



Summer 2014 Newsletter

## Summer Solace

Poet and environmentalist Wendell Berry writes: *“On summer evenings we sat in the yard,/ the house dark,/ the stars bright overhead. The laps and/ arms of the old held the young. As we talked/ we knew by the dark distances of Heaven’s lights/ our smallness, and the greatness of our love.”*

My hope and prayer for each of us this summer is that we will find the time and space to deepen our relationships with God and those we love. As our readings on Trinity Sunday reminded us, God created us to be in relationship with God, creation and each other. Through trips to the mountains, walks on the beach, and time watching vegetables and flowers burst from the earth, may we celebrate the abundance and wonder of God’s creation. At family reunions, summer vacations, gatherings with friends, and church, may we enjoy the company of the people who support and sustain us in life.

During the summer, life at St. Stephen’s does not slow down as it does in many churches. But I’ve realized over the years that this is not a bad thing. Through all that we are and all that we do during the summer, we continue to invite the people of our congregation and community into relationship with God and one another.

Kids in Community starts training its of twenty teen mentors on July 1 and welcomes over 100 campers on July 7. Until August 1, our building will explode with the energy, laughter, learning, and love of the KIC Community as we invite children to explore what it means to be at peace within themselves, and to how they might be peacemakers in their families, among their friends, and on our community.

July 1 also brings the Rev. Sarah van Gulden to St. Stephen’s to start her three-year Urban Assistant position. During July and August, most of Sarah’s time will be spent listening to and learning from all of you. She will focus particularly on families with children and adults interested in supporting our ministry with young people as she begins to build relationships. But, as Sarah and I went over our July calendar, I started to worry because opportunities and obligations just kept coming. Beyond KIC and our regular weekly worship and study, I talked with her about the Monastery outing on the 1<sup>st</sup>, the Community Cookout & Common Art on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the ECCO training retreat on the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, the Big Money Raffle all month with the drawing party on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the Vestry Planning Retreat the 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, and Teens at the Table on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

For a moment I worried but then I remembered that we meet each other and God as we gather to eat, to study, to raise money, to make art, to garden, to nurture kids, to organize for justice, and to worship. Day by day the invitation of St. Stephen’s through the summer is come into community and meet God in this place. It’s easy to become overwhelmed by our smallness in the midst of all that goes on in our lives and world. But, as we gather with family, friends, and church, let’s take time this summer to remember and celebrate the greatness of love that binds us together in community.

Jane<sup>+</sup>

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW ASSISTANT

Dear Friends,

Greetings from your new Urban Assistant! I'm very excited to be joining the St. Stephen's community and serving with you in your varied ministries.

I grew up in Duxbury, Massachusetts attending St. John's Episcopal Church from kindergarten right up through high school. Church was like my second home so I was involved in as many programs as possible: Sunday school, acolytes, youth choir, youth group and vestry. My favorite memories from St. John's are from the annual youth mission trip to the outer banks of South Carolina. For a week we would complete minor repairs on houses for families who couldn't afford the much needed work.

After high school I attended Connecticut College for my undergraduate degree followed by three years at the Episcopal Divinity School for my Master's in Divinity degree. While at EDS I took several classes on church mission, which led me to spend a summer in Jamaica directing weekly church camps for youth. After graduation I was blessed to work with the Reverend John de Beer at St. Mark's in Burlington as their Associate for Multigenerational Ministries. The three years I spent with this community proved to me the importance of creating and building community centered on God's unfailing love.

When I left St. Mark's to move in with my new husband, Derek, I figured I was done with serving the church. I had fallen in love with teaching and was preparing to go back to school to earn my teaching degree. But God had other plans! So I went back to St. Mark's as a parishioner to begin the discernment process for ordination to the priesthood.

It took three wonderful and challenging years and two internships (one at the Leadership Development Initiative and one at Ascension Memorial Church) before I was ordained to the transitional diaconate this past June. As is tradition in this diocese I will serve as a deacon for 7 months before being ordained to the priesthood next January.

Derek and I currently live in Rockport where he serves as Pastor at First Congregation Church. In our spare time we enjoy traveling, gardening, and taking in the beauty of Cape Ann.

