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Newsletter November 2015

Gratitude Spoken Here

In October a group of us attended a workshop on The Gift of Inner Freedom at the Episcopal Monastery in Cambridge. In their presentations, both Br. David Vryhof and Br. John Braught spoke about the importance of gratitude in helping us free our spirits from unhealthy attachments. Br. David outlined the elements, including gratitude, of the Ignatian Daily Examen. Br. John talked about the practice of writing down a daily list of “gratitudes.” A participant in the workshop spoke of creating a “gratitude wall” in her office during a difficult stretch in the life of her organization.

Certainly, in the life of the parish, November feels like Gratitude Month. We begin on All Saints Day giving thanks to God for the saints who, by their witness and example, help us live as faithful children of God. Some saints are people celebrated in our prayer book and Holy Women, Holy Men, others are people who lived among and have gone home to God, and many are those who touch our lives every day making God’s love and care manifest.

All Saints Day also brings us Pledge Commitment Sunday. On November 1st, when we all place our pledge cards on the altar, our pledge commitments represent our Biblical tithe to God—our giving back to God a percent of the abundance with which God has blessed us. Pledging is an act of gratitude to God and for the life and ministry of this parish.

Throughout November, my life is filled with writing thank you notes. Daily I express my gratitude to members who return 2016 pledge cards, to people who make donations to the Fair or place an ad in the Fair Program Book, to those who give memorial flowers, or to anyone who makes a gift to the parish. I write notes to people I know well and to many whom I will never meet—all of whom support the work of God in this place.

To invite everyone into my discipline of saying thank you to the many people who support God’s work here at St. Stephen’s, we will post posters in the Office and Galahad Area for people to write their thanksgivings. Thank you messages, notes, emails, and photos can be sent to the office. Here’s our chance to make clear that gratitude is spoken here.

As we close out the month with Gratitude Sunday and Thanksgiving, we focus our hearts and minds on giving thanks to God for all the blessings of our lives. Despite or maybe because of happy weariness from the Fair on November 21, November 22 is Gratitude Sunday. We will decorate our altar with the fruits of the harvest and enjoy an abundant coffee hour as we celebrate God’s great generosity. And then, we will head to My Brother’s Table to serve lunch to those who may be struggling to see God’s abundant love and care.

For those looking for a Thanksgiving Service, we gather with the Lynn Community on Sunday, November 22 at 7:00. And, on Thanksgiving Eve, we encourage everyone to come sing and prayer our gratitude as we celebrate the Eucharist—God’s Great Thanksgiving.

Gratitude is indeed an attitude that shapes who we are and how we live. It keeps us focused on the abundance of God’s blessings rather than the worldly attachments that draw us away from God. May we speak gratitude to one another and in the midst of the world.

Jane

“Not all those who wander are lost”

From the poem “All that is Gold Does Not Glitter”, The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien

Dear Friends,

From a very early age I was a passionate reader. My parents were always either actively reading or trying to find a quiet space to read. My father exclusively read books about famous people or battles in history. My mother read only novels that told stories about living in a world that was less than perfect and yet full of mysterious grace. I loved to read it all...history, biography, fiction, non-fiction. The only genre I didn't like was fantasy. To my mind fantasy/sci-fi books were only grown up fairy tales.

But as so often happens, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes. In 2001 I reluctantly agreed to see the film, The Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring with a good friend (actually he had to bribe me with a free ticket and snacks). Only a few minutes into the film I was hooked and within an hour I was in LOVE with the story of Frodo and his companions as they began a perilous journey to destroy the powerful, yet evil Ring. In fact I am so in love with this story that every 2-3 years I re-read the book, just as you might visit an old friend. Each time I read the story the same line hits me square in the face: “not all those who wander are lost.”

