

St. Stephen's Beacon

From the Desk of Rev. Karen

I recently spent 10 days in Seattle, Washington visiting my daughter and daughter-in-law. The cool weather, beautiful vistas of ocean and mountains and whales and eagles provided a refreshing change from the heat, humidity, and corn that marks an Iowa summer. I have returned invigorated and excited to plan a new program year. A change in one's daily routine can provide new ideas and a new focus. However change is also capable of stopping us dead in our tracks as we try to adjust to new ideas, new ways of doing things, and the fear and discomfort of facing a world different from what we have grown accustomed. Much of the angst we experience boils down to fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of managing new ways of accomplishing life's tasks. Change and the fear that it sometimes breeds seems to be rampant of late. Acts of violence both abroad and at home has changed our sense of security, our country is in the midst of electing a new leader which regardless of whether or not your candidate wins can be unsettling. Even the sacred institution of the church is experiencing change.

Do we hold our breath in fear and hope things will return to, "Like it used to

be"? NO, because that seldom happens and fear stops our forward movement. So what do we do? Scripture constantly reminds us to "fear not", to seek comfort and guidance in our community knowing that God walks with us. Our world, our community hungers for a safe place, a place where God's love is made evident and those seeking refuge are welcomed.

St. Stephen's is such a place. Our supply priests commented on how welcome they felt, a recent visitor shared the feeling of peace she experienced while in our place of worship, and members of the community that share our space expressed sincere gratitude for being able to meet at St. Stephen's. It is the people of this parish whose love for God and God's people making it such a special place.

As we begin the new program year, I encourage you to invite others to discover the joy in experiencing God's love and being a part of a community that supports one another on their faith journey.

The graphic features the words "NO FEAR" in a bold, stylized font. The letters are primarily red with black outlines and some black fill, giving it a jagged, flame-like appearance. The text is centered between two vertical lines that extend from the top and bottom of the page.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Sunday, August 21st will be St. Stephen's Back-to-School Celebration

Many schools will begin their new program year on August 23rd. The Blessing of the Backpacks is to let our students and their teachers know that we honor and support this very important time in their life, and that God loves and walks with them. The challenge in school is to identify their gifts and talents and to become the person God created them to be. This is an important job. So let's gather together on August 21st and celebrate the beginning of the new school year by sending our students to school with our blessings and support. *Ice cream sundaes and cookies will follow in Latham Hall after the 10 am service. I encourage you to invite a neighbor and friends.*



August Birthdays

3rd Janice Carpenter, Merle Smith
9th Jack Trotter
23rd Georgia Parker

August Anniversaries

7th Nancy & Bill Henderson
18th Steve & Mary Halstead

UPDATE!



Mark Your Calendars

In September St. Stephen's Upcoming Events are:

Sunday, Sept. 11—Parish Picnic

**Sunday, Sept. 11—Children's Christian
Formation Classes begin**

**Friday, Sept. 16—Small Group Dinner
Kickoff (round II) Octoberfest theme**



**Vestry meets
Sunday,
August 14th
at 11:30 am**



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

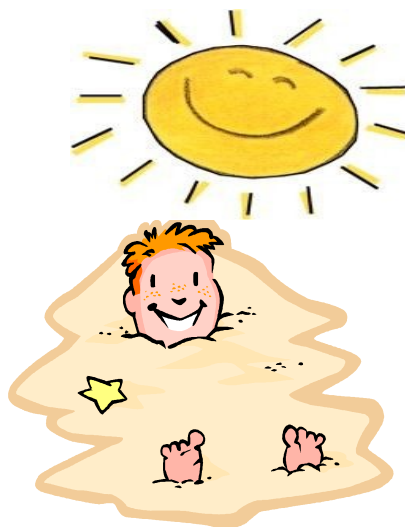


Downtown Ecumenical Service

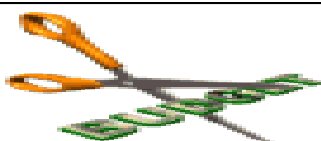
Sunday, August 28th at 10 am

This service is located in the parking lot of 1st Presbyterian Church. We are joining in this service this year, so bring your lawn chair. Lunch and activities are being offered after the service. St. Stephen's has been assigned to bring side dishes, which could include salads, veggies (hot or cold), chips, etc. Make plans to attend, it will be a great time for young and old to connect with our neighbors.

St. Stephen's Vestry 2016
 Rev. Karen Crawford
 Rev. Merle Smith
 Steve Halstead (Sr. Warden)
 Jim Tracy (Jr. Warden)
 Rita Baker (Clerk)
 Barry Hurto
 Carol Kramer
 Christopher Templeton
 Jonnelle Farver
 Nancy Henderson



AUGUST DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY Cereal and Juice



YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

June 2016

RECEIPTS	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET	% of BUDGET
Pledge Income	34,639	53,604	64.62%
Plate Income	9,513	15,000	63.42%
Group Income	4,300	5,899	72.88%
Supplemental Gifts	20,000	3,600	555.56%
Fundraising Sales	106	999	10.60%
TOTAL INCOME	68,558	80,103	85.59%
DISBURSEMENTS	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET	% of BUDGET
Total Disbursements	66,047	119,075	55.47%

LITURGICAL ROSTER

August 7 (12th Sun. after Pent. Proper 14)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
 Layreader: Larry H.
 Petitioner: Shannon K.
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: David & Hazel G.

