

## I BRING GOOD NEWS TO YOU - WONDERFUL, JOYOUS NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE - Luke 2:10

Newsletter December, 2018

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

On the Monday after Thanksgiving, I was at the dentist and they were playing over the radio Christmas music. As the dentist's drill whined, I thought they were rather fun tunes having not heard them for a year. I also realized that they made me feel like I was not ready for Christmas. I yearned to hear something about waiting and preparing, other than by shopping. The fact is, our society does celebrate preparing for Christmas, but it is hard to prepare one's soul to receive God incarnate in the manic rush have a perfect

holiday.

This Advent we invite you to experience some quiet and peace as we prepare to celebrate God being born among us. In our Sunday services we will be returning to the familiar cadences of the Book of Common Prayer. The service will begin with a quiet invitation to repentance and absolution. We will then mark the weeks of preparation by lighting the Advent Wreath and singing "O come, o come, Emanuel". Hopefully, this will help us all to slow down and anticipate the birth of the Christ Child.

With peacefulness in mind, we are offering a number of special programs and services that may help you experience the fullness of this season.

Advent: *(Please see inside the Newsletter for more details)*

- Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM Celebration of Saint Nicholas for families with young children.
- Wednesdays in Advent, at 6:30 PM - *The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus Centered Life*
- Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> helping to sort the Christmas Present Project for Kids, (CPPK) with distribution on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Blue Christmas Service
- The Thursday Noon Healing Service and Eucharist will also continue

Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM. The early Family Service at 5:00 PM will feature the building of the crèche as we retell the story of Jesus' birth. We will have a full choir, a candle lit church and Eucharist. The late 10:00 PM service will be feature candlelit church, your favorite Christmas hymns and Eucharist.

Christmas Day 10:00 AM Eucharist Service: An intimate gathering to reflect on the glory of the Word made flesh

December 30<sup>th</sup> 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - 10 AM: Christmas Lesson and Carols

We pray that you will have a blessed and holy Advent and a joyous Christmas.

Blessings,

The Rev. Tom Barrington

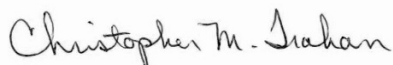
## We Gather Together

This year in this season of gratitude, I took some time to think about life around St. Stephen's. I thought about our: Stewardship Ministry Team, the Fair Committee, Search Committee, the Vestry, Food Pantry Volunteers, Pastoral Care Team, Healing Prayer Team, the Kids In Community Advisory Board, the Finance Committee, the Fundraising Committee, the Choir, the Acolytes and the Altar Guild. It has been quite a busy fall for all the people who volunteer for these groups to help make St. Stephen's what it is. Granted, there are some people who serve on multiple committees, but it is evident that our parish is not a "Sunday only" kind of church.

Our Stewardship Ministry Team planned and is carrying out our 2019 Pledge campaign which officially began on All Saints' Sunday on November 4th. The Fair Committee solicited donations and ads from businesses as well as coordinated donations of goods from individuals to run a fun and successful Harvest Fair. The KIC Advisory Board has been busy planning for the reopening of the KIC after school program while dealing with the licensure application and all the hurdles to get the program licensed with the Commonwealth. The Finance Committee is busy advising the Vestry regarding income and expenses all while entering the 2019 budget season. Our Food Pantry Volunteers continue to provide food to growing numbers of people all while preparing for a complete renovation of the food pantry space to increase efficiency and to meet building code requirements. Our Fundraising Committee was busy this year writing grants and appeals for our programs as well as working with fundraising event chairpersons to schedule events. The Search Committee conducted a survey and several listening sessions in order to gather information to develop our Parish Profile, which when ready, will go public nationally, for all interested candidates for rector to access. The Choir, Altar Guild, Acolytes, Healing Prayer Team and Pastoral Care Team, week after week, enrich our worship through music, preparing the altar, serving at the altar, offering to quietly pray with people or bringing Communion to those who physically cannot make it to church.

