

### **For Such a Time as This: A Call to Pray, Fast, and Advocate**

The third week of May, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry sent out an appeal to all Episcopalians to “pray, fast, and advocate” for “the poor and the needy.” The appeal, which also came to me through the World Council of Churches, Bread for the World, Jim Wallis and the *Sojourners* community, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), challenges people of faith to live our faith through actions of faith, charity, and justice.

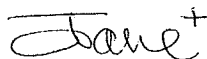
The World Council of Churches announced: *“We fast to fortify our advocacy in solidarity with families who are struggling with hunger. We fast to be in solidarity with neighbors who suffer famine, who have been displaced, and who are vulnerable to conflict and climate change. We fast with immigrants who are trying to make a better future for their families and now face the risk of deportation. We fast in solidarity with families on SNAP, who often run out of food by the last week of the month.”*

The invitation from our Presiding Bishop and a host of other faith community leaders is to adopt a spiritual practice of fasting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month from May 21, 2017 until December 21, 2018. Organizers of the Call to Action chose the 21<sup>st</sup> because it is the time of the month, for those on fixed incomes, when money starts to get tight. For people living on Social Security, SSI disability, unemployment, or public assistance, their check barely covers essentials and never meets their needs. Tragically, the majority who suffer due to inadequate resources are children and elders. The call to fast on the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month is an invitation to stand with the poorest and most vulnerable among us. These folks worship among us, live with us, and pass us on the street. They fear deportation, feel trapped by our system of mass incarceration, and struggle with substance use disorders. They come to our food pantry, register their children for KIC and Summer Learning, and participate in our youth groups.

Our community programs as well as our relationships with ECCO and the Lynn Hunger Network give us opportunities to engage in works of charity and justice for those who are most at risk. The Presiding Bishop insisted on our need to advocate for policies that are “just, kind, and compassionate.” He called on all of us “to help our government reflect the best of the American Spirit by feeding the hungry, caring for our children, and making sure everyone has opportunities for life and liberty not only in our country but in our world.”

As Presiding Bishop Curry and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton explain: *“Prayer accompanies and undergirds the disciplines of fasting and advocacy. It roots our actions in our total reliance on God’s loving grace and mercy. Turning to God in prayer shapes our advocacy and informs our fasting, grounding our actions in God’s call to love and serve our neighbor.”*

The Book of Esther tells of a Jewish woman married to a Persian king. When the government decided to slaughter all the Jews, Esther’s cousin Mordechai pleaded with her to use her access and voice to persuade the King to spare her people. He urged her not to remain silent, as she may have been sent “for such a time as this.” Esther asked the Jews to fast and pray with her, and then she spoke to the King on their behalf, which resulted in the saving of their lives. Perhaps, God needs us to pray, fast, and advocate for such a time as this. JSG+

 Jane<sup>+</sup>

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, June 11 we celebrate the end of a wonderful Church School program year. During the service will express our deep gratitude for the many adults who shared their time and wisdom to our children and youth. I am especially thankful for the grades 1-5 teaching team that took on the challenge of experimenting with the Rotational Model that allowed children to discover God in different ways: food, art, and Bible Study.

Over the summer a team of previous and current teachers as well as parents will meet to reflect on the ways we are and are not following the words of Deuteronomy, *"Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and your rise."* In other words, children need to hear us talk about God ALL THE TIME! The commandments to love to God, love your neighbor and love yourself should be the first words children hear in the morning and the last words they hear before bed. Like The Lord's Prayer they should be written on their hearts.

I know this to be true from my own upbringing in the Episcopal Church. Attending worship every Sunday as a child I quickly learned the prayers and Nicene Creed. No one told me to memorize the words, it just happened as I recited them each week. The church wrote them on my heart and they remain there today. I often joke that my identity as an Episcopalian is encoded into my DNA but the joke comes a fundamental truth—I know who I am through the Episcopal Church's worship, theology, history and tradition.

So what are the words we want to write on the hearts of our St. Stephen's children and youth? Whether we are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, teachers, or mentors we have a responsibility to recite the commands to love over and over again. We need to recite them until the children complain and then we need to recite them again! There are countless sources that speak words of confusion and pain which mean we need to make our words loud and clear...love God, love your neighbor, and love yourself. These are the words we want on the hearts of all children.

