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Newsletter Summer 2016

Where do you hear God speaking to you?

Where do you hear God speaking to you? Is it in the midst of worship as you sing a favorite hymn, reflect on Scripture during sermons, pass the peace with your St. Stephen's family, sing Camp Music on the Common, or come to the altar to be fed with Christ's body and blood? Is it when you serve other people visiting someone who is sick or lonely, helping out at Kids in Community or Summer Learning, serving at My Brother's Table, or preparing a meal for family and friends. Is it when you spend time in prayer engaging in contemplation, *lectio divina*, the Jesus Prayer, imaginative prayer, or the Examen? Is it when you risk deepening your relationship with others by opening yourself to an intimate relationship, by going on retreat to deepen your faith, by welcoming a new pet into your life, through engaging in an interracial dialogue dinner, by joining Bible and theological study, through participating in ECCO's racial justice retreat, by traveling the way of the Underground Railroad, or by asking for healing prayers? Is it when you still your mind and let your body lead you: practicing yoga, dancing, cooking, digging or weeding in the garden, worshipping in a monastery, or walking in the woods or by the ocean. Is it when you engage God's holy work of justice organizing the Sheriff's Forum, registering people to vote, or engaging in interracial dialogue? Is it when you are surrounded by those you love in a full pew at church, at a Family Cookout or Reunion, at a sporting event, concert, or recital, at the Big Money Raffle Drawing Party, or around the table for a family dinner?

The reality is that God is always speaking. God wants us to open our hearts, eyes, ears, minds, and lives to all the ways God is present to and for us. God wants us to pay attention. God wants us to join with God in the healing of the world.

In her poem *The Summer Day*, Mary Oliver writes, "I don't know exactly what a prayer is./ I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down/ into the grass, how to kneel in the grass,/ how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,/ which is what I have been doing all day./ Tell me, what else should I have done?/ Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?/ Tell me, what is it you plan to do/ With your one wild and precious life?"

St. Stephen's is a busy place in every season. We offer active and quiet ways to encounter God. In reflecting on the story of Mary and Martha, many regard Mary's "better part" as sitting at the feet of Jesus and resisting the active work of serving. I'd suggest that we misread the text with this interpretation. Instead, consider that Jesus praises Mary because she is listening to her heart and doing what she wants and needs to do to be fed, to be whole, to be the person God created her to be. Martha, on the other hand, is angry, resentful, and eager to enlist others in her discontent. God's desire is that we listen to our hearts and become more and more the people God created us to be.

Theologian Howard Thurman wrote, "There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have." This summer, open yourself to where and how God might be inviting you to dedicate your one wild and precious life to building the kingdom of God.

Jane⁺

"Why do they hate us when they don't even know us?"

Dear Friends,

The above words were spoken by one of our BE YOU teens at St. Stephen's memorial rally for the mass shooting in Orlando. Out on the front lawn teens and adults stood in a circle around a lowered rainbow flag. Five people took turns reading aloud the names and ages of the 49 victims. After listening to the list of names everyone had the opportunity to offer a prayer, a question, a lament, a scream. Some of the responses reflected our own inner turmoil with words and phrases rolling around like a tsunami. Some responses were so clear and simple that they put the tsunami on hold, if only for a moment.

"Why do they hate us when they don't even know us?" This question continues to haunt me. The simplicity of the words and phrasing can't fully enunciate the multi-layered anguish behind this question. It's a question that has followed humanity throughout history. Moses probably asked a similar question about the Egyptian slave drivers, *why do they hate us when they don't even know us?* Jesus asked the same question about the Roman leaders, *why do they hate us when they don't even know us?* I'm sure Muslims wondered among themselves of the Christian Crusaders, *why do they hate us when they don't even know us?* Archbishop Desmond Tutu must have asked the South African leaders of Apartheid, *why do they hate us when they don't even know us?* Now our LGBT brothers and sisters are asking of heterosexuals, *why do they hate us when they don't even know us?*

Depending on which group you're in, "they" or "us," you may not want this question to be answered. Sadly there are no easy answers. The news reporters supplied possibilities of why the young man opened fire at the night club: he was a Muslim, he was a terrorist, he was secretly gay, he was ashamed of his sexuality, etc... For me the most plausible answer comes from James Baldwin's book, [The Fire Next Time](#). Writing about the negative power of racism in his childhood and in his adulthood Baldwin says: "*I imagine one of the reasons people cling to their hate so stubbornly is because they sense, once hate is gone, they will be forced to deal with pain.*" Our brains are wired to avoid pain, whether physical or emotional, and it is only as we grow up that we learn coping mechanisms to deal with pain.