If you're not a fan of The Lord of the Rings you may have seen a similar phrase on t-shirts or bumper stickers. But for me this don't go deep enough. The line in the book comes from the poem “All that is Gold Does Not Glitter” which Gandalf the Wizard writes to his friend Frodo. The poem is a caution to not look at wanderers or vagabonds and assume they are up to no good. We must also re-think what it means to “wander” and what it means to be “lost.” For many of us living in the United States wandering, or traveling aimlessly from place to place has a negative connotation. We are all so busy and overscheduled that to wander is to waste time. To be lost, or unable to find your way, also a negative connotation, is to be avoided. So we have GPS apps on our phones or other technology to ensure we're never lost.

Yet, when we read the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament, we hear about individuals and communities who wander in their search for new life. Moses is exiled from Egypt after committing murder and he wandered in the desert for years until he comes to Midian. The Israelites wandered in the desert led by God in their search for the Promised Land. Ruth and Naomi wandered to Naomi's homeland hoping to start over after the death of their male providers. Jesus excelled at wandering—whether it was wandering alone with God or wandering with his disciples on his mission of healing and teaching.

As we enter the holiday season with all its joys, frustrations and sorrows we will need to find time to wander. The holidays can feel like a well-travelled highway with no break-down lanes and 10 foot barbed wire one each side. We are trapped, moving forward almost against our will—making sure the rice and peas is cooked correctly, worrying about who will show up for dinner, scrimping and saving to buy the right Christmas presents and on and on. BUT what if you stepped off that highway and wandered around for a while? What if you choose to spend the day outside looking at the trees instead of shopping on Black Friday? What if you choose to not feel guilty about the small number of Christmas presents under the tree?

And when you leave behind the highway of unrealistic expectations and choose to wander, who will you find or who will find you?

Go and wander...Allelulia. Allelulia.

Peace,

Sarah

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

ALL SAINTS' DAY IS PLEDGE COMMITMENT SUNDAY. On Sunday, November 1, Bruce will play *When the Saints Go Marchin' In* as members of the congregation stream to the altar to offer their pledge commitment cards to God and St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church. We all are and we all need *vessels of God's love and care*. Please pledge to support God's work in and through St. Stephen's. If you cannot join us on All Saints' Day, please mail or bring your pledge card to the office before the 1st so that it can be included in the pledge presentation and blessing. After worship, the Stewardship Ministry Team will host a Gratitude Coffee Hour. **Remember, clocks fall back on November 1st! If you forget, we will have coffee brewing.**

DIOCESAN INTERN SAMANTHA WOLFE LEAVES LIFE TOGETHER PROGRAM. At the end of October, our Diocesan intern Samantha Wolfe decided to leave St. Stephen's and the Life Together program. She expressed deep love and respect for the St. Stephen's community but a need to leave to address some personal issues. She hopes to worship with us and work with us on justice issues in the future but for now we bid her Godspeed.

VESTRY SUMMARY: OCTOBER 17. The Vestry began by signing their Pledge request letter for the parish and committed to calling members to encourage them to join us on Pledge Commitment Sunday on November 1. They addressed building concerns approving a snowplowing contract with Trahant, approving a bid to repair the parking lot fence near Blossom Street, and hearing about progress on sacristy roof restoration and complying with the Mass Historic grant. A \$15,000 gift prompted a happy conversation about establishing policies around the use of undesignated gifts and bequests. The Vestry prepared for the 2016 budget process by discussing funding priorities and ways to generate additional income. The Fair Team asked for Vestry support for the November 21 Harvest Fair. Bob Dixon brought a proposal that we install small holy water fonts at the entrance to the church and the chapel.

THOUGHTS ON HOLY WATER FONTS—NOVEMBER 15 AT 12:15. As St. Stephen's gathers Anglicans from all corners of the communion and welcomes into the Episcopal Church people who grew up in other faith traditions, we bring together varieties of spiritual practice. Several people have asked about (and volunteered to pay for) Holy Water Fonts at the entrances to the church and the chapel. Many Episcopal Churches have Holy Water Fonts but the Vestry would like to hear what people think about the possibility at St. Stephen's. Please come to the beginning of the November Vestry meeting to offer your input to the conversation.

