



September 2021 NEWSLETTER

A Message from Reverend Greg

September: A Season of Renewal and Gratitude

It is hard to believe, but September is here and on the 15th of this month, Doug and I will celebrate our one-year anniversary of moving from Jersey to the Northshore. It has been an incredible year and still, this virus will not go away. On September 19th, I will celebrate my second Homecoming service at St. Stephen's. This second service is far different from my first, which was virtual. This year, the service will be in-person.

September is a time to re-member, to come back together and begin a new season of learning and programs. Sadly, it is also a time to remember one of the most tragic events in the history of this country, **9-11**. For all of us, it is a season of renewal and transition, as well as a time of gratitude. Some of our young people are beginning college and some are moving up a grade in school. There are new jobs to begin and new adventures to embark upon, and all of us slowly look to the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall.

The Vestry and I are working with a consultant, The Rev'd Bill Kondrath, to strengthen our work together as a leadership team and to develop goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (*SMART*). The month of September will be one of continued discussion and planning and we will bring the fruit of this work to the congregation for your discussion and suggestions. We know that one of the most important goals will be to grow the congregation by focusing on evangelization.

I invite you to do your part by talking about St. Stephen's with your friends and neighbors who might be looking for a faith community. Help do your part by witnessing to the reasons why you first came to St. Stephen's and why you remain. Invite them to come worship with you. If you have any thoughts on how we can grow the congregation, please speak to a member of the Vestry. Remember, while we might be coming to the end of a pandemic, we still have life and the Spirit of God is working among us, moving us to rethink our understanding of church in a post-quarantine era.

Even while we are struggling to come through this difficult time, KIC was able to have a successful Summer Program. The Food Pantry has continued to provide food for many individuals and families, and I am grateful to the lay leaders and volunteers in both

ministries. I am grateful for our wardens who give generously of their time, talent and treasure. I am grateful to the members of the Vestry who commit to attending all of the meetings with our consultant and who have committed themselves to doing the work of goalsetting. Furthermore, I am grateful to the Beloved Community who have continued the discussion on how to dismantle racism, and to those who actively minister but remain in the shadows of the church. In fact, as we approach the Season of Stewardship, I am grateful to St. Stephen's, and I pray that you will seriously consider how you can express your gratitude for all that God has given us/you.

Lastly, Christians and non-Christians everywhere are invited to observe the *Season of Creation* from September 1st through October 4th. During this month, we will focus on expressing our gratitude for all of God's creation and committing to addressing the sins we have committed against all that God loves. This year's theme reminds us that as Abraham and Sarah opened their tent to the three angels, we are to do the same. More importantly, we are invited to recognize that we are living in the '*Oikos*' of God.

"By focusing the subtheme on the concept of *oikos*, we hope to lift up the integral nature of the many relationships that hold the web of life together. Within the whole inhabited Earth (*oikoumene*), the Church (*oikoumene*) calls all households and societies (*oikos*) to turn our political, social and economic systems (*oikonomia*) towards just, sustainable economies of life, which respect the limits and life-giving ecological boundaries (*oikologia*) of our common home." (From the Season of Creation website: www.seasonofcreation.org)

This year, I will celebrate part of God's creation by blessing pets on Sunday, October 3rd following our 10 AM Holy Eucharist. Let's use this event as one of evangelization; invite your friends and neighbors who have animal companions.

September truly is a time of renewal and gratitude. I invite you to enter into this month, remembering how God has blessed us with creation and praying that we can respond with deep love for the "*Oikos of God*."

Faithfully,
Greg+



JOIN US IN CHURCH FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

No need to register ahead of time, or sign in, but please wear your mask!

To Watch the 10AM Service From Home: Tune in to the **live service weekly at 10:00 am** right here on our website, on the [St. Stephen's YouTube Channel](#), or via the YouTube App on your phone, tablet, or Smart TV.

[Subscribe to the St. Stephen's YouTube Channel](#) (it's free!) to easily find this broadcast on your YouTube App on any device. After setting your reminder, simply open the YouTube App on your Smart TV, tablet, or phone and log in with the same Google/YouTube account to see the scheduled broadcast.

To Watch with Others: You can join the Zoom Meeting using this [link](#) and using the passcode previously provided to all congregants. You'll be able to see other congregants in the Zoom meeting while watching. Additionally, join a few minutes before 10:00 am or stay after the service ends to chat live with other congregants. If you need help with the password, or with using Zoom or YouTube, please email ststephens@ststephenslynn.org or call the office.

