



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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August 2017

From the Desk of Rev. Karen

St. Stephen's Beacon

I'm excited for us to begin the new program year! As a teacher, August was a month of new beginnings. It was like New Year's. Summer had been a time to evaluate the past year and based on what did and did not work I then had the opportunity to put in place new ideas and practices. I find being the spiritual leader of this church to be very similar. The beginning of the program year presents new and exciting opportunities. I would like to share with you some of my ideas, those of fellow parishioners, and an invitation for you to share your thoughts.

St. Stephen's is blessed to have received a large amount of money to be used toward charitable outreach. However it is to be dispersed as matching funds so if you give \$20 it becomes \$40. There are so many worthy charities in Newton that it is difficult to pick any particular one to support. So my thought is to designate one charity each month to receive contributions. Information will be shared throughout the month concerning the charity's needs and purpose. Individuals then have the opportunity to contribute, and that contribution will be doubled. This is still in the planning stages so stay tuned for further developments and please share your ideas!

The women's group will now be guided by Winonah McGee and Meredith Tracy. They have developed an exciting program with offerings of spiritual discussions, creative opportunities such as peace pole creations, outreach efforts and a time for fellowship at local restaurants. Is there something you

would especially like to do? Contact either Meredith or Winonah.

The Liturgy and Music planning committee meets Sunday, July 30 to plan our special services such as Blessing of the Backpacks and the Animals this fall. They welcome your input concerning music and any liturgy related suggestions or concerns. All are welcome to attend this meeting.

Our vision is to be the Hands, Feet, and Face of God. The Mission Committee is excited that the Blessing Box has not only served many folks who are in need, but is also being restocked by others in the community. The committee is in the process of joining other area churches in researching the possibility of developing a house where the homeless could wash their clothes, bathe themselves and find a place for fellowship out of the elements. Pray that our area churches might come together and find a way to meet this need in our community. Last year's Halloween Hotdog feed will again be offered. It was hard to tell who had more fun...the grillers or the ghosts and goblins. Join us again for this community gathering.

Space does not allow me to continue, but there are so many exciting opportunities for us to be disciples of Christ in the coming year. We are only limited by our imaginations. If you have ideas or suggestions please contact your vestry and share your thoughts.

God's blessings, Karen

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Sunday, August 20th will be St. Stephen's Back-to-School Celebration

Many schools will begin their new program year on August 24th. 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 lets gather together on August 20th 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.

The Garden Update

Guess who has been visiting the garden? It seems that the beans and potatoes are providing delicious meals for our 4 legged friends. Never fear Steve Halstead is here!

The garden now sports an electric fence, scary plastic containers that blow in the wind and human hair. The tomatoes and okra are beginning to produce as well as the peppers. The weeds are enjoying the dry, hot conditions, when it cools down we invite you to help weed and harvest.



August Birthdays

- 1st Myha Jordan
- 3rd Janice Carpenter, Merle Smith
- 4th Jaden Jordan
- 9th Jack Trotter
- 23rd Georgia Parker

August Anniversaries

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



**Vestry meets
Sunday,
August 20th
at 11:30am**



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



**To
Others**

The Blessing box needs

Body soap (bars work), lotion,
Chef Boyardee products, fruit cups,
toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand sanitizer,
spaghetti & meat sauce, Vienna sausages,
tuna & pasta products with removable lids,
ring-top canned goods.

With your help we can keep it stocked.

LITURGICAL ROSTER

August 6 (The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy
Layreader: Larry H.
Petitioner: Shannon K.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Lorraine W.

August 13(10th Sun. after Pent. Proper 14)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Janice C.

August 20 (11th Sun. after Pent. & Backpack Blessing Proper 15)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Phyllis F.
Petitioner: Steve H.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Meredith T.

August 27 (12th Sun. after Pent. Proper 16)

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

Sept. 3 (13th Sun.. after Pent. Proper 17)

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

We are in need of ushers and Petitioners, 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.



Baby Shower

Sunday, August 6th

in Latham Hall after the 10 am Service

Join us as we celebrate the joyous blessing of Rev. Karen's upcoming arrival of her baby Granddaughter.

Baby Registry is www.babylist.com/goldman-voss

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



FUN

AUGUST DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Cereal, Juice, boxed mac & cheese, tuna helper, canned tuna, ramen noodles, canned soups (tomato, chicken noodle).





Winonah McGee and Meredith Tracy have been hard at work planning the 2017/2018 program year for the women's group.

Meetings will be held the first Saturday of each month as follows:

(Sept. 9 which is the second Sat. due to Labor Day, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2) from 10:00 am to noon followed by an opportunity to go out to lunch together. There will be no breakfast except for

coffee unless someone volunteers to bring donuts or rolls.

On **Sept. 9** the theme will be "make your own Peace Pole". We will meet in the Undercroft from 9:30 to 12:30 or 1:00. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Those participating are encouraged to bring acrylic paints, brushes, permanent markers and to wear old clothes. The deadline to sign up for a peace pole is Sunday, August 13 which allows Meredith and Winonah time to buy the poles and pole caps and prepare them.

The **Oct. 7** and **Nov. 4** meetings will be devoted to comparing various interpretations of Biblical stories (each person is asked to bring her version of the Bible so that different interpretations can be heard and shared).

The **Dec. 2** meeting will be a "mission outreach" to older persons of the community.

Hopefully, on **Feb. 3**, we can have an "Art and Wine" event in which we can ask The Centre for Arts and Artists to provide canvas and paint, on which we can paint a simple picture under guidance.





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 20th***

The August Salvation Army Food Pantry Challenge

The Salvation Army's Food Pantry is in dire need of food. Due to the many agencies requesting aid from the Food Bank they were only able to acquire half of their normal supply for August. Please consider contributing this month to the Salvation Army. The monies will be matched and used to purchase those items most needed. There will be baggies in your bulletins with additional information throughout the month of August. Sooo...

- Look under the cushions
- Keep an eye to the ground for those lost coins
- Give up the donut or Starbucks and donate the money instead to feed the hungry
- Empty that jar full of change on your dresser



Bring your loose change (bills and checks also accepted) to church on any Sunday in August, place your offering in the plastic bag, which you'll find in your bulletin, and add it to the collection.