

# St. Stephen's Beacon

From the Desk of Sr. Warden  
Steve Halstead

## OUR VISION

Shortly after Karen became our priest, the Vestry got together and developed a new vision for St. Stephen's: *"To be the hands, feet and face of God"*. I would like to take a couple of minutes of your time to update you on how we are doing in practicing our vision.

One of our earliest efforts was to help the Salvation Army's food pantry. Yes, we have hungry people in Newton—far more than you might think. Each week, people line up to receive food from the pantry. We have helped the pantry with monetary donations and donations of food from our gardens. Believe me when I say, we are making a difference.

Then came the blessing box. Who could have guessed how important the box would become to our street people. The Tracy's fill it twice a day and it is always empty when they check it. Food, clothing, hygiene products—they are all in great demand.

The blessing box got some of the other Newton churches to take a look at Newton's social ills. Some are giving away clothing; others are providing free community meals. All are keenly aware of the problems and are seeking solutions. Already a joint effort to provide free laundry nights twice a month is in place. St. Stephen's "staffed" the two nights in March. A shared dream is a one stop place where street people can get food, information, help, do laundry and take showers.

Using our mission fund, we have been able to make monetary donations to the Berg School food pantry; the high school hygiene closet; the school's hot lunch deficit fund, the Jasper County Animal Rescue League, Newton Says No to Trafficking, and shelters for victims of trafficking.

As we continue to use our resources to meet the needs, we are serving as the hands, feet and face of God.





**Saturday, April 7 at 10 am**  
**Brunch at the**  
**Lemon Tree Tea Room**  
 in Newton

The cost is \$10 per person.  
*Come celebrate fellowship and the  
 Easter Season by inviting a friend.*



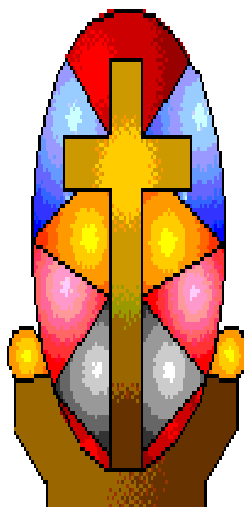
*To everyone who helped make our Lenten and  
 Easter Season a memorable time. We appreciate  
 each one who attended the studies, special  
 services and shared your talents in music, teaching,  
 decorating, and bringing food . Whatever you did  
 was a valuable part of the congregation.*

**Men's Group Meets**  
**Saturday, April 14**  
**at 9 am**

Come for scripture  
 reading, food and  
 fellowship.

**St. Stephen's Vestry 2018**

- Rev. Karen Crawford
- Rev. Merle Smith
- Steve Halstead (SW)
- Jim Tracy (JW)
- Kathy Trotter
- Rita Baker
- Nancy Henderson
- Janice Carpenter (treasurer)
- Kay Clements
- Brenda Malott



*Study Notes*

**Sunday Religion study**  
**Continues every**  
**Sunday at 9 am**  
**with the study on**  
**Luke the Liberator**  
**led by Zeb Treloar**



**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

1st Matt Kotz, 6th Jonelle Farver,  
29th Steve Adams

**SPECIAL OCCASION**

7th Merle Smith Ordination

**ANNIVERSARY**

14th Christopher & Marian  
Templeton

*Blessings on your special day from your  
friends at St. Stephen's*



**LITURGICAL ROSTER**

**Apr. 8 (2nd Sunday after Easter)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.  
Layreader: Zeb T.  
Petitioner: Jason M.  
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
Counter: Lorraine W.

**Apr. 15 (3rd Sunday after Easter)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.  
Layreader: Deacon Merle S.  
Petitioner: Winonah M.  
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
Counter: Rita B.

**Apr. 22 (4th Sunday after Easter and Healing Litany)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.  
Layreader: Barry H.  
Petitioner: Steve H.  
Ushers: Brenda M. &  
Counter: Meredith T.

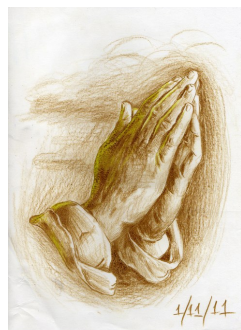
**Apr. 29 (5th Sunday after Easter)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.  
Layreader: Winonah M.  
Petitioner:  
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
Counter: Janice C.

**May 6 (6th Sunday after Easter)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.  
Layreader: Zeb T.  
Petitioner: Jason M.  
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
Counter: Lorraine W.

**May 13 (7th Sunday after Easter)**  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.  
Layreader: Barry H.  
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.  
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
Counter: Rita B.

**May 14 (5th Sunday after Easter)**  
**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.  
Layreader: Terry G.  
Petitioner: Winonah M.  
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
Counter: Janice C.

**We are in need of ushers, and Petitioners and those to sign up for coffee time. See Rev. Karen or Deacon Merle.**



**Wednesday  
Evening Prayer  
at 5:15 PM  
led by  
Deacon  
Merle Smith**

**Sunday, April 15  
at 11:30 am  
Vestry meets  
in the  
Undercroft**

**APRIL DONATIONS FOR THE  
SALVATION ARMY**  
Microwavable Mac & Cheese, Tuna and Hamburger Helper. Also spaghetti sauce.



**CURRENT  
FINANCIALS**

	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>
Income	\$ 6,881.00	\$12,172.00
Expense	\$24,271.60	\$19,523.00
Difference	-\$7,288.52	-\$3,967.00



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**223 East Fourth Street North**  
**Newton, Iowa 50208**

Our Vision: "To be the hands,  
feet and face of God"



## Food for Thought and Outreach



Some of the Sunday 8 am attendees go to McDonalds after church for coffee and conversation. Printed at the top of the receipt is an invitation to take a customer satisfaction survey with the payoff being a buy one sandwich and get one for free. All you have to do is go to their website: [www.mcdvoice.com](http://www.mcdvoice.com). Complete the survey and they will give you a code number. For \$5 you can get two sandwiches and a Coke.

All you have to do is put that receipt and a \$5 dollar bill in your wallet/purse. When you see a hungry person, give them the receipt and the \$5 and explain how it works.

The strange thing is that the hungry persons I have encountered have been at McDonalds. Without exception, every time I have done this, I have ended up learning that person's story. I often think: But for the grace of God, go I.

Is it a big deal? No. But I guarantee that this is one way you can become the hands, feet and face of God to that person. Isn't that what it's all about?

Steve Halstead