

St. Stephen's Beacon

Rev. Karen Crawford

I would like to thank all those who participated in the Parish survey and especially our vestry members who donated a tremendous amount of time in order to contact fellow parishioners. In general the results indicate there is a feeling of well being. Many commented on the gift of community and that St. Stephen's is truly a spiritual family. Having opportunities to reach out to those in need via the Blessing Box, Crop Walk, Take Away Hunger, the pantry garden and so many other activities provide meaningful experiences and opportunities to live into our baptismal covenant of caring for those less fortunate.

There was a common thread in the response to questions concerning our challenges, problems and priorities. There is concern that we are lacking young families with children, we need more parishioners in order to continue our outreach efforts, and we need to expand our choir. Suggestions focused on adding a service that would allow those who are unable to attend on Sunday a time to worship. Saturday or some other alternate time was suggested.



I share with you the desire to have more children, more young families, a larger choir, and a sanctuary bustling with people every Sunday. However, our greatest concern should be bringing God's love to those who have fallen away or have never known the joy of being part of God's community. That was the focus

of this year's diocesan convention. How do we proclaim the gospel, how do we share the good news? It starts with telling our own story of how Jesus has changed our life. Much of what you shared in the survey of what makes St. Stephen's special to you is a beginning to your story. Your story might end with, "come and see", join me this Sunday for a special service such as All Saints' Sunday or the

Service of Remembrance during Advent, join us as we help feed the hungry

***Come
and
See!***



STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN WITH IN-GATHERING ON SUNDAY NOV. 19th

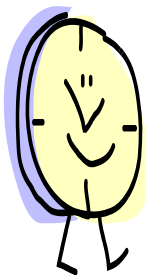
It is once again that time of year to talk about our stewardship—a giving back to God of our time, talents and treasure. Each of us is commissioned to examine our individual and family situations, and prayerfully discern our levels of giving. A large portion of that duty involves setting a budget for the coming year, which is far more easily facilitated and accurate when the Finance Committee has a clear idea of income. Please know that your pledge is not a binding contract. It is merely a statement of your intentions, and may be modified at any time if your circumstances change. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

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



Women's Group— Saturday, Nov. 4th at 10 am in the undercroft

We will be decorating turkeys this week. These are made from items such as bottles, pine cones, craft paper, etc. We have ideas or you can bring your own. We will also be cutting shoe soles cut from solar screens for those that need extra padding in their shoes. Come join us for a fun time.

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 5th turn your clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 4th.

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



They are always in need of boxed mac & cheese, tuna helper, canned tuna, ramen noodles, all soups.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
Soup and crackers



LITURGICAL ROSTER

**Nov. 5 All Saints' Sunday
(22nd Pentecost, Proper 26)**

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.
Ushers: Marcy & Ron H.
Counter : Lorraine W.

Nov. 12 (23rd Pent., Proper 27)

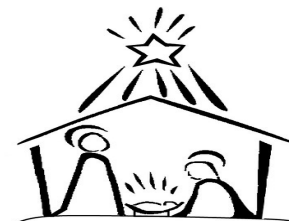
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Caleb V.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Janice C.

Nov. 19 24th Pent., Proper 28

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.
Layreader: Larry H.
Petitioner: Steve H.
Ushers: Brenda M. &
Counter: Mary H.

**Nov. 26 Christ the King
Sunday (Last Pent.)**

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim &
Meredith T.
Layreader: Winonah M.
Petitioner: Jason M.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Paul K.



Dec. 3 First Advent

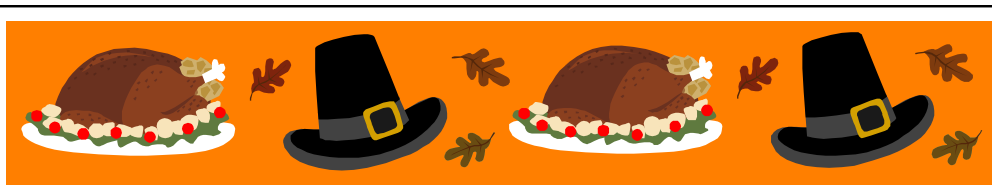
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
Layreader: Barry H.
Petitioner: Winonah M.
Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
Counter: Janice C.

Dec. 10 Second Advent

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
Layreader: Larry H.
Petitioner: Deacon Merle S.
Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
Counter: Paul K.

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

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.



LOOKING AHEAD IN NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 5—All Saints' Day

Sunday, November 19—In-Gathering Sunday

Wednesday, November 22—Thanksgiving Service at 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 26—Christ the King Sunday



**Saturday, November 11th
at 9 am is Men's Group**

Come enjoy the scripture study,
sharing and food.



**Vestry meets
Sunday, Nov. 19th
at 11:30 am
in the Undercroft**

November Birthdays

8th—Darlene Koppin and Roxanne Van Ervelde
9th—Meredith Tracy 14th—Vinny Kotz 28th—Herb Freeman

November Anniversaries

8th—Darlene Koppin

From your St. Stephen's family we wish you all many more!!



CURRENT FINANCIALS

	<u>September 2017</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
Income	\$2,895.75	\$85,693.00
Expenses	\$9,438.82	\$98,754.57
Difference	(-\$6,543.07)	(-\$13,061.57)



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

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



**Stewardship
In-Gathering
Is
Sunday,
November
19th**



**Give Thanks
With A Grateful Heart**

ALL CHURCH SUPPER GATHERING

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Friday, December 1—will be the next all church gathering for supper. Social will be 6:30pm, with the meal at 7:30 pm. Janice Carpenter will bring ham balls (yum) and we ask that everyone else bring a potluck dish to go with them. This year's supper out-reach will be donating items to the blessing box such as:

socks

gloves

chap stick

bandaids

small individual kleenex

small tubes of lotion

small duct tape (to tape shoes together)

small hand sanitizer

coats

Note: It would be very helpful if one of each item (5 or 6 bandaids rather than a whole box) were packed in quart plastic storage bags.

We are again going to play bingo (back by popular demand). Bring bingo prizes of hat or mittens/gloves that will then in turn be donated to the Blessing Box.



DECEMBER WOMEN'S GROUP

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Saturday, December 2—is a cookie exchange. Bring 3 dozen of a variety of cookies and take 3 dozen home.

(if you don't bake - bring some from Hy-Vee or Fareway).

