



**ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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

Newsletter September 2015

How Is God Calling?

For clergy, it seems that much of life consists of asking people to do something. My note pads are full of lists of names of people to ask to attend certain events or meetings; to serve in worship as Eucharistic Minister, reader, usher, chorister, healing prayer, acolyte, or Altar Guild; to support and teach our young people in Church School, youth groups, Children's Choir, or Kids in Community; to lend a hand in fundraising by helping organize events, sell Big Money Raffle tickets, solicit ads and donations, or cook feasts to eat or treats to sell; to participate in our community ministries working with ECCO, serving at My Brother's Table, or volunteering at the Food Pantry; or to take on leadership as a Vestry member, member of a committee or working group, Mission Hub Team member, Deanery Representative, or Diocesan Convention Delegate.

Honestly, my lists seem ceaseless, and my primary task often seems to be asking people to do something. Especially as we move into September hoping to fill dozens of visible and invisible needs in parish life, I find myself scanning the pews wondering who might be asked to do what.

As I look, my mind checks people off—this one is having surgery, that one won't work with others, this one is done with volunteering, that one does too much already, this one is too busy, that one will say no... and so on. What I also know is that some of you don't return clergy phone calls lest you be asked to do something, or you say "yes" but feel resentful and burdened, or you say "no" and feel guilty.

While all this may feel inescapable in congregational life, it results in us engaging the work of the church using the means and methods of the world. The world says "I have a need; how am I going to get someone to fill it?" Here at St. Stephen's, we often fall into this worldly, transactional mode of doing.

God, on the other hand, says, "You are wonderfully made;" "I created you for abundant life." God blessed each of us with a host of gifts and talents for our delight and the good of the world. And, Jesus taught his followers that we are to be "last and servant of all." He gave us a new commandment that we are to "love one another as he loves us."

Week after week we profess our faith; we sing songs like "Take my life and let it me consecrated Lord to Thee," or "I have decided to follow Jesus." We hear the words; we pray the prayers; we sing the songs—and yet somehow we live as if we belonged to the world and not to God.

This September, as familiar programs and activities return and new possibilities emerge, I wonder what might happen if each of us asked God what one thing God would have us do.

Jane⁺

Sanctuary (sanc-tu-ary): a place where someone or something is protected or given shelter; the protection that is provided by a safe place; the room inside a church, synagogue, etc., where religious services are held

Dear Friends,

In the last 33 years I have sat, prayed and lived in many sanctuaries around the country and the world. St. Mark's in Burlington, my grandfather's house in Indiana, and Robben Island in South Africa are some of the more important sanctuaries from my past. They are places in which the physical and spiritual world weren't separated by a line but interwoven without clear indication of where one began and the other ended. They filled me with the awesome presence of God leading me to jump and dance for joy. I entered these sanctuaries angry, depressed or tired but left feeling refreshed and renewed. The struggles were still waiting for me on the doorstep but my attitude toward them was totally transformed. They were no longer insurmountable obstacles but colorful puzzles that needed to be put together. But it was only after I experienced the safety and shelter of sanctuary that my mind was opened to this new understanding.

As the above definition (Merriam Webster Dictionary) suggests "sanctuary" isn't always an obvious place. In our culture some spaces are more obvious sanctuaries: churches, homes, and retreat centers. Others are found in less obvious places: workplaces, boats, subways. But if we look at the definition above it's clear that any place or area can be a sanctuary as long as it fits one of those three criteria. And so we must be open to the reality that each person finds safety, shelter, and spirituality in different places and for different reasons. For some people church is a place of shelter and safety, but for others it is a place of judgement and disappointment.

St. Stephen's excels at offering sanctuary for all of God's people. Over the summer St. Stephen's has provided sanctuary for hundreds of adults and children in both typical and atypical ways. We provided three worship services each week on Sunday and Thursday mornings. We offered safe and formative space for the children of the KIC and Summer Learning Programs, for the adults at Bible Study and Tea & Talk, and for families at the Food Pantry. We taught a group of young teenage girls the tools of storytelling and filming through the OASIS Film Institute. We sent out youth to camp and adults to outreach ministries confident in the knowledge that no matter how far they may travel, this sanctuary remains open.

