

St. Stephen's Beacon

From the Desk of Rev. Karen



March was a busy and exciting month and April promises to be the same. The women's group has been studying various prayer forms which included Advent wreathes, labyrinths, and

Lectio Divina. In March we concluded our study by designing and making our own Anglican prayer beads. The adult Sunday Bible study has focused on the Islamic faith. I think I can speak for most of us that we were surprised at the commonalities of our faiths and gained a new appreciation and understanding of our brothers and sisters whose common bond is through Abraham. Our last lesson will be April 2 and after Easter our focus will turn to stewardship of God's creation. We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with our traditional pancake supper sponsored by the men of Saint Stephen's. It was a special evening full of good food and fellowship. We gathered again for our quarterly parish dinner and feasted on muffuletta sandwiches, gumbo and shrimp jambalaya. As you can might have guessed the theme was Mardi Gras and laughs and giggles were abundant.

The Mission Committee has been hard at work researching the needs of the Newton community and with the vestry's approval has authorized three organizations who will each receive \$2000; the Newton school lunch deficit, The ARL, and food pantry at Berg School. Another exciting project is soon to become a reality. The Tracy's provided the inspiration for a blessing box, Jack Trotter built it and soon it will be used to distribute food and hygiene products to those in need.

The Revival held at St. Stephen's on March 17 was a testimony to the creativity, commitment and willingness to embrace new ideas that is so characteristic of our congregation. The music led by our choir was spirited, the testimonies uplifting and the activities provided at the prayer stations gave many a chance to

reflect on their spiritual journey. The evening was topped by a delicious array of treats and a chance to visit with old and new friends. If you missed this revival you have another opportunity. On May 6, the Diocese of Iowa invites us to travel as a group to Kansas City, Missouri to participate in the Presiding Bishop's revival there. The "Awakening the Spirit" event will be at Kansas City's Power & Light District from noon-3:00 pm. For more information contact Episcopal Diocese of Iowa at 515-277-6165 or mwaner@iowaepiscopal.org. Registration deadline is April 5.

As Christians we live by the 2 great commandments to love God and to love our neighbor. Our "neighbor" includes all of God's children and as part of our baptismal covenant we vow to care for the immigrant, the marginalized, and those in any kind of need. All faith communities have been invited to co-sponsor a Freedom to Believe Rally which will be held Sunday, April 2 from 2 to 3:30 in Des Moines on the Iowa Capitol West Steps. The sponsorship was endorsed by our vestry and I invite you to either attend in person or through prayer as we show our solidarity against hate, bigotry, and discrimination and our support for religious freedom, respect, and love for all. This will be followed by an online discussion with Bishop Scarfe and fellow Iowa Episcopalians on April 6 from 7 to 8pm to discuss what it means to be a sanctuary church. We plan to meet as a group in Latham Hall and you are invited

I invite you to observe Holy Week. Rejoice with Jesus as he triumphantly enters Jerusalem, share in the last supper on Maundy Thursday as Jesus humbly washes the feet of his disciples. Stand watch in the garden of Repose on Thursday night. Be there at the cross as we wonder what could possibly be "Good" about Good Friday when Jesus dies a most barbaric death. When you embrace Holy Week by walking with Jesus each day and attending services you will truly come to Easter with JOY in your heart for the great gift God has given us through the Risen Christ.

SHARE IOWA

Important Dates: April 7th Final day to place orders
 April 22nd Pick up order between 7:30 and 8:30 am at the
 First United Methodist Church in Newton

The Newton Ministerial Alliance is bringing the SHARE IOWA program to Newton! This is a non-profit, community based food co-op program. SHARE (Self Help And Resource Exchange) is a network of non-profit organizations dedicated to:

Promoting volunteer service in our community

Providing affordable, quality food packages

Building partnerships with other organizations

SHARE is people coming together around food and using their time and talent to help others. SHARE is wholesome, quality food available to EVERYONE.

April SHARE menus are posted on the bulletin board here at the church. Packages include meat and groceries, meat only, produce only, and several other packages including a mega meat package, shrimp, bacon, or jumbo burgers.

