



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

February 2017

St. Stephen's Beacon

*From the desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford*

January 24 marked my one year anniversary as rector of St. Stephen's. I was thrilled that you remembered this occasion with beautiful flowers on the altar and my favorite hymn, Here I am Lord. However the greatest gift has been the love and prayers that have been showered upon me this entire year. I especially felt this love on Sunday when you reached out to me as I mourned my sister's rapidly declining health. I felt surrounded by St. Stephen's love and I thank God for the opportunity to serve this parish.

This past year has been full of new beginnings and 2017 holds the promise of many more. I'm thrilled that our Adult Education class was attended by 13 folks who asked that we study other religions. Our first series focuses on the Islam faith. Check out the topics we will discuss for the next several weeks in this newsletter. We'd love to have you join us.

Our Tuesday book club decided to explore the book "Serve God, Save the Planet". The selection of this particular book reflects St. Stephen's concern for God's creation and the greater community. It was noted by an organization in Newton that while St. Stephen's is small we are a strong presence in this community in terms of reaching out to others. May God continue to show us new and effective ways to serve not only those in need but also our earthly home.

During the Annual meeting we broke into groups to address the question, "What is God calling St. Stephen's to do?" In this newsletter you will find a compilation of the

responses. It is very clear that we hear God's call to care for our fellow brothers and sisters and there are some exciting ideas in how we might go about this.

It is time to share these hopes and dreams with others and invite them to join us as we minister to the sick, the friendless and the needy. We have been given the perfect opportunity to do just that at our March 17 Revival. This will be a time that we can share God's presence in our lives, invite others to come to know and discover God's love through song, prayer, and testimony. This promises to be an exciting time in St. Stephen's history and I feel blessed to be a part of it. Thank you for inviting me to walk with you as your spiritual leader.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9 in Latham Hall as we explore one of the world's great religions: Islam. We are using the video series, Great World Religions which is taught by Professor John Esposito. There are 12 lectures, each consisting of a 30 minute video followed by an opportunity to engage in discussion. Check the weekly update for a review on each Sunday's lesson.

Lecture 1-Islam Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Lecture 2-The Five Pillars of Islam

Lecture 3-Muhammad-Prophet and Statesman

Lecture 4-God's Word-the Quranic Worldview

Lecture 5-The Muslim Community-Faith and Politics

Lecture 6-Paths to God-Islamic Law and Mysticism!

Lecture 7-Islamic Revivalism-Renewal and Reform!

Lecture 8-The Contemporary Resurgence of Islam

Lecture 9-Islam at the Crossroads

Lecture 10-Women and change in Islam

Lecture 11-Islam in the West

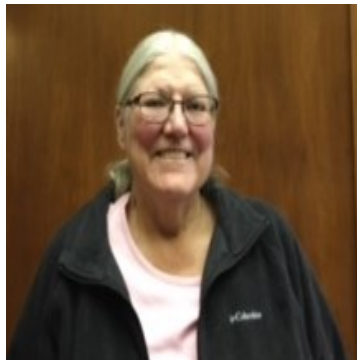
Lecture 12-The Future of Islam

MEET YOUR NEW VESTRY MEMBERS



Kay Clements

My name is Kay Clements. I moved to Newton from Lawrence, KS, 5 years ago when I married Jim Clements. He and I each have a married son, and we have one grandson, who will be 13 years old soon. I'm a retired Occupational Therapist. I worked in home health for over 25 years. I also volunteered with therapeutic horseback riding and the Lawrence Inter-denominational Nutritional Kitchen(LINK). Jim has a long history of membership in St. Stephens. He and I have found inspiration and community here. As a vestry member I would like to support St. Stephens in its mission and I am especially interested in outreach to those in need.