In all of these ministries we are reminded that our whole building is a sanctuary. Yes we have an inner sanctuary for celebrating the Eucharist AND the safety and shelter created in the Eucharist extends throughout all the hallways, staircases, room, floors, windows etc... Wherever we stand or sit in the building we are enveloped in this sacredness. In the deepest part of our hearts we long for sanctuary, for moments when the quiet, stillness overcomes the endless chaos of our lives.

May our sanctuary embrace us all with the peace and love of God, this day and always.

Sarah

St. Stephen's - Summer 2015

Many churches become quiet during the summer. Activities pause, people go away. Not at our church! In fact, this summer has been particularly busy. Work on the floor of the sacristy has been completed, it is back to the original floor. The space outside the sacristy has a new floor. Both are quite beautiful.

The Kids In Community (KIC) program registered 114 children and had an average daily attendance of 95 campers during the month of July. They had art, drama, bucket drumming and hands-on science, as well as field trips to Fenway Park, Boston Children's Museum, Museum of Science and the Franklin Park zoo. Teen mentors from the high schools in Lynn taught creative writing, movie making, football and much more. Volunteers from St. Andrew's parish in Marblehead provided snacks and read to children during the final week.

The afterschool program will return in September, directed by Audrey Gutfreund, who will work part time year round.

The Academic Enrichment Program, directed by Micheal Brown met four afternoons a week during July and the first week of August. Because of budget cuts by the state, it was not possible to have this program in the Lynn schools. Students entering first and second grades met in the afternoon for story reading, writing, phonetics, math skills, games, snacks and activities. Thirty five students registered, attendance totals varied. Many students attended KIC early in the day, and then came to the afternoon program. They represented ten schools in Lynn. Adult volunteers from the church were mentors and fourth and fifth grade students were helpers, along with four young adults who were paid.

Oasis Film Institute (OFI) returned after a five year hiatus. The first session was led by Jason Cruz, Youth Minister, and Paulina Villaroel Cruz. That year the title of the film produced was "I am Lynn."

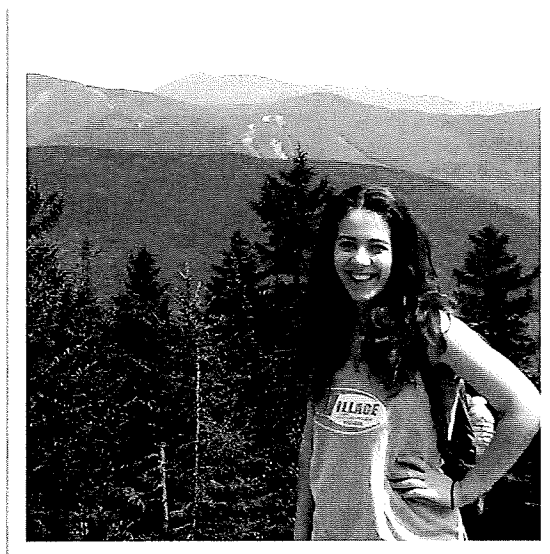
This year, the second session began in June with one day training, led by Paulina Villaroel Cruz and the Rev. Sarah van Gulden. The theme chosen was "Our Lives Matter" in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. Ten high school age girls representing three communities: St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Kiswahili Congregation and RAW Art Works participated in the program. The young women wrote narratives, chose three to film, filmed those stories and edited the film to produce a rough cut. Paulina Villaroel Cruz will further edit and combine these stories into a 5-6 minute film that will be presented on Friday, September 11, 6:30-9:00 PM. The film will also serve as the sermon on Sunday, September 13 at the 8AM and 10AM services.

Special thanks go to Shanel Anderson who graciously offered her time and talent to this program.

Cleanup Week was held during the week of August 10. All of the kitchens and the library received a thorough cleaning, and sorting of material to keep and also to throw away. Huge thanks go to all who gave their time and many talents to a challenging project during the hottest weather of the summer.

Irene V. Axelrod

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIOCESAN INTERN



Hello St. Stephen's! My name is Samantha Wolfe and I'm excited to be working here this year as a Life Together Fellow. St. Stephen's seems like a very vibrant and engaged community and I think I will learn a lot from you. This year you will likely find me working with St. Stephen's youth groups, working on faith-based community organizing, and doing pastoral care among other activities.

I grew up in Rochester, NY where I was raised Catholic by a single mom. About 4 years ago I moved to the Boston area after graduating from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

While in college, I learned about social justice movements and practiced community organizing with workers in Ithaca and on my campus. After 1 year of helping organize my campus community as well as the broader community of Ithaca and my church, our student organization had won a Living Wage for the college's cafeteria workers! These experiences radicalized my faith-rooted values of love and equality and inspired me to continue movement-building work.