The Church School team needs your voice! The good news is that there is no special training required. All you need is a voice and actions that tell the truth that love is the most powerful force on earth.

Peace,

*Rev. Sarah*

Sarah

## Farewell from our Life Together Fellow

I came to St. Stephen's for the first time on August 9. My dad and I had finished our two day road trip up to Massachusetts from Virginia the previous day and decided to get a sense of the morning commute by driving from Brookline to Lynn the next morning. I hadn't even unpacked the tiny car that was filled to the brim with my belongings. We left the cushy Brookline neighborhood with its manicured lawns and tall, shady trees, and I watched in wonder as the landscape began to change to marshy land and industrial parks. I saw St. Stephen's for the first time, its tall tower rising above the surrounding buildings, and I breathed in the smell of salty air, the air of my new home. The long commute worked up our appetites, so my dad and I found a Dunkin' Donuts nearby (the first of many New England DD experiences). We were waiting for our food when a homeless man came inside. He was talking to himself, occasionally yelling at people, and we could smell him from across the store. I kept my head down and avoided looking in his direction. My dad and I hurried to finish our breakfast and got back in the car. Not two minutes later, I burst into tears. *What have I gotten myself into? What am I doing here? I can't handle this.* My dad tried to comfort me as we drove back to Brookline, but I'm sure he was wondering the same thing.

What neither of us could have imagined was that I would be welcomed into the craziest, most generous, "woke"-est church family I have ever experienced. I have learned strength and grace from the generations of women that gather each month at the Women's Group. I have learned laughter and joy from my crazy, kind, intelligent middle school group. I have learned to have tough conversations, centered in love, through the Beloved Community Team. I have learned not to include too many different passages during Bible Study and how to perfectly time the boiling water for Tea and Talk. I have learned that passing the peace should take no less than fifteen minutes and that the Tiffany windows are beautiful, but I see that heavenly light shining more clearly through the faces of each parishioner at coffee hour. In the future, when I think of St. Stephen's, I will think of the Easter Vigil. I will think of everyone walking through the darkness with nothing but a small candle and each other's hands to hold on to. This service, which is written to be full of pomp and circumstance, was only as St. Stephen's can do a service: eclectic and unique and *alive*. When all of the lights flipped on and everyone erupted in *Alleluias!* I felt the glory and realness of the resurrection. I felt what it means to be home.

A few weeks ago, I was going to meet Jason at RAW Arts to plan the middle school overnight. I stopped by Dunkin' Donuts to grab a coffee before our meeting when a man stopped me to ask for food. I bought him a sandwich and a coffee and had a nice long conversation with him as we waited for his food to come out. I told him about My Brother's Table and the St. Stephen's food pantry, and many of the other housing and food resources available in the area. As I left, I thought back to my first trip to Lynn and how much I had changed over the past year, and I have St. Stephen's to thank, eternally, for that. I head back to Virginia on June 19th, but I will carry St. Stephen's in my heart with me when I go.

--Emily Shelton, Life Together Fellow

## **The Life & Times of a Jr. Warden or “By the Seat of my Pants”**

I know this will sound like a bad novel but the story you are about to hear is True. Only the names have been changed to protect the innocent & my loss of memory.

It all started in the cotton fields of Alabama, a share cropper's son. Of course you know that is not the truth but it sounds good in a down trodden peoples struggle story. This is not that.

I am your Junior Warden. What exactly does that mean? By definition, “The Junior Warden is the second lay leader in an Episcopal/Anglican church.” This individual is traditionally responsible for the building and maintenance. They are also an assistant to the Senior Warden. I feel this vision is not limited to the well-being of our historical structure but of the well-being of the entire Parish & her community. Now that the role is clear, let's get back to our story.

If any of you have heard me speak you know my story being a product of Racial Violence. I survived and achieved by the love of family & community. Most know the story of how I was able to acquire access to political figures in my days as a news reporter by ‘piggy-backing’ the Natl. Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). There is always someone you meet along the way that seems to impact our sensitivity to service. I ended up serving 4 years Vice & a decade as President of that organization.

