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October, 2019

From the Interim Priest

St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day is October 4th, grew up in a wealthy home but renounced all material things, including money, as he decided to follow Jesus. He and his followers lived off charity from the villagers where ever they happened to be. Francis did not want to be distracted by material things. One evening when he was carving his begging bowl, the only possession he owned, he realized that he was thinking about it rather than about Jesus so he immediately threw the bowl into the fire.

The irony of Francis and his vow of poverty is that all kinds of people where so impressed with his sanctity, they gave so much to Francis that the Franciscan Order became very wealthy. This caused significant conflict between his followers, some who wanted complete poverty and those who wanted to use their wealth to further God's work.

I have never met anyone who has chosen complete poverty. I have known individuals who have lost everything and seen how hard that can be. Likewise, I have never been part of a church that did not have expenses. While we could live more frugally, virtually all of the parishioners that I know appreciate heat, lights, buildings and staff, including professionally trained clergy. It is true that these things can distract us from the way of Jesus but they can also assist us in proclaiming the Good News of God in Christ and joining God in God's mission. The reality is that these things cost money.

Here at St. Stephen's we have been blessed by many benefactors, however, the day to day expenses must be raised from those who call St. Stephen's their church home.

This month we will be holding our annual stewardship drive where the members of the church are asked to make a pledge to the support of St. Stephen's in 2020. It is a year in which we anticipate calling a new Rector as well as continuing the ministries that have made us what we are. I encourage all of us to support the work of Christ at St. Stephen's and to make a generous pledge to God's work here.

Faithfully yours,

Tom

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Barrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Tom Barrington

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

SEARCH COMMITTEE. We have been meeting every Monday and some Sundays to read and discern the materials sent in by applicants. We will continue to meet at these times throughout the month of October. There were 8 people who applied to be our next rector. Hold them all in your prayers. We ask that you pray for us and keep us close to your heart as we continue this difficult and important charge for St. Stephen's. If you have any concerns about our work please do not hesitate to pull one of our coattails and let us know. We are here to serve you. Search Committee

HARVEST FAIR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD! We did a lot of celebrating for the 175th Anniversary. Now we must play catch-up and think of things we can do to make our Fair even more successful than last year. We are always looking for new items for our "Gift Boutique". If you are cleaning out a closet or drawer you might find a gift you never used that would be suitable. People are always looking for handmade items to purchase as unique gifts. Last year we had some wonderful contributions made by parishioners. Some items can be used on the Silent Auction table. You might have seen something on vacation that would be a great addition.

We will be following the format of last year's Fair. After our many jewelry sales we still have some excellent buys but can now take more jewelry to add to the collection. We have thoughts for our raffle and it will probably be a weekend in Salem similar to before as first prize. It has been suggested that second prize be 3 \$100 gift cards and third some \$100 item. Hopefully it will be finalized by the time you receive this. A second raffle may be held-a handmade Civil War patterned throw. We hope lots of tickets can be sold for these prizes.

Thankfully Steve Switzer has agreed to run Steve's café providing delicious food all day. We would love any gift cards or money you would like to contribute. If you are donating a gift card for our fabulous same-day raffles please let us know so it won't get duplicated.

On the day of the Fair itself, we are always in need of helpers. We have a wonderful time working together on this important money-making project. Please let us know if you would like to help. We will be having a kickoff meeting on Sunday Oct. 6 after the 10 am service to go over everything and ask for other ideas. There will be another meeting closer to the fair. Thanks for keeping the Fair in mind. Please come and bring your friends. If you have any questions please see us at church. Marilyn Cloran and Sally Gosselin Fair Co-chairs

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET OCTOBER 3. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 12:30am on Thursday, October 3 to check-in, organize visits for October, and continuing to discuss the book the Walk in Love Episcopal Beliefs & Practices.

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS, 6:30 – 8:00pm. Come join us as we finish up reading through the Gospel of Luke.

TOWERS COMMUNION OCTOBER 15 AT 2:30. All are welcome to check out our elder housing building St. Stephen's Tower at 25 Pleasant Street as we gather for Communion on Tuesday, October 15 at 2:30pm.

WOMEN'S GROUP OCTOBER 13 AT 11:45 AT ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH. This Women's group will be facilitated by Josephine Russo and Pam Poppe who will be focusing on the fall season and the upcoming holidays – Halloween and Thanksgiving. We would ask that folks would bring a favorite fall recipe, a poem, a story or scripture piece to share with the group. We also will be putting together some Halloween treat bags for the KIC kids to be passed out closer to the end of the month. Please come and bring a dish to share.