Eating, gambling, drinking, doing drugs, spending money, hating self and others...this are just a few of the ways in which we can ignore our own pain. Engaging in these behaviors we can distract our brains and bodies from feeling pain, but only for a limited period of time. We can't ignore our pain forever—it catches up with us when we stop the behavior or when the behavior stops us.

When we choose to hate we are likely choosing to ignore our pain. But in my experience the opposite isn't true: people who choose to feel pain, don't choose to hate. At our Youth Pride Event this was embodied by teens and adults who are and were faced with pain due to their sexuality. I heard stories of teens becoming homeless and experiencing abuse because they were LGBT or the friend of an LGBT person. This pain could have led them to hate their families, peers, teachers, even the whole world. Yet they were able to acknowledge this pain while also creating and celebrating a hate-free space.

These LGBT teens and adults prove that experiencing pain doesn't necessarily lead to hatred. But ignoring the pain, pretending that we are perfect, does lead us to hate someone or something. So my dear friends, when you find yourself else asking, "Why do they hate us when they don't even know us?" you should also ask "How they are using their hatred of us to deny their own pain?"

Hatred and pain are real, powerful forces in our world but we will only find healing by acknowledging the pain hidden behind the hatred.

Peace,

Sarah

A View from Beyond the Pew

I have tried to write this article for some time but the words just would not appear. I stopped to pray and to think about what was getting in the way. It feels like a big dark cloud is surrounding me and this country right now. The complicated presidential election, with insulting, offensive, horrible remarks flying everywhere is so unpleasant. Malicious remarks about the President of the United States are disconcerting. Innocent lives being taken and now Orlando the worst killing of Americans in years. I have difficulty listening to and watching the news. How does one get out from under this ominous cloud?

Sunday morning when I walk up to the front of the church and stand behind the big golden eagle (some say I need a step to stand on) to make the weeks announcements (been asked to keep it short) I see all the St Stephens family and I know I am not alone. I am in the middle of the wonderful St Stephens community. This community of fellowship, sharing common attitudes and interests, and has a strong faith holding God near.

In yet this community is very diverse, Diverse in gender, age, color, education, economics, interests, talents coming together as one. Even during the service you see diversity, people kneeling, standing, making the sign of the cross, holy water but we are there together in community helping one another in many ways. This St. Stephens community people are strong, faithful, children of God. All of you, the community, make this crazy scary world an easier place for me and others to live in.

I love music and I came upon this song written in the late seventies and I want to share it with you. As you read this change some words and it can be today.

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

*I rolled out this morning Kids had the news show on
Bryant Gumble was talking 'bout fighting in Lebanon
Some senator was squawkin 'bout the bad economy
It's gonna get worse you see, we need a change in policy
There's a local paper rolled up in a rubber band
One more sad story one more than I can stand
Just once how I'd like to see the headline say
"Not much to print today, can't find nothing bad to say" because
Nobody robbed a liquor store on the lower part of town
Nobody ode'd, nobody burned a single building down
Nobody fired a shot in anger, nobody had to die in vain
WE sure could use a little good news today, I'll come home this evening
I'll bet that the news will be the same
Somebody takes a hostage, somebody steals a plane
How I wanna hear the anchor man talk about a county fair
And how we cleaned up the air, how everybody learned to care who tell me
Nobody was assassinated in the whole darn world today
And in the street of Ireland, all the children have to do is play
And everybody loves everybody in the good old USA
We sure could use a little good news today*

Remember the "good news" comes from the St. Stephens diverse, strong community. God is not done with us yet!

Peace

Virginia S. Fuller

STEWARDS OF RESOURCES

TREASURER'S REPORT. Pledge statements will come out at the end of June for the second quarter - currently dollars contributed are 94% of what was pledged. Don't forget to keep your donations current over the summer. Please contact the Treasurer's office with questions about your pledge statements. Summer work for the Treasurer's office includes tracking and paying the staff from KIC, reorganizing our investments to capitalize our income, as well as some clean out of the office. In addition, recent audit changes by the Diocese means that we have to learn some new ways of accounting for how we use our restricted funds, so we may need to do some summer school in the Treasurer's office. We have made it through the winter ahead of the budget for snowplowing and fuel, so here is to a long summer that continues into November! Summer brings many opportunities to support the general health of the budget through the Big Money Raffle - so buy a ticket and keep our programs running in the black.

