

## St. Stephen's Beacon

Rev. Karen Crawford

The trees have dropped their leaves, the squirrels are working overtime to bury the walnuts and days are growing shorter by the minute. November is a time of preparation and celebration, of thanksgiving and Change! It is an exciting time of year both in the secular world and in the church.

At St. Stephen's we begin with All Saints' Day which this year will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6. This is a time to remember all who have gone before us. You are invited to bring memorabilia of your loved ones to place on the table of remembrance, to light a candle in their name and join all the Saints past and present as we celebrate the Eucharist.

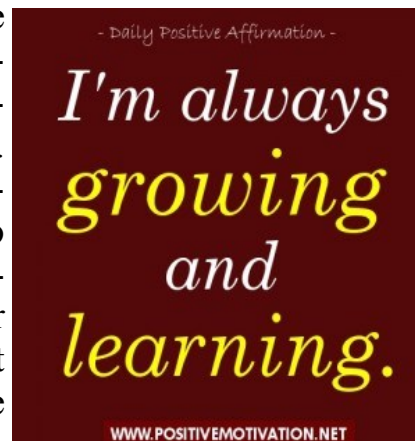
Sunday, November 20 is Ingathering Sunday and marks the end of our stewardship drive. It will then be time to prepare the 2017 budget. It is vitally important that 100% of our households pledge, whether it is \$10 or \$10,000. This will enable us to prepare a budget that will be fiscally responsible, and determine to what extent we are able to serve our church community, the church plant and the wider community that calls this church their home.

By popular request our Thanksgiving service will be on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm. Let's put the thanks back in Thanksgiving by sing-

ing some of our favorite hymns, gathering at the Lord's Table and coming together as a family of faith.

No sooner than the last of the turkey is made into soup or hash the church celebrates the beginning of Advent and a new liturgical year. We bid farewell to the Gospel of Luke and welcome Year A, the Gospel of Matthew.

This past year has been an explosion of new ministries. We are blessed with a vibrant men and women's group, a Tuesday morning book chat, and an ever growing choir. We've enjoyed coming together in small groups and large groups to celebrate Mardi Gras, Oktoberfest and look forward to this year's Christmas party. Folks supported the Crop Walk, packaged meals, to alleviate hunger both here and abroad, and supported the Salvation Army's food pantry plus the ARL. Those who are in need of prayer may now turn to the prayer team, and there is a hospitality committee standing ready to offer a hand when meals and receptions are needed. We are called to be the hands, feet and face of God and have been blessed to be able to accept that call. The new year brings exciting possibilities as to how we might continue to do God's work. Let us be thankful for the blessings of the past year and receptive to the opportunities offered us in the year to come.





## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN WITH IN-GATHERING ON SUNDAY NOV. 20th

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.

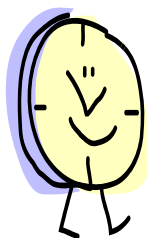
**Wednesday  
Evening Prayer  
at 5:00 PM  
led by Deacon  
Merle Smith**



A big thank you to Rita Baker, Bev Clark, Jonnelle Farver, Rochelle Dungan, Barry Hurto and Jim Tracy for participating in the 2016 CROP Walk to combat hunger in the USA and abroad, which was held on Sunday, Oct. 2nd. We also want to thank our chairperson, Kay Koeppen. Kate Malott of St. Stephen's and the Newton Daily News took publicity photos, one of which appeared on the front page of the newspaper. The St. Stephen's team raised over \$500 from generous donors, which was matched by a commitment approved by the Vestry. \$1000 to help fight hunger—WOW! Finally, thanks go to CROP County Chairman Terry Townsend of Sacred Heart Church and the Carters from the Salvation Army for arranging a reception for the participants.

God has blessed all of us!

*Submitted by Barry Hurto*



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 6th turn your clock back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 5th.



They are always in need of spaghetti sauce.

**NOVEMBER  
DONATIONS  
FOR THE  
SALVATION  
ARMY**

**Soup and  
crackers**

**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
- Kathy Trotter



**LITURGICAL ROSTER**

**Nov. 6 All Saints' Sunday  
(25th Pentecost, Proper 27)**

**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith Tracy  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B. Layreader: Barry H.  
 Petitioner: Jason M.  
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
 Counters:

**Nov. 13 Healing Litany  
(26th Pent., Proper 28)**

**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H. Layreader: Winonah M.  
 Petitioner: Steve H.  
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
 Counters: Mary H. & Meredith T.