Needless to say Rev. Jane is one of those mystery entities that ‘get cha’. In the past I was asked by many organizations to speak. It happens around every MLK Day. I agreed to this with no clue of the powers at work. If you remember the topic I chose was, “Stewardship is the Next Step”. With a puffed up chest I batter the congregation with a solution/action plan. My goal was to stray from the standard MLK speeches of past marches, sit-ins or heroics of civil rights leaders. Folks want a plan that they can take & put into place today. (Sidebar – no patience, immediate gratification). Stewardship is the answer. Join, volunteer, donate time, visit the sick & shut in, mentor a child, start a Cub or Girl Scout group, join a parish group i.e. Choir, bldg. comm., vestry, ladies group, ushers.

I had been skating on the backs of others for my own agenda. I wasn't really paying back my tab to God. I would only go to the 8:00 service with God me & a great small group of parishioners. I was home for the Sports Reporters; Meet the Press & Face the Nation with jazz in the back ground. God had other plans. Like Neil O'D says, “God has a sense of Humor”.

I had attempted to pull a Peter. I was asked 3 times to consider running for service on the Vestry. “Wham-O” I'm in for a 3 year pop. “Fasten your seatbelts; it's going to be a Bumpy Ride”. Like I say to the ‘Misses’, I made a commitment to God. I said yes to you & to the church, but 1<sup>st</sup> to God”.

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth” Muhammad Ali

The 1<sup>st</sup> year was a cake walk. You learn a lot about the Episcopal Church & your own faith. You make decisional votes on things that will impact many lives including your own, you family & community.

Then it happened. I jumped up again (me & my big fat chops) I will support my Warden & run as her Junior Warden. I faintly hear a Neil cue with a majestic God like laughter behind him.

Now retired I sarcastically thanked God for all this useless knowledge of running the logistics for program facilities. I was ready for travel or just to sit back with my jazz, a good cigar, food & a good book. In essences, I at this point thought I could coast into my last year & would have served. Cake walk, Right? Here is how it went. Warden goes on vacation. Priest is local but out for 2 days. 1<sup>st</sup> day as acting Senior Warden the heating pipes burst on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor due to the extreme cold. Water floods all the way to the basement. In the process of working with the insurance company & adjuster, alarm Co., plumbers, water removal Co. & contractors, the Warden is rushed to the hospital for surgery.

Are you perspiring yet? Don't worry there is more.

One of the biggest goals/'pet peeves' of the current leadership is, to establish better working lines of communications throughout the parish. Mister Solution (me) at a meeting brings up the need for committees that will address these problems in the future. What a meat head like this has never come up before. In her patient manner the Priest sends me a list of committees that already exist. The real kicker is that the Jr. Warden chairs those committees. I'm actually laughing with God now.

So in my 'learning curve trial' as a Jr. Warden I am happy to say that I feel we are doing a great service for the parish & the community. We have had several very positive working meetings and the maintenance & repair is moving forward. I thank all serving on the Vestry and all committees for their hard work & support. Lord knows we need All the help we can get. The committee reviewed and determined an immediate priorities list;

- 1) The Altar window jambs are repaired. The actual stain glass installation will start soon.
- 2) The Bldg. committee is reviewing estimates for the new Parish Sign in the front of the church.
- 3) The removal of the damaged heating pipe insulation (asbestos) will start on June 1, 2017.
- 4) The contractor is set & ready to start rehabilitation immediately after the removal of Asbestos.
- 5) The Bldg. committee is evaluating estimates from contractors to stop the flow of water into the basement. The goal is to complete this prior to the finish of the basements rehabilitation.
- 6) Our Vestry member/design coordinator continues to meet with church groups for input on the Graham Suite Kitchenette design.

I try to avoid preaching but thank God we may just have the funds (with insurance & gifts to the parish and from parishioners) to complete at least this above much needed work. Not that we don't need more. We have an open door policy to the Vestry for issues parishioners may see. That list grows weekly. I think I will leave this up to the Restoration/Building Committee or the Bldg. Use, Rent/Space Committee.

In the Background I hear the majestic sound of laughter...