PEOPLE IN THE ORDINATION PROCESS. Currently, St. Stephen's has people at every stage of the ordination process. **Aileen Ryder DiBenedetto** was ordained as a priest in January with many from St. Stephen's in attendance. In June, she wrapped up her time with Good Shepherd, Acton; on July 17 Aileen will be with us as our guest preacher and presider with Anthony and toddler Nicholas coming along for the fun; and on August 1, she will begin her new position as Rector of Christ Church Rochdale in Leicester, MA, Diocese of Western Massachusetts. On June 16, our former Life Together Fellow **Charlie Knuth** was ordained as a transitional Deacon by the Bishop of Utah; this summer he will head to Los Angeles to begin his parish ministry. **Patrick LaFortune** is a Candidate for Priesthood and preached on Caribbean Heritage Sunday on June 12. This year, he will conclude his theological study at Gordon-Conwell and prepare for ordination in 2017. As part of his formation, he has been asked to offer an adult formation series on Christian theology; our Wednesday Evening Bible Study has agreed to be his students for 4 weeks in July and August. **Dan Bell** continues in the ordination process. This summer he will wrap up his chaplaincy training at Mass General; next year he is likely to be with us less as he takes on a parish-based internship in the Diocese. Come find out his plans as he joins us as preacher on August 14. **Hazel Johnson** is now a Postulant for the priesthood and will begin her MDiv at BU in the fall. In May, she left her job at the Dorchester Boys & Girls Club to serve as interim staff with Life Together as they welcome Kelsey Rice Bogden as their new Executive Director. She'll be with us as our preacher on July 10 and she can tell you all that life has been and will be in the coming year.

NEW LIFE TOGETHER FELLOW COMING IN LATE AUGUST. We are in the midst of interviewing possible Diocesan Interns for this year. I've explained to all of them that St. Stephen's is a mentoring community in which everyone is a teacher and a learner. I also explained that, while we hate to let go of anyone who serves with us, we understand that we are sending them out into the world to do God's work and that we have made a mark that matters on them.

CLEAN UP, CLEAR OUT WEEK 8/15-8/19. St. Stephen's is a busy place with children, teens and adults coming for camp, education, pride events, worship, knitting and much more. During a brief break in the hustle and bustle we will be asking parishioners help clean up after a very full program year. A few items at the top of the list: cleaning up refrigerators, clearing out rooms, returning items to their correct homes, and organizing the sacristy annex. Volunteers can work as much or as little they are able and there will be a group lunch on Thursday following the Noon Healing Service. During clean up week there will be no Bible Study or Tea and Talk.

St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church

Big Money Raffle

Grand Prize: \$5,000

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

★ ONLY 215 TICKETS SOLD ★

All Proceeds benefit St. Stephen's Memorial Episcopal Church
Dinner, Dancing & Drawing held **SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2016, 5:30-9:00pm**

RSVPs required: ststephens@ststephenslynn.org or 781-599-4220!

Door Prizes throughout the Night

Porthole Pub & Restaurant 98 Lynnway, Lynn

BIG MONEY RAFFLE DRAWING JULY 31! Each ticket costs \$100 - but tickets can be sold to individuals or split into as many as 10 shares at \$10 each. Please take a ticket to sell at the office, or to family and friends! Every Sunday, SSMEC vestry members will continue to offer weekly tickets for you to buy a \$10 share. Every year a Sunday ticket has been in the final five winning tickets — so get yourself on one of these tickets and increase your chances for \$5,000. There are 215 tickets in the mix, but last year we sold out! Buy your tickets immediately so that you and your family and friends have the chance to win! On Sunday, July 31, we will gather at the Porthole Pub for dinner, dancing, and the Big Money Raffle drawing. Winners will receive a grand prize of \$5,000 and other cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500 and \$250. And of course there will be door prizes! RSVPs are required for the dinner. You do need to be present to win. The BMR committee of Heather Collis Puro, Carolyn Hoy, Irene Axelrod, Chris Trahan and Sally Gosselin need your help selling tickets, calling our vendors and VIPS. Tickets are also available in the Parish Office during the week. For more info email Heather at heather@collispuro.net.