August 14(13th Sun. after Pent. Proper 15 &Healing Litany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers: David & Hazel G.
 Counters: Lorraine & Dick W.

August 21 (14th Sun. after Pent. & Backpack Blessing Proper 16)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: Dick W.

**August 28 (15th Sun. after Pent.)
 Downtown Ecumenical Service at
 10 am Only 8 am Service here**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Ecumenical Service

Sept. 4 (16th Sun. after Pent. Proper 18)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy
10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Winonah M.
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: Dick & Lorraine W.

Sept. 11 (17th Sun. after Pent. Proper 19 & Healing Litany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers: David & Hazel G.
 Counters: David & Hazel G.

We are in need of ushers and counters if interested 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 of any changes.

Bishop's Chapter Teaching Conversations 2016

Bishop's Central and South Central Chapters

Saturday, August 13 from 1-4 pm

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 201 E. Church St.

Marshalltown, IA 50158

Join fellow Episcopalians in conversation as we discuss issues raised in the book *The Underground Church: Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus* by Robin Meyers as well as the Bishop's own experiences in a church without state or social sanction. Together, let's question what it means to be "a radicalized Christian (of the Episcopal version)". The book may be purchased from Cokesbury or Amazon in both hardback, paperback or digital form.

Amazon describes the book as follows:

A new way to follow Jesus that draws on old ways of following Him

The Underground Church proposes that the faithful recapture the spirit of the early church with its emphasis on what Christians do rather than what they believe. Prominent progressive writer, speaker, and minister Robin Meyers proposes that the best way to recapture the spirit of the early Christian church is to recognize that Jesus-following was and must be again subversive in the best sense of the word because the gospel taken seriously turns the world upside down.

*No matter how the church may organize itself or worship,
the defining characteristic of church of the future will be its
Jesus-inspired countercultural witness.*

- Debunks commonly held beliefs about the early church and offers a vision for the future rooted in the past
- Proposes that the church of the future must leave doctrinal tribalism behind and seek a unity of mission instead
- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu said, "Robin Meyers has spoken truth to power, and the church he loves will never be the same."

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

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



***St. Stephen's
Backpack
Blessing is
Sunday
August 21st***



Daily Lectionary Reading

Proper 13 Week of the Sunday closest to August 3

Sunday	Judges 6:1-24	2 Cor. 9:6-15	Mark 3:20-30
Monday	Judges 6:25-40	Acts 2:37-47	John 1:1-18
Tuesday	Judges 7:1-18	Acts 3:1-11	John 1:19-28
Wednesday	Judges 7:19--8:12	Acts 3:12-26	John 1:29-42
Thursday	Judges 8:22-35	Acts 4:1-12	John 1:43-51
Friday	Judges 9:1-16, 19-21	Acts 4:13-31	John 2:1-12
Saturday	Judges 9:22-25, 50-57	Acts 4:32--5:11	John 2:13-25

Proper 14 Week of the Sunday closest to August 10

Sunday	Judges 11:1-11, 29-40	2 Cor. 11:21b-31	Mark 4:35-41
Monday	Judges 12:1-7	Acts 5:12-26	John 3:1-21
Tuesday	Judges 13:1-15	Acts 5:27-42	John 3:22-36
Wednesday	Judges 12:15-24	Acts 6:1-15	John 4:1-26
Thursday	Judges 14:1-19	Acts 6:15--7:16	John 4:27-42
Friday	Judges 14:20--15:20	Acts 7:17-29	John 4:43-54
Saturday	Judges 16:1-14	Acts 7:30-43	John 5:1-18

Proper 15 Week of the Sunday closest to August 17

Sunday	Judges 16:15-31	2 Cor. 13:1-11	Mark 5:25-34
Monday	Judges 17:1-13	Acts 7:44--8:1a	John 5:19-29
Tuesday	Judges 18:1-15	Acts 8:1-13	John 5:30-47
Wednesday	Judges 18:16-31	Acts 8:14-25	John 6:1-15
Thursday	Job 1:1-22	Acts 8:26-40	John 6:16-27
Friday	Job 2:1-13	Acts 9:1-9	John 6:27-40
Saturday	Job 3:1-26	Acts 9:10-19a	John 6:41-51

Proper 16 Week of the Sunday closest to August 24

Sunday	Job 4:1-6, 12-21	Rev. 4:1-11	Mark 6:1-6a
Monday	Job 4:1; 5:1-11, 17-21, 26-27		Acts 9:19b-31 John 6:52-59
Tuesday	Job 6:1-4, 8-15, 21	Acts 9:32-43	John 6:60-71
Wednesday	Job 6:1; 7:1-21	Acts 10:1-16	John 7:1-13
Thursday	Job 8:1-10, 20-22	Acts 10:17-33	John 7:14-36
Friday	Job 9:1-15, 32-35	Acts 10:34-48	John 7:37-52
Saturday	Job 9:1; 10:1-9, 16-22	Acts 11:1-18	John 8:12-20