the world outside of our St Stephens home.  
May all of us "Find God in the World"

God Bless you and this country.



Virginia Fuller  
Senior Warden

## **STEWARDS OF RESOURCES**

**VESTRY SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 20.** Sally Gosselin and Lucinda McClain reported on the Fair—both its extraordinary success and the challenges in organizing it. The Vestry reviewed year-to-date financials, voted to refinance and increase our Eastern Bank restoration loan to \$528,375 payable over ten years, received information from the Stewardship Ministry Team about pledge follow up calls, and discussed “income” in the draft 2017 budget. Vestry discussed and approved establishing an Amazon Smile donation account and creating the possibility of electronic payments to the church; Technology Sunday will be December 11, which will give members the opportunity to learn more.

**TECHNOLOGY SUNDAY IS DECEMBER 11.** St. Stephen’s will move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a Square hardware device to take credit card payments of pledges, silent auction items, Big Money Raffle tickets, and other parish related expenses. We also are in the process of purchasing software, which will enable online giving for parishioners and others who visit our website. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the Treasurer’s Office will have pledge status information available since finishing the year in the black depends on everyone fulfilling their pledge. Payments may be made using our new technology as well as traditionally (checks and cash). In addition, we will be collecting email addresses on the 11<sup>th</sup> to facilitate communication and reduce costs.

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM PLANS PLEDGE FOLLOW UP.** As we reach toward our pledge goal of \$131,000, the Stewardship Ministry Team and Vestry will make pledge follow up phone calls in December to encourage previous pledgers to return their 2017 pledge commitment cards and to inspire new people to join the ranks of pledging members. Already 64 pledges households have pledged \$85,510 with 6 new pledges and 30 increased pledges. Please pledge so that we can continue to let God’s light shine in and through St. Stephen’s.

**WHERE HAVE THE WINDOWS GONE?** The Tiffany windows around the High Altar and on either side of the Children’s Altar have been removed by Serpentino Studios for restoration. The work is made possible by two generous gifts. Marilyn and Rick Cloran donated \$20,000 in Memory of the Hicks and Crowley Families. Robert Simpson donated \$100,000 in Memory of the Johnson Family who were among the early members of St. Stephen’s. Although no members of the extended Johnson Clan live in Lynn, they remain tied to the city and church, and return to Lynn for burial in Pine Grove Cemetery. We hope to have the restored windows back in place by Eastertide, 2017.

**FAIR PROVIDES FUN & FUND RAISING.** Deep gratitude to the scores of you who contributed to the Fair through your donations of time, talent, and treasure. Special thanks to the Fair leadership Team of Marilyn Cloran, Sally Gosselin, Carolyn Hoy, Lucinda McClain, Neil O’Donnell, Josephine Russo, Samantha Scolamiero, and Ruthanne & Steve Switzer. While we don’t yet have a Fair total yet, our Fair weekend deposit was over \$4,000. As Fair season continues, **help us meet our Fair fundraising goal by buying & selling raffle tickets and spending generously at the Mini-Fair on Sunday, December 4. Fair season ends on the 4<sup>th</sup> when the Mini-Fair will offer Same Day Raffles and Bargain Buys, and we will draw the Multi-Prize and Super Sports Raffles.**

## **BUY YOUR MULTI-PRIZE RAFFLE TICKETS**

### **FIRST PRIZE: BOSE DELUXE MUSIC SYSTEM (VALUE \$600)**

Wave SoundTouch Music System IV CD Player & AM/FM Radio; WiFi & Bluetooth

### **SECOND PRIZE: WESTIN BOSTON WATERFRONT**

One Night Stay with Breakfast at Sauciety

### **THIRD PRIZE: \$100 VISA GIFT CARD**

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## **BUY YOUR SUPER SPORTS RAFFLE TICKETS**