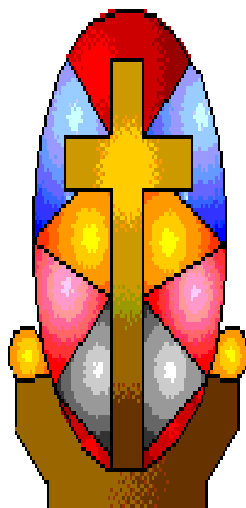
The above are the seven basic packages. You may order as many of each package as you like. If you order one of the seven basic packages, you are eligible to purchase any of the Choice items, which this month include breakfast sandwiches, Shullsburg cheese. Rim Rock Chicken, or cheesecake.

You may place your order by calling 1-800-344-1107 or visit www.shareiowa.org.

When you pick up your order, you will be able to record your 2 hours of volunteer service to others (which occurs in so many ways!)

St. Stephen's Vestry 2017

Rev. Karen Crawford
 Rev. Merle Smith
 Steve Halstead (SW)
 Jim Tracy (JW)
 Kathy Trotter
 Christopher Templeton
 Jonnelle Farver
 Nancy Henderson
 Janice Carpenter (treasurer)
 Kay Clements
 Brenda Malott



Study Notes

Sunday Religion study
 April 2nd from
 9-9:50 am
 (there will be no class on
 Palm Sunday, Apr. 9th or
 Easter Sunday, Apr. 16)
 The class will resume
 on Sunday, Apr. 23rd



EASTER LILIES
 See Joyce Rabadeaux to place your order on Sundays, April 2nd and 9th during coffee time.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st Matt Kotz, 6th Jonelle Farver,
 25th Hazel Giildenzopf, 29th Steve Adams

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

7th Merle Smith Ordination

ANNIVERSARIES

14th Christopher & Marian Templeton



LITURGICAL ROSTER

Apr. 2 (5th Sunday in Lent)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Phyllis F.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Paul K.

Apr. 9 (Palm Sunday)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Shannon K.
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Lorraine W.

Apr. 16 (Easter Sunday at 9 am)

9 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Winonah M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counters: Paul K.

Apr. 23(2nd Sunday after Easter and Healing Litany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Larry H.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers: Brenda M. & Roxanne V.
 Counter: Mary H.

Apr. 30 (3rd Sunday after Easter)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Paul K.

May 7 (4th Sunday after Easter)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Phyllis F.
 Petitioner: Shannon K.
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Lorraine W.

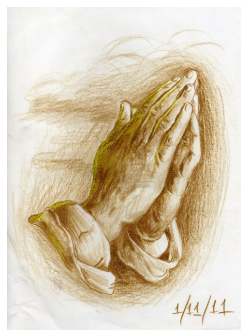
May 14 (5th Sunday after Easter)

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.



**Sunday, April 23
 at 11:30 am**

**Vestry meets
 in the Undercroft**



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

**APRIL DONATIONS FOR THE
 SALVATION ARMY**

Microwavable Mac & Cheese, Tuna and Hamburger Helper. Also spaghetti sauce.



CURRENT FINANCIALS

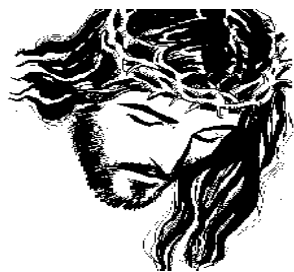
	FEBRUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE
Income	\$3,588.92	\$11,558.35
Expense	\$9,152.61	\$18,395.18
Difference	(\$5,563.69)	(\$6,836.83)

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

If you are unable to be here the Sunday you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute or switch. Please let the office know.

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

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



HOLY WEEK
SCHEDULE
INSIDE

Daily Lectionary Reading

Week of 5 Lent

Sunday	Jer. 23:16-32	1 Cor. 9:19-27	Mark 8:31--9:1
Monday	Jer. 24:1-10	Rom. 9:19-33	John 9:1-17
Tuesday	Jer. 25:8-17	Rom. 10:1-13	John 9:18-41
Wednesday	Jer. 25:30-38	Rom. 10:14-21	John 10:1-18
Thursday	Jer. 26:1-16	Rom. 11:1-12	John 10:19-42
Friday	Jer. 29:1, 4-13	Rom. 11:13-24	John 11:1-27, or 12:1-10
Saturday	Jer. 31:27-34	Rom. 11:25-36	John 11:28-44, or 12:37-50

