



August-September 2024



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Vacant

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What would you like to see in a new Priest?

Sounds like a loaded question, and it is. Especially when you begin to remember that each of us has our own idea of what “we” would like to see in our new priest.

Just to name a few things to contemplate:

- Personality traits
- Style of service
- What would you like a priest to do?
- What skills would be important to growing our church?
- Would you like a pastor to do a children's service and build a children's ministry?
- How can a new rector continue to build our worship life?
 - Build outreach ministries?
 - Address our Challenges
- What can we really afford?

Pot Luck Luncheon - Sunday, October 27, 2024

Who will be our next Pastor?

Will they reflect our church community?

Are these questions plaguing your waking and sleeping hours, like they are ours? Well, take a deep breath and breathe on. The transition committee wants to hear from you so that we find a Pastor who is a true reflection of our church needs and builds upon our strengths. We invite you to join us at a pot luck luncheon so that we may share ideas with one another in order for us to find the right fit for our church as we look to the next 200 years.

If you are unable to attend the luncheon; you have an idea that you are afraid that you will forget before the luncheon; or you think of something after the luncheon, we will have a couple of sheets of chart paper with post-its and pens for you to write down your ideas for us. Every voice is important.

Thank you for your patience during this time. Your help is essential for us to find the right person to lead our faith community.



St. Stephen's Book Study for 2024 Fall Season

Deacon Lynne will host a discussion group on "Dog in the Manger" starting October 29th, Tuesday, at the Parish hall at 10:00 AM with a zoom link, and repeat the same discussion that evening 7:00 PM only via zoom. There are only 13 short chapters, so we will cover 3 each week. Five copies of the book are in the church office. Lynne will also scan pages to email anyone who signs up, so you don't need to purchase the book. A sign up sheet will be at the church, or call the office and leave a message.



Join the Churchwide Virtual Celebration

The Investiture of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe
Nov. 2, 2024

In this historic and joyful season, we invite you to pray for guidance for our church and our new presiding bishop as he leads us in envisioning the reign of God in our midst. May our celebration unite us as a sacramental community, and may we be filled with new energy to bear witness to God's work of redemption.

Who: Everyone is invited!

What: The Episcopal Church will officially welcome the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as its 28th presiding bishop with a smaller, simpler investiture service aimed at reducing carbon footprint and increasing churchwide virtual participation.

When: Nov. 2, with a prelude featuring a "roll call" of dioceses starting at 9:30 a.m. ET. The service itself starts at 11 a.m. ET.

Where: The service will be livestreamed on this page and on [The Episcopal Church's Facebook page](#). A recording will be posted and distributed after the service.

How can I participate? Churches, dioceses, small groups, seminaries, and other Episcopal communities are encouraged to organize watch parties to participate in real time with Episcopalians around the world.



As the song goes...

There's a time for every purpose under Heaven...

.Even Chili!

And so, on Saturday September 28th, our annual Chili Dinner Drive-Thru Came and went. Thanks to all who cooked, baked, volunteered, and bought. We thought we might be having chili for the next month or so during our fellowship time but people were hungry on Sunday and all the leftovers went to good homes.

Thanks to all!!





Deacon Lynne and Warden Lynn both attended the Lunch & Learn at The Good News Center, by Steve Chatterton, Director of Risk Management, Northeast Region at CLPS. Mr. Steve Chatterton is a retired Police Captain with over 22 years of law enforcement experience, which included 10 years as a School Resource Officer (SRO). His topic was Protecting Houses of Worship.

Three points to start with are preparedness, prevention and protection. To be prepared, a church or a family should plan, train, drill and then evaluate. St Stephen's has Exit Signs when we need to evacuate the buildings, but does everyone know to meet up at the corner of the parking lot directly behind the rectory so we can assess that all are present? If we were to have a drill during coffee hour, then we could see how much time it takes for people to get out. Also, we could evaluate if another location would be better to meet up.

Prevention means early intervention by having security features in place, people with skills to greet newcomers, and communication systems for both internal and external resources. At St. Stephen's a sensing device at the parish hall entrance to alert ushers would improve coverage to greet anyone new arriving after services begin. Also, we can share skills with each other as to who knows CPR, first aid, or how to use a fire extinguisher.

Protection of our church family involves shared knowledge of who to call and when. It also involves a simple response strategy when we get information from the community, like if there's an alarm from local police. "Hold" means we should stay right where we are, "Shelter" means we should go to a safe area inside (like the basement or inner rooms). "Evacuate" means we should all leave the building, "Lock-Out" means we should keep ourselves inside and not let others in, and "Lock-Down" means to both lock the doors and go to safer areas inside.

Mr. Chatterton offered ten recommendations to reduce risk: 1. Perform a threat of vulnerability assessment of our church. 2. Establish a church safety team. 3. Have emergency plan and procedures shared with all. 4. Control access points, with locks, cameras, sensors, or greeters. 5. Set up security posture procedures during church activities. 6. Identify evacuation routes, staging and shelter points. 7. Have a reliable communication system and plan (including signs and lights). 8. Provide situational awareness training. 9. Store adequate emergency supplies on site. 10. Collaborate with local first responders and have them know the site.

This information is being shared with the St. Stephen's vestry to review, but all comments, questions and suggestions are welcome.

Notes respectfully taken by Deacon Lynne Walton.

Fasting Ideas for a better world

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 heart 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.

Coming in November!

Saturday, November 2: Chicken & Biscuit Drive Thru —Noon-2:00 P.M.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate flowers for the altar in memory or thanksgiving of someone special or an event you want to celebrate, please sign up in the booklet at the back of the church, or email the information to ststephensepiscopalnhny@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

August Birthdays

7- Myron Mosher
16- Elizabeth Furman
18- Linda Mundrick
22- Sarah Hinman
23- Brian Burnup
25- Megan Millar
25- Shelby Smith
27- Joan Tibbitts
28- Rowan Burnup

September Birthdays

7-Gary Gilbert
11-Emma Hunman
17-Warren Mundrick
26-Nancy Hartman
27-Jeanne Liddy

October Birthdays

4: Denise Falcone
6: Harold Liddy
20: Alex Topham
26: Barbara Marini
30: Bill Holland
31: Claudine Millar

November Birthdays

5: Andy Topham
8: Meaghan Scott
12: James Schofield
27: Brian Johnson
27: Molly Kilian

We encourage all our church members to submit their birth dates if they would like to receive a birthday greeting from the church. Nancy Tibbitts can take this information.