### **TWO PATRIOTS TICKETS (VALUE \$186)**

December 12, 2016 at 8:30pm: Patriots vs. Baltimore Ravens in Foxboro

### **TWO BRUINS TICKETS (VALUE \$184)**

January 5, 2017 at 7pm: Bruins vs. Edmonton Oilers at the Garden

**Tickets cost: \$2.00 or 6 for \$10**

**Drawing on December 6 at the Mini-Fair**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES & INSTITUTIONS THAT GAVE TO THE FAIR.** AAA Southern New England, Adriatic Restaurant & Bar, Bayside Resort, Beacon Communities LLC, Bent Water Brewing, Bertucci's, Big Lots, Blue Ox, BLT, Brotherhood Credit Union, C & L Package Store, Caffe Paolina, California Nails, Charlie's Seafood, Cheesecake Factory, Christopher's Café & Catering, Craft Beer Cellar, Cuffe McGinn Funeral Home, Digs Jewelry, ECCO (Essex County Community Organization), Edible Arrangements, Elite Design & Consign, EM Nails and Spa, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Episcopal City Mission, Ernie's Harvest Time, Essex River Cruises & Charters, Exit Elite Realty, Fantasy Island, Fauci's Pizza, Flowers By Lorraine, Full Color Printing, Ginger's Closet, Goodrich Funeral Home, Harbor Sweets, Hawthorne Hotel, HMA Car Care, Home Depot, House of Seven Gables, Huntington Theatre, John's Roast Beef, Lancelot Janitorial, Laser Quest, Lazy Dog Sports Bar, Loomos Bros., Lynn Housing & Neighborhood Development, Lynn Museum, Market Basket, MCAN (Massachusetts Communities Action Network, Middleton Golf Course, Nadworny Funeral Home, North Shore Navigators, Office Max, P.F. Chang's, Panera Bread (Swampscott), Parker Funeral Home, Peabody Essex Museum, Pearl Beauty Supply, Pennyworth's, Inc., Periwinkles Food Shoppe, Porthole Pub, Reading Children's Learning Center, Rizzo's Roast Beef & Pizza, Robert's Cleaners, Rolly's Tavern, Rossetti Restaurant, Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites, Shaw's Market, So. Peabody Liquors, Sparkling Image Car Wash, Spud's Restaurant & Pub, St. Stephen's Tower, Starbucks (Vinnin Square), Stoneham Theatre, Stop & Shop (Lynn & Vinnin Square), Target, Tavern on the Square, The Cheese Shop of Salem, The Swamp Crossfit, Tides, Tony the Florist, Trader Joe's, Treadwell's Ice Cream, Tri City Sales, Turner's Seafood, Wyoma Square True Value Hardware, Yankee Candle, & Zimman's.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR LEADERS.** Our Parish, Deanery, and Diocese need leaders and the good news is that the leaders we need are sitting in our pews. Please think, pray, and talk to Nominating Committee members Carolyn Hoy, Pauline Leslie, Neil O'Donnell, and Steve Switzer, as you reflect on whether God might be calling you to serve.

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

**ARE YOU READY FOR ADVENT?** Every year we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent right after Thanksgiving, so that Advent can feel like a train that speeds by us before we realize that we are even at the train station. So we rush into preparing lists, decorating the house and shopping for gifts. The four weeks of Advent remind us to be present and patient in our anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Our worship changes as colors go to purple; Sunday mornings begin in solemn darkness; and we sing the liturgy. Advent calendars, books of daily readings, and family resource packets are available in the Galahad area for individuals and families so that we can intentionally count down the days to Christmas.

**ADVENT STUDY & REFLECTION OPPORTUNITIES.** Tuesdays at 9:30am take a break from busy-ness and enjoy an hour of “Contemplative Prayer.” We will meet in the Chapel for a structured time of prayer. Wednesday evenings at 6:30, Bible Study will explore the lives of the patriarchs in the the Book of Genesis. On Thursdays at 1:00, following our noon worship with healing prayers, Tea and Talk about Faith will read and discuss a series of Advent reflections. Take time in the midst of the busy-ness to prepare for Jesus being born in you.

