

The Ambassador

January 2017

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

A vital, eclectic Episcopal congregation committed to the ministry of all the baptized

From Fr. Jamie

So, what are the duties of an Episcopalian?

Here we are in our New Year of 2017. It's a time of new beginnings and we are all, despite the miserable weather and the fact that January can be statistically one of the most depressing months, looking forward in hope.

With this hopefulness for the future in mind, I decided to revisit something I am asked about on a regular basis, especially from our new members: "Is there anything that is expected of one to be an Episcopalian?"

I like that question, and like all good Episcopalians, we can find the answer in our trusty Book of Common Prayer. There, on page 856, in our Catechism, we find this question:

"What is the duty of all Christians?"

Now, I understand that this is not a question specifically about Episcopalians, but since Episcopalians are Christians, the answer works perfectly. And that answer is:

"The duty of all Christians is follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray and give for the spread of the kingdom of God."

It really is the perfect answer to this question. Let's take a look at it in a bit more depth.

The first part of the answer is, hopefully, a given. Our first duty as Episcopal Christians is **to follow Christ**. We follow Christ in all that we do and say. Of course, we often fail, but that's not the issue. The issue is that, even when we fail, even we are led astray, we pick ourselves and we keep on following Christ.

The second part of that question is **"to come together week by week for corporate worship."** For us as Episcopalians, this is essential. Worship naturally comes for us right after following Christ. Episcopalians are not solitary creatures. We need each other and we need to come together and worship together, even

when doing so is inconvenient. There is a reason why we expect our Vestry members to attend worship regularly. They set the example for the rest of us in regular attendance at our worship service. And with multiple services offered at St. Stephen's, regular worship at St. Stephen's, it is certain not impossible. In fact, it is pretty convenient.

As you have probably noticed, our attendance over the last few months at St. Stephen's has been fairly impressive. Part of this, no doubt, has much to do with the fact that many of us know how important regular worship is, not just to us personally, but to the wider community. Besides, I think we all feel a certain pride and joy as seeing our little church space filled with people.

The third section of the answer just sort of sums up the rest. Our duty after following Christ and regularly attending worship is to **work** (we actually need to do something as Christians – it is not enough to simply come to church on Sundays, we actually have to go out and work for the kingdom), **pray** (we don't only pray on Sundays, but should be praying daily for each other and for the church) and **give** (the congregation needs the time and talent of each of us, as well as financial offerings – the kingdom cannot be spread with our work and our offerings of financial help).

So, there, in a nutshell, are the duties expected of all Episcopalians. We are to follow Christ by attending regular worship and to work, pray and give for the Kingdom. When we do so together, we truly do make a difference in this world and in our own lives.

Jamie+

James Mackay on vacation

Our organist, James Mackay, will be taking a much-needed and overdue vacation in January. James will be on gone January 9-23.

Michelle Gelinske Patnode will cover for him on January 15 and 22.

Around St. Stephen's

Wedding

The marriage of **Kayla Heier** and **Christian Rose** was blessed and celebrated at St. Stephen's on the evening of December 31. Fr. Jamie was the celebrant at a beautiful Nuptial Eucharist

Death

Lewis Lubka, 90, the grandfather of **Martha Anderson** and former father-in-law of **John Anderson**, as well as a dear friend of many of us at St. Stephen's, died on January 6. Lew was a long-time supporter of our ministries of social justice and equality.

Other news

William Weightman met with the Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota in Faribault, Minnesota, on the morning of January 7.



We welcomed **Paul, Jean, Kristofer** and **Katie Sando** as new members on December 18. This was our third New Member Sunday of the year; we welcomed 22 new members at St. Stephen's in 2016!

Fr. Jamie on vacation

Fr. Jamie will be on vacation February 6-28.

While he is gone:

John Anderson will officiate and William Weightman will preach at Morning Prayer on February 1

Our own Fr. Charles Cherry will celebrate and preach at the Eucharist on February 19.

Canon Zanne Ness will celebrate and preach at the Eucharist on February 26.

With the exception of February 1, there will be no Wednesday night services in February.

Annual Meeting January 29

St. Stephen's will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 29, following Holy Eucharist. There will be a potluck as well that day.

Please plan on joining us for this important day as we plan for another year of service and ministry.

Rescheduled Bishop Gallagher Visit

Bishop Carol will make her first visit to St. Stephen's on March 5. A potluck will follow the Mass.

An Episcopal Visitation is an opportunity for us to connect with the whole of the Church in the person of our Bishop. It is a chance for us to show our Bishop the vitality of our congregation and share with her news of our common life. An Episcopal Visitation is also an occasion for people to be Confirmed and Received into the Episcopal Church.

Confirmation
In Confirmation, we publicly reaffirm, in the presence of our local community and the Bishop (whose presence represents that of the whole Church), the promises we made – or which our parents made on our behalf – at baptism.

Reception

Those who have been previously confirmed by the laying on of hands of a bishop in another communion of the Church, may be received into the Episcopal Church.

