



FEBRUARY
2015

200 N. James St. PO Box 984, Goldsboro, NC 27530

919-734-4263

www.ststephenschurch.com

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN AND THE INTERIM RECTOR

For the first time in a number of years, your Vestry and clergy spent a weekend in January at Trinity Center for their Vestry retreat. We returned to Goldsboro with enthusiasm, clarity, and exciting plans for our parish in 2015.

Our time together was “bookended” by two celebrations of the Eucharist on Friday night and Sunday morning, and we spent more time together in prayer and Bible study. We are convinced these activities made a difference, as did the many prayers that were lifted by parishioners in Goldsboro.

The Vestry identified four key aspects of our life at St. Stephen's: traditional worship, family and fellowship, ministry to and with our children and youth, and outreach. It is our worship that draws us together in the biggest numbers on Sundays, and it is from our worship that we are dismissed to “love and serve the Lord” in our community. It is through our worship and our Sunday formation classes that our children and youth first learn what it means to be a Christian, an Episcopalian, and a member of the St. Stephen's family. It is in our worship and fellowship that the family of St. Stephen's comes to know each other, to break bread together, to laugh together, to be a community that is bigger than the sum of the individual parts.

The Vestry is committed to focusing on these areas in 2015. We're convinced that if these four areas receive the Vestry's focus and energy and resources, St. Stephen's will be a stronger and more engaged parish. And as we continue preparing to welcome the next rector of St. Stephen's, such strength and engagement is more important than ever.

Here are some of the Vestry's thinking and ideas about each of these areas:

Traditional worship: let's face it, St. Stephen's worship is traditional. We worship almost exclusively from the Book of Common Prayer. Our music is traditional, with the hymns selected from the Hymnal 1982. There was a little talk at the retreat about our worship music, but nothing definitive emerged. We like the fact that people, especially young people, are involved in leading our ministry as acolytes, lectors, and intercessors on a regular basis.

Family and fellowship: We know that the people of St. Stephen's enjoy being together, and that gathering together builds us as a family. So we want to do it more in 2015. We'll start the usual Lenten worship and suppers on Wednesdays on February 25 (see page 3 for details) with simple soup and bread meals. And then, after our Lenten “fast” we'll gather for an Easter feast on the Wednesday after Easter. It will be St. Stephen's Family's Easter dinner! Watch for details in the March and April editions of the Scroll. We're going to reinstitute lemonade after the main service when we go to our summer schedule. There will be two Twixt 'n' Tween gatherings in 2015. Our “first Sunday” breakfasts will continue through May. And there is enthusiastic Vestry conversation about summer gatherings for fun and fellowship.

Ministry to and with our children and youth: The Vestry was in complete agreement that we haven't done a good job in ministering to and with the younger members of the St. Stephen's family. More than a couple Vestry members referred to the promise we make whenever a child is baptized, when we collectively promise to “support this child in her/his life in Christ.” And we resolved to do a better job in 2015. A gathering of people interested in sharing their time and talents in teaching and leading our children and youth has already been scheduled—join in the conversation on Sunday,

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church: Living a tradition of service through Christ to God, to each other and to our neighbors since 1853.

facilitate a breakfast and brainstorming gathering for our youth (6th-12th grades) on Sunday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m., to consider some possibilities for youth ministry and to add their own ideas. Parents of the youth are invited to a separate conversation at that time. The Vestry talked about a possible “local mission trip” during the summer; if the youth are interested in giving their time and energy for a week to help people in our community, the Vestry is committed to making that happen. The work could involve a different activity each day, or maybe a multi-day project. If you would like to help make this mission trip a reality, let Kim Smith or Jill know. There is also an opportunity to minister with our youth during the youth confirmation preparation this year before Bishop Skirving visits St. Stephen’s on October 4—talk with Jill if you’re interested in spending some time helping one of our youth prepare for their confirmation.

The Vestry’s focus on these areas does not mean that other parts of our common life are unimportant; we know they are. But we are optimistic that shining a bright light on these four areas, resourcing them, looking for ways to connect them (e.g., a youth fellowship event might include a request that cans of food be brought for the Community Soup Kitchen), and seeking to involve increasing numbers of parishioners in them, will make a BIG difference in our parish. Our Vestry this year is excited to be sharing in the leadership of our parish and committed to making St. Stephen’s a vibrant and vital witness of God’s love for all whom God has created.