A WORD FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE. Pledge statements will be mailed soon; they cover pledge payments through September 30. Finishing the year in solid financial shape depends on everyone paying their pledge in full. We do not discount pledges; we count on you being faithful to your commitment. Please call the treasurer's office if you need to adjust your pledge up or down before the end of 2015. **Pledge Pay Up Sunday will be December 6.**

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 Bob Dixon, Conrad Squires, and Joyce Wallace as you reflect on whether God might be calling you to serve.

BUY YOUR MULTI-GIFT RAFFLE TICKETS

**GRAND PRIZE: ONE NIGHTS AT THE
WESTIN BOSTON WATERFRONT; BREAKFAST AT SAUCIETY**

SECOND PRIZES:

Nutri Ninja iQ 1100 Watt Blender OR 7" Fire Tablet Bundle w/ 32 GB microSD card

THIRD PRIZES: \$50 GIFT CARDS

\$50 WalMart OR \$50 Stop & Shop OR \$50 Olive Garden

BUY YOUR SUPER SPORTS RAFFLE TICKETS

TWO PATRIOTS TICKETS

December 20, 2015: Patriots vs. Tennessee Titans in Foxboro

TWO BRUINS TICKETS

January 26, 2016: Bruins vs. Anaheim Ducks at the Garden

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

Drawing at "Journey to Bethlehem" on December 6

HARVEST FAIR NEEDS YOU ON NOVEMBER 21! The Harvest Fair offers us an opportunity to raise funds and make friends. Please post the enclosed flier or use it to remind yourself to come to the Fair, which includes a Silent Auction, Same Day Raffles, crafters, new gifts, pretty good stuff, knit items, and food at the Bake Table, Cookie Walk, and Cafe. **We need your help!**

- **Solicit donations and program book ads from businesses (deadline 11/9)**
- **Place an Ad in the Harvest Fair Program Book (deadline 11/9)**
- **Recruit talented Crafters for our Craft Fair (only 14 tables available for \$25 each)**
- **Contribute Jewelry for Tiffany's (deadline 11/18)**
- **New Gifts (raffle & auction deadline 11/9; sale deadline 11/18)**
- **Pretty Good Stuff: Gently used home & decorative items (deadline 11/18)**
- **Bake cookies, cakes, pies, fudge, & other goodies (deliver 11/20 or 21)**
- **Volunteer with Set up (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11/18-20)**
- **Work a two-hour shift on Fair Day (sign up now to help on November 21!)**
- **Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to Come to the Fair**
- **BUY AND SELL MULTI-GIFT AND SUPER SPORTS RAFFLES (drawing December 6)**

Please say "Yes" when a member of the Fair Leadership Team asks you to help; and see you on November 21st with your family and friends.

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS. On September 19, we welcomed 71 people to St. Stephen's for tours of our building, Tiffany windows, and history. The crowd included visitors from far away as well as locals who had never been inside the big, red church on the Common. People bought cards, made donations, and expressed appreciation for our willingness to share our church with the community. On September 16, twenty-five folks came to the Marblehead Library for a presentation on our Tiffany windows. Many thanks to Irene Axelrod, Sally Gosselin, Chris Trahan, and Rick and Marilyn Cloran who allow us to open our doors and bless others with the sacred beauty of St Stephen's.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS OF GOD. On All Saints' Day, we celebrate the saints by reading the necrology—the names of the people buried from St. Stephen's since the last All Saints Day. But, through baptism, we also welcome into the household of God new members of the Christian community. Our next opportunity for baptism will be on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 10:00am.

NOVEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. KNIT CLUB: All levels of knitters, crocheters, and sewers are encouraged to join the spirited fellowship of the Knit Club on Tuesday evenings at 6:30. **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays (except Veterans' Day) at 6:30 as we learn about the lesser prophets. **TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH** meets on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections by former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schorri. **ADULT CHOIR** gathers Saturday mornings at 10:00 to learn new music and prepare Sunday anthems and music for Advent and Christmas. On Wednesday, November 18, Bible Study will be blessed by the return of Dan Bell as conversation leader. And on Thursday, November 19, the Rev. Jon Niketh, Pastor of First Lutheran Lynn, will lead our Thursday Healing Eucharist.