If anyone is interested in being confirmed or officially received into the Episcopal Church, please talk to Fr. Jamie so you can fill out a Confirmation/Reception form.

Blessing of Candles on February 1

During our celebration of the 6:00 celebration of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, February 1, we will once again bless candles as part of the centuries-old tradition of blessing candles. February 2 is the Feast of the Purification, but is also known as Candlemas. The Feast of the Purification is called Candlemas because of the traditional blessing and distribution of candles on that day. It is customary to bring candles from home to be blessed so they can be lit after dusk on All Saints' Day (1 November), and during storms and other times of trouble.

Bring to church any candles you wish to have blessed on February 1. Candles will also be provid-

Stained Glass Window News

A new stained glass window has been given. The new window, commemorating St. Stephen, will be dedicated in memory of Jeannette Syler and Roy Peterson and Maude and John Syler. Designed by Gin Templeton, it will be built and installed by Michael Orchard Studios in Fargo.

This window will be the third stained glass window installed at St. Stephen's.

More than half of the money for our fourth window, the so-called Integrity window, commemorating the GLBTQ ministry at St. Stephen's, has been given. Donations are still being sought for this window.

Shrove Tuesday

There will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper beginning at 5:30 on Tuesday, February 28. Please plan to celebrate the last day before Lent begins!

We will also have a service of Burying the Alleluia at 7:00 pm on February 28.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Eucharist will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 pm

Lenten Wednesday Eucharists

We will commemorate the 40 Days of Lent with special liturgies on Wednesday nights, beginning on March 8.

Mass is at 6:00 pm each Wednesday.

More information will be in the February newsletter.

UTO Update

Many thanks to all those who participated in our Advent UTO effort. Our combined offerings (individual Blue Boxes plus the Advent Wednesday evening offerings) produced \$268 which will go to the United Thank Offering. If you have your Blue Box and have not returned its offerings, please do so very soon – and keep on being thankful! Below is a reminder about where the UTO

effort originated and its particular significance for women in the church.

This past week (January 9) we celebrated the feast of Julia Chester Emery (1852 - 1922) who founded the United Thank Offering in the Episcopal Church. Emery invented the Blue Boxes (traditionally known as "mite boxes"). Originally, every woman in the parish got one to put a coin in it every time she remembered something for which she was thankful. Once a year there was (and still is) an "ingathering" of these boxes, and the money sent to the national UTO board, which receives proposals for projects to fund. UTO has raised millions of dollars for projects throughout the world -- new buildings, schools, hospital equipment, vehicles for transportation of missionaries in remote areas and many, many other things.



At a time when all formal decision-making in the church was in the hands of male leaders, the UTO was a remarkable assertion of ordinary women's leadership. Impressed as we are by visible, ostentatious power -- with lots of \$00000s -- and by the welcome advances in women's direct leadership, the UTO Blue Box reminds us that all good works begin with the individual, that nothing can be done if individual human hearts are not touched, and that many individuals -- however humble they may think they are -- have great power for good when they combine.

--Adapted from a meditation by the Rev. Barbara Crafton.



It looked like a House of Bishops meeting at St. Stephen's on December 4th. Thanks to Jan Stewart for organizing a wonderful St. Nicholas celebration during Children's Chapel.

Schedule of Ministries at St. Stephen's for January-February

Schedule			January 22	January 29
Acolyte			Rudnick	Meister
Altar Guild			Philips	Nylander
Worship Ldr/EM			Weightman	Wilking
Lector			Nylander	Phillips
Usher			Wilson	Anderson
			Baird	Pitzel
Euch. Visitor			Clark	Corbitt-Hall
Coffee			Rice	Stewart
Cleaning			Clark	Holbrook
Children's Chapel			Lead: Clark Assist: Templeton	Lead: Stewart Assist: Weightman
TENTATIVE Schedule	February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Acolyte	Anderson	Corbitt-Hall	Holbrook	Rudnick
Altar Guild	Nylander	Huan	Huan	Holbrook
Worship Ldr/EM	Zednik	Corbitt-Hall	Anderson	Baird
Lector	Rice	Templeton	Stewart	Weightman
Usher	Baird	Clark	Marubbio	McMullen
	Bolduc	Hill	Marubbio	McMullen
Euch. Visitor	Holbrook	Weightman	Zdenik	Anderson
Coffee	Wilson	Anderson	Baird	Clark
		Pitzel	Holbrook	Templeton
Cleaning	Holbrook	Marubbio	Marubbio	Pitzel
Children's Chapel	Lead: tbd Assist: Holbrook	Lead: tbd Assist: McMullen	Lead: tbd Assist: Gelinske	Lead: tbd Assist: Wilking

*Communion is available for those who are unable to attend Sunday worship. Please call the church to request communion after the Sunday service.

**If you are unavailable to serve on a date when you are assigned, please find a substitute and let James (evenson2@gmail.com) know who the substitute will be as early as possible so he can include the correct names in the bulletins. THANKS.