November 25, 2018  The Last Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 a.m.  
Celebrant: The Reverend Larry Yarbrough  
Preacher: The Reverend Irv Cummings  
Lector: Eric Davis  
Intercessor: Kitty Davis  
Eucharistic Minister: Nance Hardwick

NO ADULT EDUCATION or GODLY PLAY this Sunday, Nov 25

9:00 a.m.  
Choir Practice

10:30 a.m.  
Celebrant: The Reverend Larry Yarbrough  
Preacher: The Reverend Irv Cummings  
Ushers: Ryan Nevius, Joe McVeigh  
Crucifer: Rex Stratton  
Eucharistic Ministers: Rex Stratton, Barb Stratton  
Additional Server: Bill Brooks  
Lectors: Joe McVeigh, Devon Jersild  
Intercessor: Bob Ruggiero  
Altar Guild: Suzanne Snider, Rex Stratton  
Choir Director: Susanne Peck  
Organist: George Matthew, Jr.  
Hymns: 494, 435, 328, 616  
Coffee Hour: Amy Hastings and Beth Stanway

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Jeff, Sarah, Vinny, Don, Keung, Mike, Roger, Mary, Sarah, Lia, Stefanie, Stacey, Brooke, Tom, Carol, Sarah, Celia, Merritt, Bob, Dana

Monday Community Lunch Coordinator: Alice Van Tuyl,  
Monday Bag Lunch Coordinators: Holly and Bob,

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!  
The Church office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23.

Join us for our upcoming Thursday Concert Series:

November 29: 12:15 p.m.  Addison String Quartet  
December 6: 12:15 p.m.  George Matthew, Jr. Organ Recital  
December 20: 12:15 p.m.  Stay tuned for details!  
AND on December 13 at 7:30 p.m.: Festival of St. Lucia (note this is an evening event)

Newcomers! and Everyone else! and Advent Celebrators! Please come to the next Fun Friday on November 30th 5:30-7:30. Newcomers, young families, and college students please don't bring anything. Old comers and other adults please bring a dish to feed 8! We will have our usual potluck dinner plus advent wreath making, finishing with compline.
St. Stephen's monthly service of evening prayer at the Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing Center will be held on Sunday, November 25, at 3:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. Hymns for Christ the King Sunday will include "Come, Thou Almighty King," "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," "Rejoice, the Lord is King," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," and "O for a Thousand Tongues to 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

Advent Wreath Making on November 30 at Fun Friday. The advent wreath tradition is wonderful! Lighting the candles at dinner each night provides a moment of quiet during this busy season. Greens will be provided. If you need a wire wreath base or candles please contact Mary McGuire or Linda Horn so we can order the right amount.

** Please remember the first Sunday of December, December 2, is our regular Discretionary Fund Sunday!

Stock and 401k donations: A number of parishioners choose to make gifts to St. Stephen’s with appreciated stock or distributions from their 401k plans. If you plan to do this, or would like to learn more, please contact Barbara Stratton, Treasurer: barbara.stratton@comcast.net, or 802-758-9280. There will be information on the table at the back of the Nave or in the church office starting Sunday, November 25.

Habitat for Humanity Cards will be on sale during coffee hour on December 2nd. These cards buy building materials to build homes for people living in substandard circumstances that can afford a no interest mortgage. Habitat is preparing to build two homes designed by Middlebury students on Exchange Street.

Also, we will be having a table for ERD to sell little animals or parts of bigger ones to give people in other countries a hand up to a better life.

Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California as they coordinate with local congregations to provide emergency support to those impacted by the wildfires in Northern and Southern California. Please continue to pray for the individuals and families affected by the California wildfires as well as the firefighters and first-responders. Donations to the US Disaster Fund will help those affected by the devastating wildfires. To donate, please visit https://www.episcopalrelief.org/us-disaster-fund-

Submissions for the Thursday Email and Sunday Take-Home Notes: Please email your submissions to Annemarie at ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com, by Tuesday afternoon, for that week’s email and take home. Thank you!

Hilarious Holiday Entertainment Looking for a way to reduce the stress of the holiday season? Don’t miss Joe and Leila McVeigh in The Drowsy Chaperone, the hysterical fall production of the Middlebury Community Players. The show sends up every imaginable cliche from the musicals of the 1920s. Don’t miss it! Performances Nov. 29-Dec. 9. Tickets available at the Town Hall Theater: 802-382-9222 or townhalltheater.org Get them now!
Service Schedule for November and December

November 25: Larry Yarbrough as Celebrant, Irv Cummings, Preacher
December 2: Diane Nancekivell, 1st Sunday of Advent
December 9: Larry Yarbrough as Celebrant, Br. Aidan Owen, Preacher
December 16: Catherine Nichols
December 22: Gentle Christmas 11am, led by Ann Cooper, followed by soup luncheon
December 23: Catherine Nichols
December 24: 4:00pm Pageant and 9:00pm service, Larry Yarbrough
December 25: 10am service, Sarah Horton
December 30: 10am service of Lessons and Carols, led by Jay Parini

Photo Release Form. Photographs of members of the parish and their families (including minor children) are increasingly used in newsletters, Web sites, and other digital media. The Episcopal Church in Vermont considers it good practice to have permission for posting anyone's image, especially when there are children in the photo. Photo release forms will be available from Annemarie for you to complete, sign, and leave in the box located on the table in the hallway outside the office. Please fill out the form if your photograph, or the photograph of your child under 18, is being used in one of St Stephen's printed or digital publications, or if you are willing to have your image used in parish publications.

