

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

July 2016

St. Stephen's Beacon

From the Desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford

Recently a letter was sent to members of the Episcopal Church from The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop and The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies. The letter begins by reminding us that scripture can be confusing, hard to understand and open to various interpretations. However, some essential teachings are very clear. Jesus tells us to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves and we are not to be afraid. Bishop Curry goes on to say that it takes courage to follow this commandment and throughout history we have allowed hatred and fear to control our lives. He refers to the Orlando massacre which targeted the LGBTQ community as a most horrific example and laws such as North Carolina's

"Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act" which decimates the civil rights and God-given dignity of transgender people.

On June 10, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church stood against fear and for God's love by passing a resolution that reaffirms the Episcopal Church's support of local, state and federal laws that prevent discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression and voices our opposition to all legislation that seeks to deny the God-given dignity, the legal equality, and the civil rights of transgender people. I was particularly moved by the following statement.

"As Christians, we bear a particular responsibility to speak out in these situations, because attempts to deny transgender people their dignity and humanity as children of God are too often being made in the name of God. This way of fear is not the way of Jesus Christ, and at these times, we have the opportunity to demonstrate our belief that Christianity is not a way of judgment, but a way of following Jesus in casting out fear. In the face of the violence and injustice we see all around us, what can we do?"

When we come face to face with individuals who spew words of hatred, discrimination, and injustice, we are sometimes hard put to know how to respond and thus remain silent. Yet if we say nothing we are giving consent to their views. How do we respond?

You might respond by stating that we are called to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves, and if you too are a follower how do your words or point of view fulfill the commandment "love your neighbor?"

This is a question we also need to ask ourselves on a day by day and minute by minute basis. In fact, it might be a perfect way to begin your evening prayers. In what ways did I live into the Great Commandments? When during the day did I fail? Please dear Lord if I failed forgive me and guide me so that tomorrow I may do better at being the hands, feet, face, and voice of God. The voices of love must drown out the voice of hatred if there is to be justice in this world. How will you add your voice to the growing chorus?



Kids Against Hunger Packaging Event
will be **Saturday, July 9th** at

St. Luke's United Methodist Church (by Berg)

A sign-up sheet for volunteers and sponsors is in Latham Hall.
Time will be announced, but usually 10-11 am.



BEAUTY
is what you feel
about yourself
not about what you
see in the mirror.

QUOTEDIARY.ME

Birthdays for the month of July

Phyllis Trotter 7-1

Marion Templeton 7-22

Brenda Malott 7-24

Peter Roussos 7-26



from
Your St. Stephen's family!!

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

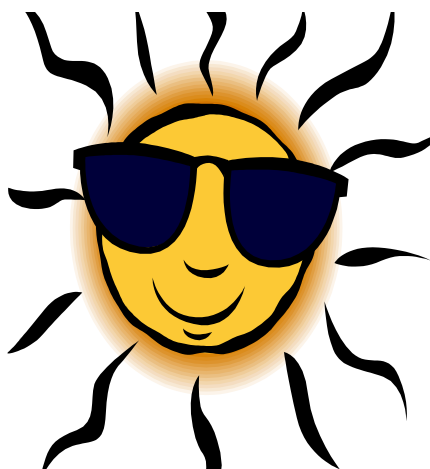
**JULY DONATIONS FOR
 THE SALVATION ARMY**

Canned meat and
 Fish.



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

**This Is A
 Cool Place
 To Go To
 Church!!**



LITURGICAL ROSTER

**July 3 (7th Sun. after Pentecost
 Proper 9)**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
 Layreaders: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Merle Smith
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: David & Hazel G.

**July 10 (8th Sun. after Pentecost
 & Healing Proper 10)**

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

**July 17 (9th Sun. after Pentecost
 Proper 11)**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Larry H.
 Petitioner: Winonah M
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: Dick W.

**July 24 (10th Sun. after Pentecost
 Proper 12)**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: David G.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Ron & Marcy H.
 Counters: David & Hazel G.

**July 31 (11th Sun. after Pentecost
 Proper 13)**

8 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Phyllis F.
 Petitioner: Joy A.
 Ushers: David & Hazel G.
 Counters: Dick & Lorraine W.

**August 7 (12th Sun. after
 Pentecost 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
 Pentecost Proper 15)**

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.



CURRENT FINANCIALS

YEAR-TO-DATE May 2016

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>% of BUDGET</u>
Pledge Income	\$31,629	\$53,604	59.00%
Plate Income	\$ 5,040	\$15,000	33.61%
Group Income	\$ 3,700	\$ 5,899	62.71%
Supplemental Gifts	\$20,000	\$ 3,600	555.56%
Fundraising Sales		\$ 999.96	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	\$60,369	\$80,103	75.36%
<u>DISBURSEMENTS YEAR TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>% OF BUDGET</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$56,203	\$119,075	47.20%

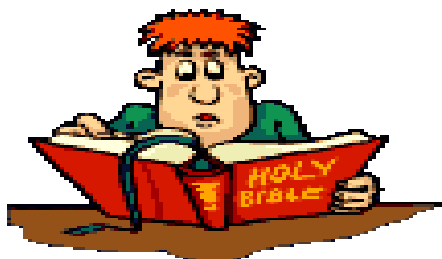


St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
223 East Fourth Street North
Newton, Iowa 50208

Our Vision: We are the hands,
 feet and face of God.