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3 AT 10:30**  
**THE RT. REV. GAYLE E. HARRIS**  
**WILL ORDAIN TO THE SACRED ORDER OF DEACONS**  
**DANIEL BELL AND PATRICK LAFORTUNE**  
**AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL**  
**YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED**

**STEWARDS OF RESOURCES**

**VESTRY UPDATE. May 21:** Reviewed financials; received audit update; appointed Terry Robinson as auditor for 2016. Discussed grant report, which identified source and purpose of grants received and pending for 2017. Building update: Building Committee meeting regularly to set priorities & facilitate work; chancel windows soon to be returned; getting bids for replacement of front lawn church sign (\$10,000 Congregational Development Grant); getting bids for stopping water incursion in Dining Room; working slowly but well with Church Insurance, adjustor, and contractors to repair damage caused by March heating pipes rupture & flood. Summer Programs: KIC & Summer Learning—July 10- August 4; need volunteers July 10-14 for St. Stephen's Week at KIC; hiring teen staff now; almost fully enrolled & it's not even June. Update on youth summer programs: Youth Pride June 3 & Youth Mission Trip to southwest Virginia for work in Appalachia August 5-12. Vestry Retreat: July 21-22 at Adelynrood. No numbers yet for Soul Celebration but thank organizers and donors for a successful event; Big Money Raffle kicked off on 21<sup>st</sup>.

**PLEDGE PAYMENTS LAGGING THROUGH FIRST QUARTER.** Our budget depends on 100% pledge payment, and right now we are running behind. Due to the demands to transitioning to a new accounting system to accommodate new reporting guidelines, and our shift to a new data software system, life has been busier than usual in the Church Office and the Treasurer's Office. The good news is that we are moving in the direction of vastly improved operating systems in both arenas. The bad news is that we did not get first quarter pledge statements out. **Pledge Statements will be mailed in July at the end of the second quarter.** If you would like to know where you stand before July, please email or call the Office and the Treasurer's Office will get back to you with the information. As always, if life has changed and you would like to adjust your pledge up or down, please contact Treasurer Heather Collis Puro.

**RECTOR AWAY JUNE 19- JULY 12.** Jane and John will be away for a chunk of time this summer as we plan for and enjoy the wedding of Gardner Gould and Tiffanie Hsu on July 8, 2017. Please keep us and especially Gardy and Tiff in your prayers as our LA couple organize their Boston wedding!

**COMING IN NOVEMBER: BABY PFOST!** Our office manager Rachel Pfof and her husband Jared will be welcoming a new baby around Thanksgiving! They are extra grateful this year, and especially grateful for your support and understanding. Stop by the office after June 21st to find out if it will be a boy or a girl!

**SOUL CELEBRATION INSPIRES AND RAISES FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS.** On Sunday, May 7 the Soul Celebration gathered a crowd for worship and our Soul Food Dinner. Our guest preacher and speaker Rev. Michael-Ray Mathews of the PICO National Network reminded us that abundant life matters, and that Jesus came so that we might enjoy abundant life. He challenged us to engage in “prophetic resistance” to the voices inside ourselves and in our world that tell us some are worthy and precious while others are not. Musically, we were richly blessed with offerings from Chubby Boothe, Maiyah Fleuriel, Melvin Byrd, Zumix, and KIC Music Percussion Ensembles. We thank Soul Celebration Coordinator Deborah Potter, DJ Tim Potter, Program Book creator Carolyn Hoy, behind the scenes star Harry Jackson, and all the people who cooked, served, set up, cleaned up, and attended the Soul Food Dinner. We also thank all those who contributed financially through the Soul Celebration Program Book: Beacon Communities, Barbara Boucher, State Rep. Dan Cahill, Caras & Shulman CPAs, Christ Church Quincy, Marilyn & Rick Cloran, Richard Colucci, State Rep. Brendan Crighton, Cuffe-McGinn Funeral Home, Bob Dixon, Joanne Droppers, ECCO, Episcopal City Mission, the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, Ginny Fuller, Goodrich Funeral Home, Sally Gosselin, Rev. Jane & John Gould, Grant Haley, Victoria Harriss-Provost, Dolores & Howie Jackson, Klein Hornig LLP, Lancelot Janitorial, Life Together, Lynn Community Health Center, Lynn Home for Women, Lynn Housing Authority, MCAN, Carly & Lucinda McClain, State Senator Thomas McGee, Mr. Specs, Nadworny Funeral Home, Parker Funeral Home, Bev & Don Phillips, Jay & Pam Poppe, RAW Art Works, Hazel Reinholm, Solimine Funeral Home, St. Stephen's Tower, St. Stephen's Vestry, Paul Stonkus, Realtor, Ruthanne & Steve Switzer, Richard Vitali JD, and Joyce Wallace.