I sat back and thought about how grateful I am to be a member at St. Stephen's, a place where so much good work is done, because there are so many people who take their faith seriously, sharing their gifts of time, talent and treasure, for the good of our parish and the neighboring community. Thank you for choosing to be a part of St. Stephen's; your involvement does make a difference.

Love and peace,



Chris Trahan

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

**ARE YOU READY FOR ADVENT?** Every year we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent shortly after Thanksgiving, so 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, 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.

**JOURNEYING THE WAY OF LOVE: Advent Study on Wednesdays in December at 6:30 – 8:00 PM**  
Journeying the Way of Love is an offering by the National Episcopal to invite us into what the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls the Jesus Movement. It offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. All are welcome and encouraged to attend one or all of the sessions.

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

#### **Tuesday, December 18**

6:30pm Blue Christmas

#### **Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve**

5:00PM Family Service with Full Choir & Eucharist

10:00PM Christmas Candlelight Eucharist

#### **Monday, December 25—Christmas**

10:00am Christmas Eucharist with Carols

#### **Sunday, December 30**

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:00am Christmas Lessons & Carols

**POINSETTIAS GIVE TWICE!** By Sunday, December 16th, please complete the enclosed form to contribute to our Christmas decorating fund by offering a memorial or thanksgiving donation. We need volunteers with a little time and a lot of Christmas spirit to deliver poinsettias following the week of Christmas. It's a blessing to spread St. Stephen's Christmas Cheer.

**DECK THE HALLS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> AFTER SERVICE!** 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.

**SAVE THE DATE ST. STEPHEN'S EVENING!** Thursday, December 13, 6pm to 9pm at the Tides Restaurant in Nahant. 10% of all sales will be donated to St. Stephen's!! We need raffle items and volunteers for that evening. Please contact Ruthanne Switzer at 617.599.8492 for more information and invite your friends and family!

**BLUE CHRISTMAS!** Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at St. Stephens. Let the healing begin, in a season of sometimes forced good cheer, this is a refuge for all those for whom memories of loss, grief and trauma are brought to the fore by the holidays.

## **STEWARDS OF RESOURCES**

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM PLANS PLEDGE FOLLOW UP!** As we reach toward our pledge goal of \$120,000, the Stewardship Ministry Team and Vestry will make pledge follow up phone calls in December to encourage previous pledgers to return their 2019 pledge commitment cards and to inspire new people to join the ranks of pledging members. Already we have pledged \$86,759.88. Please pledge so that we can continue to let God's light shine in and through St. Stephen's.

**HARVEST FAIR PROVIDES FUN & FUND RAISING!** The Fair is not over as you can still purchase Multi-prize raffle tickets so please sell as many as you can. The day of the fair the weather was great which helped bring a big crowd. Happy people bid and bought raffle tickets on 15 silent auction items and over 50 same day raffles. They ranged from \$20.00 to \$160.00. Tasty food was served in Steve's café all day. We ran out of some items and little was left to purchase on Sunday morning. This made for a very successful day raising \$6000. Just for the day with much more to come from ads, presales and hopefully multi-affle proceeds. Special thanks go to Tina Lloyd and one who wants to remain anonymous for bringing in items and gift cards for the same day raffles and ads for the program book. Steve Switzer always cooks tasty food and this year also served 230 meatballs made by Margie Messina. Kendra Zimiroski decorated and set up our beautiful selection of jewelry. Charlotte Breckrenridge & Sandy Wittrup were in charge of our Children's fair and Carolyn Hoy produced our outstanding program book with color cover. Rev. Tom was there to help with anything we asked. And many more parishioners helped in varying capacities supporting us in many different ways. A final report will be given in the next newsletter. Thanks to all for making this fair so successful. It takes a parish! Marilyn Cloran and Sally Gosselin, Co-chairs