Outreach: The Outreach Committee at St. Stephen’s is moving forward with the leadership of Lila Everett. Because of the generosity of parishioners who made financial pledges for 2015, the Vestry was able to increase significantly the funds available for Outreach (last year’s budget was \$10,000, plus \$1200 for the rector’s discretionary fund; this year’s budget includes \$16,530 plus \$2520 for the rector’s discretionary fund). The Vestry is delighted that we can offer this financial support to ministries around Goldsboro and around the world; we also know that hands-on outreach makes a difference both to the people who are touched by the outreach (like Takesha Greene and her sons, who will be moving into the Habitat Faith Build house later this spring) and to those whose hands do the work. We’re committed to finding more opportunities for St. Stephen’s to do hands-on outreach, like our new monthly service at the Boys and Girls Club on the first Wednesday of the month (see page 5).

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And the Vestry and Jill cannot do this by themselves. We need YOU to step up and join us through your prayers and participation. With all of us working together, with an energized and engaged Vestry, we can make St. Stephen’s the very best place to love and serve God and our neighbors, a place any rector would be proud and excited to join.

Grace and peace,
Jill+ and David

STEWARDSHIP AT ST. STEPHEN’S

At its Retreat, your Vestry adopted an operating budget of just over \$380,000 for 2015. And this would not have been possible without the generous pledges of treasure in our stewardship campaign. Seventeen households who had not pledged in 2014 made financial pledges for 2015. That’s good news indeed!

Thank you to all who pledged time, talent and treasure to St. Stephen’s for 2015. And if you haven’t, you still can. It’s not unusual for there to be additional pledges after the budget is approved. The bright blue pledge cards are available at the back of the church or in the Office.

SHROVE TUESDAY

It's time for pancakes! Bring your beads, Mardi Gras masks, and join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 17, for our annual pancake supper from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday, including the imposition of ashes and the Eucharist, will be offered at 7 a.m., noon, and 5:30 p.m. on February 18. The first two services will be spoken; the choir will sing at the 5:30 p.m. service.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS AT ST. STEPHEN'S

Beginning on the first Wednesday of Lent, February 25, we will gather for Evening Prayer at 5:30 p.m. and then move to the Parish Hall for a simple soup supper and program. This year's Lenten program will be Death, Dying, and the Christian Hope. We'll look at ways we can (and should) prepare for our own deaths through medical directives and powers of attorney, conversations with our families and physicians, thinking in advance about our funerals (and having a chance to ask all those questions we never ask a funeral director), and planning our funeral liturgies. And we'll consider the hope we have through the resurrection of Jesus that we too will share in eternal life.

LENT: DISCIPLINES AND DEEPENINGS

Lent is traditionally a season in which we "give up" something: chocolate, alcohol, sweets, second helpings, whatever. These are not bad things to give up, but if we only forego them and don't consider why we're doing it, we rather miss the point of the season.

Lent is a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. Giving up something can work as long as you make that the reason for depriving yourself. You can remind yourself whenever you think about whatever you've given up that Jesus loves you and that you want to love Jesus more. Or you can go in the other direction and take on a discipline for Lent. Add some intentional Bible reading and reflection to your daily routine (we're in Year 1 of the two-year daily lectionary; you can find the readings for Lent on the even-numbered pages of the *Book of Common Prayer* beginning on page 950—you might choose to read only the Gospel passages, or the psalm(s) and the epistle readings. Promise yourself to be in church every Sunday. Schedule more time for prayer and reflection. You might resolve to join us for a mid-week Eucharist at St. Stephen's each Wednesday at noon. If none of these seems like a good Lenten discipline for you, let me know and I'll help you find one that seems like a better fit.

Lent is also a penitential season, a time to reflect on the ways we have fallen short or missed the mark (in other words, how we have sinned). A less-known liturgy in our prayer book is the Reconciliation of a Penitent (p. 447). This is a wonderful liturgy of confession and absolution. Of course, we make a corporate confession and receive absolution in every Eucharist. But sometimes it can help to do more. As with most things Anglican, none must, some should, all can. If you're interested in exploring the liturgy of the Reconciliation of a Penitent, or you would like to use this rite and make your sacramental confession, let me know.

In the Ash Wednesday liturgy in the *Book of Common Prayer*, the priest invites the congregation to the observance of a holy Lent. My prayer for each of you this Lent is that you will choose a discipline that deepens your relationship with the One we follow.

