



74 South Common St., Lynn, MA 01902 T: (781)599-4220 ♦ F: (781)586-0156 ♦ [www.StStephensLynn.org](http://www.StStephensLynn.org)

November 1, 2018

**From the Interim Priest,**

### **Core Values and Hope for the Future**

Last month we heard how the apostles James and John asked Jesus that once he was reigning supreme could one of them sit at his right hand and the other on his left. Jesus recognized the request as a blatant power grab and replied that if they wanted to be first they must become last and slaves to all. (Mark 10:35-45)

James and John revealed their core values of wanting to be in control and have the power that comes with it. Jesus' reply showed his core values of servanthood and unconditional love. I do not think that James and John wanted to do anything bad; I am sure they thought they could help and even protect Jesus. Fortunately, Jesus' values directed both his rejections of their request and his continued nurture and support of two of his closest followers.

During this period of transition at St. Stephen's we have an opportunity to reflect on our core values as we imagine the future. In doing so we also are challenged to question how these values line up with Jesus' values. As we see with James and John, even assuming their best intentions, their anxiety seemed to obscure their good sense. Fortunately, we have each other and the guiding of the Holy Spirit to test and temper our values.

This month there will be opportunities to meet with members of the Search Committee to reflect on the future of St. Stephen' Church. In preparation, I encourage each one of us to:

1. Reflect on the core values of our congregation that have gotten us to where we are today.
2. Reflect on how we might want to adjust our core values as we embrace the future.
3. Reflect on what each one of us might need to do to help St. Stephen's more fully live out these values.

I have included a list of values that might be helpful in your reflections.

In our story of James and John, they said "Yes," they were ready to drink the cup that Jesus would drink and be baptized into the baptism that Jesus is baptized. I am sure they did not realize it at the time, but by saying yes, they would grow into Jesus' core values and help the world know the Good News of God in Christ Jesus.

Peace,

Rev. Tom

### Values List

Acceptance	Change	Community	Family
Equality	Joy	Excitement	Fun
Health	Love	Integrity	Mission
Morality	Respect	Knowledge	Growth
Stability	Freedom	Spirituality	Success
Beauty	Continuity	Children	Friends
Excellence	Peace	Quiet	Action
Humility	Witness	Helping	Future
Belonging	Past	Harmony	Now
Adventure	Ambition	Caring	Companionship
Courage	Dignity	Creativity	Self-esteem
Honesty	Compassion	Technology	Independence
Financial Security	Inner Peace	Laughter	Loyalty
Nurture	Learning	Passion	Reliability
Hope	Safety	Purposefulness	Strength
Serenity	Heritage	Security	Tolerance
Pleasure	Teamwork	Rationality	Belonging
Diversity	Power	Helping	Consensus
Respectfulness	Challenge	Personal Growth	Environment
Play	Forgiveness	Music	Intimacy
Self control	Welcoming	Service	Achievement
Humor	Inclusivity	Growth	Helping

The Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry: The Work of the Congregation ©2013 Interim Ministry Network  
 Reprinted with permission

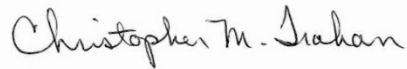
## A Word from the Senior Warden

The cooler weather has settled in, here in New England. Changing foliage, cooler temperatures and the furnace kicking on to take the chill out of the air all mean that pledge season is among us. The Stewardship Ministry, the Finance Committee and the Vestry have all been discussing how giving is an important statement of our faith and our commitment to the parish and the good work that it does in the name of Christ. You should have received your pledge appeal in the mail. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for next year.

As is our usual custom, we will offer up our pledges on All Saints' Sunday, November 4, 2018. Please be with us and be a part of the grand procession to the altar as we offer our pledges of financial support for 2019. Be with us as we remember, in our prayers, our parishioners who have entered into eternal light since last All Saints' Sunday. Be with us as we welcome new members into the household of Christ through Baptism. Be with us as we gather after the service in the Galahad area and socialize over cups of coffee, tea and light refreshments.