***Celebrate Your
 Independence***
***Monday,
 July 4th***



Daily Lectionary Reading

Proper 9 Week of the Sunday closest to July 6

Sunday Num. 27:12-23 Acts 19:11-20 Mark 1:14-20
 Monday Num. 32:1-6, 16-27 Rom. 8:26-30 Matt. 23:1-12
 Tuesday Num. 35:1-3, 9-15, 30-34 Rom. 8:31-39 Matt. 23:13-26
 Wednesday Deut. 1:1-18 Rom. 9:1-18 Matt. 23:27-39
 Thursday Deut. 3:18-28 Rom. 9:19-33 Matt. 24:1-14
 Friday Deut. 31:7-13, 24--32:4 Rom. 10:1-13 Matt. 24:15-31
 Saturday Deut. 34:1-12 Rom. 10:14-21 Matt. 24:32-51

Proper 10 Week of the Sunday closest to July 13

Sunday Joshua 1:1-18 Acts 21:3-15 Mark 1:21-27
 Monday Joshua 2:1-14 Rom. 11:1-12 Matt. 25:1-13
 Tuesday Joshua 2:15-24 Rom. 11:13-24 Matt. 25:14-30
 Wednesday Joshua 3:1-13 Rom. 11:25-36 Matt. 25:31-46
 Thursday Joshua 3:14--4:7 Rom. 12:1-8 Matt. 26:1-16
 Friday Joshua 4:19--5:1, 10-15 Rom. 12:9-21 Matt. 26:17-25
 Saturday Joshua 6:1-14 Rom. 13:1-17 Matt. 26:26-35

Proper 11 Week of the Sunday closest to July 20

Sunday Joshua 6:15-27 Acts 22:30--23:11 Mark 2:1-12
 Monday Joshua 7:1-13 Rom. 13:8-14 Matt. 26:36-46
 Tuesday Joshua 8:1-22 Rom. 14:1-12 Matt. 26:47-56
 Wednesday Joshua 8:30-35 Rom. 14:13-23 Matt. 26:57-68
 Thursday Joshua 9:3-21 Rom. 15:1-13 Matt. 26:69-75
 Friday Joshua 9:22--10:15 Rom. 15:14-24 Matt. 27:1-10
 Saturday Joshua 23:1-16 Rom. 15:25-33 Matt. 27:11-23

Proper 12 Week of the Sunday closest to July 27

Sunday Joshua 24:1-15 Acts 28:23-31 Mark 2:23-28
 Monday Joshua 24:16-33 Rom. 16:1-16 Matt. 27:24-31
 Tuesday Judges 2:1-5, 11-23 Rom. 16:17-27 Matt. 27:32-44
 Wednesday Judges 3:12-30 Acts 1:1-14 Matt. 27:45-54
 Thursday Judges 4:4-23 Acts 1:15-26 Matt. 27:55-66
 Friday Judges 5:1-18 Acts 2:1-21 Matt. 28:1-10
 Saturday Judges 5:19-31 Acts 2:22-36 Matt. 28:11-20



Before I began my journey to the priesthood I was a member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in West Des Moines, Iowa. Some of my fondest memories are those of volunteering in their food pantry garden. It began as a small plot designed to provide food for the elderly of the congregation but has grown into over an acre of land that provides hundreds of pounds of food to area food banks. However, that is just the tip of the iceberg. Area students volunteer to fulfill their community service requirements, a partnership has developed with LSI which brings volunteers who are refugees from Bhutan, Burma and Central and South America and it has become a gathering place

for those who love to garden.

Working side by side in the garden with the refugees proved to be a remarkable cultural exchange. One day we were asked to weed. Purslane was taking over the garden. Much to our surprise our refugee guests asked if they could take it home. They were encouraged to harvest and take home any vegetables they could use, but purslane? In the states we call it duckweed, pig weed or fatweed and it is certainly not considered something one would eat. It turns out that it is not only delicious but also one of the most nutritious greens. Of course one can't garden without talking about recipes, so we asked how do you fix it? We were told it can be used in salads, sandwiches, pesto, and stews. It tastes a little like spinach or watercress and has a lemony flavor.

So what is the moral to this story? We know that fruits and vegetables are one of the key components to good nutrition but if we don't know how to prepare them they go unused, just like the purslane. Many members and friends of St. Stephen's are contributing to the food pantry, and some of the vegetables we grow might be a mystery vegetable to some who use the food pantry. I asked the folks at the Salvation Army if it would be helpful to include recipes with our donations. They thought that was a great idea! So here is the plan. Whether you are growing veggies or not If you have what you think is a simple, easy and inexpensive recipe, bring it to church, we will make copies and take it to the food pantry. Give us a heads up as to what you take to the food pantry and we can deliver the recipes, or write and copy your own and deliver them with your veggies. Thanks for being part of St. Stephen's garden outreach.