**BIG MONEY RAFFLE KICKED-OFF MAY 21.** On Sunday, May 21, **Big Money Raffle Went on Sale** with sweet treats for all who took tickets to sell. Tickets can be sold to individuals or split into as many as 10 shares at \$10 each. Please take a ticket to sell at the office, or to family and friends! Every Sunday, vestry members will offer weekly tickets for you to buy a \$10 share. Often, a Sunday ticket has been in the final five winning tickets – so get yourself on one of these tickets and increase your chances for \$5,000. There are 215 tickets available, but last year tickets sold out! Buy your tickets immediately so that you and your family and friends have the chance to win! **On Sunday, July 23, we will gather at the Porthole Pub for dinner, dancing, and the Big Money Raffle drawing but RSVP soon because seating is limited.** Winners will receive a grand prize of \$5,000, and other cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500, and \$250. And, of course there will be door prizes. To get involved (we need folks to call our vendors and VIPs) or to get your tickets, email BMR Leaders Heather Collis Puro and Carolyn Hoy at [heather@collispuro.net](mailto:heather@collispuro.net).

## **NURTURING THE CONGREGATION**

**CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH—PENTECOST, JUNE 4.** On Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s commissioning his followers empowered by the Spirit to spread the good news. We celebrate with **COMBINED WORSHIP IN KISWAHILI & ENGLISH; SPECIAL MUSIC** featuring the Kiswahili Choir; **BAPTISMS** for those parents and Godparents who attend the preparation class on May 30 at 6:30pm; **BIRTHDAY GIFTS FOR THE CHURCH**—take a gift idea dove from the post in the Galahad Area; and **PEACE IN A MULTITUDE OF LANGUAGES**—let Rev. Jane or Rev. Sarah know if you can say “Peace be with you” in a language other than English; and **WEAR RED!**

**MANY THANKS TO BRUCE BEECROFT AND THE CHOIR AS SUMMER BEGINS.** Our last Sunday for Adult Choir led music in worship is June 11. Please thank them for their faithful participation in the choir for Saturday morning rehearsals, Sunday worship, and holy days. While we need our choir to grow, we surely have been blessed by the faithful few who sing week after week. During the summer, choir members and others are invited to provide offertory and communion anthems. If individuals or groups would like to practice and offer an anthem, Bruce Beecroft is eager to work with you. We also will continue “Gospel Sundays” and “Pick Up Choir Sundays” so keep your eyes open for dates and plan to participate!

**LOAVES & FISHES BRINGS LEMONADE ON THE LAWN.** June begins with Sunday celebrations but once we reach June 25, we need weekly hosts to set up, clean up, and bring some light snacks for us to enjoy after worship at 10:00. We also could use volunteers to help with set up and clean up on June 4, 11, and 18. Please talk with Carol Rodrigue or sign up in the Galahad Area if you can multiply hospitality this summer.

**BIBLE STUDY BEGINS EXODUS JUNE 7.** We gather at 6:30 every Wednesday evening to enter into and gain an understanding of how the Exodus journey shapes our faith. Come spend the summer with Moses, the Israelites, and us!

**TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH CONTINUES THROUGH THE SUMMER.** On Thursday afternoons at 1:00 we come together to read and discuss brief reflections written by Congregational minister Donna Schaper.

**CONSIDERING A RULE OF LIFE?** For those who aren't sure what a Rule of Life is, for those who just plain don't like rules, and for those who participated in our Epiphany Rule of Life group, we are considering offering a summer Rule of Life journey beginning in July. Please let the clergy know if you might want to participate. We need at least 8 people to make a go of the group.

**HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET THURSDAY, JUNE 1.** June 1 at 10:30, the Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Teams will meet for check-in and discussion.