I spent my first year in Boston serving as an Americorps VISTA, coordinating the Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau for the National Coalition for the Homeless. My main job was to empower and make space for people who'd experienced homelessness to tell their stories to students and faith communities across New England in order to educate the public and break stereotypes about homelessness.

After 3 years of restaurant work and some restaurant worker organizing, I'm delighted to be part of Life Together where I can re-ground myself in an educational community of engaged social justice seekers. I'm also seeking to re-discover my spirituality and to let it ground, nourish and guide me both in my work and in my daily living.

Thank you for welcoming me here. I feel privileged to be here and am really looking forward to meeting and building relationships with many of you.

SIZZLING SUMMER AT ST. STEPHEN'S

KIC CONCLUDES FABULOUS SUMMER. It was a great July at Kids in Community! Nearly 100 kids attended KIC camp each day, where they got to play games outside, read, and learn art, drama, music, and science with expert teachers. Kids also got to take field trips to the Museum of Science, Fenway Park, Boston Children's Museum, and the Zoo. KIC welcomed the children with a staff of 21 teens and young adults, including six from St. Stephen's or Oasis. Volunteers from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's Marblehead also provided invaluable support by preparing meals and snacks as well as reading with children. KIC wrapped up on July 31st with an ice cream celebration and showcase for families. The kids showed off dance and cheerleading routines, bucket drumming, Vine videos, and read slam poetry for a big crowd. Kids in Community was made possible this year through financial support from the Sears Family Fund, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Marblehead, Amelia Peabody Foundation, Old Neighborhood, The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, First Jobs, and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn. *Audrey Gutfreund*

ST. STEPHEN'S SUMMER LEARNING. Summer Learning emerged at St. Stephen's because state budget cuts resulted in the last minute cancellation in Lynn of summer school for elementary school students, and Washington STEM School teacher Micheal Brown called the Rector and said, "What are we going to do?" With Vestry conversation and support, Micheal and her team of 4 college-age assistants and numerous volunteers created an English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics enrichment program for rising 1st and 2nd graders. The program ran 2:00-5:30, Monday to Thursday from July 8th to August 6. Students received academic support in ELA and Math. They reviewed and strengthened skills and concepts previously taught in phonics (long & short vowels, nouns, verbs, digraphs and blends), writing (literature response...beginning middle and end/sequencing), guided reading (fluency practice), listening to and discussing stories read out loud (story elements, responding to literature, modeling fluency) and math (place value, solid & plane shapes, ordering numbers, reading a graph, patterns, addition and subtraction to ten and twenty, money time, fraction, etc.) We enrolled 35 students from 10 elementary schools across the city of Lynn; most of the participants also attended KIC. One parents commented, "This is such a blessing." Students also offered their unsolicited appreciation; "I love this program because it helps my fluency," said one student during Guided Reading. Given the last minute development of the program, the only paid staff was the 4 college-age assistants; all others volunteered their time and talent. The 4 lead staff consisted of current and retired teachers in the city. The 9 helpers were a mix of upper elementary, junior high and high school students. We also had "special guest" volunteers... adults who could commit only a day or two. A week 4 volunteer commented, "This is so organized and I feel like I'm really contributing." On this particular day, the volunteer had observed arrival, attendance, whole-group activity and group dispersement. She was the Read-A-Loud staff in the library. She stopped in at writing and phonics, and worked with a small group of students during our math block. She stayed and had conversations with staff and students during dismissal and was the last person to leave that day. Support for the program came from Washington STEM Principal Licorice and Bishop Gates. It was a delight and pleasure to be given the opportunity to work with everyone in bringing the program to fruition. You ALL made my summer!!! Echoing the words of the aforementioned parent... What a Blessing Indeed! *Micheal Brown, Program Coordinator*

REPORTS FROM BARBARA C. HARRIS CAMP. Thanks to parish financial support and generous Diocesan camperships, 33 young people enjoyed time at BCH Camp this summer.