I look forward to seeing you in church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher M. Trahan". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Chris Trahan

## **STEWARDS OF RESOURCES**

### **You are the Salt of the Earth**

**ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY IS PLEDGE COMMITMENT SUNDAY.** On Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, as members stream to the altar to offer our pledge commitment cards to God and St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church. Especially in this time of transition, please pledge to support God's work in and through St. Stephen's. In this interim year our pledging is particularly important. Rector candidates considering coming to St. Stephen's will be looking at the support we have from the congregation. To help you as you look at pledging, here are some frequently asked questions around pledging. If you cannot join us on November 4<sup>th</sup>, mail or bring your pledge card to the office before the 4<sup>th</sup> so that it can be included in the pledge presentation and blessing. **Remember, clocks fall back on November 4<sup>th</sup>!**

**Q: What is pledging?**

A: Pledging is committing to allocate a certain amount of your money to aid in God's work in and through St. Stephen's.

**Q: Why should I pledge?**

A: We are each blessed with the salt of God's love and are called to share that salt in the world. At St. Stephen's, our salt is shared through worship, pastoral care, Bible Study, fellowship groups, justice work, and other events and opportunities. We need to give back as we share God's love and grace.

**Q: Why do I need to pledge? Can't I just put money in the plate?**

A: The vestry uses the amount pledged to form a budget. We cannot plan programs, pay salaries, or maintain the building without knowing how much money will be coming in. What would it be like for you and your own budgeting, if your boss didn't tell you how much you would get in your paycheck each week?

**Q: What happens if we do not reach the pledge goal of \$120,000?**

A: The vestry would have to make cuts in the proposed budget. Cuts could be made in programs or staff hours.

**Q: Why does my pledge matter if I can only give a little bit and it embarrasses me to write down such a small pledge?**

A: Every little bit helps get us to our goal. Also, by pledging, you commit yourself to the spiritual practice of giving back to God in gratitude, and you join with others in helping fund God's work in and through St. Stephen's.

**Q: What happens if I am unable to fulfill my pledge?**

A: As with anything, circumstances can change. If you need to reduce your pledge, you can do so by speaking with the wardens. Similarly, if life improves, you can increase your pledge.

**Q: Why do we have to pledge if we get grants to fund our programs?**

A: Grant money is helpful for certain projects, but grants only cover specific program-related expenses, and are not guaranteed; many funders will not fund one program more than 3 or 5 years. Also, funders expect to see that a large percentage of parish members are donors.

**Q: Why do I need to pledge when I don't have very much and the church has millions of dollars in its endowment?**

A: The endowment fund consists of financial contributions given to St. Stephen's by past and present members of the congregation. The income from the endowment supports our operating budget; many of the funds support specific program areas such as music, education, scholarships, or building maintenance. In many instances, we are prohibited from spending the principle of the endowment. Even where we could spend the principle, we try not to spend it because we need to maintain the principle so that it will continue to generate income to fund the ministry of St. Stephen's for future generations.

**A WORD FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE.** The Treasurer's office has been busy managing the finances budget tracking, money counting, bill paying. Pledge statements will be mailed soon. Finishing this year in solid financial shape depends on everyone paying their pledge. 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.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE AT WORK!** In a relentless search to discover the "Will of the Congregation," the Search Committee will hold general meetings to learn what are your wishes and dreams for a new rector. These meetings will be held right after church for about an hour. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to attend, whether you have completed a survey or not. We ask that you think and pray about the following questions:

1. What brought you to St. Stephen's?
2. What keeps you here?
3. What would benefit St. Stephen's the most right now?
4. What are you looking for in a new rector?