**VOLUNTEER AT KIC & SUMMER LEARNING THIS SUMMER. KIC Camp Needs St. Stephen's Volunteers July 10-14!** Kids In Community is lucky to have St. Stephen's as its home. Once again this summer, we're asking St. Stephen's adults to share their talents, time and energy with KIC campers during the first week of the program, July 10-14. We especially need people in the mornings to: show hospitality on Day 1 setting up, assisting with sign in, and greeting campers and parents; read with children every day in small groups or one-on-one; help prepare snacks; help pack lunches early Thursday morning before field trip buses head out; and help clean & organize camp daily. Sign up sheets are available in the Galahad Area and Office. Longtime KIC volunteer, Bonnie Bishop, is our KIC Volunteer Liaison; contact her at [bishopbw@gmail.com](mailto:bishopbw@gmail.com) or 781-599-8963 if you have questions or want to sign up! **St. Stephen's Summer Learning needs volunteers Monday through Thursday afternoons (2:30-5:30) from July 10 to August 3.** Volunteers will support learning centers focused on reading, writing, numbers, and comprehension. Please talk with Micheal Brown if you can help with Summer Learning. **Volunteer orientation for KIC and Summer Learning will be on Sunday, June 25 at 12:00 noon.** Coming to orientation doesn't commit you but we definitely need lots of volunteers.



**LIFE TOGETHER PICK UP BAND VISITS IN JUNE.** The Life Together Pick-up Band will be back at St. Stephen's on June 18th for the 10 o'clock service. They bring an upbeat and lively flair to our service with their camp/folksy sound. Band members include Cullen Dolson (Esperanza Academy, Lawrence), Amy Melena (Transformative Culture Project, Boston), and Luke Abdow (MCAN, Boston). The band made its first appearance at this year's Easter Vigil, and we are very excited to have them join us again!

**JOIN ST. STEPHEN'S AT NORTH SHORE NAVIGATORS ON JUNE 10.** Saturday, June 10, St. Stephen's has free tickets for the Navigators game against the Nashua Silver Knights. The game starts at 6:00 at Fraser Field at 365 Western Avenue. Each ticket admits SIX so bring your family and friends. Tickets available from the Office and clergy.

**WOMEN'S GROUP GATHERS ON JUNE 11.** As Emily closes out her time with us, she will lead the Women's Group in an abbreviated bread-baking workshop. Join us in this contemplative (and delicious) spiritual practice, as we explore how God works in our lives in seemingly slow but powerful ways that become apparent when we are patient and learn to take our time. We'll start at 12:30 and integrate our bread-baking practice, our potluck feast, and our fond farewells. As we look back on the year and the beginning of this group, the June Women's Group will provide space to reflect on the challenges and successes, and also be a space to begin to discuss our Women's Group Summer Retreat. Back by popular demand, we will return to Adelynrood on August 25-26 with Rev. Jane and Zena Link facilitating this quiet time to nourish our hearts, minds, and souls.

**BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS THURSDAY, JUNE 15.** The St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's joint BCT continues its monthly meetings on June 15 beginning at 7pm. At May's meeting the team committed to deepen the conversation around white privilege and research how we can share our wisdom with the teenagers in our communities. News headlines and personal stories about teenage bullying are a call to religious communities to address the systemic racism and sexism in our culture. If you work with teens or have teens in your life please speak with a BCT member (Pam Poppe, Neil O'Donnell, Helen Patmon, Pam Alleyne, Joyce Wallace, Emily Sherwood) or the clergy.

**SERMON CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SANCTUARY JUNE 25.** In April the Vestry discussed how St. Stephen's values the historical tradition of churches as sanctuaries. "Sanctuary," from the Latin word "*sanctus*" which means holy, can describe a place consecrated for worship and/or a place of refuge. At the the 8am and 10am services on June 25 Vestry members will lead small groups in sermon conversations to discern how we create sanctuary for our community. If you would like to be part of a planning team please speak with Rev. Sarah or a Vestry member.

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

**CHURCH SCHOOL WRAPS UP AND GRADUATION CELEBRATION JUNE 11!** The last day of Church School classes is Sunday, June 11. During worship we will have an opportunity to thank our teachers and youth leaders for all their hard work this past year. Also, our high school graduates will share the lessons they have learned at St. Stephen's and how those lessons will carry them forward in to the future. In addition, we will award St. Stephen's Scholarships for higher education on June 11. (Applications are due in the office by Sunday, May 28.)