As the year draws closer to an end – We are asking that you please consider stepping in to lead the Women's Group. Joyce Wallace and Charlotte Breckenridge have been doing such a great job, but as you know, it is time for others to step up into this role to make sure the Women's group continues to thrive and grow.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM MEETS ON OCTOBER 5th. Will host a Whiteness Conference on **Saturday, October 5th from 2:00pm-5:30pm** at St. Andrews in Marblehead. Participants will be compassionately guided through an interactive performance and workshop designed especially for white people willing to take a personal look at race, white identity, and how white fragility may get in our way of more deep connections. We will move beyond the rut of blame and shame that often bog down conversations about race and whiteness and move towards empowering each other to do personal reflection, create a culture of support, and visions for liberation.

True Story Theater will invite audience members to tell moments from their lives. Then the actors honor these stories through drama, movement, music and song. Audiences laugh and cry, build respect, make connections, and gain insights about their lives. The performance will be followed by a workshop to learn effective ways to support other white people on this journey to see their own whiteness, interrupt bias, receive feedback in a non-defensive way, and develop accountability in work towards racial justice.

People of Color from the Beloved Community Team will participate as witnesses and allies to their brothers and sisters as we struggle to engage with this challenging concept, white privilege. Please contact Helen Patmon at mustangblueinc@comcast.net for additional information.

BAPTISM ON ALL SAINTS SUNDAY-NOVEMBER 3RD If you or someone you know is interested in baptism please complete a baptism registration form as soon as possible forms are in the Galahad Area. Please contact the office at 781.599.4220.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

KID'S IN COMMUNITY MUSIC AND ART (KIC-MAP) afterschool is accepting registrations. For grades 1-6; Monday – Thursday, 2:00 to 6:00 PM. Please contact the director, Shannon Morrissey at smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org.

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING ACOLYTES! We will have an Acolyte meeting and training on Sunday, October 13th at 11:30 in the Church. The Acolyte Ministry is open to all youth who are in grades 6-12. Acolytes typically serve once a month and must arrive at church at 9:45am to put on robes and light candles. We are looking for an Adult Acolyte Director to support our Acolyte and oversee the scheduling. If you are interested in becoming an Acolyte or want to take on the role of Director please call the office at 781.599.4220 or speak with Rev. Tom.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT WEEKEND! Friday, November 15-Sunday, November 17 at Barbara C. Harris camp in Greenfield, NH. Online registration is now open at <https://www.diomassyouth.org>. The Diocesan youth retreats are led by the Diocesan Youth Council. The weekend features small group workshops, indoor and outdoor games, worship to get everyone moving and thinking, music by a live band and some much-needed time away in order to pay more attention to the Spirit of God. Scholarship support is available, as is bus transportation. Registration closes when capacity is reached

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, 201 WASHINGTON STREET, CHELSEA ADVENT EVENT: Las Posadas/Searching for Shelter. The people of San Lucas in Chelsea invite diocesan youth to join in this bilingual celebration on December 21, 2019 of traditional Advent processions, Novenas, music, food and hospitality. For additional information please contact Rev. H. Mark Smith @hmsmith@diomass.org

THE EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT TUESDAY, JULY 7,2020 THRU SATURDAY, JULY 11,2020 AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, 2400 6TH STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC Every three years, Episcopal Church young people come together for an international gathering of worship, workshops, exploration and fun. The event is organized by a team of young people from across the church.

EYE20 will be held in partnership with the Washington National Cathedral and the Diocese of Washington on the campus of Howard University. Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry is scheduled to be one of the featured speakers. Young people attend as part of their diocesan delegation. Contact the diocesan youth missionary, the Rev. H. Mark Smith, for more information at hmsmith@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 214.

LAS FRONTERAS PILGRIMAGE. The program will begin with an organizational meeting in January, and will include several site visits around the diocese to see Faith in Action. At each site, participants will explore issues of security and hospitality, stranger and neighbor, privilege and disadvantage, discipleship and servant leadership, all while participating in community service projects across eastern Massachusetts and developing a community of faith and support among themselves. The program will culminate in the group's pilgrimage to

the US/Mexico borderlands in August 2020. The application deadline is December 13, 2019. For additional information please contact hmsmith@diomass.org or 617.482.4826, ext. 214.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

DEANERY ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 2ND AT 6:00-8:30PM AT ST. ANDREWS IN MARBLEHEAD.

This is one of four meetings for the year. One Topic will be +about our Deanery-wide training “Liberating Ourselves from Racism”, which will be taking place in the spring of 2020.

EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION. Saturday, October 12th - 9:00am 1:00pm , St. Cyprian's Church, 1073 Tremont Street, Roxbury, MA. Episcopal City Mission (ECM) invites participation in its 2019 Annual Meeting on Oct. 12 at St. Cyprian’s Church (1073 Tremont Street) in Roxbury, starting at 9 a.m. Canonically resident and licensed clergy working in the Diocese of Massachusetts are members of the corporation of ECM. Also, lay delegates or interested lay leaders are welcome to attend. Each year ECM members gather to conduct business and learn how to partner in the work of God’s transforming love in the world.

