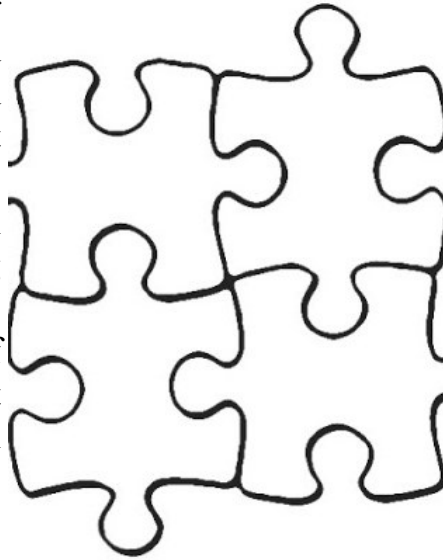


St. Stephen's Beacon

From the desk of Rev. Karen

One of our family traditions was to put together a ginormous jig saw puzzle on Christmas afternoon. We would sit around the dining room table, munching on leftovers, recalling and giggling over the previous night and morning festivities and savor a quiet time of just being together as family. Each person had their own particular way of attacking the puzzle, so there was always a good deal of compromise going on but one thing we all agreed on was the need for organization. The pieces needed to be face up, similar pieces grouped together, and the perimeter of the puzzle complete. Once that was in place we would group together to work on what we did best and eventually attach it to the main structure. This year we had a wonderful picture of snowmen. I worked on the snowmen, my daughter-in-law wasn't all that excited about the puzzle but would occasionally fly past and find the one piece we couldn't place. My daughter worked fast and furiously on the minute details. Between the three of us we had a good deal of fun and successfully completed the puzzle.

In some respects I feel the past year at St. Stephen's has been a bit like putting together a big beautiful puzzle. We have spent a good amount of energy organizing and suc-



cessfully establishing the structure of the parish in order to support or attach the various components of parish life, such as outreach, community activities, education, and worship. Some members of the congregation weren't quite sure how they fit into the big picture, but God's hand led them to find the perfect spot to help complete the big picture. Some were working hard on other projects in their life but took time to lend a helping hand when needed.

There always seems to be some areas of a puzzle that are particularly challenging this requires us to use our imagination and a critical eye to figure out how the pieces should come together. Education, finances and membership fit into this category. Its also important to step back and appreciate what we have accomplished. Our efforts to address how best we can meet the needs of the greater community are coming together, and we are finding joy and fulfillment in playing and working together. There is laughter, mutual support and a growing sense of purpose, but above all one can feel God's love motivating the members of this congregation to seek to do the work that Jesus has asked us to do.

The new year is rich with possibilities and opportunities, so join us at our Annual Meeting on January 8. Let us gather as family as we continue fitting together this beautiful puzzle called St. Stephen's.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

St. Stephen's will hold the annual parish meeting on
Sunday, January 8th

An all parish potluck will follow the 9 am Worship Service. Bring a potluck type dish to share. After the meal we will proceed into the Parish Meeting. This is a very important meeting for the parish with election of new vestry members and also going over the 2017 budget. Who can come to the Annual Meeting? Who can vote and run for office? Anyone who is interested in the state of the Parish is welcome to attend! Vestry elections will also be held at this meeting. In order to vote for or be elected to open Vestry positions, a person must be baptized, older than 16 years of age, faithful in giving to the church, and faithful in attending Sunday worship (unless for good cause prevented) for the last three months.



DONATIONS FOR JANUARY FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Jello, pudding & canned fruit, spaghetti sauce always needed.



**Wednesday
 Evening Prayer
 at 5:00 PM
 led by
 Deacon
 Merle Smith**



CURRENT FINANCIALS

YEAR-TO-DATE November 2016

Income	(Jan.-Nov. 16) \$128,204.27	(YTD Budget) \$ 73,428.52	(Budget) \$ 80,103.84
Expenses	122,684.15	\$109,152.35	\$119,075.29
Difference	58,922.18	-35,723.83	-38,971.45

LITURGICAL ROSTER**Jan. 1 (Holy Name of our Lord)****One Service at 10 am**

9 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Shannon K.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H..
Counter: Rita B.

Jan. 8(1st Epiphany, Renewal of Baptismal Vows & Healing)**One Service at 10 am & Annual Meeting**

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Terry G.
Petitioner: Steve H.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Lorraine W.