KEEP LEARNING WITH THE BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM. The St. Stephen's Mission Statement calls all of us to continually step over the lines of difference in our community. The BCT is committed to creating space to step over the lines of color. In October the team hosted an afternoon of deep listening around the issues of race and privilege in diverse congregations. All three churches present, St. James in Cambridge, Trinity Church in Haverhill and St. Stephen's expressed the need to continue this work and the lament of how hard it is do this work. In November the team will continue with weekly faith-based conversations on race and social justice through video clips provided by the *Summer of Justice and Racial Healing* film series by World Trust. **We will meet 6:30-7:30 Thursdays, October 29 and November 12 at St. Stephen's and Thursdays, November 5 and 19 at St. Andrew's Church, Marblehead (135 Lafayette Street).** Join us in taking the risk of stepping over the lines of difference at St. Stephen's.

TUESDAYS AT THE MONASTERY. Call the Office to sign up for our trip to the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Tuesday, November 3. We will join the Brothers for worship and supper. We will leave St. Stephen's at 4:15 and return about 8:00. Drivers are needed.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS NOVEMBER 5. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, November 6 to check-in, organize visits for November, and pick up copies of our new book.

PRAYERS FOR VETERANS. On Sunday, November 8th we will give thanks for all those connected with the St. Stephen's family who have served or are serving in the US Armed Forces. Please check the list in the Galahad Area to ensure that the names of those you would have us remember are accurately listed.

LIVING WORD WORSHIP AT 10AM ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15. Join us for our second monthly *Living Word* worship service. Children, teens and adults will worship together as we listen and respond to the Word of God. This month we will hear the story of Daniel and his escape from the lion's den. If you are interested in planning the service, reading or offering prayers, please see the clergy.

GRATITUDE SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22. After a busy fall we will celebrate all the ways in which we participated in doing God's work in the world. Our altar will be decorated with fruits of the harvest. Church School students are invited to participate in Gratitude Sunday by bringing in a canned good to be donated to the food pantry. UTO boxes will be collected.

LYNN COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION. Sunday, November 22 at 7:00 people of faith from all congregations in Lynn come together for a Celebration of Thanksgiving. Let's show support for those who are carrying on the tradition of gathering the people of Lynn as a community of prayer and thanksgiving.

**COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE COME
GOD HAS BLESSED EACH OF US WITH ABUNDANCE
TAKE TIME FROM YOUR FOOD AND FOOTBALL TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD
JOIN US AT THE LORD'S TABLE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AT 7:00
ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO LIFT OUR VOICES IN SONG AND PRAYER
COME BE FED AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

ADVENT BEGINS NOVEMBER 29. The Church goes dark on November 29 as we begin a new Church Year. December tends to be cold, dark, and busy in the world, and Christians struggle to create space for the waiting and wondering of the season. In an effort to provide spaciousness during Advent, we will offer trips to the Monastery on some Tuesdays as well as an SSJE retreat on December 5, group contemplative prayer on Wednesday mornings, Wednesday evening Bible Study, and Thursday Noon Healing Service and Tea & Talk with Advent meditations.

GORDON COLLEGE STUDENTS BLESSED AND BLESSING. My name is Marianthy Posadas, and I am blessed to be with my friends, Maranda Easton, Melissa Weed, Kevin Neil, Sherry Esaki, and Jamie Shore. We are honored to be here with you. The moment we first came to St. Stephen's, we all shared a feeling of being welcomed into something very special, sacred, human. I am excited to introduce this team that I am so grateful for- we each come from very unique and different places, but share being shaped by the Office of Community Engagement at Gordon College which was begun and led for eleven years by Val Buchanan. This office was the heart at our college, and shaped us to be individuals within a community that held love, respect, mutuality, and transparency as cornerstones to the growth between ourselves and others. It was within this program that I was introduced to St. Stephen's and first met with Sarah van Gulden last spring. She shared with me a little bit of your community, and the Church School that continues to be driven by individuals so committed to the lives of the children. We are here because we want to grow with you. Thank you for welcoming us into your home- we welcome you into ours.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