From Michaela Olabisi: BCH was the most exciting two weeks of my summer. I was a bit apprehensive at first because it would be the first time I would be away from my parents. The first day of camp I was welcomed by great bunkmates and counselors. I enjoyed the food, camp fire songs, and I always looked forward to morning worship. At camp I came out of my comfort zone and did things that were foreign to me like the ropes course, canoeing and backpacking. I thought backpacking was hard but canoeing was even more difficult. Both trips made me realize how blessed we are and made me appreciate the things I had a lot more. My favorite part of the two weeks had to be rock out session. It was a lot of fun. We got to dance, listen to music, and be with campers from different groups. By the end of the two weeks I was ready to go home and see my family but when I got home I wanted to go back to BCH!

From Maxwell Shaughnessy: Thank you for supporting my time at BCH camp this summer. I had a really fun time at camp. I myself do not believe in god but I feel like the thought of god has created this community where everyone is trying to make the world a little better. My experiences there were amazing. Almost everyone there was kind and thoughtful. It was life changing how all these people had such a strong connection with each other and with me. The community was created around the thought of god and I felt like I had a place in it. It just amazes me how this little community can be so powerful, so amazing. Everyone is so different but they work together like they are a family. That's what BCH felt like for me, one big family. When I was at BCH, I learned about the rock climbing wall. It sounded like fun but I was very nervous and when I got to the climbing wall I was even more nervous. Then as I started to climb, I felt a little more confident. But when I got to the top and realized that I had to trust the person who was holding the line to let me down from the top of the wall, I lost my confidence and was afraid to fall. Then I literally took a leap of faith and jumped off the wall. It took an enormous amount of faith for me to trust and jump. It was a life changing experience going to BCH because I felt like I was a part of this good, kind community; and I felt like I belonged.

OASIS FILM INSTITUTE. This Summer 10 teenaged young women shared their personal stories and ultimately chose several of their stories to produce in a short film. Inspired by the "Black Lives Matter Movement," OFI invited the young women give voice and image to the theme, "Our Lives Matter." Each participant told a story of a challenge in her life, the choice she made, and the outcome. The team trusted each other with deep and powerful stories. They took a photograph of all of their hands, which one said represented, "Togetherness, a pillow to fall into." Another young woman said, "openness, connection, healing." For many, telling their story was a healing experience. For others listening was equally healing. "I don't feel so alone," one young woman commented. If OFI had gotten no further than telling stories and creating a community, it would have been successful. But they went on to establish criteria and choose a set of stories to make into 3 short films, which they then produced from story boarding to filming and now editing. By the end of the week, there was laughter at lunch, moments of gratitude for the group's existence, and three films in rough-cut. More editing needs to happen before the documentary "Our Lives Matter" debuts at Oasis on Friday, September 11 and church on Sunday, September 13 but the work of these 10 beautiful, intelligent, mature, teenagers from Lynn will amaze you. They met, formed community, learned how to write, shoot, and edit, and created lasting connections. You all will join the leadership team of Shanel, Rachel, Rev. Sarah, and me in saying "Wow." *Paulina Villarroel Cruz*

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

VESTRY SUMMARY. July 17-18 the Vestry gathered with the St. Stephen's Beloved Community Team for a leadership retreat engaging issues of identity, race, and privilege. The group enjoyed the worship and hospitality of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge as we worked with consultant the Rev. William Kondrath to explore conscious and unconscious assumptions, attitudes, and ways of being together in community. August 16 the Vestry received reports on Kids in Community, Summer Academic Enrichment, Oasis Film Institute, and Barbara C. Harris Camp. As always the building occupied lots of our time; the Vestry thanked the "Clean Up/ Clear Out" laborers (Irene, Lucinda, Marilyn, Judie, Paula, Bob, Alville, Amy, Diana B., Pam, Michaela, Sally, Ginny, Shanel, Samantha, Whitney, Neil, Joyce, Joanne B., Micheal, Harry, and Mark) for bringing order out of chaos, discussed floor replacement and restoration in the sacristy and sacristy hall, and voted to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to continue roof work focusing on the cupola and sacristy roof. The Big Money Raffle Team reported on a successful event that raised over \$10,000, and offered thanks to the key organizers and ticket sellers. Although pledges are under budget (please catch up as soon as possible; we are counting on you), our financial position looks good. Discussion continued on the new employee handbook.