**ACOLYTE TRIP TO CANOBIE LAKE PARK.** On Sunday, June 4 acolytes will meet after church for a brief training to review acolyte roles and expectations. Following lunch we will head to Canobie Lake Park for an afternoon of fun and relaxation with the acolyte team. Park tickets costs \$38 and St. Stephen's is asking that families cover half the cost (\$19). Acolytes will also need to bring money for snacks/drinks; St. Stephen's will pay for dinner. We want to ensure that each acolyte can come so please speak with Rev. Sarah if the costs are too high for your family's budget.

**KIC MUSIC CLOSES OUT THE YEAR.** The KIC Music kids performed their spring concert in Lawrence Hall on May 25. Each participant played in their drum ensemble, along with a solo they had learned on the piano. KIC Music finishes on June 15. The KIC Music After School Program will continue in the next school year, and registrations for new beginning students will be available in early August. Though KIC Day Camp is full, interested families can still sign up in the office for the KIC Music Mini-camp. The Music Mini-Camp is Monday & Tuesday, August 7-8, for kids in rising grades 1-6. Thanks to all who supported our young musicians this year, and we look forward to more joyful noise in the fall!

**SIGN UP FOR BCH FAMILY CAMP JUNE 22-25!** Family Camp is open to families of all types for a weekend of fun and faith at the beautiful BCH Camp. St. Stephen's and the Diocese want to make Family Camp affordable for families in the parish. Please talk with the Rector as soon as possible if your family would like to go to Camp.

**BCH SUMMER CAMP APPLICATIONS ARE PAST DUE.** BCH Camp applications were due June 1 and some weeks are already full! Camp begins June 25 (the day Family camp ends) and runs through July 28. The camp offers week-long overnight camp for children and youth grades 4-12. Register online at [www.bchcenter.org](http://www.bchcenter.org). Camp costs \$600 with the family paying at least a 1/3 (\$200) of the cost. If this cost is too high please mark the correct box on the online application in order to waive the fee. Although the campership deadline has passed, we will still work with you to try to get your child to BCH Camp.

**SUMMER LEARNING AT ST. STEPHEN'S HEADS INTO YEAR 3.** Summer Learning is getting ready for another great summer. A few slots still remain for children in Grades 1 & 2; sign up today so that your child will not miss this great opportunity for learning and fun. New and returning staff are planning 4 weeks of exciting summer activities in math, reading, writing and some STEM-related learning. The program runs from July 10th-August 3rd Monday through Thursday each week from 2:30-5:30pm. Volunteer opportunities are available. Speak with Micheal Brown if you are interested.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP GATHERS FOR PIZZA JUNE 13 AT 6:00.** Having fought off crawly bugs and rumors of Mudge ghosts, our Middle Schoolers not only survived their first overnight but they cooked, prepped, and served a wonderful Mothers' Day Breakfast. In celebration of a great year, the middle school group will gather on June 13 from 6-8 for a pizza party! Please join us for this evening of delicious food, hilarious and meaningful conversation, and an end of the year project that we will present to the next Life Together fellow. Anyone in grades 6-8 is welcome to attend. Contact Emily or Jason with questions.

**JOIN LYNN YOUTH PRIDE ON SATURDAY JUNE 3.** After months of planning, fundraising and publicizing, it's time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Lynn Youth Pride Gathering! Youth Pride will be on Saturday, June 3, 11-3 on the front lawn of St. Stephen's (or in the basement in case of rain). Come enjoy music, food, art projects, information tables and pop-up spoken word performances. It will be great day as we put into practice our remarkable gifts for hospitality and progressive social actions. The Diocese of Massachusetts, the YMCA, and Girls', Inc. have already signed on as sponsors. If you would like to support this event with your time, talent, or treasure please speak with Rev. Sarah or Jason Cruz.