KIC MUSIC ROCKS. The KIC Music program is in full swing, with nearly 20 kids coming every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Over the past two months, children of all ages have composed their own rhythms, learned how to play together as a percussion group, and started to work on reading classical-style music. Of course, it's not all rehearsal--they've also gotten a lot of time to play outside while the weather is still nice. Kickball is their favorite game so far.

COMMUNITY DINNER AND KIC MUSIC MINI-CONCERT NOVEMBER 4. If you're interested in hearing KIC's young musicians, please join us for the next family & community dinner on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:00 in the dining room. Students will perform a few minutes of what they've been working on, and then kids, families, and KIC staff will share a meal together. Children and other guests will also get a chance to try out the drums themselves. If you have been wondering if KIC Music might be an option for someone you know, here's a great opportunity to check out the people and program. If you plan to eat, please sign up for the dinner in the Galahad area so we are sure to have enough food. We hope to see you there!

KIDS' CHOIR SINGS AGAIN. Kids' Choir will sing at worship on November 15. For music education and for performance preparation, young people need to attend Choir Practice Saturday, November 7 and 14, noon to 2:00. All young people in 2nd grade and higher are encouraged to join the Choir. We also need parent helpers. Please call the parish office or talk to Juliana Davis for more information.

ELF PROJECT: CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S KIDS. The parishioners of Trinity Church, Topsfield, are continuing their tradition of providing Christmas presents for the children and teens (18 years old and under) of our parish. **Elf Forms are available and must be returned no later than Sunday, November 8.** The forms are due earlier this year because Rev. Sarah and Rev. Johanna Barrett (Rector at Trinity Church) will be in the Holy Land with Bishops Gates and Harris from November 15 to 28. Please see the clergy with any questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT AT BCH. The Diocesan Middle School Retreat is November 20-22 (Friday evening to Sunday at noon). All 6th-8th graders are encouraged to sign up for this weekend of music, worship, and fellowship. It's a great time to catch up with camp friends and meet new friends. Please see Rev. Sarah by Sunday, November 8 if your youth would like to attend.

CHURCH SCHOOL CANNED FOOD DRIVE IN NOVEMBER. The Church School will observe a season of gratitude and thanksgiving during November as they learn about the spiritual practice of stewardship. They will collect canned food for our Food Pantry which is serving more families since the closing of the St. Mary's Food Pantry. There will be a box in the Galahad Area for donated food until November 15 but food can always be dropped off in the Church Office. The Food Pantry currently needs canned soup, canned vegetables (not carrots), juice boxes, and canned chicken or tuna. Food donations will be presented as part of our Gratitude Celebration on Sunday, November 22.

BE YOU LGBTQ YOUTH GROUP JOINING ECCO AND CPPK. BE YOU's weekly time of discussion and community building has led to a greater involvement in social justice issues. In October six BE YOU youth gathered signatures at Shaw's Supermarket for ECCO's Fair Share Campaign to equally tax individuals who earn over one million dollars. Starting this month the team will work on creating gifts to sell and earn money for CPPK. The group is open to all high school youth who identify as LGBTQ and their allies.

YOUNG ADULTS GATHER FOR DINNER & CONVERSATION ON NOVEMBER 10. YAs kicked off the new season with a crowded table in October. They expressed their desire to work with our young people, join with ECCO's Beloved Community Campaign, engage in outreach, discuss the challenges of journeying to adulthood, and enjoy one another's company. All 18 to 30 year olds are welcome to join the YA Table on November 10 at 6:00.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP CELEBRATES ITS FIRST ANNIVERSARY WITH A CROWD! In October, we closed our conversation on "Dismantling Racism" with spirit-filled worship. Helen Patmon moved and motivated the crowd with her reflection and the Revs. Jane Gould, Jane Bearden, and Holly Antollini presided at the Eucharist. **Our next contemporary worship service is coming up on Sunday, November 15 at 6:30, so mark your calendars and spread the word!** Please let Rev. Jane know if you want to be part of the planning team.

