

ST. STEPHEN'S BEACON

*From the Desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford*

I love summer and I especially love the month of July. I call it the “middle month”- because it marks the middle of the year and the middle of summer. It is flanked by June which is a month to plant some seeds for the future and tie together loose ends from the past. August invites us to kick into high gear and begin plans for the rest of the calendar year. But July...July is a time to catch our breath, reflect, dream, go to a parade, celebrate with friends and just relax.

Now that's not to say that June isn't memorable. June at St. Stephen's was a great kickoff for summer fun. We had our first pantry garden party where we gathered to plant the garden, ask God's blessings, and share a meal together. Trinity Sunday found us worshipping in Latham Hall, eating breakfast while discussing the gospel and sharing the Eucharist. The men in our parish were honored by a contribution in their name to the Episcopal Relief Development and we celebrated in picnic style at the quarterly parish gathering. The vestry met and began planting seeds for the coming program year.

Plans for the new program year are already underway, and in August your vestry plans to survey parishioners to determine how best to meet our needs for the coming year. Be thinking what it is that you love about St. Stephen's, what would make your worship more meaningful, and the programs you would like to see in place.

What does July hold? The vestry will take the month off to dream. I plan to visit my daughters and celebrate the impending birth of my first grandchild. I hope your month will also include some get away time, be it near or far. Wherever you are, include Sunday worship and bring back ideas that you find noteworthy from your visit.

This month Jesus teaches us through the use of parables, which are always fun to read and reflect upon, so don't miss the opportunity to explore their many meanings. Be safe in your summer fun, get out and enjoy God's creation and give thanks.



Blessings

**TO
OTHERS**

Blessing box needs

Slim Jims, Body soap (bars work), lotion, Chef Boyardee products, spaghetti and meat sauce, Vienna sausages, tuna, pasta, ring-top canned goods, fruit cups, tooth brushes and paste, hand sanitizer.

With your help we can keep it stocked.

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED MONDAY, JULY 3RD AND
TUESDAY, JULY 4TH .



*If I had a flower
for every time you made me
smile and laugh
I'd have a garden to walk in
forever.*

*from
Your
St. Stephen's
family!!*



- Birthdays for the month of July
- 7-1—Phyllis Trotter & Rosie Rodewald
 - Marion Templeton 7-22
 - Brenda Malott 7-24
 - Peter Roussos 7-26
 - Kate Mallot 7-30

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

July 2 (4th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 8)

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

July 9 (5th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 9)

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

July 16 (Morning Prayer & Healing Litany)

10 am Healing: Steve H.

July 23 (7th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 11)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Phyllis F.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Brenda M. & Roxanne V.
Counter: Janice C.

July 30 (8th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 12)

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

August 6 (The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Meredith & Jim T.

Layreader: Larry H.
Petitioner: Shannon K.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Lorraine W.

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

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



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



The Vestry will not meet during the month of July



JULY DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Canned meat and Fish.

CURRENT FINANCIALS

YEAR-TO-DATE May 2017



| | <u>May</u> | <u>Year-to-date</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income | \$ 3,392.93 | \$40,240.55 |
| Expenses | \$14,262.24 | \$61,380.71 |
| Difference | (\$10,869.31) | (\$21,140.16) |

We are in need of ushers, petitioners, if interested see Rev. Karen or Deacon Merle.



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
Tuesday,
July 4th***



The Community Gardens have been cultivated and growing nicely. Those who wish to help in additional planting, watering and weeding are welcome. Contact Steve for instructions. More hands keeps the gardens growing.