I can't wait to start this new adventure with you all and look forward to seeing you on Sunday, July 6! Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Peace,

Sarah van Gulden

## GRACE NOTES

### **“What’s Driving Miz Debbie?”**

I’m sitting with Debbie Potter at a wooden table in her big new kitchen, thankfully drinking a glass of water. I have questions.

### **“How’d you come to St. Stephen’s?”**

“I was born here. Baptized. Confirmed. Married. My kids were baptized here. I did Sunday School here. I sang in the choir. I always loved it. St. Stephen’s was such a wonderful church. The priest would come have dinner with us. One year I got a wooden doll house. It was huge. I was six. Now I’m \*\*\*\*\* but I still want my dollhouse! The neighborhood was so safe. Neighbors watched out for us. In the church we played basketball upstairs, saw movies. We had so much fun, there was so much involvement! It was a good life, that’s why I stayed. I got leadership roles and guidance. I grew up feeling secure about myself...started the knitting club...went to New York with Rev. Jane Bearden to protest the war!”

### **“So that’s why you stayed?”**

“Yes. People love each other here. It feels safe even today, when not much else feels safe. Now it’s scary for kids sitting out in the Commons. Back then there was more parental involvement. Today, parents feel separated from their kids, having to work all the time. The policeman knew your name. We were Little Boston. Everything you did you took pride in—helping others was part of it—in the neighborhoods someone would catch you if you fell. I try to be as active as I can. The other day I counted twenty jobs at the church, lay ministry, healing, funerals, sub-deacon, Oasis, choir, knitting club...you name it, I’m in it,” she says, laughing her irrepressible laugh.

### **“I’m especially interested in how you manage the breakfasts and lunches for Kids in Community. That’s something you do for two hours every single weekday! How on earth do you manage that, keeping track of all those meals? How long have you managed that?”**

“Except when I was so sick, twelve years.”

### **“Twelve years?! How could you possibly keep doing it so long? And why?”**

“Well, the School Department says, we’ll give you breakfast and lunch if you administer it. I knew it was a golden opportunity. And I think like a mom, you know. I think about my kid, he comes home, he’s well fed, he’s happy – ‘Oooh, we saw a great big bear today! I wrote a good poem today!’ The moms wanted a place where kids could feel safe and there was no pressure about Bible studies. I don’t think feeding the kids should be ignored, because when you’re hungry, you are truly thankful for being fed. Over time I think the kids do learn something about who they really are. It’s that old thing called L-O-V-E.

“After a while the kids know you, they see you in the store they say, ‘Oh, there’s Miz Debbie.’ I get tired. I enjoy a little vacation, too. They’re giving me one this year. Two people are coming in to make sure the food is well-managed and the kitchen is neat and clean. And my friends Josie and Helen do all the work. I get to come in once a week and cook with the kids!”

“No thanks required. I know I’m here on earth to brighten somebody’s life, make the kids feel at home, because that’s just how St. Stephen’s always treated me. I might be a little selfish about it, because it brings joy to my heart. It’s a wonderful feeling. I try to make the kids know they are loved and this is the life, the meaning of life. No judgment, no comparisons between this kid and that. Not any of that. *Let my attitude determine my altitude.* That’s what I say.”

## STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

**VESTRY SUMMARY.** Steve Switzer will lead the Vestry Mission Goal Implementation process. Team leaders have been identified for each goal—Stewards of resources, Nurturing the congregation, Hospitality to children, youth & young adults, and Community connections; teams will report on priorities for 2014-15 at the July 26 Vestry planning day. Finances look good; treasurer informed Vestry of Wing Bequest of \$200,000-plus, which the Vestry will determine how to use. Grants: New Urban Assistant Sarah van Gulden will start July 1; Green Grant will help fund replacement of remaining windows in Anderson Building; prospects look good for KIC grants as well as Diocesan Closed Church Monies for building work. St. Stephen's continues to work with NS Mission Hub group. KIC under the leadership of Audrey Gutfreund ready for July with 3 assistants, 20 teen mentors, and more campers every day. Approved masonry repair work on Anderson Building stairs & handicapped entrance. Voted to recommend Patrick Lafortune as a Candidate for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