**LIVING WORD WORSHIP DECEMBER 4—PREPARE THE WAY!** Have you ever wondered why we need a season of preparation before Christmas day? Or why John the Baptist offered baptism before the arrival of the Messiah? On the second Sunday of Advent we will explore these questions with our guest preacher, The Rev. Deacon Beatrice Kayigwa. Beatrice and her husband David worshiped at St. Stephen’s when they first arrived in Lynn from Uganda. Beatrice was ordained Deacon last year in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and she now serves at All Saints, Worcester. Rachel Baldwin will lead us in singing both traditional and contemporary Advent songs. Singers of all ages and levels can join the pick-up choir at 9am.

**WORSHIP DECEMBER 6 AT THE MONASTERY.** On Tuesday, December 6 (leaving St. Stephen’s at 4:15pm), we will join the SSJE Brothers for worship and supper at the Monastery. The Monastery Chapel is a place of quiet beauty, which lends itself to Advent’s encouragement of waiting quietly for God to be born in us. Sign up is required but please join us.

**ADVENT INCARNATION RETREAT DECEMBER 17 (9:00-1:00) AT ST. ANDREW’S.** What does it mean that God became human? How does God want and need us to embody God’s presence in the world? We’ll ponder these theological questions as we use all our senses to prepare our incarnate bodies for Christmas. We’ll have music, icons, yoga, massage, and comfort food. The goal of the retreat is to provide time and space for body, mind, and spirit to pause, and to reflect on what it means for us to be Christ’s incarnate presence.

**HEALING PRAYER AND PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET DECEMBER 8.** The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet at 10:30 on Thursday, December 8th. We will check in and discuss chapters 1-3 (pages 1-53) of Becca Stevens’ Snake Oil.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS DECEMBER 15 AT 7:00.** Those who participated in ECCO’s race retreat as well as those who want to engage the work of bridging racial divisions are invited to the Beloved Community Team gathering on Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 at St. Stephen’s. We will talk about learnings, challenges, and awakenings from the race retreat and plan for 2017.

**POINSETTIAS GIVE TWICE.** By Monday, December 19, please complete the enclosed form to contribute to our Christmas decorating fund by offering a memorial or thanksgiving donation. On January 1 following Christmas Lessons & Carols, please help us deliver poinsettias to our homebound members. It's a blessing to spread St. Stephen's Christmas cheer.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION ON DECEMBER 20 AT 6:30.** We all know that the holidays can be difficult when pain and loss make life hard. In our Blue Christmas service, we offer a chance to offer to God the pain, disappointment and loss of our lives as we recognize the reality that "the light came into the world and the darkness did not overcome it." We light candles in the darkness; we hear words of comfort and strength; we offer prayers for healing and wholeness; and we gather at God's table to be fed. As Christians, we believe that nothing can overcome the light of Christ in our lives and in the world but this does not mean that we must pretend that our lives are all that God and we would want them to be. Join us for Blue Christmas and bring with you those for whom you suspect this holiday season may be hard.

**DECK THE HALLS ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22 FROM 2:00 TO 6:00.** On December 22 get into the Christmas spirit smelling greens and wood polish, unwrapping and arranging poinsettias, and arranging figures from our crèche around the church. We'll enjoy Christmas music, hot cider, and snacks as we work to clean and beautify the church for Christmas.

**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON  
JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22**

**6:30 BLUE CHRISTMAS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:30 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT WITH CAROLS & COMMUNION**

**10:00 CHRISTMAS CAROL SING**

**10:30 CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS**

**10:00 CHRISTMAS COMMUNION WITH CAROLS**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017**

**8:00 HOLY COMMUNION WITH SERMON**

**10:00 CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS WITH COMMUNION**

**HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

**TIME TO GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.** Each year St. Stephen's young people present a Christmas pageant at 5:30 on Christmas Eve. The pageant has roles for babies and bigger-- parts for readers, speakers, dancers, and sheep! During the pageant the cast and congregation will sing several Christmas carols, which will be led by Rachel Baldwin. Rehearsals are Sundays after 10am worship. Sign up today to become part of the Pageant. We also need adults to organize costumes, provide snacks, and lead craft projects.

**KIC DRUMMERS PERFORM AT THE TOWER.** Kids in the KIC Music program had a great month in November. The two oldest groups of drummers—the Keitas and the Tan Duns—played to a packed room of residents at St. Stephen's Towers on November 17. They did a great job, and are excited to perform there again when they have more pieces to play!