BIBLE STUDY: Acts of the Apostles

Join Us for Virtual Bible Study each Wednesday from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. We will be reading the Acts of the Apostles. To join the discussion, go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91045711473>

Meeting ID: 910 4571 1473



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO NEEDS A CALL FROM THE CHURCH?

If you know someone who's feeling the loss of community and connection with St. Stephen's, please contact the office to let Rev. Greg know.

Thank you from the Potter-Bradley Family

Dear St. Stephens:

I with the entire Potter-Bradley Family want to graciously thank you all for your support, assistance and prayers during the home going of my loving wife. You all did such an amazing job of always showing your love for her.

Deborah Soo loved the St. Stephens family, and always wanted to show this in her ministry. I want to especially thank Con & Bonnie, Steve & Ruthanne, Josephine, Ms. Lucinda, Tobi, Delaney, Resha & Paul Crowley and especially Pastor Greg, Brandi and the entire St. Stephens Parish community. You all were always supportive of my family. Please forgive me if I missed anyone. Even now it is still difficult.

Love,
Jesse Timothy Potter

KIDS IN COMMUNITY MUSIC & ART AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

It has been a year like no other! After running a successful summer program (see pictures and letter below!) we are excited to begin a new school year serving Lynn children in our afterschool program. We hope to provide some normalcy while continuing our safety and risk protocols. For the safety of all, we leave nothing to chance to ensure that everyone is protected by the measures, policies, and practices we have in place. We plan to open on September 20 and are now enrolling up to 39 children in grades 1 through 6. Of course, we cannot do it without a new KIC Team. We are looking to hire energetic youth mentors who will work from 2:30 to 6:00, Monday to Thursday, If you are interested in enrolling a child or applying to work at KIC, please contact our Program Director, Shannon Morrissey at smorrissey@ststephenslynn.org.

From KIC Board Member, Volunteer and St. Andrew's parishioners Beth Hecht:

Here are a few more pictures! The Luau was a smashing success - huge kudos to Shannon for all of her hard work, planning, and organization! :) Toward the end of the luau, a camper named Sam approached me. Sam and I had spent several days reading a nail-biter of a chapter book that we both loved. He came up to me and said so sincerely, "thank you for reading with me this week." Though our group may not need reminders of why KIC is important, it certainly summed up why we do this - KIC MATTERS to these kids!



Kids In Community
Summer 2021

THE WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group is an opportunity for fellowship for women from St. Stephen's and St. Andrew's. We meet on the second Sunday of the month, from 12:30 to 2 PM. To get the Zoom invitation to join the meeting, please contact St. Stephen's office.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Thank you to all of you who have been helping out at the Food Pantry! A simple way *anyone* can lend a hand is to bring in clean full-size paper bags from the grocery store. The Food Pantry distributes 160+ bags of food a week and must purchase bags from the Boston Food Bank when we don't have enough donated bags.

As always, we especially need help for one hour, once a month, when we get our food delivery from the Greater Boston Food Bank and unload 9,000 pounds of food (20 to 40-pound boxes) into our storage areas. The food is delivered on the second Friday of each month at 11:15 am. We need help from 11:30 to 12:30 on September 10, October 8, November 12 and December 10.