**TREASURER'S REPORT.** There is no rest for the Treasurer's office this summer, as hiring dozens of KIC staffers means more paperwork and more payroll processing for Ruthanne and myself. It is wonderful to have the building buzzing with all the campers and counselors, so it is a welcome task! Please keep your pledge current this summer, even if your summer journeys find you away on the weekends. We have a ton of activity in the building during the summer, so we could use everyone's support to keep on track with our bills. Statements for the first half of the year will come out during the summer so that you can know where you stand with your pledge; please let us know if there are any questions about your pledge statement or if you would like to adjust your pledge up or down. Heather Collis Puro

**PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS.** Currently, St. Stephen's has people at every stage of the ordination process. Our new Urban Assistant Sarah van Gulden comes to us as a recently ordained deacon and we will have the opportunity to support (by Vestry vote and attendance) her ordination to the priesthood in January. Aileen Ryder DiBenedetto is a Candidate for Holy Orders. Aileen is completing an internship at Good Shepherd, Acton, and she anticipates ordination in June, 2015. In October, she and Anthony will celebrate their first anniversary with the birth of a baby. Aileen will be with us as our preacher on August 10. Patrick LaFortune a Postulant in the midst of applying for Candidacy. In June, he began an internship at St. Andrew's, Marblehead as he continues his theological study at Gordon-Conwell. Since February, Discernment Committees have been working with Dan Bell and Hazel Johnson who plan to apply for postulancy this summer. Dan is working as Chaplain at BCH Camp this summer and will be back with us next year. Hazel is Education Director at the Dorchester Boys & Girls Club; she will be our preacher on July 27. Please keep all those responding to calls to ordained ministry in your prayers.

**NAME THE NEWSLETTER.** Some folks think that our monthly newsletter needs a flashier name than NEWSLETTER. So email or bring to the office your suggestions for a NAME FOR THE ST. STEPHEN'S NEWSLETTER. The Vestry will review our options and make a choice if you all provide us with creative options!

# St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church

## Big Money Raffle

**Grand Prize: \$5,000**

**Cash Prizes: \$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250**

**★ ONLY 200 TICKETS SOLD ★**

All Proceeds benefit St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church  
Dinner, Dancing & Drawing held **SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2014, 5:00–9:00 pm**  
Door Prizes Throughout the Night  
Porthole Pub & Restaurant 98 Lynnway, Lynn

**BIG MONEY RAFFLE.** We need everyone to BUY& SELL tickets; ticket holders need to send the BMR Committee their email addresses to receive an Evite to the **July 20 5:00-9:00** Dinner, Dancing, and Drawing party; *like* the BMR on Facebook... we need to trend to sell tickets☺

**IF IT'S JULY, THE FAIR MUST BE COMING!** Even as we prepare to host Diocesan Convention on November 8, the Annual Harvest Fair still will come to St. Stephen's on Saturday, October 25. The Wardens are in the process of inviting co-chairs but donation solicitation letters are already in the works. We need your help soliciting contributions now. Restaurants, grocery stores, gas stations, and drug stores are particularly appealing. We also need sports tickets and fabulous prizes like trips and electronics for the BIG RAFFLES! Can you solicit a gift? Can you make a donation of cash or a gift card to help us out? Can you buy an ad in the Fair Program Book or persuade someone else to take out an ad? If you go to Craft Fairs this summer, take fliers for our crafter tables and encourage people to display at St. Stephen's. Please come to the **Harvest Fair Organizational Meeting on Sunday, July 27 at 11:30.** Balancing the St. Stephen's budget requires all of us giving our time, talent, and treasure.

## NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

**HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEETS THURSDAYS, JULY 3 & AUGUST 7.** This summer, the Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet on first Thursdays at 10:30 for check-in and discussion of "Messengers"—Part 4 (July) and "Judgment"—Part 5 (August) of Barbara Brown Taylor's Gospel Medicine.

**ALTAR GUILD GATHERING AUGUST 3 AT NOON.** The Altar Guild needs members to set the altar for Sunday and midweek worship, to clean and polish communion vessels, to clean the sacristy, to wash and iron linens, and to prepare flowers for delivery to homebound members. The Altar Guild provides training for all positions; there are big and small jobs; at church and at home jobs; regular and periodic jobs. We need more people to share this prayerful, behind-the-scenes work of the church. All current and curious Altar Guild folks are invited to meet on Sunday, August 3 at noon.