TIME TO GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. Calling all actors and actresses from infants to high schoolers to prepare for and participate in the St. Stephen's Christmas Pageant held at the 5:30pm Christmas Eve service. We have parts for all: speakers, readers, singers, watchers, dancers, and sheep! Sign-up forms are in the Galahad area and can be given to Rev. Sarah. Rehearsals will be held after the 10:00am worship on Sundays starting November 29. We also need adults to help with organizing, directing, and providing snacks.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS 2015 HAS ARRIVED! For over a decade now, OASIS Community Youth Group has organized a Christmas toy drive for underserved children in Lynn. During a time of year when society is so focused on getting stuff, it's an awesome opportunity for St. Stephen's teens to experience the value of giving back. To raise money for the program the BE YOU and OASIS youth groups will create handmade art to sell with 100% of the proceeds going to CPPK. They will also be serving at the Harvest Fair on November 21 with 50% of collected tips going to the program.

Important Dates:

- Fridays, 11/13, 11/20, and 12/4 from 4:30 to 6pm: **CPPK Sign up Days:** Teams gather sign up forms downstairs after Food Pantry
- Saturday, 11/28 4-8pm: **Spaghetti Supper** at the Wittrups
- Tuesday, 12/1, 2:30-6:30pm: **Operation 138:** Teens sell handmade art at the Diocese
- Saturday, 12/12, 9am-2pm: Shopping day at Walmart!
- Sunday, 12/13 12-2: Teams organize gift bags for distribution
- Thursday, 12/18, 4-6pm: Teams distribute gifts

Please consider buying OASIS art pieces or donating what you can (cash or gifts for children) to help us provide Christmas presents for 300 children in Lynn!

IMPORTANT DAYS OF CELEBRATION FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH. On All Saints Day, thousands will gather at Washington National Cathedral for the installation of the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry as the first African-American Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. *The Living Church* reports “For Bishop Michael Curry, a disciple’s transformed life begets joyful witness, public acts of justice, and potentially contagious faith.” And on Friday, November 13 at 7:00 as part of our Diocesan Convention, we will re-dedicate St. Paul’s Cathedral and seat Bishop Alan Gates in his Cathedral. All are welcome to attend this celebration of our Diocesan community!

HELP THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY. Please support the Church School Canned Food Drive. Also, we can use your help **Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 at the Pantry.** To sign up, talk with Sally Gosselin. In addition, we need people to join the Table Team **servicing lunch at MBT from 1:00-4:00 on Sunday, November 22.** If you can’t help us serve, feel encouraged to make cookies, brownies, or cupcakes we can share.

CALLING ALL TURKEYS (FROZEN ONES THAT IS)! Our Food Pantry will give out Thanksgiving turkeys again this year. If you can donate a frozen turkey and/or fixings, we would be greatly appreciative. We expect to give out over 100 turkeys. Due to freezer storage issues, please bring turkeys to the church on November 18 or 19 from 9:30 to 2:30. If you can help with turkey distribution on November 20 from 3:00 to 4:00 or with turkey pick up from the Food Bank, speak with Neil O’Donnell or Harry Jackson.




COATS IN GOOD CONDITION NEEDED FOR THE TABLE. Scripture tells us to give our coat and shirt to the needy. While we don’t want you to donate your only coat, we are collecting coats in good condition for children and adults to give to folks at My Brother’s Table.

