

ST. STEPHEN'S BEACON

*From the Desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford*

Gathering To Celebrate Our Mutual Ministry

One of the many things I love about the Episcopal church is that it is the people's church. It is not top down as in Father knows best (or Mother). It is our church and each member is given the opportunity to be a decision maker to determine its future. That opportunity extends at all levels: the parish, the diocese and the national church. At the parish level we gather in January to reflect on the past, plan for the future and most importantly celebrate our life together as a faith family. Our Annual Meeting is more than a time to approve last year's minutes, finances and the coming year's budget. It is an opportunity to make known our concerns, our hopes, and our ideas. October brings an invitation to participate in the Diocesan convention either through your physical presence or prayer. This mirrors the parish annual meeting, but of course, the decisions that are made impact the entire diocese. This year promises to be an extraordinary experience. Unlike previous gatherings, the closing Eucharist will be on Sunday and we will be blessed with the presence of the Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. All are invited to worship as one body, whether we gather in person or via the internet at our local parish. It promises to be a most memorable convention. Every three years the Episcopal church gathers for a general convention. This year the 79th General Convention will be held in Austin, Texas from July 5 to the 13th. These are just a few of the "hot" topics which will come under consideration, but the entire list may be found by going to bit.ly/GCVirtualBinder.

Budget-The 2019-2021 budget is based on "The Jesus Movement" with evangelism, racial reconciliation and justice, and environmental stewardship as priorities.

Revision of the Book of Common Prayer- Conversation on this topic is expected to center around next steps following the report of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. The report offered two suggestions: start work on a full prayer book

revision, with a minimum nine-year timeline, or live more fully into the prayer book as it exists now.

Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation (Becoming a Beloved Community)- These are ongoing priorities of the Episcopal Church. Conversation is expected to continue on their budget implications and continued efforts.

Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Gender Bias

Gun Violence

Cuba- Until the rise of Fidel Castro, there was an Episcopal Diocese in Cuba as part of TEC. With a change in government, the discussion at General Convention is expected to center around if and how to invite the ongoing Church in Cuba back into the TEC fold.

Marriage Rites- This topic continues the prayer book conversation, deciding which liturgies will be available for use and whether liturgies following the 78th General Convention will replace those in the prayer book. Conversation is also expected to determine how long diocesan bishops will be able to give or withhold approval for the performing of same-sex marriages within a diocese.

I encourage you to follow the general convention by going to generalconvention.org. There you will find a complete list of resolutions, their outcomes and TEconversations.

Please keep all who participate in your prayers.

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who participate in the General Convention for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach them in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide them to perceive what is right, and grant them both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Blessings

**TO
OTHERS**

Blessing box needs
In need of donations. Keep an eye out for weekly specials at local grocery stores. Place your donations in the blessing box bin in Latham Hall.

The Tuesday Morning Book Club
“Tattoos on the Heart”
by Gregory Boyle
Meets every Tuesday
at 9:30 am



JULY DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
Canned meat and Fish.



See the Back Page for Outreach Opportunities



*Have
Faith
in
GOD*

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Birthdays for the month of July
7-1—Phyllis Trotter & Rosie Rodewald
Marion Templeton 7-22
Brenda Malott 7-24
Kate Mallot 7-30
No Anniversaries

St. Stephen's Vestry 2018

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



LITURGICAL ROSTER

July 1 (6th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 8)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreaderr: Barry Hurto
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Rita B.

July 8 (7th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 9)

10 am Layreader/Chalice:
 Meredith & Jim T.
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Zeb T.
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Lorraine W.

July 15 (8th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 10)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Steve H.
 Ushers:
 Counter: Mary H.

July 22 (9th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 11)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
 Layreader: Zeb T.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Paul K.

July 29 (10th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 12)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner:
 Ushers:
 Counter: Rita B.

August 5 (The Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ) 11th Sun. after Pentecost, Proper 13

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

August 12 (12th Sun. after Pentecost Proper 14)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
 Layreader: Barry H.
 Petitioner: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Paul K.