**SUMMER COOK-OUTS ON SECOND SUNDAYS.** Mark your calendar now for lunch at St. Stephen's on Second Sundays-- July 13, August 10, and September 14. This is a great chance to bring family members and friends to church with you. We provide "grillables" and you bring salad, chips, or dessert. Activities and art projects for children are part of the fun in July. In August, family friendly games will fill the churchyard. Each month, sign up in the Galahad Area to let us know what you will bring and talk with Neil O'Donnell if you would like to help.

**HOST LEMONADE ON THE LAWN.** Sundays in the summer, we enjoy Lemonade on the Lawn after 10:00 worship. It's a wonderful way to get to know people with whom we sit in the pews and pass the peace on a weekly basis. Please choose a week you want to host. We supply lemonade mix and put the tables out. We ask you to provide healthy and appealing munchies, set up before the end of worship, and clean up at the end of the morning.

**SUMMER 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:** Adventures with the Apostle Paul resumes on Wednesday, July 2 at 6:30. **TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH** continues on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 as we read and discuss short, spiritual reflections written by Herbert O'Driscoll.

**TUESDAYS AT THE MONASTERY.** Call the Office to sign up for our trip to the Society of St. John the Evangelist on Tuesday, July 1. 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.

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

### **Project Bill 135**

Teens create a house on the Common to raise community awareness about the plight of homeless teens and to encourage advocacy for House Bill 135, which would provide transitional housing and support services for homeless teens.



**YOUNG ADULTS CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE.** In June, YAs made a difference gathering signatures to increase the minimum wage and get earned sick time on the November 2014 ballot, and supported teens in creating our Art Installation to raise awareness about youth homelessness. **The next YA Dinner is Tuesday, July 8th, at 6:30pm.** In early August, we will host a **YA Retreat** to explore the world as it is and the world we want to create. All 18-25 year olds are encouraged to come to the July 8<sup>th</sup> dinner to learn more about the retreat and get involved in planning and fundraising for the retreat.

**TEENS GATHERING FOR FUN & SERVICE.** In early June, teens spent a Saturday picking up trash in the neighborhood. In mid-June a mixed group of teens, YAs and younger siblings gathered to implement Oasis' Project 135 Art Installation to draw attention to the issue of teen homelessness and to encourage people to call our legislators to ask them to vote Yes on House Bill 135, which provides transitional housing and services for homeless teens. **Sunday, July 27 features former teen organizer Hazel Johnson preaching and Teens at the Table with Rev. Sarah from 1:00 to 4:00.** We're also still working out the logistics of a **Confirmation Class expedition to Martha's Vineyard in August** hosted by Confirmation Class leader Danielle Pappas who is working at the youth hostel on the island for the summer. And, young people in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to consider becoming acolytes! **Acolyte trainings** will be held this summer and in the fall.

**SUPPORT ABRAHAM AND THE YLA.** The Youth Leadership Academy is a Diocesan program that provides 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> graders a chance to have a great time learning more about Christ and themselves. In August YLA has a mission trip to El Salvador. This trip is designed to build relationships and learn about daily lives of Salvadorans. I have learned from peers who have participated in YLA that the trip will change your outlook on life in a positive way and bring you closer to Christ, which happens to be the reason I joined YLA in the first place. I felt as if I was drifting away from Christ and I knew I had to do something about that. Already in YLA I feel that I have come closer to Christ, which is a major issue and I was reassured that I am proud to be a Christian. During the first YLA meeting I met cool and kind kids who are Christians like me! They encourage me even outside of YLA gatherings. In El Salvador there will be teens who love God also. With the trip in El Salvador each YLAer must raise \$2,100, which was quite overwhelming, but I have faith that I can raise it with help from our church. Thank you for enjoying our Tanzanian Feast on June 22 and **please buy lots of cupcakes on July 27 to help fund our YLA trip.** Abraham Masunzu

**ST. STEPHEN'S AWARDS \$3,400 IN SCHOLARSHIPS.** Thanks to the generosity of current and former members of St. Stephen's, we provided six members of the congregation with scholarships for higher education. Martha "Pat" and James M. Harriss Scholarship to Juliana Davis

