



St. Stephen's E-NEWS

...Where God is seen, love is felt, lives are changed!

December 1, 2017

Advent Fair

This Sunday is the first Sunday in Advent and we will begin this new Church year (with an Interim Rector might I add. Yea!!!). We have big plans for this Advent season. The past few years have found the parish hall filled with activities for all ages to kick off the Advent season. This year Susan Wells, our coordinator for many years, has agreed to spread out the wealth through three Sundays. We will make our Advent wreaths and one other activity the first week while we enjoy a welcoming brunch for Fr. Larry and Jane. The second week we will be packing the military boxes and hand-writing notes to our service members. The third week will have two other activities and there will be food to accompany each 10 am hour. Let us whet our appetites for the coming of this season that reminds us of the coming of our Lord.



Chrismon Tree

This year we have **75 children (which totals 150 tags)** with their Christmas wishes. Our tree is up in the Parish Hall. There will only be **two weeks for our Angels** to do their shopping. **Gifts must be returned to the church by December 10.**



PLEASE SIGN OUT YOUR TAGS!

Pastoral Care

JOIN US THIS WEEK AS WE PRAY FOR Vicky White, Catherine Whitten, John Wilson, Jean Winslow, Pat Wykoff.

Please add these names to your prayer list.

This Sunday

We will welcome our Interim Rector, Fr. Larry Minter at 10:00 a.m., with a reception combined with the Advent Fair.

No Sunday School or Adult Classes this Sunday.

Only one service at 11:15 a.m.

Voucher System

Many of you do shopping for the church using the church credit card. Any time you make a purchase and have a receipt, it is **your responsibility** to fill out a "Payment Voucher Request". The forms are in the mail room. Cameron is getting receipts in his box and he has no idea of what account the money goes against. Please fill out the voucher along with the receipt and put in Cameron's box. If you have questions, check with Vicki.

Military Boxes

We are collecting goodies for our deployed military. Check your bulletin for a list of items. Don't want to shop? Make a donation by designating your check "Military". Leave donations in the kitchen labeled - Military. If you have any questions, call Kathy! (865) 567-8250.

Mom Gift



Food Basket Families

For the past few years we have been giving the Moms of our families a small gift. Moms sometimes get overlooked at Santa time! If you have a piece of jewelry, scarf, winter hat, gloves or anything else appropriate, please mark "Mom" and leave in the basket near the food collection.

Sermon

This Sunday, our sermon will be delivered by our Interim Rector, the Rev. Larry Minter. He mentioned in his Evangel article that, "Waiting opens us to God, and to God's timing." Join us Sunday morning at 11:15 a.m. as he shares how God provides a future with promise and full of blessing.

Self Cleaning Church

We used to have this column occasionally. Now with the enormous loss of our beloved Bill Dickey we need to run the column again. We have trash to empty, recycling to take out, dusting, vacuuming, mopping, setting of chairs and tables, cleaning of restrooms, . . . the list goes on and on. If you have a few minutes during your week and would be willing to take on one or more of these regular chores, stop by the office and see what is most needed. If you have volunteered for a job, please be sure it is completed by Sunday. Thank you.

End Of Year Giving

For your contributions to St. Stephen's to appear on your 2017 giving statement, St. Stephen's must receive it prior to our Dec. 31 bank deposit. We must credit anything received after Dec. 31 to 2018, regardless of the date on the check.

Giving early is safer.

Calling All Angels, Sheep, and Helpers!

Come and be a part of the Children's Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve at 4:30 p.m.! Short practice on Fri., Dec. 22, 10 a.m. and Sat., Dec. 23, 3:30 p.m.



Meet in the Parish Hall to get a costume. Walk-ins are welcome. Signup at choir@ststephensor.org.