The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to pray with one another, highlight the work that is happening in communities and offer feedback about ECM’s Episcopal Engagement plan. ECM will share a summary of findings from its parish-based focus groups and receive feedback. In addition ECM staff will offer tools for partnership, consciousness, spirituality and collaboration to support individuals and congregations to take action for racial and economic justice. ECM needs everyone there to gain a more complete picture of how the Spirit is moving in this diocese.

234th DIOCESAN CONVENTION “The Way of Love, Practices for Jesus-Centered Love.

Saturday, November 2nd at Back Bay Events Center, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston. Visit the Diocesan Convention 2019 page for updates and details. The St. Stephen’s delegates to the Diocesan Council are Carolyn Edwards, Ginny Fuller (Alternate) and Joyce Wallace Lastly Jasmin Ruffin is our Diocesan Youth Council Delegate.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS PROJECT FOR KIDS(CPPK) An organizational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 27th at 11:45am in the Graham Suite.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL (138 Tremont Street) in Boston invites everyone to the opening night of the exhibition “ABRAHAM: Out of One, Many” on Sunday, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. Three Middle Eastern contemporary visual artists from the faith traditions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism have each created five paintings that interpret Abraham’s life and faith journey, serving as a guide toward creating cultures of peace, harmony, justice and healing—all as descendants of a shared heritage. The cathedral church will host docent-led tours and other events throughout the exhibition, which will be open through Dec. 6. To learn more about this exhibit visit: www.oncaravan.org/abraham. To schedule a group visit, contact Roger Lovejoy at 617-482-4826, ext. 309 or rlovejoy@diomass.org.

175TH ANNIVERSARY MEMENTOS

The beautiful 175th Anniversary Momento will be on sale after Sunday services as well as at the fair. Photos of it were in the last newsletter. It is \$20. If it has to be mailed postage is \$5. more. If you cannot get to the church, please send a check made out to St. Stephens and it will be mailed to you.



POEM FOR THE MONTH

To Let Go

*To let go doesn't mean to stop caring; it means
I can't do it for someone else just yet.*

*To let go is not to cut myself off; it's the
realization that I have no control over
another or the situation.*

*To let go is not to enable, but to allow learning
from natural consequences.*

*To let go is to admit powerlessness which
means the outcome is not in my hands.*

*To let go is not to try and change or blame
another, for I can only change myself.*

To let go is not to care for, but to care about.

To let go is not to fix, but to be supportive.

*To let go is not to judge, but to allow another
to be their own human being.*

*To let go is not to be in the middle arranging
all the outcomes, but to allow others
to affect their own purposes.*

*To let go is not to be protective, it is to permit
another to face their own reality.*

*To let go is not to deny, but to accept what I
do not have the power to change.*

*To let go is not to nag, scold or argue, but to search
out my own shortcomings and to correct them.*

*To let go is not to adjust everything to my desires,
but to take each day as it comes and to
cherish myself in every moment.*

*To let go is not to criticize and regulate anyone,
but to try to become what I dream I can be.*

*To let go is not to just regret the past, but to
grow and live now and for the future.*

To let go is to fear less and love more.

Adapted Unknown

If anyone would like to offer a Poem for the Month for future newsletter please send it to ststephens@ststephenslynn.org or speak to Rev. Tom.

St. Stephen's Events

October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 4:00 pm SSJE 7:00 pm NA	2 2:00 pm EEC Inspection 6:30 pm Bible Study	3 10:30 am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Team Meeting 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	4	5 2:00 pm Whiteness Conference
6 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:30 am Harvest Fair Kick-Off	7 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	8 9:30 am Hungry Network Meeting 6:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 pm NA	9 6:30 pm Bible Study	10 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	11 3:00 pm Food Pantry	12 7:00 am Mobile Market-Salvation Army 5:00 pm N/A Ann. Group Meeting
13 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:45am Acolyte Meeting 12:00 pm Women's Group-	14 Columbus Day (OFFICE CLOSED) 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	15 2:30 pm Communion at the Towers 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm Stewardship Ministry Team	16 6:30 pm Bible Study	17 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	18 St Luke the Evangelist 3:00 pm Food Pantry	19 9:00 am Zion Women's Day Workshop
20 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:30 am Vestry Meeting-Graham Suite	21 6:30 pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	22 7:00 pm NA	23 St James of Jerusalem 6:30 pm Bible Study	24 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers	25 3:00 pm Food Pantry	26 7:00 am Mobile Market-Salvation Army
27 Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist - English 11:00 am Worship - Kenyan Congregation 11:45 CPPK Meeting-Graham Suite	28 St Simon and St Jude, Apostles 6:30pm Search Committee Meeting 8:00 pm AA	29 7:00 pm NA	30 6:30 pm Bible Study	31 Halloween 12:00 pm Eucharist & Healing Prayers		