The meetings will be held on the following Sundays: November 11, November 18, and November 25

Hope to see and hear from you then! Your Search Committee

**BUY YOUR MULTI-GIFT RAFFLE TICKETS**

**FIRST PRIZE:**

**Two Night Getaway at Salem Waterfront Hotel in Superior Room for Two  
\$100 Gift Card for the Antique Table Restaurant, Salem  
\$50 Gift Card for the Kokeshi Restaurant, Salem  
\$60 Gift Card Jazz Brunch, Hawthorne Hotel, Salem**

**SECOND PRIZE:**

**Apple iPad w/Wi-Fi 32 GB (latest model)**

**THIRD PRIZE:**

**ECHO (2nd Generation) Smart Speaker with Alexa**

**Tickets cost: \$2.00 or 6 for \$10 and are available at the Office**

**Drawing on Sunday, December 9**

**HARVEST FAIR NEEDS YOU ON NOVEMBER 17!** 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, and Cafe. **We need your help!**

- **Donations are needed for the Fair** - Everything must be new other than books.
- **Solicit donations and program book ads from businesses (deadline 10/26)**
- **Place an Ad in the Harvest Fair Program Book (deadline 10/26)**
- **Volunteer with Set up (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday, 11/14-17)**
- **Work on Fair Day (sign up now to help on November 17!)**
- **Tiffany Windows Tour- will be offered at 11am on 11/17**
- **Encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to Come to the Fair**
- **Post the enclosed Fair Flier to encourage people to come to the Fair**
- **Enjoy our Bargain Bake Sale on November 18 if anything remains after Saturday**
- **BUY AND SELL MULTI-GIFT (drawing December 9)**

**Please say "Yes" when a member of the Fair Leadership Team asks you to help; and see you on November 17<sup>th</sup> with your family and friends.**

Come and spend an hour or two, volunteer at a table or just fill in where needed. Or come and enjoy the day and wait for our fantastic Same Day Raffles to be pulled at 3 pm. There are over 45 of them valued at over \$2000. We also have a good number of Silent Auction items.

Tell your friends with children that we have a Children's Fair from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be things to make and buy.

**Marilyn Cloran & Sally Gosselin, Co-Chairs**

## **NURTURING THE CONGREGATION**

**THANKSGIVING COMMUNION AT ST. STEPHEN'S TOWERS NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> AT 2:30PM.**

Come pray and sing with the St. Stephen's Tower community (25 Pleasant Street, Lynn) as we give thanks for the abundance of our lives.

**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 for more information and invite your friends and family!

**HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS NOVEMBER 3.** The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, November 1 to check-in, organize visits for November. If you know anyone that might appreciate a visit please let Rev. Tom or the office know.

**PRAYERS FOR VETERANS.** On Sunday, November 11, 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 listed accurately.

### **BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM RETREAT ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

The retreat will be at St. Stephen's from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please confirm your attendance with Pam Poppe. The St. Stephen's Mission Statement calls all of us continually to step over the lines of difference in our community. BCT is committed to creating space to step over the lines of color. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

**ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>.** The Church goes dark on December 2 as we begin a new Church Year. December tends to be cold, dark, and busy in the world, and Christians struggle to create a space for the waiting and wondering of the season. In an effort to provide spaciousness during Advent, resources for daily prayer will be available in the Galahad Area. And, the December newsletter will include a full schedule of Advent faith formation opportunities.

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

**ELF PROJECT: CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR ST. STEPHEN'S KIDS.** Each year the parishioners of Trinity Church, Topsfield and St. Andrew's, Marblehead generously provide Christmas presents for the children and teens (18 years old and under) of St. Stephen's English and Kiswahili/Kenyan congregations. **Elf Forms are available and must be returned no later than Sunday, November 18.** Gifts will be distributed in mid-December. Please see Brandi Walker with any questions.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT**

Friday, November 16 to Sunday, November 18

At the Barbara Harris Camp & Conference Center, Greenfield, NH

Come enjoy the beautiful fall at our Barbara C. Harris Camp, and meet young people and adults from all over the diocese! We will have small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship that gets you both moving and thinking, lively worship, and above all, time away from the stress of everyday life, so that we can pay a little more attention to the Spirit of God!