**OASIS MEETS FRIDAYS JUNE 9 and 23 AT 6:30.** On June 9 we gather to continue planning our summer mission trip to southwest Virginia August 5-12. On the trip we will provide minor repairs to homes while meeting with local teens to share stories about "home." St. Stephen's is blessed with grant money to pay for a large portion of trip but we are asking that each youth donate \$100 as well as help with fundraising. **Space on the trip is limited so please fill out a green commitment form ASAP!** On June 23 we will celebrate the end of the school year with pizza, UNO tournament and ice cream sandwiches.

**SUMMER YA REUNION IN THE WORKS.** As weather warms and summer schedules emerge, Jason and Rev. Jane look forward to gathering young adults for an evening of food, fun, and conversation about the blessings and bumps of life in the "real" world. Let us know what days and times work best in your crazy schedules and we will raise a yell—or at least a Facebook post!

## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION EVENING OF CELEBRATION JUNE 6.** Sign up today if you want to attend ECM's Evening of Celebration at 5:30 on Tuesday, June 6 at the Cathedral. The guest speaker is Bishop Dwayne Royster, PICO's National Political Director. Bishop Dwayne will challenge and inspire you. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the work of justice being done by and through Episcopalians in Eastern Massachusetts.

**MY BROTHER'S TABLE NEEDS YOU ON TUESDAY JUNE 7 AT 4:30.** Over the course of this year, we have lost several core team members for 4th Sundays at My Brother's Table. In addition, Health Department regulations have tightened up and the Table requires teams of 15 to 20 for serving each meal. Since we cannot bring a full team 4th Sundays and St. Andrew's and St. Michael's Marblehead could use additional helpers on first Tuesdays at 4:30, we have decided to join our Episcopal colleagues on their Tuesday nights. Please give first Tuesdays a try especially in the summer when we aren't heading to the Monastery.

**TALK TO NEIL O'DONNELL ABOUT HELPING WITH OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN.** Come plant, weed, and water as our Churchyard Gardens return to life. KIC Campers get to help with the gardens in July but we need garden helpers now. Please talk with Neil to volunteer.

**ECCO ENGAGES CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND IMMIGRATION.** June 8 at 7:30 ECCO's criminal justice team gathers to plan an educational action at Red Rock Park later in June. Lynn Sanctuary City work continues with plans for a Mayoral Candidates' Forum. Please sign up for ECCO emails and check the bulletin for up-to-date information about ECCO meetings.

## June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>SUNDAY SERVICES</b> 8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili	<b>KIC MUSIC</b> Mon-Thurs 2-6pm			<b>1</b> 10:30am Pastoral Care & Healing Prayer Teams Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal <b>10:30am Diocesan Ordinations:</b> <b>Dan Bell &amp; Patrick Lafortune</b> 11-3pm Be You Youth Pride Event at St. Stephen's
<b>4 Pentecost</b> 10am Baptism & Combined English-Kiswahili Worship 12:30-8pm Acolyte Trip to Canobie Lake	<b>5</b> 8pm AA	<b>6</b> 3:30-5:30pm Be You 4:30pm My Brother's Table 5:30pm ECM Night of Celebration at Cathedral 7pm NA	<b>7</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>8</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7:30pm ECCO Criminal Justice Team	<b>9</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS	<b>10</b> 10am Choir Rehearsal 6pm Night at the Navs, Fraser Field
<b>11 Celebration Sunday</b> Church School Celebration Celebration of Seniors Scholarship Presentations	<b>12</b> 8pm AA	<b>13</b> 3:30-5:30pm Be You 7pm NA	<b>14</b> 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm Towers Board	<b>15</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-8:30pm Beloved Community Team Meeting	<b>16</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry	<b>17</b>
<b>18 Fathers' Day</b>	<b>19</b> 8pm AA	<b>20</b> 3:30-5:30pm Be You 7pm NA	<b>21</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk BCH Family Camp	<b>23</b> 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS BCH Family Camp	<b>24</b> BCH Family Camp
<b>25</b> 8 & 10am Sanctuary Sermon Conversations 12:15pm Vestry Meeting 1-4pm My Brother's Table BCH Camp Begins	<b>26</b> 8pm AA	<b>27</b> 3:30-5:30pm Be You 7pm NA	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	<b>30</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> <b>Monday – Friday</b> <b>9:00am – 3:00pm</b>