Sunday, December 23, 2018
- - the Church’s weekly schedule & announcements  edited for Website

Sunday
8:00  Service
9:00  Choir Practice
10:30  Service
3:30  4th Sunday Service at Helen Porter
7:15  Al Anon, Parish Hall

Monday
9:00  Community Lunch, Parish Hall
9:00  Sandwich Makers
4:00  Christmas Eve Pageant
9:00  Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday
10:00  Christmas Day Service

Wednesday
1:30  Al Anon, Upper Meeting Room

Thursday
4:00  Meditation, Upper Meeting Room
4:30  Speak Up, Parish Hall

Friday
7:30  12 Step Spirituality Group, Upper Meeting Room

Saturday

Sunday
10:00  Lessons and Carols Service
7:15  Al Anon, Parish Hall

Monday Community Lunch Coordinator: May Morris
Monday Bag Lunch Coordinators: Dee Hodges and Chree Perkins

Christmas Services:
December 23:  Advent IV, Catherine Nichols
December 24:  4:00pm Pageant and 9:00pm service, Larry Yarbrough
December 25:  10:00am service, Sarah Horton
December 30:  10:00am service of Lessons and Carols, led by Jay Parini

Holiday Office Hours:  The office will be closed Dec. 24-28 and on Jan. 1.
Beth Stanway will be checking mail if you have last minute gifts to send in.
Volunteers will be in the office on Dec. 31st.  Thank you, and Merry Christmas to all!

Calendar Check!  The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan 27 NOT Jan 20 to avoid potential
tavel conflicts with the 3-day weekend that some of you will enjoy as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
Monday, Jan 21.  We will have an 9am service with music and the Annual Meeting will begin immediately after the
service ends and we all get a cuppa and cookie.
Please visit the Parish website, http://www.ststephensmidd.org/, and Saint Stephen’s facebook page for O Antiphon meditations. These daily reflections on the verses of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” are helpful ways to focus your thoughts and prepare your hearts for Christmas, and beyond.

St. Stephen's monthly service of evening prayer at the Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will be held on Sunday, December 23, at 3:30 pm. This will be a special service for Christmas, including the infancy narrative from the Gospel of Luke and several familiar carols: "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," "Away In A Manger," "The First Nowell," "Silent Night," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Please plan to join us at 3:15 pm if you are able to assist residents getting to and from the Common Room and following along with the service. Questions: please contact Eric Davis, at ericd@middlebury.edu.

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**ADULT EDUCATION: Sundays at 9 am in the Upper Meeting Room**

No Adult Education, Sunday, Dec 23 and Dec 30. "A merry Christmas to us all; God bless us, everyone!"

**EPHANY - SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING**, by Diane Nancekivell, Sunday, January 6th & January 13th:

During the first 2 Sundays of Epiphany, we'll explore the significance of this often neglected church season. We'll take a look at the history, and traditions of Epiphany in the wider church. We'll discuss and share our own traditions around this, the 12th day of Christmas.

Then we'll take a deeper dive into the opportunities Epiphany gives us to expand our relationship with the newborn Christ within us. So often we get on with business as usual as soon as we put away the Christmas decorations. But this year, we'll talk about ways to enrich our understanding of the "light" in the darkness that Epiphany points to. **Join us and contribute to our exploration!**

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The nominating committee for positions on the vestry and for delegates and alternates to the diocesan conventions next year welcomes self-nominations to these ministries. Contact one of the members of the nominating committee to declare your interest and/or to ask questions about these important works. Committee members include Lonnie Fisher, Jessica Hoagland, Sandy Ketcham, May Morris and Paul Nelson.

We're ready to accept nominations for the Ministry Discernment Team! I already have names of six people who are interested in serving, and we're looking to build a diverse team whose first task will be to develop our ministry portfolio. If you, or a parishioner you know, are interested or want to discuss this, please contact Mary McGuire this week. mary.c.mcguire10@gmail.com, or find my phone number in the church directory.

**Name Our Auction Contest!** Your auction committee is holding a contest to come up with a name for our auction with a little more pizazz. Up to now we have been calling it “antiques and better things” for lack of a better name. We want a name that people will read and say “YES! I need to go to this event!” I know we have a lot of creative people and several wordsmiths here so let's see what you can all come up with. Please email your ideas to me at klemway@gmail.com. Submit as many entries as you like. The deadline will be January 5th, and the winner will be announced at the annual meeting. The winner will receive a filet mignon dinner for two complete with appetizers, wine and dessert at my house.

**Stock and IRA donations:** A number of parishioners choose to make gifts to St. Stephen’s with appreciated stock or distributions from their IRA plans. If you plan to do this, or would like to learn more, please contact Barbara Stratton, Treasurer: barbara.stratton@comcast.net. Printed information is available on the table at the back of the Nave.
Journey with the Three Kings through the Parish December 26 to January 6! Sign up on the back table to receive a basket full of the three king figurines from our parish creche. The way it works is that the person before you on the list will contact you to set up a time for delivery. When the kings come, take them out, set them up, take a picture and send it to Jennifer Nelson for the Parishscope, have coffee and cookies or other libations and enjoy! Then you contact the next person on the list and deliver the kings to them the next day. The person/people who receive the kings on January 5th are asked to bring them to church on the 6th. Contact lindahorn14@gmail.com for more info.

Epiphany Celebration! Please join us for a special coffee hour on January 6th to welcome the arrival of the three kings with a special king's cake and crowns to wear! Total fun!