BIG MONEY RAFFLE SUCCESS. The Big Money Raffle Drawing Party on July 26 was a great success as well as lots of fun. The team (Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Sally Gosselin) would like to thank everyone who bought and sold tickets, all the donors of door prizes, Dan Collis Puro for his work on the computer system that kept everyone updated on the progress of the drawing, Jason Cruz for keeping the music going, Ginny Fuller and Bob Dixon for greeting guests directing them to their tables and answering questions,, the Port Hole Pub for the great food and use of the function room. Special thanks goes to our MC, Steve Switzer, for keeping the crowd entertained, even when we didn't have a winning ticket. He kept us laughing anyway! Winners: \$5000.00 Joanne Droppers; \$1000.00 Valerie Bowden & Lauren Gavlin; \$750.00 Sunday Ticket July 26, 2015; \$500.00 Tameka Mills, Marion Bonbon & Adelaide Dos Santos; and \$250.00 Waldorf School at Moraine Farm. Door Prize Winners throughout the night made winners of Howie Jackson, Karen Corbett, Dorothy Post, Dan Puro, Richard Marcin, Margie Messina, Pam Alleyne, Joyce Piwonski, and Janet Brown.

IF IT'S SEPTEMBER, THE FAIR IS COMING! Our Annual Harvest Fair will come to St. Stephen's on Saturday, November 21. The Fair Leadership Team of Irene Axelrod, Marilyn Cloran, Sally Gosselin, Lucinda McClain, Neil O'Donnell, and Josephine Russo seeks new members to help them involve, inspire, and coordinate. Their hope is that every member of the congregation will contribute to the Fair in some way☺ **In September, they need your help soliciting donations and recruiting crafters.** Crafter registration forms, and solicitation letters and forms for donations and ads in the program book are available in the Galahad Area and by email from the office (ststephens@ststephenslynn.org). Cards are available with suggestions of new places to solicit or for phone or face-to-face follow up with previous donors. And, please ask business owners you know as well as friends and family because the personal touch always is most effective. In addition, everyone is encouraged to bring in donations of New Gifts and new items that could be used for raffles, auctions, and baskets. Balancing the St. Stephen's budget depends on successful fundraisers. Please help our Fair succeed in fun and fund raising.

JOIN US FOR HOMECOMING ON SEPTEMBER 27

Join us as we Reflect on our Ministry of Formation and Celebrate

THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Guest Preacher at 8:00 & 10:00: The Rev. Louise Conant, Seminarian in the mid-1980s

**Louise currently enjoys a busy retired life; for years she served as
Chaplain to the Commission on Ministry & Assistant at Christ Church, Cambridge**

The Rev. Aileen Ryder DiBenedetto Deacon at 10:00am

Baptisms at 10:00am

Homecoming Lunch at Noon

Lunch is free but advance reservation is required

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

BAPTISMS ON HOMECOMING—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. As we celebrate the Feast of Stephen and the life of our parish, we welcome new members into the church through Baptism. If you or anyone you know would like to be baptized, please complete a baptism registration form no later than Sunday, September 20 and join us for the Baptism Preparation Class on Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30. For more information, please speak with the clergy.

SEPTEMBER FORMATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. KNIT CLUB: All levels of knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join the spirited fellowship of the Knit Club in the Galahad Area on Tuesday evenings at 6:30—Contact, Debbie Potter. **BIBLE STUDY** continues on Wednesdays at 6:30 as we engage the Gospel of Thomas; after Thomas, we'll move on to the Lesser Prophets. **TEA & TALK ABOUT FAITH** continues on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections. **SEWING CLUB:** Experienced and novice sewers are invited to bring mending or new projects to our new Sewing Club on Saturday mornings at 9:00am beginning September 19—Contact, Charlotte Breckenridge.

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS SEPTMBER 3. The Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Teams will gather at 10:30am on Thursday, September 4 for check-in and to discuss Chapters 7 & 8 of Gerald May's Addiction and Grace.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE. On Sunday, September 13, our Adult Choir returns to lead singing in worship at 10:00. The Choir gathers every Saturday morning at 10:00 to rehearse. Rehearsals resume on Saturday, September 12. New members are always welcome in the Adult and Children's Choir. St. Augustine said that those who sing "pray twice." Deepen your prayer through song and gladden our worship by joining the St. Stephen's Choir!

FINAL SUMMER COOKOUT SEPTEMBER 13. Do you have friends who might be looking for a faith community? Invite them to join you for worship or just for our Family Cook-out on Sunday, September 13 at 11:30. There will be activities for children as well as information about the programs of the parish for all ages. We'll provide grillables, and count on people bringing salads, desserts, and chips to augment the feast. Please join us as we renew relationships and make new friends at the beginning of the program year!