**KIC MUSIC WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 15 AT 5:30.** If you would like to see and hear KIC kids for yourself, one and all are invited to come to our winter concert on Thursday, December 15, at 5:30 in the dining room. All three drum ensembles will show off the rhythms they've been learning, and everyone will perform Christmas music on the piano. The concert will be fun, informal, and good for kids. There will be some other family activities, as well, followed by a community dinner. Please join us!

**HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT & CHRISTMAS CONCERT!** On Friday, December 16, from 6:00pm-8:00pm join families from St. Stephen's English and Kiswahili congregations and KIC After School Music program for a festive holiday celebration. The evening will include a string trio offering a family-friendly Christmas Concert. In addition, there will be games, cookie decorating, ornament making, and holiday treats for youth of all ages as well as parents, grandparents, and friends. Plus we will have raffles for gift cards and small presents. Please speak with Rev. Sarah if you would like to help organize, cook, and decorate for this fun event.

**YOUTH HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 9.** Our Middle School, BE YOU and OASIS Youth Groups will gather together for a joint Holiday Celebration 6:30-9 on Friday, December 9. Join us to celebrate the season and the success of the Christmas Presents Project for Kids. We will meet downstairs for yummy treats, holiday art, music and more! Please see Jason Cruz or Rev. Sarah for more information.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS 2016 NEEDS YOU!** Each year St. Stephen's youth and adult mentors raise money to provide Lynn youth with Christmas gifts. Over the years this project has given gifts to almost 1000 children and teens. In order to be successful CPPK needs help and time from teens and adults with sign-ups, shopping, organizing, and distributing. Please tell Bonnie Bishop or Rev. Sarah how you can share in the joy of giving during the holiday season:

- **Fridays, December 2, 9, 16, 4-6pm:** Sign-ups downstairs in basement.
- **Saturday, December 17, 9am-1pm:** Purchasing gifts at Walmart (last year we filled 7 shopping carts) with a free lunch afterwards.
- **Sunday, December 18, 12-2pm:** Sort and organize gifts into bags for distribution.
- **Thursday, December 22, 4-6pm:** Distribute gifts with cocoa, cookies, carols & Santa!

**YOUNG ADULTS BUILD COMMUNITY OVER FOOD & CONVERSATION.** Several generations of Oasis gather on second Tuesdays to enjoy food and fellowship at our monthly YA Dinner. Join us **Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.** All 18-25 year olds are welcome.

**ELF GIFT DISTRIBUTION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18.** The people of Trinity Church in Topsfield St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead are eagerly shopping for Elf gifts for our St. Stephen's children and youth. If you signed up your child/children for Elf gifts please pick them up after the 10am service on Sunday, December 18.



**REGISTER NOW FOR BCH IN FEBRUARY.** The annual Senior High Retreat at BCH will be Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5. It is a fun filled weekend away from school and work. Please speak with Rev. Sarah or Jason for more info. BCH has broadened the Winter Camp program to now include grades 4-11. Winter camp will be Monday-Saturday, February 20-25 (Massachusetts' public school vacation week). For fun-filled faith or faithful fun, tweens and teens are invited to register now for time at BCH in February. You can register online at [bchcenter.org](http://bchcenter.org) or see Rev. Sarah. Scholarships are available but spaces fill up fast!

## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**


**MANY THANKS TO THE WITTRUPS FOR ANOTHER FABULOUS SPAGHETTI SUPPER.**

Once again, the Wittrups rescued us from turkey leftovers and commercial Christmas-hype by hosting the Annual CPPK Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, November 26. We wrapped up ordinary time with a flourish as crowded tables, plentiful food, and lots of laughter filled the Wittrups home and helped the teens raise money to buy toys for children in the community. Thank you Sandy, Kent, and Family for spoiling us and helping a good cause!

