

St. Stephen's Beacon

From the desk of Rev. Karen Crawford

This winter has brought us to our knees with record breaking cold and mountains of ice and snow which has kept many of us holed up like bears in their wintery den. But take heart, March has arrived and with it the promise that spring is on the horizon.

This March promises to be full of exciting opportunities. March 3rd marks the last Sunday of Epiphany and from there we move into Lent. On Shrove Tuesday (March 5th) the men of St. Stephen's will treat us to a dinner of pancakes and sausage.

Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday with a noon and 7pm Eucharist and imposition of ashes. During Lent there will be one Sunday service held at 9:30am followed by coffee hour in Latham Hall. We will continue the Saturday evening service and supper on the first and third Saturday of the month and on Wednesdays we will have Evening prayer with Eucharist followed by a soup supper and Bible study.

On March 16 we will host Engaging All Disciples Day for the Central Chapter. On this day, St. Paul's of Grinnell and St. Paul's of Marshalltown will join us along with Bishop Scarf to share and collaborate, join in fellowship during dinner and worship together. Sunday will be the Bishop's visitation and an opportunity for us to share our hopes and dreams for the future.

I am excited to enter into Lent with the entire congregation gathered as one to lift our voices in prayer and song, to come to God's table and study. Our focus will be Walking in the Way of Love and living out our baptismal promise to love and serve the Lord and care for our neighbors. Each Sunday there will be a designated second offering for those in need.

Make and keep your Lent holy by designating time in your life to pray, meditate and attend services each week.





LENT OFFERINGS

Prepare your heart for the Lenten Season.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, noon and 7:00pm:
Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes.

Evening Prayer/Eucharist, Wednesday 5:15pm: Join us on Wednesdays for prayer, soup supper, and Lenten study. Led by clergy and lay leaders.

Participate in Lent Madness- Get to know some amazing people who have come before us in the faith. There's no reason for a dreary Lenten discipline. This helps you to connect with the risen Christ during this season of penitence and renewal, and have a bit of fun in the process. The format is straightforward: 32 saints are placed into a tournament-like single elimination bracket. Each pairing remains open for a set period of time and people vote for their favorite saint. 16 saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo. The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch. Go to lentmadness.org to sign up for the fun.

Mary's Way of the Cross, April 12 5:00pm: Gain a greater appreciation of what Christ did for us, and a deeper love for him and our brothers and sisters. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, made the first Way of the Cross. These Stations of the Cross present that viewpoint and help us see through Mary's eyes what Jesus was going through on the way to Calvary. We then try to make practical applications to our own lives.



LITURGICAL ROSTER



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

9th Kathy Trotter
21st Joyce Rabedeaux

Happy birthday from your family at St. Stephen's

NO ANNIVERSARIES



Mar. 3 (Last Sunday after Epiph.)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Rev. Merle S.
Petitioner: Rev. Merle S.

Ushers:
Counter: Rita B.

Mar. 10 (1st Sunday in Lent)

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Jason M.

Ushers:
Counter: Lorraine W.

Mar. 17 (2nd Sunday in Lent with Bishop Scarfe)

9:30 Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.

Layreader: Steve H.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Meredith T.

Mar. 24 (3rd Sunday in Lent)

9:30 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers:
Counter: Janice C.

Mar. 31 (4th Sunday in Lent)

9:30am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Rita B.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers:
Counter: Rita B.

Apr. 7 (5th Sunday in Lent)

9:30am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
Layreader: Rev. Merle S.
Petitioner: Rev. Merle S.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Paul K.

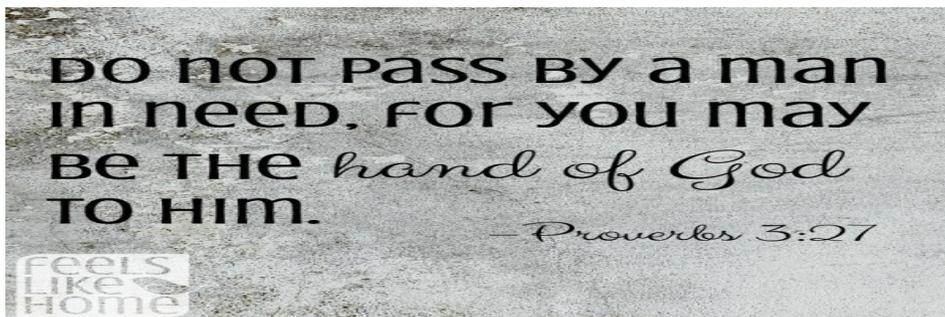
Apr. 14

9:30 am



Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Lorraine W.

We are in need of ushers, and Petitioners and those to sign up for coffee time. See Rev. Karen or Rev. Merle.



MARCH DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Pancake, muffin, bread mixes and syrup. Also spaghetti sauce.



The Vestry meeting will be announced

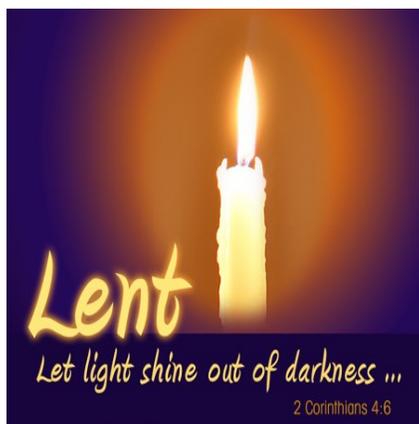


JANUARY 2019

YEAR-TO-DATE

INCOME	\$ 5,899.00	\$ 4,410.00
EXPENSES	\$ 9,371.04	\$ 8,469.17
DIFFERENCE	\$-3,472.04	\$-4,059.17

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



*The Reverend Cathleen Chittenden Bascom will be ordained
and consecrated a Bishop in the one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church and seated as the Tenth Bishop
of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas on
Saturday, March 2, 2019.*

*Reverend Cathleen faithfully served as rector of St. Stephen's
for many years. The vestry invites you to contribute a
monetary gift to honor this important step in her ministry.
If you wish to contribute please do so by March 10.
You may either mail or bring to church a check.
Please write Bascom Ordination in the memo line.*



Do You Want To Fast This Lent? In the words of Pope Francis

- ♦ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ♦ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ♦ Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- ♦ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ♦ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ♦ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ♦ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ♦ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ♦ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others .
- ♦ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ♦ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