Janice Carpenter

I was born and raised in rural Iowa and moved to Texas, spending 22 and one half years in the Dallas – Fort Worth Metroplex. In 2000, we moved back to Iowa to be a part of our son and granddaughter's lives. Janice holds a BBA in Business with a focus on Accounting, from the University of Texas at Dallas. I earned my college degree at the age of 40, one class at a time. The majority of my career was spent working payroll and payroll taxes. Craig and I have been married for forty six years and are the parents of two sons, Paul and Peter. Peter is deceased. Paul is married and lives in Lynnville. Craig always supported me getting my education by being there with the boys. Both of us spent ten years involved in the Boy Scouts of America. And now, we are chicken farmers! My father and grandmother role modeled to me the importance of church service. While preparing for retirement, I came to this church to attend JustFaith classes. I have found the people very loving and now consider this church as part of my family.



Brenda Mallott

My name is Brenda Kosmach Malott. I have been a Registered Nurse for over 20 years and worked at Skiff on the medical surgical floor, dialysis and 10 years as a Hospice nurse. Most recently worked at the women's prison and now for the Department of Inspections and Appeals for the State of Iowa as a nurse surveyor. I Travel all over Iowa to nursing homes, making sure they are Medicare and Medicaid compliant. I have a 31 year old daughter, Kate who you all know. I started attending St Stephens in 1962 and remember Fr Gilliam being my first priest. I am honored to be considered to be a member of the vestry. Looking forward to this adventure.

VESTRY MEETS SUNDAY, FEB. 12 AT 11:30 AM IN THE UNDERCROFT



February Birthdays:

4th Jim Clements,
13th Winonah McGee,
15th Rita Baker & Kris Long,
22nd Ann Adams & Edwin Dobbs
No Anniversaries for February

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



LITURGICAL ROSTER**Feb. 5 (5th Sunday of Epiphany)**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Shannon K.

Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Rita B.

Feb. 12 (6th Sunday of Epiphany & Healing Litany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Phyllis F.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers:
 Counter: Mary H.

Feb. 19 (7th Sunday of Epiphany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy
10 am Layreader/Chalice:
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Winonah M.
 Ushers:
 Counter: Janice C.

Feb. 26 (Last Sunday after Epiphany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Larry H.
 Petitioner: Shannon K.
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Rita B.

Mar. 5 (1st Sunday of Lent)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy
10 am Layreader/Chalice
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers:
 Counter: Lorraine W.

Mar. 13 (2nd Sunday of Lent & Healing Litany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers:
 Counter: Meredith T.

We are in need of ushers, and Chalice Bearers, 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.

**News from the Book Group****BEGINS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14 AT 9:30 AM**

We considered 3 books and the book, "Serve God, Save the Planet: A Christian Call to Action". by J. Matthew Sleeth M.D., received the majority of votes. Join us on Tuesday at 9:30 am in Latham Hall for coffee, snacks and lively discussion. Our first

meeting will be on Feb. 14th. Look for additional information during the Peace and in the updates. Below are two excerpts from the book. Seeing a need and acting to meet it is the central theme of this book. Serve God, Save the Planet is a call to individual action. It is a book about the environment written from a Christian's perspective. It proclaims that a problem exists, one as meaningful and real as a sinking ship with billions of passengers aboard. The earth is our ship, an ark for everything that lives. It is the only vessel available to carry humans through the ocean of space, and it is rapidly becoming unseaworthy. (p.2) "Serve God, Save the Planet" asks the following questions: How can I live a more godly, equitable, and meaningful life? How can I help people today and in the future? How can I be less materialistic? How can I live a more charitable life? What would happen if I led a slower-paced existence? What is the spiritual prescription for depression, anxiety, and anger?

How can I become a better steward of nature? (p.3)

Available at Amazon Books: Hardcover, Paperback Prime, and Audible

**Looking Ahead
Ash Wednesday****Services March 1**

Two services will be available

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



**Evening
Prayer on
Wednesdays
at 5:00 pm
led by
Deacon Merle
Smith**

**FEBURARY
DONATIONS FOR THE
SALVATION ARMY**

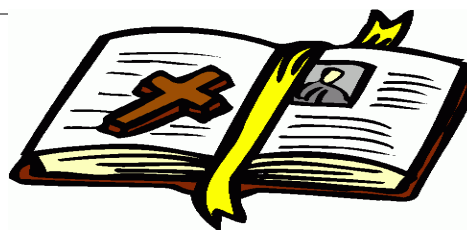
Detergent and
Dish Soap,
also Spaghetti sauce.