SOUL CELEBRATION THANK YOU! This year's Soul Celebration raised a total of \$8,421! Please help us thank the individuals and patronize the businesses that supported our 2016 Soul Celebration. Many thanks to: Irene Axelrod, Beacon Communities, LLC, Barbara & Leo Boucher, The Rev. Clifford Brown, Christ Church, Quincy, Clark Brothers Fuel, Marilyn & Rick Cloran, Richard Colucci, The Rev. Kevin & Barbara Cross, Cuffe McGinn Funeral Home, Dan Stevens Electric, Bob Dixon, Joanne Droppers (St. Stephen's Fargo, ND), ECCO, Episcopal City Mission, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, EPOCA, Fiduciary Trust, Goodrich Funeral Home, Sally Gosselin, The Gould Family, Grant Haley, Greater Lynn Senior Services, IUE Local 201, Dolores & Howie Jackson, The Rev. Edward and Beverly Kienzle, Klein Hornig, LLP, Lancelot Janitorial & Paper Products, Life Together, Lynn Community Health Center, Lynn Home for Women, Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development, MCAN, State Senator Tom McGee, Mr. Specs Opticians, Peter Munkenbeck, Nadworny Funeral Home, Neighborhood Legal Services, Parker Funeral Home, Don & Beverly Phillips, Tim & Debbie Potter, Vicky & Mark Provost, Raw Art Works, The Revs. Courtney and Adam Shoemaker, Solimine Funeral Home, Con Squires & Bonnie Bishop, St. Stephen's KIC Percussion Ensemble, St. Stephen's Towers, St. Stephen's Vestry, Paul Stonkus, Ruthanne & Steve Switzer, Gertrude Tidestrand, The Revs. Sarah & Derek van Gulden, Richard Vitali, PC, and Joyce Wallace.

NURTURING THE CONGREGATION

HEALING PRAYER & PASTORAL CARE TEAMS MEET JULY 7 & AUGUST 4. The Healing Prayer and Pastoral Care Teams will meet on first Thursdays at 10:30 for check-in. In August, we will discuss selections from Atul Gawande's Being Mortal.

KNIT ONE, PURL TWO, LAUGH THREE MEETS THIS SUMMER. Beginning as well as experienced knitters and crocheters are encouraged to join the knitting club on Tuesday evenings at 6:30.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS SERIES: PREPARING FOR DIFFICULT DECISIONS. This seven week series on aspects of aging and death has provided members of our congregation with valuable information on services and programs at GLSS and how to access them, medical planning for hospice or palliative care, the necessity of a health care proxy, the process of applying at St. Stephen's Towers as well as the programs and services available to residents, financial planning, and funeral planning with local funeral directors and Rev. Sarah. **For those who have been unable to attend, on Sunday July 24 handouts from each program will be available.**

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.

MUSICAL TREATS FOR SUMMER. Although the choir takes a break during the summer, Sunday morning music does not. This summer, members and friends will bless us with their talent. So far, Jimmy Raynes will provide an offertory solo one week; Joanne Droppers will play the organ one week; and Christopher Walter will play the piano a couple of weeks. In addition, **Sunday, August 14 will be our Gospel Song Sunday.** Please meet at the piano at 9:00am to practice singing songs from the Gospel tradition; no robes, no processions... just a chance to sing with soul. **Sunday, August 28 will be our Hymn Sing Sunday.** Start browsing our hymn books and let us know what you want to sing; if your favorite hymn is not in any of our books, provide Bruce Beecroft with a copy and we will see if we can sing it. **And please, talk with Bruce if you might provide an offertory or communion solo, duet or trio some Sunday.** Adults and young people are encouraged to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

SUMMER FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES. BIBLE STUDY: On Wednesday evenings at 6:30, we gather to read and discuss *The Revelation of John*, which provides wondrous and sometimes worrisome images of the end of the ages. **THEOLOGICAL STUDY WITH PATRICK:** On Wednesdays, July 20 & 27 and August 3 & 10, Patrick Lafortune will offer a four-part course on *Topics in Christian Theology*. All are invited to join Patrick's course for your own learning and to support Patrick in his formation for priesthood. **TEA AND TALK ABOUT FAITH:** On Thursday afternoons at 1:00 we come together to read and discuss reflections from Kathleen Norris's Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith.