Blessings,
Jill+

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

Greetings from your new Junior Warden. First of all let me say that the state of our bricks and mortar is great. That is in thanks to many, but largely because of our church leadership and my immediate predecessor Bob Cagle. Bob has set the bar high for those of us following him as Junior Warden. Thankfully, he has agreed to follow through and complete the landscaping project on Mulberry Street. If you haven't gone by there, please visit and look at the progress of this splendid endeavor.

I am honored to serve as Junior Warden: the peoples ' warden. Please feel free to contact me at hulse@hbhklaw.com or my cell: 919-273-1765 with any concerns about our spiritual home on the corner of Mulberry & James. Our vestry just concluded a joyous yet vigorous retreat and you will be hearing about many opportunities to serve St Stephens in the near future. So, while the physical structure of the church is in the best shape it has been in years, our infrastructure as to all our ministries needs the same resolve and your loving and prayerful devotion. 2015 is going to be an amazing year!

*God's Peace,
Geoff Hulse*

RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are continuing the final proofing and steps in having the Parish Profile ready for approval for the Vestry along with the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Community Profile Worksheet that will be utilized in the OTM web-based system for parishes and clergy who are in transition to find one another.

The OTM Profile is an important part of our process in searching for a new rector and we want to make sure we provide the best information in describing St. Stephens. Through the results of our Parish survey and focus groups and the work of our Search Committee in creating its presentation as it will be examined by clergy that are interested in possibly coming to St. Stephens – they are our audience.

We should be bringing all this together soon and hopefully start a period of receiving names for a new rector – please continue to be patient with us as we come closer to the call of our new rector – give us your blessings as we begin the final stages. As Jill quoted 1 Samuel 3:9 in a recent sermon “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening”.

Respectfully – The Rector Search Committee

CONVERSATION ON CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Are you interested in sharing your time and talent to help our children grow in their faith? Did you realize every time we renew our Baptismal Covenant you are “promising to do all in your power to support these children in their life in Christ”?

We invite you to join us in a conversation concerning St. Stephen's Christian Formation programming for children and youth on Sunday, February 8 at 5:00 pm in the Common Room. Christian Education is at the heart of our religious foundation and it's crucial we jumpstart this important ministry. We will discuss moving forward so think outside the box! Bring your ideas, dreams and hopes. Think short-term and long-term. This is your chance to have a voice in the future of our church and to live out your Baptismal Covenant.

Childcare will be provided, but we need you to tell Jimmy Jeffreys by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4 that you'll be bringing your child/children.

Adrienne Northington and Ann Mebane Hine

ATTENTION ALL ST. STEPHEN'S YOUTH AND PARENTS!

Better serving the youth at St. Stephen's is one of the vestry's top priorities. In order to effectively serve our youth, we are asking for your help. Our first step toward building the youth program will be on March 8, at 9:30 a.m. Youth in grades 6 and up are invited to a breakfast and brainstorm session led by Hayes Gerrard and Claiborne Smith in the Parish Hall. Parents are invited to meet in the Common Room at the same time for discussion on building and supporting the youth program at St. Stephen's. This will be the first of many discussions on building a strong, effective program for all of St. Stephen's youth.

Kim Smith

CALLING ALL WOMEN.....THE FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE WANTS YOU!

A letter has been mailed to all current Friendship Committee members prior to re-assigning members for the 2015 schedule. If you have not participated in the Friendship Committee function of providing meals for parishioners after surgeries, new babies and bereavement we'd love to add you to our roster! Call Pat Sasser (919-735-1969) to talk about this valuable opportunity to serve our parish family.

DILLARD OUTREACH

This month we will be collecting tissues, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes to continue the germ fight with teachers and students. Winter is certainly not over and these items are always needed at the school. The WISH Center continues to be amazed and thankful for our contributions of personal hygiene items for their patients. Tooth brushes, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products (middle school appropriate) and small lotions are always appreciated so they may be put in our collection bin at any time.

We have been assisting in the Student of the Month celebrations and have been asked to help with the Battle of the Books competition by supplying snacks for team members on their competition days on February 27 and March 19. "Coach" Tharrington has asked for granola bars, juice boxes, individually wrapped cookies/crackers and bottled water/soft drinks for their 12 team members. If you'd like to help, please place contributions in the collection bin outside the office. I've posted the Battle of the Books Reading List on our Dillard bulletin board if you'd like to see what they're reading!

Jan Cagle

FOCUS ON OUTREACH: WISH

Each month in the Scroll the Outreach Committee will focus on one of the programs supported by St. Stephen's Outreach funds. The Committee will also be meeting on Monday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. If you're interested in outreach and how our parish reaches beyond our church to make a difference in our community and in our world, join us on the 9th.