LYNN HUNGER NETWORKS SERVES COMMUNITY. Every month, Sally Gosselin and Harry Jackson represent St. Stephen’s at the Lynn Hunger Network. With the closing of Lynn City Mission Pantry this summer and St. Mary’s/Sacred Heart Tree of Life Pantry in September, the neediest people in our community are put at risk. Our Friday afternoon Pantry has seen a modest increase in demand but we expect higher numbers as cold weather and the holidays come. Greater Boston Food Bank is providing a mobile food pantry the first Friday of the month. The St. Mary’s/ Sacred Heart is exploring options for re-opening their Pantry.

UNITED THANK OFFERING IN-GATHERING NOVEMBER 22. The UTO supports relief and development work around the world. Please bring in your UTO box or just add your offering to our collection on Sunday, November 22 so that we can join Anglicans around the world in supporting this amazing work. In years past, St. Stephen’s received a UTO grant to support the creation of the E-Team Machinists’ Training Program.

ECCO KEEPS US ENGAGED IN GOD’S WORK OF JUSTICE. On October 19, Lynn Police Chief Kevin Coppinger and many of his officers met with a full church of ECCO leaders. The Chief agreed to requiring implicit bias training of Lynn Police, and agreed to work with ECCO to create more trust between community members and our police. **In the next 3 weeks ECCO needs to collect 10,000 signatures to provide funds for education and transportation by increasing the tax rate for people earning over \$1,000,000 income a year. SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY SIGNATURE SHIFT OR JOIN US ON ELECTION DAY—NOVEMBER 3!**

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints' Day Pledge Commitment Sunday 10am Baptism Noon Installation of Bishop Michael Curry as 27 th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church	2 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	3 3:30-5:30pm Be You 4:15pm Tuesday with the Monks 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	4 2-6pm KIC Music 6pm Community Family Dinner 6:30pm Bible Study 7-9pm Pre-Diocesan Convention Forum, Trinity, Topfield	5 10:30am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Teams Meeting Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 6:30-7:30pm BCT Video Series St. Andrew's, Marblehead	6 3-4pm Food Pantry 4:30-6pm CPPK Sign Up 6:30-9pm OASIS 7-9pm Cathedral Rededication and Seating of Bishop Gates	7 9-10:30am Sewing Club 9-4pm Eucharistic Visitor Training @ the Cathedral (rescheduled) 12-21pm Kids' Choir
8 Elf Forms Due 8&10am Veterans' Remembrance 12-1pm Church School Teachers Luncheon Post 10am Worship Christmas Presents Project for Kids Meeting 12:1-5pm Fair Team Mtg.	9 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	10 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6pm YA Dinner 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	11  Veterans Day OFFICE CLOSED	12 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 2pm Fair Team Meeting 6:30-7:30pm BCT Video Series	13 3-4pm Food Pantry 4:30-6pm CPPK Sign Up 6:30-9pm OASIS 7-9pm Cathedral Rededication and Seating of Bishop Gates	14 9-10:30am Sewing Club 10am Choir Rehearsal 8-5pm Diocesan Convention At Cathedral 12-2pm Kids' Choir
15 12:1-5pm Vestry Meeting 10am Living Word Worship w/ Kids' Choir 6:30pm Contemporary Worship	16 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	17 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	18 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study with Dan Bell ☺	19 9:30-12:30pm Fair Set Up Healing Eucharist with Pastor Jon Niketh 6:30-7:30pm BCT Video Series, St. Andrew's, Marblehead	20 9:30- Donel Fair set Up 3-4pm Food Pantry w/ Turkey Distribution 4:30-6pm CPPK Sign Up Middle School Retreat at BCH	21  HARVEST FAIR 9am – 3pm Middle School Retreat at BCH
22 Gratitude Sunday 1-4pm My Brother's Table Middle Schoolers Return from BCH Retreat	23 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	24 3:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	25 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at St. Stephen's	26  Happy Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	27 Office Hours 8:45am-2:45pm	28 9-10:30am Sewing Club 10am Choir Rehearsal 4-8pm CPPK Spaghetti Dinner @ the Writrups
29 First Sunday of Advent Post 10am Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	30 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA				Office Hours 8:45am-2:45pm	8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili