

St. Stephen's Beacon

*From the desk of
Rev. Karen Crawford*

ARE YOU READY?

September begins the new program year at St. Stephen's and it promises to be full of new opportunities for fun, service and a deepening of our relationship with God. We kick off the year with one service at 9:00 on September 10 followed by a picnic at my place...yard games, potluck, and conversation.

Calendar wise this will be an unusual year: Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, as is New Year's Eve. Lent presents its own unusual calendar. Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day and Easter Day is on April Fool's Day. Your liturgy and music committee has planned some exciting services which address the unusual placement of our major feast days. For instance, we will celebrate Epiphany with a special service on Saturday which will include a delightful pageant and parish dinner. We will have an opportunity to worship in new ways but also revisit our traditional services, such as the Blessing of the Animal, All Souls/All Saints Day, Thanksgiving Eve and the Blue Christmas service of Hope and Remembrance. So the old will be blended with the new, but most important we will have many wonderful ways to worship.

The Adult Bible study begins Sunday, September 17, and will be led by Kathy Trotter this year. The focus will be on Holy Women and Holy Men. This promises to be an exciting way to understand how God has been present in the lives of men and women

throughout the ages, whom we lift up as saints. The Book Club's fall focus is on the Holy Spirit and we will begin by reading "Who is the Holy Spirit"? A Walk with the Apostles by Amos Long. Join us on Tuesday's at 9 for coffee, treats, and great conversation. The women's group will continue to meet on the first Saturday of the month and the men's will meet the second Saturday.

Our emphasis this year is, what is God calling us to do, both as an individual and a parish to bring justice to the world. The food pantry garden is in need of people to harvest beans, potatoes, and tomatoes while the Crop Walk and Take Away Hunger efforts will soon be requesting volunteers. St. Stephen's deepening relationship with the Sudanese community is bringing to light their many needs and the question how might we help is becoming a strong call. The need for contributions to the Blessing Box and the Salvation Army remain an important part of our ministry.

Daily we face our own personal needs as well as those in the greater community. Sometimes it feels overwhelming. It is when we gather as a community to pray and come to the Lord's table, that we receive the strength and guidance to face the sometimes troubled waters in our life. Join us in prayer and fellowship as we begin the new program year!



St. Stephen's New Program Year Begins Sunday, Sept. 10th

On Sunday, Sept. 10 we are kicking off the new year with our annual Parish Picnic at 11:30 am at Rev. Karen's residence. The Choir will be back also, and we missed your beautiful voices. Sunday, Sept. 17th at 9 am is our Adult Bible study led by Kathy Trotter. The focus will be Holy Women and Holy Men. This sounds like an exciting program.



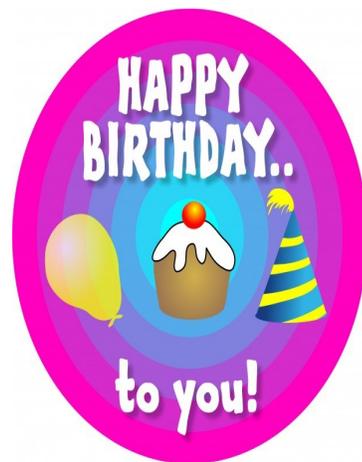
**Vestry meets
Sunday, Sept. 17
at 11:30 am
in the undercroft.**

Birthdays for the month of September

- 1st Christopher Templeton
- 3rd Steve Halstead
- 9th Shelby Rodenberg
- 20th Makia Henderson
- 30th John Dungan

Happy birthday wishes from your family at St. Stephen's.

No Anniversaries



**Jesus Taught
us how to
Serve Others**

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

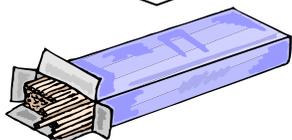


JASPER COUNTY CROP WALK SUNDAY, OCT. 1st AT 2:00 P. M.

(registration at 1:30)

The walk begins at 2 pm from the Newton Courthouse lawn. Please walk with a friend or sponsor a walker. The money collected will be used for local food pantries and world hunger.

**SEPTEMBER DONATIONS
FOR THE SALVATION ARMY
Rice & Pasta.**

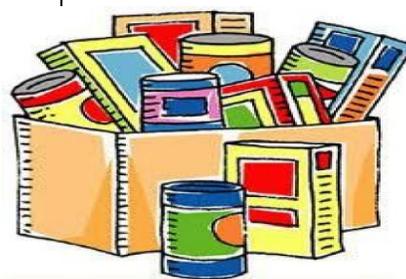


**Wednesday
Evening Prayer
at 5:15 PM led by
Deacon
Merle Smith**



Blessing Box needs:

toilet paper, kleenex (ind. pkgs.), sm.flashlights, Spam (ind.pkgs.), Chef Boyardee (generic brands), toothbrushes & paste, hand sanitizer, food of all kinds canned goods need to be ring/pull tops



LITURGICAL ROSTER

Sept. 3 (13th Pentecost)
Proper 17
 10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Deacon Merle
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Rita B.

Sept. 10 (14th Pentecost)
Proper 18 - All Parish Picnic (One Service at 9 am)

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

Sept. 17 (15th Pentecost)
Proper 19 & Healing Litany

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

Sept. 24 (16th Pentecost)
Proper 20

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Rita B.
 Layreader: Winonah M.
 Petitioner: Deacon Merle
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Janice C.

Oct. 1 (17th Pentecost)
Proper 21

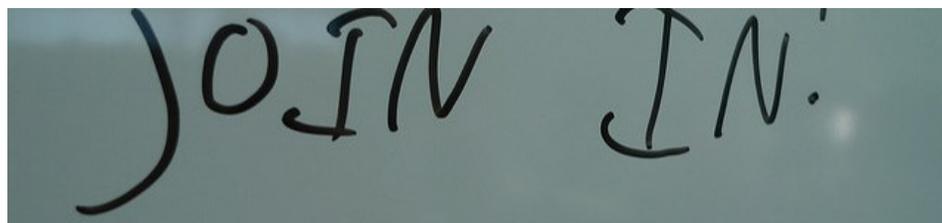
10 am Layreader/Chalice: Jim & Meredith T.
 Layreader: Phyllis F.
 Petitioner:: Jason M.
 Ushers: Paul & Kay K.
 Counter: Paul K.

Oct. 8 (18th Pentecost)
Proper 22

10 am Layreader/Chalice: Kathy T.
 Layreader: Terry G.
 Petitioner: Deacon Merle
 Ushers: Winonah M. & Ron H.
 Counter: Rita B.

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

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 of any changes.



Women's Group

Saturday, Sept. 9 "Make your own Peace Pole" We will meet in the undercroft 9:30 am-12:30. Bring a brown bag lunch. Also bring acrylic paints, brushes, permanent markers and wear old clothes.

Saturday, Oct. 7 & Nov. 4 meetings will be devoted to comparing various interpretations of Biblical stories (bring your Bible version so other interpretations can be heard).

Saturday, Dec. 2 meeting will be a "mission outreach" to older persons of the community.

Hopefully on **Saturday, Feb. 3** we can have an "Art and Wine" event in which we can ask The Centre for Arts and Artists to provide canvas and paint, with guidance a simple picture.



Men's Group meets Saturday, Sept. 9th at 9 am

CURRENT FINANCIALS

YEAR-TO-DATE MAY 2017



	<u>MAY</u>	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Income	\$3392.93	\$40,240.55
Expenses	\$14,262.24	\$61,380.71
Difference	(\$10,869.31)	(\$21,140.16)

ALL PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 10 at 11:30 am

We are meeting at Rev. Karen's residence for a time of family fun and fellowship.

This will be a buffet style potluck, so bring a favorite side dish, salad, dessert or vegetable to share.

Bring your lawn chair, yard games and bug spray.

Look for the balloons leading to the location.



RESPONDING TO HURRICANE HARVEY

To help care for those affected by this crisis, please fill out the coupon below and mail it with your check or credit card information. You can also contribute online at episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-harvey-response. Thank you for your compassion and prayers. With your partnership, we are healing a hurting world.

Enclosed is my gift to the Hurricane Harvey Fund to assist those in need:

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$2500 \$5000 Other (all gifts are tax deductible)

Make checks payable to Episcopal Relief & Development: Mail to: P. O. Box 7058 ,Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

Name _____

Address _____

City, _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Name of your church _____

Your email address _____

For Credit Card Donations—Please charge my gift to my: Visa Am Ex MasterCard Discover

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____ Number on back of card _____



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

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



*Lots of New
Offerings and
Upcoming Events*