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



Daily Lectionary Reading



Week of 5 Epiphany

Sunday	Isa. 57:14-21	Heb. 12:1-6	John 7:37-46
Monday	Isa. 58:1-12	Gal. 6:11-18	Mark 9:30-41
Tuesday	Isa. 59:1-15a	2 Tim. 1:1-14	Mark 9:42-50
Wednesday	Isa. 59:15b-21	2 Tim. 1:15--2:13	Mark 10:1-16
Thursday	Isa. 60:1-17	2 Tim. 2:14-26	Mark 10:17-31
Friday	Isa. 61:1-9	2 Tim. 3:1-17	Mark 10:32-45
Saturday	Isa. 61:10--62:5	2 Tim. 4:1-8	Mark 10:46-52

Week of 6 Epiphany

Sunday	Isa. 62:6-12	1 John 2:3-11	John 8:12-19
Monday	Isa. 63:1-6	1 Tim. 1:1-17	Mark 11:1-11
Tuesday	Isa. 63:7-14	1 Tim. 1:18--2:8	Mark 11:12-26
Wednesday	Isa. 63:15--64:9	1 Tim. 3:1-16	Mark 11:27--12:12
Thursday	Isa. 65:1-12	1 Tim. 4:1-16	Mark 12:13-27
Friday	Isa. 65:17-25	1 Tim. 5:17-22(23-25)	Mark 12:28-34
Saturday	Isa. 66:1-6	1 Tim. 6:6-21	Mark 12:35-44

Week of 7 Epiphany

Sunday	Isa. 66:7-14	1 John 3:4-10	John 10:7-16
Monday	Ruth 1:1-14	2 Cor. 1:1-11	Matt. 5:1-12
Tuesday	Ruth 1:15-22	2 Cor. 1:12-22	Matt. 5:13-20
Wednesday	Ruth 2:1-13	2 Cor. 1:23--2:17	Matt. 5:21-26
Thursday	Ruth 2:14-23	2 Cor. 3:1-18	Matt. 5:27-37
Friday	Ruth 3:1-18	2 Cor. 4:1-12	Matt. 5:38-48
Saturday	Ruth 4:1-17	2 Cor. 4:13--5:10	Matt. 6:1-16

Week of Last Epiphany

Sunday	Deut. 6:1-9	Heb. 12:18-29	John 12:24-32
Monday	Deut. 6:10-15	Heb. 1:1-14	John 1:1-18
Tuesday	Deut. 6:16-25	Heb. 2:1-10	John 1:19-28
Ash Wednesday	Jonah 3:1--4:11	Heb. 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
Thursday	Deut. 7:6-11	Titus 1:1-16	John 1:29-34
Friday	Deut. 7:12-16	Titus 2:1-15	John 1:35-42
Saturday	Deut. 7:17-26	Titus 3:1-15	John 1:43-51



What is God Calling St. Stephen's to Do?

A compilation from The Annual Meeting Table Talk Sessions



On a Personal Level

- Help one another
- Love one another
- Be more welcoming
- Make people feel comfortable
- Be more inclusive
- Increase our spirituality

In General

- Grow the congregation
- Increase our community presence
- More active role in the community
- Work with other churches
- More small group meals & socializing
- Maintain contact with those who have left

Towards Others

- Reach out to the homeless
- Work for social justice
- Establish a missionary outreach
- Work to end human trafficking
- Be a Collection point for NHS Body Project
- Provide community meal
- Feed the Hungry
- Support Tracy's Food Box
- Establish a shelter for the homeless
- Support the back pack program
- Establish an after school program
- Support St. Nick project
- Partner with Salvation Army