You may have heard about WISH, maybe around the community, or maybe in association with our Dillard Partnership. WISH is an acronym for Wayne Initiative for School Health, a program that makes health care accessible to students who may not otherwise see a doctor.

WISH supports health care professionals assigned to six Wayne County public schools: Dillard Middle, Brogden Middle, Wayne Middle/High Academy, Mt. Olive Middle, Goldsboro High, and Southern Wayne High. With the consent of their parents, students can receive both routine physicals, immunizations, care for illnesses and minor injuries, mental health services, dental screenings, and health education. The goal of WISH is to help students succeed by promoting healthy lifestyles and comprehensive health care services.

2014 was the first year St. Stephen's supported WISH with outreach funds. Our donation of \$450 will be used to provide medications including antibiotics, asthma inhalers and nebulizers, and medical supplies like sterile bandages.

And a hands-on Outreach opportunity: St. Stephen's has committed to being present at the Boys and Girls Club on the first Wednesday of each month to help serve the hot meal being provided for the children. Geoff Hulse is our contact person; please contact him or Jill if you'd like to be involved—we only need a few people each month, and because of the sometimes changing school schedule (e.g., teacher workdays, weather cancellations/changes), the usual 3 p.m. serving time can shift).

IT'S CHICKEN SALAD TIME AGAIN!

St Hilda's Guild will be making chicken salad on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1015 at 6:00 p.m. It will be ready for pick-up on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Sign up for this delicious chicken salad outside the Office so the Guild knows how much to make. The cost is \$7.00/ lb.

PROTESTANT PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN (PP&K) MINISTRY

After some great brainstorming and feedback from our board and parents, we are doing something a little different this year. Instead of our usual February dinner and auction at Walnut Creek Country Club, we are having an in-house silent auction the week of February 9-12th. Please, please consider donating an item for auction or being an event sponsor. The event is open to all. Anything goes! Basketball tickets, Vacation Rentals, Clothing, Toys, Jewelry, Home Fashions, etc.

Our goal is to raise enough funds for new playground equipment for our 110-2, 3, 4 and 5 year olds that play on the playground *5 days a week!* (since 1997) We are closing out the auction Thursday at noon with a "Frozen" party complete movie theatre popcorn and Cold Stone Ice Cream. Come and join in on the fun! PP&K also accepts donations of old cell phones & box tops for education.

St. Stephen's has a long history with Protestant Preschool and Kindergarten, and it is one of the recipients of our outreach spending. Please consider supporting it through this fundraising effort.

Duffy Fleming

FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

What do you think is the most well-known hymn in America? My guess is "Amazing Grace," first published in 1779, with words written by the English poet and clergyman John Newton. It has been associated with more than 20 melodies, but in 1835 it was joined to a tune named "New Britain" to which it is most frequently sung today. With the message that forgiveness and redemption are possible regardless of sins committed and that the soul can be delivered from despair through the mercy of God, "Amazing Grace" is one of the most recognizable songs in the English-speaking world. Its universal message has been a significant factor in its crossover into secular music, and it saw a resurgence in popularity in the U.S. during the 1960s. When originally written, it is unknown what music, if any, accompanied the verses written by John Newton. Contemporary hymnbooks did not contain music and were simply small books of religious poetry. Hymns were interchangeable with a variety of tunes; more than twenty musical settings of "Amazing Grace" circulated with varying popularity until 1835 when William Walker assigned Newton's words to a traditional song named "New Britain." Walker was an American Baptist song leader and compiler of shape note tunebooks. "Amazing Grace," with the words written by Newton and joined with "New Britain," appeared for the first time in Walker's *Southern Harmony* in 1847.

Junior & Schola Nova Choirs will sing in church on Sunday, February 8th

Marshall Foster

**\$36.50—it can make a big difference
in the lives of Takesha Greene and her sons.**

Write your check to St. Stephen's and note "HABITAT" on the memo line.