EXPLORING FAITH & THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH RETREAT JULY 29-31. Young adults (18-40ish) interested in going deeper with God and learning more about the Episcopal Church are invited to join a Faith Exploration Weekend at Emery House July 29-31. Br. Curtis Almquist and the Emery House Community will join Revs. Jane and Sarah, Dan Bell, and Hazel

Johnson in leading the retreat. It is going to be an amazing weekend of fun and faith. Commitments must be firm by July 10 and space is limited. Talk with the clergy to learn more or to sign up!

COMMUNION ON THE COMMON WITH BCH CAMP MUSIC! One of the many things we learned at the Youth Pride Event is that we have the perfect outdoor space for sharing our resources with the local community. So as we welcome warmer weather, we will share the Eucharist with our neighbors around the Lynn Common. This outdoor service, "Communion on the Common" will be held 5:30-7pm on Saturday, July 9 and August 6 5:30-7pm and will include camp music, scripture reflections and Holy Eucharist. Drew Courtright, a former BCH Camp Head Chaplain, will lead us in favorite camp songs but we'll need help from camp alumni!

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING SECOND SUNDAYS & PLANNING FALL RETREAT. A dozen women gathered for lunch in late May and decided to form a St. Stephen's Women's Group for fun, fellowship, formation, food, and projects. Women expressed a strong desire to come together to share their stories—to hear and be heard, to laugh and cry, to create and tear down, to serve and be served. As the group works on setting its agenda, **all women are invited to gather for lunch at noon on July 10 and August 14.** We also are working on planning a fall retreat.

HOSPITALITY TO CHILDREN, YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

THERE'S STILL TIME TO VOLUNTEER WITH KIC THIS SUMMER! This summer, we're asking St. Stephen's adults to team up and share their energy and passions with KIC campers during the first week of the program, July 11-15. Volunteers are needed each day from 9-12:30, and you can sign up for all or part of a shift. We especially need people to:

- Assist with sign up, greeting, and set up on the first day
- Read every day in small groups or one-on-one with children
- Help prepare snacks
- Help clean & organize camp

If you can help us out, please contact KIC director Audrey Gutfreund at audrey.gutfreund@gmail.com or 617-435-3325, or Bonnie Bishop at bishopbw@gmail.com or 781-599-8963. Thank you!

KIC MUSIC WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER. KIC Music expands to a Monday-Thursday after school program in September. If you're looking for a place where your elementary child can play in a music ensemble, learn piano, and receive homework help, KIC Music may be for you. We'll also be looking for caring adult volunteers to help with homework in the early evening. Stay tuned!

SUMMER LEARNING RETURNS FOR 2ND YEAR. Once again there will be no summer school programs offered for our youngest students so Michael Brown and her tireless team are offering St. Stephen's Summer Learning Program for children in grades 1-3. The program runs Monday-Thursday, 2:30-5:30, July 11-August 4. Funding has been secured for the program. Learning Center Leads have been confirmed. Learning Center Assistants have submitted applications and are awaiting interview dates. Volunteers have been signing up. Program planning and preparation are underway for staff training, July 5th, 6th and 7th. Spaces are filling up so fill out an application ASAP!

ST. STEPHEN'S AWARDS \$6,200 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 Sheyla Veras

Michael Jude Provost Scholarship to Guelmi Espinal

George Burkholder Scholarship to Zachary Zimiroski

William and Dorothy Robinson Scholarship to Asdrubal Gomez

Shawn Robinson Scholarship to Erik Whitcomb

Jodi Sisson Scholarship to Camille San Gabrielle

Inglis Thomsen Fund and Dennen-Mower Fund to Jocian Veras

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Pilar Geneus

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Haley Jackson

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Danielle Osgood

Lillian McCarthy Fund to Faith Wilson

CHURCH SCHOOL ENDS AND BEGINS AGAIN. On June 5 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, Charlotte Breckenridge, Neil O'Donnell, Maranda Easton, Jaime Shore, Shanel Anderson, Lucinda McClain and Bonnie Bishop! As we continue to build our Church School and youth formation programs it's essential that we have committed adult teachers and mentors. During the summer a church school working group will create a new curriculum for children in grades 1-5. The curriculum will be based on the rotational model that allows children to learn Bible stories through different workshops like cooking, drama and art. With this new program teachers for the age level will only need to be in the classroom once a month. We will continue with the current curriculum for the preK-K and grades 6-12. If you can commit to at least to teach at least one Sunday a month please speak to Rev. Sarah. Please listen to how God might be moving you to say "YES!"