ST. STEPHEN'S TIFFANY WINDOWS IN ESSEX COUNTY TRAILS & SAILS. On Saturday, September 19 from 10:00am to 3:30pm visitors can tour our 41 Tiffany windows as part of Essex Heritage Trails & Sails Weekends. Encourage your friends to come and see the oldest ecclesiastical Tiffany windows in the world. Chris Trahan, Irene Axelrod, Marilyn and Rick Cloran, and Sally Gosselin will offer tours and introduce visitors to the people and place of St. Stephen's. The last two weekends in September, Trails & Sails offers free access to more than 150 venues (see www.essexheritage.org/ts/events). On the previous Wednesday evening, September 16 at 7:00pm, our Tiffany Team will give a presentation about the windows at the Abbott Library (235 Pleasant Street, Marblehead). For information, ask Marilyn Cloran.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 20 AT 6:30. Sunday, September 20 at 6:30, the clergy along with Juliana Davis and her Berklee Band will offer a contemporary worship experience with lots of inspired singing, time for scripture reflection, and opportunity for Christian fellowship. Join us for our last outdoor worship of the season!

FROM THE KISWAHILI DESK. St. Stephen's Kiswahili Congregation is the place to be. We welcome everyone in worship as we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This summer we managed to have several events as symbols of bringing people together as active church members. We hosted hundreds of Kenyan's from all over New England for music festivals competition at Classical High School. The St. Stephen's Choirs practiced hard and performed well almost winning the traditional music competition. Children, including the Youth Brigade, enjoyed a trip to Six Flags. A dozen young people spent time at Barbara Harris Camp, where they strengthened friendships and faith. And, on August 9, we conducted worship in the park. After worship, we played a variety of games and sang traditional songs. It was a wonderful faith and fitness adventure for moms, dads, and kids. All through the summer, the Choir and band have practiced faithfully every Thursday morning. This Fall, our Pastor the Rev. Joseph Ngotho will enjoy a brief break of two months and the Rev. George Gitau Mbugua will offer support to the Leadership Council and congregation. Kallen Karuno

DIOCESAN TRAININGS PROVIDE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING.

September 12 (9-1), Holy Spirit, Mattapan will host a Diocesan Stewardship Workshop. September 19 (8:30-3:30) a St. Stephen's Team will attend Safe Church Training at St. Andrew's, Marblehead; people who work with young people and pastoral visitors can sign up with Rev. Sarah. October 3, the Diocesan Resource Day will offer dozens of workshops for our education and enlightenment. Vestry members and others can sign up in the Galahad Area.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO JOIN OUR MINISTRIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE? Whenever we baptize, we promise to do everything in our power to support these people in their life in Christ. Our mission imperatives challenge us to show Christ-like hospitality to children, youth, and young adults. Living into these commitments requires that adults teach church school, serve as mentors with our middle school and high school young programs, prepare meals for our teen groups, help train acolytes and maintain their robes, drive young people to Diocesan events, volunteer with Kids' Choir, and help out with KIC After-School Music. It also requires adults faithfully bringing children and youth to our formation ministries. Talk to Rev. Sarah today about how and where you might serve.

**CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 13
CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 20 AT 10:00**

Team-led Classes for Nursery through Grade 12 using a Bible-based, Episcopal Curriculum
Confirmation Preparation for teenagers in a year-long program

GORDON COLLEGE SERVICE LEARNING STUDENTS COME TO ST. STEPHEN'S. Mentoring is central to St. Stephen's vocation as a congregation. Beginning September 13, 5 Gordon College freshmen will join us on Sunday mornings to assist with Church School and participate in worship. Rev. Sarah, Intern Samantha Wolfe, and our Church School teachers will support them in their service learning. Their van driver and reflection leader will be Marianthy Posadas-Nava. She writes: "I am a junior at Gordon College studying Literature and French, with hopes to continue on to law school after graduation. I came to Lynn as a freshman with the same program that I now have the opportunity to lead. During my time as a freshmen, I participated in a program called Lunch Circles within the Lynn public school system. I haven't stopped my engagement with Lynn since."

KIC MUSIC KICKS OFF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9. Mondays and Wednesdays after school KIC Music offers elementary-age students an opportunity to learn music theory and drumming. Registration is required and we expect the 30 slots to fill fast. Sign up TODAY!