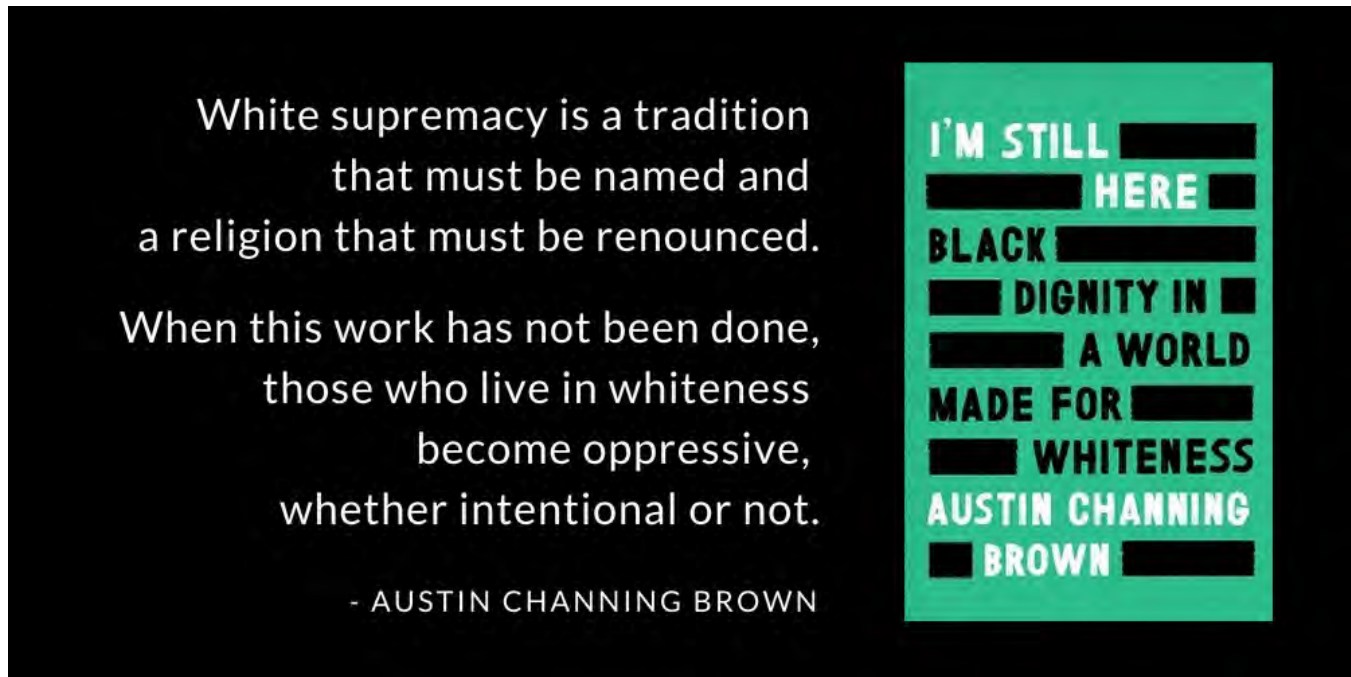
Please contact Pam Poppe at pamelapoppe61@gmail.com or 781-913-5190, if you can take one or more of these days, or if you have a child or grandchild who can help.

BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM

The Beloved Community Team started September with a wonderful program co-led by our own Hazel Monae and Katie Capurso Ernst, in response to the book *I'm Still Here* by Austin Channing Brown. Austin Channing Brown is a Black woman who writes to, and from within, the Christian church, about how the culture of pervasive and unacknowledged white supremacy hurts Black people. The book is accessible, a quick read and compelling. Ms. Brown gives us the gift of her hard-earned clarity and honesty.

Hazel Monae, a former parishioner of St. Stephen's, is now the Missioner for Equity & Justice with the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC, where she is refining a curriculum for Ethical Leadership Development for the work of Racial Equity. Katie Capurso Ernst is the Co-Director of the Mission Institute, an organization rooted in the Episcopal tradition that is committed to supporting congregations and groups in liberating themselves from racial inequities and building communities with the courage to confront the effects of racism within and around us.

During the September 1 program, Hazel and Katie helped participants “taste, see and hear” a time when our community loves and nurtures all equally.



The Beloved Community Team is a multiracial group of men and women from St. Stephen's and from St. Andrew's in Marblehead learning from each other and supporting each other to personally unlearn racism and to work to change racist policies and structures. We meet once a month, on the 2nd Thursday of the month, from 7-9 PM. If you'd like to get on the email list for BCT, please email Pam Poppe at pamelapoppe61@gmail.com

Trails & Sails Tiffany Window Tours

Once again St. Stephen's is hosting an event as part of the Essex Heritage Trails and Sails Sept. 17-Sept. 26. The church will be open for visitors on Saturday, September 25 from 10 am to 2 pm with Rick Cloran giving a talk using his photographs about Tiffany glass and our windows. Marilyn Cloran and Chris Trahan will give tours of the church, telling visitors about our history.

Booklets about all the Trails and Sails Events are available at the church and on the Essex Heritage website www.essexheritage.org. There are many events in Lynn and they are free.

----- Please feel free to post the flyer below. -----



2021 Essex Heritage Trails & Sails
View the Tiffany Stained Glass Windows in
St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church
74 So. Common St., Lynn
Saturday, Sept. 25 10 am to 2 pm

Come, see and learn about more than 41 Tiffany stained glass windows in this beautiful church built in 1880. They are perhaps the oldest ecclesiastical Tiffany windows in the world. The church was built in memory of Lt. Colonel Charles Redington Mudge who died at Gettysburg at the age of 23 and his sister Fannie Olive, by their father, Enoch Redington Mudge of Boston and Swampscott. Their graves, along with those of their parents, are in the "garth" (churchyard) at the center of the church buildings. Learn about the windows and view the garth where the family is buried. St. Stephen's has long been a treasure in this city and restoration of its building and windows is ongoing.

Masks are required.