**ECCO ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 AT 5:00.** ECCO has a lot to celebrate this year! Come to the Annual Meeting to enjoy an abundant potluck feast. Hear the Beloved Community Team's stories of building relationships with the Lynn Police, engaging in implicit bias training with Lynn Police Command Staff, hosting Essex County Sheriff Candidates' Forums, and engaging in Race Dialogue Dinners and a 3 day Racial Reconciliation Retreat. Listen to the immigration campaign's stories of deportation rallies at ICE Headquarters, the home of Governor Charlie Baker, and the Boston Detention Center. Join in ECCO's election. Be part of ECCO's future as we engage Criminal Justice Reform and find ways to stand with those who fear deportation, stop & search, and other challenges to human rights and dignity.

**LEND A HELPING HAND. Fridays, 3:00-4:00 help our Food Pantry give out groceries.** We also give away books, clothes, and knit items most weeks. Extra hands and generous hearts are always appreciated. Our usual Sunday at the Table is Christmas, which will be covered by other volunteers. But mark your calendars for January 22. Many thanks to all those who donated turkeys and supported the Church School Can Drive in November. We were able to respond to the need of all those who came to us asking for help at Thanksgiving. November 20 certainly was a glorious Gratitude Sunday! For those who forgot to bring in UTO boxes on the 20<sup>th</sup>, we will keep collecting donations in December to support the work of the United Thank Offering.

**BUY JUSTICE BUTTONS TO SUPPORT CPPK  
ASK AN OASIS TEEN: SMALL \$1.00; LARGE \$2.00**

	December 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>SUNDAYS</b> <b>8 &amp; 10am Worship in English</b> <b>10am Worship in Kiswahili</b>	<b>Office Hours:</b> <b>Mon-Fri</b> <b>9am-3pm</b> <b>KIC Music:</b> <b>Mon-Thurs</b> <b>2-6pm</b>			<b>1</b> 9am-3pm ECCO Race Retreat, St. Andrew's Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 4pm World AIDS Day, City Hall Steps	<b>2</b> 4-6pm CPPK sign-up	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> 8am and 10am <i>Living Word</i> Worship: Prepare the Way Guest Preacher: Deacon Beatrice Kayigma Post-10am -Pageant Rehearsal -Mini Fair Noon Raffle Drawings Noon Sewing Group	<b>5</b> 8pm AA	<b>6</b> 9:30am Contemplative Prayer 3:30-5:30pm Be You 4:15pm Tuesday with the Monks 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	<b>7</b> 6-8pm MCAN Fundraiser, Boston 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>8</b> 10:30am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Teams Meeting Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7pm St. Stephen's Towers Board	<b>9</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 4-6pm CPPK sign-up 6:30-9pm OASIS	<b>10</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal	
<b>11</b> <b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> <b>Technology Sunday</b> Post-10am Pageant Rehearsal 12:30 Women's Group 5-7pm ECCO Annual Meeting	<b>12</b> 8pm AA	<b>13</b> 9:30am Contemplative Prayer 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6pm Finance Committee 6:30pm YA Dinner 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>15</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 5:30pm KIC Music Winter Concert 7pm Beloved Community Team	<b>16</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 4-6pm CPPK sign-up 6-8pm Holiday Family Fun Night	<b>17</b> 9am CPPK Shopping Day 9am-1pm Advent Retreat with St. Andrew's in Marblehead	
<b>18</b> <b>Last Sunday in Advent</b> 8am and 10am Service of Light Post-10am -Pageant Rehearsal -Elf Gift distribution 12:15pm Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b> <b>Poinsettia Deadline</b> 8pm AA	<b>20</b> 9:30am Contemplative Prayer 2pm Christmas Communion at St. Stephen's Tower 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Blue Christmas Service 7pm NA	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk <b>2-6pm Deck the Halls</b> 4-6pm CPPK Gift Distribution	<b>23</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry	<b>24</b> <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 3:30pm Pageant Rehearsal 5:30pm Christmas Pageant with Communion 10pm Christmas Carol Sing 10:30pm Candlelit Communion with Choir	
<b>25</b> 10am Christmas Communion <b>Merry Christmas!</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>St. Stephen's Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 8pm AA	<b>27</b> 7pm NA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>30</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry	<b>31</b>	