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS FRIDAY, JULY 1 & AUGUST 5, 6:30-8. The Confirmation Class will gather for two sessions on the many different ways we pray in the Episcopal Church. We will also plan for our pre-Confirmation retreat in September.

ACOLYTES CONTINUE THEIR MINISTRY THROUGH THE SUMMER. Although Church School may be over our acolyte team will continue serve at the altar throughout the summer. On Sunday, July 24 the team will have some fun at Skyzone in Danvers. Please fill out a permission slip and return to Rev. Sarah ASAP! In September, we will welcome new acolytes (any youth grades 6-12) at our trainings. Active, high school members of the acolyte team are invited to attend the National Acolyte Festival at Washington National Cathedral on Saturday, October 10.

TEENS FUNDRAISING FOR SUMMER LEARNING TRIP. During the second week of August the Be You and OASIS youth groups will travel down to Virginia making stops at sites (homes, churches, and museums) connected with the Underground Railroad. The trip will focus on the stories of runaway slaves and how these stories connect with teens' experiences of growing up in Lynn. The youth will also keep a video diary to share with the congregation in the fall. Each youth must pay \$50 (financial assistance is available) and help fundraise through community service (providing childcare during church, cleaning up church school rooms) and a bake sale at Lemonade on the Lawn on Sunday, July 10. Come support our teens!!

LYNN'S FIRST YOUTH PRIDE EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS! On Saturday, June 4 150 people gathered to celebrate LGBT youth and their allies. We celebrated with food, music, art project, information tables, bounce house and selfie stations. During the last hour the youth used multi-media like spoken word, music and films to reflect on their struggles as LGBT youth in Lynn. The event ended with 150 people tying zip ties to the front fence as a reminder of the warm welcome they received at St. Stephen's. The BE YOU LGBT youth group is extremely grateful for the support from donors and the organizations that hosted information tables: Joanne Droppers, Helen Patmon, DioMass, the Lynn Community Association, the Lynn Human Rights Commission, the North Shore Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Youth, the YMCA, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition, the Lynn Community Health Center, Girl's Inc, Learn to Cope, and Christopher's Café. An extra big thank you goes out to all the adult mentor and volunteers: Shanel Anderson, Paulina Cruz, Will Manly, Linda & MacKeon Midland, Carolyn Hoy, Neil O'Donnell, Siobhan Panias, Judie Jones, Josephine Russo, Pam Poppe, Mark Gendreau, Kevin Neil, Dan & Heather Collis-Puro and Harry Jackson.

DEEPENING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

ST. STEPHEN'S-ST. ANDREW'S BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM INVITES US TO OPEN OUR EYES TO RACE. The SS-SA BCT set an ambitious agenda for June worshipping in each other's churches on successive Sundays and co-leading a workshop on race and privilege for both congregations. On June 5 in Marblehead and June 12 in Lynn, more than 20 people of each community joined a conversation about a recent moment when they noticed race and/or privilege making a difference in their own lives. In talking, people realized that white privilege is often invisible to those who possess it while differential treatment due to being black or brown tends to be seen and felt powerfully. Recognizing that Jesus focuses often on healing physical and spiritual blindness, BCT invited everyone to commit to living with their eyes open to race and privilege. This summer BCT will join ECCO's implicit bias training and racial justice retreat, and then meet in September to discern next steps.