THE PARISH OFFICE
 WILL BE CLOSED
 WEDNESDAY,
 JULY 4th
 (no Evening Prayer)



**Wednesday
 Evening Prayer
 at 5:15 PM
 led by
 Deacon
 Merle Smith
 (cancelled on
 July 4th)**



**Sunday,
 July 15
 Vestry Meets
 at 11:30 am in
 the Undercroft**

CURRENT FINANCIALS

YEAR-TO-DATE May 2018



| | <u>May</u> | <u>Year-to-date</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$19,891.18 | \$44,559.23 |
| Expenses | \$15,622.66 | \$49,543.73 |
| Difference | \$ 4,268.52 | -\$ 4,984.50 |

**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
Wednesday,
July 4th***

JustFaith

St. Stephen's has been chosen to host the new JustFaith program in Jasper County. JustFaith is designed for people who want to live more simply, love more compassionately, and make a difference by responding to the needs of the world. Through prayer, engaging reading, thought-provoking dialogue and relationship building, you'll share a journey of faith that invites you to consider how you can "be the change" in our world. The JustFaith program is truly life changing. An earlier version was offered several years ago at St. Stephen's and I feel it was instrumental in changing our inward focus to one which asked why there are people in our community who are homeless and living from day to day not knowing if they will have food to put on the table for their family. St. Stephen's is making a difference in the Newton community and surrounding communities through the Blessing Box, Laundry Nights, food donations from our garden, food recovery at the Farmers Market and more.

JustFaith is made up of three, eight-week phases that can be taken individually or together. The three phases of JustFaith are:

- **Phase 1, Living Compassionately:** Caring for the Poor, this focuses on poverty, consumerism, and the Gospel call to care for those in need. (October 10)
- **Phase 2, Living Justly:** Caring for Each Other, develops a deeper understanding about issues of racial and economic justice. (January 6)
- **Phase 3, Living Simply:** Caring for the Earth, encourages participants to embrace the invitation to care for the earth while learning more about the intersection between poverty and environmental stewardship. (to be decided)

The program will begin October 10 and will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm at Stephen's Episcopal Church in Latham Hall. If you wish to register or would like more information go to the Center for Social Ministry website (local coordinator of the JustFaith program) at <http://www.centerforsocialministry.org/programs/justfaith-ministries/justfaith/>. Janice Carpenter, Mary and Steve Halstead, and Kathy Trotter would also love to share their knowledge of this program. I ask your help in spreading the word about this exciting opportunity with your friends and neighbors.

Reverend Karen

Outreach Opportunities



Take Away Hunger

**Saturday, July 7 at 11 am at
St. Luke's United Methodist (by Berg)**

Sign-up sheet in Latham Hall.

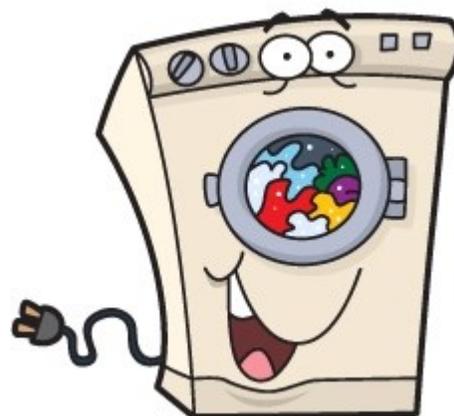
Reminder: don't forget to wear your
St. Stephen's t-shirt.

Laundry Nights

St. Stephen's will host on

Monday, July 9 and 23

*Come join the fun and meet your neighbor.
Sign up in Latham Hall for one of the two
nights and the time slot you wish to
volunteer.*



Community Gardens

have been cultivated and growing nicely.
Those who wish to help in additional
planting, watering and weeding and
harvest are welcome.

We meet Tuesdays around 11 am,
all the tools are available, just bring
willing hands.