**SEARCH COMMITTEE!** During the month of November the Search Committee held three general participation small groups and several focus groups in which we targeted specific ministries and groups of St. Stephen's. In the month of December we will be analyzing the data gathered from the small groups and individual interviews as we begin the process of creating the Parish Profile. We will also be folding in the data gathered from the surveys into the data base. In September and October we gathered descriptive data regarding the St. Stephen's committee systems, outreach ministries, the history of Lynn, the history of St. Stephen's, the creation of our building, demographic and geographic information for the city of Lynn and more. All of this material will also be folded into our data base. ALL of this information will be coded and analyzed as we begin the process of actually writing the Parish Profile which will be completed in January. Once this profile is composed we will return the document to the congregation for response and approval. Then it will be forwarded to the diocese for approval so we can begin the process of receiving names. We realize that at times this seems we are moving at a snail's pace. However, we exist to serve you so it is important that we solicit and receive what the congregation believes who we have been, who we are, and who we want to be so we can diligently and prayerfully move to select a new rector. This takes time! We ask for your continued support, patience, and prayers as we seek to select a candidate for our beloved St. Stephen's. In closing we want to thank all of you for your participation in filling out the survey, individual interviews, and small groups. If there is more on your heart and soul about selecting a new rector, we welcome and encourage your response.  
Yours in the love of Christ, Your Search Committee.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM (BCT)!** In November the Beloved Community Team joined with the Mission Institute for an extensive workshop in which we explored how the committee was formed, what we have done so far, and where we want to go. The workshop challenged all of us as we examined how white supremacy had filtered into our group and the world at large. Furthermore, we explored the

relationship between our partner on this journey, St. Andrew's of Marblehead and the St. Stephen's members. We all agreed that this relationship has been fertile. We also all agreed that we still face challenges as we continue on our journey together. In the end, the group through hard work, vulnerability, and lead by the skillful and insightful facilitator's of the Mission Institute ended the workshop a stronger unit dedicated to fighting white supremacy in every way we possibly can. We both vowed to fight white supremacy in both our congregations with heart and prayers and the determination that we will bring about the beloved community of God.

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

**SAINT NICHOLAS FESTIVAL FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN!** Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm to 5:30pm come discover the Bishop and Saint who is sometimes known as Santa Claus. We will have activities for all ages, child friendly dinner and child centered story-telling & prayers. This is a gathering to bring together families with young children, however, all are welcome.

**YOUTH HOLIDAY CELEBRATION DECEMBER 21!** Our Middle School and OASIS Youth Groups will gather together for a joint Holiday Celebration 6:30-9 on Friday, December 21. 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 for more information.

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS 2018 NEEDS YOU!** Each year St. Stephen's youth and adults raise money to provide Lynn youth with Christmas gifts. Lastly year, CPPK gave gifts to 183 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 Brandi Walker @ [ststephens@ststephenslynn.org](mailto:ststephens@ststephenslynn.org) how might share in the joy of giving during the holiday season:

- **Fridays, December 7th, 14th, 4:00-6:00pm:** Sign-ups downstairs in basement.
- **Saturday, December 15, 9am-1pm:** Purchasing gifts at Walmart (last year we filled 7 shopping carts) with a free lunch afterwards.
- **Sunday, December 16, 12-2pm:** Sort and organize gifts into bags for distribution.
- **Thursday, December 20, 3:00-6:00pm:** Distribute gifts with cocoa, cookies, carols & Santa!

**ELF GIFT DISTRIBUTION ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>!** The people of Trinity Church in Topsfield and 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 on **Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** after the 10:00am service.

**REGISTER NOW FOR THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT IN FEBRUARY!** The Annual Senior High Retreat at Barbara C. Harris Camp (BCH) will be Friday, February 8 through Sunday, February 10, 2019. It is a fun filled weekend away from school and work. Please speak with Rev. Tom Barrington for more information. You can register online at [bchcenter.org](http://bchcenter.org). Scholarship are available but spaces fill up fast!

The **Folk Art Retreat** Wednesday, February 20 – Friday, Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's a week for a beginner artists to escape to snowy woods of Greenfield, NH. Enjoy a relaxing midweek retreat offering good company, great food, and the chance to learn a brand new skill.

**Winter Quilting Retreat** Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. A weekend filled with fun, laughter, new friends, great food and lots of creativity! Quilters of all abilities are welcome. This retreat is intended to give you the free time needed to begin, work on, or finish a project, without any formal instructions. For fun-filled faith or faithful fun, are invited to register now for time at BCH in February. You can register online at [bchcenter.org](http://bchcenter.org).

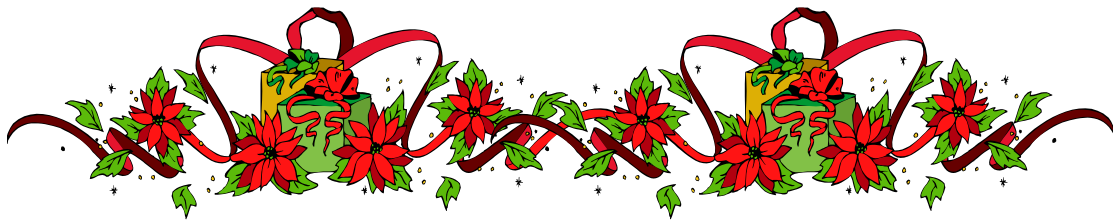
## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**MANY THANKS TO THE WITTRUPS FOR ANOTHER FABULOUS SPAGHETTI SUPPER!** Once again, the Wittrup's rescued us from turkey leftovers and commercial Christmas-hype by hosting the Annual CPPK Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, November 24. We wrapped up ordinary time with a flourish as crowded tables, plentiful food, and lots of laughter filled the Wittrup's 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!

**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. Many thanks to all those who donated turkeys and chickens and supported the Food Pantry during the month of November. We were able to respond to the needs of all those who came to us asking for help at Thanksgiving. Thank you!

**MY BROTHER'S TABLE (MBT)!** The North Shore's largest soup kitchen, is in need of **NEW** sweatshirts and sweaters to distribute to its guest on Christmas day. Men's and women's adult large and XL sweaters/sweatshirts are needed the most. MBT is also seeking new gloves, mittens, socks and thermal underwear. Unwrapped items can be dropped off at My Brother's Table, 98 Willow Street, Lynn during office hours Monday- Friday 9:00-5:30pm. Please try to drop items off by December 19<sup>th</sup> to allow time for sorting/wrapping. For more information, please call My Brother's Table at 781.595.3224.

**NEWS FROM KEVIN NEIL, POSTULANT FOR ORDINATION FROM ST. STEPHEN'S!** It's has been too long since I have seen all of you, let alone checked in! And I am very sorry about that. I wanted to give you all a little 'progress report' about what has happened in the past year. I am currently a student at Boston University School of Theology, and in the application process for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) for the summer. I'm living in Coolidge Corner and have joined the Brookline Community Band (I play trombone...we are profoundly mediocre). I have also been hired by MANNA, the homeless community at the Cathedral, to be on the pastoral team beginning in January. This is where I was placed as a Life Together Fellow, so I am very excited to be joining them again. I think that is all of the big news...I miss you all, I hope to make it to St. Stephen's soon. Peace Kevin Neil



**POINSETTIAS  
IN MEMORY OF THOSE YOU LOVE**

It is time once again to remember your loved ones with a contribution to our Christmas Memorial Flowers. Please use this form to list the name(s) to be printed in our memorial booklet. Please print clearly! We ask for a contribution of \$25.00 so that we can purchase poinsettias and greens to decorate the church for Christmas. Your names must be submitted no later than Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**DO NOT DETACH**

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In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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The poinsettias donated by members of the parish decorate the altar gloriously for our Christmas celebrations. After Christmas, we give them to our homebound members. We need volunteers with a little time and a lot of Christmas spirit to deliver poinsettias following the week of Christmas. Flower delivery isn't hard and won't take too long but it will make a real difference in another person's life.

All you have to do is take a plant and an addressed card, and then deliver the poinsettia to your fellow parishioner. Receiving their poinsettias and a brief visit from you will make their day! Please call the church office if you can help. 781-599-4220.

***PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESS & INSTITUTIONS THAT GIVE TO THE FAIR.***

AAA of Southern New England  
Antique Table Restaurant  
April's Pub & Grill  
Bancroft & Co.  
Beacon Properties  
Bed, Bath & Beyond  
Bennett St. Tire & Glass  
BJ's Danvers  
Bonefish Harry's  
Brotherhood Credit Union  
Buffalo Wild Wings  
The Cheese Shop, Salem  
Cheesecake Factory  
Chuck E Cheese  
Context Architecture  
Cuffe-McGinn Funeral Home  
Dunkin Donuts  
ECCO  
Edible Arrangements  
Entredupe Financial Coaching  
Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts  
Ernie's Harvest Time  
Exit Realty, Paul Stonkus  
Feline Hospital, Salem  
Five Guys  
Flatbread Company, Salem  
Greater Lynn Senior Service  
Green Tea, Lynn  
Home Décor Group  
Home Depot  
Hotel Hawthorne  
John's Oil  
Kokeshi's Restaurant, Salem  
Lazy Dog  
Lucia Lighting  
Lynn Community Health Center  
Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood  
Development  
Lynn Museum  
Mahan's Auto Parts & Hardware  
Mia Style & Beauty  
Mr. Spec's Opticians  
Nadworny Funeral Home  
North Shore Dance Studio  
Old Tyme Italian Cuisine  
Olive Garden  
Panera Bread  
Pan-i-Cakes  
Parker Funeral Home  
Peabody Essex Museum  
Pennyworth's  
Periwinklie's Food Shoppe  
RE/MAX 360/DiVirgilio Homes, Julie  
Joseph  
REAL Reading Program  
Rolly's Tavern  
Salem Waterfront Hotel  
Shaw's  
Solimine Funeral Homes  
Solutions Auto Repair  
Soul City Yoga  
South Peabody Liquors  
Speedway Fuel & Merchandise  
Stoneham Theatre, (Boston Stage Co.)  
Stop & Shop, Swampscott  
Supercuts  
Super Seven Subs & Pizza  
Target, Salem  
Tech Center, Danvers  
Tides, Nahant  
TITLE Boxing Club  
TJ Maxx, Peabody  
Trader Joe's  
Treadwell Ice Cream  
Turner's Seafood, Salem  
Uno Pizzeria & Grill  
Valvoline Jiffy Lube  
Wyoma Hardware  
Yankee Candle, Peabody  
Zimman's



## St. Stephen's December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 4:00 pm ECCO Meeting
<b>2</b> <b>First Sunday in Advent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan	<b>3</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm North Shore Deanery Assembly 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Journeying The Way of Love: Advent Study	<b>6</b> 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing	<b>7</b> 4:00 pm CPPK for KIDS: forms available	<b>8</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 4:00 pm St. Nicholas Family Event
<b>9</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship -	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Journeying The Way of Love: Advent Study	<b>13</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 12:30 pm North Shore Clericus 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>14</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 4:00 pm CPPK for KIDS: forms available 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>15</b> 9:00 am CPPK GOING SHOPPING FOR GIFTS 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>16</b> <b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> <b>Poinsettias due date</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship -	<b>17</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	<b>18</b> 2:30 pm Communion at the Towers 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 6:30 pm Blue Christmas 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Journeying The Way of Love: Advent Study	<b>20</b> 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk 3:00 pm CPPK Gives out gifts	<b>21</b> <b>St Thomas the Apostle</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>23</b> <b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship -	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5:00 pm Family Service Full Choir & Eucharist 8:00 pm AA 10:00 pm Christmas	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:00 am Christmas Eucharist with Carols 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>26</b> <b>St Stephen, Deacon and Martyr</b>	<b>27</b> <b>St John, Apostle and Evangelist</b> 12:00 pm Healing Prayers 1:00 pm Tea & Talk	<b>28</b> <b>The Holy Innocents</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>29</b> 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal
<b>30</b> <b>First Sunday after Christmas</b> 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Christmas Lessons & Carols 11:00 am Worship -	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> 8:00 pm AA					