**Nov. 20 Christ the King and In-gathering Sunday**

**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: David G. Layreader: Larry H.  
 Petitioner: Carol K.  
 Ushers: David & Hazel G.  
 Counters: Lorraine w. & Janice C.



**Nov. 27 First Advent**

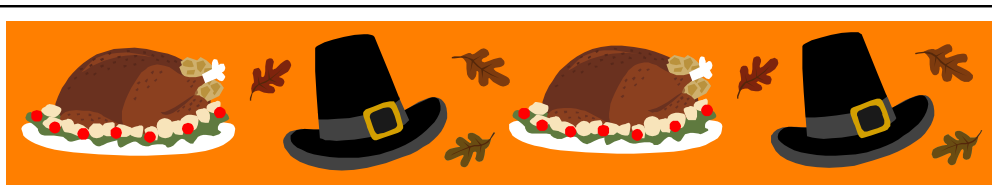
**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Rita B. Layreader: Terry G.  
 Petitioner: Shannon K.  
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.  
 Counters: Rita B. & Christopher T.

**Dec. 4 Second Advent**

**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: David G. Layreader: Barry H.  
 Petitioner: Winonah M.  
 Ushers: David & Hazel G  
 Counters: David G. & Paul K.

**Dec. 11 Third Advent**

**8 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H.  
**10 am** Layreader/Chalice: Steve H. Layreader: Phyllis F.  
 Petitioner: Carol K.  
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.  
 Counters: Mary H. & Meredith T.



**LOOKING AHEAD IN NOVEMBER**

**Sunday, November 6—All Saints' Day**

**Sunday, November 13—Healing Litany & Vestry meets**

**Sunday, November 20—Christ the King Sunday & In-gathering**

**Wednesday, November 23—Thanksgiving Service at 7:30 pm**

**Sunday, November 27—First Advent**



**Vestry meets  
Sunday, Nov. 13th  
at 11:30 am  
in the Undercroft**

**Saturday, November 12th  
at 9 am is Men's Group**

Come enjoy the scripture study, sharing and food.



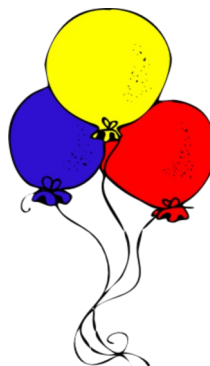
**CURRENT FINANCIALS**

	<u>September 2016</u>	<u>Year-to-date</u>
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$4,366.82</b>	<b>\$99,300.11</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$11,270.09</b>	<b>\$103,48.44</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>(\$6,903.27)</b>	<b>\$4,180.33</b>

**November Birthdays**

8th—Darlene Koppin and Roxanne VanErsvelde  
 9th—Meredith Tracy  
 14th—Vinny Kota  
 28th—Herb Freeman

*From your St. Stephen's family we wish you all a very happy birthday and many more!!*



**The Women's Group will meet  
Saturday, Nov. 5th at 9:30am  
in the Undercroft.**

We are studying the book entitled "Bad Girls of the Bible". Join us for coffee conversation, and much more.

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

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



## Daily Lectionary Reading

### Proper 26 Week of the Sunday closest to October 30

Sunday	Neh. 5:1-19	Acts 20:7-12	Luke 12:22-31
Monday	Neh. 6:1-19	Rev. 10:1-11	Matt. 13:36-43
Tuesday	Neh. 12:27-31a, 42b-47	Rev. 11:1-19	Matt. 13:44-52
Wednesday	Neh. 13:4-22	Rev. 12:1-12	Matt. 13:53-58
Thursday	Ezra 7:(1-10)11-26	Rev. 14:1-13	Matt. 14:1-12
Friday	Ezra 7:27-28; 8:21-36	Rev. 15:1-8	Matt. 14:13-21
Saturday	Ezra 9:1-15	Rev. 17:1-14	Matt. 14:22-36