ECCO: RACE MATTERS. This summer ECCO will offer two training programs to help us become more conscious of the ways in which race is a factor in perpetuating injustice and inequality in our community and country. **Join us for Implicit Bias Training with Professor Rachel Godsil on July 12 & 13.** In the midst of the Black Lives Matter Movement, it has become clear that our nation's problem with race does not begin and end with racist individuals. We are constrained by individual and institutional racial bias, which often is unconscious and unintentional. July 12, 6:00-9:00, Prof. Godsil will provide a workshop for non-Lynn residents (and those who cannot attend Wednesday's workshop) on what implicit bias is and how it affects us. July 13, 10:00-2:00, Prof. Godsil will offer an implicit bias workshop for ECCO members who live in Lynn and the Lynn Police Department at Lynn Police Headquarters on Washington Street. **August 23 6:00pm to August 25 3:00pm, PICO Deputy Director Rev. Alvin Herring and Director of Training Deth Im will lead ECCO's Racial Justice Retreat.** Rev. Alvin and Deth bring vast experience in facilitating transformative conversations about race and privilege. The training is a rare opportunity for ECCO members and would be well-worth juggling your summer schedule so that participation is possible. All those hoping to attend the August retreat are asked to attend an ECCO Race Dialogue Dinner from 6:00 to 9:00 on Thursday July 14, Monday July 20, Thursday August 4, or Monday August 15. Please talk with the clergy and sign up in the Galahad Area if you plan to attend any or all of these racial justice events.

ST. STEPHEN'S REPRESENTED AT PICO'S REGIONAL VOTER ENGAGEMENT TRAINING. From Wednesday, June 8th, to Friday, June 10th, members of St. Stephen's partook in training hosted by PICO in Boston. Debbie Potter, Rev. Sarah, and Kevin Neil were equipped with skills and tools to encourage historically marginalized or disenfranchised groups to get out the vote. Getting out the vote is an especially important task as the sheriff's election is rapidly approaching, that nomination having a large impact on police/community relations in Essex County generally, and Lynn in particular. Topics at the training included the theology of voting, methods of canvassing and tools to target specific groups to canvas, how to approach an election-season non-partisan as organizers, and how to have community-building conversations.


ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF ELECTION ORGANIZING. During July ECCO will be organizing two candidate forums for the 13 candidates for Essex County Sheriff. **Candidate Forums will be July 21 and 28 at St. Stephen's.** One week will be for Democratic candidates and the other for Republican. ECCO will prepare questions based on our concerns about mass incarceration, and our desire for sentencing alternatives for drug offenders and support for training and reentry programs. Also, ECCO will be canvassing door-to-door in July and August to raise awareness about the issues at stake in the Sheriff's election and the need for people to register to vote and to vote in the September primary. **July 15-17 will be Lynn's for GOTV (Get Out The Vote) Weekend.** Let the clergy know if you want to get involved.

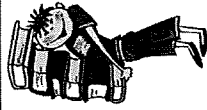
ECCO BOAT CRUISE FUND RAISER. In addition to supporting ECCO with our time and talent, ECCO needs our financial support. **Sunday, August 14, ECCO is holding a sunset boat cruise fund raiser.** There will be lots of tasty snacks, a DJ and dancing, and a cash bar. The boat leaves out of Gloucester. The rain date is August 28. Please let Rev. Jane know if you would like a ticket.

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 Table Team in serving lunch at My Brother's Table from 1:00-4:00 on July 24 or August 28. If you aren't able to join us at the Table, please bring tasty desserts that we can share with the guests.

ST. STEPHEN'S PEACE POLE. Consideration is being given to "planting" a Peace Pole at St. Stephen's Church. Many thousand Peace Poles exist in countries throughout the world. Each pole carries the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" vertically in several languages on the faces of the pole. Our front yard would accommodate a four-faced pole with eight languages. A Peace Pole at St. Stephen's would extend the message of peace that is passed at our Eucharist. It would remind us to commend peace among nations and in our city, among the diverse members of the beloved community, and in the common search for healing and health. Find more information on the internet, for example in a Wikipedia article and at www.peacepoleproject.org.