The St. Stephen’s Meditation Group invites you to join us for a quiet day in Advent, the season of hope and expectation. Brother Aidan Owen of Holy Cross Monastery will lead us. The theme for this Advent retreat will be "Coming Out of the Wilderness." Brother Aidan writes that “this meditative Advent retreat will find us steeped in just ten verses of the Song of Songs (8:5-14). We will savor the images in these lush verses, allowing those images to touch us at the heart-level, and hopefully finding in them a pathway through the wilderness and to the Beloved. The retreat will include four contemplative talks and several periods of silent meditation. We hope this retreat will help us to prepare the way within for the coming of the Lord.” The retreat will be Saturday, December 8, from 9 to 3 at Winky Thomas’s home in Middlebury. There will be a silent potluck lunch. There are sign-up sheets (for attendance and pot luck contributions) on the back table in the church. Participants are asked to donate $20 per person to help cover costs. If finances are a concern, please don’t let that stop you from coming and donate what you can. No prior meditation experience is needed—just a willingness to try out a day of quiet prayer and reflection. If you have questions, please talk to Glenn or Sharon.

JOIN THE USHERS! Are you looking for a way to get more involved at Saint Stephen’s? Consider joining our team of ushers. Ushers help out at the 10:30 service about once every six weeks (more often at Christmas and Easter seasons.) We arrive early to greet parishioners, help guide people through the service, and then do a quick clean up afterwards. We’ll provide training (it’s easy)! It’s also a great way to get to know some of those people whose faces you recognize but whose names you never knew or can’t remember! Interested? Email Joe McVeigh joe@joemcveigh.org
Out Reach committee seeks recommendations for grants from the 2018 Peasant Market proceeds. If you know of a non-profit supporting youth and families in Addison County that might benefit from our support, please advise Lonnie Fisher, or Barb Wood. Applications will be sent out in early December and deadline for submission is Feb. first.

If you would like to be a part of our Out-Reach team, we are welcoming everyone interested in participating as liaison with grantees or in a broad range of other options. Get in touch with Barb Wood or Lonnie Fisher we are in the directory.

St. Stephen's is in the process of entering a partnership with Addison Central Teens in a pilot program that will entail many exciting possibilities to engage and support our community's teens. Many options do not directly involve working with the kids, should the idea not excite you, board position, administration, development, planning grocery shopping and more are available. If you can and desire to engage and be a steady adult mentor, that too is welcomed. Don't be shy, get in touch with us!

ADULT EDUCATION Sundays, 9 am, in the Upper Meeting Room

THERE IS NO ADULT EDUCATION, Sunday, Nov 25

“ORIGEN OF ALEXANDRIA,” presented by Jim Pugh, Sunday, Dec 2:

Origen (born c. 185, died c. 254) was the most important theologian and biblical scholar of the early Greek church. At this time, the Christian church had a tenuous foothold in the Greco-Roman world. Its relationship to Judaism and the Old Testament was up in the air. Church doctrine was in embryonic form. Persecution broke out according to the whim of the current Roman emperor.

Origen wrote roughly 2,000 treatises in multiple branches of theology. He set forth a theological system which made Christianity intellectually respectable for the Gentiles of the Greco-Roman world. His ascetic ideals were seminal in the development of monasticism. His biblical commentaries were translated and borrowed by theologians in the East and the West for over 1,000 years.

Dec 2 – We will look at excerpts from Contra Celsum, Origen’s vindication of Christianity against pagan attack. These excerpts are available on the church's back table or by clicking on this URL: http://www.ststephensmidd.org/adult-education

"PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS," by Jay Parini, Sunday, Dec 9  Jay Parini offers this second session about St. Paul in anticipation of his forthcoming novel, The Damascus Road. We will discuss the Letter to the Galatians.

Pastoral Care: Please contact Jessica, Mary or Annemarie if you have pastoral care needs. Jessica Hoagland (388-9012, hoagland.j@comcast.net), pastoral lay ministry coordinator; Mary McGuire (802-598-1895 or 388-6740, mary.c.mcguire10@gmail.com), Senior Warden; or Annemarie Deering, in the office (388-7200, ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com).

VT Christian Music is proud to announce our first ever Christmas Show – featuring AUSTIN FRENCH (Freedom Hymn, Born Again) BEN LAINE (I Am Here), with local favorites JESSIE LYNN & GREGORY ROSE, and THOMAS “JAZZOU” JONES. This event will be Saturday December 15, 2018 – 7PM at North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington VT. Tickets range from $15 to $25/ea and can be purchased online at www.vtchristianmusic.com