



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
223 E. 4TH STREET N., NEWTON, IA 50208
PHONE 641-792-6971

February 2018

St. Stephen's Beacon

*From the desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford*

The Annual Meeting began with prayer. We prayed for wisdom and strength, and a vision of what God would have us to do as a congregation to serve, and love the Lord. Together we lifted up our concerns, shared our ideas, and then gave thanks for God's many blessing.

The following Saturday the vestry spent the day reflecting on the responses generated by the parish survey and at the Annual Meeting. The goal was to determine our top priorities for 2018 and develop action plans. These priorities include exploring the possibility of a Saturday service while retaining the 8 and 10:00 Sunday services, improving communication, reconnecting with those whose presence we miss and connecting with those who are seeking a spiritual community, continuing mission work, and continuing to offer and develop special services which meet specific needs such as Blessing of the Animals and the Hope and Remembrance service. All of these priorities have the potential of inviting others into our midst. I believe we all sensed that the Holy Spirit was very much present as we prayed, planned, and played. At the end of the day we left feeling renewed and rejuvenated and with a sense of direction.

February marks the beginning of Lent and there will be many opportunities which will provide time for self reflection and study. Of course, one needs to throw caution to the wind before Lent begins, so join us for our traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper

at 6 pm, sponsored by our Men's group. There will be two services on Ash Wednesday both with the imposition of ashes and Eucharist at noon and 7 pm. Mark your calendars for a Lenten Retreat on Sunday, February 18th following the 10 am service. During Lent the Wednesday night service will include a Eucharist, followed by a soup supper and Lenten Bible study.

The 9 am Adult Sunday school will be a 5 week video course entitled "Luke the Liberator". Both the Lenten Retreat and Adult Bible study will be led by Zeb Treloar, our field study student.

During Lent and Easter all Episcopalians are invited to participate in the Good Book Club by reading daily verses from Luke and Acts. There will be a schedule of the daily readings provided at the Sunday, February 4th service.

Looking ahead to March, I am excited to share with you that the Bishop has invited the rector of St. Gregory of Nyssa Church to be our speaker at the Saturday, March 3rd Growing Iowa Leaders in Marshalltown. This promises to be a busy, but meaningful Lent. There are many varied activities to select, but keep in mind that the most important Lenten discipline is to designate time in your life to pray, meditate, and draw closer to God. Attending services is essential to keeping a Holy Lent.



JOIN THE GOOD BOOK CLUB

The Good Book Club is an invitation to all Episcopalians to join in reading the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during Lent-Easter 2018.

Episcopalians will start reading Luke on Sunday, February 11 and read a section of Luke's Gospel every day through the season of Lent. The entire season of Easter will be devoted to daily readings from the Book of Acts.

Already, individuals, congregations, and organizations are committed to being a part of the Good Book Club, and we hope you'll join the journey too!

The Good Book Club website (goodbookclub.org) lists the daily readings, as well as available resources to support people as they read the scriptures.

The reading schedule will be distributed in your bulletin on Sunday, February 4 at St. Stephen's

Ash Wednesday Services Feb. 14th

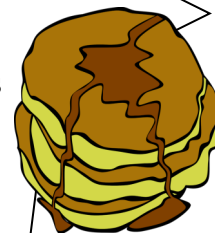
Two services will be available
Noon w/ Imposition of Ashes
and

7:30 PM w/ Imposition of Ashes.
Both services
will have
Holy Eucharist.



SHROVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13th PANCAKE SUPPER

AT 6:00 PM
Prepared by the
St. Stephen's Men's
Group.



Together
we make a
Family

St. Stephen's Vestry 2018

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





**WOMEN'S GROUP MEETS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3
AT 10 AM**

At our meeting we will review the book "Same Different As Me" by Ron Hall and decide if we wish to use this as a study book. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

LITURGICAL ROSTER

Feb. 4 (5th Sun. after Epiph.)
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader:
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.
Ushers:
Counter: Rita B.

Feb. 11 (Last Sun. after Epiph.)
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Caleb V.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Lorraine W.

Feb. 18 (1st Sunday of Lent and Healing Litany)
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Steve H.
Ushers: Brenda M. &
Counter: Meredith T.

Feb. 25 (2nd Sunday of Lent)
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers:
Counter: Janice C.

Mar. 4 (3rd Sunday of Lent)
10 am Layreader/Chalice : Rita B.
Layreader: Deacon Merle S.
Petitioner: Caleb V.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Rita B.

Mar. 11 (4th Sunday of Lent)
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers:
Counter: Lorraine W.

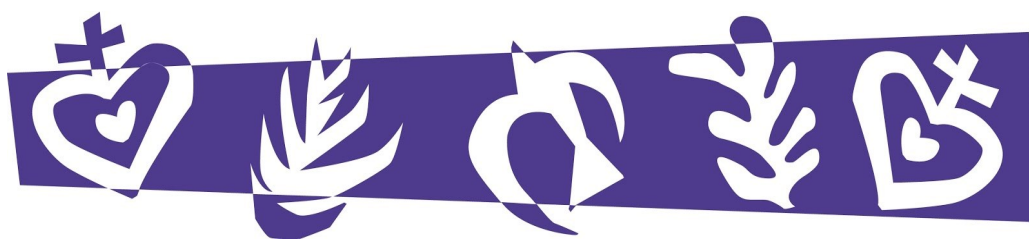
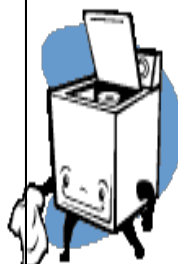
If you are unable to be here the Sunday you are scheduled, it is your responsibility to find a substitute or switch. Please let the office know.

Men's Group Meets
Saturday, February 10 at 9 am
Come for scripture reading, food and fellowship.



Reminder!
Sunday, Feb. 18th
Vestry meets in the undercroft

FEBURARY DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
Detergent
and
Dish Soap



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
2nd Craig Carpenter 4th Jim Clements
13th Winonah McGee
15th Rita Baker & Kris Long,
22nd Ann Adams & Edwin Dobbs
No Anniversaries for February *Best wishes on your birthday from your family at St. Stephen's*





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

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



FEBRUARY 14TH SERVICES
AT NOON AND 7 PM



RETURN
to the
LORD
YOUR
GOD

THE
FORTY
DAYS
of LENT

Lenten Offerings

Lenten Retreat— Sunday, February 18 from noon to 3:00 in Latham Hall. Following lunch we will read the scriptures for the Sunday's of Lent and then pray with them using imaginative prayer and discuss any inspirations we may have had. We will use our imaginations, journaling and drawing as we move through the texts. Led by Zeb Treloar

9:00 am Sunday Adult Bible Study- Luke the Liberator Luke proclaims Christ's liberty to the captives. Jesus' mission to 'set captives free' is no more boldly declared than in Luke's writings. Join us for this 5-course video-based course which features these classes: Introduction to Luke, Liberation for Women, Liberation from Wealth, Liberated to Share and Liberated to Preach. Led by Zeb Treloar

5:00 pm Wednesday Evening Prayer/Eucharist- Join us on Wednesdays for prayer, soup supper, and Lenten study. Led by clergy and lay leaders.

Participate in Lent Madness- Get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith. There's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. This helps you to connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process. The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. Go to lentmadness.org to sign up for the fun.

The Good Book Club- Join other Episcopalians from around the world as we read the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts during Lent and Easter. A reading schedule will be available on Sunday Feb. 4. More information is available at www.GoodBookClub.org