Jan. 15 (2nd Sun. after Epiphany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.

10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers: David & Hazel G.
Counter: Janice C.

Jan. 22 (3rd Sun. after Epiphany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Larry H.
Petitioner: Carol K.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counters: Paul K.

Jan. 29 (4th Sun. after Epiphany)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.

10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
Layreader: Phyllis F.
Petitioner Winonah M.
Ushers: David & Hazel G.
Counters: David G.

Feb. 5 (5th Sun. after 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 Sun. after Epiphany & Healing)

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Phyllis F.
Petitioner: Carol K.
Ushers: David & Hazel G.
Counter: Mary H.

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.



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who worked so hard to make the Advent Season such a rich blessing. We give a shout out to the choir, solos and musicians, the Altar Guild and those who decorated and worked behind the scenes, also our Rector Rev. Karen Crawford, and Deacon Merle Smith for your leadership. Our parish is blessed by all your service and commitment.

**January Birthdays**

3rd Karen Crawford, 18th Kay Koeppen,
20th Bill Adams, 21st Carol Kramer,
22nd Kaitlyn Mehmen,
26th Mary Halstead, 27th Dan Kelley
Sr., & Emily Mehmen, 31st Joy Axt
No Listed Anniversaries



Saturday Jan. 14th

at 9:00 am

in the Undercroft

the St. Stephen's

Men's Group meets

Come join us for food, fellowship, scripture and discussion. There is always room for one more!





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

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



In 2017



Daily Lectionary Reading

Eve of 1 Epiphany Isa. 61:1-9 Gal. 3:23-29, 4:4-7
 Sunday Isa. 40:1-11 Heb. 1:1-12 John 1:1-7, 19-20, 29-34

Monday Isa. 40:12-23 Eph. 1:1-14 Mark 1:1-13

Tuesday Isa. 40:25-31 Eph. 1:15-23 Mark 1:14-28

Wednesday Isa. 41:1-16 Eph. 2:1-10 Mark 1:29-45

Thursday Isa. 41:17-29 Eph. 2:11-22 Mark 2:1-12

Friday Isa. 42:(1-9)10-17 Eph. 3:1-13 Mark 2:13-22

Saturday Isa. 43:1-13 Eph. 3:14-21 Mark 2:23--3:6

Week of 2 Epiphany

Sunday Isa. 43:14--44:5 Heb. 6:17--7:10 John 4:27-42

Monday Isa. 44:6-8, 21-23 Eph. 4:1-16 Mark 3:7-19a

Tuesday Isa. 44:9-20 Eph. 4:17-32 Mark 3:19b-35

Wednesday Isa. 44:24--45:7 Eph. 5:1-14 Mark 4:1-20

Thursday Isa. 45:5-17 Eph. 5:15-33 Mark 4:21-34

Friday Isa. 45:18-25 Eph. 6:1-9 Mark 4:35-41

Saturday Isa. 46:1-13 Eph. 6:10-24 Mark 5:1-20

Week of 3 Epiphany

Sunday Isa. 47:1-15 Heb. 10:19-31 John 5:2-18

Monday Isa. 48:1-11 Gal. 1:1-17 Mark 5:21-43

Tuesday Isa. 48:12-21 Gal. 1:18--2:10 Mark 6:1-13

Wednesday Isa. 49:1-12 Gal. 2:11-21 Mark 6:13-29

Thursday Isa. 49:13-23 Gal. 3:1-14 Mark 6:30-46

Friday Isa. 50:1-11 Gal.3:15-22 Mark 6:47-56

Saturday Isa. 51:1-8 Gal. 3:23-29 Mark 7:1-23

Week of 4 Epiphany

Sunday Isa. 51:9-16 Heb. 11:8-16 John 7:14-31

Monday Isa. 51:17-23 Gal. 4:1-11 Mark 7:24-37

Tuesday Isa. 52:1-12 Gal. 4:12-20 Mark 8:1-10

Wednesday Isa. 54:1-10(11-17) Gal. 4:21-31 Mark 8:11-26

Thursday Isa. 55:1-13 Gal. 5:1-15 Mark 8:27--9:1

Friday Isa. 56:1-8 Gal. 5:16-24 Mark 9:2-13

Saturday Isa. 57:3-13 Gal. 5:25--6:10 Mark 9:14-29

FAITH

(F) FORWARDING

(A) ALL

(I) ISSUES

(T) TO

(H) HEAVEN