ACOLYTES

FEBRUARY 1 Crucifer: Langley Barnes
Torch Bearers: Cady Stanley
Sarah Stockton
Flag Bearers: Will Fickling
Noah MacDonald

FEBRUARY 8 Crucifer: Anne Stuart Freemon
Torch Bearers: Catherine Freemon
Anna Allen
Flag Bearers: David Gurley
Louise Gurley

FEBRUARY 15 Crucifer: Hayes Gerrard
Torch Bearers: Cam Gerrard
Drew Grice
Flag Bearers: John Grice
Will Fickling

FEBRUARY 22 Crucifer: Jeff Bland
Torch Bearers: Kate Harris
Cady Stanley
Flag Bearers: Jackson Harris
Berkley Woodard

FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman– Carol Smithwick.....919-735-9629
Lila Everett.....919-734-5872
Ethel Barnhill.....919-735-2870
Duffy Fleming.....919-735-1775
Ann Hine.....919-330-5087
JoAnn Logan.....919-731-7602
Linda Richter.....919-778-4367

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

FEBRUARY 1.....Jan & Bob Cagle
FEBRUARY 8.....Ann & Ray Harris
FEBRUARY 15.....Mike & Martie Saylor
FEBRUARY 22Karen & Steve Mzyk

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

FEBRUARY 1

8:00 a.m. Sally Pope
11:00 a.m. Chris Garrison
Ray Harris

FEBRUARY 8

8:00 a.m. Allan Pedersen
11:00 a.m. David Jackson
Davis Harris

FEBRUARY 15

8:00 a.m. Michael Headen
11:00 a.m. Tom Brown
Bob Cagle

FEBRUARY 22

8:00 a.m. Mark Ladd
11:00 a.m. Robert Daniel
Will Bland

Vestry Person of the Day (VPOD)

FEBRUARY 1 - Adrienne Northington
FEBRUARY 8 - David Jackson
FEBRUARY 15 - Geoff Hulse
FEBRUARY 22 - Robert Daniel

USHERS: The Tanners

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 & 11 am. - Holy Eucharist 9 am. Breakfast 10 am. Christian Formation 10:15 am. Adult Choir	2	3 7 am. Men's Bible Study 4 pm. ECW Mtg. 6 pm. Men's Oyster Roast at Turner Greenhouse	4 Noon HE 3 pm. Boys Club 5:15 pm. Cherub Choir Practice 5:45 pm. Youth Choir Practice 7 pm. Adult Choir	5 Noon Bible Study Diocesan Convention in New Bern	6 Diocesan Convention In New Bern	7 Diocesan Convention In New Bern
8 8 & 11 am. - Holy Eucharist 10 am. Christian Formation 10:15 am. Adult Choir 11 am. Junior & Schola Nova Choirs sing 5 pm. Christian Formation mtg.	9 6:30 pm Outreach Committee mtg.	10 7 am. Men's Bible Study 2-6:30 pm. Red Cross Blood Drive 6 pm .St. Hilda's makes chicken salad	11 Pick up chicken salad No Noon HE 5:15 pm. Cherub Choir Practice 5:45 pm. Youth Choir Practice 7 pm. Adult Choir	12 No Noon Bible Study	13	14
15 8 & 11 am. - Holy Eucharist 10 am. Christian Formation 10:15 am. Adult Choir	16	17 <u>Shrove Tuesday</u> 7 am. Men's Bible Study 5:30 - 7 pm. Pancake Supper	18 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Services: 7:00 am. Noon & 5:30 pm. 5:15 pm. Cherub Choir Practice 5:45 pm. Youth Choir Practice 7 pm. Adult Choir	19 Noon Bible Study 6:45 pm. Cotton Quilters	20	21 9 am. Busy Bee Quilters
22 8 & 11 am. - Holy Eucharist 10 am, Christian Formation 10:15 am. Adult Choir	23	24 7 am. Men's Bible Study	25 Noon HE 5:30 pm. Evening Prayer, supper & Lenten program 7 pm. Adult Choir	26 Noon Bible Study	27 6 pm. Happening 65 at Trinity Center	28 Happening 65 at Trinity Center

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gaston Lewis	02/01	Steve Mzyk.....	02/15
Adam Livengood.....	02/03	Cale Sumrell.....	02/15
Kathryn Sumrell.....	02/03	Will Bland.....	02/17
Henry Smith.....	02/04	Louise Gurley.....	02/21
JoAnn McRae.....	02/05	Aimee Barnes.....	02/22
Emma Grace Lewis.....	02/06	Sarah Wahl.....	02/22
John Wolfe.....	02/06	Ken Gerrard.....	02/24
Charles Snyder.....	02/08	Lara Gerrard.....	02/25
Ashley Fleming.....	02/11	Berkeley Woodard.....	02/25
Adrienne Northington.....	02/12	Margaret Tanner.....	02/26
Rose Cooper.....	02/14	Crawford Tanner.....	02/26
Clem Livengood.....	02/14	Alex Wahl.....	02/26
Sally Pope.....	02/14	Frank Joyner.....	02/27