July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 10:00 Mudge Memorial	4 <i>4th of July Office Closed</i>  8pm AA	5 KIC Staff Training 7pm NA 6:30pm Knitting Group 6:30pm Aging & Mortality: Funeral Planning	6 KIC Staff Training 6:30pm Bible Study	7 KIC Staff Training 10:30am PCT & HCT Mtg. Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 2-5pm Church School Clean-Up	8 KIC Staff Training 3-4pm Food Pantry 6:30-9 OASIS Pre-Trip Meeting	9 8:15am St. Mary's Food pantry 5:30-7pm Communion on the Common and Camp Music
10 8&10am Hazel Johnson, Guest Preacher 11:30am Peace Pole Meeting Noon Women's Lunch 11:30am OASIS Bake Sale Fundraiser	11 8:30-2pm KIC & Summer Learning Begins St. Stephen's Volunteer Week at KIC 8pm AA	12 8:30-2pm KIC Volunteer Week at KIC 7pm NA 6pm-9 Implicit Bias Training, Bethel AME 6:30pm Knitting Group	13 8:30-2pm KIC Volunteer Week at KIC 10am-2pm Implicit Bias Training with Lynn Police (Lynn residents) 6:30pm Theological Study with Patrick	14 8:30-2pm KIC Volunteer Week at KIC Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-9pm ECCO Race Dinner	15 8:30-2pm KIC Volunteer Week at KIC 3-4pm Food Pantry GOTV Weekend	16 GOTV Weekend
17 Guest Preacher: The Rev. Aileen Di Benedetto 12:15pm Vestry Meeting GOTV Weekend	18 8:30-2pm KIC 8pm AA	19 8:30-2pm KIC 6:30pm Knitting Group 7pm NA	20 8:30-2pm KIC 6:30pm Theological Study with Patrick 7-9pm ECCO Race Dinner	21 8:30-2pm KIC Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-9pm Essex Cty. Sherriff's Race Candidate Forum, at St. Stephen's	22 8:30-2pm KIC 3-4pm Food Pantry	23
24 SMT Resource Sunday Noon-4pm Acolyte Pizza Party & Fun at SkyZone 1-4pm My Brother's Table	25 8:30-2pm KIC 8pm AA	26 8:30-2pm KIC 6:30pm Knitting Group 7pm NA	27 8:30-2pm KIC 6:30pm Theological Study with Patrick	28 8:30-2pm KIC Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-9pm Essex Cty. Sherriff's Race Candidate Forum, at St. Stephen's	29 8:30-2pm KIC 3-4pm Food Pantry Exploring Faith & The Episcopal Church Retreat	30 Exploring Faith & The Episcopal Church Retreat
31 5:30-9pm Big Money Raffle Drawing & Celebration, at The Porthole Pub	July 11- August 5 2:30-5:30pm Summer Academic Enrichment Program @ St. Stephen's!					<u>OFFICE HOURS</u> Monday – Friday 8:45am – 2:45pm
				<u>SUNDAY SERVICES</u> 8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili		<u>OFFICE HOURS</u> Monday – Friday 8:45am – 2:45pm



August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SUNDAY SERVICES 8 & 10am Worship in English 10am Worship in Kiswahili	1 8:30-2pm KIC 8pm AA	2 8:30-2pm KIC 6:30pm Knitters' Group 7pm NA	3 6:30pm Theological Study with Patrick 8:30-2pm KIC	4 8:30-2pm KIC 10:30am Pastoral Care and Healing Prayer Team Mtg. Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 7-9pm ECCO Race Dinner	5 8:30-2pm KIC Camp and Summer Learning Ends 6:30-8pm Confirmation Class	6 8:15am St. Mary's Food Pantry 5:30-7pm Communion on the Common and Camp Music
7 11:30 Fair Planning Meeting OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	8 KIC Music Mini Camp 8pm AA OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	9 KIC Music Mini Camp 6:30pm Knitters' Group 7pm NA OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	10 6:30pm Theological Study with Patrick OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	11 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	12 3-4pm Food Pantry OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip	13 OASIS Underground Railroad Learning Trip
14 10am Gospel Song Sunday Noon Women's Lunch 6:30-9pm ECCO Boat Cruise	15 8pm AA CLEAN 7-9pm ECCO Race Dinner	16 7pm NA UP	17 CLEAR	18 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers OUT	19 3-4pm Food Pantry WEEK	20
21 12:15pm Vestry Meeting	22 8pm AA	23 6pm ECCO Racial Justice Retreat 6:30pm Knitters' Group 7pm NA	24 6pm ECCO Racial Justice Retreat 6:30pm Bible Study	25 Noon Eucharist & Healing Prayers 1pm Tea & Talk 3pm ECCO Racial Justice Retreat Ends	26 3-4pm Food Pantry	27
28 10am Hymn Sing Sunday 1-4pm My Brother's Table	29 8pm AA	30 6:30pm Knitters' Group 7pm NA	31 6:30pm Bible Study			OFFICE HOURS Monday – Friday 8:45am – 2:45pm