### Proper 27 Week of the Sunday closest to November 6

Sunday	Ezra 10:1-17	Acts 24:10-21	Luke 14:12-24
Monday	Neh. 9:1-15(16-25)	Rev. 18:1-8	Matt. 15:1-20
Tuesday	Neh. 9:26-38	Rev. 18:9-20	Matt. 15:21-28
Wednesday	Neh. 7:73b--8:3, 5-18	Rev. 18:21-24	Matt. 15:29-39
Thursday	1 Macc. 1:1-28	Rev. 19:1-10	Matt. 16:1-12
Friday	1 Macc. 1:41-63	Rev. 19:11-16	Matt. 16:13-20
Saturday	1 Macc. 2:1-28	Rev. 20:1-6	Matt. 16:21-28

### Proper 28 Week of the Sunday closest to November 13

Sunday	1 Macc. 2:29-43, 49-50	Acts 28:14b-23	Luke 16:1-13
Monday	1 Macc. 3:1-24	Rev. 20:7-15	Matt. 17:1-13
Tuesday	1 Macc. 3:25-41	Rev. 21:1-8	Matt. 17:14-21
Wednesday	1 Macc. 3:42-60	Rev. 21:9-21	Matt. 17:22-27
Thursday	1 Macc. 4:1-25	Rev. 21:22--22:5	Matt. 18:1-9
Friday	1 Macc. 4:36-59	Rev. 22:6-13	Matt. 18:10-20
Saturday	Isa. 65:17-25	Rev. 22:14-21	Matt. 18:21-35

### Proper 29 Week of the Sunday closest to November 20

Sunday	Isa. 19:19-25	Rom. 15:5-13	Luke 19:11-27
Monday	Joel 3:1-2, 9-17	1 Pet. 1:1-12	Matt. 19:1-12
Tuesday	Nahum 1:1-13	1 Pet. 1:13-25	Matt. 19:13-22
Wednesday	Obadiah 15-21	1 Pet. 2:1-10	Matt. 19:23-30
Thursday	Zeph. 3:1-13	1 Pet. 2:11-25	Matt. 20:1-16
Friday	Isa. 24:14-23	1 Pet. 3:13--4:6	Matt. 20:17-28
Saturday	Micah 7:11-20	1 Pet. 4:7-19	Matt. 20:29-34

### Week of 1 Advent

Sunday	Amos 1:1-5, 13--2:8	1Thess. 5:1-11	Luke 21:5-19
Monday	Amos 2:6-16	2 Pet. 1:1-11	Matt. 21:1-11
Tuesday	Amos 3:1-11	2 Pet. 1:12-21	Matt. 21:12-22
Wednesday	Amos 3:12--4:5	2 Pet. 3:1-10	Matt. 21:23-32
Thursday	Amos 4:6-13	2 Pet. 3:11-18	Matt. 21:33-46
Friday	Amos 5:1-17	Jude 1-16	Matt. 22_1-14
Saturday	Amos 5:18-27	Jude 17-25	Matt. 22:15-22



## What is a Reverse Advent Box?

This is the question I put to Winonah McGee when she suggested this as being part of the December Christmas Dinner. I have heard of Advent Calendars but not a reverse Advent box. This was her response, “The idea comes from the Advent calendar being a way to count down to Christmas, sometimes with a small gift or treat each day. Why not count down (in our case) the 12 days of Christmas by giving a daily gift to someone else? Thusly a reverse countdown to Christmas.” With a little more prodding I am able to share with you more about this project. It sounds like fun! We hope you will be able to participate.

Do you remember "The Best Christmas Ever"? Was it gifts? Was it being with special people? Was it tradition and ritual?

This year you have an opportunity to make this "The Best Christmas Ever" for someone that might not have as much as you/I have been blessed with. Starting Nov. 20 each of us can make a difference by picking up a Reverse Advent Box and filling it with personal items, toys, food, socks, mittens, hats, etc. Divided boxes (such as boxes wine bottles come in) will be available at the Church or from Winonah McGee. Between Nov. 20 and our Christmas party, Dec. 2, please fill one section each day with a gift—please make it a new item. If you can let Winonah know before Nov. 15 that you are interested, she will have time to gather enough boxes for all those interested ( or if you want to save wine bottle boxes that would help also). You can designate whether your box goes to the Salvation Army or to St. Nick's Christmas Club. Then bring your box to the Dec. 2nd "Best Christmas Party" ever and help make this the "Best Christmas Ever" for someone else this year.