Holy Week

Palm Sunday	Zech. 9:9-12**	1 Tim. 6:12-16**		
	Zech. 12:9-11, 13:1, 7-9*** Matt. 21:12-17***			
Monday	Jer. 12:1-16	Phil. 3:1-14	John 12:9-19	
Tuesday	Jer. 15:10-21	Phil. 3:15-21	John 12:20-26	
Wednesday	Jer. 17:5-10, 14-17	Phil. 4:1-13	John 12:27-36	
Maundy Thursday	Jer. 20:7-11	1 Cor. 10:14-17; 11:27-32	John 17:1-11(12-26)	
Good Friday	Wisdom 1:16--2:1, 12-22	1 Peter 1:10-20	John 13:36-38** or Gen. 22:1-14	John 19:38-42***
Holy Saturday	Job 19:21-27a	Heb. 4:1-16**	Rom. 8:1-11***	

Easter Week

Easter Day	Exod. 12:1-14**	-----	John 1:1-18**
	Isa. 51:9-11***	Luke 24:13-35, or John 20:19-23**	Monday
	Jonah 2:1-9	Acts 2:14, 22-32*	John 14:1-14
Tuesday	Isa. 30:18-21	Acts 2:36-41(42-47)*	John 14:15-31
Wednesday	Micah 7:7-15	Acts 3:1-10*	John 15:1-11
Thursday	Ezek. 37:1-14	Acts 3:11-26*	John 15:12-27
Friday	Dan. 12:1-4, 13	Acts 4:1-12*	John 16:1-15
Saturday	Isa. 25:1-9	Acts 4:13-21(22-31)*	

Week of 2 Easter

Sunday	Isa. 43:8-13	1 Pet. 2:2-10	John 14:1-7
Monday	Dan. 1:1-21	1 John 1:1-10	John 17:1-11
Tuesday	Dan. 2:1-16	1 John 2:1-11	John 17:12-19
Wednesday	Dan. 2:17-30	1 John 2:12-17	John 17:20-26
Thursday	Dan. 2:31-49	1 John 2:18-29	Luke 3:1-14
Friday	Dan. 3:1-18	1 John 3:1-10	Luke 3:15-22
Saturday	Dan. 3:19-30	1 John 3:11-18	Luke 4:1-13

HOLY WEEK Schedule and Easter

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with the Holy Saturday Service. Easter is of course the Great Feast and is not part of Holy Week.

Palm Sunday, April 9, 8 am with palms, no procession **10 am** with palms and procession beginning in Latham Hall and processing through the church.

A Prayer for Palm Sunday: Are you ever amazed, O Lord, at our responses to the Savior? We get all excited about the parade into Jerusalem. We gather palm fronds and distribute them among those present so that they can wave them in triumph, replicating the parade and the crowd. Children sing the praises of Jesus. Adults remove their cloaks and place them on the road in front of the donkey so that he may not make a misstep. We could stay at this scene forever and enjoy the moment. But we are being called forward, through the gates of the Holy City to the Temple and from the Temple to the Cross. Be with us and give us courage to face what lies ahead. Strengthen our faith that we will remain steadfast at the time of reckoning; for we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Maundy Thursday, April 13, 7:30 pm

Jesus humbly washes the feet of his disciples as a profound reminder that we are all called to serve and to share in table fellowship. In this service we will take part in both the washing of feet and the sharing of a meal. At the end, the table will be stripped and the watch – our waiting with Jesus – continues in the sanctuary until midnight.

Good Friday Community Cross Walk Friday, April 14 at noon beginning here at St Stephen's.

This is an ancient practice that recalls the last events of Jesus' earthly life: being condemned to death, given his cross, his long walk to Golgotha, his crucifixion and death. There are 14 stations in all. This is a solemn time to contemplate Jesus' suffering and death.

Good Friday Service, April 14, 7:30 pm (St. Stephen's)

Through fasting and quiet prayer, the passion and death of Jesus Christ are remembered in solemn reverence on Good Friday. There will be a reserved Eucharist.

Holy Saturday, April 15, 9 am

This is often referred to as the Holy Sabbath and the Great Sabbath. It is an empty day, the day when Christ rested in the tomb and all creation awaited the resurrection.

Easter Sunday, April 16, 9 am (one service)

The most holy of feast days for Christians, Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a sung Eucharist celebration. Following is an enhanced coffee hour and an outdoor Easter egg hunt for children, weather permitting.