Scholarship are available

Registration at <https://www.diomassyouth.org>

Registration closes on November 10<sup>th</sup>

Speak to Rev. Tom Barrington if you are interested

We might also need Adult drivers to drive them out on Friday and to pick up on Sunday.

## DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR PANTRY KIDS 2018 (CPPK)** For over a decade now, OASIS Community Youth Group and St. Stephens has organized a Christmas toy drive for underserved children in Lynn. During a time of year when society is so focused on receiving, it's an awesome opportunity for St. Stephen's teens to experience the value of giving back. We need a team to coordinate this wonderful outreach program this year. Please contact Neil O'Donnell at 781.599.4220.

**WITTRUP'S SPAGHETTI SUPPER SUPPORTS CCPK.** Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> take a break from turkey, football, and shopping; come to the Wittrup's Spaghetti Supper, which raises funds for CPPK. Seatings are at 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, and 7pm, and cost \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy good food for a good cause.

**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, we would be greatly appreciative. Due to freezer storage issues, please bring turkeys to the church on Sunday, November 11th or Monday morning the 12th. If you can help with turkey distribution or with turkey pick up from the Food Bank, speak with Neil O'Donnell.

**COME ON IN!** Just as a reminder that since the cooler weather is here, on Sunday mornings, all the exterior doors to the church will be closed but unlocked. Our great front doors will be open ten minutes prior to the start of worship and will close ten minutes after the start of the service. However, they will remain unlocked during worship. Please know that the doors being closed are an attempt to conserve heat and while providing a comfortable room temperature.

**HELP STRETCH YOUR PLEDGE DOLLARS** One way you can help the parish budget is by picking up an extra item on this list as you do your own shopping. The parish is continually using up supplies, which get replaced through the parish budget. You can help keep this line item under-budget by donating supplies to the church. Items that are always in need are:

- paper towels
- dish soap
- scotch tape
- pens
- brass cleaner
- silver cleaner
- dust cloths
- post-it notes
- #10 envelopes
- glass cleaner

You can bring your donation to the church during office hours during the week or with you to church on Sunday.



# St. Stephen's Events

# November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> All Saints Day 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 8:15 am Community Food Pantry, Lynn
<b>4</b> Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost <b>PLEDGE COMMITMENT SUNDAY</b> Daylight Saving Time ends 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:30 am Search Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>6</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>7</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>8</b> 12:00pm- Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00pm-Tea & Talk	<b>9</b> 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>10</b> 10:00- Choir Rehearsal
<b>11</b> Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost Veterans Day 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 12:00 pm Women's Group	<b>12</b> Veterans Day observed 8:00 pm AA	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>14</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>15</b> 12:00pm- Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00pm-Tea & Talk 6:00 pm ECCO: November Community Meeting and Potluck	<b>16</b> Middle School Retreat @ BCH 8:30-Beloved Retreat @ St. Stephens 3:00 pm Food Pantry	<b>17</b> Middle School Retreat @ BCH 10:00- Choir Rehearsal
<b>18</b> Twenty-Sixth Sunday After Pentecost Middle School Retreat @ BCH 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:45 am Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	<b>20</b> 2:30 pm Communion at the Towers 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>22</b> Thanksgiving Day Thanksgiving Day	<b>23</b> Black Friday 3:00 pm Food Pantry 6:30 pm OASIS	<b>24</b> 10:00- Choir Rehearsal
<b>25</b> Last Sunday After Pentecost: Christ the King 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation	<b>26</b> 8:00 pm AA	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Knitter's Group 7:00 pm NA	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Bible Study	<b>29</b> 12:00pm- Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1:00pm-Tea & Talk	<b>30</b> St Andrew the Apostle 3:00 pm Food Pantry	