Michael Jude Provost Scholarship to Bruce Duggan

George Burkholder Scholarship to Sheyla Veras

Shawn Robinson Scholarship & Inglis Thomsen Fund to Jevon Brown Simpson

Lillian McCarthy Fund & Kienzle 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary gift to Joanna Gallagher

Lillian McCarthy Fund & Kienzle 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary gift to Carly McClain

**CHURCH SCHOOL ENDS AND BEGINS AGAIN.** On June 8 we expressed our gratitude to Church School teachers and youth workers for their amazing dedication and service this year. Thank you Kendra Zimiroski, Keri Whitcomb, Beatrice Mbatudde, Joanna Gallagher, Patrick Lafortune, Charlotte Breckenridge, Irene Axelrod, Neil O'Donnell, Keyana Brown, and Bonnie Bishop. This summer Rev. Sarah will meet with parents, kids, and present and past Church School teachers to gather a team of volunteers excited to join our formation ministry with children and youth. In baptism and in our mission goals, we claim our responsibility of welcoming, nurturing and forming young people. When Rev. Sarah asks to talk, say Yes; when she invites you to get involved, pray about how and where God might be calling you to serve.

**KIC STARTS JULY 7.** KIC (Kids in Community) is a free, fun summer program that meets at St. Stephen's on every weekday from July 7- August 1. Any child who has completed 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade is welcome. Registration forms are available in the office and Galahad area. Registration will remain open through the first day of camp; if all slots fill before that day, children will be added to a waiting list. Campers can look forward to an exciting, educational, FUN four weeks!

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER!** KIC still needs adult volunteers, and it's not too late to join us. We need adults to read to children, teach kids about gardening or cooking, or share your talents or hobbies in a one-time workshop. Please consider giving *your* time and talent this summer—you can look forward to lots of sincere “thank you!”s from KIC campers! Please get in touch with Audrey, KIC Director, at 617-435-3325 or [Audrey.gutfreund@gmail.com](mailto:Audrey.gutfreund@gmail.com).

## **DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT**

**ECCO IS ON THE MOVE.** On Wednesday, June 18 ECCO gathered to celebrate minimum wage success, to plan for passing our ballot initiative for earned sick time, and to begin organizing for our Gubernatorial Forum in the Fall. Thanks to our advocacy and signature gathering, Beacon Hill moved; legislators passed and Governor Patrick signed an increase of the minimum wage to \$11/hour. To continue our work and to ensure the passage of earned sick time, there is an **ECCO Training Retreat July 18-19** and we hope that several St. Stephen's Team members attend with Rev. Sarah. **Our St. Stephen's ECCO Team will meet on Thursday, July 24 at 6:30 and Thursday, August 14 at 6:30.**

**HELP HUNGRY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.** Food Pantries in the city are serving more people than ever. We can use your help Friday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 at St. Stephen's. To volunteer or find out more, talk with Sally Gosselin. We also need people to join the teens and Table Team in serving lunch at MBT from 1:00-4:00 on July 27 or August 24.

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP GATHERING MOMENTUM.** In collaboration with Operation Bootstrap, St. Stephen's offers an English conversation group on Mondays at 7:00pm. Interested learners as well as interested native speakers are welcome any time!

**JOIN THE ST. STEPHEN'S COMMUNITY YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 30.** Use Labor Day weekend to clean up and clear out! Join the St. Stephen's Community Yard Sale Saturday, August 30 9:00-3:00. Reserve a spot for \$20; rent a table for \$5. The Yard Sale is a fun way to raise money for the church, get rid of unnecessary stuff, and help out our neighbors in need. To reserve a space or volunteer to help, talk with Neil O'Donnell.

## **DIOCESAN LIFE**

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR BISHOP ALAN'S CONSECRATION ON SEPTEMBER 13.** On Saturday, September 13 at 11:00 at Agannis Arena at BU, Presiding Bishop the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schorri will consecrate Alan Gates as the 16<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Massachusetts. If you would like to attend, sign up on the sheet in the Galahad Area by August 15. The Office will register all St. Stephen's people so that you will be able to sit together. On the sign up sheet, please let us know whether you can offer rides or need a ride, and whether you plan like to sing in the Consecration Choir.