KIDS' CHOIR RETURNS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20. Calling all St. Stephen's children & youth! The Kids' Choir is gearing up for another super exciting season! Our past year was fun, but this year is bound to be even bigger and better! **Join us for our first rehearsal of the season, Saturday, September 12th 12-2pm.** There will be food, music, and fun! See you all there!

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES. Acolyte teams serve every Sunday at our 10:00am worship. Right now we're looking for more young people (6th-12th graders) to acolyte every 3-4 weeks. Worship is more fun when you sit up front and have lots of tasks to keep you busy! **There will be training for acolytes on Sunday, September 20th from 12pm-2pm.** Games, pizza, and drinks will be included!! Contact Rev. Sarah with any questions.

PREMIER "OUR LIVES MATTER" AT OASIS SEPTEMBER 12. Teens and friends are invited to the Community Premier of "Our Lives Matter" at 7:00pm on Friday, September 12 to kick off a new year at Oasis and welcome Jason Cruz back from sabbatical.

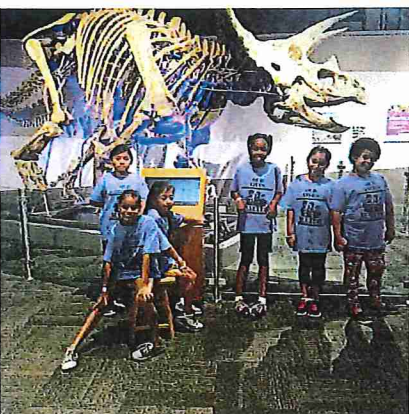
MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE. St. Stephen's youth in grades 6-8 will have our first fall event on Friday, September 19 from 6:30-8:30pm. In addition to monthly Friday evenings, we hope to involve Middle Schoolers in community service projects. Please let Rev. Sarah or Jason Cruz know if you are interested.

**ECCO ACTION WITH POLICE CHIEF COPPINGER
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 7:00 AT ZION BAPTIST**

Racial disparities exist in traffic stops & arrests in Lynn
Join ECCO's conversation with Chief Coppinger as we explore
How we strengthen Community-Police Relations & Communication
Be part of the change you seek in Lynn



Scenes of Summer 2015



September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8&10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili	1 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	2 6:30pm Bible Study	3 10:30am Healing Prayer & Pastoral Care Teams Meeting Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 6:45-8pm Beloved Community Team	4	5	
6	7 LABOR DAY Office Closed 8pm AA	8 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	9 2-6pm KIC Music Begins 6:30pm Bible Study	10 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	11 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS 7:00pm "Our Lives Matter" Screening	12 10am Choir Rehearsal Noon-2pm Kids' Choir 9-1pm Diocesan Stewardship Workshop, Mattapan
13 8&10am "Our Lives Matter" Film Debut Church School Registration Noon Community Cook Out hosted by Young People's Ministry Team	14 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	15 2:30-5:30pm Be You 5:30-8:30pm Church School Teachers' Classroom Set Up 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	16 2pm Stewardship Ministry Team 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study 7pm Tiffany Windows Talk @ Abbott Library, Marblehead	17 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 6pm St. Stephen's Tower Board Meeting	18 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm Middle School Group	19 9-10:30am Sewing Club 10-3:30pm Trails & Sails at St. Stephen's Noon-2pm Kids' Choir 9-2pm Safe Church Training, St. Andrew's, Marblehead
20 10am Church School Begins 12:15pm Vestry Meeting 12-2pm Acolyte Training 6:30pm Contemporary Worship	21 2-6pm KIC Music 7pm ECCO Community Meeting with Chief Coppinger at Zion Baptist 8pm AA	22 2:30-5:30pm Be You 6pm NS Deanery, St. John's, Beverly Farms 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	23 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study	24 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk	25 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9pm OASIS	26 9-10:30am Sewing Club 10am Choir Rehearsal
27 HOME COMING 8 & 10am Guest Preacher: The Rev. Louise Conant 10am Baptism Noon Homecoming Dinner 1-4pm Brother's Table	28 2-6pm KIC Music 8pm AA	29 2:30-5:30pm Be You 6:30pm Knitters' Club 7pm NA	30 2-6pm KIC Music 6:30pm Bible Study			Office Hours ☼ <u>CHANGE</u> Monday-Friday 8:45am -2:45pm